



Nakhumicha Urges Kenyans To Prioritize Good Hygiene Practices During Festivities

Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary, Nakhumicha Wafula, has called on Kenyans to prioritize good hygiene practices as they begin celebrations during this festive season to mitigate the occurrence of illnesses caused by consuming contaminated food and water.

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Gachagua Asks Kenyans To Ignore Critics

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured Kenyans that the revival of the economy is on course and asked them to ignore the Opposition's noise and criticism of the ongoing initiatives by the Government to rebuild the nation. He said the economy is stable and out of danger, and Kenyans should not worry since Kenya Kwanza government is working round the clock to develop the country.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse Pastor Dorcas receiving bouquet of flowers on arrival at Karatina PCEA church on Sunday

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Leaders Gifted Their Electorate During The Christmas Celebrations



***Retired President uhuru Kenyatta and members of his family yesterday spent time with children from various homes, among them; Gatundu Children’s home, Mama Ngina Children’s Home, Mama Fatuma Children’s home, St Dorcas Educational Centre and Mary Faith Rescue Centre.**



Editor’s Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Christmas came early for the children of the Thika Rescue Centre after MP Alice Nganga treated them to a day of festivities. The children shared meals, received gifts, and spent time with legislators and government officials, giving them hope and motivation during the festive season. The event provided the children with a chance to experience the festive season, which has not been possible for years, as most of them do not have other family members. The event also motivated the children to make it in life, as they are currently struggling financially. Ng'ang'a, the National Assembly Chair, Committee Social Protection, called on other well-wishers to share with the less fortunate during this difficult economic period. The centre has over 100 boys, some of whom have excelled after graduating with various degrees, and others have jobs and started living normal lives. The committee is also working on a programme to have all centres in the country fenced to ward off land grabbers.



Kenya's increasing number of fatal accidents on roads is partly due to corrupt traffic police officers who take bribes and allow overloaded and un-roadworthy passenger service vehicles (PSV) to operate on the roads. Angry Kenyans claim that police are wholly responsible for some of the fatal accidents that have occurred on the roads in recent days. Residents of Awendo town, Helida Akeyo, and other residents have condemned the habit of traffic police officers harassing motorists for as low as Sh.100 to bribe them on the road. Motorcycle taxi operators, also known as bodabodas, are forced to part with at least Sh50 for real and trumped-up traffic offenses brought against them by the officers. Economists estimate that the unscrupulous officers romp into their pockets an amount close to Sh. 1 million every month on the Migori-Kisii route alone. The traffic unit is a section of the police force that is claimed to have partly contributed to the general rot in the entire force, which has painted the uniformed men and women as the most corrupt lot in the country. Matatu owners and crews claim that the traffic police unit was a major stumbling block to their business, forcing them to part with huge amounts of money every day to bribe their way out of real and imaginary traffic offenses.

Eastern Regional Commissioner Paul Rotich has urged public and security agencies to collaborate to ensure safety during the festive season. He emphasized the importance of exposing and reporting crimes to prevent incidents. Rotich deployed multi-agency teams and called for public cooperation. He also emphasized the need for consistency in traffic rules to avoid accidents. All law enforcement officers on leave have been recalled to increase security.



Mount Kenya University (MKU) has emerged as a major player in sporting activities, winning nearly all major prizes at Kenya Universities Sports Federations (KUSF) games. The university won 62 medals, beating 15 other universities, including Strathmore University, the University of Nairobi, Maseno, and Masinde Muliro. MKU's Sports and Creative Arts Coordinator, William Luta, praised the achievement as a milestone in nurturing students' talents. The university participated in various sports such as football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, netball, athletics, swimming, karate, softball, frisbee, taekwondo, chess, badminton, scrabble, darts, table tennis, tennis, rugby 7s, basketball 3x3, swimming, floorball, baseball five, woodball, roll ball, and demonstration sport (kabaddi). During a graduation ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi highlighted the university's efforts to promote sporting activities and ensure students with disabilities participate in co-curricular activities. University Founder Prof. Simon Gicharu urged students to take advantage of e-sports to enhance their skills and strategic thinking.



Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo has urged the Maasai community to enroll their children in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) courses in the country. He emphasised the role of education in shaping the destinies of youths and their communities, urging them to enrol in certificate courses, diplomas, and degree courses. He also urged parents to take care of their children to avoid teen pregnancies and early marriages.

Dr. Omollo addressed parents and students in Meto, Kajiado Central, during a youth mentorship meeting organised by MP Memusi Kanchori. He emphasised that everyone has an opportunity to progress in their education, regardless of their KCSE score. He emphasised that 98% of students in the constituency achieved D+ and D grades, and only two managed to get a C+ and C.

The PS also encouraged citizens to take safety and security measures during the festive season to avoid activities that might endanger their lives and property.





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DP Gachagua, Spouse Pastor Dorcas Share Christmas Gifts With Mathira Residents

By: DPCS



Worth Noting:

- “All people in Kenya will be secure during the Christmas festive season. I urge Kenyans to enjoy Christmas as they prepare for the new year. I wish to remind parents not to spend all the money on festivities because January is a season of paying school fees for their school-going children,” said the Deputy President terming education an equalizer in the society.
- He wished all Kenyans a peaceful festive period.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Sunday hosted over a thousand neighbours at his rural home in Mathira, Nyeri County, and showered them with Christmas gifts.

The Deputy President, who was flanked by his Spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and members of their family gifted the guests who included hundreds of elderly items such as foodstuffs ahead of the Christmas celebrations.

He asked Kenyans to share with the less fortunate in the society, saying that Christmas holiday is about showing love and reconnecting with families and friends.

He also called for maintenance of peace, cohesion and security during the festive season.

Additionally, the Deputy President asked parents to spend wisely and be mindful of school fees.

“All people in Kenya will be secure during the Christmas festive season. I urge Kenyans to enjoy Christmas as they prepare for the new year. I wish to remind parents not to spend all the money on festivities because January is a season of paying school fees for their school-going children,” said the Deputy President terming education an equalizer in the society.

He wished all Kenyans a peaceful festive period.

His spouse, Pastor Dorcas, also asked Kenyans to share with those in need during the holiday season.

“Christmas is a time that families need to spend time together. Whatever you have, share with others, remember your parents, call them if you are far from them. It is time for families to come together. God loves you so much that He gave you His only son. God gave His very best to World,” she said.

Jane Wairimu, a resident, lauded the Deputy President’s decision to host them and sharing gifts.

“It is our value to share and show compassion. The holiday brings us closer and we are grateful the Deputy President has shared the food commodities with his neighbours,” said Ms Wairimu.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua escorting one of his neighbour who visited his Mathira residence on Sunday..

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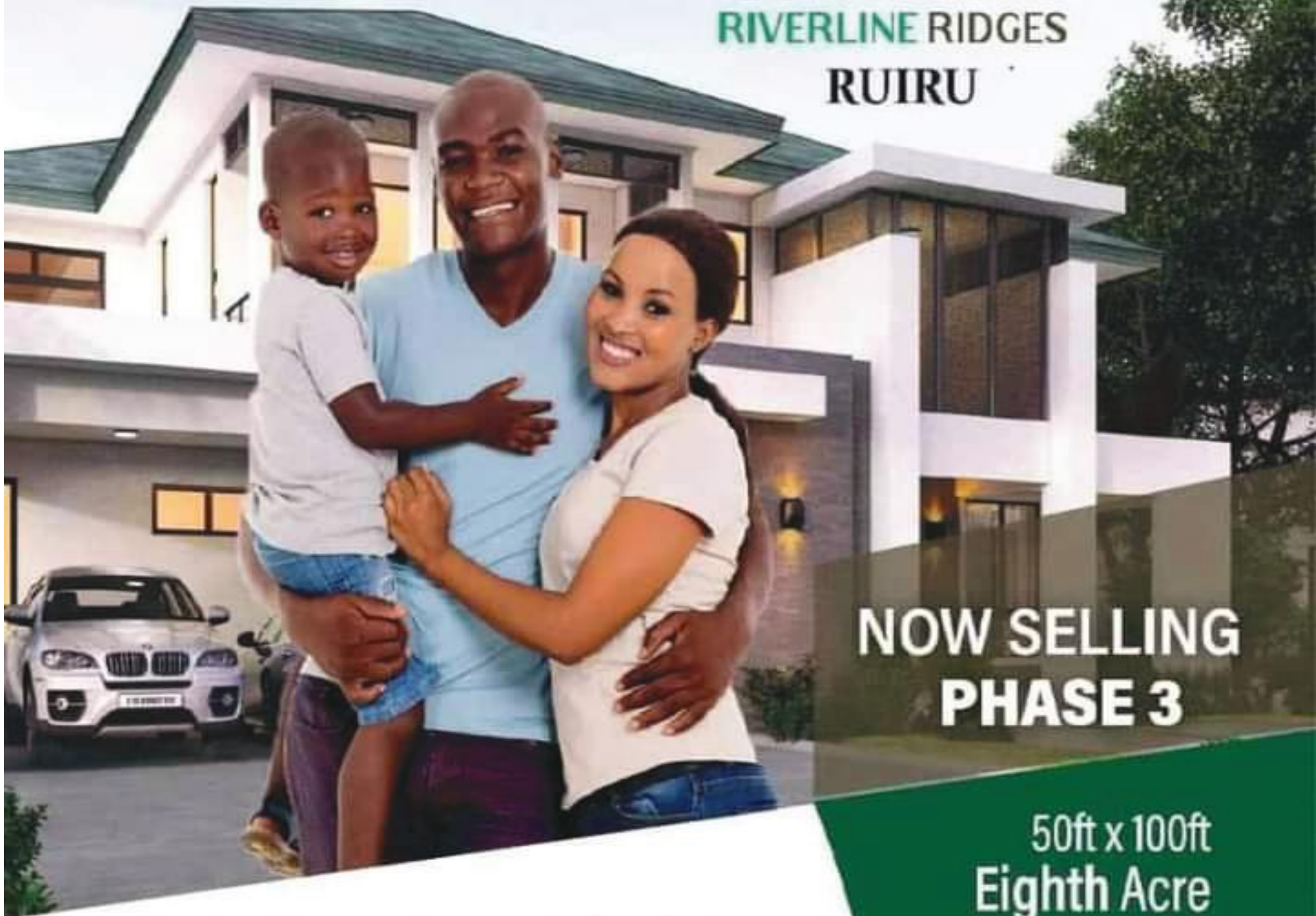
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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua Yesterday Hosted Hundreds Of His Neighbours At His Mathira Residence



Gachagua Asks Kenyans To Ignore Critics Of The Government's Economy Revival Initiatives

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- At the church service the Deputy President was accompanied by among others, his spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and their family, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy Alex Wachira, Kenya's Ambassador to India Peter Munyiri, Peter Weru (Chairman KARLO and former Mathira MP), MCAs among other leaders.
- On the ongoing crackdown against alcoholism in Central Kenya and drug abuse, the Deputy President said the exercise was 70 per cent successful and the national government administrators were working on the remaining 30 per cent.
- He, however, asked the church to join the exercise and support the government's exercise.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse Pastor Dorcas receiving bouquet of flowers on arrival at Karatina PCEA church on Sunday

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured Kenyans that the revival of the economy is on course and asked them to ignore the Opposition's noise and criticism of the ongoing initiatives by the Government to rebuild the nation.

He said the economy is stable and out of danger, and Kenyans should not worry since Kenya Kwanza government is working round the clock to develop the country.

"We are working to rebuild our economy. Do not be misled by the opposition's noises. Even the late President Mwai Kibaki found a beaten economy and was fought and criticised by the Opposition at the beginning of his first term but he performed," said Mr Gachagua on Sunday.

He told worshippers at Karatina PCEA Church in Mathira constituency, Nyeri County, that like President Ruto, President Kibaki faced similar criticism on taxation measures.

The Deputy President said the Azimio Coalition was jpainting Government in bad light despite the measures deployed to create jobs and rebuilding the country's economy.

"In 2004 and 2005 Kibaki was being fought because of taxes such as the Value Added Tax (VAT). People could not understand, but towards the end of the term, Kenyans appreciated because he had been able to rebuild the economy. The same is happening today against President Ruto, we found a beaten economy. We started afresh and so far we are getting on well. The economy was in ICU, but it is recovering due to the hard work of the President. Things are getting better. The President and I are not asleep. We are doing the best and Kenya is rising rise," said Mr Gachagua.

He enumerated achievements of the Kenya Kwanza administration such as employment of 56,000 teachers, streamlining the cash trader program, reduction of fertilizer from Sh7,000 to kSh2,500 and the dropping of the price of maize flour.

He added that road contractors, who had left site over lack of money, have started resuming work since the Ruto Administration has sourced the funds.

At the church service the Deputy President was accompanied by among others, his spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and their family,

Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy Alex Wachira, Kenya's Ambassador to India Peter Munyiri, Peter Weru (Chairman KARLO and former Mathira MP), MCAs among other leaders.

On the ongoing crackdown against alcoholism in Central Kenya and drug abuse, the Deputy President said the exercise was 70 per cent successful and the national government administrators were working on the remaining 30 per cent.

He, however, asked the church to join the exercise and support the government's exercise.

"On alcoholism war, so far so good and it is 70 per cent successful. The National Government Administration Officers told me the exercise is ongoing. I am so happy, the youth are now clean and searching for jobs. I urge the officers to continue and finish the remaining 30 per cent. I urge the Church to talk to our young people, mentor them and inform them about the dangers of drugs," he said.

He asked Kenyans to maintain peace and cohesion during the festive season.

Pastor Rigathi said the boy-child needs to be empowered and dignified.

"We have to restore the dignity of the Boy Child in the country. The youth want jobs as they recover from drugs. We want to see the young men working for the government.

We are working with the government ministries in the youth reforms and the fight against drugs," she said.

Senator Wamatinga said the leaders in the region will continue supporting the Deputy President and the government's initiatives such as eradication of illicit brews.

They called on the government to crack down the resurgence of illegal groups such as Mungiki.

"We won't allow the return of illegal groups. Mungiki should not be allowed to make a comeback. We are going to remain united as Mt Kenya leaders and dignify the Deputy President," said Mr Wamatinga.

The Deputy President later shared Christmas gifts with his neighbours at his residence.

Kalonzo Celebrates 70th Birthday, Says 2023 Was A Tough Year

By: IRENE MWANGI

Azimio La Umoja Principal Kalonzo Musyoka Sunday celebrated his 70th birthday saying it has been ‘a very tough year for many of us, but God has always shown up for us.’

The Wiper Leader marked his celebrations by attending a church sermon at Nairobi Baptist Church before attending a birthday party at his home in Karen which was organized by friends and his party lawmakers.

“It was a special praise and worship service this morning at the Nairobi Baptist Church this morning. Indeed the message that the more time we spend with Jesus, the more our antenna aligns with Him, was especially moving,” he stated.

Born on 24th December 1953, Kalonzo Musyoka has grown to become one of the most influential politicians in Kenya’s history.

The highlight of his illustrious ca-

reer so far will be his Vice Presidential tenure under former President Mwai Kibaki.

From 1993 to 1998 under President Daniel Arap Moi’s government, Kalonzo served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He also served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2004 during Mwai Kibaki’s government, then Minister of the Environment from 2004 to 2005.

In 2007 under the ODM-Kenya party, he was a presidential candidate where he lost but was later appointed by Mwai Kibaki as the Vice President in 2008. He later changed ODM-Kenya to the Wiper Democratic Movement.

In 2013, Kalonzo Musyoka joined his longtime political opponent Raila Odinga to form the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy Coalition (CORD) with Musyoka being the presidential running mate to Raila.



Azimio La Umoja Principal Kalonzo Musyoka .

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Wishing Kenyans A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year, 2024



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- I would also defend and support the agenda of two leaders on National TV shows. The interviews were aired by Weega TV and Githima TV. The two stations broadcast in Kikuyu language.
- As we close the year, I want to revisit one of the articles I wrote when President Ruto flew to Dubai to attend COP28 climate change summit.
- As the deliberations continued, I read a headline story featured by one of the mainstream newspaper here in Kenya.
- The story sought to cast President William Ruto in bad light by creating the impression that Kenya is topping the list of the countries with largest number of the delegates.



As a writer and a political commentator, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all Kenyans a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

This year we have had some challenges. Having inherited them from the previous government, President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua have made great strides in addressing them.

In a separate message of goodwill during this festive season, the two leaders assured Kenyans that the situation will continue to improve and get better in the New Year. I have no reason to doubt them.

As for me, the going has been tough. I have been jobless and tarmacking for more than one year. This would not however dampen my spirit of championing the political and social-economic agenda of President Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua. This stood out as one of my key wishes when the year started in January.

I'm happy to have accomplished this. The raining started beating me during the International Criminal Court (ICC) trial.

Before, I was an active member of the civil society/human rights groups namely NCEC/NCA, Youth Agenda, Creaw and Clarion.

The leaders of the lobbies would interpret my stand on ICC as a betrayal of the human rights agenda. I would not heed their call to stop me from defending then Deputy President Dr William Ruto, now the 5th President of Republic of Kenya.

At the time, hardly a week passed without writing an article denouncing the charges levelled against Dr William Ruto. I strongly believed these were trump up and politically motivated charges.

I was also abandoned by my community, the Kikuyu.

For the lobbies, the leaders started to distance themselves from me and I eventually become jobless.

In 2014, UhuRuto saw my potential

and started paying me a monthly stipend.

It is no longer forthcoming. This would not however deter my spirit of championing the course of President William Ruto and his deputy since they assumed office.

For a whole year, I had been penning an article every day. Mt. Kenya Times e-paper had given me a column. The Weekly Citizen and The Standard newspapers were also publishing some of them.

I would also defend and support the agenda of two leaders on National TV shows. The interviews were aired by Weega TV and Githima TV. The two stations broadcast in Kikuyu language.

As we close the year, I want to revisit one of the articles I wrote when President Ruto flew to Dubai to attend COP28 climate change summit.

As the deliberations continued, I read a headline story featured by one of the mainstream newspaper here in Kenya.

The story sought to cast President William Ruto in bad light by creating the impression that Kenya is topping the list of the countries with largest number of the delegates.

While ranking Kenya on 13th position with than 765 delegates, the authors cited the registration forms and badges issued.

They wanted Kenyans to believe that the government of Kenya has sponsored all them.

For this reason, President Ruto was not walking the talk.

He had a few days earlier unveiled a raft of austerity measures.

One of them was to reduce foreign travels and cut down on budgetary allocations for the essential trips.

The accommodation money and subsistence allowances for the state officers would be mainly targeted.

To me, the authors of the story were not factual and it seems they were pushing the agenda of anti-Ruto forces.

Let me explain why? One would have expected them to first carry out a thorough probe and scrutiny. This is with a

view to finding out whether the Government of Kenya was catering the expenses of the all the delegates. They failed to do this.

As it turned out, the state was only paying the bills of 51 of them. These were essential staff across the government, who had accompanied the President, and they were not joyriders.

Each had specific duties assigned to him by the head of state.

The expenses of the rest of delegates were catered by the local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector.

It is worth noting that the two lists of the state officers who would accompany the President had earlier been submitted to him.

One of them contained 189 officials. He rejected it on ground the number was too large. The number was reduced to 144. He also rejected it. He finally settled on 51 officers.

This clearly demonstrated that the President believed in austerity measures he had unveiled.

In Dubai, President Ruto once again scored highly. He managed to secure green deals worth Sh680 billions. The monies will be invested in projects meant to actualize the theme of United Arab Emirate's Clean Energy Pipeline. Kenya is set to become the pioneer of Africa Green Industrialization Initiative (AGII).

President Ruto's star in Dubai had been shining. This started before he arrived. In one of the sessions, the world leaders led by Bill Gates, UK Foreign Affairs Minister Cameron and President of Tanzania Madam Suluhu Hassan showered him with accolades.

The President of Kenya is showing us the way. We have learnt big lessons from him on how to mitigate climate change.

The Dubai summit comes just a few months after Dr Ruto convened an inaugural Africa Climate Change summit in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city.

This forum endorsed and adopted a

raft of resolutions. Dubbed the Nairobi declaration, President Ruto led African leaders in reaching a consensus to push for the adoption of the blueprint during the forthcoming COP28.

At the time, Dr Ruto stated. The declaration outlines the position of Africa. We will not allow the powerful nations to water it down. We will stand firm. In Dubai, United Arab Emirate, President Ruto walked the talk.

He noted Kenya is one of the countries in Africa that has been hit hard by adverse effects of climate change.

It is worth noting that President William Ruto is not only a leading champion on matters climate change in Africa. Lately, he has emerged as a global leader.

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

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

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

Our plea to them to shift to the renewable energy has not yielded much fruits.

As Africans, we have a responsibility to explore ways of helping our people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commitments would be made and again end up being unmet.

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

President Ruto would not take this matter lightly. During one of earlier COP conference he posed. Were these forums necessary? Were they adding any value to the course of environmental conser-

Family During Christmas Season



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Money has the power to destroy relationships, which are infinitely more valuable. Experiencing financial difficulties is an opportunity to change spending routines that have gotten out of hand and focus on the truly important things of life: family, faith, and friends.

- If wealth is your priority, then family life, personal health and a healthy union may be negatively affected. Spending time and/or money to create shared memories is a good investment. Budgeting concerns every member of the family. Everyone should take part.

- Children should be exposed to the concept of budgeting so that they will be prepared to cope independently with situations, such as being away from home and living on an income of their own.



Family is considered the most important unit in a child's life. A successful family doesn't just happen. It results from a passionate commitment to shared values and from family members, who invest their love, time and energy into helping each other, discover and pursue their calling.

Family is the sacred ground for training and passing on beliefs, values and traditions. Each family member has a role to play in a family. As soon as children are able to help around the house, they need regular chores. It's more important that they learn to be productive and see themselves as active contributors to the welfare of the home. Don't assume that certain household tasks are always the husband's or wife's responsibility. Let time availability guide you as you share the load. Shared meals provide an avenue for communication. Don't set an agenda for your child's life. Whether it's excelling at sports, earning high grades, or choosing a particular vocation, forcing a child to fit a mold of your making—one that doesn't consider how God designed the child—is a sure path to frustration for both of you.

Money has the power to destroy relationships, which are infinitely more valuable. Experiencing financial difficulties is an opportunity to change spending routines that have gotten out of hand and focus on the truly important things of life: family, faith, and friends.

If wealth is your priority, then family life, personal health and a healthy union may be negatively affected. Spending time and/or money to create shared memories is a good investment. Budgeting concerns every member of the family. Everyone should take part.

Children should be exposed to the

concept of budgeting so that they will be prepared to cope independently with situations, such as being away from home and living on an income of their own. Knowing how to budget and then establishing the right pattern of money management will enable them to make ends meet.

People tend to spend their money in ways which give them the greatest satisfaction. Some have smaller incomes than others and spend most of their income on food, the most important item of expenditure. If a certain level of food consumption is to be maintained, less money will be left for other needs, especially when prices are high.

Far too often consumers are tempted into spending more than is really necessary. Catchy advertising, attractive store displays and fancy packaging are some of the inducements which tempt us into parting with our hard-earned dollars and cents. Before making a purchase, a shopper should ask: Do I need it? Can I do without it? Can I afford it? Budgeting does not mean that we will be 'pinching pennies' and neatly recording how we spent every one, but it does mean that we will:

- Be able to manage the money we have better.
- Face money matters frankly and write down problems
- Consider wishes and needs of each member of the family
- Agree on realistic plans for spending and saving.
- Adjust plans as circumstances change.

We all need to work out a budget so as to get the best out of incomes which are becoming more and more difficult to 'stretch'. It is only through careful budgeting and clever spending that we can hope to beat the ever-rising cost of living. In making a budget, the following simple guide-

lines should be useful: Get an idea of your pattern of expenditure by keeping a record of how much is spent for a given period on food, clothing, housing and other necessities. Prepare another list showing the amounts planned for spending and saving.

Adjust the amounts where necessary. 'Cut' and 'carve' spending to fit income. Check regularly to see that the amounts spent on particular items are within the sum allocated for these items. There are several headings under which spending and saving may be divided. The major categories can be: food and drink or Going for walks and swimming

After you have planned how you will manage your money, put your plan to work. Form good buying habits. Here are some general hints to help you get the most for your money: Learn all about a product before you shop for it. This is especially important when purchasing appliances and other standard household items.

Be alert to factors which cause prices to differ. Is it brand name or quality or how well the product is advertised? Compare prices. Are there any cheaper substitutes? Develop good buying habits. Take advantage of specials, seasonal sales in food, clothing, linen, cleaning supplies etc. Learn how to use credit. Know what it will cost you to use credit to help you get the things you need. Credit costs money. It may be better to wait a bit longer and get an item by saving for it than to get it immediately through credit.

Use your own and your family's skills — grow vegetables and fruits; make some of your clothes; carry out simple repairs to furniture, etc. Make use of free or inexpensive educational and recreational services

Keep records; they will help you decide whether your dollars are giving you what you really want and need.

Keep your records simple. Receipts are good records. They can be kept on a simple spindle made from a wire clothes hanger. A drawer, folder or box can serve a similar purpose.

At the end of the day before Christmas week, month or other budget period which you may have established, compare what you spent with what you planned to spend. If your spending was quite different from your plan, find out why. The answer to the 'why?' will help you to find ways to improve the next plan.

If the plan fitted your needs but you had trouble sticking to it, you may need to exercise stricter self-discipline and better management, as well as enlist more co-operations within the family. Just about all families expect children to contribute in some way to family life. Some children have household chores or jobs they're responsible for every day or week. Other children help out when their parents ask them to. Either way, getting children involved benefits everyone.

Key Messages to Parents

- Family is considered the most important unit in a child's life.

- A successful family doesn't just happen. It results from a passionate commitment to shared values and from family members who invest their love, time and energy into helping each other discover and pursue their calling.

- Family is the sacred ground for training and passing on beliefs, values and traditions.

- Each family member has a role to play in a family. Spending time and/or money to create shared memories is a good investment.

- Having a plan for how to manage your money

Wishing Kenyans A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year, 2024

Contd from Page 11

.....
vation? This is by reversing the devastating effects of climate change. The forums have become empty talk shows. What is the point of holding them if we don't implement the resolutions?
Climate change is a global problem. So, he would urge the leaders of rich countries to reconsider thier position and take this matter seriously.
In Kenya, President Ruto has since launched a series of programmes for mitigation.
One of them is dubbed greening Kenya that seeks to ensure 15 billion trees are planted by the year 2030.
The president kicked off this campaign at Ngong Forest. He has so far planted many trees and mobilized all state officers to follow his footsteps.

The President is also providing leadership towards phasing out of fossil fuel powered vehicular and industrial machines.
They would be replaced by electric cars. As a show of commitment, the President drove electric car to Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC).
He had gone there to meet Africa Youth On Africa Climate Change a day before he officially opened the summit.
The fossil fuel produces the following petroleum products-jet fuel, petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
Solar, wind, biogas are some other source of clean renewable energy. The president has also been calling on Kenyans to shift and embrace them.
In Kenya, the problems related to climate change were: Biting drought, famine, landslides, rising and overflowing of lake/dams waters and locust invasion.
As an observer, my message to Africa leaders is.

A time has come for Africa to rise up to the occasion. What do I mean? Africa leaders should explore ways of raising their own resources that would go towards mitigating the effects of climate change.
This way, the superpowers will stop de-meaning and looking down the people of Africa.
Here the message will be clear. It does not mean that Africa cannot survive. You need us and we need to you. So, if you think you are more superior and continue to treat us with utter disrespect, we can chart our own destiny.
You are main the players in air pollution and climate change. We are not therefore begging you when we tell you to honor your promises.

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



Kiambu Tea Farmers Reap Big

By:John Kariuki
@themkenyentimes

.....
Under the wise leadership of the Zone 1 KTDA Director, Mr. David Muni Ichoho, who is also the immediate former KTDA Chairman (8th KTDA chairman) Kiambu Tea farmers are eyeing a lucrative pay.
Mr. Ichoho, a forthright, principled, Godly, brilliant, intelligent, charismatic, witty and sharp has seen to it that tea farmers will pocket Ksh 25, an increase from Ksh 21. This comes at time while Farmer's income has increased from 16/= per kg of green leaf in 2021. Under Mr Ichoho chairmanship also there in increase in bonus pay for all 71 factories managed by KTDA.
Mr Ichoho also spoke about the second consignment of the fertiliser which docked at the Port earlier this week. A total of 900,000 bags of 50kg bags are being transported to KTDA farmers across the republic. Board member zone one advised farmer to apply the fertilizer to increase the yields.

He told the farmers that they shall be receiving the fertiliser at their tea buying centres as they continue enjoying Christmas.
Mr. Ichoho is a very intelligent leader and this explains why God continues to shower him with immense blessings.
A good example to prove that is that he is the architect of the tea reforms which are currently being implemented.
Some of the notable reforms in the tea sector which he midwived include weeding out cartels that were milking farmers dry, bringing about minimum pay, heralding the installation of orthodox processing lines in about 15 factories and reinforcing existing markets as well as sourcing for new markets for our tea.
Mr Ichoho stated "tea farmer is a business which is succeeding due to strategic leadership and reforms by determined tea leadership, it shall prevail despite challenges "
Mr. Ichoho congratulated and farmers and wished all Kenyans a merry Christmas and blessed 2024.



KTDA Zone 1 Director David Muni Ichoho

Impression Of 'Shakhrisabz Youth Festival-2023'

1. Volunteering;
2. Future leaders;
3. International grants;
4. IT and startups.



"Youth Festival-2023" was held in Shakhrisabz, the ancient city of our country, on 6-7-may. The festival was sponsored by the Kashkadarya Regional Office of the Youth Affairs Agency, the "Volunteer academy", the "Leader's Support" educational support center and the "Golden wing" organization. The festival was held at "Lochin", one of the most resorts in Uzbekistan. Educational seminars were held at the festival in four areas:

The festival was hosted by the Ulugbek Sultanov, the head of the Kashkadarya Regional Office of the Youth Affairs Agency, San'atbek Muzaffarov, and the head of Volunteer academy, Javlon Rustamov- the head of the "Leaders support" center and the coordinator of the "Golden wing" of the Kashkadarya region. At the end of the festival, diplomas and certificates were awarded to the organizers and active participants. During the festival, more than 150 young people made friends, implemented projects and competed on the basis of educational programs.

Hulkaroy Sattorova was born in 2008 in Kokdala district of Kashkadarya region. Coordinator of the "Golden Wing" of the Kokdala district. Creator.

A Priceless Treasure



Time is an asset that must be measured, counted and allocated efficiently. It is very important to realize the great value of time in our life. Time gives us the opportunity to enjoy beautiful moments, achieve our goals and develop ourselves.

There is no doubt that time is one of the important elements of human life. In a fast-paced world full of events and meetings, understanding time is a great achievement.

Good time management is the secret to achieving success and excellence in all aspects of life. "A person who can't use his time wisely complains that he doesn't have enough time: he spends his days dressing, eating, sleeping, talking about things, thinking about what to do - doing nothing," says J. Labruyer. Increased productivity is one of the main benefits of proper time management.

By organizing and prioritizing our work, we can achieve more in less time. Therefore, it is preferable to work on improving time management in order to increase efficiency and achieve our goals more effectively.

As the death of a person approaches, the value of time and life begins to increase. But it is impossible to return the past years and wasted time.

The Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, says: "On the Day of Resurrection, a human child will be questioned about four things before his feet leave the ground. These questions will be asked before the scales, the Sirat bridge, and the name deeds; that is, what is asked about his religion, faith and prophet first? Life!

Of course, people are asked about their life (how did they spend it, what did they spend it on?). The second one is asked about his youth. Thirdly, a person is asked about knowledge (that is, how much did he follow his knowledge? Because if it is not followed, knowledge itself will never bring happiness to a person. Fourthly, he is asked about wealth. So these four the first two of the question are related to life, time: youth and total life.

Our great ancestors tried to spend their days and hours doing useful work and achieving beautiful moral and scientific degrees. Therefore, their today would be better than yesterday, and their tomorrow would be better than today. They followed the wise saying: "Time is a sword, if you don't cut it, it will cut you." The preciousness of time is one of the most important things in the life of Muslims. Time means life. Every passing minute, second, hour, day is an infallible measure of human life. Time is such an asset that it is impossible to worry about tomorrow. If a person knows the value and importance of something, he pays close attention to that thing and tries not to lose it in vain. Time is the most precious thing a person has. In the Word of God, there are many hints that time is a precious and valuable thing. For example, in several surahs, Allah swears by morning, evening and night, which are inseparable parts of time. At this point, one is amazed at how much importance scholars have given to time. Hasan Basri, may God's mercy be upon him, narrates from one of the great subjects: "I saw people who were jealous of their time, just as you were jealous of your dirhams and dinars."

Since the early stages of the development of science, mankind has tried to create many devices that help save time, and in some ways succeeded. But it's no secret that in today's advanced age, those very technologies are becoming the keys of our time.

When we use modern technology, especially the telephone, the lack of a clear goal can lead to wasting time on useless tasks, which leads to unsatisfactory results and negative effects on personal and professional life. Most people waste

at least half an hour a day. When a person lives without clear goals or plans for his life, he tends to be distracted and sluggish in performing necessary tasks. Many of us fall into the trap of wasting time on unproductive activities, including television and social media.

In today's world of technology, business and responsibilities, time seems to be a scarce and precious resource. Here we are convinced that time is more valuable than gold. Time is the most valuable asset of a person, and money can be easily renewed and restored, but lost time cannot be restored.

When time is wasted, he loses an irreplaceable opportunity to use it and achieve important goals in life. It is very important to realize the great value of time in our life.

Time gives us the opportunity to enjoy beautiful moments, achieve our goals and develop ourselves. Lack of focus, distraction, and lack of clarity of goals can lead to wasting time on useless tasks, which can lead to unsatisfactory results and negatively affect personal and professional life. Spending a person's time on things that are not useful can have many negative consequences in personal and professional life. This can lead to frustration, loss of opportunities, accumulation of burdens and increased psychological pressure. Over time, this loss can accumulate and negatively impact your life and career path.

Time is simply defined as a measure of constant change around us. In fact, time helps us achieve and plan for the future, and time management is an effective strategy that helps us achieve our goals. If we do not use the opportunities and time we have today, we will regret it one day. But no matter how hard we try, we can't bring back the past life. Therefore, every moment should be appreciated. After all, clocks cannot stop time.

Life is a gift to man,
One day it's light, one day it's dark.
Every moment, hour, is worth gold.
Remember, my friends, life is a treasure.
In fact, everyone has the same amount of time, regardless of wealth, employment, or even education.

Time is irreplaceable and we must make the best use of it for self-awareness and personal growth. Rasulullah sav. advised a person and said to him: "Know five things before five things: your youth before you are old, your health before you are sick, your wealth before you are poor, your free time before you are busy with a job and know your life before your death." - they said (narration of Imam Hokim).

In conclusion, it can be said that time plays a crucial role in our lives, be it religious, personal or professional. Proper time management helps us achieve success and goals. So, we should value time and spend it wisely. After all, time is considered one of the greatest blessings that God has given to man.

Umirzakova Barno Akrom was born in 2007 in Juma, Pastdargom district, Samarkand region. She is currently a 10th grader at School 69. She can speak Uzbek, English and Arabic languages.

Official member of "Juntos pos las letras" and "Double Wings" organizations, which are international artists' union. The first book was published in the American publishing house under the name "Drop from the Sea".

Participant of many international anthologies and almanacs (Italy, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Algeria...).

She graduated from "CCCs" and "Chat" of the international "Unicef" organization, "Time management" and "Principles of Leadership" of the European "Great learning" academy, as well as "Shine girls" academies founded by Shahida Yusupova and received official certificates. Obtained.

"Parvoz istar bu kongli" poetry collection, as well as "The symbol of the Motherland flapping its wings in the poem", "Analysis of Navoi's work", "A glance at Bukhari's life", indexed in official databases.

My Country Is Uzbekistan



Every country has its own traditions, customs, values, and holidays as well as in Uzbekistan. For example, the oldest national holiday "Navruz holiday" is celebrated on March 21. There are many historical and literary sources about Navruz.

In the works of our scholars such as Mahmud Kashgari, Beruni, Omar Khayyam, Alisher Navoi and other sources, there is a lot of information about Navruz holiday and traditions related to it.

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

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

of the people and a number of other factors of the region where each nation lives. The original, age-old holidays of the people are first of all reflected in their folklore.

Knowledge and experiences related to the change of seasons, calendars and calculations are inherited from generation to generation in the form of various sayings, proverbs, sayings, riddles, proverbs and legends.

And in the songs performed during the festive ceremonies, we can see that its meaning is symbolically expressed through unique metaphors and similes. With the passage of time, some of them are disconnected from the rituals and are performed in different places, but they help to visualize the holiday system as a whole.

Ancient ceremonies such as "Cauldron is full", ram and cockfighting shows, wrestlers' wrestling, bakhshi competitions, sumak and tulip fairs were held. In essence, these ceremonies and celebrations are aimed at improving human life, alleviating the sufferings of nature, welcoming the coming year and New Year and asking the Creator for its blessed passage. Served to predict the situation. This belief and the system of ceremonies related to it have been living among our people to this day.

I am the daughter of Kanoatova Farangiz, I was born on February 17, 2007 in Buka district of Tashkent region.

Currently, I am an 11th-grade student at the Bukhara private school in Almalik, Tashkent region

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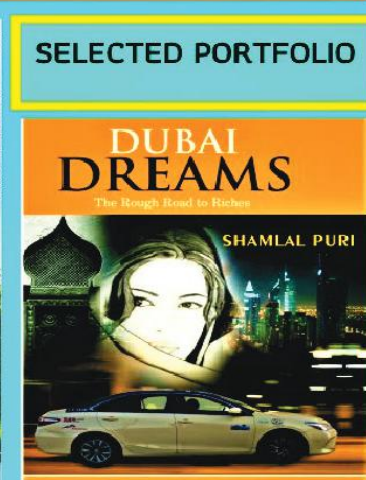
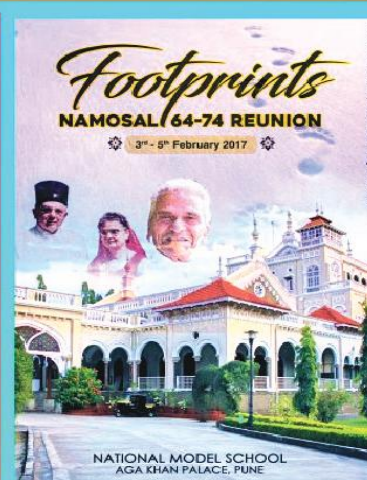
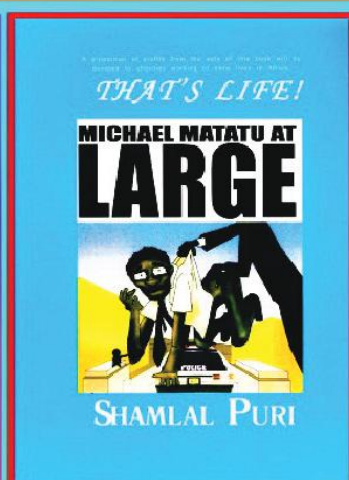
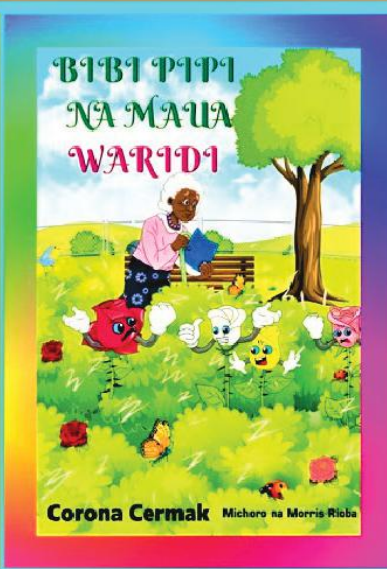
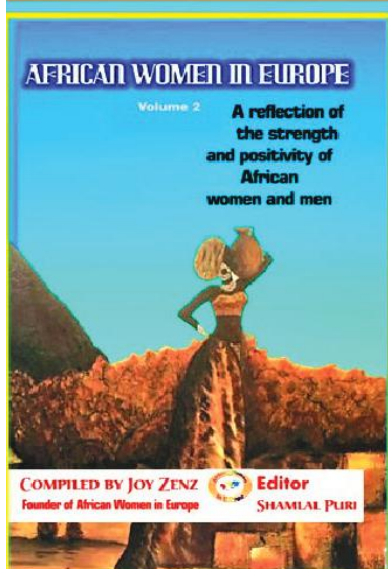
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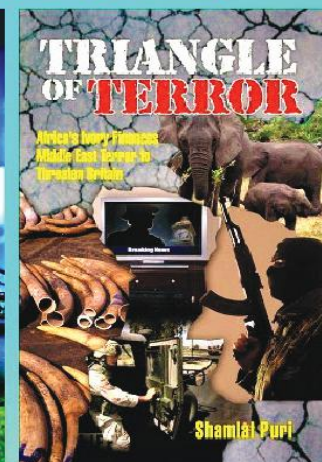
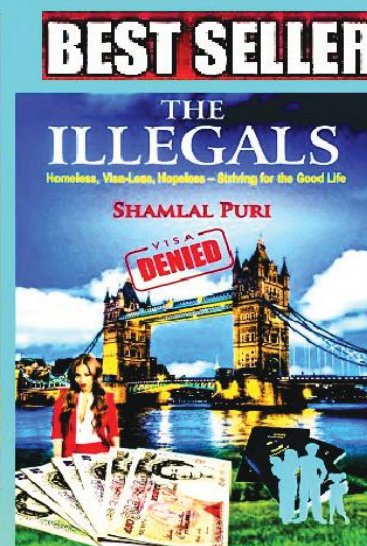
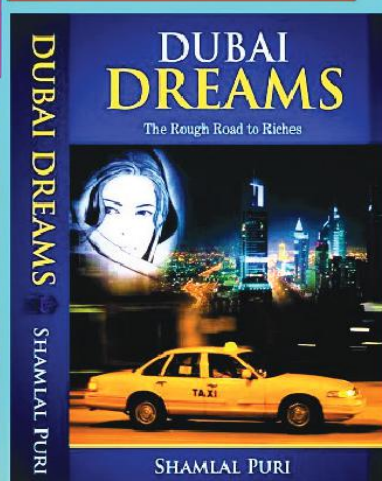
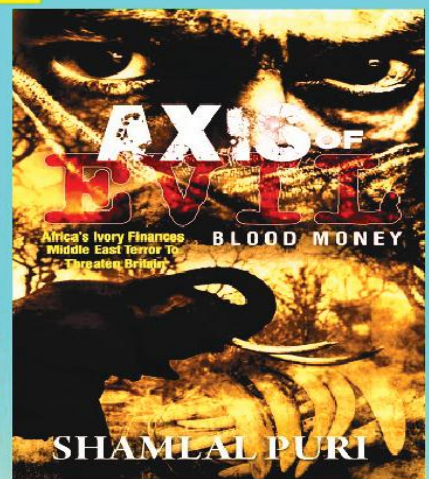
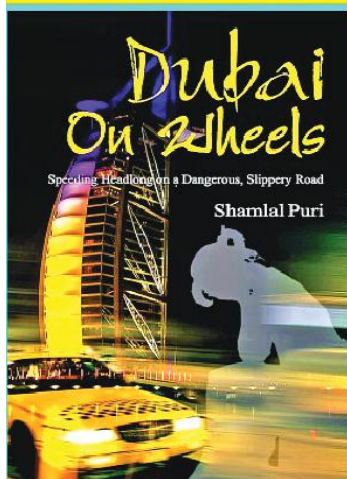
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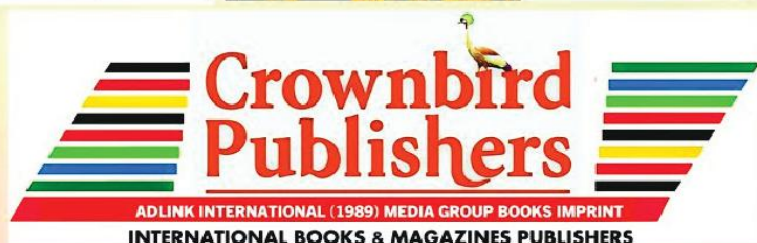
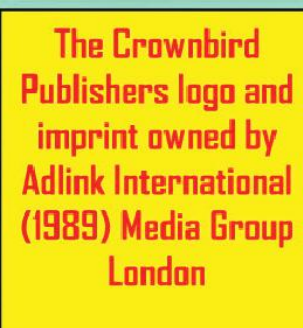
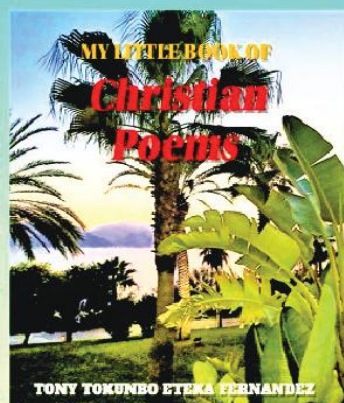
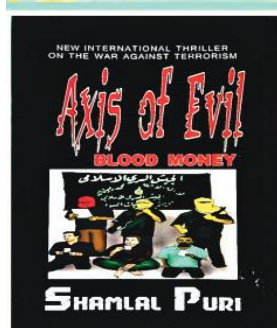
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NEWS

CS Kuria: With Utmost Respect To Pope Francis, We Will Never Accept Same Sex Couples

By: IRENE MWANGI

Worth Noting:

- Pope Francis had suggested he would be open to having the Catholic Church bless same-sex couples adding however, that the Church still considered same-sex relationships “objectively sinful” and would not recognize same-sex marriage.
- “All Clergy residing and ministering in the Archdiocese of Nairobi are prohibited from blessing irregular relationships, unions, or same sex couples. Any form of blessing of same-sex unions and activities would go against God’s word, the teaching of the church,” he said.
- Archbishop Anyolo argued that the concept ‘blessings’ of same sex couple will be perceived as normalizing sin which the Church has no authority to do in the faithfulness of the Gospel and the Institution of marriage.



CS Moses Kuria.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria has reinforced the decision by Catholic Archbishop Philip Anyolo to prohibit Nairobi-based clergy from blessing same-sex couple unions.

The Public Service Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the stand is for the Roman Catholic Church in the country saying the nation will never accept same-sex couples.

“The decision by Archbishop Anyolo on blessing of same sex couples is the position of all of us from the Roman Catholic Church in Kenya. We will never accept same sex couples in the Kenyan Church, with utmost and profound respect and reverence to the Pope,” he said.

Anyolo Sunday defied the order by Pope Francis to bless the union of same-sex couples saying any such activity would be scandalous to the faith.

In a statement to all Catholic churches under the Archdiocese of Nairobi, Archbishop Anyolo clarified that the declaration goes against the Word of God, the teaching of the Church and

African Cultural Traditions.

Pope Francis had suggested he would be open to having the Catholic Church bless same-sex couples adding however, that the Church still considered same-sex relationships “objectively sinful” and would not recognize same-sex marriage.

“All Clergy residing and ministering in the Archdiocese of Nairobi are prohibited from blessing irregular relationships, unions, or same sex couples. Any form of blessing of same-sex unions and activities would go against God’s word, the teaching of the church,” he said.

Archbishop Anyolo argued that the concept ‘blessings’ of same sex couple will be perceived as normalizing sin which the Church has no authority to do in the faithfulness of the Gospel and the Institution of marriage.

“This Declaration confirms and reiterates the perennial teaching of the Church that marriage is to be affirmed as an “exclusive, stable and indissoluble union of a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children and that the Church does not

have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex,” said Anyolo’s statement in part.

In the Catholic Church, a blessing is a prayer or plea, usually delivered by a minister, asking for God to look favourably on the person or people being blessed.

The Catholic Archbishop explained that even though the ‘blessing’ would be done outside the liturgical rites it must be conformed within God’s will.

This coming days after The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) moved to clarify the controversial decision by the Vatican allowing priests to bless same-sex unions saying it only allows ‘simple blessings’ outside the liturgical setting.

The Kenyan bishops, responding to public concerns on the matter, said the move is meant to promote inclusion irrespective of the moral status of congregants.

The bishops said the directive sanctioned by Pope Francis was part of efforts to expand the scope of pastoral blessings administered by the church. “This declaration does not in any

way approve of “Same-sex Marriages” nor try to give a back-door recognition of such a union. It does not seek an alternative “union blessing” to substitute a Sacramental marriage,” said Most Rev Martin Kivuva, KCCB Chairperson, said.

“What this document seeks is to awaken the invitation of all people to God’s action and grace. The Church seeks to reach out to all individuals in order to stir them to the path of conversion and salvation.”

The Catholic Church came under heavy criticism for shifting from its earlier position after holding in 2021 that God “cannot bless sin”.

Archbishop Kivuva went on to explain that the decision “does not change in any way the understanding of Marriage as a Sacrament in the Church, an indissoluble union between a man and a woman, for life.”

Instead, the “Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine of the Church about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to a liturgical rite that can create confusion.”



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Nakhumicha Urges Kenyans To Prioritize Good Hygiene Practices During Festivities

By: Beth Nyaga

Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary, Nakhumicha Wafula, has called on Kenyans to prioritize good hygiene practices as they begin celebrations during this festive season to mitigate the occurrence of illnesses caused by consuming contaminated food and water.

In a statement, the Cabinet Secretary said maintaining cleanliness is crucial to safeguarding individual and community wellbeing insisting that it is paramount for everyone to observe good hygiene practices as they make merry with their friends and families.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that proper hand hygiene remains a foundation stone in preventing the spread of germs, calling for regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 second or use of hand sanitizers that are at least 60 percent alcohol based, in place where soap and water are not available.

Further, the Cabinet Secretary urged Kenyans to handle and prepare food with care whilst ensuring that it is thoroughly cooked and properly stored to prevent foodborne illnesses. Additionally, the Cabinet Secretary asked Kenyan to celebrate while exercising moderation adding that exercising should not be neglected as it is vital in overall individual wellbeing.

“Eat and drink with moderation. Choose healthy foods and remember to balance your plate with vegetables, fruits, and salads. Environmental cleanliness is a shared responsibility, and we should all be custodians of our surroundings. Ensure that you keep your living spaces, public areas, and event venues clean and well-maintained as proper waste disposal, sanitation and management contribute to a safer environment for everyone.

“Everyone has a role to play in creating a safe environment for all of us. I am urging Kenyans to continue adhering to the public health and social measures as a personal responsibility. Our health should be our priority,” she noted.



Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary, Nakhumicha Wafula.

The Cabinet Secretary also encouraged motorists to exercise caution, urging them to be mindful on the roads whilst ensuring that they obey the law. She said major roads may experience snarl ups due to the number of motorists traveling and asked Kenyans to be patient with one another.

She added: “Christmas season is a cherished tradition that we celebrate with family and friends. But we cannot understate the importance of social distancing to reduce the risks of respiratory diseases and infections. I encourage all of us to wear masks to

minimize the spread of respiratory droplets, especially in crowded or enclosed spaces for the safety of the community. On behalf of the Ministry of Health, I wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

Nyandarua Sub-County Administrator Arrested

By: Beth Nyaga

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has arrested one Joseph Kamau Gathenge Nyandarua Sub-County Administrator for extorting money from two bar traders.

He had demanded Ksh 40,000 from two bar owners as a condition for releasing keg cylinders, keg pumps and beer that he had confiscated and detained.

The two traders refused to succumb to the bribe demand and instead reported the matter to the EACC Central Regional Office in Nyeri which apprehended the suspect while receiving the money.

He has been booked at Ndaragua Police Station pending further action.

The official is one of the enforcement officers taking advantage of

the ongoing festive season to extort money from operators of entertainment joints under the pretext of enforcing regulatory compliance.

Members of the public are encouraged to report such incidents through Toll-Free Line 1551

Joseph Kamau Gathenge Nyandarua Sub-County Administrator.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If They Remain Silent, The Very Stones Will Cry Out



By: Reinnhard B. Odongo

In accordance to Chapter 4, article 33(1) of the Kenyan Constitution that states, everyone has the right to freedom of expression which include freedom to receive or impart information or ideas; freedom of artistic creativity and academic freedom and freedom of scientific research. It's evident that freedom of expression plays an essential role in the generation, progress and the general well being of a community that is, politically, economically and socially active.

Furthermore, through this, the community can identify categorically it's weaknesses and strengths hence creatively solving it's associated issues thus nurturing a civilized society that is friendly to all. However, freedom of expression has been downplayed more so by the well-to-do. Significantly, it has led to negative impacts in the development of the society that is, individuals are often at times denied the opportunity to access information and rights to speak their minds freely on important issues affecting the society.

Moreover, As key object in advancing every society, Freedom of expression should be considered such that citizens can address their views and thoughts without fear of conviction as it has been witnessed in our country, Kenya. For instance, when Nation Media Group broadcasted a lay bare that linked CS Moses Kuria to an alleged oil scandal, CS Kuria launched a verbal attack on the me-

dia group and even threatened to sack leads of State agencies running advertisement with Nation Media.

Additionally, several threats of shutdown from Government officials have always been issued to the media houses for airing what's contrary to the needs of a few. For example, on 29th of July 2017, the ICT cabinet Secretary Hon. Joe Mucheru threatened to shut down any media house that disregarded media order to release aligned presidential results while addressing congregants at Ngangarithi AIPCA church in Nyeri county.

Dated back then, under The Late President Moi's regime, journalists were often tagged as traitors, they were accused of producing rabble-rousing materials, some went into exile after being threatened and many were jailed without trial. What kind of a society we are likely to have when no one is allowed to mutter his or her suggestions and

recommendations freely?

Therefore, it's high time the government to make some changes by amending the penal code, the preservation order and the official secrets Act to bring them into line with Kenyans obligations under international law regarding freedom of expression.

In addition, the government should also enact legislation to regulate the use of personal information that maybe collected by state agencies and to guarantee the rights of individual to request any information that the state may collect about them.

Finally, by carrying out all these, I'm doubtful if any freedom of expression will ever be violated and every individual will live peacefully to testify, disseminate, recommend and suggest what he or she think is worth.

Reinnhard B. Odongo - student at Tom Mboya University



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Why The Government Should Emphasize Creativity And Saving For Economic Stability Of Kenya

Recently, opinions have stated that creativity and saving is vital for economic stability of Kenya, one of the ambiguous questions which tend to be neglected and has led to ignorance on the importance of creativity and saving as the major pillars of the economic stability in the country is: why is this creativity and saving important?

One of the recent reports by World bank shows that saving is key to economic stability as it is central to individual and also collective prosperity of the country. With this in mind, it is clear that one of the major reasons for saving is for economic prosperity of the Kenya. The report further shows that, we have been having a problem of saving

as a country since, a greater share of our incomes as Kenyans goes to meet the basic needs such as food and rent, "hand to mouth economy." In shorter terms, we can say that Kenya's economy is driven by consumption.

A report by United Nations shows that, creativity is vital to avoiding the problem of not saving related to hand to mouth economy, that most people depending of employment to earn a living promotes the rote hand to mouth economy, that Kenyan citizens should be job creator and not seekers.

For the above reasons, the government should not only emphasize creativity and savings by giving citizens and all sectors in the coun-

try but also the reasons as to why these key tools to stable economy of Kenya is vital. By this, the taxation burden on the citizens and government borrowing will be reduced for betterment of our country Kenya economy.

By: Davidson Otieno Omondi, Student Rongo University



Savings .

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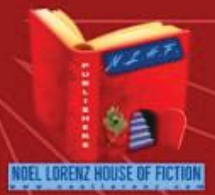
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Keeping Up The Christmas Spirit



By: Memory Phiri
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Worth Noting:

- Christmas entails us to relive the life of Jesus Christ. One should do something new as a way of thanking God for giving us life. A chance to have battled through out to December from January when we were talking about setting goals in line with our aspirations and what we wanted to achieve.
- Christmas comes once in a year so it is our responsibility to make it worthwhile, idyllic. Keeping up the Christmas spirit is portrayed by buying something new and nice for yourself and others. To indulge yourself with good food and try out new recipes with friends and family. Live the moment dear readers.



Do the needful for I'm already doing my vocals of all those Christmas carols because one has to go with the flow in this festive season. Don't forget to decorate that christmas tree with your friends and family as the mistletoe will be ready for some action. I guess you know what I'm talking about. Santa Claus is out there waiting for you kids and those who are young at heart with his wagon full of gifts. Allow me to say that Christmas is around the corner and it's about time we had those miracles with a bit of some magic.

Someone recently told me that it's not all about taking but you have to give back so as to enjoy the experience. Ladies and gentleman it's that time again that we have been looking forward to all year long and it is here.

Christmas time means showing each other love and care. As a generation that was rattled by the Corona Virus this christmas should be different therefore make it more special. We survived the COVID era so there is something to celebrate about.

Biblically Christmas is the day our saviour was born in Bethlehem Judea. This marks the absolution of our sins as a people for God showed his true love by giving us his only begotten son.

Apparently this is a clear pointer that for the season's duration everyone should be kind, loving and observe repentance from all bad deeds.

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new and nice for yourself and others. To indulge yourself with good food and try out new recipes with friends and family. Live the moment dear readers.

Interestingly christmas instills a feeling of camaredie because whether you are stingy or not you have to give someone something. Let's descend on those orphanages, old people's homes and hospitals and give out those presents. Sharing is tantamount to caring, everyone has to open a box on the 26th as the

official Boxing Day.

The twelve days starting from Christmas up to New Year are essential because they bring about unity of purpose globally. Practically, this holiday cuts across any race for noone goes to work because it is printed in black and white on our calenders. Treasured readers let's uphold the spirit of christmas, enjoy this day like never before, make merry and pay respect to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.





Sports >> *INEOS chairman Jim Ratcliffe has agreed a deal to buy 25 percent of Manchester United for about £1.25 billion (\$1.6 billion) and will take control of the Premier League club’s football operations, it was announced on Sunday.

INEOS’s Ratcliffe Agrees Deal To Buy 25 Percent Of Man Utd



(FILES) British INEOS Group chairman Jim Ratcliffe looks on ahead of the UEFA Europa Conference League second-leg quarter final football match between Nice (OGCN) and FC Basel at the Allianz Riviera in Nice, on April 20, 2023.

INEOS chairman Jim Ratcliffe has agreed a deal to buy 25 percent of Manchester United for about £1.25 billion (\$1.6 billion) and will take control of the Premier League club’s football operations, it was announced on Sunday.

The British billionaire, 71, will also provide \$300 million for future investment into the club’s

Old Trafford stadium.

A club statement said: “Manchester United announces that it has entered into an agreement under which chairman of INEOS, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, will acquire 25 percent of Manchester United’s Class B shares and up to 25 percent of Manchester United’s Class A shares and provide an additional \$300 million

intended to enable future investment into Old Trafford.

“As part of the transaction, INEOS has accepted a request by the board to be delegated responsibility for the management of the club’s football operations.”

Ratcliffe said he wanted to see struggling United “back where we belong, at the very top of English, European and world foot-

ball”.
AFP

Sports >>> *Wolves inflicted a fourth defeat in six matches on Chelsea on Sunday, beating the London side 2-1 in the first Christmas Eve Premier League match since 1995.

Wolves Inflict Christmas Misery On Chelsea



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Northern Irish defender Matt Doherty (R) shoots and scores his team second goal during the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Chelsea at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England on December 24, 2023..

Wolves inflicted a fourth defeat in six matches on Chelsea on Sunday, beating the London side 2-1 in the first Christmas Eve Premier League match since 1995. Mauricio Pochettino's men dominated possession at Molineux but wasted their chances in a captivating game, littered with careless mistakes by the visiting side. Mario Lemina and Matt Doherty put Wolves 2-0 in front but they were made to sweat when Christopher Nkunku pulled one back on his Premier League debut. The defeat means a miserable Christmas for inconsistent Chelsea, who are stuck in 10th place in the Premier League after their fourth defeat in six league games, with Wolves behind them only on

goal difference. There were chances at both ends early in the game. Nelson Samedo burst forward but could not find Matheus Cunha on the left before Armando Broja stumbled on the ball in the box at the other end when well placed. Chelsea's Nicolas Jackson was also guilty of failing to make the most of some good openings. Chelsea wasted a gilt-edged opportunity to take the lead shortly after the half-hour mark when Raheem Sterling caught Joao Gomes in possession 40 yards out and drove forward. The England forward was one-on-one with Jose Sa with two players to his right but he opted to shoot rather than pass and it was

saved by the Wolves goalkeeper. Wolves had a chance to break the deadlock in the closing moments of the half when Hwang Hee-chan burst through but he blasted over from an angle. The home side started the second half brightly and came within a whisker of taking the lead when Chelsea's Lesley Ugochukwu deflected Joao Gomes's shot onto the outside of the post. But they broke the deadlock in the 51st minute when Lemina did not even need to get off the ground to head a Pablo Sarabia corner home. Substitute Nkunku came agonisingly close to equalising when his shot was hacked off the line. Instead, Wolves doubled their

lead in stoppage time. Substitute Hugo Bueno crossed and Chelsea were only able to block the ball as far as the waiting Doherty, who finished calmly from close range. France international Nkunku pulled one back when he headed home in the 96th minute but Gary O'Neil's side hung on to take all three points.

AFP

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The Chronicles Of A Moroccan Translator Anass M. Rhattouss



By: Abigirl Phiri
@themkenyatimes

Translating is a complex job that needs one who has an agile mind just like Anass Mohammed Rhattouss who is a polyglot. Academic wise he has achieved so much in a bid to cement his prowess in the translation world. There is a certain beauty to languages and for the rest of the world to understand these pieces, we need good and dedicated translators like Anass. Individually, he is a creative person who also pens down his own pieces. This gives his work depth because he approaches his translation assignments from different perspectives. On a more personal level, he is a down to earth and accommodating person who is ready to lend a helping hand, listening ear and give a kind word. For that reason, this sets his work apart because it is driven by emotion. Thus, Morocco is endowed with committed literary creatives who will go all the way to offer quality work despite sometimes facing hurdles in their day to day lives.

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

My name is Anass Mohammed Rhattouss, Moroccan, 30 years old. I have written few poems throughout the years, mostly in Arabic, few in English, and rarely in French. I'm a translator with a penchant for literary texts and styles.

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

Not yet, as my main two translations were out only in the past few weeks; Publisher: Wasm Publishing, Kuwait:

One For the Books (2012) – Joe Queenan; (English>Arabic)

La Fabrique du Consommateur (2023) – Anthony Galluzzo; (French>Arabic)

I have translated 3 best-seller novels into Arabic; Publisher: Le Centre Cultural Arabe, Lebanon and Morocco:

- Things You Save in A Fire (2019)

– Catherine Center.

- The Bookshop on The Corner (2016) – Jenny Colgan.

- The Maidens (2022) – Alex Michaelides.

- How To Be Remembered (2023) – Michael Thompson (currently translating).

Who is your inspiration?

In my teenage years, I so vividly remember stumbling upon the poetry of Syrian poet, Nizar Qabbani – an invigorating feeling. I wasn't aware of it at the time, but I've always struggled with ADHD, and those sublime poems would definitely grab my attention, or better yet, my soul, leaving a sweet taste in my mouth while I utter those magical words.

As for writer, Pessoa and Kafka.

Then there's Carl Jung's remarkable philosophy and insights.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

To be honest, I don't really have a clear picture yet, as the past few years have been quite the roller-coaster for me, with ups and downs and bumps over the road: two B.A. degrees, two career-shifts, few short-term attempts at different jobs, two or three major burnouts. I have somehow survived, 6 translated books, two novels I'm still struggling to finish, and a looming PhD in translation that I have to squeeze into the picture/my life.

But I trust that hardship has made me a resilient man, and that I am finally on the right path. That's what matters most, right?

What problems have you faced as a translator?

For one, I'd say that I was disappointed that my first work took almost two years to see the light of day, as it coincided with the Covid outbreak. Plus the economic crisis has weakened an already-diminished purchasing power; therefore, not so many people would read my works, hypothetically speaking. On a different note – or perhaps the same – due to the so-called "slow market," two more novels I have translated are still dormant in the cold dark archive of the editor, while I'm currently working on my fourth.

On the professional level, the contracts offered to translators in the Arab/African countries (to my

knowledge) in most cases do not value the translator, but rather regards him/her as a mere employee/contractor performing a task and delivering a product whose ownership shall be transferred to the publisher by virtue of the contract. Status quo aside, the translator is, in this case, for all intents and purposes, but an honorable – and sometimes not so honorable – hustler!

On the bright side, however, my two other books with a Kuwaiti publisher are already available mostly in the Gulf Region, and they are being noticed and talked about on X (fka Twitter), which provides the fuel I need to keep growing as a translator and build my own readership.

Eventually, I hesitate to list ADHD (or being a neuro-divergent) as a struggle. Well, it definitely is and has been so for most of my life! Still, it remains a double-edged sword, blessing me with an incredible laser-focus and super-productivity when my environment is quiet and quite under control. Al Hamdolillah (Praise be To God).

Share with us one of your best poetry piece

My Mourn

A poem by Anass Rh. Al-Gharib

My mourning for her is nothing but a few words;

For the muteness of one..

Of the Two Singing Birds.

Letters - glued with blackening grief,

In the colour of a white jasmine wreath,

Upon her gravestone that one can read:

"A true friend, a lover, and a companion",
was she indeed.

O quill! You may weep,

As you wish

– if you wish;

With utter ease,

Your indifferent inky tears.

Then grant me a moment of silence,

To cast a spell,

And a silent farewell

'Please, tell me that you will!'

Would quietness be convenient?

With a ghost of putrid tears;

- I never drop while having my evening coffee,

In quite a perfect peace.

At the end,



Anass M. Rhattouss .

Solitude is my eternal friend.
Not sorrow, remorse or pain;
I won't be tempted by our maiden
intact bottle of champagne.

O quill!
Unbridle your impish dance!
The blank existence is immense.
Just dance..
On my palm n' fingers;
Till' the epilepsy ceases.
N' once there's no more fright,
Shall you be my friend for tonight.
For I only have my own self company;
Like most of my nights.

Alone was I born.
Alone will I fade away.
Far... as a weary star,
At the heart of the sky.

Kindly share your social media handles

Facebook/Instagram: Anass M. Rhattouss

LinkedIn: Anass Rhattouss

X (Twitter): سوطغ دمحم سنأ

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

I'd say that passion is a sine qua non, as well as competence and the constant willingness to learn, which goes without saying for a conscientious person. And yes, I believe conscientiousness is a key quality for a translator.

Beginner or experienced, the translator may always encounter quite challenging texts (or even near-impossible renditions), requiring a great deal of investigation... in this case, the tempting shortcuts or deletion will definitely harm the translator – and the text for that matter – more than it'll serve them. Not to mention that it is a moral obligation to do one's best to maintain faithfulness.

