



Networking In Heels Inspires, Guides Women

The “Networking in Heels” event, hosted at the Golden Tulip Westlands few days ago was a transformative gathering that celebrated the empowerment and resilience of women from diverse backgrounds.

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News>>KEWOPA Unveils Ambitious Four-Year Strategic Plan For Women's Political Advancement

P. 8. KEWOPA has revealed a visionary four-year strategic plan, demonstrating its commitment to driving activities that specifically aim to advance women's roles in political leadership.



News>>Bayer Launches 'Science For Better' Campaign Rooting For Improved Livelihoods Through Science

P. 12. Bayer has announced the launch of a campaign dubbed 'Science for Better' in a bid to drive the company's efforts towards ensuring a better life for all through science.

eCitizen Hits New Single-Day Collection Milestone

 The government's single payment system — eCitizen — marked a new milestone on Wednesday after realizing Sh903.6 million on a single day. Citizen Services Principal Secretary Julius Bitok reported the milestone on Thursday saying a third of the transactions were dollar-denominated. Bitok attributed the milestone to the government's use of a single Paybill number, 222222, for all payments for the public services.



Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Julius Bitok/Immigration Department/FILE

STORY ON PAGE 9

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CS Simon Statement On Allegations against SASRA By KUSCCO

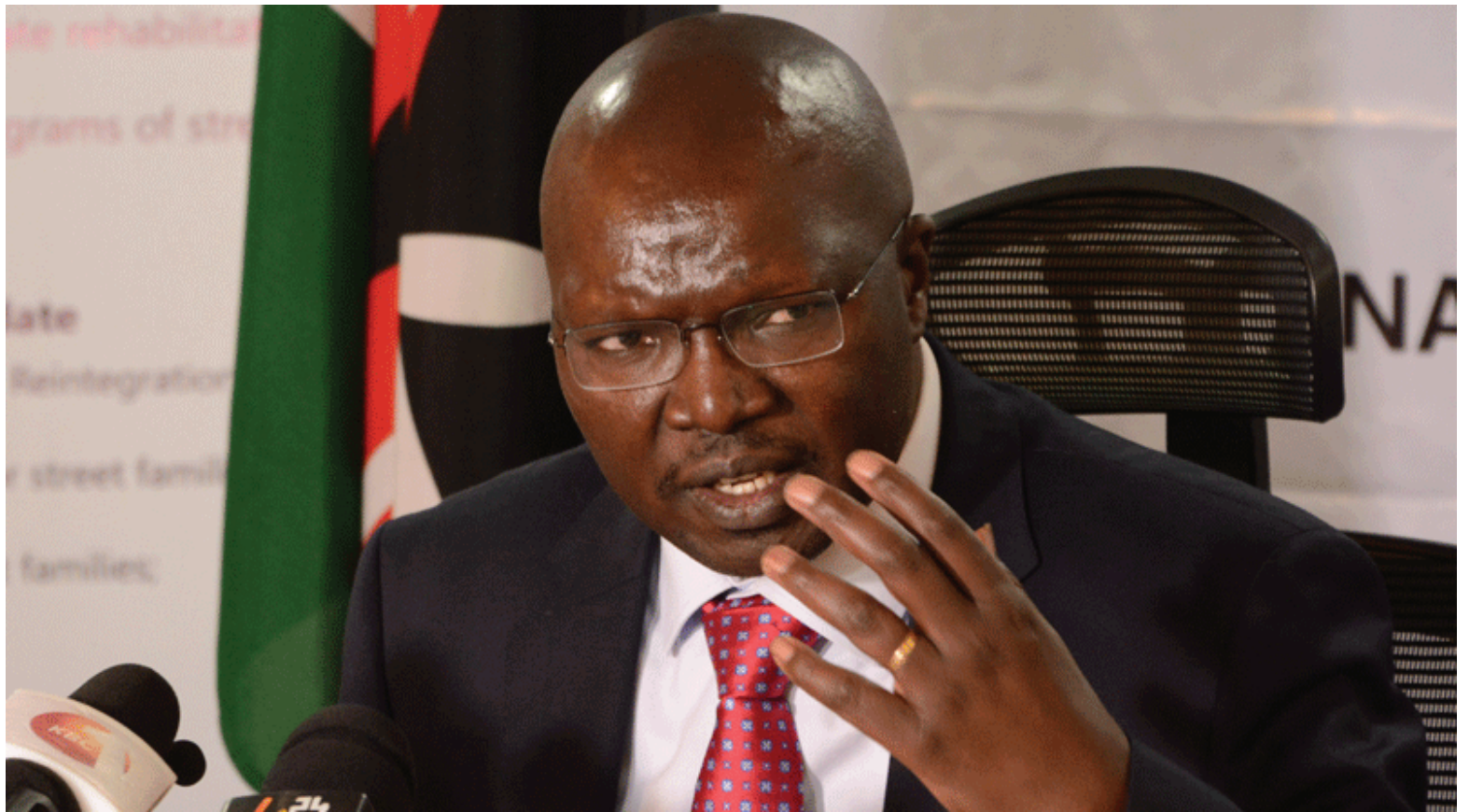


By: Sefu Sabila

@themkenyatiimes

Worth Noting:

- “This directive was issued pursuant to section 49 of Sacco societies Act. SASRA commenced the inspection and provided constant updates on the progress. However, on 15th November 2023 the inspection was stopped through a court order.” Read the statement by CS Simon Chelugui.
- In the statement, the CS has stated that through his office, the legal ways shall be followed to ensure the security of Sacco funds KUSSCO, and the Ministry shall give a detailed statement at an appropriate time.



MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui

On Wednesday, Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui issued a statement on allegations made by the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO), on Saccos Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) on social media.

According to the allegations, KUSCCO accused SASRA of interfering with its operations. It further alleges that SASRA has no authority over it and that it is only answerable to its members and the Commissioner for Co-operative Development. It also claims that SASRA's notice was issued in bad faith and without due process.

On November 15th 2023, KUSCCO obtained a court order barring the Sacco regulatory authority SASRA from conducting an audit of its operations.

According to CS Chelugui Statement on X, the directive is in accordance to section 49 of the Sacco's Act that gives the authority to inspect a Sacco as ordered by the minister and also the authority shall assist any investigative authority regarding matters of suspected fraud or malpractices in Sacco societies either by identification of such matters for referral or at the request of such by the authority. “This directive was issued pursuant to section 49 of Sacco societies Act. SASRA commenced the inspection and provided constant updates on the progress. However, on 15th November 2023 the inspection was stopped through a court order.” Read the statement by CS Simon Chelugui.

In the statement, the CS has stated that through his office, the legal ways shall be followed to ensure the security of Sacco

funds KUSSCO, and the Ministry shall give a detailed statement at an appropriate time.

Allegations about the operations and licensing of KUSSCO were first raised by former Central Bank of Kenya CEO Dr. Patrick Njoroge, through a letter to SASRA. He stated that KUSSCO members had raised concerns and expressed fear that their funds were not protected; saying that KUSCO was involved in deposit-taking and lending activities without a valid license and that SASRA was the suitable institution to regulate and investigate KUSSCO.

The statement further touching on an inquiry of Metropolitan Sacco, which an inquiry into its financial transactions and governance practices was recommended by SASRA. Confirming of the finds through a collaboration between his min-

istry and SASRA in the statement, the CS states that a notice of surcharge was issued to specific officials suspected of mismanaging the sacco.

“ This action had been met with legal resistance, as the implicated officials went to court challenging the inquiry findings and therefore surcharges against them. The matter is before the court for determination. “ Stated the CS in his statement.

“However, I have referred the matter to the DCI to probe into potential criminal conduct, including theft and fraud by these officials. Ministry through SASRA and the office of the Commissioner for Cooperatives are pursuing amounts due to the network which is estimated at Kshs. 87 Million as at October 2023.” Stated the CS.

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Farmers in Kenya are being urged to report anyone selling counterfeit seeds during planting seasons. The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has partnered with the police to eradicate fake seeds, improve seed quality, and boost agricultural productivity. The agency warns against buying grains from local markets, as using uncertified seeds can lead to low food yields and food insecurity. KEPHIS advises farmers to buy certified seeds from agrovetts vetted by KEPHIS, and has increased its surveillance efforts. The Seed and Plant Varieties Act, Cap. 326 of 2012, stipulates penalties for those involved. KEPHIS has partnered with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) and universities to advance research on developing drought-tolerant seed varieties to address climate change.



Tharaka Nithi residents are celebrating after the county government and Chuka University signed a memorandum of partnership to establish an industrial park. Governor Muthomi Njuki emphasized that both parties are custodians of public land, and the memorandum is about mutual benefit rather than competition. Chuka University will use the park for research projects, and the agreement was witnessed by Chuka University Vice Chancellor Professor Henry Mutembei M'ikiugu and Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisraeli.



cases of mental health among men, who cannot fend for their families. Kajiado Boda Boda chairman Fredrick Risa also notes that most men in the sector are also undergoing violence at home but are not coming out to speak due to stigmatization. The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022 shows that 36% of women aged 15–49 years in Kajiado County have experienced physical violence since age 15, 37% of women who have ever been married or had an intimate partner have experienced physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence, and 25% of married women or those with intimate partners have experienced violence. GBV victims are encouraged to use GBV toll-free helplines 1195 and 1198 for free tele-counselling services.



Farmers in Kenya are being advised to be vigilant against being cheated by unscrupulous traders who have formed rackets dealing in fake seeds and substandard farm inputs. Nakuru County Executive Committee Member in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Leonard Bor said that the use of certified seeds and fertilizers contributes to food security when there is sufficient rainfall. Bor advised farmers to avoid buying seeds packed in open containers that were not labelled, as such traders were not licensed by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to stock certified seeds. The distribution of counterfeit seeds and substandard farm inputs is a big threat to food security, contributing to poor harvests and low crop production, triggering increased cost of living through food imports from other countries. Governor Susan Kihika's administration has resolved to partner with the Kenya Seed Company to conduct training and organize farmers' field days to tackle the counterfeit seed and poor-quality farm inputs menace. The CECM indicated that traceability of certified seeds is easy and advised farmers to keep the packet and receipt as evidence in case of suspected fake seeds.



Bodaboda operators in Nyeri are considering transitioning to electric motorcycles as part of the government's initiative to shift away from fossil fuels. Chairman Charles Ndegwa argues that they are not opposed to the transition but want a well-organised programme to address challenges detected by riders in Mombasa before the units are rolled out to the rest of the country. Issues Ndegwa wants fixed include calibrating engine speed and establishing power-swapping sites in major towns for charging. He also argues that electric motorcycles are uneconomical compared to conventional ones, as they can only cover a maximum of 50 kilometres without recharging. Spiro, the company behind electric motorcycle manufacturing and supply in Kenya, plans to introduce over 1 million units into the country as part of the government's initiative to shift away from fossil fuels. The company plans to create battery charging and swapping stations across the country as the rollout takes shape. On road safety, Ndegwa has requested more than 200 riders adhere to the established highway code to avoid accidents during the festive season. He also warned those without proper documents to keep off the roads and renew them to avoid clashing with security officers. Over the last four years, the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has raised concerns over the steady increase in accidents caused by boda boda operators. Motorcycle transport was ranked as the most dangerous type of mode of transport in 2022, with at least 4,690 people lost on Kenyan roads in 2022.

Kajiado County Director for Gender, Mary Taiko, is urging residents to utilise Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centres (GBVRC) to address the issue of gender-based violence. The director states that many men and women in the community are suffering from GBV and that GBV centres are available at Kajiado referral, Loitoktok, and Ngong sub-county hospitals. Taiko also urges men to open up when they feel distressed, as it is not taboo to seek help. The recent drought has led to increased

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Dorcas Rigathi Foundation Gets A Boost From Tana Water Works Development Agency

By: Charles Kinyua
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Addressing the seemingly rejuvenated men, Gathaka assured them that opportunities abound for sober and ready to work citizens.
- He further committed to ensure his agency's role in the government's afforestation bid. The Second Lady's foundation committed to have each of the six constituencies will have at least 150,000 trees planted by rehabilitated graduates.
- "The Second Lady is committed to having the boy child restored to his former productive self," said the organisation's Cordinator Bishop Barnabas Kinyua.



Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka watering a tree he planted at Ngorano Chief's Centre in Mathira constituency yesterday. Looking on is Dorcas Rigathi Foundation coordinator Bishop Barnabas Kinyua (2nd right), Assistant County Commissioner Mark Okemwa (right) and Senior Chief Joseph Muhoro Gundi. Photo courtesy of TWWDA/Mercy Kinyungu..

Foundation's alcoholics' rehabilitation programme by donating 10,000 tree seedlings. Commissioning the project at the Ngorano Chief's Centre in Mathira constituency, the agency's chairman Wanyaga Gathaka lauded the Second Lady's endeavour to alleviate drugs, alcohol and substance abuse.

Hundreds of former addicts from different parts of the country have been rehabilitated.

At area the area where the Agency chairman visited yesterday, 63 former abusers are engaged in various eco-

nomie gaining activities. Of the 63 former abusers, 22 have either gotten jobs or joined various learning institutions while the remaining 43 among them 6 university graduates are constructing a rehabilitation centre in the area. The ultra-modern facility is expected to be used in rehabilitating others.

Addressing the seemingly rejuvenated men, Gathaka assured them that opportunities abound for sober and ready to work citizens.

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forestation bid.

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"The Second Lady is committed to having the boy child restored to his former productive self," said the organisation's Cordinator Bishop Barnabas Kinyua.

"My agency has today commenced a binding partnership with the Foundation by procuring 100,000 seedlings that have been nurtured by the rehabilitation graduates and we shall have a similar number next in line with the

Kenya Kwanza government's dream of planting 15 billion trees in 10 years," said Gathaka.

Present at the function were area Assistant County commissioner Mark Okemwa and Senior Chief Joseph Muhoro Gundi. Gathaka presented the graduates a personal Christmas token of KSh10,000.

The Foundation has sponsored a tree nursery at the Ruguru Health Centre at Kiamariga Township with a capacity of over 3 million seedlings.

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Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) Unveils Ambitious Four-Year Strategic Plan For Women’s Political Advancement

By: PSCU

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) has revealed a visionary four-year strategic plan, demonstrating its commitment to driving activities that specifically aim to advance women’s roles in political leadership.

Leah Sankaire (Kajiado), KEWOPA’s chairperson, emphasized the organization’s dedication to championing a robust statutory framework aligned with the constitutional principles of full and equal rights.

“Our efforts will positively impact men, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups,” she stated.

Sankaire expressed gratitude, highlighting the crucial financial support from UN Women and Global Affairs

CANADA in crafting the strategic plan, highlighting a global commitment to women’s rights and representation.

The strategic plan outlines key areas to strengthen members’ capacities in legislation, oversight, and representation. Its objectives include increasing women’s presence in political leadership at national and county levels while enhancing the secretariat’s capabilities for efficient service delivery.

The launch garnered notable attendees, including representatives from the Speakers of the National Assembly and the Senate, the Deputy Speaker for the National Assembly, key development partners, and UN Women representatives from civil society, emphasizing a collaborative effort towards gender equality in political spaces.



Some of the women parliamentarians during the forum.

CDF Ogolla To Receive Troops From Eastern DRC

By: Muraya Kamunde

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Francis Ogolla is set receive Kenyan contingent deployed under East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) in Eastern DRC whose tour of duty has come to an end.

EACRF troops were sent on September 2022 for a duration six months, but was extended to September 2023 and later on to 8th December 2023.

Their mandate followed lines of action for implementation that included jointly planning and conducting operations with FARDC in the Joint Area of Operation to defeat the Armed Group Elements in the Eastern DRC, support the FARDC in concretizing and maintenance of law and order and to support DRC, in collaboration with humanitarian agencies.

Among other key areas were to support in the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and

Stabilization Program (P-DDRCS).

The Kenyan contingent being the first to be deployed at Goma International Airport moved into Kibati, Kibumba and Rumangabo along National Road 2 (RN2) Main Supply Route, in Rutshuru territory, alleviating an eminent direct threat on Goma.

According to Maj. Gen Alphaxard Kiugu, the key element of EACRF’s mission entailed fostering harmonious co-existence between communities.

“EACRF was established to restore peace and stability in the region, after these protracted conflicts and widespread humanitarian crises. This initiative was intended to compliment existing peace support mechanisms, such as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and other bilateral arrangements in place for the same cause,” he said.

He called upon all actors (regional and international) to continue supporting the ongoing and future interventions geared towards finding lasting peace and stability in Eastern DRC.

General Francis Ogolla is a graduate of École Militaire de Paris and National Defence College of Kenya. He holds Diploma both in International Studies and Military Science from Egerton University, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Armed Conflict and Peace Studies (First Class Honors) and Masters of Arts in International Studies from the University of Nairobi ..



GEN F O OGOLLA MGH EBS HSC ‘ndc’ (K) ‘psc’ (FRA)
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

“Let’s Make Those Empty Beds Useful,” Ruto Urges Kenyans To Adopt Street Children

By: Edward Chweya

President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to take in street children and show them parental love. Speaking at the Eldoret State Lodge yesterday, where he and First Lady Rachel Ruto hosted officials and children from 52 children’s homes, the president emphasised the importance of being accommodating to children and explaining why they should be cared for. “We have too many bedrooms in Kenya without children. Empty beds in our homes. We have empty seats on our dining tables. Please let’s make those empty beds useful. These children of Kenya can be part of our families, they can be part of our society. And they are wonderful children, innocent human beings, God’s creation,” Ruto said.

The president also stated that children are a valuable resource in Kenya, as other countries face labour shortages due to a lack of children. During his travels abroad, he revealed that he has been asked to send Kenyans to some countries to provide labour because those countries do not produce enough children. Ruto urged Kenyans to look after street children and their families and provide them with a decent standard of living. He reiterated his desire to make Kenya a visa-free destination for visitors, noting that Nairobi has been named the best city in the world to visit. “Let’s love our country. There are so many negative stories out there. There is a small issue somewhere, it is blown out of proportion. Another issue somewhere, people talk negatively about our country. It’s completely unnecessary,” the president further said.



President William Ruto speaks during a joint media roundtable at State House, Nairobi on December 17, 2023. | PHOTO: JASE MWANGI/CITIZEN DIGITAL.

eCitizen Hits New Single-Day Collection Milestone After Realizing Sh903.6M

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyentimes

The government’s single payment system — eCitizen — marked a new milestone on Wednesday after realizing Sh903.6 million on a single day. Citizen Services Principal Secretary Julius Bitok reported the milestone on Thursday saying a third of the transactions were dollar-denominated. Bitok attributed the milestone to the government’s use of a single Paybill number, 222222, for all payments for the public services. “The figure marks a figure rise in the monies collected through the platform following President Ruto’s directive to all state agencies to on-board all their services to the e-Citizen by the end of this year,” he said. He said following the directive and having over 14,000 services currently accessible and payable on the platform. The PS said the National Treasury

collected Sh4.664 billion in November up from Sh1.44billion in June before the directive by President William Ruto. “The amounts of July, August and September were Sh2.362billion, Sh3.63billion and Sh4.233billion respectively,” Bitok said. Transparent revenue management He said the government plans to enroll all the state agencies services to e-citizen was to inject better management and transparency in revenue collection and to stem leakages from numerous collection points. In addition to the 11 million current users, he said that the government is adding an average of 5,000 new members every day to e-Citizen, as more services are being on boarded on the platform, resulting in an increase in daily revenue collection. On August 5, Cabinet directed ministries and all government agencies to close non-designated payment platforms and only use e-Citizen with Paybill 222222 for all transactions. In a letter to all Principal Secretaries and Accounting Officers, Secretary



Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Julius Bitok/Immigration Department/FILE

to the Cabinet Mercy Wanjau ordered the completion of the migration by August 8, 2023. Government subsequently extended the deadline to December 31. The government, through Treasury

Cabinet Secretary Njunguna Ndung’u, gazetted the e-Citizen portal in December 2022 as the official government digital payments platform. The program seeks to increase revenue collection, minimizing the cost

of collection, and enhancing service delivery. It ensures that citizens, non-citizens, and business entities can access government services online and make payments electronically.

Discipline Yourself For The Purpose Of Godliness



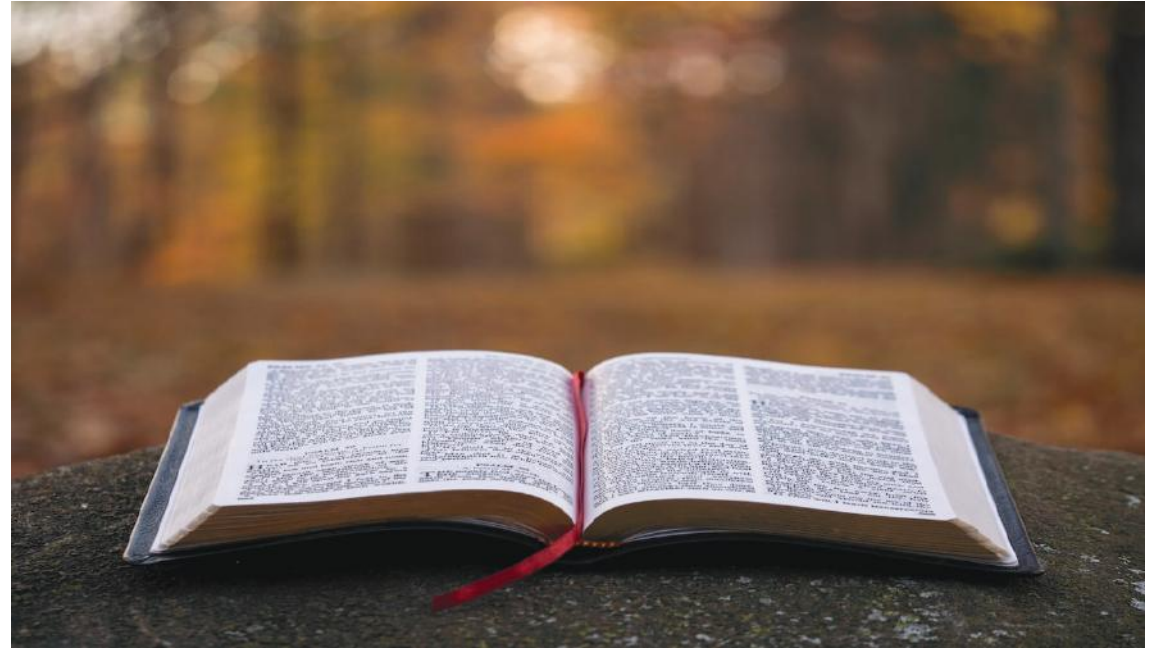
By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We must understand that God's grace in our lives demands discipline. This is why the great apostle of grace says, "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7, NASB). And in this matter of the grace of giving, there must be the discipline of giving as well. Before there are any outward disciplines of giving, there must be a disciplined understanding of giving.

First, you must bear in mind that giving is not a meritorious work which will enhance your position before God. Similarly, giving will not make you better than other Christians. Second, you need to understand that while giving will not gain favor with God, giving does bring blessing! Jesus said: "Give, and it will be given

to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). Correspondingly, Paul wrote: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

Admittedly these blessings are ESSENTIALLY SPIRITUAL. But which would you rather have — a spiritual blessing or a bigger bank account — INNER CONTENTMENT or a new yacht? Third, you must keep in mind that giving which pleases God is generous and sacrificial. As we have seen, the Macedonians gave out of their deep poverty. We can also profitably reflect on what Jesus said about the poor widow who humbly gave only a fraction of a penny: "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others" (Mark 12:43). Fourth, you must understand that what you give is to be determined between you and God. Giving should never be decided casually or flippantly, but through serious prayer — asking God



what He wants you to give.

SELAH. GOD HELP US AND DELIVER US. TO HIM WHO IS ABLE, THE ETERNAL KING, BE THE GLORY, HONOR AND MIGHT.

References:

The Living Bible

Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evan-

gelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

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Proposal To Transfer 'Public Seal', Claims By Ruto's Critics Were Baseless and Misplaced



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto.

Worth Noting:

- My friend added: Raila should be the last person to allege that Dr Ruto was being held hostage by IMF and World Bank. We know President Uhuru Kenyatta had caved in to pressure and accepted their conditionalities.
- Raila, who was his co-principal in the 'handshake' government fully supported that decision.
- Earlier when he served as a Prime Minister, we never heard him faulting President Mwai Kibaki, who was equally working with the two institutions.
- Today we know the reason why he is fighting President Ruto. It is simply because he refused to share the government with him.
- Turning to 'Public Seal', this is what Azimio wanted Kenyans to believe. President William Ruto has hatched a plot to clip the political wings of Attorney General (AG) Justin Muturi and Speaker of National Assembly Moses Wetangula.

As a writer and political commentator, I have been following with keen interest the political discourses that have dominated our country in this year, 2023, which is almost coming to end.

Well, the leadership of Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition had been setting the ball rolling.

This is in terms of trying to find a fault to President William Ruto's policy decisions and strategic interventions aimed at fulfilling a raft of pre-election promises.

They would pick and majorly ride on the following issues: The high cost of living, the transfer of Public Seal and the alleged unpalatable bitter pills imposed by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

President Ruto had succumbed to the whims of the two Bretton Wood institutions. He was literally singing their song, they would allege.

But majority of Kenyans would disagree and aver. Raila was just seeking political relevance after realizing his political fortunes were dwindling.

He lost the elections. He seems positioning himself to run again in 2027. He will still lose to President Ruto, a friend of mine from Mount Kenya region told me a few days ago.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is a truthful man and brutally honest. Raila should heed his call. The Mountain will never vote for him.

My friend added: Raila should be the last person to allege that Dr Ruto was being held hostage by IMF and World Bank. We know President Uhuru Kenyatta had caved in to pressure and accepted their conditionalities.

Raila, who was his co-principal in the 'handshake' government fully supported that decision.

Earlier when he served as a Prime Minister, we never heard him faulting President Mwai Kibaki, who was equally working with the two institutions.

Today we know the reason why he is fighting President Ruto. It is simply because he refused to share the government with him.

Turning to 'Public Seal', this is what Azimio wanted Kenyans to believe. President William Ruto has hatched a plot to clip the political wings of At-

torney General (AG) Justin Muturi and Speaker of National Assembly Moses Wetangula.

The story was not informed by any iota of truth and evidence.

The authors seems to have had relied on usual rumors, propaganda and outright lies being peddled by the well-known critics of the President.

The President had nothing to do with that proposal.

For starters, it is one of the proposals contained in a bill drafted by the majority leader Kimani Ichungwah. The law requires him to table the bill before the house for debate.

If approved, that is when the President comes in. He will have two options: sign it into law or return it back to parliament with memorandum explaining the reasons for rejecting it. The memorandum would outline the grey areas that needed to be reviewed and the necessary amendments factored.

Therefore, the claims that the President resorted to this after his bid to privatize 11 state corporations run headwinds were totally malicious and made in bad faith. Let me set the record straight. Again, in exercise of power conferred on him by the constitution, President Ruto signed the privatization bill into law. This is after the Bill was subjected to parliamentary debate and received overwhelming endorsement.

Recently, Raila Odinga-led Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party moved to High Court seeking to stop the privatization of 11 state corporations.

The judge declined to grant the prayer but he halted the privatization until February next year when the case will be heard and determined.

The ODM had argued that the due process had not been followed to the letter and spirit.

The parastatals are owned by the people of Kenya. So, this is a weight matter. You cannot sell them without involving them.

In earlier statements, Raila and other party luminaries had pointed an accusing finger at President William Ruto.

The President is fully behind this move and he is working with Treasury Cabinet Secretary.

The Azimio brigade would not point

out sections of laws that the President had violated.

As the law required, the Treasury Cabinet Secretary organized public forums during which public views were sought, collected and collated. The views were factored in privatization bill.

I would have expected Raila to do two things if he didn't not agree with Bill. First, mobilize his Azimio troops to reject the bill on floor of parliament. If he fails to marshal enough numbers, move to court immediately after the President assented to it.

He failed to do this. With this, his decision to move to court is being interpreted as an afterthought.

The question is. What prompt him to change his mind? Many avers it is not because of Wanjiku's interests but rather his personal interests.

Since the law was passed, a section of the leaders in the minority side had been making noises at the funerals, church pulpit, homecoming parties. Why wait until when the government starts to actualize this law?

It therefore means they were contented.

The decision to move to court had been preceded by Raila's remarks four days earlier. Are you ready to go back to the streets? Raila asked a crowd in Nya-mache, Kisii county, where he attended the homecoming party of Governor Simba Arati. Then, wait for my whistle.

We all know that Raila's political game plan is to continue engaging President William Ruto in a smear campaign.

This is not because the President is not doing his job of serving Kenyans, it is because he is yet to shed off misplaced and warped thinking that Dr Ruto stole his victory.

Raila was the candidate of the outgoing government. Dr Ruto was an outsider. So, how did an outsider stole your victory?

In light of this, this is my considered view. If he make good his threat, Raila's game plan would fail miserably.

Why I would not expect his supporters to heed his call to participate in demonstrations?

His turnaround is suspect. The other day I heard a group of the people in the estate saying.

Raila was angling himself to play the role of a big broker in the privatization of some of the entities. He knew he would mint millions of shillings. It seems he has been elbowed out.

He is pursuing selfish and personal interests. Therefore, we cannot put our lives in danger for a course that has no bearing to public interest.

He used us last time. A fool has now become clever. He will be in for a rude shock.

It is worth to recall that during the electioneering period, Dr William Ruto, the presidential candidate of United Democratic Alliance (UDA)/ Kenya Kwanza, kept reiterating.

If I win the elections, I will give priority to the privatization of loss making State Corporations and Parastatals plus those that had already collapsed and shut down.

The leadership of the previous governments fully bore the brunt.

They just watched helplessly as these state entities crumbled down due to four main reasons: High levels of corruption, mismanagement, laxity and don't care attitudes. These vices would be committed by big fish entrusted to manage them.

To make the matter worse, the previous governments resorted to bailing out the entities.

Billions of shillings of taxpayers were being pumped but none of them will get back to its feet. Kenyans would not get value for their hard-earned monies. As such, they would end up being the biggest losers.

The Privatization Bill originated from the cabinet in line with the rule of collective responsibility.

The Finance Bill 2023 passed by parliament listed the 11 entities which are earmarked for privatization in the first phase.

It is worth noting former President Mwai Kibaki was a renowned economist but he failed to resuscitate them.

He was unable to deal with vested interests which were out to make a kill.

Reason? The political class played a key role in the appointment of the chairpersons and chairmen of these State Corporations.

As a result, the holders of these offices owed their loyalties to them. This cleared the way for each to dip their fingers into cookie jar and get a share of the looting.

Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), Kenya Meat Commission and pyrethrum Ginneries were among profit making factories that had already collapsed. The loss making ones were: Kenya Airways, Mombasa Port, Kenya Pipeline, Kenya Seed Company, National Oil Cooperation among others.

Once advertised, the bidders' history should be thoroughly scrutinized.

The two main considerations should be. First, the proprietors of the firms that qualify have the interest of the Kenyan people at heart.

Secondly, the investors have success stories of managing and turning around the fortunes of similar entities that had been run down by the state.

You would expect the multinational companies to buy some of the State Corporations.

For them, their success stories would go beyond the border.

Besides, the government would be expected to review the tax regime and enact laws that will attract both local and foreign investment.

As I conclude, allow me to say this. The good thing with privatization is that this create room for competition.

So, the new owners will work very hard. This is because they want to make profits out of this. They know the Kenya government will also collect a huge chunk of monies as taxes.

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

Bayer Launches 'Science For Better' Campaign Rooting For Improved Livelihoods Through Science

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- Anchored in their brand vision is "Health for All and Hunger for None" maxim, a goal for a healthy and food secure world which is championed through efforts such as providing access to pharmaceuticals through the human health division and availing improved seed quality that is climate proof; as well as the training of farmers on better and more sustainable farming methods for better yield through their crop science division.
- Bayer is a Life Science company- with the biggest division in Africa being crop science with a target of reaching 100 million small holder farmers globally by the year 2030, 21 million of whom will be in Africa. Currently, 10.8 million small holder farmers have been reached and impacted positively by the solutions that Bayer provides.



The campaign which is aligned to their brand purpose 'science for a better life' seeks to push the corporate brand further while also sensitizing the key stakeholders/Bayer.

Bayer has announced the launch of a campaign dubbed 'Science for Better' in a bid to drive the company's efforts towards ensuring a better life for all through science.

The campaign which is aligned to their brand purpose 'science for a better life' seeks to push the corporate brand further while also sensitizing the key stakeholders on their efforts towards improving lives, as their key focus fully shifts to Life Science.

Speaking about the campaign, Anthony Maina- the Corporate Communications lead in Africa expounded on the significance. "Science for Better campaign is a platform for us to continue creating and sustaining our visibility as a corporate brand. It is important that our brand remains top of mind and for the audiences to understand our contribution to improving lives through science on multiple fronts such as nutrition, agriculture, medicine, self-care and food security", said Mr. Maina.

"All our efforts in research, innovations, collaborations and partnerships are directed at improving lives through science", he added.

Health for All and Hunger for None

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Hybrid seeds

Bayer has been on the forefront of championing the use of hybrid seeds as opposed to the conventional seed as a move to combat climate change and boost food security. This coupled with the use of proper crop protection practices such as the use of the right fertilizer has been proven to guarantee a four-fold yield for farmers.

With the ever-changing weather patterns, the most affected in the value chain are the small holder farmers (with 50 acres of farms and below). Bayer has been actively working with small holder farmers to empower them to mitigate and adapt to the changing weather patterns using

technology (digital farming) and precision farming for the commercial farmers. Bayer also offers a solution to detect weather patterns, helping to inform farmers on the right seed to plant.

To boost this, they have also employed field-based officers/ agronomists whose role is to work with farmers at the grassroot level to educate them on the alternative high yield farming practices. This is done on a daily basis to ensure that farmers remain appraised on the farming practices that will offer them the best returns and longevity.

The biggest challenge posed over the years has been the pricing for the hybrid seeds because of the new purchases at the point of planting however, for most commercial farmers the gains in terms of the produce has far reaching benefits in comparison to the price of the seeds. Farmers are opting to spend some more money for a guaranteed high yield for the use of the hybrid seeds.

GM products

Recently, the government lifted the ban on the planting of GM products, a move that Bayer says is the best solution for Kenya and entire globe towards boosting food security and adopting to climate change. Bayer remains steadfast in their belief in the providing solutions and options

for farmers. Bayer has also called on all stakeholders to help farmers to debunk the GM technology enabled seeds and its importance in the mitigation and adaptation in the future. This also happens on the backdrop of a confirmation to consumers on the safety and efficacy of these GM foods.

Bayer has provided centers of excellence in Kajiado, Mwea and Siaya that provide practical learning about the use of the hybrid seed in comparison with the conventional seed and crop protection and new farming technology.

Bayer explains that there are various hybrid products such as BT cotton, soya beans however, the biggest win for the GM enabled products is maize.

With the UN's prediction of the global population increasing to 9.8 billion by the year 2050, the only choice that remains is for the world to adopt more sustainable and weather proof farming practices, for a food secure future.

Over 46 Women and Youth Groups Receive 10 Million from National Government Affirmative Action Fund

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyetimes

More than Forty-six Women and Youth Groups in Kisii County have received 10 million from National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

Speaking during the disbursement, Kisii Woman Representative, Dorice Donya, the funding is aimed at boosting table banking activities within the groups, providing economic empowerment to the members.

During the handover ceremony at her office in Kisii County, Donya emphasized the importance of utilizing the funds for income-generating activities.

She urged the beneficiaries to invest wisely, not only to improve their socio-economic status but also to navigate the challenges posed by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

“The money will empower members to improve their socio-economic status, especially during these tough

economic times caused by the Coronavirus pandemic,” stated the Woman Representative.

She encouraged the groups to view the funds as a stepping stone, emphasizing the potential for future allocations if effectively utilized.

Donya advocated for the active participation of women in government-backed initiatives like the Women Enterprise Fund

She urged women to seize the opportunities provided by affirmative action funds, borrowing and investing in income-earning activities to further enhance their economic independence.

Recognizing the need for equal empowerment, Donya stressed the importance of extending support to young men in the community

She expressed concern over the rising issues of alcoholism and drug abuse among the youth and pledged to continue supporting women’s groups through the NGAAF.

In her commitment to ongoing assistance, Donya affirmed her dedication to providing financial support to women’s groups through the National



More than 46 forty six women and youth groups have received 10 million from NGAAF. Photo | Elizabeth Angira.

Affirmative Action Funds.

She called upon women to maximize their participation in key economic sectors and acknowledged the pivotal role played by women in society.

Donya concluded by encouraging more women to engage in ventures that contribute to their economic empowerment.

She urged the beneficiaries to maximize on the funding they get to improve their living conditions through economic activities.

WHO Prequalifies Second Malaria Vaccine

By: Nicholas Kigundu
@themkenyetimes

The World Health Organization has added a second malaria vaccine to the list of pre-qualified vaccines in a significant milestone in prevention of the disease.

WHO had in October recommended the use of R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine for the prevention of malaria in children following the advice of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group.

Dr Rogério Gaspar, Director of the Department of Regulation and Pre-qualification, WHO said “Achieving WHO vaccine prequalification ensures that vaccines used in global immunization programmes are safe and effective within their conditions of use in the targeted health systems. WHO evaluates multiple products for prequalification each year and core to this work is ensuring greater

access to safe, effective and quality health products”.

The prequalification of the world’s second malaria vaccine, developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India, is poised to expand access to malaria prevention through vaccination.

Dr Kate O’Brien, Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, said “Today marks a huge stride in global health as we welcome the prequalification of R21/Matrix-M, the second malaria vaccine recommended for children in malaria endemic areas. This achievement underscores our relentless commitment to wiping out malaria which remains a formidable foe causing child suffering and death. This is another step toward ensuring a healthier, more resilient future for those who have lived for too long in fear of what malaria could do to their children. Together with our partners, we are united in the pursuit of a malaria-free future, where every life is shielded from the threat of this disease.”

The prequalification means wider access to vaccines as a key tool to prevent malaria in children with it being a prerequisite for vaccine procurement by UNICEF and funding support for deployment by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

When implemented broadly, along with other recommended malaria control interventions, they are expected to have a high public health impact.

The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by WHO, following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine which obtained prequalification status in July 2022. Both vaccines are shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials, for preventing malaria in children.

Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African Region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year. Globally, in 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases and 608,000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.



The Effect Of Using Modern Pedagogical Technologies In Primary Classes



ABSTRACT: In this article, in the lessons, the teacher conveys his knowledge, skills and abilities to the students through training, and the students acquire the ability to use them as a result of their mastery.

Key words: Teacher skill, aesthetic ability, student enthusiasm, knowledge result.

Education is a cooperative activity of the teacher and students, and in this process, the development of the individual, his education and upbringing is realized. In lessons, the teacher conveys his knowledge, skills and abilities to the students through exercises, and the students acquire the ability to use them as a result of mastering them. In the process of learning, students use different forms of learning, that is, they rely on specific differences in receiving, processing and applying the information being learned. In the course of education, issues of education and upbringing are solved in the form of cooperation between teachers and students during classes, independent work of students, extracurricular activities.

The purpose of education is formed according to the needs of society. Therefore, the goal of education should be appropriate and proportionate. The goal of education in scientific literature is to create skills and competencies, develop logical-creative thinking, improve communicative literacy, inculcate the

national idea, form oriental education, define personality it is emphasized that it consists of spiritual enrichment. Based on the educational goal, students' communication culture is improved by increasing their independent thinking, oral and written literacy, and developing logical thinking. On the basis of the educational goal, spiritual, ideological and sophisticated education is provided. In the process of language learning, there is an opportunity to get closer to the cultural and moral values of the people. Today, with the development of science and technology, human activity has expanded tremendously, and new technologies are entering. Quality changes indicate that there are now new technical, informational, audiovisual tools that require new methodologies and are becoming an integral part of the educational process, introducing their own characteristics, which are modern pedagogical tools made technologies a concrete reality.

Increases the productivity of the educational process, forms the independent thinking process of students, increases students' knowledge increases enthusiasm and interest, solid acquisition of knowledge, free use of it in practice forms skills and competencies.

Based on the educational goal, students' communication culture is improved by increasing their independent thinking, oral and written literacy, and developing logical thinking. On the basis of the educational goal, spiritual, ideological and sophisticated education is provided. In the process of language learning, there is an opportunity to get closer to the cultural and moral values of the people. Today, with the development of science and technology, human activity has expanded tremendously, and new technologies are entering. Quality changes indicate that there are now new technical, informational, audiovisual tools that require new methodologies and are becoming an integral part of the educational process, introducing their own characteristics, which are modern pedagogical tools. made technologies a concrete reality.

Increases the productivity of the educational process, forms the independent thinking process of

students, increases students' knowledge increases enthusiasm and interest, solid acquisition of knowledge, free use of it in practice forms skills and competencies. The traditional teaching system can be described as informative teaching due to the fact that it relies on written and spoken words, because the teacher's activity is not only as an organizer of the learning process, but also as an authority. is being evaluated, noting that it is becoming a source of knowledge. Methods and tools, forms of events, unique customs and traditions, ideas and life experience of the Uzbek people in preparing the young generation for life In conclusion, interest in the use of interactive methods and information technologies in the educational process is increasing day by day. One of the reasons for this is that until now, in traditional education, students were taught only to acquire ready-made knowledge, and the use of modern technologies allows them to search for the knowledge they acquire,

independent study and thinking, analysis. even teaches them to draw their own conclusions. In this process, the teacher creates conditions for the development, formation, learning and upbringing of the individual, and at the same time performs the functions of management and guidance. Today in education "Brainstorming", "Thoughtstorming", "Networks" method, "Siquain", "BBB", "Fifth plus", "6x6x6", "Debate", "Role-playing game", Modern technologies such as FSMU, "Working in small groups", "Rounded snow", "Zigzag", "I will say the last word" are used.

Sadullaeva Gulnoza Nurulla is a student of group 224 of Urganch State Pedagogical Institute, primary education. Actively participates in events held at the institute.

Artificial Intelligence



As we all know, the 21st century is the age of information technology, where the latest technologies are being developed, including robots and artificial intelligence. There is hardly a person in the digital world who does not know what artificial intelligence and robots are.

Usually, most people think of robots as assistants who can talk like humans and perform all the tasks for them. But this is a broader concept, and in fact, the Google translator, dictionaries, various games, etc. that you use are also clear examples of artificial intelligence.

Only their coverage is smaller and they can help you in certain direction. Nowadays, artificial intelligence has become widely popular and appears in almost all spheres of life.

For example, residents of Inchuan, China do not need bank cards. Because all processes related to account books are carried out by artificial intelligence by clarifying the image of a person. The debate about artificial intelligence has been

going on for almost 50 years. According to experts, they are worried that mass unemployment rates will increase due to the development of AI and taking the place of people. Perhaps there is a difference of opinion among IT billionaires, including SpaceX founder Elon Musk who believes that AI will destroy the world.

According to Musk, "Artificial intelligence is the main threat to human civilization. AI will cause massive problems related to work.

The reason is that everyone can do the job better than us. In chasing the latest technology, one can lose sight of the danger posed by AI. Robots have the ability to, they are self-improving even when they break down. Some countries even have robot nurses, order delivery drones, and driverless vehicles. In some countries, we can even see robots working in restaurants and operating on patients in hospitals.

Yes, they can do everything, but they are insensitive, they cannot feel the pains and joys that people are going through.

Dosimova Zilola was born on June 14, 2007 in Gurlan district of Khorezm region. Currently, Dosimova Zilola is an 11th-grade student of Ogahi creative school in Khiva. My poems were published in the book "School Gulshan" published in 2022 and published in the anthology "Talented Voices of Uzbekistan" by "Arslan Bayir-Baygench" publishing house of Turkey in 2023

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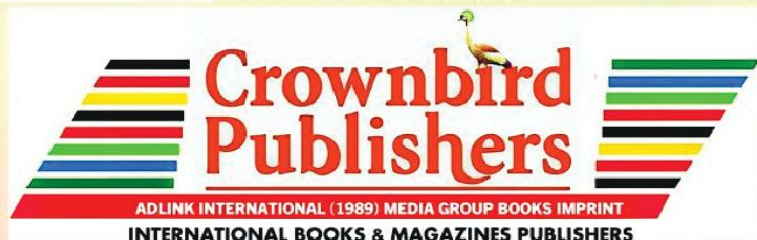
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BUSINESS

Mudavadi: Tax Regime In The Country Not Punitive

By: KBC Digital

Worth Noting:

- Mudavadi who is also the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs the Cabinet Secretary noted that Kenya is strengthening its diaspora as a key pillar in building the country's economy citing that the current remittance from the Kenyan Diaspora is very encouraging.
- "What the country is collecting from Kenyans living abroad at the moment is almost surpassing our export targets. This is a key indicator that we need to have a stable foreign policy that will help us further our partnerships with other countries since we have seen this forms part of what helps us grow our country economically," said Mudavadi.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has affirmed that the tax regime in the country is not punitive.

Mudavadi said that measures being undertaken by the taxman are aimed at stabilizing revenue collection parameters government due to the economic distress the country experiencing.

For the country to get out of its current situation, Mudavadi said Kenyans must embrace collection of own revenue, adding that the Government is working to seal tax evasion loopholes.

"There is no country that grows and becomes economically stable without taxing its people. Government gets its revenue to undertake its functions only through borrowing, which leads to debts and taxes collected from its people. Even in developed countries nobody likes or enjoys paying tax. But that remains the rule of thumb for a country to sustain itself," Mudavadi said.

Mudavadi said it is time for Kenyans to be patriotic, noting that pain might be experienced now but there is light

at the end of the tunnel.

He stated that no regime is happy to overburden its citizens with tax, saying once things stabilize and get back on the economic growth path, it will be a relief for Kenyans within the tax regime.

"We are working hard as government to seal the loopholes of tax evasion even as we look for other avenues on how we can generate revenue. What we are encouraging and working on is expanding the tax bracket and not increasing taxes. That is why we are looking for opportunities for creating more jobs so that many people can be enrolled in the tax payment quarter," said Mudavadi.

According to Mudavadi, measures being put in place by government in streamlining domestic revenue collection will in the long run help in stabilizing the tax levels being experienced.

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ing that the current remittance from the Kenyan Diaspora is very encouraging.

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Mudavadi who was speaking during an interview with a local radio station also defended the governments' plan to privatize some of the state-owned companies and parastatals.

Under the Privatization Bill, 2023 that is now law, he said the government is allowed to undertake privatization of non-strategic performing state-owned enterprises whose returns will help add value to cater for support in other key areas of the economy that include but not limited to infrastructure in transport, water, health and education.

According to Mudavadi, all the steps

that will be undertaken must be anchored on the law to avoid casting any doubts on Kenyans.

"What we want to encourage is proper management of these state-owned parastatals for them to generate revenue instead of government pumping in money day in day out to sustain them. Kenyans should take leaf on what happened to KCB which was 100 per cent owned by government some years ago and what happened at Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (KPTC) a government company that provided telecommunication and postal services across Kenya," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi says Safaricom, which is the leading company in revenue remittances in the country was as a result of privatization at KPTC citing the need to look at the bigger picture of return on investment.



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The “Networking in Heels” event, hosted at the Golden Tulip Westlands

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyentimes



The “Networking in Heels” event, hosted at the Golden Tulip Westlands .

Worth Noting:

- The atmosphere within the Golden Tulip Westlands was palpably charged with positive energy as Lilian Atho- CEO RealTime Global took the stage, expressing her admiration for the meticulous organization of the event.
- “I think you’ve done such a good job. The attendance is fantastic,” she remarked, setting an encouraging tone for the evening.
- Lilian recounted a recent encounter with Violette, underscoring the pivotal role of creating spaces for women to connect and grow relationships in the bustling city of Nairobi.
- “It’s so hard to meet people in Nairobi. So, it’s crucial to open spaces for women to meet each other and grow those relationships,” she passionately emphasized.

The “Networking in Heels” event, hosted at the Golden Tulip Westlands few days ago was a transformative gathering that celebrated the empowerment and resilience of women from diverse backgrounds.

Orchestrated by Networking in Heels Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Violette Wambua, the event served as a dynamic platform for inspiration, networking, and the exchange of empowering narratives.

The distinguished lineup of keynote speakers, including Lilian Atho, Muthoni Matu, Everline Kamau, and Serah Katusya, brought a wealth of experience to the stage, sharing their unique stories and profound insights with the eager audience.

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“It’s so hard to meet people in Nairobi. So, it’s crucial to open spaces for women to meet each other and grow those relationships,” she passionately emphasized.

Lillian took the audience through a journey of self-realization.

Having quit teaching career as a secondary school English Teacher to start cooking Chips for sale initially.

Many people including her father though that she had made a wrong move by leaving Teacher’s Service Commission (TSC) where a monthly salary was guaranteed as a teacher to unknown entrepreneurial career that by then no one knew.

Today, Lillian has more than seven (7) Companies all under RealTime Global with companies spread all over the world.

She has offices in South Africa, Texas Office in USA, China, Dubai and Nairobi here in the country.

Following Lilian, a speaker referred to as “the doorbell founder” took the audience on a journey of profound transformation in the year 2023.

Serah Katusya, CEO of Belva Digital, having spent 16 years working for WPP, she made the bold decision to quit her job in search of inspiration.

Uncertain of her next steps, she found unexpected serendipity in an early retirement opportunity offered by WPP.

This newfound freedom allowed her to explore her passions and intentionally choose her path forward.

Reflecting on the gamut of emotions she experienced during this period—fear, doubt, excitement, happiness, and optimism—she emphasized the importance of trusting oneself amidst the external noise and discerning

what information to absorb.

Her journey became a testament to the value of leaning into discomfort, trusting one’s instincts, and leaving space for the divine to guide the way.

The speaker underscored the significance of time and debunked the illusion of control.

Urging the audience to take bold steps, she emphasized, “If you get a moment to make the choice, just go and do them.

Right? We don’t have time. And for sure we have no control.

” To complement her narrative, she recommended the book “Halftime” by Bob Bufet, which guides individuals through a midlife reassessment of their career and life choices.

Additionally, she encouraged attendees to surround themselves with individuals who uplift them and to embrace uncertainty as a pathway to growth.

Agnes Matu, Crywan Enterprises CEO, a seasoned entrepreneur in the alcohol sector and a mother of five, offered a unique perspective to the forum.

With over 20 years of entrepreneurial experience, Agnes shed light on the challenges she faced, underscoring the need for resilience in the face of adversity.

Her entrepreneurial journey involved overcoming financial obstacles and navigating the intricacies of the competitive alcohol sector.

In a heartening address to the audience, Agnes declared, “I’m here to-

night to encourage most of you that you can start at any stage of life. You don’t have to start a business in your twenties or thirties or forties. You can start a business at any stage of your life.

“The event also featured a speaker who recently underwent a life-threatening surgery. Everline Kamau, Territory Manager of VMware was candid in her own way.

She cuts an image of those women and especially the single women even if she got divorced at an early age but nevertheless, that has not hindered her from pursuing her cause especially fighting alcoholism at earlier years of her life that threatened her marriage life.

She’s a divorcee but shared experience in such an inspiring way to other women in attendance.

Sharing her experience of recovery, she highlighted the importance of embracing vulnerability and authenticity.

Recommending impactful books such as “Mindset,” “Originals,” “Emotion,” and the Bible, she urged attendees to embark on a journey of self-discovery, emphasizing the strength that lies in embracing one’s unique qualities.

Violette Wambua managed to bring all those women under one roof and it was such a night full of inspiration and motivational to other women in attendance.

The stories shared will no doubt go a long way in impacting their life’s and those of others.

Violette thanked her husband Lenny Mungai who was also in attendance for travelling with her on the journey to revive Networking in Heels.

The event was Emceed by two super powerful media personalities Victoria Rubadiri and Mercelline Maroma.

In conclusion, the Networking in Heels event served as a powerful beacon of inspiration and empowerment for women navigating the intricate landscapes of their professional and personal journeys.

The narratives shared on stage echoed themes of resilience, self-discovery, and the transformative power of embracing one’s authentic self.

As the event concluded, the women departed with a renewed sense of motivation, strengthened connections, and a deeper understanding of the importance of community—a lasting impact that will undoubtedly resonate in their professional and personal spheres.

Ruto Says Critics Blowing Issues Out Of Proportion, Urges Patriotism

By: Presidential Communication Service
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the Eldoret State Lodge, Uasin Gishu County, when he hosted officials and children from 52 children homes, ahead of the Christmas festivities, President Ruto said that the United States-based travel agency Lonely Planet has recognised Nairobi as the best destination to visit in 2024.
- He said this very welcome assessment places Nairobi ahead of bigger and better-known cities like Paris, Montreal, and Philadelphia, among others.
- The Head of State further noted that the World Bank has placed Kenya the 29th fastest growing economy in the world.
- “In addition, World Bank has also placed Kenya as the country with the third highest diaspora remittances in the world,” he said.



December 21, 2023 | President William Ruto addresses officials and children from 52 children homes during an event at State Lodge, Eldoret/PCS.

President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to be patriotic and uphold the ideals of the country’s forefathers.

He said Kenyans should maintain a positive perspective of their country irrespective of circumstances, saying challenges facing the nation were being addressed.

President Ruto expressed concern that Kenya was being appreciated by outsiders, but some Kenyans were disparaging on their nation.

“Some people are blowing some issues about the country out of proportion instead of showing love for the nation,” said President Ruto.

Speaking at the Eldoret State Lodge, Uasin Gishu County, when he hosted officials and children from 52 children homes, ahead of the Christmas festivities, President Ruto said that the United States-based travel agency Lonely Planet has rec-

ognised Nairobi as the best destination to visit in 2024.

He said this very welcome assessment places Nairobi ahead of bigger and better-known cities like Paris, Montreal, and Philadelphia, among others.

The Head of State further noted that the World Bank has placed Kenya the 29th fastest growing economy in the world.

“In addition, World Bank has also placed Kenya as the country with the third highest diaspora remittances in the world,” he said.

He said Kenyans have many good reasons to be proud of their country.

“As Kenyans, we have many reasons to love our country despite the challenges facing us. These challenges will soon be resolved,” said President Ruto.

Dr Ruto said Kenyans should put the interest of the country first so

that together we can steer the nation in the right direction and inculcate patriotism in future generations.

Dr Ruto emphasised the need for Kenyans to defend and love their country, saying the stable state of the country has made the government declare the country a visa-free regime beginning next year.

Supporting the vulnerable

At the same time, President Ruto urged Kenyans to adopt more children from the streets and children’s homes.

He said the new laws on children have created mechanisms that allow more Kenyans to look after children in the streets and orphanages.

“We have too many empty beds and empty seats at the table. Let’s make these empty beds and seats useful by looking after these children,” said President Ruto.

He exuded confidence that under the new laws, the country would continuously look after the children in streets and children’s homes.

“We are a truly blessed nation with children. Many nations are looking for people to work, but they don’t have enough because their young populations are very low,” said President Ruto.

First Lady Rachel Ruto called on more Kenyans to help children from needy backgrounds.

Uasin Gishu County Governor Cheilim Bii thanked President Ruto for the yearly programme that helps children from children’s homes in the county.

Present were MPs David Kiplagat (Soy), Phyllis Bartoo

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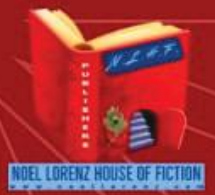
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Volta Fashion Week 2023 - Joshua Cosby Brew A Passionate



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana



Worth Noting:

- Joshua Cosby Brew a passionate model who always love to been seen, believe in team work and also wish to explore and go far in his model journey
- My journey began form Social media fashion inspiration, Growing up I saw a lot of fashion creativity online and it encour- aged me to work harder to become like them and even create more space for myself
- African fashion is one beautiful culture on it own ,from our choice of fabrics, Style and colors makes it unique, alot of create African artists grow each day due to the under- standing of what we are do- ing now. Beautiful People with Amazing Crafts.

- 1. Who are you?**
Joshua Cosby Brew a passionate model who always love to been seen, believe in team work and also wish to explore and go far in his model journey
- 2. Where are from?**
Ghana
- 3. Where did your journey began with your craft?**
My journey began form Social media fashion inspiration, Growing up I saw a lot of fashion creativity online and it en- couraged me to work harder to become like them and even create more space for myself
- 4. Anyone to give credit to?**
My Boss Sir Joey Ntori Armah
- 5. Highlight of your career?**
African fashion is one beautiful culture on it own ,from our choice of fabrics, Style and colors makes it unique, alot of create African artists grow each day due to the understanding of what we are doing now. Beautiful People with Amazing Crafts.
- 6. Fashion is diverse and growing what’s your take on African Fashion?**
I am a model and a fashion Person seeking my ways through the Africa and beyond fashion industry, I create and delivery on Runway ,Still Pictures, Commercial and many more .
- 7. Where do you see yourself in five years?**
To be seen not just in Africa but above highest.
- 8. How did you hear about Volta fashion week?**
On the social media (instagram) when I came cross a post, read about it found interest and seek for a nomination.
- 9. Are you coming to the event?**
Yes please
- 10. Do you think you are the best in your craft?**
Yes please
- 11. How can one contact you?(social media handles).**
I go by the name josh_cosbybrew
- 12. Your last word..!**
Thank you all so much for this incredi- ble opportunity! It’s been a dream come true, and I’m so grateful for the expe- rience. I’ve met amazing people and learned so much. Whatever happens, I’ll always cherish this moment. Thank you!



Joshua Cosby Brew a passionate model .

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The promoters of the breakaway European Super League on Thursday announced plans for a new 64-team men's tournament following the European Court of Justice ruling that UEFA broke EU law in blocking the rival competition

Super League Promoters Announce Plans For '64 Club' Tournament



This combination of pictures created on December 21, 2023 shows the UEFA logo (top) at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon on December 15, 2014 and the FIFA logo (bottom) at the FIFA Executive Football Summit in Istanbul on February 15, 2019. Europe's top court ruled on December 21, 2023 that moves by football governing bodies UEFA and FIFA to stifle the creation of a rival Super League had broken EU law. "The FIFA and UEFA rules making any new interclub football project subject to their prior approval, such as the Super League, and prohibiting clubs and players from playing in those competitions, are unlawful," the European Court of Justice ruled. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI and OZAN KOSE / AFP).

The promoters of the breakaway European Super League on Thursday announced plans for a new 64-team men's tournament following the European Court of Justice ruling that UEFA broke EU law in blocking the rival competition.

A22 Sports Management, which was set up in late 2022 to promote the Super League after its initial failed launch in April 2021, offered no details of when the planned competition might start or how much backing it enjoys among clubs.

But it said the tournament would feature promotion and relegation and would be broadcast live for free "on a new streaming platform" called Unify.

"Football is free. Free from the monopoly of UEFA, free to pursue the best ideas without fear

of sanctions," A22 CEO Bernd Reichart said in a streamed video presentation in reaction to the court's ruling UEFA had used illegal tactics to stifle the initial project.

That project featured just 12 clubs and collapsed within days. The new plans announced on Thursday are for 64 teams to be split into three separate leagues, with 16 clubs in the top Star league, divided into two groups of eight.

A second tier, known as the Gold league, would also feature 16 clubs divided into two groups of eight, while the third tier, the Blue league, would include 32 clubs in four groups of eight.

"Participation will be based on sporting merit. There will be no permanent members, and clubs will remain committed to their domestic leagues," Reichart claimed.

The proposal would see every competing club play a guaranteed 14 matches before the knockout stages.

A22 also announced that it would offer "a minimum of 400 million euros (\$439m)" in solidarity payments to other European clubs, "more than double the current amount" distributed by UEFA.

It said that, for the first year, clubs would be selected based on "a set of transparent criteria and on performances".

The matches would be played in midweek, exactly when the existing Champions League and other UEFA competitions take place.

A 32-team women's competition is also planned by A22, which said its streaming platform would generate income from "advertising, premium subscriptions, distribution partnerships, interactive services and sponsors".

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Double Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge will compete in next year’s Tokyo Marathon slated for March 3, his NN Running Team has announced.

Kipchoge Returning For Tokyo Marathon Ahead Of Paris Olympics



Athletics - Berlin Marathon - Berlin, Germany - September 25, 2022 Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge celebrates as he wins the Berlin Marathon and breaks the World Record
REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

Double Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge will compete in next year’s Tokyo Marathon slated for March 3, his NN Running Team has announced.

The race will act as Kipchoge’s build up towards the Paris Olympics in August where he is seeking to become the first man to win three consecutive gold medals in marathon at the Olympics after victories in Rio in 2016 and in Tokyo in 2021.

Kipchoge holds the Tokyo Marathon course record of two hours, two minutes and 40 seconds he set in the 2021 race held in 2022.

“I have good memories in Japan,” said the 39-year-old, who set the course record of 2:02:40 in his only Tokyo appearance. “I won my Olympic gold medal there and ran the course record in the Tokyo marathon.

“I feel good working towards my next race in Tokyo. For me, it is

the perfect preparation towards my aim to win my third consecutive Olympic title next summer in Paris.”

Meanwhile, Dutch runner Sifan Hassan will make her debut at the event.

The Olympic 5000m and 10000m champion made a huge splash in the marathon world this year by winning in London in April on her debut before scorching home to win the Chicago title in October.

“In the streets of Tokyo, I will be looking to continue my marathon journey,” the 30-year-old said. “I want to learn from every marathon, since every marathon is different and I can’t wait to come to Tokyo.”

Citizen Sport

SPORTS NEWS



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Backpage



Fatim Guelebeogo International Model Passionate About Bringing Life To Fashion



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- "I hail from the vibrant and culturally rich Côte d'Ivoire, a place that has greatly influenced my perspective in fashion and modeling."
- "My modeling journey began in Côte d'Ivoire, where I was first captivated by the power of fashion to express and inspire. It's been an exhilarating journey of growth and discovery since then."
- "I owe much to the local fashion community in Côte d'Ivoire. Their support and guidance have been invaluable in shaping my career."
- "One highlight is definitely walking in international fashion shows. Each runway is a new experience and an opportunity to connect with diverse audiences."

Who are you?

"I'm Fatim Guelebeogo, an international model passionate about bringing life to fashion and telling stories through my work."

Where are from?

"I hail from the vibrant and culturally rich Côte d'Ivoire, a place that has greatly influenced my perspective in fashion and modeling."

Where did your journey begin with your craft?

"My modeling journey began in Côte d'Ivoire, where I was first captivated by the power of fashion to express and inspire. It's been an exhilarating journey of growth and discovery since then."

Anyone to give credit to?

"I owe much to the local fashion community in Côte d'Ivoire. Their support and guidance have been invaluable in shaping my career."

Highlight of your career?

"One highlight is definitely walking in international fashion shows. Each runway is a new experience and an opportunity to connect with diverse audiences."

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

"African fashion is a powerful tapestry of tradition, innovation, and boldness. It's exciting to see it gain global recognition and I'm proud to be part of this vibrant movement."

Where do you see yourself in five years?

"In five years, I see myself as an established name in the industry, using my platform to inspire and mentor upcoming talents in Africa and beyond."

How did you hear about Volta fashion week?

"I heard about Volta Fashion Week through industry networks and social media. It's a fantastic platform showcasing the dynamism of African fashion."

Are you coming to the event?

"Yes, I plan to attend. Events like Volta Fashion Week are essential for promoting and celebrating the richness of African fashion."

Do you think you are the best in your craft?

"I believe in my craft passionately and strive to be the best version of myself. It's about constant learning and evolving in this dynamic industry."

How can one contact you? (Instagram, Facebook, tiktok, snap)

"I'm active on social media. You can follow me on Instagram at [FatimGuelebeogo] and on Facebook as [Fatim Guelebeogo]. Feel free to connect!"

Your last word..!

"Embrace your uniqueness and let your fashion tell your story. It's more than clothes; it's an expression of your identity and culture."



Fatim Guelebeogo .