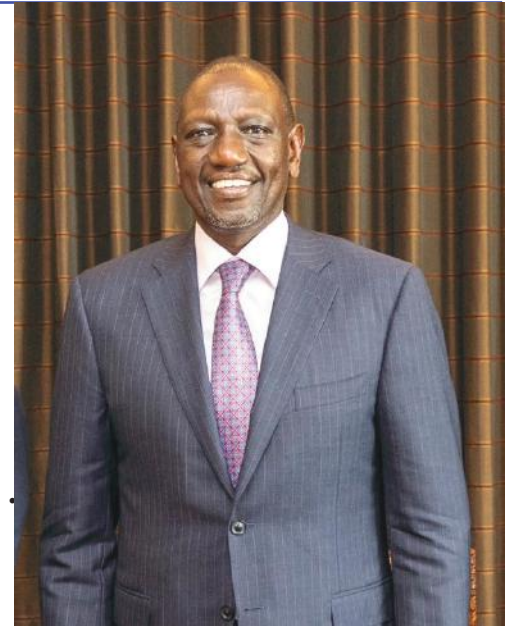


Ruto: It's Time Africa Is Turned Into A Green Powerhouse



P.9 President William Ruto Friday delivered a keynote address at the COP 28 World Climate Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Climate: COP28, Ruto Once Again Emerges As A Leading Champion Of Climate Change Mitigation In Africa **P.11**



Entertainment: Block Tainted Persons From Your Functions, DP Gachagua Advises Artists **P.13**

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Parliament Urged To Solve Two Thirds Gender Rule Impasse

By: KNA



A joint sitting of National Assembly and Senate listen to President Uhuru Kenyatta delivering his State of the Nation Address at parliament buildings on November 30, 2021.. Photo | COURTESY.

Worth Noting:

- The working group is mandated to draft a legislative proposal for consideration by the 13th Parliament on the implementation of the two-thirds gender principle.
- Mukhwanja reminded the stakeholders present at the forum that their engagement with the process will not end with the submission of the final report and pledged that the team will use its individual, institutional and professional influence to lobby key institutions that will be instrumental during the parliamentary process.

The multisectoral Working Group on two thirds principle has urged Parliament to urgently implement the two thirds gender rule to help increase women's involvement in governance and decision making which will further better policies that are mindful of their plight.

The Working Group has further expressed optimism that the current Parliament will break through the impasse on the two-thirds gender rule before its term ends in 2027.

A member of the task force Franklin Mukhwanja indicated that Parliament now had political will from the highest office in the land after President William Ruto wrote a memo to the August house urging legislators to hasten legislation to affect the two-thirds gender rule and ensure that no gender was underrepresented.

Mukhwanja said two-thirds gender rule is not about women but a human rights issue.

Speaking at the Rift Valley Regional Commissioner's plenary hall in Nakuru after the working group collected views on the two-thirds principle from members of the public, Mukhwanja stated that the implementation of the two-thirds gender rule could not be ignored since the Supreme Court had already pronounced that Parliament had failed to honour the constitutional procedure adding that Parliament needs to enact a clear and precise law on the gender rule as it has the political will to fully implement it to avoid breaching the Constitutional provision.

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fluence to lobby key institutions that will be instrumental during the parliamentary process.

"Remember that we represent broad collective and representative interests so let us all hold ourselves to account and ensure full consultation and collaborative commitment to the process," Mukhwanja urged.

The group, he said, will also explore ways of working with MPs to ensure a suitable framework for ensuring the gender rule is passed in the House.

He revealed that there would be more active engagements with political parties to ensure that they take it upon themselves to achieve one-third women representation within their ranks.

"How political parties manage their nominations remains a key factor in getting more women into political office," added Mukhwanja.

He called on stakeholders to make recommendations that uphold the Consti-

tion and promote gender equality and women empowerment saying that President Ruto was committed to ensuring that women empowerment and women leadership was a priority of his administration.

The team includes a chairperson, Gender Principal Secretary Veronica Nduva, and co-chairperson, Daisy Amdany.

Other members comprise Harriet Chigai, Faith Nziku Kasiva, Anne Nderitu, Tecla Tum, Angela Wambugu, Mercy Jelimo, Beatrice Kamau, Rahab Muhia, Michelle Oyuga, Lucy Mitei, Sarah Muhoya, Ruth Makuthu, Beth Michoma and Stellah Chepkemboi Ruttoh.

Article 27(8) of the Constitution that establishes the principle requires that "not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender".

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary of Transport Kipchumba Murkomen has called on Matatu sector players to collaborate to improve the transport industry. Murkomen addressed cartels at Matatu terminus and plans to register them with other government agencies. The government is also working on a driver's development programme and cashless Matatu payments to reduce corruption. Murkomen also issued a directive to arrest unregistered operators, Voxys, Probox, and Sientas, and aims to establish insurance courts to handle cases in the Matatu sector.



Climate change activists in Kenya have called on leaders to take action after the COP 28 Conference of Parties. Non-governmental organisation Ripple Effect's Country Director, Titus Sagala, emphasized the need for leaders to implement recommendations from the past Conference. Sagala noted that grassroots farmers are not taking sufficient steps to mitigate climate change, such as adopting climate-smart technologies and planting trees. He also called for countries to reduce emissions and provide funding for developing countries. Sagana also urged farmers to reduce harmful practices and adopt organic manure.



Rift Valley Regional Commissioner Abdi Hassan has warned politicians against inflammatory statements that fuel ethnic hatred in the North Rift region. He said the government would take swift action against leaders who issue such statements. Hassan appealed to local residents to embrace peace, law, and order to join the rest of the country in development activities. He expressed disappointment with the high level of illiteracy in the area, which stands at 80% due to cattle rustling and banditry activities. Hassan hailed security personnel for their efforts to restore peace and assured police reservists that the government was working to resolve issues, including allowances.

The Machakos County has conducted a metre audit and verification exercise to validate the legitimate electricity metres registered under the county. The audit confirmed 383 account metres with a debt of over Sh65 million, while 487 account metres were not verified with a debt of more than 29 million. County Executive for Lands, Housing, Urban Development, and Energy Nathaniel Nganga stated that some county bills from the Kenya Power Company (KPC) were being incurred by other parties, resulting in high electricity bills. He warned that various government agencies that have taken advantage of power connections have been given one-month notice to apply for their own power connections. The County Executive appealed to members of the public to provide vital information on stolen metres, as many metres had been stolen and were in private use, yet the bills were being marked for the county. Nganga warned that anyone applying for power connections for any government project must first get concurrence from the office. The county has since embraced a cheap and clean energy programme, dubbed Solar Mulika Mwizi, and plans to convert all flood and street lights into solar power to cut costs.



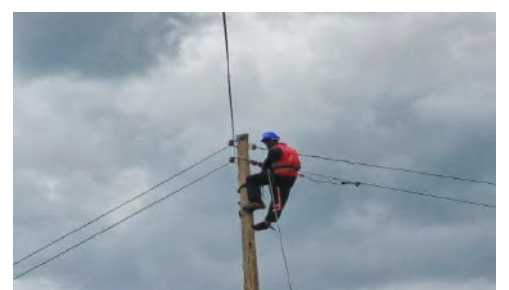
Two middle-aged men who drowned in floods were retrieved from two different locations on the Garissa-Madogo road section in Kitui County. The victims were trying to cross the flooded section for casual work in Garissa town. The first victim, a 17-year-old, drowned while trying to collect bus fare from his sister. The victims were from Kitui County. A businessman in Garissa and Madogo towns has made pleas to the national government to urgently repair the damaged section of the road, but the response has been disappointing. Madogo MCA Juma Ali expressed fears that more bodies could be retrieved in the coming days. The National El-Nino steering committee reports that 120 people have been killed by the floods, with Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera counties being the worst hit. Over 89,000 households have been displaced and are being sheltered in over 112 camps.



Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen) is set to receive Sh2 billion in dividend pay-outs for the year ending June 30, 2023, one of the highest since the 2016 Rights Issue. The company's financial results show growth and sustainability, with revenue increasing by 14% to reach Sh 53.96 billion. KenGen's Board Chairman, Julius Ogamba, emphasized the company's strong business fundamentals, innovation culture, and robust expansion strategy. The company plans to increase generation capacity by over 154 MW over the next two years, primarily from geothermal pipeline projects. KenGen is also focusing on diversification in geothermal consultancy and its green energy park in Olkaria to drive its financial sustainability.

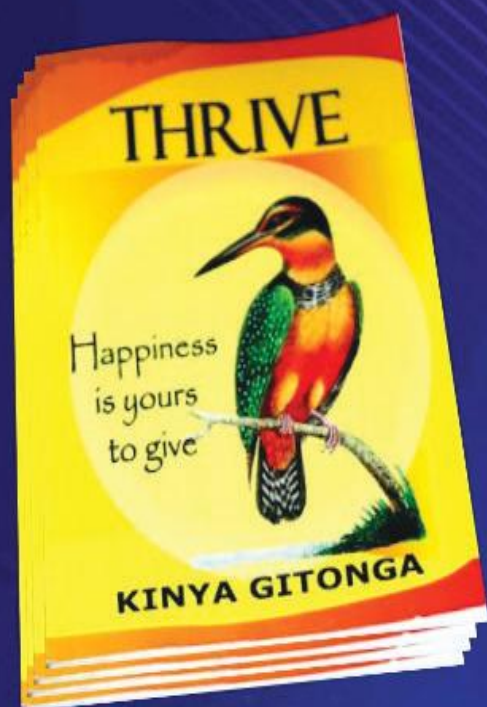


National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) in Kenya is urging communities to actively participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS, particularly in combating new infections and stigmatisation. Despite progress, Kenya still faces challenges with new infections among children, adolescents, and young people. The NSDCC is committed to addressing the Triple Threat in Meru County through evidence-based interventions and policies.



Kingya N. Gitonga

PSYCHOLOGIST, AUTHOR, MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE
& FOUNDER SOUND MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
PRESENTS



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Kingya N. Gitonga

Mackenzie To Serve 12 Months For Possessing And Distributing Films Without Authority



Preacher Paul Nthenge Mackenzie.

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A Malindi court yesterday sentenced controversial preacher Paul Nthenge Mackenzie to twelve months imprisonment for possessing and distributing films that had not been examined and classified by the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB).

Justice Olga Juma Onalo, considered factors such as the convict's age, remorsefulness, the closure of his church, and selling off his TV station.

Mackenzie was also sentenced to six months for operating a filming studio and producing films without a valid license from KFCB.

Onalo noted that Mackenzie was a repeat offender and should have refrained from repeating the offense.

He was given a jail term of 12 months for possessing and exhibiting unclassified films.

In respect to count three, the accused person's explanation of not knowing the need for a license from KFCB having obtained a broadcasting one is reasonable, though not entirely acceptable, as ignorance of

the law is no defense.

Mackenzie has been in custody since March 2023 for allegedly orchestrating the deaths of over 400 followers due to his fasting to die teachings.

Last month, Onalo found Mackenzie guilty of two charges but acquitted him on the first count, inciting to disobedience of the law. The magistrate then sought a pre-sentencing report, which recommended a custodial sentence, despite the fact that Mackenzie had committed the offence in ignorance and was remorseful.

Renewed Optimism As Kenya Marks World AIDS Day



Health Cabinet Secretary Nakhumicha Wafula.

By: Nicholas Kigundu

An innovative concept is promising to transform the fight against HIV in the wake of a surge in new infections particularly among young people.

Local Innovations Scaled Through Enterprise Networks (LISTEN), that has been piloted in Homa bay and Kiambu Counties, has communities at the center of scaling up HIV response through the use of existing structures to improve outcomes in line with this year's World AIDS Day's theme; let communities lead.

According to Dr. Nicole Wamaitha, the Kiambu County head of programmes and partnerships, the concept has proved a success since its inception in 2018 with its advocates collaborating with key local stakeholders such as Boda Boda riders and fisher folk communities to reach those living with HIV.

The programme has seen improvements in prevention, care, and treatment services

including mental health, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health information and economic empowerment opportunities across several sectors beyond health.

"The program utilizes youth-led community outreaches, health clubs, social media, local radio and television stations, and the use of real-life stories for and by adolescents and young people living with HIV and teen mothers on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to support those in denial and experiencing stigma and discrimination." Observes Wamaitha.

This amid disturbing statistics indicating that almost a third (30%) of all new infections in the county occur among adolescents and young people aged between 15-24 years.

The concept adopts six community of practice model comprising of male champions, boda boda riders, adolescent and young people, youth advisory champions for health, maisha youth, teen mums and innovations community of practice.

According to Wamaitha, the programme has helped im-

prove outcomes in the region that has among others enhanced support for those living with the virus from their partners, facilitated engagement of mentor fathers to support prevention of mother to child transmission efforts, acceptance in schools, empowered young people on mental health and created linkages.

According to National Synchronic Disease Control Council CEO Dr Ruth Masha, it is imperative that the country invests in communities through awareness if the target to end HIV and AIDS as a public health threat by 2027 ahead of the 2030 global target is to be achieved.

According to Masha, mother to child transmission rates remain high in what she attributed to a growing threat of father-mother-child transmissions saying men have to become part of the awareness.

"We have noted that the number of children who are being infected even after the mother has delivered the child when she is negative, but then being infected during the feeding period, are quite high and we know the mother is usually at home during the first stage of the breastfeeding period." Observed Masha.

Kenya is ranked 7th globally in the number of people living with HIV across the globe recording the sixth largest proportion of people who died from AIDS related deaths in the world last year.

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**SCALING THE MOUNTAIN OFF THE DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM
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Matatu Medical Camp Reveals Worrying Health Concerns Among Drivers and Touts

By: OSDP

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Wamwea called for consistent health promotion activities in Nairobi and other counties to enhance preventive and promotive health measures for Kenyans across sectors.
- Geoffrey Tumaini, the Clinical Officer Incharge of Medical Camps in the County of Nairobi, mentioned that through the medical camp, they realized a significant number of those in the matatu industry had sight-related problems, affecting their daily work.
- “We had one case where a driver was unaware that his right eye had vision issues, and he testified that he had been involved in accidents involving his right side. We identified this during the camp, and he is scheduled for corrective surgery,” said Tumaini.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, the spouse of the Deputy President, when she opened the medical camp on Wednesday. The medical camp targeting those in the matatu industry was organised by the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) in collaboration with other partners. Photo/OSDP.

Doctors who attended to more than 2,000 people, largely comprising drivers, touts, and stage managers, during the two-day medical camp held at the Aga Khan Walk, Nairobi-CBD, raised serious health concerns among those working in the matatu industry.

Dr. Elizabeth Wamwea, the team leader of the medical camp team, said that the largest percentage diagnosed and treated had non-communicable diseases, including diabetes and hypertension. Those with diabetes often had existing conditions affecting their eyes,” she added.

The number of attendees with eye problems was estimated to be 40 per cent, a worrying condition considering that drivers depend on their sight to transport thousands of Kenyans on the roads.

“In addition to treatment, about 10-15 per cent require different referrals to see specialists for various reasons, such as surgeons and ENT specialists. Approximately 20 per cent need to enhance their commitment to clinics because many were diagnosed with diabetes or hypertension but have not been consistent with medication. We emphasized the importance of adhering to treatment for chronic diseases to avoid fatalities like kidney failure. Less than 1 per cent will need further

intervention, such as surgery. Specifically, one individual will need to undergo cataract surgery,” said Dr. Wamwea.

Dr. Wamwea called for consistent health promotion activities in Nairobi and other counties to enhance preventive and promotive health measures for Kenyans across sectors.

Geoffrey Tumaini, the Clinical Officer Incharge of Medical Camps in the County of Nairobi, mentioned that through the medical camp, they realized a significant number of those in the matatu industry had sight-related problems, affecting their daily work.

“We had one case where a driver was unaware that his right eye had vision issues, and he testified that he had been involved in accidents involving his right side. We identified this during the camp, and he is scheduled for corrective surgery,” said Tumaini.

He added that matatu workers also faced respiratory problems due to their early morning to late-night work shifts, leaving no time for seeking medical attention, exposing them to chronic illnesses. Tumaini said the medical camp was a great investment in their lives.

However, Tumaini raised concern that checking for diabetes was critical, noting that the condition could lead to eye problems like diabet-

ic retinopathy. “Many people with diabetes have never had their eyes checked, and this was an opportunity for them to undergo examinations to check if the nervous system was affected by diabetes. This camp was a great cause, and we thank OSDP for organizing it,” said CO Tumaini.

The medical team comprised Community Health Promoters (CHPs), County Government nurses and doctors, as well as representatives from Medihealth Hospital, AAR, Sasadoc, Karen Hospital, Optica, Lions Eye-SightFirst, Red Cross Counselors, and Good Hope, among others.

The medical camp was organized by the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) in line with the vision of ‘A Dignified Future for Vulnerable Populations,’ who comprise more than 90 per cent of those employed in the matatu sector.

Dr. Grace Kibathi, Senior Medical Officer, said, “Communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension are often caused by prolonged sitting and poor diet. We recommend exercise and healthy eating. Additionally, most individuals in the matatu industry haven’t visited a hospital in years and lack information about their health.”

Dr. Kibathi urged those in the matatu industry to enroll in NHIF (National Health Insurance Fund) to enjoy its

benefits.

“We’ve encountered individuals with cataracts and many drivers who are short sighted. This is a crisis, and they need more optical reviews and glasses. We also had a centre for mental health, addressing issues exacerbated by alcohol and drug abuse. These individuals require therapy,” said Dr. Kibathi.

Furthermore, urinary tract infections (UTIs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and new cases of diagnosed HIV among those unaware of their status were identified, emphasizing the necessity for such medical camps and screenings.

Zubeida Ali, CEO of Federation of Drivers and Conductors Kenya (FEDCO), highlighted that the PSV industry has directly employed more than three million Kenyans. She appreciated the medical camp as a unique initiative since independence.

“We are delighted to partner with Mama Mboys (Pastor Dorcas) and add value to our members, who serve thousands of Kenyans every day. 200 doctors served during the two-day medical camp,” said CEO Zubeida.

Over 25 matatu saccos participated, including Embassava Sacco, Super Metro Sacco, Royal Swift Sacco, Loph Travellers Sacco, Forward Sacco, South Leigh Sacco, Dix Hult Sacco, Nema Travellers, Msafi Travellers, Kemo Sacco, Top Most Shuttle, MCA Sacco, ROG Sacco, Mabigi Services Ltd (MSL), C-BET Sacco, Mwiki Sacco Ltd, Zuri Genesis, Unified Sacco, Utawala Sacco, Naekana Sacco, Nawasuk Sacco, Kacose Sacco, Enabled Shuttle, J-Classic Sacco, and Luck Baba Dogo.

Pastor Dorcas opened the medical camp on Wednesday, and was accompanied by Nairobi Deputy Governor Njoroge Muchiri, Starehe MP Amos Mugo, medics, pastors and other leaders.

She urged those working in the matatu industry to shun alcoholism and drug abuse, and ensure the safety of their clients on the road.

It's Time Africa Is Turned Into A Green Powerhouse, Says Ruto At COP 28

By: Margaret Kalekye



President William Ruto Friday delivered a keynote address at the COP 28.

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto was speaking on Friday at the opening plenary of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai.
- He told the meeting that has attracted representatives from more than 200 countries that it is time Africa is turned into a green powerhouse.
- “This is not just essential for the continent but also vital for global industrial decarbonisation.”
- The President argued that the world cannot afford to overlook Africa’s huge potential or ignore its pressing needs.
- At a time when the world is facing climate crisis, he regretted that the globe is still split between the North and South.

President William Ruto Friday delivered a keynote address at the COP 28 World Climate Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Ruto challenged nations (the world) to install clear and actionable roadmaps that will turn Africa into a green powerhouse.

“This is not just essential but also an important ingredient for industrial decarbonisation. A unified global effort will ensure that we mobilise capital for both our development and necessary climate action” he said.

He noted that no country should be forced to make a choice between its development and climate action saying it is possible to pursue the two together.

He explained that economic growth and environmental sustainability cannot be mutually exclusive.

This, he observed, is a call for an integrated global effort that will broaden capital for both development and climate action.

“Ignoring Africa’s developmental needs and the failure to invest in our youth is no longer a tenable argument,” he said.

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“This is not just essential for the continent but also vital for global industrial decarbonisation.”

The President argued that the world cannot afford to overlook Africa’s huge potential or ignore its pressing needs.

At a time when the world is facing climate crisis, he regretted that the globe is still split between the North and South.

This division, the Head of State maintained, has hindered the globe’s ability to leverage its strengths.

“It has robbed us of opportunities; we must find in collective action a force that propels our success.”

By undertaking to turning promises to progress, the President said the world was firmly on its way back onto a 1.5-degree Celsius ceiling.

“We are also here to support to those who have contributed least to climate change yet bear its most catastrophic impacts.”

In the event were COP28 President Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, among other world leaders.

President Ruto pointed out that the climate crisis must never be seen as remote threat.



President William Ruto on the sidelines of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, held talks with Anna Bjerde the Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank.

“It is here, indiscriminately devastating nations regardless of their size or wealth.”

He cited the current floods that followed the most severe drought Eastern Africa has seen in four decades.

He apportioned these weather extremes to human activities.

The President insisted that there will be no excuse if COP28 fails to deliver a concrete and sustainable action to the crisis.

“We have the power, the means, and, most of all, the responsibility to act.”

Later, the President held a panel discussion on Transforming Climate Finance.

He argued that the current climate financing ecosystem should be restructured and be made more responsive and innovative.

“This effectively addresses the challenges posed by high debt service pressure — especially in developing countries.”

In the panel was the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, President of France Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak, President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo and Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley.

MultiChoice Kenya Introduces GOtv Stream: A New Frontier in Streaming Entertainment



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes



MultiChoice Kenya, a leading entertainment provider, has today unveiled its latest innovation, the GOtv Stream. This groundbreaking streaming app platform is meticulously designed to cater to the diverse entertainment preferences of Kenyan audiences, promising an immersive experience packed with beloved shows, movies, and an extensive array of captivating content accessible at users' fingertips.

Features and Functionality The GOtv Stream offers an unparalleled selection of entertainment, granting subscribers access to a vast library of premium content. Users can indulge

in their favorite TV series, blockbuster movies, documentaries, and much more, all conveniently available through this user-friendly application. Its intuitive interface and seamless navigation ensure a hassle-free experience, allowing viewers to explore and enjoy an extensive catalog of entertainment options effortlessly.

Furthermore, the platform's versatility extends beyond traditional television programming. It embraces a diverse range of content genres, including local productions, international hits, educational shows, and niche-specific content, catering to the varied tastes of its audience. This comprehensive approach aims

to provide a well-rounded entertainment experience, fostering a deeper connection with viewers across different demographics.

Accessibility and Convenience One of the key highlights of the GOtv Stream is its accessibility. Subscribers can enjoy their preferred content anytime, anywhere, transcending the limitations of traditional broadcasting schedules. The app's on-demand feature empowers users to watch at their convenience, enabling them to create their personalized viewing schedules without missing out on their beloved programs.

Additionally, the app's compatibility with multiple devices ensures a seamless viewing experience across smartphones, tablets, smart TVs, and other internet-enabled gadgets. This flexibility adds a layer of convenience, allowing subscribers to switch between devices effortlessly while maintaining continuity in their entertainment consumption.

Enhanced Viewing Experience The GOtv Stream is poised to revolutionize the entertainment land-

scape by incorporating cutting-edge technology to enhance the viewing experience. The platform supports high-definition streaming, ensuring crisp visuals and superior audio quality. Moreover, features such as personalized recommendations based on viewing history and preferences aim to elevate user engagement, providing tailored content suggestions that resonate with individual tastes.

Conclusion MultiChoice Kenya's introduction of the GOtv Stream marks a significant milestone in the evolution of entertainment consumption in the region. By offering a robust platform that combines convenience, diversity, and technological advancements, the company reaffirms its commitment to delivering top-tier entertainment experiences tailored to the dynamic needs of Kenyan audiences. The GOtv Stream stands as a testament to MultiChoice's dedication to innovation and sets the stage for a new era of streaming entertainment in Kenya.

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COP28, Ruto Once Again Emerges As A Leading Champion Of Climate Change Mitigation In Africa



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto on the sidelines of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, held talks with Anna Bjerde the Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank.

Worth Noting:

- Today, the country is experiencing El nino phenomena. The downpours have left a trail of destruction. The government spokesman stated a few days ago more than 100 people have so far lost their lives. The situation could have been worse if the government did not respond with speed.

- Deputy President Gachagua had been coordinating multi-sectoral disaster response teams.

- In one of the emergency meetings with the teams, DP noted. Our efforts are bearing the fruits. We have saved the lives of many Kenyans and secured their properties. Keep it up. If you can do more, please do. We must save the lives of our people, he reiterated.

President William Ruto is currently in Dubai attending the United Nations Conference of State Parties on Climate Change.

This comes just a few months after he convened an inaugural Africa Climate Change summit in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city.

This forum endorsed and adopted a raft of resolutions. Dubbed the Nairobi declaration, President Ruto led African leaders in reaching a consensus to push for the adoption of the blueprint during the forthcoming COP28. The forum is currently underway.

At the time, Dr Ruto stated. The declaration outlines the position of Africa. We will not allow the powerful nations to water it down. We will stand firm.

He is in Dubai, United Arab Emirate to champion this course.

This is while noting Kenya is one of the countries that has been hit hard by adverse effects of climate change.

First, it was the drought rated to be the worst in 40 years. Dr Ruto had no option but to channel all public resources towards battling the biting hunger.

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do more, please do. We must save the lives of our people, he reiterated.

It is worth noting that President William Ruto is not only a leading champion of matters climate change in Africa. He has lately emerged as a global leader.

Before Nairobi climate summit, African heads of state and government gathered at Africa Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa Ethiopia during which they adopted the proposal by Dr Ruto on Africa to take a proactive role in these endeavors.

Our continent of Africa is bearing the brunt of this problem and our contribution to it is very little. The powerful and industrialized countries of Europe and Asian were the leading culprit.

The fossil fuel is the main source of carbon emissions which contribute heavily to the change of climate.

Our plea to them to shift to the renewable energy has not yielded much fruits. As Africans, we have a responsibility to explore ways of helping our people.

This explains why the Africa Union (AU) secretariat on Climate change chose Nairobi to host the inaugural summit.

Besides dozens of heads of state from Africa, the representatives of the global leaders, renowned environmentalists and scholars are in attendance.

It is worth noting the summit comes against the backdrop of the dozens of international Conferences dubbed conference of Parties (COPs).

The one held in France drafted the Paris Agreement and the issue of raising funds to mitigate the effects of the climate change featured prominently.

The world's leading players of air pollution would make big commitments but would not keep their words.

In subsequent COP conferences, the same agenda would be revisited.

Commitments would be made and again end up being unmet.

Besides this, the leaders of the superpowers would also turn deaf ear or do very little towards the implementation of the other resolutions passed. This is unlike the leaders of Africa nations.

President Ruto would not take this matter lightly. During one of earlier COP conference he posed. Were these forums necessary? Were they adding any value to the course of environmental conservation? This is by reversing the devastating effects of climate change.

The forums have become empty talk shows. What is the point of holding them if we don't implement the resolutions?

Climate change is a global problem.

So, he would urge the leaders of rich countries to reconsider their position and take this matter seriously.

In Kenya, President Ruto has since launched a series of programmes for mitigation.

One of them is dubbed greening Kenya that seeks to ensure 15 billion trees are planted by the year 2030.

The president kicked off this campaign at Ngong Forest. He has so far planted many trees and mobilized all state officers to follow his footsteps.

The President is also providing leadership towards phasing out of fossil fuel powered vehicular and industrial machines.

They would be replaced by electric cars. As a show of commitment, the President drove electric car to Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC).

He had gone there to meet Africa Youth

On Africa Climate Change a day before he officially opened the summit.

The fossil fuel produces the following petroleum products-jet fuel, petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Solar, wind, biogas are some other source of clean renewable energy. The president has also been calling on Kenyans to shift and embrace them.

In Kenya, the problems related to climate change were: Biting drought, famine, landslides, rising and overflowing of lake/dams waters and locust invasion.

As an observer, my message to Africa leaders is.

A time has come for Africa to rise up to the occasion. What do I mean? Africa leaders should explore ways of raising their own resources that would go towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

This way, the superpowers will stop demeaning and looking down the people of Africa.

Here the message will be clear. It does not mean that Africa cannot survive. You need us and we need to you. So, if you think you are more superior and continue to treat us with utter disrespect, we can chart our own destiny.

You are main the players in air pollution and climate change. We are not therefore begging you when we tell you to honor your promises.

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

Youth-Teen Leadership In Adolescent



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Three key points emerge from the literature on the life course that are particularly relevant for adolescence. First, circumstances experienced in one phase of life can have consequences for later phases. Evidence shows that early childhood experiences can predict adolescent outcomes. For example, low birthweight predicts depression in adolescent girls. Similarly, experiences during adolescence can predict later life outcomes.

- The work of Falconi et al. (2014) showed that early adolescence is a sensitive developmental period for males, with stressors between 10 and 14 years of age being related more strongly to a shorter life span than stressors experienced earlier in life or after age 15. It is also important to note that later consequences might occur in different domains of life.

Youth groups can play a vital role in supporting young people to grow and build skills to succeed in their lives. While the adult may assume primary leadership of the group at its onset, part of the adult leader's role is to foster youth ownership of the group as it becomes more established. Hopefully, you will have a few energetic young people with a strong commitment to the group who, with support from the adult, can serve as contact people for the group, take responsibility for the organization of group activities and events, and make sure that meetings run smoothly.

The first step in developing youth leadership is identifying potential leaders. You will likely have some outstanding leaders in the group. These are the people who follow through on commitments, have their own ideas but are also willing and able to involve others in meaningful ways, and have enough time to set aside for planning.

Some youth may not be comfortable volunteering although they have a lot to offer, so they may need encouragement and coaching to assume new roles. Providing opportunities to assume smaller roles in meetings is a low-risk way to let youth test ideas, learn from others and see what they are good at. A small activity will also allow you to observe the youth and see them in action. Look for different skills in your members – and value the differences. Someone who has a lot of energy and is outspoken may be good at public speaking but may need help to not dominate the group.

It may be helpful to discuss what qualities the people in your group think makes a good leader. You might brainstorm a list of qualities together, and ask the group, which are most important to them. Remember that no one has all of the traits of a leader. Anyone who is interested in serving as a leader should be able to identify their strengths as a leader as well as the skills they would like to develop. The Leadership Quiz and the Skills and Interest Survey in Tools can help you and the young people in your group assess their leadership skills.

This is where different roles and styles of the adult leader come into play. There will be times when you will nurture, educate, encourage, coach, mentor and inspire. You will need to take the time to build strong, trusting relationships with the youth. Although a lot of energy is often put into working with teens, the payoff can be tremendous.

Youth may also need concrete information about practical skills like how to run effective meetings, team building, public speaking, and facilitation skills that will empower them. Again, remember your role is to be supportive. For example, you may work with youth on facilitation skills, but let them find their own words and style. This section includes handouts on what it takes to be a leader, running meetings, and facilitating activities.

You could include these in an orientation packet for the youth leaders to help them with their new role. You might also include things to remember when resolving conflict (See Com-

municating Across Disagreement) and "Tapping into your Strengths (included in Getting Organized). Ongoing opportunities for practice and feedback will lead to confidence and growth/h. As youth develop in their leadership roles, make sure to recognize their accomplishments both personally and publicly. Three key points emerge from the literature on the life course that are particularly relevant for adolescence. First, circumstances experienced in one phase of life can have consequences for later phases. Evidence shows that early childhood experiences can predict adolescent outcomes. For example, low birthweight predicts depression in adolescent girls. Similarly, experiences during adolescence can predict later life outcomes.

The work of Falconi et al. (2014) showed that early adolescence is a sensitive developmental period for males, with stressors between 10 and 14 years of age being related more strongly to a shorter life span than stressors experienced earlier in life or after age 15. It is also important to note that later consequences might occur in different domains of life.

For example, links between different aspects of children's development have been modeled in the Young Lives project, identifying children's height at age 12 as associated with cognitive outcomes during adolescence.

Specifically, in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam, an increase of 1 standard deviation in early height for age predicted an increase of cogni-

tive skills by 6%–17% during adolescence. In addition, how children report feeling about themselves and their opportunities (psychosocial well-being) can relate to their later learning outcomes.

Stunted or less healthy children may not achieve the same learning outcomes as their peers for many reasons—they might not go to school regularly, may start school later, or may learn less in school. Policy approaches to achieve success within one sector (education in this example) have a crucial interest in engaging beyond that sector (such as earlier health and nutrition)

Furthermore, the impact of stressors on an individual is cumulative, making it difficult for individuals to catch up once they fall behind. For example, in Vietnam 48% of those in the bottom quartile of math scores at age 12 had left school by age 15 (Rolleston et al., 2013), further limiting their life chances. Benefits in one age group can be derived from interventions in an earlier age group sometimes requiring multiple interventions.

Longitudinal research also showed that gender differences emerge at particular points in time, interact with other forms of disadvantage, and accumulate. Disadvantage is transmitted intergenerationally, often through the educational or health status of the mother. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the impact of childhood and chronic poverty, which is often transmitted intergenerationally

Block Tainted Persons From Your Functions, DP Gachagua Advises Artists

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua leads other leaders in taking the floor during the launch of Samidoh Foundation

Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President stated that persons associated with the outlawed group are trying to return to the public through events organised by artists and hijacking the functions to address crowds. He asked artists to ensure their events are dignified by denying tainted people a platform to speak to the audience.
- “They are trying to come back through you (artists) by hijacking the ceremonies.
- Leaders and businessmen have started isolating those individuals. We will only appreciate and attend functions where there are women, youth, elders and there is dignified seating,” he said.
- He was representing President William Ruto at the event.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called on artists to shun persons facing integrity issues, including attempts to revive the outlawed Mungiki sect through music functions.

Mr Gachagua’s remarks come one week after female parliamentarians from Mt Kenya region raised alarm over the resurgence of the illegal group and sanitising of its activities; a move that they said is instilling fear among women.

“I want to plead with our artists to be very careful.

Do not allow yourselves to be misused and your functions to be hijacked by people of dubious character and bad history. They scare women away from your functions,” said the Deputy President during the launch of Samidoh Foundation on Thursday night at Parklands Sports Club, Nairobi.

The charity non-governmental organization is owned by Kikuyu musician Muchoki Samidoh.

“Please do not be abused by people with questionable character. The people trying to use you now, you know what they did to our youth and what became of our children,” he told the artists.

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He was representing President William Ruto at the event.

Recently, the Deputy President warned that the attempt to revive the Mungiki sect will be met with decisive action as he recalled that at its peak, the outlawed group was known for extortion of business persons, rapes and killings.

The Deputy President was accompanied by Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts Ababu Namwamba, Principal Secretaries Alex Wachira (Energy) and Eng John Mbugua (Transport) and over 10 Members of Parliament and Senators.

In his remarks, the Deputy President said the government has rolled out plans to commercialize talents through the Talanta Hela Initiative.

“In our Kenya Kwanza Plan we have Five Pillars and one of them is the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy. We want talents to be a source of income.

We want to encourage talented people to take their talents as a business, develop it as a business, and make

means of income,” Mr Gachagua.

He further asked artists to embrace a saving culture for a dignified life in future.

“Make hay when the sun shines but also learn to save money because you will not be young forever.

When you grow older, you need to have invested your youthful life for the future. Let us pursue talents, make money but also invest because that money will be a blessing to you in old age,” he stated.

Leaders accompanying the DP at the function include senators John Methu (Nyandarua), Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri), Karungo Thang’wa (Kiambu), Joseph Githuku (Lamu), Betty Montet (Nominated), Karen Nyamu (Nominated), Maureen Mutinda (Nominated) and Mirajj Abdillahi (Nominated).

MPs Geoffrey Ruku (Mbeere North), Augustine Mwafrika (Roysambu), Benjamin Gathiru alias Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central), Eric Wa Mumbi (Mathira) and Woman Representatives Faith Gitau, (Nyandarua) Muthoni Marubu (Lamu), Betty Maina (Murang’a), Rahab Mukami (Nyeri) and Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga) were also present.



Kikuyu musician Muchoki Samidoh.

The Joy Of My Heart, My Queen, My MOTHER



By: Bo'lisheva Ro'zixon

When Allah Almighty gave life to us servants and brought them down to earth, He appointed an angel for each of us, and made them our mothers, the light of our hearts, our teachers in all aspects, in a word, our mothers as heroes for us.

Mother! This word, which consists of only three letters, has many meanings. As we mentioned earlier, each of us is born with our own angel. That is, the one who leads each of us back from bad to good, who contributes to our development in all directions, who always supports us no matter what situation we are in, who can take the place of father, mother, brother, and sister when the time comes. His love is like an ocean, he is like our angelic mother. We know that a person who has an angel will never get lost, stumble, fail, or even succumb to evil. Here are our prayers that can be a shield for such evils. Even if we children hurt the innocent hearts of our mothers, if we don't ask them once a day how they are doing, if we don't ask them once a week what to eat or what to bring, once a month where are you going and are you bored at home, even if we don't have the ability to tell them, they still love us. They are noble beings who see well. Mothers are never angry with our children, we can bear it when our parents take them to an old people's home. We brag that I have a car, a nice house, and a lot of money. But at this moment, will we ever remember, if we don't respond to the words of our mother, who made us happy from the moment we were in her body, and after giving birth, pressed her into her bosom and caressed me as the light of my eyes, the joy of my heart, my existence.

What good are we doing to our mother, who with so many difficulties tries not to make us less than anyone else, who does not wear clothes herself, does not drink herself, is ready to do anything so that my child will not be embarrassed in front of his friends? If we go to study, if we study well in the subject of one teacher and receive thanks, it is first of all to increase our knowledge, but the thanks at the root of this can also be the reason for our mothers' career in heaven to be one step higher. We, children, do not know that one sweet word, thank you, a car brought for our mothers is better than a thousand candles. Their hearts will be filled with worldly joy, not with their car, but with our children's gratitude, by maintaining respect for the people. Everyone praises us that this is my daughter, this is my child. God has given us such a kind person that we look for love from some unfaithful place, from a friend who comes until

he finds a good one when the time comes. Heavens on Earth we should be proud of. Juliet is not for anyone. Therefore, like all mothers, my mother is the kindest, most sincere, the most affectionate.

My mother is the sun of my heart, my heavenly face is my mother, my country is my mother, my flower is my mother, my existence is my mother, my beloved, my gratitude is my mother, my teacher, my recluse, my angel, my most beautiful mother. No matter how much love we show to our mothers, no matter how much we say warm words from our hearts to them. My mother, your kind eyes, your heart as white as cotton, your sweet words are the medicine of my heart. When you say I miss you, I will come to you, mother. I will not trade you for worlds, my dear, if we call the world one country, you are the queen of this country, my queen, and we are the queens of these queens.

My mother whose hands are bruised from work, my hard-working mother who did not stop trying not to let me down, she doesn't care if I'm sick, my mother who didn't leave my side even for a moment, I'm the only mother without you. Mother! How can I repay your gray hair, your lost youth, your love and the sweet white milk you gave me, mother. For this, no matter how much I serve you, no matter how sweetly I speak. I remember you were watching me at the door before I went into surgery. When I looked at you, tears flowed from your eyes, something broke inside me when I saw you. But I had no right to cry. Mom, you know what was going through my mind at that time. When I thought that I would not survive after the surgery, and that I would leave this world to the next, the first voice that came from my heart was: "Did you please your mother?", what will your mother do after you? If you become a hellish person and not a heavenly person in that world, can you be the reason to bring them to heaven, can you make your parents wear crowns on their heads, enter them in golden chariots, live in the highest places of heaven, and live in palaces? Can you account for the tears your mother shed after you? Do you have enough merit for these or did you do your mother a favor? such questions torment my stomach. Then the strength I got from your sad eyes and bright faces made me move towards you, at that time I thought to myself, O Rōzikhon, what kind of child are you that you want to leave your mother, what did you do for your mother, did you give the happiness of two worlds or did you appoint her to heaven? the idea that you have no right to leave, don't think about such things reawakened. It's all because of you, my mother. Look, mom, you didn't leave me alone even now, you didn't say a word, your presence encouraged me, mom. Yes, mothers are such great powers. May our children be happy and healthy, thank you mothers.

In conclusion, while we live under the blue sky as a servant of God, let us protect and honor the angels on earth. Let's show them love, let's open our hearts, let's always do our best for our mother, let's make them happy. After all, heaven is under the feet of mothers.

Living in the same world is different,
Mother's definition and love are different.
I mean, even ninety, a hundred years old,
Living life with a mother is different.

Our mother lives thinking of us,
We ask God for happiness day and night.
Motherless people cry endlessly
Living life with a mother is different.

SIKU YANGU KUZALIWA



Siku yangu imefika, kufika kwenye dunia

Siku niliyozaliwa, miaka kule tisia
Tumboni nilipotoka, mama akajifungua
Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Furaha zililikika, nilipokuwa kilia
Kina mama wakafika, vifijo kunipatia
"Ua kiume amefika", peupe wakasifia
Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Kila ninapokumbuka, nilipotua dunia

Matozi yananitoka, kwa za furaha hisia
Mbali mimi nimetoka, kwa uwezo wa Jalia
Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Leo inakamilika, miaka nikizidia
Amenifaa Rabuka, uzima kunijalia
Kunongezea miaka, ya uzima na afia
Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Nawashukuru hakika, walezi wa yangu ndia

Misingi walonifika, siku zilivyokimbia
Ujinga ukanitoka, wenyewe wakichangia

Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Sherehe inapofika, mabui mkafikia
Pamoja pasipo shaka, keki tukaFurahia
Tufurahi fikfika, siku hii ya mamia
Ni siku kweli muhimu, siku yangu kuzaliwa

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

My Country Is Uzbekistan



Every country has its own traditions, customs, values, and holidays as well as in Uzbekistan.

For example, the oldest national holiday "Navruz holiday" is celebrated on March 21.

There are many historical and literary sources about Navruz.

In the works of our scholars such as Mahmoud Kashgari, Beruni, Omar

Khayyam, Alisher Navoi and other sources, there is a lot of information about Navruz holiday and traditions related to it.

Abu Rayhan Beruni in his work entitled "Monuments left by ancient peoples" devotes a lot of space to this holiday. He thinks about its origin and history. However, the most important thing is that this age-old value has survived until our days, and the fact that the traditions, customs and ceremonies related to Navruz are still in our country is the most reliable and reliable source.

It is known that seasonal rituals appear in connection with the most ancient ideas among all peoples of the world. They form and develop in connection with.

I am Kanoatova Farangiz.

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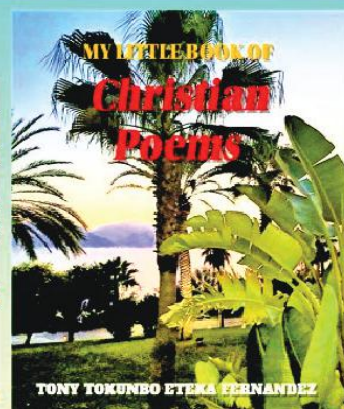
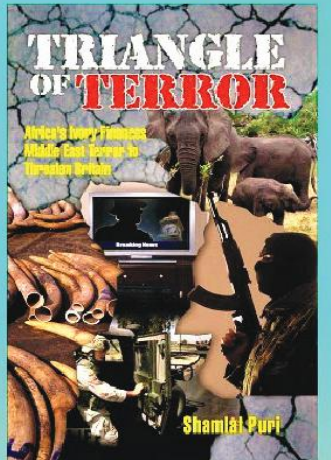
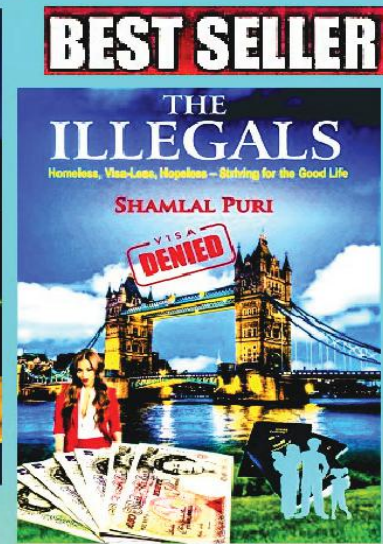
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BUSINESS

CS Miano Hails Upscaling of the Hustler Fund

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

It is now slowly dawning to Kenyans that the Government of President Dr. William Ruto is keen to deliver on its promises, key among them being the Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda abbreviated as BETA.

This came to be fulfilled on Thursday 30th November when Kenyans received the Good news pertaining to the upscaling of the Hustler Fund.

President Dr. William Ruto announced that Kenyans will now be able to borrow more as the fund increases borrowing limits by up to 100 per cent.

“Additionally, for those who have demonstrated a commitment to saving, and your savings exceed your loan limit, we will double your credit

limit,” he said

Reacting on this pronouncement, Investment Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano underscored the phenomenal economical transformation brought about by the fund. CS Miano noted, “The Hustler Fund has effectively fulfilled its primary objective by ensuring Kenyans have access to affordable credit.

One year later, the fund disbursed KSh39.7 billion to 21.8 million people and mobilised KSh 2 billion in savings. Total repayments stand at KShs 28.75 billion.

I urge Kenyans to continue borrowing and repaying on time so as to improve on their credit score,” she noted.

At the same time CS Miano implored upon Kenyans to continue supporting the Government to deliver on its other key transformation agenda blueprint for all Kenyans.



Investment Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano.

Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme II Bilateral Review Mission Visits Kisii

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

The Sweden Embassy has visited Kisii County to ascertain the successes and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme II (ASDSP II) in the County.

The delegation was accompanied by stakeholders in the sector; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD), ASDSP II National Programme Secretariat (NPS), National Treasury and Joint Agricultural Sector Intergovernmental Secretariat (JASIGS).

The team was received by Kisii County Governor Simba Arati who lauded the Programme’s positive impact on the Kisii farmers.

“I appreciate the sponsors of ASDSP II in supporting our farmers in banana, cow milk and local chicken value chains being implemented in my county,” Arati added.

The Bilateral review mission ac-

knowledged the county government in supporting the implementation of the programme, noting the good working relationship that has existed since its inception.

Agricultural expert from Sweden Embassy, Martin Mureithi during the field visits to the beneficiaries, affirmed their commitment in improving livelihoods.

Robert Rosana, a poultry farmer specializing in hatching chicks used to operate an incubator of 528-egg capacity, but through capacity building initiatives and business plan development by the ASDSP II, he has maximized the business opportunities and increased production by purchasing 1232 and 1056 eggs capacities incubators.

“Through increased profit, I have used the income for educational investment, purchasing of household items, re-investment in other enterprise such as crops and dairy industry” Rosana said.

Cyrus Nyakundi, who runs an agro plant nursery, expressed his gratitude to the programme. With the launch of ASDSP II, he was selected among the team developing the Stra-



The ASDSP II Bilateral Review Mission and Kisii county team pose for a photo outside Robert Rosana’s farm during a field visit in Bogiakumu Ward Kisii County. Photo/ASDSP II Kisii.

tegic Value Chain Action plan for Banana Value Chain.

ASDSP II County Project Coordinator, Michael Makori acknowledged Nyakundi’s input as valuable in analysis of the current situation and the opportunities that were highlighted in the final product.

Through capacity building initiatives by the ASDSP II programme, Edwin Mokaya, a dairy farmer has adopted Climate Smart Agriculture and Green Growth (CSA & GG) technologies and implemented them in his farm.

“This has reduced losses in my

farm as experienced before the interventions resulting to low heat energy and fertilizer costs by using the biogas unit” Mokaya said.

ASDSP II programme has been in operation in Kisii since 2018 and is set to end in December 2023.



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Security Committee Assures Samburu And Turkana County MPs Of Strong Action Towards Restoration Of Security In The North-Rift

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

- The Committee has already toured Baringo, Samburu, Turkana and Laikipia Counties and is set to visit West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties next weekend before re-treating to write its report on the security situation in the region for consideration by the House.
- Making their submissions to the Committee, the Members noted that the security situation in the north had been exacerbated over the years by the belief that banditry is a battle for conquest but which has now slowly transitioned to an expansionist agenda. They faulted the Pokot Community residing in Baringo County for being behind their woes, which has led to many of their residents losing their lives and livelihoods.



Dido Rasso MP Saku and vice chair of the committee

The Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security has assured lawmakers drawn from Samburu and Turkana Counties of strong action towards restoration of security in their counties.

Speaking when the Committee hosted the legislators from the two counties, the Committee Members led by the Chairperson Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West) assured the legislators that the Committee will go to any length to derive the required solutions to decades-long security challenges in the region, once and for all.

He stopped short of telling the delegation comprising of John Ariko (Turkana South), Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West), Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central) and Ekwom Nabuin (Turkana North) that the Committee was prepared to go to the length of censuring political leaders who are fueling banditry and insecurity in the region and have them brought to book.

“I want to assure you Members that we shall do whatever it takes to bring peace to the North-Rift. In all the five counties that we have gone for a

fact-finding mission to, some names of political leaders including some we are serving with keep on popping up. We will not spare anyone when we make our recommendations to the House”, he held.

Even as the Chairperson made the assurance, he revealed that he has received threats to his life following the Committee’s resolve to find a lasting solution to the insecurity challenge that had bedevilled the region for decades. He however undertook not to relent on the Committee’s resolve to address the matter.

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da. They faulted the Pokot Community residing in Baringo County for being behind their woes, which has led to many of their residents losing their lives and livelihoods.

“Hon. Chair, it is unfortunate that past governments and past Parliamentary Security Committees have not viewed this matter as a matter of immense concern. Our people have been deprived of their right to life, right to education and right to security and safety. I pray that this Committee looks at these issues seriously and makes strong recommendations that will address our insecurity permanently”, Lesuuda pleaded.

Addressing the root cause of the insecurity in the area, the Members called on the Government to undertake a boundary sensitization and affirmation exercise so as to help in eliminating the perennial conflict. Noting that there are capacity gaps among police officers deployed to the region characterized by harsh terrain, the MPs further called on the Government to enhance the deployment of Police reservists to help supplement security operations in the area.

Focusing on the international threat to the security situation in the North, Emathe pointed out to the Committee that the Government of Kenya needs to permanently address the enduring border dispute between Kenya and South Sudan, and that of Kenya and Ethiopia at the Illemi Triangle.

Both the lawmaker and Committee Member, Protus Akuja (Loima) noted that the dispute coupled by the absence of Kenya Defence Forces officers along the two borders in Turkana County had not only allowed the border points to be conduits of human and drug trafficking but had also given a field day to defence forces from the neighbouring countries to harass local residents and perpetuate cattle theft in the county.

The Committee is now expected to engage political leaders from Tiaty in Baringo County as well as the Cabinet Secretary for Interior before compiling their report for the House consideration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Youths, Stop Gambling And Invest



The recent census conducted by the Kenya Bureau of Statistics reveals that approximately 29% of the population are youths, with 19% of them being unemployed. Many young people have found a way to make ends meet through the "Jua Kali Sector," utilizing the skills they have acquired, which is commendable. However, the question that arises is how do they spend the hard-earned cash? Shockingly, many of them indulge in gambling.

In the 21st century, due to technological advancements and modernity, young people are developing a notion of achieving success without putting in the effort, in other words, they want to be wealthy without working. This mentality has led to an increase in the number of youths engaging in malicious practices such as drug trafficking, gambling, and other unscrupulous activities with the hope of making quick money. This trend is worrying and calls for significant intervention by both the

government and other stakeholders to offer alternative avenues for the youth to channel their energy and skills towards productive and sustainable ventures.

Following the true life story of these billionaires we see today, they worked for it. They had sleepless nights and busy days to become who they are today. It's very rare and countable for those who are rich to gamble. Maybe that might seem far; reduce it to the level of your village or clan, how many of those who are rich are gamblers? In case there is, they are specifics.

This ideology has landed most of the campus Students in great traumas, depression and stress since some gambled with their fees, rent and the little cash they had for upkeep. What a mess! All went in vain, they are faced with the reality of life when she has lost all the money they had, making most of them live a life full of disgrace, and some end up killing themselves through suicide.



We, youths can decide to invest in the little we can afford, after which we can have a loan from SACCO and other trustable lending companies, hence getting ourselves employed by ourselves. Moreover, we shall reduce the level of poverty and begging observable in Kenya

due to unemployment. Youths, let's wake up, stop gambling and do some meaningful investment, for an enjoyable future with your families.

*Tonny O. Blair - Education Science Student, Rongo University.
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You can write letter to the Editor on any subject through:
news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

We Are All Affected, Even If We Are Not Infected By HIV/ AIDS



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

•Abstain

The Anti-retroviral therapy saved many people.

Go enroll for your medical assessment and boldly take your medication on time.

Who will say what, where killed many,

Denial, ignorance is off, know your status, accept it and take action.

Stigma is gone, majority understands what being sick and taking care of themselves is, if you do not take action you die fast.

Stop the stigma and zero tolerance! AIDS affect us all!

HIV is a condition not a disease because the virus will be living in the body but once it gets fully blown due to negligence of health it becomes AIDS and the immune system gets weaker and fail to fight diseases and the body is challenged this results on death or severe sickness.

Home based care facilities are there to care for those who do not have loved ones to help or care for during their challenging times.

Prevention from mother to child support is also available for those who are infected by HIV but are expecting children.

In some countries it is mandatory for mothers to be or pregnant women to go through screening and automatically be enrolled in PMTCT therapy because the life of a child is protected so that the statistics of HIV/AIDS are reduced.

The vital information to the growing youth and small children is that abstinence is the key concerning HIV and sexual issues.

For those in relationship they must make sure to condomise and be faithful to avoid being infected by the HIV virus.

Paula .O.M Otukile.

First of December has been marked as the world international AIDS day, hence today marks the World AIDS DAY commemoration! It's not about those affected, infected by the virus and the disease only, it is our call everyone must be involved in fighting the stigma. "A friend with HIV is still a friend; a lover infected by HIV is still a lover."

A decade and few years ago we were scared by HIV/ AIDS, with much understanding and more vigorous positive approach to the disease

- Test regularly
- Be faithful
- Condomise



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- Student participant

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- Must be Original Research
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- Decision of Editorial Board - Final and Binding

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10TH JAN, 2024	15TH FEB, 2024	20 MAR, 2024	25 APR, 2024	15TH MAY, 2024
Paper submission deadline	Acceptance Notification	Edited by the Editorial Board & Green Signal for Publication	Paper added to the Manuscript	Publication Date

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ITUC Africa Stand United In Debt Campaign Across The Continent

By: Wendy Keziah
@themkenyatimes



The African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) General Secretary Kwasi Adu-Amankwah (centre) addressing a Press Conference during the 5th Congress of International Confederation of Trade Unions Africa (ITUC-Africa) In a Nairobi hotel..

Worth Noting:

- Following this relief, a renewed vigour in spending aimed at stimulating growth emerged, buoyed by external debt financing. However, fiscal mismanagement, corruption, and external economic shocks have catalyzed a resurgent debt crisis that predates recent global upheavals.
- Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, six countries had plunged into debt distress, while nine more teetered at high risk. Shockingly, a considerable number of African nations have surpassed debt-to-GDP thresholds, straining economies and jeopardizing essential spending in crucial areas like education, health, and social protection.
- The evolving debt landscape has led to worrisome trends - the composition of debt has shifted, crowding out private sector growth and imperiling other crucial societal investments.

The African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), representing 17 million members across 52 African countries, stands united in profound concern over the escalating debt crisis engulfing the continent.

For too long, public debt has entangled African economies, ushering in pervasive macroeconomic instability.

The recurrent cycles of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Supported Programs in countries like Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Ethiopia epitomize the relentless grip of this crisis.

The Bretton Woods Institutions' numerous interventions have witnessed various debt restructuring attempts, yet the crisis continues unabated.

The debt quagmire transcends economic classifications and country groupings, affecting middle-income and low-income nations alike, including resource-rich/oil exporters and other resource-intensive or non-resource-intensive countries.

Despite initiatives like the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC) and its subsequent enhancements, post-completion African countries remain burdened, with more than half of the relief recipients being African, accounting for staggering debt relief figures.

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fiscal mismanagement, corruption, and external economic shocks have catalyzed a resurgent debt crisis that predates recent global upheavals.

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The evolving debt landscape has led to worrisome trends - the composition of debt has shifted, crowding out private sector growth and imperiling other crucial societal investments. This dire situation exacerbates poverty, inequality, and inflation, disproportionately impacting workers, the vulnerable, and marginalized communities.

In the words of Kenya's President at the recent Africa Climate Summit, "We don't want to die of debt, and we don't want to die of poverty." Indeed, Africa Nations yearn for a fair access to capital without punitive measures, which currently dwarf developed and emerging economies' borrowing costs.

The African Regional Organization of the ITUC, urges immediate action on

Debt Transparency: Transparent debt management practices are imperative to prevent unsustainable debt levels.

Inclusive Social Spending: Prioritize health and education spending, safeguarding citizens' well-being amidst high debt service obligations.

Public Accountability: Governments must engage citizens in financial decision-making, fostering transparency and accountability.

Gender Equality: Implement gender-sensitive policies, addressing the disproportionate impact of debt on women in the workforce.

The time for action is now. The ITUC-Africa stands resolute in advocating for a sustainable way forward, safeguarding workers' rights, ensuring equitable growth, and preserving Africa's future.

Trade Unions to engage in active Participation in Debt Discussions in National Parliaments and Senates - Trade unions should advocate for and secure a place at the table during debt discussions within national parliaments/senates and governments. They must assert their presence in these crucial conversations to ensure that workers' rights and the impact on essential services are thoroughly considered and protected during loan considerations.

Influence Policy Through Advocacy - By actively engaging in these discussions, trade unions can advocate for policies that prioritize workers' rights and the maintenance of essential services despite high debt service obligations.

This involves presenting informed and comprehensive proposals to policymakers, urging them to balance debt repayment with safeguarding

workers' interests.

Trade Unions should advocate for prudent debt spending at all levels of government. Trade Unions should take keen interest in government budgets and expenditure and continuously engage government on the same.

Promote Transparency and Accountability and Debt Management - Trade unions should actively push for transparency in debt negotiations, demanding accessible information on debt terms and the allocation of funds. Additionally, trade unions should advocate for proper use of public money including debt. Their participation ensures governments remain accountable for fiscal decisions, safeguarding against compromising workers' rights due to opaque debt management.

Gender-Sensitive Approach in Negotiations - As debt negotiations impact gender-specific employment and rights, trade unions must advocate for gender-sensitive strategies within debt negotiations. They can also push for policies that address the unique challenges faced by highly educated women in the workforce, ensuring gender equality is a priority in debt management decisions.

Capacity Building and Awareness - Educating union members and the public about the implications of debt service on workers' rights and essential services. Empowering workers with knowledge and strategies to engage in discussions effectively amplifies their voices in negotiations.

International Collaboration and Support - Collaborating with global trade unions and organizations to garner support and insights from similar experiences in other regions. This collective strength can exert international pressure on governments and financial institutions to prioritize workers' rights and essential services in debt negotiations.

Advocate for Innovative Debt Relief Programs - Trade Unions must advocate for negotiation strategies with creditors for favorable terms, repayment extensions, or debt restructuring.

This alleviates the debt service burden, redirecting resources to vital services, thus safeguarding socio-economic well-being of workers.

Monitoring and Reporting - Establishing mechanisms to monitor the impact of debt service on workers' rights and the workforce in general. Trade unions can regularly report these findings to stakeholders, ensuring that the human impact of debt decisions remains a central focus in negotiations.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said he is pleased his side have evolved from last season despite criticism that the Gunners lack the same spark.

Arteta Trusts Arsenal's 'Transition' To Go One Better In Title Race



Soccer Football - Premier League - Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur - Emirates Stadium, London, Britain - October 1, 2022 Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta gives instructions to Bukayo Saka during the match REUTERS/David Klein.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said he is pleased his side have evolved from last season despite criticism that the Gunners lack the same spark.

Arteta's men sit top of the Premier League and are into the last 16 of the Champions League after thrashing Lens 6-0 on Wednesday.

But that display of attacking prowess has been a rarity this season as Arsenal have relied on their defensive solidity to move to the top of the table.

Four of their nine Premier League wins have been by a 1-0 scoreline, including last weekend's at Brentford.

By contrast, an unexpected title challenge by Arteta's men last season was built around the explosive form of Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and Martin Odegaard.

But Arsenal eventually fell short of a first league crown in 19 years as Manchester City stormed clear in the final weeks of the season.

"This team is going to be different to last season and hopefully very different to next season," said Arteta on Friday.

"That's part of the evolution. Leaving some of the things in the past to the new things. That has a transition.

"We want to still be competitive and win matches and I think the team is competing really well."

Wolves travel to the Emirates on Saturday hoping their luck will turn after a series of controversial refereeing calls have gone against them this season.

Arteta also fumed after Arsenal's 1-0 defeat Newcastle last month, branding the decision to award Anthony Gordon's winning goal as "embarrassing" and a "disgrace".

But he disagreed with Wolves boss Gary O'Neil, who said he has now given up on VAR and would like it removed from the game.

"I think we can improve it and we are trying to do that," Arteta added.

"Technology is taking a huge responsibility in games and it needs time.

"If we use it the right way - we are listening to people, we are open, we are humble and we are trying to be constructive - I think we will get to a really, really good place."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The draw for Euro 2024 takes place in the port city of Hamburg on Saturday when France, England and the other leading contenders will learn the path to potential continental glory that awaits them next summer.

Germany Hosts Euro 2024 Draw As Contenders To Learn Fate



German national team coach Julian Nagelsmann Germany Foxborough 12 10 2023 German national team training, New England Revolution, German national team training ground at Gillette Stadium. (PHOTO/Reuters)

The draw for Euro 2024 takes place in the port city of Hamburg on Saturday when France, England and the other leading contenders will learn the path to potential continental glory that awaits them next summer.

The Elbe Philharmonic Hall, overlooking the river which runs through Germany's second-largest city, will be the venue for the draw, just over six months before the start of the tournament which runs from June 14 to July 14.

Not everyone's minds will be on next year's finals just yet as the draw takes place in a city plunged into sub-zero winter temperatures and with top-flight club football the centre of attention across the continent.

Yet Saturday's event marks the start of the real countdown to the European Championship for the 20 nations who have so far qualified alongside hosts Germany.

Last year's beaten World Cup finalists France and an England side that has never before been continental champions are in the first pot of seeds along with Portugal, Spain, Belgium and the hosts.

Recent performances and the

depth of talent available to their respective coaches, from Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann to Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham, make France and England stand out among the favourites.

There will be pressure on England to go one better than at the last Euro in 2021, when they lost the final on penalties to Italy at Wembley.

"I think we have to accept that. Pressure comes when expectation is different from reality and reality is we are going to be one of the teams capable of winning," England manager Gareth Southgate said recently.

Germany, meanwhile, are in crisis on the field having lost six of 11 games played since a second consecutive exit from the World Cup in the group stage last year.

That form cost Hansi Flick his job as coach but they have just suffered back-to-back defeats under his successor Julian Nagelsmann.

"We've an unbelievable amount of work to do in every position," Nagelsmann told local media after the recent 2-0 reverse in Austria.

Italy in Pot Four

As ever there are dangerous sides lurking outwith the first pot, with the Netherlands - winners of the last Euro held in Germany in 1988 - in pot three, and reigning champions Italy in pot four.

Having failed to make the last two World Cups, Italy only wrapped up qualification this time by holding on nervously for a draw with Ukraine in their final game.

None of the sides in the higher pots will want to be drawn with Italy, even if the format removes some jeopardy with four of the best third-placed teams among the six groups advancing to the last 16.

"After all the difficulties we have had, we will be in Germany and we will be going there as reigning champions and going there to win," Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma said after the Ukraine draw which secured qualification.

The last three berths at the finals will not be known until the play-offs in March, which will feature the likes of Poland, Wales, Ukraine and Euro 2004 winners Greece.

Another summer of fairly tale?

The form of the host nation is a real concern and threatens German hopes of this being another "summer fairy tale", which is how the country remembers the 2006 World Cup.

However, football supporters across the continent will be eager to make the most of a return to the classic format of a Euro staged in one country after the last tournament was held in 11 different nations across the continent.

Euro 2020 was also marred by restrictions on travel and on attendances due to the pandemic.

There will be none of that this time and fans will flock to the 10 host cities spread around the country, from the capital Berlin and Hamburg in the north, to Munich in the south and Dortmund in the heart of the Ruhr industrial region.

Germany will play in the tournament's opening game in Munich on June 14, while Berlin's 70,000-capacity Olympiastadion will host the final a month later.

AFP

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CBC A Practical Dispensation For Learners

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “The implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum in Kenya was prompted by a variety of factors aimed at transforming the country’s education system. The conventional rote-learning method was deemed inadequate in preparing learners for the modern world.
- Kenya is a developing country that is constantly looking for ways to grow. The implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum is one example of such development. The establishment of this framework arose from the need to update and enhance Kenya’s education system. The education sector considered that it was equally important to promote knowledge application as it was to promote its acquisition.



Kasarani Group of Schools Registrar Purity Wangui.

The Competence Based Curriculum abbreviated as CBC has been hailed as a practical solution especially in equipping learners. The Mount Kenya Times E-paper sought to hear from the leading private school in Nairobi County, Kasarani Group of Schools which has held the number one position in Nairobi County consistently.

In 2023 KCPE the school posted an impressive Mean score of 393.3.

Helping us to delve and understand CBC is none other than the schools Registrar, Madam Purity Wangui.

“The implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum in Kenya was prompted by a variety of factors aimed at transforming the country’s education system. The conventional rote-learning method was deemed inadequate in preparing learners for the modern world.

Why the Competency-Based Curriculum?

Kenya is a developing country that is constantly looking for ways to grow. The implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum is one example of such development. The establishment of this framework arose from the need to update and enhance Kenya’s education system. The education sector considered that it was equally important to promote knowledge application as it was to promote its acquisition.

The implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum emphasised what learners were expected to do rather than what they were expected to know. For example, it is not enough that students know the process of growing a plant; instead, they could be tasked with sprouting a plant from a bean, which allows

them the opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge to real-life scenarios.”

What are the seven core competencies of the Competency-Based Curriculum?

1. Communication and collaboration

Language is a tool we use to exchange and convey information with others. Under this curriculum, our learners are able to acquire the skill and ability to exchange with others’ thoughts, information and behaviour. The Competency-Based Curriculum necessitates for collaboration in a number of learning activities. Work can be done in pairs or groups if not the entire class. This encourages learners to speak to one another and be cooperative in order to achieve a common goal.

2. Critical thinking and problem solving

One of the key outcomes of a quality education is a learner’s ability to utilise the following critical thinking skills: problem-solving, making judgements and reasoning. This skill is important as it allows learners to constantly evolve their thinking and adapt in the future.

3. Imagination and creativity

A child’s mind is rather creative and imaginative in their formative years. The Competency-Based Curriculum capitalises on that aptitude. It encourages learners to convert what is in their imagination into creative materials. It also motivates learners to seek out new ideas and turn them into reality.

4. Citizenship

A community is a group of people who share a common belief or identity. This shared identity is often anchored by subcommunities. The more the group of people in this community grows, the more set of values they share. Once they are governed by a political, economic, social and religious framework, they become citizens. They experience a

sense of belonging and patriotism - wanting to uphold what is right and condemn wrong behaviour. The Competency-Based curriculum encourages our learners to understand their role as members of a larger community.

5. Learning to learn

Learning is a never-ending endeavour. Acquiring new information allows one to become a better decision maker and problem solver. The Competency-Based Curriculum encourages our teachers to teach learners how to think and not what to think, which means learners will develop an inclination to seek new information, even outside the confines of the school system.

6. Self-efficacy

This competency ensures that learners are capable of independently completing tasks successfully. This means that a learner can take a difficult task and break it down into its smaller components for better understanding without rely heavily on their teacher. The by-product of this skill is that the learner demonstrates a high self-esteem and increased confidence.

7. Digital literacy

One advantage the current generation enjoys is being digitally savvy. Children are able to navigate their way on digital devices with ease. Digital literacy is measured by learner’s ability to safely and cleverly use hardware and software technology to access information. In a world where tech becomes quickly obsolete, learners who are prepared for change adapt quicker.”

Kasarani Group of Schools was the pioneer learning institution that not only embraced the CBC but also had been privileged to undertake the piloting.

Kasarani Group of Schools offers learners a serene, friendly and conducive learning environment