



Governors Dismiss Nyakango's Expenditure Report On Ten Counties

The Council of Governors has brushed off a report by the Office of the Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang'o indicating that some County Governments did not spend any money on development in the first quarter.

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News>>Stakeholders In The Timber Industry Back Proposal To Harvest Mature Trees

P. 8. Key players in the forestry sector have backed a proposal that will see the resumption of harvesting of mature trees in gazetted plantations.



News>>Resolutions Of Jubilee Party Leadership Summit Convened By The National Executive Committee In Conjunction With The National And County Elected Leadership Held On 20th December 2023

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Koome Named Female Leader Of The Year



Chief Justice

Martha Koome has been named the joint winner of the prestigious African Leadership Magazine (ALM) 2023 Awards.

Koome emerged winner in the African Female Leader category.

The award recognizes her trailblazing journey as the first female Chief Justice of Kenya, her unwavering commitment to improving access to justice, and her dedication to strengthening the rule of law in her nation.



Chief Justice Martha Koome/FILE

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Kenya Seeks To Prioritize Family Planning, Reproductive Health In Climate And Policy Actions

By: Claire Wanja

Worth Noting:

- He urged the policy-makers to use knowledge and skills acquired to facilitate mainstreaming of Population, Health, Environment and Development (PHED) in the national policies and programmes to accelerate the realization of national development goals and aspirations together with the global commitment of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Population, Health, Environment and Development (PHED) capacity building workshop is taking place a time when Kenya is facing severe challenges due to rapid population growth, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change.



The Director General of the National Council of Population Development (NCPD) Dr. Mohamed Sheikh gives his remarks as he opens the capacity building workshop for policymakers from across ministries in Nairobi, Kenya.

National Council of Population Development (NCPD) Director General is challenging policymakers from across ministries to adopt cross-sectoral integration of population, health, environment and development especially in ensuring prioritization of reproductive health and family planning.

Speaking in Nairobi while officiating the opening session of a two-day capacity building workshop for policy makers drawn from various government ministries, Dr. Mohamed Sheikh said without integrating these issues, the multiple challenges due to climate change and environmental degradation on population health could undermine development efforts the country desires.

“The country has no other option but

leverage on the interconnectedness of Population, Environment and Development (PED) approaches in policy formulation,” he said.

Dr Sheikh said population health and well being as well as the age structure have been identified as critical building block for achieving sustainable development.

He lauded policy makers from ministries of planning, environment, gender and youth, health and the National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) for accepting to undergo the capacity strengthening session on PHED and demographic dividend plus Environment (DD+E) which aims at leveraging the knowledge and skills that will facilitate the implementation of integrated

plans and ensure reproductive health family planning is prioritized.

He urged the policymakers to use knowledge and skills acquired to facilitate mainstreaming of Population, Health, Environment and Development (PHED) in the national policies and programmes to accelerate the realization of national development goals and aspirations together with the global commitment of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The Population, Health, Environment and Development (PHED) capacity building workshop is taking place a time when Kenya is facing severe challenges due to rapid population growth, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change.

In addition, the Kenya Demographic Health Survey of 2019 shows that one in five women aged 15-49 years have an unmet need for voluntary family planning, implying that women of reproductive age get pregnant probably at a time they may not need it due to lack of access to modern contraception.

Clive Mutunga, USAID-funded BUILD Project Director said issues around population dynamics are central to the development efforts in low and medium income countries.

“We know that these issues are very connected. You cannot talk about economic growth when you don’t talk about the other sectors like the social sector as well as the environmental sector. So we really have to foster cross sectoral integration to increase financial and political commitment for voluntary family planning and reproductive health,” said director of the BUILD project, who jointly with the NCPD supported the workshop.

The USAID-funded BUILD project is a consortium of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) in Kenya, the Leadership in Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa (LEADSEA) in Malawi, the FHI360 in Cote d’Ivoire and the Path Foundation of Philippines.

According to Dr Bernard Onyango, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at the AFIDEP said the desired position for Kenya to benefit from the demographic dividend is having a youthful population that is more educated, trained and skilled youths in productive labour and less dependent population.

Currently, the situation is that majority of youths under 35 still depend on their aging parents, making it hard for the country to meet expected level of development in the likes of Malaysia or South Korea.

Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



A Sh12 million grant will be provided to 1,000 households in Makueni County, Kenya, to help them recover from drought. The Candle of Hope Foundation (CHF) is implementing a project to support vulnerable communities, including 500 households affected by crop and livestock farming. The funds will be disbursed through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), with each beneficiary issued an Unconditional Cash Transfer Card. The project has already distributed 2,500 bags of range cubes and dewormed 25,500 animals. Another 500 households will receive agricultural inputs through an e-voucher system, linked to agro-dealers accredited by FAO. The project is being implemented in Kitui County and is in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Cooperative Development and the National Drought and Management Authority.



Government has rewarded Kenya Ports Authority workers for their exceptional performance in 2020/2021, recognising their efforts in making the port a world-class choice and growing other ports. Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Roads, Kipchumba Murkomen, emphasised the importance of modern and result-focused public service delivery for Kenya’s socio-economic transformation under Vision 2030. KPA signed a performance contract with the government, achieving a composite score of 2.9752 points. The government has approved a bonus payment of a one-month basic salary to each employee as a gesture of appreciation. KPA plays a critical role in national development, serving as a gateway for international trade and connecting Kenya to the global market. Murkomen urged employees to remain faithful to the Strategic Plan 2023/2024-2027/2028, which outlines a roadmap to enhance the port’s efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability. The port’s efficiency has attracted new key players in the maritime and shipping line space, and the port has prepared to counter economic challenges by expanding key berths and acquiring state-of-the-art equipment.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has been named a joint winner in the African Female Leader category of the African Leadership Magazine (ALM) Persons of the Year 2023 Awards. The award was based on an online poll that attracted votes from across Africa and the globe. The African Persons of the Year Awards are Africa’s premier vote-based leadership endorsement polls, annually reserved for leading Africans contributing significantly to the continent’s progress. Koome’s victory as the joint winner is a testament to her trailblazing leadership as the first female Chief Justice of Kenya, as well as her accomplishments in the Judiciary, especially in improving access to justice, promoting gender equality within the legal system, and advancing judicial reforms to strengthen the rule of law in Kenya. Koome is expected to be formally decorated with the instruments of honor during the 12th African Persons of the Year Awards Ceremony 2024, titled Building Resilient African Economies.

Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Foundation has started the selection process for students for the KCB Scholarship Programme, which offers full scholarships to join Form One across Kenya. The programme targets bright and economically underprivileged students from 47 counties who sat for their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in 2023. The selection includes 100 slots for marginalised groups and Persons with Disability (PWD). To qualify, candidates must meet county-specific cut-off points and demonstrate their economically disadvantaged background. The scholarship covers the full 4-year secondary education period and 4 years of post-secondary education. The Foundation Director, Mendi Njonjo, said the programme is seen as a critical role in safeguarding the right to education for learners who would otherwise have dropped out of school for lack of school fees. The programme offers support for personal effects, transport, shopping, pocket money stipends, learning materials, assistive devices for students with disabilities, school uniforms, quarterly one-on-one mentorship sessions, an annual holiday mentorship programme, and internship and employment opportunities during and after university studies. Launched in 2007, the scholarship programme has benefitted 4,675 students, with 2,715 currently in school.



The County Government of Turkana has intensified community-based measles surveillance to combat a persistent outbreak in Turkana West Sub-county since March 2023. Despite a mass vaccination campaign from June to July 2023, 694 cases and 20 deaths have been reported. Lokipoto and its neighbouring villages, particularly Locharakan, have become the epicentre of the outbreak, with 121 cases and 8 deaths since November 19, 2023. Dr. Francis Iris Mariaio, the County Executive of Health and Sanitation, emphasised the need for enhanced health education efforts, particularly seeking timely treatment and vaccination. He urged caregivers to bring their children for treatment and those not affected for immunisation. The Chief Officer for Preventive and Promotive Health, Peter Lomorukai, urged CHP personnel to collaborate with Community Health Assistants (CHAs) to effectively contain the spread of measles. A vaccination campaign targeting under-5-year-olds is planned, and overcoming cultural barriers is crucial for access to medical care for children of hesitant parents. He said public health officers and CHAs must prioritise community engagement and promote vaccination awareness to reduce cultural resistance. Dr. Mariaio also announced plans for a partners’ meeting in Kakuma to rally additional support in the fight against the measles outbreak.



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Guiding Children To Understand And Manage Anger



By: Ezekiel Muriithi
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- During conversations, create a safe space where children feel comfortable expressing their feelings without judgment by fostering an environment of trust. Children are more likely to open up about their anger once they feel safe.
- Each child is unique, they will vary in what triggers their anger such as frustration, disappointment, or feeling misunderstood. By recognizing these triggers, they can start to understand the root causes of their anger and help them develop strategies to cope with these emotions.



Emotions play a crucial role in shaping a child's development.

It is vital to teach children from an early age to manage both positive and negative emotions, as it affects their reaction to the same in years to come.

Anger is a powerful and complex emotion that requires careful guidance and understanding. Teaching children about the impact and effect of anger is a crucial aspect of nurturing their emotional intelligence.

By helping them recognize, express and manage their anger, we empower them to navigate social situations and build healthier relationships.

Before delving into helping children understand anger, it is essential to establish a foundation for understanding

the nature of this emotion.

Emphasis should be made on anger being a normal and natural human response to various stimuli. It is important for them to learn that how they choose to express and manage anger can have far-reaching consequences to both them and others.

Parents and guardians should encourage open and honest communication about emotions for both boys and girls.

During conversations, create a safe space where children feel comfortable expressing their feelings without judgment by fostering an environment of trust. Children are more likely to open up about their anger once they feel safe.

express their anger verbally, to communicate their feelings and emphasize the impact of their words on others. They can learn to express the emotion and link it to a trigger while being sensitive about their choice of words. Alternatively, introduce physical outlets for anger, such as exercises, drawing, or journaling.

These activities can provide a constructive way for children to release pent-up energy and emotions.

Mindfulness and relaxation techniques have proved to be helpful in calming minds and bodies when experiencing heightened emotions.

Breathing exercises and visualization can be effective tools for managing intense emotions from an early age.

Anger is sometimes a secondary emotion that masks underlying feelings such as hurt, fear, or frustration. As parents, we need to encourage children to dig deeper and explore the emotions beneath the anger. Once they learn to identify and address these primary emotions, they can gain a better understanding of their anger.

Always remember children learn best by observing the behaviour of their parents, teachers, or guardians. Despite what you teach them, they are also likely to mimic your reaction when in anger.

Society needs to consciously model healthy anger management in order to reinforce the lessons taught and provide real-world examples for children to emulate.

Ezekiel Muriithi is a Crawford International School Head of Marketing and Communications

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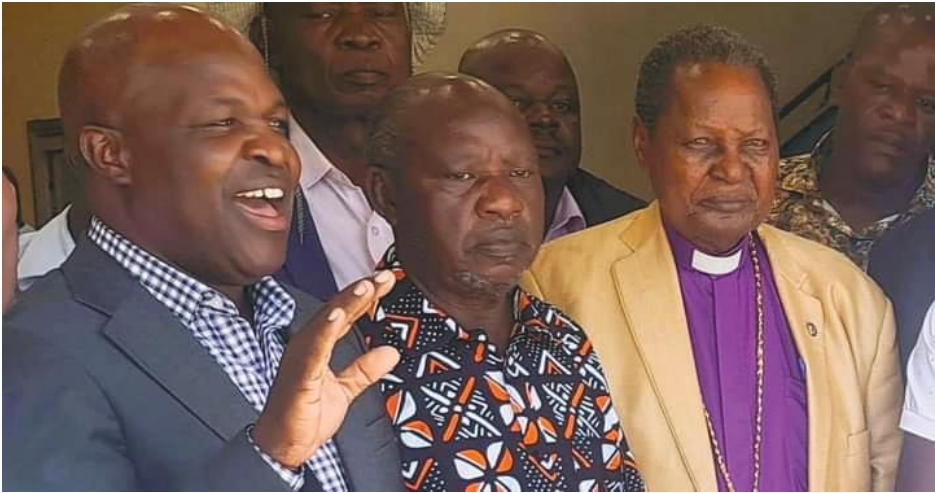
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Mzee Odungi Randa, the 9th Chairman of the Luo Council of Elders, will be crowned at the historic Ofafa Memorial Hall in Kisumu. Randa, who was the aide to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, took over the position after his predecessor, Opiyo Otondi, died in February 2023. Kisumu Deputy Governor Dr. Mathew Owili declared that the community can only have one leader at a time, and all leaders should demonstrate respect and patriotic support for Mzee Randa. The event will take place at Ofafa Memorial Hall and will be attended by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, the Luo Council of Elders from across Africa, and religious leaders. The ceremony will be graced by Luos from Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, Tanzania, and the diaspora. The ceremony will be marked by a Luo dirge and a call for restraint and maturity from the diaspora.



Nyeri County security committee has assured residents of their security ahead of the Christmas and New Year festivities. The committee, led by County Commissioner Pius Murugu, has implemented adequate measures to protect residents and guests. Police Commander Stephen Rotich assured residents of enhanced police patrols in estates and shopping centers during the festivities. The county will launch a special operation called “Operation Order” to avert security threats. Traffic commanders will conduct patrols in Karatina, Othaya, Nyeri, and Naro Moru towns to ensure seamless movement. Boda boda riders are also asked to ensure helmets and reflector jackets for their passengers. The committee will also adjust operating hours for bars within the county to curb excessive drunkenness. The committee will strictly enforce the infamous Mututho regulations, restricting opening and closing hours to 5 pm and 11 pm on weekdays and 2 pm and 11 pm on weekends and public holidays.

MOST SEARCHED NEWS IN KENYA

Stakeholders In The Timber Industry Back Proposal To Harvest Mature Trees

By: Samuel Maina and Wangari Mwangi
 @themkenyetimes

Key players in the forestry sector have backed a proposal that will see the resumption of harvesting of mature trees in gazetted plantations.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of a public participation workshop on disposal of forestry plantation materials at the White Rhino Hotel in Nyeri town, the stakeholders also pledged to continue in assisting the state in attaining the 15-billion tree afforestation target by 2032.

The workshop brought together officers from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI), the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, sawmillers, and members of Community Forest Associations (CFA) from the Mount Kenya region.

The State plans to harvest a total of 5,000 hectares of its mature forest plantation during the 2023–2024 financial year, pursuant to Section 43 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) 2016.

Out of the 2.6 million hectares of government-protected forests, 150,000 hectares are zeroed as plantation establishments, accounting for about six per cent of the country's forest cover.

"We are here to discuss the future of our industry. There is a plan to harvest 5,000 hectares of mature and ready-to-harvest trees. I want to tell you that 5,000 hectares is less than two per cent of the plantation acreage that we have in our country. So, this is a small figure we are going to operate from," said John Wakaba, who is the national secretary-general for the Timber Manufacturers Association.

"Nevertheless, these 5,000 hectares of trees will be a very big advantage to our industry. At the moment, we employ at least 20,000 people directly. If we are to include our cluster industry, we employ about 2 million people. This is a population that consists of young men and young women who would otherwise be jobless but now have something to do. We are also going to support the low-cost housing construction industry, which our President started," he continued.

The lumberjack similarly noted that the ban on logging had so much affected their businesses that some of their 800 registered timber dealers had slipped into depression after their wares and property were auctioned by financial lenders.

He said the moratorium forced them to cross over into neighbouring countries like Tanzania to look for timber, an undertaking which came with a myriad of risks owing to the costs involved in transportation and border

clearance fees.

Wakaba also said some of the centres that had thrived out of the timber industry due to proximity to plantation forests, such as Molo and Elburgon, witnessed business activities literally grind to a halt.

"When the ban on logging came into force, all our softwood timber was coming from Tanzania, and our country was losing a lot of foreign exchange. But now we are going to create our own revenue, and we are going to be partners with Kenya Forest Service through planting trees where we are going to harvest," he stated.

James Maina Wambugu, chairperson for the Zaina Community Forest Association, has lauded the move to reintroduce harvesting of mature plantation trees, saying it will ensure the continuation of the Plantation Establishment for Livelihood Improvement Scheme (Pelis), which is a source of livelihood for hundreds of families living near forests.

Wambugu noted that since the state outlawed the felling of mature exotic trees in government forests, families that had been taking care of the plantations while tending their food crops in such areas had sunk into poverty.

In addition, hundreds of tree seedlings that had attained the age of transplanting had already overgrown and were therefore unfit for planting.

"We fully support this proposal since it will not only allow the harvesting of mature plantation trees but also give us an opportunity to continue taking care of the growing trees as we tend our food crops. Before the ban on harvesting was invoked, we used to grow a lot of food crops here, which ensured there was food security and money in our pockets. Right now, much of this work has stopped, with our seedlings in our nurseries going to waste as they are already overgrown and therefore unfit for planting," he said.

County Commissioner Pius Murugu, who opened the one-day event, said that since President Dr. Ruto launched the 15 billion tree planting campaign last year, Nyeri has so far managed to plant 6 million trees.

He said the programme has been so successful that they are now appealing for KFS and KEFRI to support the government with more seedlings since they have run out of supplies. Murugu said the County is now targeting to move its forest cover from the current 40 per cent to 50 per cent before the end of this decade.

"Since we started tree-growing in March this year, Nyeri has been able to plant slightly over 6 million trees. I



Timber Industry Stakeholders addressing the media at White Rhino Hotel in Nyeri town

would like to thank all the stakeholders in the environment sector because the county's forest cover is slightly above 40 per cent, and even with the presidential directive, we have continued to plant trees.

So Nyeri contributes a lot towards sustaining Kenya's ecosystem. Our target is to have slightly above 50 per cent forest cover. In every location, we have to plant 3,000 trees every month. Cumulatively, that is how we are working," he told participants.

"The challenges we are having in Nyeri as far as tree planting is concerned is we have depleted. Almost all the seedlings were available, and we are hoping that the Kenya Forest Service and other stakeholders will be able to get more seedlings because, with that ambitious programme, we are depleting seedlings very fast. The other challenge is space. You realise that almost everywhere, with 40 per cent tree cover, getting a space to plant is a very big problem," he added.

Nyeri County is targeting to increase its forest cover from the current 40.89 per cent to 43 per cent by the year 2027.

The state imposed a ban on logging on February 24, 2018, which effectively restricted the extraction of timber from all public and community forests.

The moratorium was arrived at fol-

lowing the findings of a task force that had been constituted by the government to inquire into forest resource management and logging activities in the country.

The task force found out that the board and the management of KFS had been unable to "stem and, in some instances, have directly participated in, abated, and systematised rampant corruption and abuse of office" in undertaking the harvesting of forest products.

Forest plantations currently cover at least 335,000 acres in all gazetted reserves in Kenya, including Mount Kenya, Aberdare, Mau Forest Complex, Cherangani Hills, and Mt. Elgon.

In 2019, sawmillers across the country raised concern over the ban on logging, saying trees worth billions of shillings were rotting in the government forests and, in the process, denying Treasury at least 30 billion shillings annually in lost revenue.

According to the 2020 Economic Survey Report, the total public forest cover rose from 141,600 hectares in 2018 to 147,600 hectares in 2019 as a result of the ban on logging.

Kenya had hoped to attain its target of 10 per cent forest cover by this year, according to projections by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics released in 2020, a feat that remains elusive.



Stakeholders in the forest conservation and management sector during a public participation forum on the harvesting of plantation materials in the Aberdare Forest Ecosystem. The Kenya Forest Service intends to dispose off 5000 hectares of mature and over mature plantations during the 2023/2024 financial year. Photo/Wangari Mwangi.

Worth Noting:

- The lumberjack similarly noted that the ban on logging had so much affected their businesses that some of their 800 registered timber dealers had slipped into depression after their wares and property were auctioned by financial lenders.
- He said the moratorium forced them to cross over into neighbouring countries like Tanzania to look for timber, an undertaking which came with a myriad of risks owing to the costs involved in transportation and border clearance fees.
- Wakaba also said some of the centres that had thrived out of the timber industry due to proximity to plantation forests, such as Molo and Elburgon, witnessed business activities literally grind to a halt.

Koome Named African Leadership Magazine’s Female Leader Of The Year

By: FLORAH NJOROGHE

Chief Justice Martha Koome has been named the joint winner of the prestigious African Leadership Magazine (ALM) 2023 Awards. Koome emerged winner in the African Female Leader category. The award recognizes her trailblazing journey as the first female Chief Justice of Kenya, her unwavering commitment to improving access to justice, and her dedication to strengthening the rule of law in her nation. “The award is a testament to your trailblazing leadership as the first female Chief Justice of Kenya, as well as your accomplishments in the Judiciary, especially in improving access to justice, promoting gender equality within the legal system and advancing judicial reforms to strengthen the rule of law in Kenya,” the board noted. Chief Justice Koome’s win was determined through a rigorous two-step

process involving public nominations and a global online poll that closed on Thursday midnight. Koome has been hailed for promoting gender equality and advancing judicial reforms. The ALM Persons of the Year Awards, held annually, celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of individuals who contribute significantly to Africa’s progress. Koome joins the esteemed company of past luminaries including Mo Ibrahim, Paul Kagame, and Akinwumi Adesina, further underscores the profound influence she holds. She will be formally decorated with the instruments of honor during the flagship annual 12th African Persons of the Year Awards Ceremony 2024, which is set for 22 – 23 February 2024 in the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event will have the theme of ‘Building Resilient African Economies’ and will convene all the important stakeholders who will have a platform for discussing critical issues impacting the continent’s development.



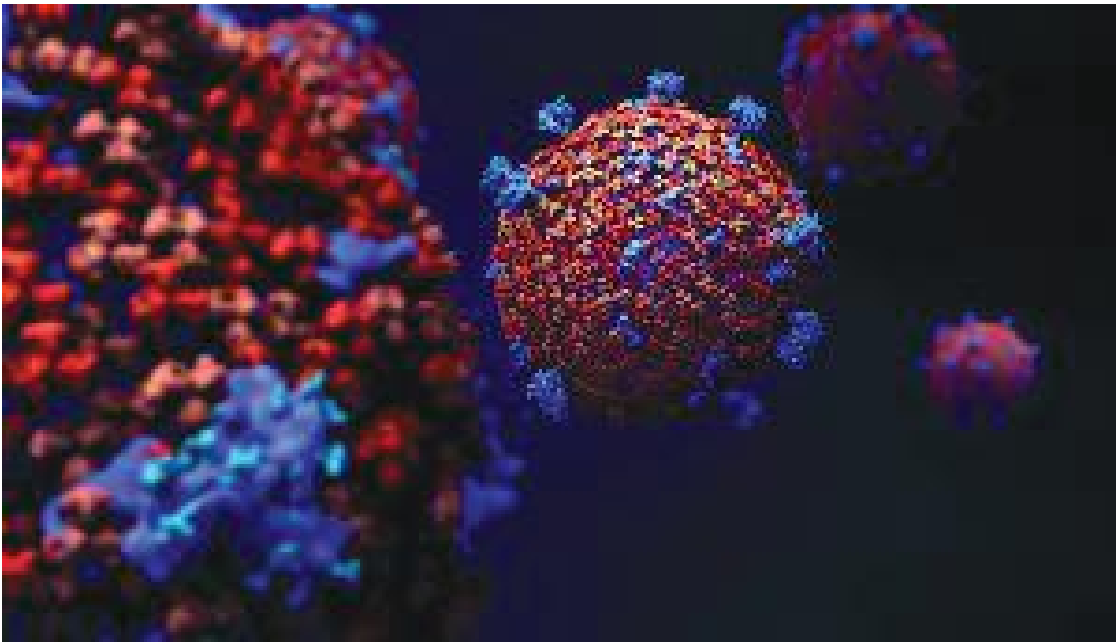
Chief Justice Martha Koome/Judiciary/FILE.

WHO Identifies New Covid-19 Variant Of Interest

By: Nicholas Kigundu

The World Health Organization has identified what it says is a Covid-19 variant of interest. The global health body says it is continuously monitoring the evidence of variant JN.1, which has been classified as a separate variant of interest from the parent lineage BA.2.86, and will update its risk evaluation as needed. According to WHO, based on the available evidence, the additional global public health risk posed by the variant is currently evaluated as low though its spread is increasing. It however says the variant could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries with the onset of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. “Based on the available evidence, the additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is currently evaluated as low. Despite this, with the onset of winter in the Northern

Hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries.” Reads a statement from WHO. WHO is advising people to take measures to prevent infections and severe disease using all available tools including wearing of masks in crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated areas, keeping a safe distance from others, improving ventilation, practicing respiratory etiquette, regularly cleaning of hands, staying up to date with vaccinations against COVID-19 and influenza, especially if you are at high risk for severe disease, staying home if you are sick and getting tested if you have symptoms, or if you might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or influenza. For health workers and health facilities, WHO is calling for universal masking within facilities, as well as appropriate masking, respirators and other PPE for health workers caring for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients as well as improvement of ventilation in health



facilities. “COVID-19 is not the only respiratory disease circulating. Influenza, RSV and common childhood pneumonia are on the rise.” Cautions WHO. According to WHO, current vaccines continue to protect against

severe disease and death from JN.1 and other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Earlier this year, WHO declared Covid-19 pandemic, which for over three years had killed millions of people, wreaked economic havoc

and deepened inequalities, across the globe, as no longer constituting a global health emergency. Kenya had confirmed 344,094 confirmed cases of Covid-19, recorded 5,689 deaths with over 23 million vaccine doses having already administered.

Are Your Relationships Of True Value?: Immortal Horrors Or Everlasting Splendors?



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We must understand that we have THE SOVEREIGN GOD WHO ORDERS ALL OF LIFE, including our relationships, and that our friendships, as well as casual encounters, are not a list of social accidents. God has placed us in our particular families, neighborhoods, and workplaces for a reason: He has put us next to people He wants us to influence for Christ. Susie, our daughter's kindergarten teacher, was not a relational accident. Neither was Damon, our letter carrier, or Jamie and Deby, our neighbors and dear friends. Everyone we encounter is an eternal soul of immense value whom we ought to regard with the same weight with which God regards them.

As C. S. Lewis, the great Oxford

don, memorably said: "It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat.

But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit — immortal horrors or everlasting splendors: All of us have a complex network of relationships built around four natural contacts: biological (relatives and family, and



by extension church family), geographical (where we live), vocational (who we work with), and recreational (where we play). We need to discover our networks, make a list of likely contacts, and begin to pray for them.

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, TO-

DAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

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Government Spokesman Condemns Article Published By BBC

By: Beth Nyaga

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto remains the most popular leader in Kenya, with Kenya Kwanza Coalition as the most preferred political formation by Kenyans, according to recent independent research.
- President Ruto is the most committed leader that Kenya has ever had in implementing 'THE PLAN', a manifesto that is aimed at transforming Kenya. He has kept his promise of creating job opportunities for Kenyans. It's thus untrue that there is a net job loss. In fact, over 270,000 Kenyans especially the youth, have been engaged by the government with over 56,000 employed as teachers, 100,000 Community Health Promoters (CHPs), and 120,000 jobs created through the affordable housing program, in 33 sites alone. The president has also negotiated for over 350,000 jobs for Kenyans to work abroad.



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura

Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura has condemned the alleged misleading information carried out in an article published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on the state of the country's economy saying the story was untrue with serious misrepresentation of facts.

Through a statement, Mwaura urged the media to remain factual and non-partisan even as they discharge their mandate.

The Government Spokesman in addition noted that the Government of Kenya upholds the freedom of the press and the role of the media in shaping public opinion and the days which the international media would thrive on casting a negative light and stories of doom from Africa through yellow journalism are long gone.

Mwaura further clarified the article as follows:

1. President Ruto remains the most popular leader in Kenya, with Kenya Kwanza Coalition as the most preferred political formation by Ken-

yans, according to recent independent research.

2. President Ruto is the most committed leader that Kenya has ever had in implementing 'THE PLAN', a manifesto that is aimed at transforming Kenya. He has kept his promise of creating job opportunities for Kenyans. It's thus untrue that there is a net job loss. In fact, over 270,000 Kenyans especially the youth, have been engaged by the government with over 56,000 employed as teachers, 100,000 Community Health Promoters (CHPs), and 120,000 jobs created through the affordable housing program, in 33 sites alone. The president has also negotiated for over 350,000 jobs for Kenyans to work abroad.

3. There are no new charges for acquiring birth & death certificates, passports and National Identity cards. The fees remain unchanged.

4. Kenya remains one of the top tourist destinations in Africa, with the British King Charles choosing our country as his first to visit upon his as-

cension to the throne. Further, over 1.48 million international visitors have come to our country this year alone. Our new VISA free entry policy that will begin in January 2024, will attract over 2.5 million visitors in the short term and 4.5 million tourists by 2026/2027, doubling our tourism revenue by 200%.

5. Kenya remains keen on clean and sustainable energy. The cost of LPG gas has gone down considerably, and the cost of maize flour, milk and other basic commodities has come down.

6. Kenya's inflation remains low at 6.8% compared to other countries, with the World Bank ranking the country as the 29th fastest growing economy in the world.

7. On taxation, we remain lower at 36% compared to other countries such as the UK, whose taxation is over 45%. Kenyans want to be self-reliant rather than depending on borrowing and this can only be achieved through financing our own budget.

8. The government has made huge budget cuts of more than 10% for

the year 2023/24, with foreign travel being the most affected.

9. The President remains committed in lowering the cost of living through a deliberate and intentional strategy of subsidizing production over consumption. According to a world bank report released Tuesday, Kenya is among the few countries least hit by food inflation.

10. President Ruto has emerged as a critical voice and champion in Africa and the world in matters Climate Change, intra-African trade, reform of the international financial architecture, providing of security to Haiti etc., and has been recognized for that.

Resolutions Of Jubilee Party Leadership Summit

Resolutions Of Jubilee Party Leadership Summit Convened By The National Executive Committee In Conjunction With The National And County Elected Leadership Held On 20th December 2023



The National Executive Committee and other organs of the party, together with the Jubilee Party Parliamentary Group (PG) and all Elected Members of County Assemblies from across the country group photo.

Worth Noting:

- That Jubilee Party as the third largest party in the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya will robustly defend its parliamentary party position in the National Assembly and across all County Assemblies;
- That we firmly support the resolution of NEC to exit the abusive Azimio coalition and will abide by the orders of the High Court that has suspended that process until the hearing and determination of the legal matters in court;
- That Jubilee Party rejects the dictatorial one-man leadership that characterized the affairs of our party between 2017 and 2022 and that led to our dismal performance in the 2022 general election, Jubilee Ni Sisi! Jubilee Ni Yetu;

The National Executive Committee and other organs of the party, together with the Jubilee Party Parliamentary Group (PG) and all Elected Members of County Assemblies from across the country, with the direct sovereign mandate from our members and Kenyans to represent the interests of Kenyans and Jubilee members in Parliament and within counties, having met here today to deliberate on important matters affecting our party;

Aware, that Jubilee Party is the third largest party in the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya with 28 Members in the National Assembly, 5 Senators and 126 Members of County Assembly with representation in a majority of the counties of Kenya including Kirinyaga, Embu, Meru, Narok, Kakajiado, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Garissa, Nyamira, Kisii, Nakuru, Nyeri, Murang'a, Nyandarua, Nairobi, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Isiolo, Bungoma, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Transnzoia;

Happy that our elected leaders have remained united in representing the party in Parliament and in the County Assemblies where we are represented;

After lengthy deliberations this Jubilee Party Summit of elected leaders hereby resolves as follows;

1. That Jubilee Party as the third largest party in the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya will robustly defend its parliamentary party position in the National Assembly and across all County Assemblies;

2. That we firmly support the resolution of NEC to exit the abusive Azimio coalition and will abide by the orders of the High Court that has suspended that process until the hearing and determination of the legal matters in court;

3. That Jubilee Party rejects the dictatorial one-man leadership that characterized the affairs of our

party between 2017 and 2022 and that led to our dismal performance in the 2022 general election, Jubilee Ni Sisi! Jubilee Ni Yetu;

4. That this leadership gathered here strongly commits to ensure that our party will only be governed through its established organs in accordance with its constitution and regulations;

5. That we acknowledge the concern of all Kenyans regarding the high cost of living being experienced by Kenyans and will support all efforts by the government to stabilize the economy. We acknowledge that some efforts are bearing fruits and we resolve to participate actively in our various positions mandated by the people in all the assemblies to alleviate this problem;

6. We affirm that Jubilee party stands for the peaceful resolution of all national issues of concern and support the report of the National Dialogue Committee, and further reiterate the contents of the memorandum presented by our party to the Committee calling among other things the entrenchment in the constitution of the CDF and Ward Funds and urge our Parliamentary Group to champion the welfare of Kenyans and MCAs as they debate the report in Parliament;

7. That we caution all our members that activities that some former officials of the party have been conducting across our strongholds purporting to be installing officials of the party are illegal and unconstitutional and no such activities have been sanctioned by the National Elections Board of the party;

8. That internal party mechanisms be established to investigate the issue of our party funds to the tune of over Kenya shillings seven Hundred Million (Kshs 700,000,000/-) that were irregularly transferred to private

hands and Azimio campaigns in the last elections instead of being used to support party aspirants;

9. That all Jubilee Party elected leaders will continue leading party activities and programmes in all our counties, constituencies and wards. The only party offices recognized are

those approved by NEC and elected leaders;

10. That the relevant party organs will take action against some of our former officials who are interfering with the leadership and committee membership of our MCAs in different County Assemblies.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BOUNTIFUL NEW YEAR.. THE WORK HAS JUST STARTED...JUBILEE NI SISI

Signed on behalf of Jubilee Party Elected Leaders and National Executive Committee (NEC)

Nelson Dzuya, Chairperson
Sabina Chege, Ag Party Leader and Chief Whip

Hon Aden Keynan, Joint Parliamentary Secretary and Ag Vice Chairperson
WaJeff Mwangi, Ag Jubilee Party MCA Caucus Chairperson



Sabina Chege, Ag Party Leader and Chief Whip .



EALA Member of Parliament Kanini Kega..

Kenya Airways Leases Aircraft to Enhance Operational Efficiency over the Festive Season

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya’s national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ) has signed a short-term lease agreement with Hi Fly, one of the world’s leading lease and charter specialist airlines to enhance operational efficiency during the peak festive season.

The ACMI lease will see the immediate introduction of an A330 Airbus into the KQ fleet to support operational efficiency as well as enhance capacity in the market.

Commenting on the new development, Kenya Airways Group Managing Director and CEO, Allan Kilavuka said that the airline needed to take practical steps in the short term to address the pertinent challenges in the market. “With the current capacity constraints on the back of the growing demand for airline travel, we need to balance our customers’ immediate needs by bringing more capacity into the market,” said Kilavuka.

The arrival of the aircraft will also support the anticipated increased number of travellers following the recent announcement by President William Ruto on ending visa requirements for all visitors to Kenya starting January in 2024 making Kenya visa-free country.

According to Kilavuka, this was the quickest way to immediately deal with capacity challenges because it enables us to get an aircraft that is ready to fly. “With the arrival of the aircraft, we expect to see improved operational stability and efficiency, as well as enhanced capacity for the convenience of our passengers,” noted Kilavuka.

The wide-bodied aircraft has a capacity for 299 passengers, split into 24 in the business cabin and 275 in the economy class. And as a wide-bodied plane, it augments the existing cargo space with additional belly capacity.



Kenya Airways Leases Aircraft to Enhance Operational Efficiency over the Festive Season.

Kirinyaga Coffee Shines At The NCE

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange is the central Coffee auction platform where buyers & sellers come together to trade coffee in a transparent & efficient manner.

Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee Brokerage Company delivered its first bunch of 2,242 bags of coffee on 13/12/2023. The coffee was valued at 570,930 USD and equivalent of Ksh 87,861,620. The Average sale for all grades was 190 USD which translates to Ksh 29,260 per bag.

Today, Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee brokerage company sold the highest quantity of coffee at the NCE, delivering a total of 4,444 bags which were valued at 1,152,146.94 USD an equivalent of Ksh 177,430,628.76, with grade AA

retailing at 289 USD a notable improvement from 256 USD from the previous sale on 13/12/2023. Further, the average price for all grades was 212.62 USD an equivalent of KSH 32,666 improvement from 190 USD (ksh 29, 260) an improvement gradient of ksh 3,406 per bag.

Dear Kirinyaga Coffee farmers, I am walking with you every step of the way. Next sale is on January 2 and I am optimistic that we shall continue soaring high.

Exchange rate is calculated at 154.

Kamau Murango is Kirinyaga Senator and Chair senate committee on Agriculture.



Advanced Women In Our Society!



As each person is born and matures, his mother, who prays behind him, and his teachers at school help him. Where do you think the necessary personnel, teachers, scientists and poets will come from or how will they appear in our rapidly developing society today? Of course, such people are brought up by mothers who are advanced in all aspects, passionate teachers. I know one such woman... Shirin Sultanova works as the deputy director for spiritual and educational affairs at the 54th general secondary school in the Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Shirin Sultanova was born on March 8, 1967 in Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Studied at school 57.

From 1986 to the present, more than 60 articles and 30 poems have been published in international and republican newspapers and magazines. On July 3, 2010, the "NATURE: yesterday, today, tomorrow" conference of the Republic's youth was held by the "BIOEKOSAN" educational and methodological complex of the Republic of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Public Education. His student Khidiboyev Nursultan was awarded an honorable Diploma for taking the honorable 1st place and Sultanova Shirin for her article on the same topic. On October 24, 2015, the Republic of Karakalpakstan was awarded a diploma for its proud participation in the 2nd stage of the contest "The Best Spiritualist of

the Year" in the field of public education. In 2015, Khudayarova Maftuna, a 9th-grade student of the 54th school, participated in the stage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, took 3rd place and was awarded a diploma.

On October 20, 2020, on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Law "On the State Language" in Uzbekistan and the Uzbek language holiday on October 21, "May your mother tongue be respected!! Beruniy was awarded with a certificate of honor by the district governor A. Saparboyev for taking the 1st place in the district with the song "Ona tilim" in the republic competition.

On October 25, 2021, in connection with the October 25 internal affairs workers' day, in the competition held under the slogan "Let's unite the youth of new Uzbekistan", his student Makhmudzhanova was awarded with a letter of thanks for taking the proud 1st place in the popular drawing competition.

On January 14, 2022, he was awarded a diploma in the category "Best creative work" for the poem "My Motherland" in the online competition "Guardian of my country - a symbol of peace" on the Ustoz channel of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In April 2020, in the competition held within the Republic of Uzbekistan, he was awarded with a diploma of the highest degree for his scientific article on the topic "The role of teachers in the education of a perfect person".

In March 2020, he was awarded the 1st degree diploma for his scientific article on the topic "The role of scientific circles in raising a perfect generation" in the contest held on the channel of the Intellectuals of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In June 2020, he was awarded a certificate for his scientific article on the topic "Interpretation of negative and positive images in the story of Genghis Khan's White Cloud" at the 17th multidisciplinary scientific conference of the Republic on the topic "Scientific and practical research in Uzbekistan".

In November 2022, a scientific article on the topic "Improvement of spiritual and educational work in modernizing Uzbekistan" was published in the Russian journal "МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВРЕМЕННЫЙ НАУЧНО-ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ ЖУРНАЛ" "НАУЧНЫЙ ИМПУЛС".

In 2022-2023, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Makhmudzhanova, an 11th-grade student of school 54, participated in the contest "We are against violence" and took 2nd and 3rd places and was awarded a diploma. Not only the students of this teacher won a place in the republic, but also his children took pride of place. Sultanova Shirin Yuldashevna is not indifferent to the future of her children in raising them to be educated, knowledgeable, intelligent, intelligent. In 2016, sons Khasan and Husan Tuliyeu participated in the "Rekord-

Uz" program of the Sport TV channel of the Republic of Uzbekistan with exercises of unique acrobatic skills and won the 1st place and were awarded with a statuette.

Khusan, one of the smallest "Dorbozchilar" in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, plays the simdar, Hassan is engaged in acrobatic, martial arts, bessuyakboza, Fantamime exercises. Currently, they are studying at the 3rd stage at the Institute of Culture of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. He works in the department of culture in Beruni district.

Sultanova Shirin Yuldashevna's 3rd child Tuliyeu Sarvinoz is one of the creative girls. He writes poetry and articles. On March 7, 2019, Tuliyeu Sarvinoz personally received the State Award named after Zulfiya from the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev. In 2019-2023, he studied at the Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi. Currently, he works as a teacher of native language and literature at the vocational school of Shaikhontohur district of Tashkent city. Every mother loves her children. He is proud and even more happy when he sees their achievements.

One of the most important achievements of Shirin Sultanova is that on October 1, 2010, she was awarded the badge of the Republic of Karakalpakstan "Excellence of Public Education".

Shirin Sultanova has been teaching young people for 38 years. She is proud of her good deeds during her life, because looking back, all of them are a purposeful path for the development of the country and society. The fact that she faithfully fulfilled her duty to the society, was always faithful, raised young people to become perfect and mature individuals, and served well-rounded people is an example for women in our society. As long as there are such passionate teachers and women, our society will improve, and many mature personnel will develop. We wish our teacher great patience and perseverance in raising children who will not be indifferent to the future of our country and will raise the flag of our country to higher heights.

Tuliyeu Sarvinoz. She was born on November 8, 1999 in the Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Graduated from Alisher Navoi Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature (2023).

The winner of the state award named after Zulfiya (2019).

Teacher of native language and literature at Shaikhontohur District Vocational School, Tashkent.

She is the author of the poetry books "Song of Peace", "I am a Girl of Truth", "Morning Poem".

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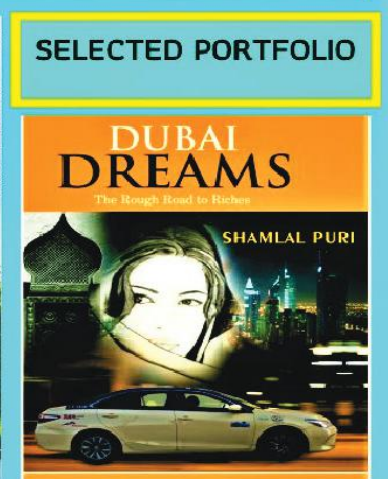
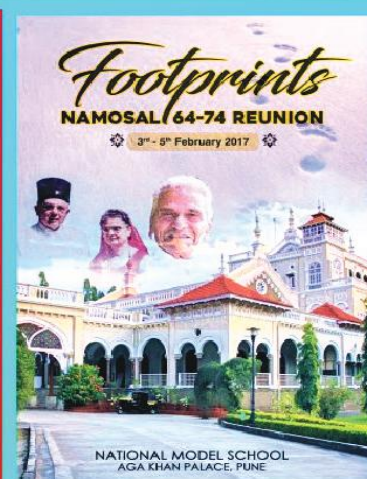
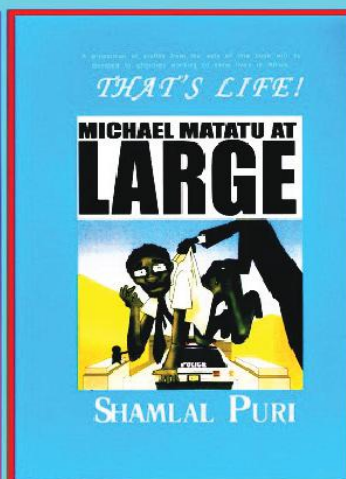
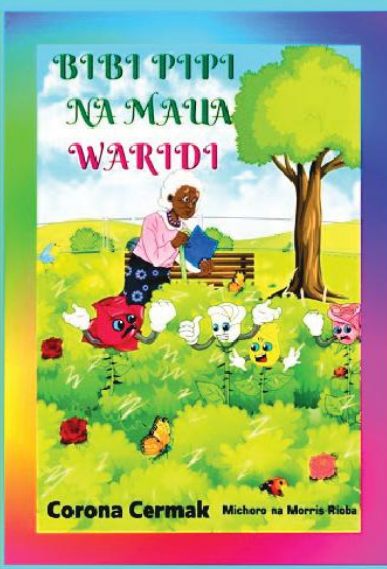
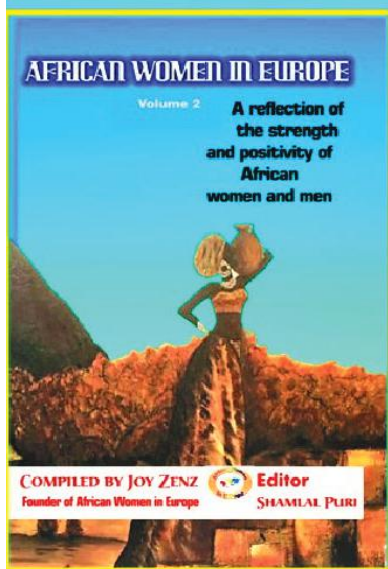
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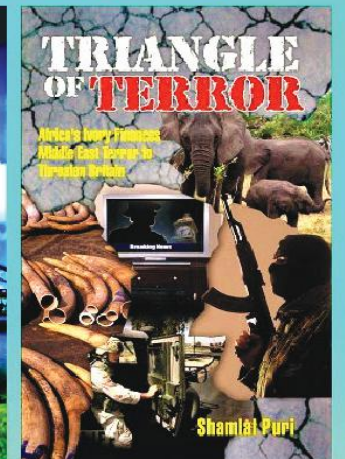
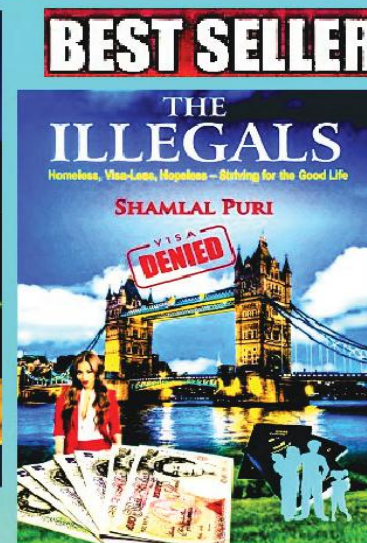
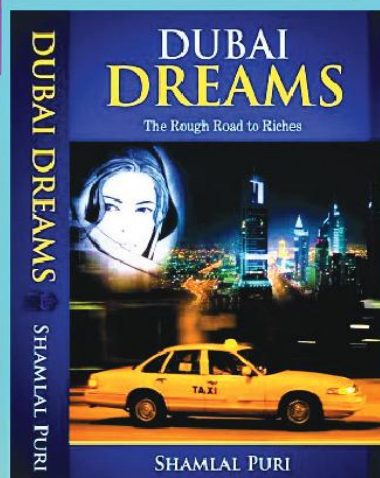
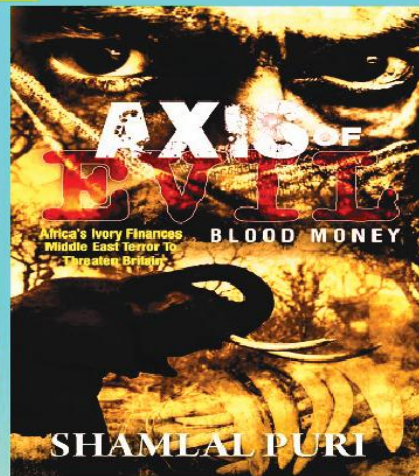
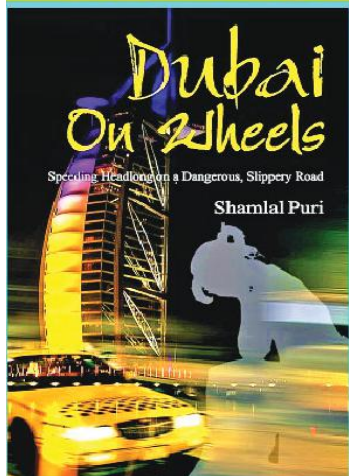
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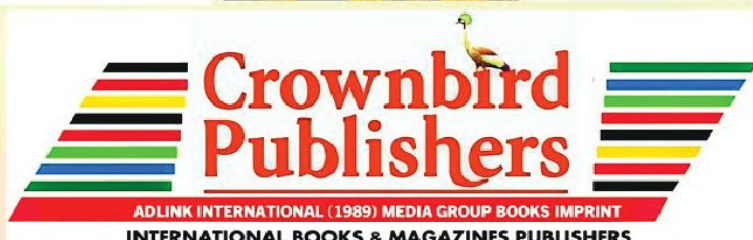
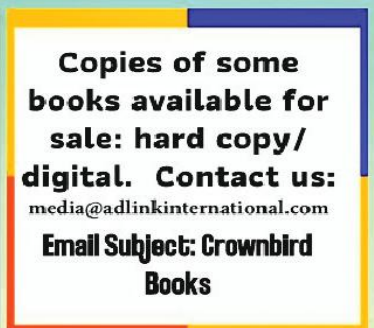
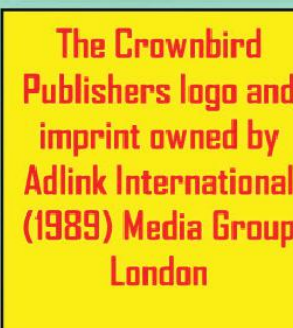
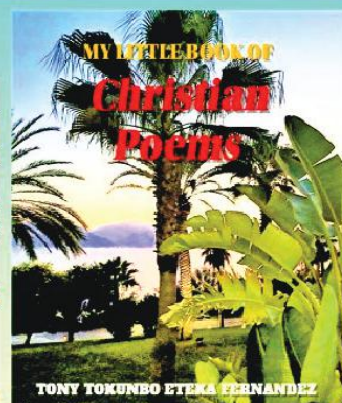
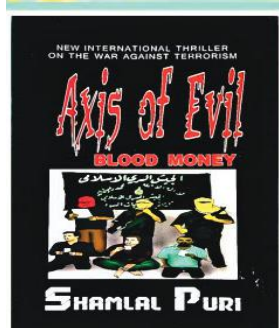
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BUSINESS

Kenya-Based Abyssinia Steel And Spenomatic Join Forces With Empower New Energy To Solarise Awasi Steel Factory

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatiimes

Worth Noting:

- “We are thrilled to partner with Abyssinia Steel and Spenomatic to bring cost-saving and clean energy solutions to Kenya,” said Terje Osmundsen CEO of Empower New Energy. “Together, we will contribute to the growth of a low-carbon economy in Kenya, fostering a greener future for the manufacturing industry in Kenya.”
- “Abyssinia Steel is proud to announce our partnership with Empower New Energy and Spenomatic, supported by a shared vision for sustainability and progress. This new 2,5 MWp solar plant represents another significant step towards a green and more prosperous future for the company”, says Jateen Patel, CEO, Abyssinia Steel.



Empower New Energy CEO Terje Osmundsen and Abyssinia Steel CEO Jateen Patel (front left) shakes hand after signed a Power Purchase Agreement. Chairman and Managing Director of SpenoMatic Group Berjeesh Surty (front centre). At the back are Norfund Regional Director for East Africa in William Nyaoke, Lilian Simiuy, and Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya H.E Gunnar Andreas Holm..

Abyssinia Iron and Steel Limited today signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Norway's solar power financier Empower New Energy. The 25-year contract will result in the construction and operation of a 2,5 MW ground-mounted solar plant by the Spenomatic Group, a leading renewable engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) company in East Africa. The ground-breaking partnership will result in a 2 MUSD investment by Empower New Energy for Abyssinia Steel, one of the leading steel manufacturing companies in the region.

Abyssinia Group of Industries (AGI) has grown to become one of East Africa's largest steel producers with an annual capacity close to a million metric tons throughout the group, with manufacturing and mining operations spread in East Africa, namely Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Rwan-

da.

The 2.5MWp solar project is Empower New Energy's first investment in Kenya and marks a significant step in Abyssinia Steel's journey towards become 100 % powered by renewable energy. By harnessing the abundant solar resources in Kenya, the project will generate about 4,8 GWh of clean electricity per year, saving about 2 500 tons metric tonnes of carbon emissions annually, while at the same time reducing Abyssinia's cost of electricity.

“We are thrilled to partner with Abyssinia Steel and Spenomatic to bring cost-saving and clean energy solutions to Kenya,” said Terje Osmundsen CEO of Empower New Energy. “Together, we will contribute to the growth of a low-carbon economy in Kenya, fostering a greener future for the manufacturing industry in Kenya.”

“Abyssinia Steel is proud to announce our partnership with Empower New Energy and Spenomatic, supported by a shared vision for sustainability and progress. This new 2,5 MWp solar plant represents another significant step towards a green and more prosperous future for the company”, says Jateen Patel, CEO, Abyssinia Steel.

Spenomatic, with its rich history of delivering high-quality engineering solutions, will provide comprehensive EPC support for the project. Their expertise in designing and implementing sophisticated systems will ensure the successful execution of the solar project, enabling Abyssinia Steel to integrate renewable energy into its manufacturing process seamlessly.

“We are excited to collaborate with Empower New Energy and Abyssinia Steel on this transformative solar

project,” expressed Berjeesh D Surty, MD of Spenomatic. “Together, we set a benchmark for clean energy adoption in the industrial sector.”

The signing event, attended by the Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya H.E Gunnar Andreas Holm among as well as representatives from Norfund East Africa took place at the Norwegian Embassy in Nairobi.

“Today marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between Norway and Kenya, as we witness the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement for Empower New Energy's 2,5 MWp solar project for Abyssinia Steel. It is through such partnerships that we can pave the way towards a greener and more prosperous future for all,” William Nyaoke, Regional Director for East Africa in Norfund.



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Governors Dismiss Nyakango’s Expenditure Report On Ten Counties

By: Prudence Wanza

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The Council of Governors has brushed off a report by the Office of the Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang’o indicating that some County Governments did not spend any money on development in the first quarter.

In a statement yesterday, CoG Chairperson Anne Waiguru have experienced a myriad of challenges in the process of implementing development projects.

Waiguru pointed out challenges such as procurement processes, management of county expenditures and pending bills as some of the challenges facing the devolved units.

“All expenditures by County governments must also be approved by the Controller of Budget in line with the Constitution. Therefore, expecting uniform implementation of these and expenditure thereof is not only impractical but also irregular,”

Waiguru stated.

According to the Kirinyaga Governor counties have to adhere to complex procurement processes which sometimes slow down the uptake of development expenditure.

“County Governments recognize the importance of ensuring that procurement procedures are meticulous, transparent, and adhere to the law in the spirit of accountability to the people we serve. Currently, it takes about 4 months to complete a procurement process,” said Waiguru.

She stated that County Governments pay off pending bills before funds are released to Counties for development expenditure, adding that a majority of the pending bills are on development.

Additionally, Waiguru cited that the delay by Parliament to enact the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2023, has constrained the disbursement of conditional grants to Counties.

“It is important to note that most of the ongoing development projects are funded by these grants. We



CoG Chairperson Anne Waiguru

.....

further note that to date, Parliament is yet to pass this crucial Bill to allow for release and flow of funds to Counties to pay major projects that are ongoing,” she said.

In the report released on Tuesday, Nyakang’o revealed that ten counties including Nairobi, Machakos, Kilifi, Embu, Wajir, Samburu, West Pokot, Turkana, and Kericho did not spend a single shilling on development.

IG Koome Recalls Police Officers On Leave Ahead Of Festive Season

By: Prudence Wanza

.....

The Inspector General of Police Japheth Koome has ordered all police officers on leave to resume work immediately in a bid to enhance security in the country during the festive season.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the IG urged all road users to observe traffic rules noting that 16 people had already lost their lives in the past week.

“I am appealing to pedestrians, cyclists, boda boda riders, passengers, and drivers to adhere to traffic rules so that we make this festive season safe for all of us,” said Koome.

Koome further reiterated commitment to support the ongoing crackdown by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

(EACC) to ensure that safety and sanity prevails on roads.

“The National Police Service has no room for Corrupt Officers. My Office remains open to the Director EACC for collaboration in the fight against corruption,” he stated.

The IG called for collective responsibility by all road users adding that most accidents were as result of non-compliance with traffic regulations and rules such as operating defective vehicles, failure to use safety belts by commuters, speeding, driver fatigue, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and dangerous overtaking.



Inspector General of Police Japheth Koome .

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Volunteerism Can Help Combat Environmental & Ecological Degradation In Kenya



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

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Youths Volunteering.

In order to combat ecological and environmental degradation, it is crucial that we as individuals feel a sense of duty and responsibility. One impactful way to contribute to the preservation of our planet is through volunteerism. It is incumbent upon us to take action and play our part in safeguarding the natural world for generations to come. By devoting our time and resources to environmental causes, we can make a significant impact in reducing the harmful effects of pollution, deforestation, and climate change. Let us all rise to the challenge and strive for a cleaner and healthier planet.

The prevalence of environmental injustices has resulted in untimely deaths, declining health, widespread flooding, and property destruction across the globe. The Green Belt Movement founded by Wangari Mathai has effectively rallied young

volunteers to address these concerns. The act of volunteering is crucial and presents a wealth of advantages; First and foremost, it shall promote peaceful coexistence and a sense of belonging in society. Fostering harmonious coexistence within a community cultivates a profound sense of togetherness and supports the overall well-being of its members. This promotes a fairer and more balanced society, where every individual can flourish.

Additionally, it shall promote innovation among youths. Innovative youth are essential for improving society. Plastic pollution harms our environment and wildlife. We can help by collecting and recycling plastic, and creating arts to generate income and promote awareness. This approach also reduces crime rates by providing economic opportunities.

Moreover, it is imperative to foster

individual integrity, especially in the 21st century where the integrity of youth is often called into question. The solution lies in volunteering and doing what is right even when no one is watching. By instilling this sense of self-integrity from a young age within a nurturing environment, we can ensure a better future for the next generation.

Last but not least, it promotes good health. Prioritizing our health and hygiene is crucial. Environmental injustices have the potential to cause waterborne and respiratory diseases, as well as harm aquatic life. By taking proactive measures to conserve and protect our environment through volunteering, we can guarantee a healthier and longer life for ourselves and generations to come.

Finally, the increase in food production is inevitable. Land is the most crucial aspect to consider since our

staple foods come from it. To avoid poverty and hunger, it is essential to protect nature and preserve the environment voluntarily. This will enable us to produce enough food not only to feed ourselves but also to sell. Therefore, the preservation of the environment is indispensable and must be given the utmost importance. We must take the lead and set an example for others to follow by encouraging, supporting, and empowering proactive champions and ambassadors of environmental justice through education. Let's join hands and strive to promote sustainability, education, and sustainable livelihoods for all.

Tonny O. Blair – Environmental Activist, Student at Rongo University. (tonnyblairomondi908@gmail.com)

Noel Lorenz Publications

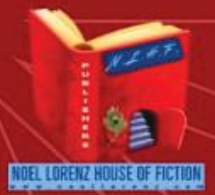
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Book on Research and Studies

Edited by the Editorial Board

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Abstract - 150 to 200 words

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References - Numbered List

LANGUAGE OF PAPER - ENGLISH

FONT & SIZE - Times New Roman; Size - 12

SUB-THEMES

- ✓ Law
- ✓ Fisheries
- ✓ Ornithology
- ✓ Marketing
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ Positive Thinking
- ✓ Strategic Management

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Must be Original Research

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Submit in Word Document

Decision of Editorial Board - Final and Binding

IMPORTANT DATES

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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The Path To Be Student Royal Awards

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The awards are divided into the royal awards allocated to educational institutes; the royal awards for undergraduates and disabled. The qualifications of undergraduates and disabled are the students studying in Diploma or Bachelor's Degree at least one year and having cumulative Grade Point Average not less than 2.75 in the past academic year.
- As I remembered, the criteria of consideration for the award were portfolio and interview. We needed to submit the portfolio presenting what we had been done. After that, the committee would interview us at the school which it was the competition in Student Royal Awards for Higher Education in the North Eastern Part of Thailand.



Kate Supanida Paosatheanpan .



Kate Supanida Paosatheanpan joins the second round of the Scholarship and Royal Student Award from H.M. The King Rama 10 competition

Royal awards given to students, undergraduates, and educational institutes are fully granted by generosity to respond to the royal guidance of His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej (the King Rama IX) who made a statement to the Minister of Education (M.L. Pin Malakul in 1963. Consideration for Student Royal Awards will be given to students who have good grades, good behavior, and to the good schools having good educational management.

Ministry of Education is grateful for the King's generosity; therefore, the ministry has responded to the King's statement and enacted the procedures for Student Royal Awards given to stu-

dents, undergraduates, and educational institutes to follow since 1964 until now.

The awards are divided into the royal awards allocated to educational institutes; the royal awards for undergraduates and disabled. The qualifications of undergraduates and disabled are the students studying in Diploma or Bachelor's Degree at least one year and having cumulative Grade Point Average not less than 2.75 in the past academic year.

Only for the disabled, they must have cumulative Grade Point Average not less than 2.50 in the past academic year. The candidates need to have five fundamental qualifications.

Assessment of the candidates to be conferred the Student Royal Awards in higher education level is education, working and managing skill, health and



hygiene, behaviour, morality, ethics, cultural, art and environment preservation, activity assessment, and high-performance students; for example, having utilities to society, having high quality and morality or creativity, continuation of doing activities and outstanding performance.

Q: How does Kate Supanida Paosatheanpan know about Student Royal Awards?

A: When I was a student, it was not so easy to get to the information. I knew this award from the other royal students when I joined in the youth and children outstanding award from the Ministry of Education of the Government of Thailand and then, I asked for more information from the lecturers or staff in the Division of Student Affairs. We were shared some good advice because we worked closely together.

Q: What did you do to receive this award? What are the criteria of consideration?

A: As I remembered, the criteria of consideration for the award were portfolio and interview. We needed to submit the portfolio presenting what we had been done. After that, the committee would interview us at the school which it was the competition in Student Royal Awards for Higher Education in the North Eastern Part of Thailand. The portfolio at that time was like photos of activities that we gathered them all together as we were still using the film cameras. I, my friends and my teachers help them all get ordered and made them as a book for presentation. The most important thing for me was the contents what we would present. The contents of the story started from the beginning when I was a student here. I attended activities when I had free time during the study in the first year. I joined each activity which the university held. As a follower, I did not think that I would become a leader as the senior did. I just felt that we should pay attention and to the things that would happen by a group of people (team members of Student Affairs). We should consider those things were important

and should not let them waste their time. I tried doing all of them such as, Swimming Club, Arts, Singing, Playing Piano, Playing Ukulele Communication Radio. I went to the competitions. I sometimes won and I sometimes lost. It made me knowing more friends coming from other schools. Some friends told me that I should try to be a candidate for the president of student club. That was the beginning of being the president of student club in 2023. My life changed a lot since that day. I broaden my experience until now.

"I myself never forgot and gave up in my goal which is the study. No matter what how many activities I attended, my grades must not be less. Sometimes I had to miss a class due to the activities, I had to speed up myself to read books and caught up what friends had studied. I had to do homework as normal as I was not the special one. I did not only study in classes, but I also studied outside the classes. For example, I took English courses after I finished the classes. In addition, I worked and served my internship during the study break (before the internship in the curriculum). I tried to do things which related to my profession, Accounting, so that I could study them and could understand them clearly. I never abandoned the study; therefore, I did both of the study and activities together at the same time. I could not stand if someone told me that I could not study properly because I joined the activities."

Overall, I did not do for the award. I did not create my profile to win this award. However, this award truly was "the award" for me because I did not expect for having it. It was the award that I received after I had done all of those things. During the journey, I had experience, new friends, learning new things, and learning how to live my life all along the way. I could not deny that this award was the award for my father, my mother, and my lecturers. They would not be disappointed with me who they had been teaching all the time. During the ceremony, it was clear that those people, my father, my mother, and my lecturers, were happier than me.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *As curtains fall on 2023, one of the football's biggest highlights for the year was when the Confederation of African Football's executive committee members approved East Africa's 'Pamoja Bid' to stage the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations

Year In Review: How 'Pamoja Bid' Outsmarted Usual Suspects To Bag 2027 Afcon Hosting Rights



President William Ruto (C), Sports CS Ababu Namwamba (L) and FKF president Nick Mwendwa at the Nairobi State House on Monday 15th May, 2023 after he was briefed on Kenya's joint AFCON 2027 bid. Photo/ Courtesy of PPS..

As curtains fall on 2023, one of the football's biggest highlights for the year was when the Confederation of African Football's executive committee members approved East Africa's 'Pamoja Bid' to stage the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations, the first time in three East African nations' history.

The joint candidacy by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania beat other strong bids from Botswana, Egypt and Senegal following a vote conducted by members of the CAF's committee during their meeting in Cairo held on Wednesday, September 27.

In the aftermath of a development that left the East Africa region with immeasurable excitement, CAF boss Patrice Motsepe revealed that the three countries displayed huge commitment in their quest to stage the coveted

continental showpiece.

Algeria had withdrawn their bid to host either the 2025 or 2027 finals on the eve of the vote, with the Algerian Football Federation (FAF) then saying their decision was "motivated by a new approach to the football development strategy in Algeria".

Kenya, which got the nod from CAF to host the 1996 fiesta had the hosting rights later handed to South Africa for lack of stadia readiness, had joined hands with neighbours Tanzania and Uganda in May for the joint bid.

Pamoja Bid launched

Last December marked the start of this milestone when cabinet approved the proposal for Kenya to host the 2027 fiesta alongside the other East African nations.

The Cabinet - which was chaired

by President William Ruto said Kenya hosting the continental fiesta would go a long way in helping Harambee Stars achieve its ambitious target of qualifying for the 2030 Fifa World Cup.

"As a stepping stone towards the target of Harambee Stars qualifying for the Fifa World Cup in the year 2030, Cabinet approved the proposal to host the Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) in 2027, alongside EAC partner states. Cabinet noted that the joint bid would deploy the power of sports in furthering regional integration," read part of the cabinet's resolutions.

Fast forward to May 2023, the three East Africa countries teamed up with a plan dubbed EA (Pamoja) Afcon 2027 bid, which President William Ruto of Kenya, Yoweri Museveni

(Uganda) and Tanzania's Sulu Hassan believed made a strong case against seasoned hosts like Algeria.

On May 15, President Ruto received Kenya's joint bid from Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba and Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Nick Mwendwa, who presented the document at state house in Nairobi.

Namwamba was then tasked to engage his counterparts from Uganda and Tanzania so as to pitch a strong bid.

"The work of prosecuting our joint bid now begins in earnest and Kenya intends to make its full contribution to it. Namwamba is duly seized of this assignment and is mobilising his team, liaising with his counterparts in Uganda and Tanzania to formulate a winning bid so that the people of our countries can look forward to participating in a successful 2027 tournament," Ruto said then.

On his part, President Museveni received Uganda's joint bid while meeting the National Council of Sports (NCS) officials who had paid him a visit at State House, Entebbe on May 22.

After the Pamoja Bid was accepted, CAF boss Motsepe then said the three countries exhibited exemplary enthusiasm in their bid, adding that their zeal bode well for the upcoming showpiece.

"All the three heads of state, President (William) Ruto, President (Yoweri) Museveni, and President Samia (Sulu Hassan) have displayed deep commitment toward the project," Motsepe said then.

"I just want to say we have set

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *

Year In Review: How ‘Pamoja Bid’ Outsmarted Usual Suspects To Bag 2027 Afcon Hosting Rights



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strict guidelines for these countries, both in terms of freedom of movement of people in and out of the countries and support for infrastructure development. We will be dispatching teams to evaluate the progress that has been made.” Motsepe said they based their choice to ratify the Pamoja Bid on the growth, progress, and unity of the three countries.

President Ruto echoed Motsepe’s views, saying the three nations would work closely to deliver a cutting-edge football tournament in 2027.

“We will mobilise every resource, every person, and every sector to ensure that we deliver a world-class football event in 2027,” Ruto said then.

What it means for EA

Now that the three nations will jointly host the 2027 AFCON games, they will be spared the challenge of qualifying through the preliminary matches.

Tanzania has played in two AFCON tournaments – in 1980 and 2019. Uganda is the most successful East African nation in the AFCON tournament. The country has featured in seven AFCON competitions.

In 1978, the East African nation were the runners-up, losing 2-0 to Ghana in the AFCON finals played at the Accra Sports Stadium in Ghana. The other times Uganda has featured in AFCON are 1962, 1968, 1974, 1976, 2017 and 2019.

Kenya has appeared in six AFCON tournaments – in 1972, 1988, 1990, 1992, 2004 and 2019. The country has never advanced beyond the group stages.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) says on its website that host nations “automatically qualify to play in the African Cup of Nations.”

The sporting industry has already started experiencing some infrastructural changes. Caf requires Afcon hosts to have six stadiums in readiness for the tournament.

While Kenya has already handed

Karasani, Nyayo and Kip Keino Stadiums over to Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) for renovations and build Talanta Stadium meeting international standards by 2025, the upgrading of Uganda’s Namboole Stadium will be completed in November with two new venues set to be built in Hoima and Lira.

In Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa Stadium is being refurbished with new stadiums earmarked in Arusha and Zanzibar in readiness for the 24-nation tournament.

However, Mombasa and Kisumu cities in Kenya were left out even as some football stakeholders criticised stadium choices for the biennial event.

In October, Kisumu Governor Prof Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o and his Kakamega counterpart Ferdinand Baraza, through a joint statement expressed their concerns over the choice of hosting stadiums.

“The Western region of Kenya is where football fans exist in plentitude. Not in Uasin Gishu, or Eldoret for that matter. The decision by the UDA government may be denying the Western region the

opportunity to host the games because we are not shareholders in the Kenya Kwanza Company limited,” the statement read then.

However CS Namwamba while speaking in Mombasa in November, defended the government’s decision adding it was devastating that Mombasa had to be left out of the historic tournament due to lack of standard facilities which would be upgraded in time for use.

“Before listing the venues, we did a thorough research and it is so annoying that Mombasa lacks a standard stadium up to now but we are in the process of making sure that we will get one sooner,” Namwamba said then.

The famous Mombasa County Stadium has been ignored by both levels of governments since its closure close to ten years ago.

Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir on his part said that the huge budget required to complete the stadium had been the biggest hitch but they had engagements with the national government to make sure the stadium returned to its glory days.

“In our budget we have a plan to rehabilitate the small grounds but the stadium requires more than a billion to make it happen which is a process we have initiated.”

Coast FKF NEC member Gabriel Mghendi said he was optimistic that all is not lost for the coastal city to be allocated some matches.

“I have a lot of hopes that the national government will intervene and by the time inspection will be done we will have the Mombasa Stadium ready to host AFCON.”

As the 2023 comes to an end, it is also close to three years before the 2027 AFCON, the biggest assignment is to wait and see if Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will be ready for the championship.

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Volta Fashion Week 2023 - Benson Emmanuel Kwamivi



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- From my childhood I always practiced with my elder sister's sewing machine but after completion in high school I decided to focus on my dream and it 7years now in this craft
- To create awareness to the younger generations that depend solely on job they have to sweat so much before getting and even some go to the extent of money rituals. I also want to reduce unemployment through African fashion n creativity
- As a CEO of BENSON THE FASHIONABLE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND INDUSTRY
- The CEO of Volta Fashion week saw my handwork and asked me to join the Volta Fashion week

1. Who are you?

My name is Benson Emmanuel Kwamivi
Aka (BENSON THE FASHIONABLE)

2. Where are from?

Volta region Aflao

3. Where did your journey began with your craft?

From my childhood I always practiced with my elder sister's sewing machine but after completion in high school I decided to focus on my dream and it 7years now in this craft

4. Anyone to give credit to?

I give credit to my pastor son
Junior Emmanuel Assan

5. Highlight of your career?

I'm a fashion designer but have other creative crafts
I see for both male and female

6. Fashion is diverse and growing what's your take on African Fashion?

To create awareness to the younger generations that depend solely on job they have to sweat so much before getting and even some go to the extent of money rituals

I also want to reduce unemployment through African fashion n creativity

7. Where do you see yourself in five years?

As a CEO of BENSON THE FASHIONABLE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND INDUSTRY

8. How did you hear about Volta fashion week?

The CEO of Volta Fashion week saw my handwork and asked me to join the Volta Fashion week

9. Are you coming to the event?

Yes

10. Do you think you are the best in your craft?

I believe I'm one of the best cause creativity is changing every day so I'm only the best but one of the person

11. How can one contact you?

(WhatsApp: +23356800708
TikTok: the fashionable
Facebook: Benson Emmanuel
Instagram: benson emmanuel)

12. Your last word..!

I want to use this opportunity to thank Volta fashion week and for giving us this platform to showcase our craftsmanship . 🙏🙏🙏❤️🔥



Benson Emmanuel Kwamivi.