

ANNOUNCEMENT

Osaka, Nairobi & New York City join the Partnership for Healthy Cities!

Nairobi, New York City And Osaka Join Partnership For Healthy Cities Which Addresses Reducing Non-Communicable Diseases And Preventing Injuries

Bloomberg Philanthropies announced today, in recognition of World Cities Day, that three new cities have joined the Partnership for Healthy Cities network

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News>>Kirinyaga County To Employ More Medics As County Gets Ready For Universal Health Coverage Roll-Out

P. 8. Kirinyaga County Government will hire additional health professionals as county gets ready for roll-out of UHC.



News>>Bukusu And Sabaot Elders In Trans Nzoia Call To Unite Governor George Nitembeya And DG Philomena Bineah

P. 12. Religious leaders and a council of elders from different ethnic communities living in Trans Nzoia County have offered to help resolve hostility between Governor George Nitembeya and his Deputy Philomena Kapkori.

Kindiki Orders Arrest Of Leaders Enabling Banditry, Cattle Rustling

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki has directed security agencies in the bandit hit regions to arrest politicians and religious leaders who are enabling the vice countrywide. Kindiki's directive also extends to key planners and commanders of the bandit attacks. "Security agencies are instructed to crackdown on all political, commercial and spiritual enablers of banditry as well as key planners and commanders of bandit attacks," CS Kindiki said on yesterday.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki

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New Applicants To Get Maisha Card As Piloting Of Digital IDs Begins

By: Beth Nyaga



Immigration and Citizen Services PS Prof Julius Bitok (Right).

Worth Noting:

- Speaking after hosting members of the Civil Society to a briefing session on digital ID, the PS said the government expected to obtain useful feedback on what it will take to successfully roll out mass replacement of the current IDs.
- He said the government was keen to avoid running into pitfalls similar to those that befell the unsuccessful introduction of Huduma Namba. It will therefore use the pilot phase to address potential challenges while also holding more public participation and stakeholders' sensitisation sessions.

First-time ID applicants will be issued with Maisha Cards in a pilot scheme that will introduce digital registration of persons in the country.

Also set to receive the new card with enhanced security are applicants seeking replacements for defaced or lost cards as the government tests the country's preparedness for a full rollout of digital IDs.

Immigration and Citizen Services PS Prof Julius Bitok said applicants who have turned 18 years old and those seeking duplicate cards will be among the first to receive the new card.

"All Kenyans turning 18 years in whichever part of Kenya will be issued with a Maisha Card on a pilot basis. This way, we will establish whether there are any errors or issues before we do the penultimate launch."

The National Registration Bureau receives around 10,000 applications for first-time IDs across the country every day. On average, a further 5,000 requests for duplicate cards are lodged in its offices and in Huduma Centres daily.

Speaking after hosting members of the Civil Society to a briefing session on digital ID, the PS said the government expected to obtain useful feedback on what it will take to successfully roll out mass replacement of the current IDs.

He said the government was keen to avoid running into pitfalls similar to those that befell the unsuccessful introduction of Huduma Namba. It will therefore use the pilot phase to address potential challenges while also holding more public participation and stakeholders' sensitisation sessions.

Civil Society representatives led by Amnesty International (Kenya) Executive Director Irungu Houghton pledged to support public participation and stakeholder forums on digital ID.

The representatives who presented a memorandum of concerns on digital ID to the PS urged the government to ensure apprehensions around data security and protection and genuine public participation and inclusion of marginalised communities were addressed.

"Whereas we are happy with the open-door policy that the government has adopted in engaging stakeholders on digital ID, there are areas around data privacy, inclusion of all voices and unfair vetting that needs to be addressed."

To enhance security and minimise the risk of forgery, the Maisha card will

feature a microprocessor electronic chip with encrypted data. It will also enjoy features supporting the creation of a virtual ID to be known as Maisha Digital ID for those with smartphones.

While launching locally manufactured smartphones on Monday, President William Ruto announced the intended piloting of digital IDs that are designed to complement online commerce and consumption of government services.

Maisha Card will feature a unique personal identifier (UPI) number known as Maisha Namba that will be the primary and lifelong registration and identification reference for its holders.

All newborns will also be issued with Maisha Namba to use in their birth certificates and subsequent registration for government services including school enrolment and health services. The same number will translate to their Maisha card number upon attainment of 18 years.

Under the proposed plan, the government will gradually phase out the 2nd generation IDs in favour of the Maisha Card with the current ID number translating to Maisha Namba.

There will however be no mass registration for biometrics or a dedicated budget for the exercise according to PS Bitok.

"During the rollout of the Huduma Number, all Kenyans were asked to register afresh. Billions of shillings were used to roll it out. For Maisha Namba, we are not harvesting biometrics nor are we asking for additional money. We are using the existent budget for the registration of persons for the Maisha Namba ecosystem rollout."

He said Maisha Namba, Maisha Card and Maisha Digital ID will be consolidated into a population register to be known as Maisha Integrated Database. This will negate vetting for issuance of Identity Cards.

"This will revolutionise inclusivity for marginalized communities through voiding the need for vetting."

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya's government is collaborating with institutions of higher learning and other stakeholders in the ICT space to train tech-savvy youths to become the next generation of cyber security experts. Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo emphasizes the need for a digital army to safeguard digital assets and resources from threats. The government's Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) has identified ICT as a key enabler to economic growth, with the digital superhighway agenda aiming to ensure citizens exploit the full potential of ICT, particularly broadband, to interact in the digital space at speeds unprecedented. The government is also enhancing access to broadband services through the deployment of 100,000 kilometres of fibre, 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots, and 1,450 ICT hubs across the country. Cyber security remains the bedrock of a secure digital economy, and fostering an environment of trust and security is crucial. The operationalization of the National Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI) and licensing of electronic certification providers have set the country on a path to a secure digital space.



The National Assembly Committee on Water, Blue Economy, Sanitation, and Irrigation has promised to resume construction of the Itare Dam in three to four months to address water issues in Nakuru County. The project, estimated to cost Sh28 billion, will hold 27 million cubic meters of water and produce 100,000 cubic meters per day.



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga and his deputy David Kinaniri yesterday hosted a team from the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA) led by the chairman Simon Kimaru.

The meeting was a follow-up to an MoU signed between the County Government and the Authority aimed at enhancing water security and storage for multi-purpose uses, mitigation of drought and flood effects in a sustainable manner in the County.

The areas of collaboration will include designing and development of water infrastructure including desilting of dams, enhancing water security and storage, provision of good management of water services as a mitigation of drought and flood effects in a sustainable manner, survey, design and construction of dams for water supplies and irrigation and creating effective schemes of flood control by land drainage and construction of dykes.

The Authority team disclosed that they have identified priority projects and categorized them into three; short, medium and long term projects. In the first phase, 8 irrigation and water supply projects and 18 boreholes have been identified for rehabilitation purposes. The Authority is keen on solarize and creating irrigation component like kitchen gardens in the boreholes, improving nutrition at the household level.



Kenya's urban population is driving a surge in demand for chicken products. Paul Wacira, an entrepreneur and businessman, runs a successful hatchery in Murang'a, offering a low-labor-intensive business model. He sells over 40 chicks weekly, making an average monthly profit of Sh. 30,000. The hatching process takes 21 days.



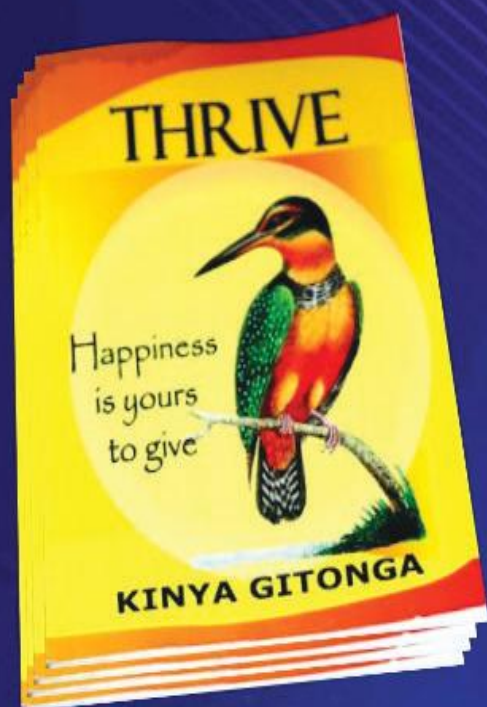
Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday chaired a Cabinet committee meeting at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi.

For a People-centred implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, through interministerial strategic consultations and review of decisions, this is crucial.

It allows the government to make necessary and timely adjustments for effective and efficient service delivery.

Kingya N. Gitonga

PSYCHOLOGIST, AUTHOR, MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE
& FOUNDER SOUND MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
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Kingya N. Gitonga

Kirinyaga County Tops In Use Of Technology And Closeness Of Government Services

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyentimes

Kirinyaga County has emerged top in use technology and closeness of government services in a poll released on Monday by a research firm.

In the County Trak Performance Index 2023 by Infotrak Research and Consulting firm, the county scored 55% in use of technology and 54% in closeness of government services.

The high rating can be attributed to a digital revolution spearheaded by Governor Anne Waiguru that is transforming traditional service delivery into an efficient, citizen-centric experience. Through technology the county government has designed and put in place systems that have automated and integrated services thus simplifying them, enhancing transparency and accountability as well as improving efficiency and effectiveness.

One of the revolutionary interventions involves revenue collection and management. Through the KIRI PAY digital platform, business operators in the county are able to pay for their licenses and other services from the comfort of their homes or from any part of the world. They do so by using MPESA mobile phone platform or e-citizen portal that has been enabled by cloud computing technology. County residents are also able to track various applications and approvals.

Digitization of revenue collection has been hailed as a timely intervention in revenue management and attributed to the county's sterling performance in the last financial year whereby it surpassed its revenue by collecting Ksh. 586 million up from the previous year's collection of Ksh. 363 million.

Integration and consolidation of information has also enabled residents to access services in county offices at the subcounty or the ward level thus saving them from the hustle of travelling to the county headquarters. Additionally, to ease the delivery of services to



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru

the residents, Waiguru established a 'Huduma Center' at the county headquarters. The one-stop shop for all the devolved services is located on the ground floor of the five-storey office block in order to provide accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Governor Anne Waiguru has said that her administration has been in the forefront in mainstreaming use of modern technology in every sector of the county's development noting that technology is a pre-requisite to not only to provision of effective and efficient public services but also to taking services closer to the county residents.

In health, the County government has installed a Hospital Management Information System that has streamlined service delivery at Kerugoya Level Five Hospital, a system that will soon

be rolled out in other hospitals. For effective healthcare provision at the grassroots the county's Community Health Promoters have been using the County Health Information System that enables them to collect, store and transmit information accordingly.

In the agricultural sector, Governor Waiguru has supported the integration of modern technology with the objective of increasing production and productivity. This has been done through distribution of equipment such as on-farm livestock feeds production machines, modern hatcheries, milk processing equipment, coffee value addition lines, green houses, drip irrigation kits and distribution of hybrid seeds and seedlings for various crops.

In the poll, Kirinyaga also topped in trade and tourism, energy, and ranked

among the best performers in agriculture, roads and transport as well as county planning.

The governor who is also the Council of Governors Chair noted that getting quality services closer to the people is the true meaning of devolution. "Over 70% of Kenyans endorse devolution and are satisfied with development progress that devolution has made in counties in multiple service delivery functions. As governors, we will continue being more responsive and accountable for delivering the devolution dividends to Kenyans with transformative leadership" said Waiguru.

The Infotrak comprehensive public survey covered all the 47 counties, 1,450 wards and a sample of 36,200 Kenyans, among them 600 Kirinyaga residents.

Worth Noting:

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Kirinyaga County To Employ More Medics As County Gets Ready For Universal Health Coverage Roll-Out

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

While launching a free medical camp at Kimbimbi Sub-County Hospital, the governor noted that the additional specialized doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab-technicians among other categories medics will play a great role in is strengthening of Primary Healthcare which is at the heart of successful implementation of UHC. She said that the county has already engaged 1,222 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) who will reach households with basic healthcare services or offer the required referrals to their link health facilities. She noted that CHPs programme will help in reducing the burden on the county's healthcare system by promoting healthier lifestyles, and providing vital health support to those in need.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru (left).

Kirinyaga County Government will hire additional health professionals as county gets ready for roll-out of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Governor Anne Waiguru said that the county will advertise for 50 positions of various cadres of medics to fill some gaps that have been created by elevation and expansion of various health facilities.

She said elevation of Kerugoya County Referral Hospital to a Level Five facility, construction and consequent elevation of Kimbimbi and Kianyaga Hospital from level three to four requires additional medical personnel. The county has also constructed additional 20 dispensaries and health centres, nine of which have been operationalized.

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healthier lifestyles, and providing vital health support to those in need.

The Council of Governors (CoG) Chair also noted that M-Mama digital emergency referral system is now registering women of child bearing age and taxis for maternity emergency response. The program aims at ensuring that all mothers will deliver safely at a health facility.

Waiguru commended the team of medics at the free medical camp for volunteering their time and professional expertise for the good of county residents. She underscored the importance of such social corporate initiatives in providing essential medical services as well as raising awareness on various health issues facing the society.

The two-day medical camp that aims at serving over 3000 patients from Kirinyaga County and its surrounding areas is a collaboration between the Kenya Airports Authority, the Mater Hospital and the County Government of Kirinyaga.

She termed the camp as a timely intervention given that Kirinyaga ranks among the counties having the highest prevalence of non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension.

“We have rolled out interventions that include; health education, roll out of medical checkups and clinics for the diseases in all medical facilities across the county and encour-

aging our people to reduce the major modifiable risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and to increase physical activities.”, said the governor.

She added that equally, communicable diseases like HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis continue to be a major public health issue in Kenya and are among the leading causes of death in Kenya and therefore concerted effort must be made to reverse the trend.

The medical camp brought together a team made up of Surgeons, Theatre Nurses, Anesthetists, Urologists, Pediatric and Adult Cardiologists, Gynecologists, Laboratory Technicians, General Physicians and Nurses who will offer diagnostic, treatment and surgeries where need be. Among these medics are 25 doctors from Kirinyaga County.

It will offer a wide range of essential healthcare services, including free consultations, diagnoses, minor surgeries, and medications. Comprehensive healthcare services addressing dental problems, breast cancer, pneumonia, typhoid, malaria, and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing will be provided.

Waiguru reiterated that her administration is committed to the provision of accessible and affordable healthcare services highlighting the various service delivery and infrastructure development project she has been implementing.

The Kenya Airport's Authority Managing Director, Henry Ogoye, expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration.

“We are delighted to partner with Mater Hospital and the County Government to bring this free Medical Camp to Kirinyaga County. Health is a fundamental human right, and we are committed to supporting the government's vision of universal health coverage for every Kenyan,” he said.

In a statement, the KAA Board Chairman, Caleb Kositany, acknowledged the collective efforts of KAA, Mater Hospital, and the Kirinyaga County Government in hosting such a transformative medical camp.

“By offering accessible healthcare, we are not just providing medical services; we are nurturing hope, strengthening communities, and embodying the true spirit of humanity. This initiative signifies our dedication to the well-being of our people and underscores the power of collaboration in creating positive change.”

Mwea Constituency MP Mary Mainigi said she will continue working closely with Governor Waiguru to ensure smooth implementation of development projects.

Mainigi asked residents of Mwea to shun divisive politics being advanced by a section of leaders at the expense of development.

Kindiki Orders Arrest Of Leaders Enabling Banditry, Cattle Rustling

By: Muraya Kamunde

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki has directed security agencies in the bandit hit regions to arrest politicians and religious leaders who are enabling the vice countrywide.

Kindiki's directive also extends to key planners and commanders of the bandit attacks.

"Security agencies are instructed to crackdown on all political, commercial and spiritual enablers of banditry as well as key planners and commanders of bandit attacks," CS Kindiki said on yesterday.

Kindiki spoke a day after a section of leaders among them Tiaty MP William Kamket and his counterparts Peter Lochakapong of Sigori and Kapenguria MP Julius Murgor were summoned to the Rift Valley Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) over allegations of incitement in the region.

The North Rift region lawmakers through their lawyer called on the

National Security Council to hold joint meetings to seek an amicable solution to troubles facing the region.

The CS spoke after meeting with Regional and County security bosses at the Chief's Office, Kisima Location, in Suguta Marmar, Samburu West Constituency to review the progress of the operational plans.

Since the inception of Operation Maliza Uhalifu eight months ago, CS Kindiki noted the successes and challenges of the operation to eradicate banditry.

"Eight months after deployment of Operation Maliza Uhalifu forces, the Government is continuously engaged in monitoring the successes and challenges of the operation, so as to address any gaps for a sustained program for eradicating the terror of armed livestock robbers who have caused loss of lives and property of innocent Kenyans for decades," CS Kindiki noted.

Kindiki assured of the government's commitment to sustaining the Maliza Uhalifu Operation for the total eradication of banditry and livestock



The Interior Cabinet Secretary was in Samburu County to review the progress of the operational plans

rustling in Northern Kenya.

"Security agencies have made sig-

nificant strides towards suppression of violent banditry in the North Rift Valley Region," he said.

FIDA Offers To Represent Governor Mwangaza During Senate Impeachment Proceedings, Court

By: Capital Correspondent

The Federation of Women Lawyers – Kenya (FIDA-K) has offered to represent embattled Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza during her impeachment hearing before the Senate.

In a letter to Mwangaza, the organisation's chairperson Nancy Ikinu assured her that adequate representation will also be provided should the matter move to court.

She stated that FIDA was "extremely concerned by the ongoing attacks toward you as the Governor of Meru County."

"In particular, we note that since your successful election in August 2022, you have faced two impeachments by Members of the County Assembly (MCAs)," she said.

"In line with our vision and mission as FIDA-K, we write you to offer you legal representation both before the Senate and the courts of law to



Mwangaza survived a previous impeachment in December 2022 after the Senate declined to confirm impeachment charges/FILE.

ensure that you achieve justice in the matter."

Mwangaza will have to face the Senate plenary after Kenya Kwan-

za Senators on Tuesday shot down a motion seeking to establish an 11-member panel to probe her impeachment.

Senators Aaron Cheryiout (Kericho), Samson Cherargei (Nandi), and Veronica Maina (Nominated) among others supported the plenary route to probe the allegations made against Governor Mwangaza citing that it would be transparent.

"I propose that we go the plenary way so that we listen, sit here calmly to understand what is the issue with Meru," he said.

Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo said, "In the last two impeachments we have gone the committee way, it's important also for the members who are new to understand how the process for plenary goes."

Narok Senator Ledama Ole Kina moved the motion on the establishment of the Special Committee noting that impeachment is a very painful process that requires a governor to be heard.

"Even though this is a political process, whenever we sit, we have the same powers as the High Court. I want to persuade this House to consider allowing these 11 members to hear the charges against the gover-

nor," Ole Kina said.

Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi called for Senators to support the Motion citing that 'the committee can give the people of Meru the justice they're looking for.'

The members who had been selected to sit on the Committee are Boni Khalawale (Kakamega), Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu), Karungo Thangwa (Kiambu), Esther Okenyuri (Nominated), Ali Roba (Mandera), Peris Tobiko (Nominated), Enock Wambua (Kitui), Abdul Haji (Garissa), Okiya Omtatah (Busia), Crystal Asike (Nominated) and Shakila Abdala (Nominated).

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi issued a communication from the Speaker of the County Assembly of Meru regarding the passage by the County Assembly of a motion for the removal from office by way of impeachment of Governor Kawira Mwangaza.

Every Leader (Moses) Is Expendable!: We Must Glory In The Work, But Never In Ourselves



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

“.....Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. Now Joshua son of Nun was FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM BECAUSE MOSES HAD LAID HIS HANDS ON HIM. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt — to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that

Moses did in the sight of all Israel. (DEUTRONOMY 29: 1-12).”

Moses was the greatest spiritual leader Israel ever had — far greater than Joshua. The transition from Moses to Joshua was like going from poetry to prose. Yet, God did not need Moses. Even Moses was expendable! What a truth for all leaders to grasp. God does not need us. He has used donkeys to proclaim His Word! He is perfectly capable of carrying out His plans without our leadership. But wonder of wonders, joy of joys, He has chosen to use us. We must take our call to leadership seriously. We must glory in the work, but never in ourselves. It goes without saying that leadership per se involves many more elements beyond the seven qualities instilled in Joshua. But one thing is sure: leadership must have a dream, a vision, a mental image, a precise goal of what is to be accomplished. Vision is the currency of leadership. A vision or dream must grab the leader, and when it does, it will pull others along.

The challenge of leadership is so great today because modern man is dreamless. Next, A LEADER MUST



NOT ONLY HAVE A DREAM, HE MUST BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IT. This is true with artists, educators, military leaders, fast-food franchisers. A great leader communicates with clarity, whether by speech, metaphor, diagram or model. Good leaders then delegate and orchestrate. They surround themselves with competent people. They build consensus. And they ELEVATE THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY WORK. Good leaders lead by demonstration. They pull people along with them instead of pushing them. General Eisen-

hower used to demonstrate the art of leadership in a simple but forceful way. He would place a single piece of string on a table and say, “Pull it and it follows wherever you want it to go; push it and it goes nowhere.” Persistence, resilience is also key in leadership.

SELAH! GLORY,HONOR AND POWER BELONGS TO GOD.

References:
 The Living Bible
 Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)
 Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

Rosslyn Academy Triumphs The 2nd Annual Crawford International School Student Game Jam

By: Our Correspondent
 @themkenyaintimes

Rosslyn Academy emerged as the champion in the 2nd series of the Crawford International School student Game Jam.

Nairobi Jaffery Academy came in second and Hillcrest School at third place.

The competition attracted 19 teams from 8 schools in Nairobi. The four day competition themed “What will you create” had learners aged between 12 and 18 years develop video games from scratch and present them for judging.

The first team won Ksh100,000 while the first runner-up team bagged Ksh60,000 and the second runner-up team received ksh30,000. The event aims at inspiring Kenyan students talented in gaming to develop their own games and compete with other schools. The contest creates an avenue for learners to develop networks and bonds that will enhance their skills in coding,

graphics, language and arts.

“We are delighted and honoured to have won. We are more grateful for the lessons from the invited industry leaders, the opportunity to utilize our skills and talents and the friendships made along the way,” said Jaehee Lee, a student at Rosslyn Academy.

Judging criteria was based on four key elements which include programming, graphics, sound and gameplay. Teams were assessed on their ability to innovate, maintain high-quality standards and the submission of complete projects.

In the recent years, e-gaming has been steadily gaining traction in Kenya. An ever-growing community of gamers and developers has emerged, creating unique opportunities for young talents to be nurtured and empowered to enable them translate their creative visions into interactive, engaging experiences that can captivate audiences both locally and globally.



Crawford International School student Game Jam champions (l-r) Jaehee Lee, Darsh Parmar and XiaoYu Jin from Rosslyn Academy receive their awards from Brian Ontumbi, Tatu City CSR and Technological Development and Jenny Coetzee, Crawford International School Managing Director

Politicization Of Gachagua's No-Show When King Charles 111 Arrived Was Cheap And Narrow



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is one who received and welcomed King Charles 111 at the JKIA airport.
- Gachagua is the second in command and so he is the one who would have performed this function.
- In his absence, Mudavadi is the third high ranking state official. This explains why President Ruto had dispatched him to receive his Very, Very, Important Person (VVIP).
- Of the 54 nations, Kenya is the first Commonwealth country that the King had chosen to visit.
- This followed an invitation by President Ruto. So, this visit was a great honor to Dr Ruto. It demonstrated that the British monarch recognized him and his administration.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

The United Kingdom Royal Couple-King Charles 111 and his wife, Queen Camilla-arrived in Kenya at a time when the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was in Germany on an official engagement.

The DP had earlier been to Brussels Belgium where he represented President William Ruto at Global Gateway Forum organized by European Commission (EU).

On the sidelines, Rigathi held talks with the chief executives of the world's renowned coffee buying and roasting companies.

He signed a number of agreements and deals tailored to expand the scope of the markets for the Kenyan coffee.

He also managed to reach out to new buyers who agreed to buy the coffee on better terms that would see the farmers rake in good profits.

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This followed an invitation by President Ruto. So, this visit was a great honor to Dr Ruto. It demonstrated that the British monarch recognized him and his administration.

A day after the King arrived, rumors started swirling around that Gachagua had been sidelined.

He was sent away at the time when the King was making a historic state visit to Kenya.

In apparent reference to a flurry of activities attended by the King in day one of his visit, DP's haters further stated. As you can see, the king is being accompanied by Mudavadi.

In my view these sentiments were cheap, narrow and borne out of malice.

Yes, the Kenyan government was waiting for the arrival of a special guest but it was also obligated to undertake all other state engagements.

The European Union had invited President Ruto to attend the all-important forum.

In his absence, you would expect him to send the DP to represent him. That is exactly what he did.

I'm sure before he flew out, the DP had discussed with the President all matters related to the Royal King's visit.

So, Gachagua was fully aware he will be back to the country before the King

concluded his visit.

This will give him an opportunity to interact with the King and see him off at the Airport.

This came to pass. The DP jetted back to the country two days before the King departed.

For Gachagua's haters in Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition, this is not the first time they would cook a storyline that the DP had been shunned.

During President William Ruto's recent working visit to Luo Nyanza, they wanted Kenyans to believe this. This is because he did not accompany the President in day one.

But in a swift rejoinder, the DP's communication team rebutted the claims stating that Gachagua had an official engagement here in Nairobi.

Two days later, the DP joined Dr Ruto during the launch of Ship Assembling Yard in lake side city of Kisumu.

This again left his haters embarrassed and with an egg on their face.

Many believe that talks of a plan to impeach the DP had also originated from them.

Why Azimio is baying for Gachagua's blood? It is because of being a staunch defender of President Ruto and his administration.

During Raila Odinga led Azimio demonstrations, he thwarted their plan to join the government through the back

door.

President Ruto and I are hard nut to crack. We defeated you at the ballot in broad light. The whole world witnessed this. You also lost your petition at the Supreme Court. Accept the bitter truth and move on.

In apparent reference to Raila, he always stated. We know this Mzee thrives in chaos and violence and he used the same tricks to intimidate and blackmail President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

This time, he should know he is dealing with different crop of leaders. We cannot succumb or bend to their ill-advised machinations.

Having lost the elections, Mzee should stick to his lane of leading the opposition. We are ready to be corrected when we go wrong.

The Kenya Kwanza legislators who dominate Parliament have a lot of faith in the leadership of President Ruto and his deputy. In addition, a huge chunk of their colleagues in Azimio support the duo.

So, the talk of impeachment smacks of a bad dream. It is an idle talk and bound to fail miserably.

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

Bukusu And Sabaot Elders In Trans Nzoia Call To Unite Governor George Natembeya And DG Philomena Bineah



By: Sefu Sabila
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking on behalf of the clergy, ACK Diocese of Kitale Bishop Dr. Emmanuel Chemengich called on members of all the ethnic communities domiciled in Trans Nzoia to maintain peace.
- “We fully know what this hostility can lead to and we do not want to bury our heads in the sand. We therefore call for de-escalation of hostility and tension that is building up” Chemengich said.
- He further called on youths to avoid exploitative politicians who use them to cause chaos. It is alleged a section of youths undermined the DG Philomena Bineah and constant threats from youths aligned to the governor.



From left Chief officer Education and technical training Mr. Sam Ojwang, center governor George Natembeya, DG Philomena Bineah, senator Allan chesang and other leaders from the county during the launch of Trans Nzoia County integrated development CIPD 2023 in July this year.

Religious leaders and a council of elders from different ethnic communities living in Trans Nzoia County have offered to help resolve hostility between Governor George Natembeya and his Deputy Philomena Kapkori.

Addressing the press in Kitale, the truce brokers said escalation of hostility in the cosmopolitan county poses a threat to peaceful coexistence amongst different communities. Led by County Peace Committee Chair who is also the chairperson of Bukusu Council of elders Christopher Makokha, the elders said elders from Bukusu community will have an engagement with Natembeya while those from the Sabaot community will talk to Philomena Kapkori.

“Aware of the frosty relationship between our Governor and his Deputy, we offer to broker truce between them for the sake of peace in our county. “Elders from Bukusu community will sit down with Governor Natembeya, elders from our brothers the Sabaot will also talk to their daughter Philomena Kapkory and culminate with County prayers” Makokha said.

Speaking on behalf of the clergy, ACK Diocese of Kitale Bishop Dr.

Emmanuel Chemengich called on members of all the ethnic communities domiciled in Trans Nzoia to maintain peace.

“We fully know what this hostility can lead to and we do not want to bury our heads in the sand. We therefore call for de-escalation of hostility and tension that is building up” Chemengich said.

He further called on youths to avoid exploitative politicians who use them to cause chaos. It is alleged a section of youths undermined the DG Philomena Bineah and constant threats from youths aligned to the governor.

“We urge our youths to be responsible for how they use social media and to avoid politicians who take advantage of them for their own selfish interests” he added.

Abdel Kamasai from Kenya Agriculture Reforms Elgon United (KAREU) Mpya CBO the convener of the consultative meeting said the peace building process will rely on the 2011 Mabanga Peace Accord.

“Mabanga Peace Accord is a very crucial document that saw various communities living in Trans Nzoia and Bungoma Counties enjoy peace through sharing of opportunities and

resources. We shall follow the same model in our reconciliation talks” Kamasai stated.

Early in the month of October, Kapkori wrote a letter to Governor Natembeya complaining that some of his staff were threatening her and requested for an office in Nairobi where she can operate from until her security is guaranteed

Since then, Kapkori and Natembeya have shared one platform once where she boldly talked about the threats. Kapkori was targeted by some of Natembeya’s staff following her silence on the Sabaot community quest for Mt. Elgon County.

She was also accused of sponsoring Sabaot community elders and pro-

fessionals who presented their memorandum to the National Dialogue Committee at the Bomas of Kenya. Earlier Counties Caucus chairman Kuria East Marwa Kitayama, are seeking to establish Kuria, Teso, Mount Elgon, East Pokot, Mwingi, Gucha, Suba, Ijara, Nakuru West, Wajir South, and Nyambene as additional counties.

However, Governor George Natembeya had refuted the claims of dividing Trans Nzoia County to Mt. Elgon county saying the county is a cosmopolitan county with all Kenyans of all walks. Mt. Elgon county was supposed to be formed from a portion of Bungoma and Trans Nzoia Counties.



Family Bank Awarded For Best Internal Customer Experience At The 2023 ICX Service Excellence Awards

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

Family Bank has been recognized and awarded as the Best in Internal Customer Experience at the 2023 Service Excellence Awards organized by Institute of Customer Experience (ICX) Kenya.

The Best Internal Customer Experience Award category recognizes organizations that strategically design in-depth, comprehensive initiatives and strategies that create a conducive, exciting and engaging employee experience to yield internal customer satisfaction, retention and recognition.

“The main objective of bolstering internal customer experience is to foster a customer centric culture within the Bank. In our continuous bid to drive and uphold a customer centric culture, Family Bank acknowledges the fact that a happy internal customer makes a happy external customer. In collaboration with the Human Resources department several initiatives have been

implemented over the years to ensure our internal customer experience is top notch, to drive external Customer Excellence,” said Family Bank Head of Service Excellence Joyce Mwangi.

The ICX Service Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate the success of corporates that provide exemplary service to their customers.

“We prioritize our employees’ training, development and well-being through open communication, training programmes and other incentives to cultivate a good organisational culture. This award is therefore a testament to our commitment to creating a culture of customer centricity,” she said.

Earlier this year, Family Bank was voted overall 1st Runner’s Up Top Bank in Kenya and the Top Tier II Bank in Customer Experience based on an industry-wide survey that was conducted by the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA).



The National Health Insurance Fund And Murang’a County Government Have Tuesday Signed A Deal To Provide Free Healthcare

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Health Insurance Fund and Murang’a County Government have Tuesday signed a deal to provide free healthcare to 38,865 households (120,000 residents) of the county under Kang’atacare programme.

Among the benefits of the Kang’ataCare is inpatient and outpatient treatment paid for by the county and members access the services for free. The other benefits package includes maternity, oncology, radiology, emergency evacuation, foreign treatment, surgical, dialysis and mental & behavioural health.

Additionally, members of Kang’ataCare access dental and optical treatment and other chronic illnesses.

Kang’ataCare programme is offered to vulnerable households who are registered in a county-wide programme spearheaded by the community. Those identified get the Kang’ataCare card for use in private and public hospitals.

Last financial year, the project covered 20,700 households. This year, registered members increased to 38,865 households due to the popularity of the programme.

Members in the first phase will continue to enjoy Kang’ataCare and the additional 18,165 households will commence on 1st January 2024, until 31st December 2024.



Murang’a Governor Irungu Kang’ata addressing media.

Govt Sets Aside Sh1bn To Buy Land From Absentee Landlords At The Coast, President Ruto Says

By: Capital Correspondent

President William Ruto yesterday pledged to resolve the emotive land issue at the coast.

Speaking during the first day of his five-day tour in the coast region, the Head of State said the national government has already set aside Sh1 billion that will be used to buy land from absentee landlords as part of a resettlement plan in the region.

“We have already set aside Sh1 billion in the STF (Settlement Trust Fund) that will be used to buy land from the absentee landlord so that we can resettle the landless,” said President Ruto.

Thousands of coast residents are living as squatters on parcels of land, whose owners are said to have relocated abroad or were allocated land before Kenya’s independence.

In Kisauni, where President Ruto kicked off his coastal tour, thousands of residents are living as squatters in

parcels of land that are marred with controversy.

Already, residents of Gandini, Maunguja, Kashani and Ugatuzi areas have been issued with eviction notices.

President Ruto directed Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome to visit the affected areas on Saturday to help address the thorny issue.

He was speaking after commissioning the Bamburi – Mwakirunge – Rabai – Kaloleni Road, which will connect Mombasa and Kilifi counties and is expected to cost Sh2 billion upon completion.

Ruto is on Thursday expected to host King Charles III at Mtongwe Naval Base for a program involving Kenya’s first Marine Commando Unit, which was trained by British Royal Marines.

Friday will see President Ruto chairing a Cabinet meeting at State House Mombasa in the morning and presiding over the Kenya Revenue Authority Taxpayers’ Day at Sarova Whitesands Hotel at noon.

On Saturday, President Ruto will



President William Ruto.

travel to Lamu County to commission a road in Lamu East and then visit Tana River County for the com-

missioning of the Bura Irrigation Scheme and Galole Gravity Water Project.

On Sunday, he will lead an inter-denominational Prayer Service in Mombasa.

Businessman Jaswant Rai Among Those Who Met King Charles III

By: KBC Digital

Billionaire Jaswant Rai on Tuesday met King Charles III as he began his four-day tour of the country.

In a video doing rounds on social media platforms, Rai is seen standing with other leaders when he greeted the King.

It is, however, not clear where the leaders were. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is among prominent leaders visible in the clip. King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrived in Nairobi on Monday for a four-day State visit to Kenya that will see them tour different places in Nairobi and Mombasa Counties.

On Tuesday evening, King Charles III expressed his deep regret and sorrow for the past atrocities committed by the British government against Kenyans during their strug-

gle for independence, labeling them as abhorrent and unjustifiable during a State Banquet hosted by President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto.

The visit, the first official visit by King Charles and Queen Camilla to a commonwealth nation since their coronation in May 2023, is aimed at celebrating the warm relationship between the two countries and the strong and dynamic partnership they continue to forge.

Their Majesties’ programme reflects the ways in which Kenya and the United Kingdom are working together, notably to boost mutual prosperity, tackle climate change, promote youth opportunity and employment, advance sustainable development and create a more stable and secure region.



Billionaire Jaswant Rai (left) on Tuesday met King Charles III.

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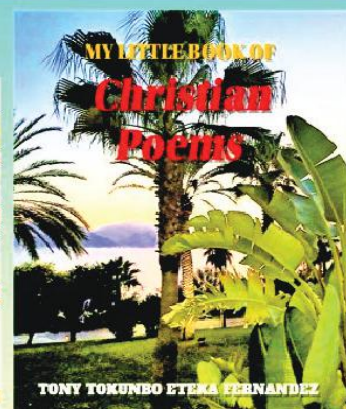
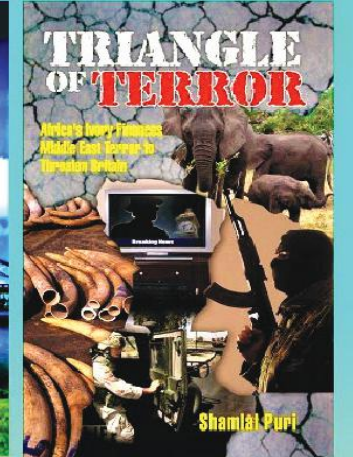
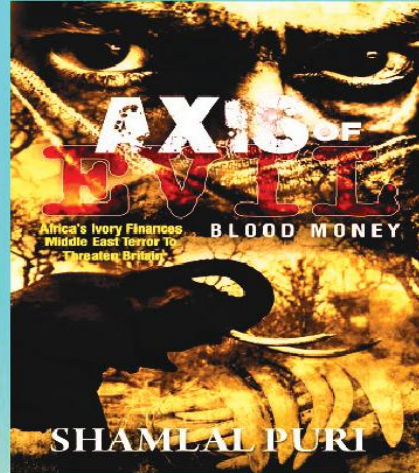
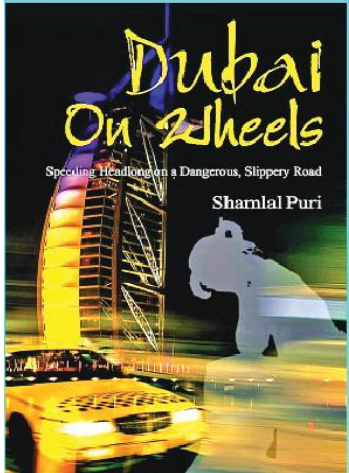
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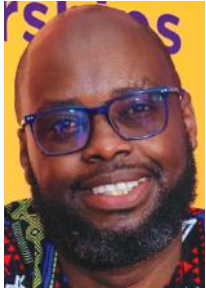
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BUSINESS

New Health Legislation A Game Changer In Kenya's Health Security



By: Peter Ngure
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- To ensure effective implementation, the cabinet secretary is required to develop policy guidelines on revenue management, establish a repository for financial information, analyses the data collected and provide feedback that would assist national and county governments monitor performance and ensure effective implementation.
- The planning for the FIF must be integrated within the county planning and budgeting process to ensure prudent planning but also its required that in involves the community members in the governance structure of the fund.



President William Ruto signing the Universal Health Care Bills at State House, Nairobi on October 19, 2023. Image: SCRENGRAB.

Kenyans now expect to access quality healthcare in an improved, efficient, affordable and non-discriminatory manner. This follows the signing of four revolutionary and progressive Universal Health Coverage Bills into Acts two weeks by President William Ruto.

These are The Primary Health Care Act, 2023, the Digital Health Act, 2023, the Facility Improvement Financing Act, 2023 and the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023.

The laws are expected to provide the necessary legal and institutional framework for the successful rollout of Universal Health Coverage and by that ensure Health security for all.

However, the game changer is The Facility Improvement Financing Act 2023 which provides health facilities with financial independence to manage revenue collected through user fees, insurance payments, and other own sources. Currently, revenue from most health facilities across the country is consolidated in the County Own Source Revenue (OSR) Fund. Hence, facilities depend entirely on in-kind budgetary support from the county budget for salaries, stipends, medicines, equipment, infrastructure and consumables. This has denied facilities the resources and an independent option to respond to local, own and emerging priorities since decision-making is centralized at the county level.

The FIF Act 2023 as established fo-

cus on ensuring revenues collected at the facility level are retained, planned and used by the same public health facilities/Units for immediate operating costs (for instance, buying out-of-stock and in-demand medicines and covering maintenance, utilities or local Acts and expenses as needed). The fund aims to provide for an efficient, secure and accountable mechanism for the collection, retention and management of revenue derived from health services rendered at the facility. The key to this fund is that facilities now can open their bank accounts and have their funds there as supplement to their needs and to the allocation by the county government but not as a substitute to allocation. The funds covered here include user fees, charges and reimbursement for insurance firms and other entities. Monies appropriated by county government from equitable share as well as conditional grants and donations is also earmarked at FIF in the act.

To ensure effective implementation, the cabinet secretary is required to develop policy guidelines on revenue management, establish a repository for financial information, analyses the data collected and provide feedback that would assist national and county governments monitor performance and ensure effective implementation.

The planning for the FIF must be integrated within the county planning and budgeting process to ensure prudent planning but also its required

that in involves the community members in the governance structure of the fund.

The act also established the County Health Management teams and mandates them to coordinate the interpretation and implementation of the fund, support sub county and facility teams prepare their annual and quarterly plans as submitted by the Health Facility Management committees.

To ensure accountability, the Act provides that the chief officer is the accounting officer and will be issuing authority to incur expenses to the medical superintendent for hospitals and to the facility in charge for health centers and dispensaries.

For reporting, the funds will be managed by the public health facility and thus the facility is expected to collate and report on all revenue collected and ensure its reflected in the County.

The Facility Improvement Financing Act addresses underfunding in public health facilities, while the Digital Health Act streamlines technology adoption to enhance data sharing and resource utilization. The Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund will handle emergency and chronic illness costs once social health insurance is depleted.

The Four Acts have come into force at the same time, Thus the need for a clear integration between them. Creation of the health management committees immediately with community members is key to ensure

accountability of the funds. Opening of facility bank accounts is a key first step and directing the fund there will require modern mechanism including pay bills or card system to minimize cash payments and loss of funds.

Finally, aligning these legislations would go a long way in guiding the development of detailed implementation guidelines and their eventual commencement, improving the chances of success for these reforms to accelerate Kenya's progress towards UHC and health security.

There will be need for closer and consistent monitoring of implementation of these acts from commencement especially seeing that funding will both be at the national and county levels.

There will be need for capacity building of Primary Health Networks as well as awareness to the general public on the changes occasioned by these Acts and their role in ensuring health security in Kenya is owned by Kenyans and no one is left behind.

There is needed uniform guidelines to all counties especially in implementation of PHC to ensure standard application across the Country.

Peter Ngure is the founder and director of Pathways Policy Institute which is based in Nanyuki town, Laikipia County

School Is The Main Joint Of Science And Craft

By: Makhamadov Abduhoshim
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

The school can be conditionally divided into the following types:

- according to the nature of the imparted knowledge - general and professional;
- according to the level of knowledge - elementary (or lower), middle, higher;
- depending on who is in charge - state, municipal (community) and private;
- according to the gender of students - mixed (for students of both sexes), women's and men's school;
- in relation to religion - secular and religious (denominational); depending on the time of the children's stay in the school - the school where they attend and the school where they stay overnight (boarding, boarding school, etc.).



Bukhara State Medical Institute

A school is an educational institution where the young generation is informed and educational activities are carried out under the guidance of a teacher, according to the scientific literature. In fact, the school played a key role in organizing and conducting the educational process. For example, in our beloved Uzbekistan, schools are generally recognized as state property, and education is free. It should be noted that the Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the few countries in the world with a free secondary education system. At the same time, studies in higher educational institutions are carried out partially at the expense of parents' funds on the basis of a contract.

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secular and religious (denominational); depending on the time of the children's stay in the school - the school where they attend and the school where they stay overnight (boarding, boarding school, etc.).

It is not a secret to all of us that the first schools appeared in ancient Eastern countries (China, Babylon, Egypt and other regions). In these countries there were schools of priests and scribes. Education is naturally organized in this way. In Europe, the first schools appeared for the first time around the 6th century BC in Greece and in the 4th century BC in Ancient Rome.

In Central Asia, which is our region, a school that provides primary education is called a school. In Central Asia, the types of schools are also madrasahs and convents. Among the Muslim countries, madrasa is considered a secondary and higher type of school in our country, while religious education is mainly taught in religious schools.

In Central Asia, which was colonized as a result of the invasion of Turkestan by the Czar Empire in the 19th century, the Russian population was better provided with schools than the local population. Since 1876, gymnasiums, real schools, teachers' seminaries and other types

of schools have been opened in our country. In some Russian schools, local children also studied.

From the end of the 19th century, Russian-style schools were established for children of local nationality. Although these schools mainly served the colonial policy of Tsarism, they played an important role in the spread of advanced learning methods in the country.

During the Soviet regime, the non-democratic and harmful environment for education caused by the educational process in schools and various deficiencies in the teaching methodology led to the fact that students did not develop independent thinking.

Thanks to the glory of independence, the education system began to be reformed step by step. As an example, the law on education can be proof of our word.

The first law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education" was adopted in 1997 together with the "National Program of Personnel Training". According to it, education is conducted in the students' native languages. In all schools, a continuous transition from lower to higher levels of education was provided for pupils and students. The wave of large-scale reforms carried

out in our country in recent years has shown the need to pay special attention to the education system. In this regard, the new draft law "On Education" was adopted by the Legislative Chamber on May 19, 2020 and approved by the Senate on August 7, 2020. With this, he set a number of important and urgent tasks, such as fundamentally reforming the education system in our country, meeting and eliminating their material needs, and creating better conditions for students in all aspects.

It is not an exaggeration to say that this is a bright example of the special attention and care of our country's president Shavkat Mirmonovich Mirziyoyev to the education system. Because people who do not pay attention and care to the education system will one day spend it on building prisons - said Otto von Bismarck. In short, the education system is the lifeblood, the main support and support of any society and nation. As much attention and care is given to this support, it will definitely give the expected result.

Makhamadov Abduhoshim, a student of the Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute.

Nairobi, New York City And Osaka Join Partnership For Healthy Cities Which Addresses Reducing Non Communicable Diseases And Preventing Injuries



By: Elizabeth Angira



Nairobi City County.

York City and Osaka – three of the world’s biggest cities – to the ever-expanding partnership and commends their mayors for their commitment to building urban environments that nurture health,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“We look forward to supporting all three cities to implement evidence-based and cost-effective solutions to promote health and prevent noncommunicable disease and injuries.”

“Cities have long served as drivers of improved public health,” said José Luis Castro, President and CEO, Vital Strategies. “We applaud the efforts of city leaders working to create healthier and stronger urban centers where residents can thrive. We welcome the new cities to the Partnership and are eager to support their efforts creating systemic, lasting change improving health around the world.”

“Effective noncommunicable disease prevention and control calls for a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach,” said H.E. Hon. Sakaja Arthur Johnson, Governor of Nairobi City County. “Working with Bloomberg Philanthropies will greatly contribute to better collaboration with state and non-state actors to reduce the rising burden and incidence of NCDs and improve the quality of care for those who develop NCDs in Nairobi, Kenya.”

“We’ll continue to be a leader in the prevention of injuries and diseases like cancer, heart disease and diabetes,” said New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan. “Yet we never give up the hunger to learn and grow. Every good model starts somewhere, and we are as eager to implement successful efforts from other cities as we are to innovate in our own.”

“Osaka Prefecture is very proud to be joining the Partnership for Healthy Cities, a global network of cities that aims to save lives by reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries,” said The Honorable Hirofumi Yoshimura,

Governor of Osaka Prefecture. “Osaka Prefecture is implementing various cancer countermeasures, including increasing the rate of receiving cancer screenings. By participating in this partnership and sharing knowledge with other cities in the network, we hope to further develop our efforts and contribute to the promotion of cancer control around the world.”

Worth Noting:

- Partnership members select from one of 14 interventions proven to prevent NCDs and injuries. These measures address tobacco control, road safety, safe and active mobility, healthy food, data surveillance, or overdose prevention.

- City staff are provided technical assistance, communications support, grants, workshops, and access to in-person and virtual peer-to-peer exchanges that support collaboration and sharing of lessons learned about areas of urban health and safety.

- “WHO welcomes Nairobi, New York City and Osaka – three of the world’s biggest cities – to the ever-expanding partnership and commends their mayors for their commitment to building urban environments that nurture health,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Bloomberg Philanthropies announced today, in recognition of World Cities Day, that three new cities have joined the Partnership for Healthy Cities network: Nairobi, Kenya; New York City, United States; and Osaka, Japan.

This network, now comprising 73 cities, supports mayors implementing proven, high-impact interventions to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries – which are responsible for over 80% of all deaths globally – in their communities. NCDs include heart disease, diabetes, respiratory diseases, and cancer.

Launched in 2017 as part of Michael R. Bloomberg’s role as the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries, Bloomberg

Philanthropies’ Partnership for Healthy Cities is a collaboration with WHO and Vital Strategies, a global health organization.

The Partnership supports cities in strengthening public health policies in several areas, including tobacco control, food policy, road safety, surveillance and overdose prevention. “Through the Partnership for Healthy Cities, local leaders around the world are helping improve public health and save lives – and today, we are glad to welcome three new members: Nairobi, New York City and Osaka,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP and WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries.

“These cities and their mayors have

shown they are committed to implementing policies that protect the health and safety of millions of people, and our team is looking forward to supporting their work – and helping spread it around the world.”

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City staff are provided technical assistance, communications support, grants, workshops, and access to in-person and virtual peer-to-peer exchanges that support collaboration and sharing of lessons learned about areas of urban health and safety.

“WHO welcomes Nairobi, New

ANNOUNCEMENT

Osaka, Nairobi & New York City join the Partnership for Healthy Cities!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compacting Corruption In Media: Call To Action

Dear Editor,

I hope this letter finds you well and ready to shed light on a matter of utmost importance – corruption within the media industry. As an avid reader and concerned citizen, I urge you to join me in addressing this escalating issue that threatens the pillars of democracy.

Corruption within the media has cast a dark shadow over the credibility and integrity of news outlets, causing widespread distrust among the public. To tackle this problem effectively, it is crucial to understand its scope and devise strategic countermeasures.

The perpetrators of media corruption are not solely limited to journalists and reporters; rather, they encompass a web of individuals such as media owners, advertisers, and politicians who exploit their power for personal or political gain. These parties collectively perpetuate a cycle of biased reporting, fabricated news, and undue influence on public opinion.

The consequences of media corruption are dire, leading to distorted narratives, sensationalism, and the manipulation of public perception. It fosters a breeding ground for polarized societies, undermining the truth-seeking purpose of the media and sowing division among citizens.

Media corruption is a global phenomenon, manifesting itself in various forms and degrees across nations and platforms. Indeed, the rapid rise of social media exacerbates the issue, enabling the dissemination of false information at an unprecedented scale.

Rapid commercialization, declining budgets, and increased competition have provided fertile ground for corruption to thrive within the media sector. The relentless pursuit of profit and the pressure to generate viewership often compromise journalistic ethics and contribute to the erosion of media integrity.

Eradicating corruption within the media requires collective action from journalists, media organizations, policymakers, and the public.

Here are a few practical steps we can take towards combating this menace:

1. Strengthen media ethics and standards: Encourage news organizations to uphold journalistic integrity, fact-checking procedures, and avoid conflicts of interest. Reward and recognize outlets that exemplify unwavering dedication to the truth.
2. Transparency and media literacy: Improve transparency within media organizations by disclosing funding sources and affiliations. In parallel, promote media literacy programs to equip citizens with the tools to critically evaluate news sources and identify misinformation.
3. Whistleblower protection and legal frameworks: Establish robust mechanisms to protect journalists and insiders who expose corruption within the media. Implement stringent legal frameworks to hold those responsible accountable for their actions.
4. Diverse ownership and editorial independence: Advocate for diverse media ownership, fostering

healthy competition and reducing the influence of a select few. Encourage editorial independence, enabling journalists to report without fear of reprisal or undue interference.

By addressing the roots of corruption in media, we have the opportunity to shape a future where truth and integrity prevail. Only by nurturing a transparent, accountable, and responsible media ecosystem can we restore public trust and safeguard the democratic values we hold dear.

In conclusion, the fight against corruption in media is a battle that must be waged collectively. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to demand a media landscape that prioritizes integrity, accuracy, and diverse perspectives. Let us come together, united in our resolve, to breathe new life into the Fourth Estate.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nyakobo

You can write letter to the Editor on any subject through:

news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Email Us:

news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

In Support Of KEMSA Plan But Also The Stock To Be Used In A Good Manner

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority's (KEMSA) plans to stock private chemists with essential medicines and resources. This initiative holds great potential for improving access to treatment for patients and sick individuals in our society. The availability of medicines and other necessary supplies in private chemists will undoubtedly contribute to quicker and easier access to healthcare services.

Access to timely and appropriate medical treatment is crucial for the well-being of individuals and the

overall health of our society. By stocking private chemists, KEMSA aims to ensure that patients can conveniently obtain the medicines they need without facing unnecessary delays or difficulties. This approach aligns with the goal of reducing suffering and preventing avoidable deaths.

However, it is disheartening to learn that some nurses and doctors have been opening their own private chemists and transferring stocks from government hospitals and clinics for personal gain. This unethical practice not only compromises the integrity of our healthcare system but also undermines the trust pa-

tients place in medical professionals.

To maintain public confidence in our healthcare system, it is imperative that such practices be stopped immediately. Those found guilty of diverting government stocks for personal profit should face severe consequences as a deterrent for others who may consider engaging in similar activities. The misuse of public resources intended for the benefit of all must not be tolerated.

It is crucial that KEMSA implements strict monitoring mechanisms to ensure that stocks are used appropriately and exclusively for patient care. Regular audits, inspections,

and transparent reporting should be conducted to identify any irregularities or misconduct. Additionally, collaboration between KEMSA, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement agencies is essential to effectively address this issue.

By utilizing the available stock in a responsible and ethical manner, we can significantly reduce the number of deaths and suffering experienced by our fellow citizens. Access to affordable and quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that this right is upheld.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support KEMSA's plans to stock pri-

vate chemists as a means to improve access to treatment for patients. However, it is crucial that measures are taken to prevent the diversion of government stocks by unscrupulous individuals. Let us work together to build a healthcare system that prioritizes the well-being of all citizens.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nyakobo

Public Investments Committee On Social Services Administration And Agriculture Asks New Boss To Streamline The Fund

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Hon. Chair, I want to assure this Committee that 99% of the documents you requested for are now available. We have worked day and night to even retrieve those for historical cases. I know challenges will be there as I familiarise myself with my new position and duties, but I assure you we shall work together with this Committee to bring the truth to light”, he said.
- Members of the committee raised a number of issues as flagged out by the Auditor-Generals report of the year ended June 2020. Peter Masara (Suna West) raised a question on double payments and overpayments above specified limits on special programmes like Linda Mama.

The newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) Mr. Elijah Wachira was yesterday challenged to ensure positive change in terms of service delivery as he spearheads the fund’s transition to the National Social Authority (NSA) set to be unveiled in the near future.

In a sitting at Parliament buildings, members of the Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture led by Chairperson Emanuel Wangwe (Navakholo) raised concerns over the unavailability of a number of documents that could help in recovering public funds lost through fraud under Mr. Wachira’s predecessors.

Mr. Wachira who joined the Fund recently assured the committee that he has made all the efforts to find all the documents needed by the committee to be able to clear raised audit queries and even give way to investigations which would ensure stiff penalties to anyone who misused public money under the fund.

“Hon. Chair, I want to assure this Committee that 99% of the documents you requested for are now available. We have worked day and night to even retrieve those for historical cases. I know challenges will be there as I familiarise myself with my new position and duties, but I assure you we shall work together with this Committee to bring the truth to light”, he said.

Members of the committee raised a number of issues as flagged out by the Auditor-Generals report of the year ended June 2020. Peter Masara (Suna West) raised a question on double payments and overpayments above specified limits on special programmes like Linda Mama.

In addition Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu) questioned a payment schedule by Amaco insurance firm on the Fund’s vehicle involved in an accident and declared to have been written off. He disagreed with the release of the Ksh 4 million claim in instalments.

“The payment schedule of the money from this insurance firm should be rejected by NHIF, chair. Any credible insurance company should have requisite capacity to handle any liabilities. The Ksh 4 million NHIF is claiming should have been paid in full not in instalments as it’s being done. NHIF should have engaged the Insurance Regulatory Authority to solve this”, said Hon. Wandeto.

At this point the CEO asked the Committee to allow him time to get factual reports on all matters raised including fraudulent hospital claims and payments then table before the committee in the next sitting.

This includes responses on irregular payments of acting allowances, failure to settle legal expenses, delayed surrender of temporary imprest, unsupported expenditure, budgetary control and performance and long outstanding return to drawer cheques.

Mr. Wachira in his final remarks to the Committee, pointed out that a number of operations like promotion of officers in acting positions have been affected by the ongoing transition to the new authority and that it may take longer.



NHIF boss Elijah Wachira and other officials when he appeared before the committee yesterday



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina making his contribution during yesterday’s session.

Picnics Are Worthy Packages In The Hospitality Industry



By: **Memory Phiri**
 @themtkenyatimes

A picnic is written in the skies for a couple or family to enjoy it once in a while. Luckily, we leave these two clusters with no choice but to have a stroll and gallivant about in our manicured lawns, gardens and nurseries. From a recreational point of view everyone deserves a break, that sliver of time once in a while to catch up and regroup. Thus, an outdoor experience is necessary for it all reconnoiters on picking some flowers and counting the butterflies for each other. Love is a beautiful thing that is why we are offering a product that appreciate relationships in conjunction with the marriage institute. A picnic experience enables our lovebirds or families to share their food and beverages while they enjoy the breeze and the

scenic beauty of the immediate surroundings. This package strengthens the bond among the family members when looking at the fact that most parents are always at work and the children will be at school. Be rest assured that after this idyllic experience, tourists are supposed to get their pound of flesh from a given cynosure. Time and again, the denizens of Harare are spotted holding picnics in the heart of the Africa Unit Square gardens. Logically, this should raise the eyebrows of every tour operators for its their duty to cater for such an itinerary. First and foremost a typical tourism picnic should have a destination that provides tourists with a basket full of fruits, a bottle of wine, cheese and croissants. Quality time will never get better than this if we flip the script on our tourists with this lucrative avenue. Many a couple will surely go all out by exchanging rings and the surprise engagements can also come true in the name of a picnic. It goes without saying that tourists deserve an appropriate destination which



Exclusive Victoria Falls & Riverside Picnic Experience (Courtesy)

will not blow their cover because a picnic thrives on a secluded and clandestine setting. Good examples of promising destinations that will never throw you off course include the Mukuvisi Woodlands, the Botanical Gardens and the Cleverland Dam. Moreso, the Haka Game Park pops up everytime we

virtually consult our TripAdvisor as the best picnic destination, which necessarily means that we will never run dry when we talk about recreation attractions in Zimbabwe. Come and try out the full package from our tourism galore so as to distance yourself from the ordinary picnics. As far as we are concerned,

marketing picnics is the moral of this article and increasing awareness of this package can be life-changing in the long run. Ladies and gentleman we urge you to sign up for all our activities this summer in a bid to support our endless initiatives.

Nyeri National Polytechnic Conference Kicks Off

By: **WILLIAM MUCHIRI**
 @themtkenyatimes

The 2nd International Research Conference convened by Nyeri National Polytechnic kicked off yesterday where it attracted participants showcasing innovative exhibitions in their fields. Being the institution's first Skills competition, participants from different TVET institutions are competing in 14 skills areas where they showcased their competencies. This highlights the importance of TVET institutions in equipping individuals with the skills needed in today's dynamic labor market. The conference is themed "Enhancing Sustainable Growth for Socio-Economic Development Through Research, Science, Technology And Innovation." The conference was officially

opened by the Director TCET Dr. Meshack Opwora who encouraged the importance of equipping youths with the needed skills for driving our economy. Nyeri based industrialist Dr Thuo Mathenge was among other leaders who addressed the delegates. His speech was based on "Leveraging Climate-smart agriculture for a Sustainable, Secure and Resilient Food Supply Chain" Dr Mathenge addressed the basic issues mainly value addition on products with minimum input to sustain supply food chain.



Nyeri industrialist Dr Thuo Mathenge addressing the conference yesterday..

Sports >> *Saudi Arabia was the only football association to present a bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup before the deadline closed, soccer's global governing body FIFA confirmed on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia Sole Bidder To Host 2034 World Cup, FIFA Confirms



A picture shows the FIFA logo during a press conference held by the president of the football's governing body at the FIFA Executive Football Summit on February 15, 2019 in Istanbul. (Photo by OZAN KOSE / AFP) AFP

Saudi Arabia was the only football association to present a bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup before the deadline closed, soccer's global governing body FIFA confirmed on Tuesday.

FIFA had invited bids from Asia and Oceania for the tournament by Tuesday, and Saudi Arabia announced it would bid only minutes after the announcement on Oct 4.

Australia said on Tuesday it would not be presenting a bid to host the tournament, leaving Saudi Arabia as the only candidate.

"As established in the Bidding Regulations approved by the FIFA Council, the FIFA administration will conduct thorough bidding and evaluation processes for the 2030 and 2034 editions of the FIFA World Cup, with the hosts to be appointed by FIFA Congresses expected to take place by Q4 2024," FIFA said.

FIFA also confirmed that the sole confirmation of interest in hosting the 2030 World Cup came from Morocco, Portugal and Spain with Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay hosting celebratory games.

FIFA still needs to rubber stamp Saudi Arabia as the host — a decision that is likely to be made late next year — but that now seems a formality.

Saudi Arabia's sports spending program approved by Saudi

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been described as sportswashing to soften a national image often associated with its record on women's rights and the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has built close ties to Saudi soccer and the crown prince personally, and has long been seen as trying to steer the world soccer body's competitions toward the kingdom.

Unity of hosts for 2023

When FIFA made deal this month to have just one host bid for the 2030 World Cup — uniting Spain, Portugal and Morocco with three games placed in South America — it also fast-tracked the 2034 hosting race with only member federations in Asia and Oceania eligible to bid. The tight deadline gave them less than four weeks to enter the race by Tuesday and just one month more to sign a bidding agreement that requires government support.

The timetable "was a little bit of a surprise," Australian soccer federation leader James Johnson acknowledged Tuesday, adding "we're adults and we just try to roll with it and deal with the cards that we have been given."

Within hours of the FIFA announcement on Oct. 4, the Saudi soccer federation said it was in and the Asian Football Confed-

eration (AFC) — which includes Australia — said it was backing the kingdom to bring the World Cup back to the Middle East after neighboring Qatar hosted the 2022 edition.

Qatar hosted in November and December, in the heart of the European club soccer season, to avoid extreme heat in the summer months and a Saudi tournament likely also will be moved from the traditional June-July period.

Indonesia's football association initially showed interest in a joint bid with Australia, potentially alongside Malaysia and Singapore, but that faded when Indonesia instead backed Saudi Arabia.

Australia will instead attempt to secure hosting the 2029 Club World Cup — which will relaunch in 2025 playing every four years in a new format with 32 teams qualifying — and the 2026 Women's Asian Cup. Saudi Arabia also is bidding for the women's Asian championship.

Government backed Saudi bid

"I think there will be some goodwill created by not going for 2034," Johnson told reporters in an online call, accepting that the resources of a government-backed Saudi bid "is difficult to compete with."

Australia and New Zealand suc-

cessfully co-hosted the Women's World Cup in July and August. Brisbane, Queensland state, is due to become the third Australian city to host the Olympics when it stages the 2032 Summer Games.

Saudi Arabia also will host the men's Asian Cup in 2027 and has started a widespread construction program to build and renovate stadiums that likely will be used for the World Cup. FIFA's bidding documents say 14 stadiums are needed at the 48-team tournament.

Qatar's World Cup was dogged by years-long allegations of rights abuses of migrant workers needed to build its stadiums.

"FIFA's failure in 2010 to insist on human rights protections when it awarded the 2022 World Cup to Qatar is a major reason why serious reforms were so delayed, and so often weakly implemented and enforced," Football Supporters Europe executive director Ronan Evain said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia's preparation should face some of the same scrutiny in the next decade.

"With Saudi Arabia's estimated 13.4 million migrant workers, inadequate labor and heat protections and no unions, no independent human rights monitors, and no press freedom, there is every reason to fear for the lives of those who would build and service stadiums, transit, hotels, and other hosting infrastructure in Saudi Arabia," Human Rights Watch director of global initiatives Minky Worden said in a recent statement.

"The possibility that FIFA could award Saudi Arabia the 2034 World Cup despite its appalling human rights record and closed door to any monitoring exposes FIFA's commitments to human rights as a sham," Worden said.

-By ESPN

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Sports >> *The Kenya Golf Union announced changes in the 2024 Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) calendar with an additional event and a change in the ranking points system.

Changes Made In 2024 Kenya Amateur Golf Championship Calendar



The Kenya Golf Union announced changes in the 2024 Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) calendar with an additional event and a change in the ranking points system.

Twenty-seven events have been lined up for next year as the KAGC series enters the 2nd year with prize money for the amateurs as per the rules of golf (Amateur Status).

The KAGC series offers a platform for ranking amateurs both locally and for World Amateur Golf Ranking.

In a statement, the Kenya Golf Union Chairman Philip Ochola mentioned that the 2023 season

had been prosperous thanks to the title sponsor NCBA bank who supported all events with the prize money.

“We are proud as a Union to have our golfers earn a living out of playing golf and we do hope that in future, there will be more collaborations with sponsors to increase the purse and make the series even more attractive,” Ocholla said.

“For the first time this year, a Kenyan (Michael Karanga) broke into the 100th Mark in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, this is a clear indication that indeed golf is developing and positive strides are being made by all related

stakeholders towards transforming golf in the country.

The 2024 season will see the revival of Diani Beach Masters which shall be hosted by Diamond Leisure lodge golf resort in the Coast Region from 18th-20th October 2024.

“We happily welcome the event back to the calendar as this is an additional platform to get our top amateurs to compete for the prize money and ranking points,” tournament director David Ndung’u said.

As a norm, the series will tee-off at Sigona Golf Club for the Annual Sigona Bowl Tournament January 26th-28th 2024.

The Kenya Golf Union-owned events have been scheduled as follows; Kenya Amateur Match-play Championship- July 11th-14th 2024 at Sigona Golf Club and the Kenya Amateur Stroke-play Championship – August 1st-4th 2024 at Nyali Golf & Country Club.

“For next year, we will use a tiered points system to award KAGC points, based on the strength of the field that each event attracts, the events will be categorized into 3 tiers,” Ndung’u added.

Capital Sport

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Scorpio

By: Abigail Phiri
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Provided you are a Scorpio queen or king and did not know what your sign stands for then this is it folks. In short, it's a power thing. In most situations, if you know what you want out of life and aren't swayed from your goals and dreams then kudos to you. Many if not most people are succumbing to the pressures of life.
- Nonetheless, you need to be made of sterner stuff to be able to go through trying times and countless defeats. The endurance part marks you as a human who carries scars and is street wise. Life won't treat you with kid gloves instead it will give you a big shove in the gut.

Today's
Horoscope
Scorpio

This is the time to appreciate your sheer existence on the face of earth. As you turn a year older, you must thank God for the small mercies he always bestow on you. Many if not most people are meeting their maker through untimely deaths yet you are still here breathing. Indeed, this is a cause of merriment to live long on the face of earth.

The joy of being alive is unparalleled. Nothing beats being given another chance at life so that you fulfill your purpose in this world. If you do not know what you are living for then it is a great shame. As a Scorpio on the zodiac signs, I couldn't let the month of November pass by without giving it the due respect that it deserves.

From my understanding, each sign on the horoscope has specific characteristics that define the people who fall in that group. Notably, for Scorpions we are the most loyal of these signs. To be brutally honest, we are loyal to a fault.

Needless to mention, we are intuitive and secretive whilst being goal getters in life. We fare very well in tight spots that are taxing for other people. Also, we are never short

of a game plan to maneuver sticky spots. Independent is another name for Scorpions who are also popularly vengeful which isn't commendable. Arguably this again is debatable and cannot be generalized but all the same, Scorpions mean real business.

Provided you are a Scorpio queen or king and did not know what your sign stands for then this is it folks. In short, it's a power thing. In most situations, if you know what you want out of life and aren't swayed from your goals and dreams then kudos to you. Many if not most people are succumbing to the pressures of life.

Nonetheless, you need to be made of sterner stuff to be able to go through trying times and countless defeats. The endurance part marks you as a human who carries scars and is street wise. Life won't treat you with kid gloves instead it will give you a big shove in the gut. It is what it is but whenever celebrating your birthday give thanks to the almighty.

Imagine from all the sperms that were released on your conception, your egg was able to be fertilized. That alone is reason for merriment. Worth noting, your birth and existence had been preordained. Un-

doubtedly, you shall be counted on the list of names of people who did walk on the face of earth like our Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. For that reason, let's cherish every moment whilst reveling in your uniqueness.

Treat others right and most importantly make yourself proud. In fact, humanity needs care and love from the next person. This life is not about being wicked and doing wrong to others because we only live once albeit that it is on borrowed time. Every year, I have let it pass without penning my heart felt gratitude over the gift of life as a Scorpio. However this year, I saw it befitting to rectify that because I have witnessed so much calamities and joys that gave me a good understanding of what life is really about.

If you are one for parties, give yourself a treat but if you are a lone wolf just do something for yourself in the comfort of your home or office. To be exact, set goals for yourself.

Benchmark yourself to see how far you have gone with your quest against achievements of those who have traversed the same path. Given you were treading on the wrong path

rectify your ways. Forgive those who hurt you even if takes time to forget.

It is normal and understandable to go through that process. Also, never succumb to peer pressure. Thus, happy birthday to every Scorpio out there around the world born from the 23rd of October to 22 November.

We are brothers and sisters by the dictates of the horoscope sign. We have a lot to live for. The significance of this article is the fact that it was penned on and for the D day 02 November. At the same time, honor your parents for they are the reason you are here today.

Even if they are long dead still cherish their memory for they left a legacy in the form of you carrying their name and bloodline.

There is an untold beauty of human life reproduction. All in all, let's give blessings for the gift of life and health because this comes first before anything else. In Zimbabwean churches they go a little further in spicing the factor by saying "it is nice to be here" and there is no greater truth than that. Rugare treasured readers.