



KNUT Holds Its 63rd Annual Delegates Conference
Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured teachers of their safety in all parts of the country, including in areas facing security challenges. While addressing Knut annual National Delegates Conference at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi yesterday, Mr Gachagua said adequate security measures have been put in place to ensure teachers go on with their work in volatile areas without fear for their lives.
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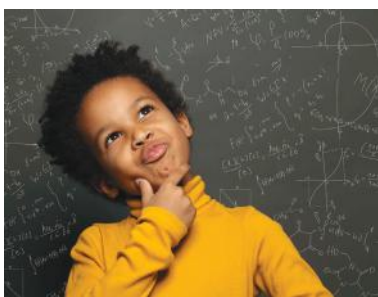
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News>>NA Speaker Gives Assurance Over Disbursement Of NGCDF

P. 8. National Assembly lawmakers are set to receive their second tranche of the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF) monies by 20th of this month.



Motivation>>Understanding, Thinking And Reasoning Of A Child

P. 12. When the child is born he finds before him a complete new world with a changed atmosphere. As per James, this world appears to him as a "big, blooming buzzing confusion". He finds everything new and at first fails to understand the phenomena taking place before his eyes.

Coffee Reforms Is On The Right Track - DP Gachagua

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has defended the coffee reforms instituted by the government dismissing as misleading, the narrative by critics that the reforms are punitive. Mr Gachagua extended an invitation to coffee business companies in the United Kingdom for open discussions on the reforms in the subsector, to be able to understand what the changes are all about.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with UK Ambassador to Kenya Neil Wigan yesterday

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Africa Will Not Be Intimidated To Allow LGBTQ - Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

The Deputy President's Spouse Said The Continent Better Miss On Trade Than Legalize The Vice

By: OSDP

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has once again insisted that Africa as a continent is not ready to legalize LGBTQ.

Speaking during the launch of Jesus' Africa Book by Pastor Patience Museveni, the daughter of President Yoweri Museveni, Pastor Dorcas said Africa would rather miss trade with the nations advocating for LGBT than legalizing the vice.

"We must stand for what is true and what is right. My daughter (Patience Museveni) continues with what you are doing, don't stop and don't be intimidated. We will stand with you." She said.

"LGBTQ does not have a place in Africa, It is better to miss on trade but have our integrity intact," she added.

She spoke after Odrek Rwabwogo the husband to Pastor Patience revealed that he was flying from Nairobi to the US to defend the stand by the Ugandan government on LGBTQ.

Odrek said the US had threatened to remove Uganda from Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) trade deal after the East African nation passed a law criminalizing LGBTQ.

The Bill was signed by President Museveni early this year.

"In Uganda for example the president has stood against the world and said no to LGBTQ. We must stand for what is right. We must say no to immorality," She said.

Pastor Dorcas also spoke strongly about family values terming it the very basic in building the nation.

"We must begin our rebuilding journey by returning to the family because family is everything," she said.

Family values form part of the pillars of the office of the Spouse of deputy president Pastor Dorcas Rigathi.

During the launch of the book, Pastor Patience recalled her early days growing up in Nairobi when her family sought refuge in Kenya.

Pastor Patience said one of her siblings



Pastors Dorcas Rigathi and Patience Museveni and other guests during the book's lunching yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- "We must stand for what is true and what is right. My daughter (Patience Museveni) continues with what you are doing, don't stop and don't be intimidated. We will stand with you." She said.

- "LGBTQ does not have a place in Africa, It is better to miss on trade but have our integrity intact," she added.

- She spoke after Odrek Rwabwogo the husband to Pastor Patience revealed that he was flying from Nairobi to the US to defend the stand by the Ugandan government on LGBTQ.

schooled in Nyeri while the rest schooled in Nairobi while the family of the Ugandan longest serving president was living in Nairobi's Riverside estate.

"Having this event in Nairobi is special for me and my family because of fond memories in Kenya. Many years ago, my family, like many Ugandans, fled civil war, danger and turmoil. Kenya opened its doors for my family, we lived among you as refugees," she revealed.

Pastor Patience in her book talks about how she received a vision from God in 2005 about the African continent.

In the vision she hears a voice saying "out of what was called darkness, will come a great light, "the lord said, "this light will come from within you."

She further narrates how the light spread beyond her native country of Uganda to other countries in the African continent.

She narrates how in her vision, Uganda was considered the heart of Africa which will bring change in the entire continent.

Among those who praised the book was Amb Kiema Kilonzo who said the book has awakened Africa to rise again.

Many of the speakers called for Africa to rise again.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The government has allocated Sh.3.9 billion for the construction of 15,021 classrooms for the Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) by 2025 to accommodate first-grade 9 learners. To ensure readiness, a further Sh9 billion will be provided by the World Bank for the construction of 9,000 classrooms, with support from the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF).

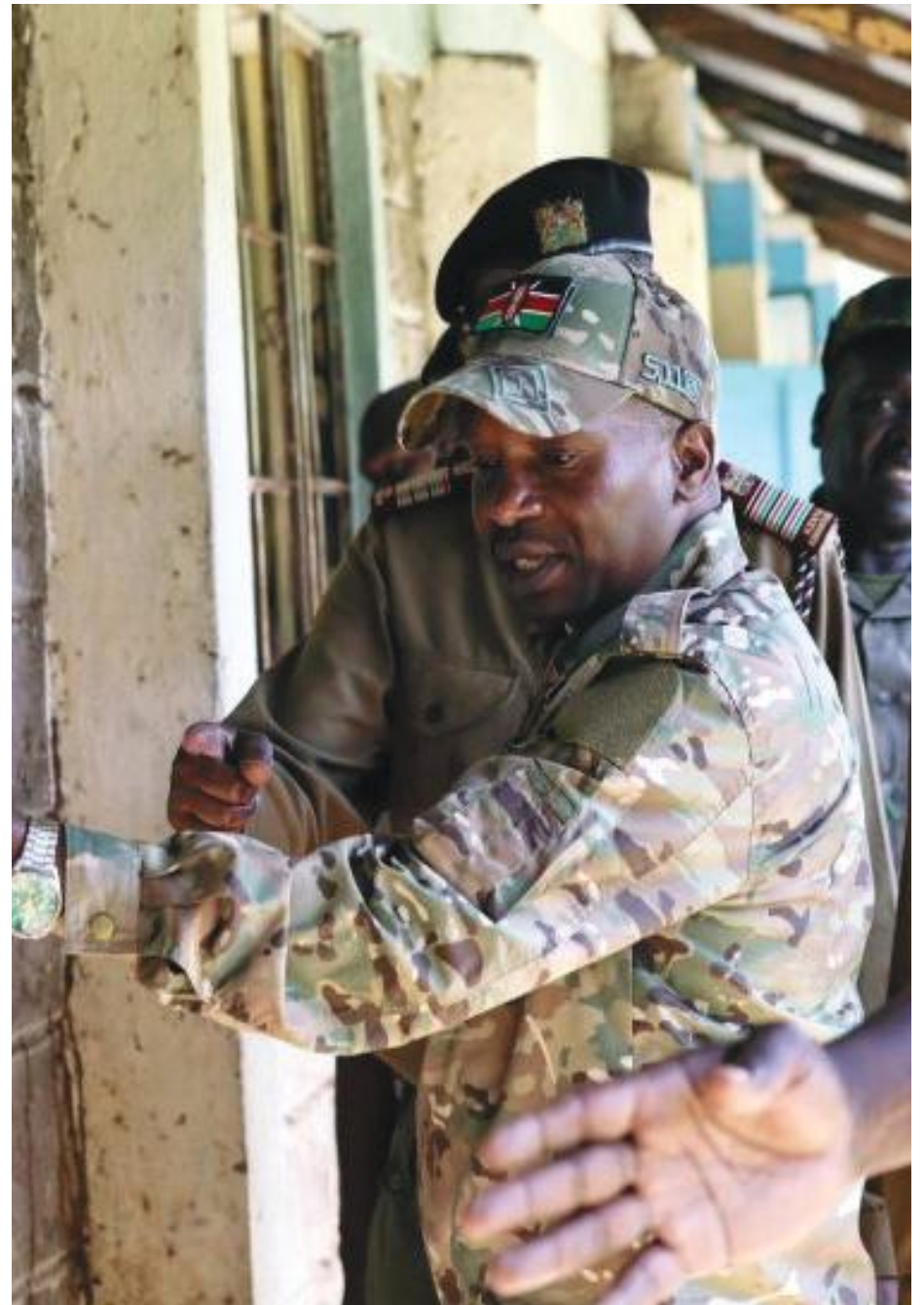


Nakuru County is focusing on reducing non-revenue water (NRW) losses to improve water resource efficiency, operational costs, and overall performance. Dr. Nelson Maara, the County Executive Member for Environment and Water Resources, emphasised the importance of full utilisation of available water sources for maximum output without drilling more boreholes. NRW losses often occur due to leaks, theft, and inaccurate metering. The introduction of solar energy to pump water from sources can help water companies maximise output and increase profits. Minimising NRW losses reduces the need for water treatment and pumping, leading to cost savings. Proper control of seepages can also reduce wear and tear on pipes, pumps, and other components of the water supply system. Water management is crucial for mitigating climate change, as all living things depend on essential commodities. Reducing losses helps maintain optimal water pressure in the distribution system, ensuring consumers receive water at the right pressure levels. Competent and resourceful management of NRW would enhance the accountability of water services to the public and stakeholders.



The Education Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, acknowledged KNUT delegates for championing teachers' welfare and emphasised the importance of teachers in ensuring the successful implementation of CBC and other recommendations of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform. He also challenged school administrators to advance the government's agenda in combating climate change with a target of 15 billion trees by 2032, with schools being among the focal points in implementing tree planting and seedling propagation. KNUT Secretary General Collins Oyuu commended the government for recruiting over 56,000 teachers in less than one year and urged the Ministry of Education to start negotiations with teacher employer TSC for intern teachers to be placed under permanent and pensionable terms.

Government To Rehabilitate Schools Affected By Banditry



By: Nicholas Kigundu

The government is set to rehabilitate schools that were adversely affected by the bane of bandit attacks in West Pokot County.

Speaking at Cheptulel Boys Secondary School in West Pokot County during an assessment tour of affected schools, interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki said the government will commence rehabilitation works in affected institutions to facilitate their reopening and resumption of learning in line with the Government of Kenya policy to ensure all children access education.

The schools to be reopened include Chesegon Primary School, Cheptulel Primary School, Cheptulel Boys Secondary School, Sapulmoi Primary School and Kisaa ECD in Pokot Central Sub-County, Lonyangalem Primary School, Kour Primary School and Songok Primary School in Pokot North Sub-County and Karon Primary School in Pokot West Sub-County.

To augment security at the border areas where West Pokot County intersects with Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet and Turkana Counties, Kindiki said the training of 205 National Police Reservists (NPR) shall commence tomorrow at Chesta Teachers College Grounds in Sigor Constituency. Those trained will then be deployed to supplement the role of National Police Service (NPS) and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) as the Operation Maliza Uhalifu moves into its second year.

Kindiki however called on the public to avoid ethnic, political and sectarian characterization of security matters and provide space for security agencies to discharge their responsibility without interference.

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Rigathi Commends Competition Authority Over Consumers' Protection

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- One of the major interventions by the Authority that impacted over 30 million users of mobile money services involved disclosure and transparency practices by digital money lenders.

- To entrench consumer rights, the Authority has been working with other sector regulators such as Kenya Bureau of Standards, Communication Authority, Anti-Counterfeit Authority, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Department of Weights and Measures, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority among others.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with other officials after opening the forum.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has commended the Competition Authority of Kenya for its work in the protection of consumers in the country. However, the Deputy President told the government agency that it needed to do more particularly in raising public awareness to ensure the consumer is protected from unsafe practises.

The DP singled out harmonisation of global laws and integration of technology to combat illicit trade and eradicate exploitation of consumers as a key step in enhancing protection of consumers and their rights.

"A UN and Kenya Association of Manufacturers report indicate that consumers in our country are exposed to exploitation. For instance, two out of five medicines on the shelves are counterfeits, a factor that not only endangers the lives of consumers, but also injures confidence in modern treatment," he explained.

He spoke yesterday at Radisson Blu

Hotel Upper Hill, Nairobi during the opening of the 2023 Consumers International Global Congress.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Competition Authority of Kenya has received 500 complaints and the number of consumers impacted are over 20 million through the enforcement efforts.

One of the major interventions by the Authority that impacted over 30 million users of mobile money services involved disclosure and transparency practices by digital money lenders.

To entrench consumer rights, the Authority has been working with other sector regulators such as Kenya Bureau of Standards, Communication Authority, Anti-Counterfeit Authority, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Department of Weights and Measures, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority among others.

While calling for enhanced public awareness and advocacy, the Deputy

President noted that a report by the Kenya Anti Counterfeit Authority indicates that 30 percent of counterfeit goods are locally manufactured while the other 70 per cent are smuggled into the market.

The Deputy President called for harmonisation of the consumer protection laws globally and align them with technological advancement.

Additionally, he pushed for adoption of Artificial Intelligence to track, arrest and suppress the networks of consumer exploitations across the world.

He explained: "Because of the global connected-ness of the physical and digital marketplace, harmonisation of the consumer protection laws is key for unified application in various jurisdictions. This is important especially in Africa where countries are at different stages and levels in consumer protection".

He further observed that as mobile banking and digital payments keep

rising, more consumer issues emerge, hence relevant laws must be aligned to meet the demands of such developments.

"Kenya is among the few countries in Africa, which have made substantive progress in establishment and implementation of e-Transaction Laws, Cybercrime Laws, Data Protection Privacy Laws, Consumer Protection Laws, among other key frameworks of protecting consumers in the physical and digital spaces," said the Deputy President.

A recent report on the future of finance indicated that 21 million internet users and 59 million sim card subscribers in Kenya rely on mobile phones not only to communicate but to make and receive payments.

The Deputy President said that the online experience can only be sustained if the policy makers and influencers go a step ahead of threats and traps in e-commerce including financial fraud, phishing, ransoms, among others.

Mr Gachagua said that since the digital revolution is changing how business is done, consumer rights' violations are also evolving.

"With violation of consumers evolving with technology, national and transnational legal provisions will be less effective and possibly obsolete if reviews are not updated," said the Deputy President.

At the event the Deputy President was accompanied by the Chairperson of Competition Authority of Kenya Shaka Kariuki, Director-General Consumers International Helena Leurent, Chief Executive Officer COMESA Competition Commission Dr. Willard Mwemba, advocates for Consumer Rights among other officials.

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Illegal Groups Will Not Be Allowed In Mt Kenya, DP Gachagua Assures

By: DPCS

The Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has ordered national administration officers in Mt Kenya to deal firmly with illegal groups and re-emerging criminal sects threatening peace in the region.

The DP said that such groups will not be tolerated in the region at any point in time.

Mr Gachagua spoke yesterday during the burial of Mama Mercy Wairimu Kinyua, the mother of Peter Weru, former Mathira Member of Parliament and the current Chairman of the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO).

The deceased who is also the mother to Nyeri County MCEC for Water Fredrick Kinyua was buried at her Ngorano area in Mathira West Sub-County.

“This is a country of rule of law. We will not allow criminal gangs to click back and destabilise this region. I have issued the County Commanders with clear instructions to protect people’s businesses and ensure that

no business is de-stabilised by those criminals,” Mr Gachagua said.

DP Gachagua added that the Ruto administration will protect businesses and lives of Kenyans from criminal sects.

“Why should a supermarket owner hire people to protect their business when we have a whole administration in place? Why should the youth organise themselves and start collecting money from matatu operators?” the DP posed.

Mr Gachagua asked Central Kenya residents not to be scared, assuring them the government is in control and will effectively deal with the group.

MPs from the region raised alarm over the resurgence of the illegal group, a move that they said is instilling fear among women.

DP Gachagua also criticised leaders associated with the sect urging them to keep off the illegal group.

“You cannot be associated with a criminal gang with a record of killings, female circumcision, defilement of young children. That cannot be allowed,” he added.

In the fight against drug abuse, Mr. Gachagua commended the local ad-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing mourners at Ngorano village, Mathira constituency yesterday.

ministration for containing the sale and distribution of illicit brew in their respective jurisdictions. He said that the war is on course and no stone will be left unturned until the menace is wiped out.

“I am happy that so far we have contained illicit brew to at least 70%. I commend the good work the chiefs and the county commissioners are doing in this fight.” he said.

The DP also said that the government has released KSh500M to stabilize the prices of milk during the rainy season

to ensure that the farmers do not incur losses because of milk glut.

He added that the reforms in the tea and coffee subsectors are also on course, promising the residents that soon they will reap big from the reforms.

Condoling with the family, DP Gachagua described Mama Kinyua as a pillar of hope, resilience, and a staunch Christian who brought up her children in a strong Christian foundation.

He was accompanied by among others leaders Nyeri County Depu-

ty Governor David Kinaniri, Nyeri Woman Rep Rahab Mukami, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Members of Parliament John Kaguchia (Mukurweini), Eric Wamumbi (Mathira) Anthony Njoroge (Kieni) Benjamin Gathiru Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central) Nyeri County Speaker James Gichuhi, Area MCA Erastus Karanja, former MPs Dennis Waweru and Nelson Gachuhie and a host of MCAs.

NA Speaker Gives Assurance Over Disbursement Of NGCDF

By: Kamche Menza and Gladys Mungai

National Assembly lawmakers are set to receive their second tranche of the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF) monies by 20th of this month.

Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetangula on Wednesday allayed members’ fears on the delay saying National Treasury has committed to disburse not less than Ksh 9 billion to the various constituency accounts to cater for the bursary needs.

Wetangula said the delay has been occasioned by the debt crisis especially the Eurobond that National Treasury has committed to pay this month.

On Tuesday business was adjourned prematurely after members stormed out of the house following the NGCDF monies delay.

The legislators hit out at National Treasury for the delays which they say will affect preparations for the start of the new school calendar.

They demanded that the funds be released before the house proceeds to recess on Thursday.

It was a rare opportunity as both sides of the political divide appeared to be in solidarity in pushing for the disbursement of the funds.

Legislators argued they are yet to receive the second tranche of the monies two days to the start of the recess which they say will affect vulnerable families depending on bursaries to start the new school term in January.

Efforts by Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwa and NGCDF Chair Musa Sirma to calm the irate members fell on deaf ears as legislators staged a walkout effectively denying the house the requisite quorum to proceed with the afternoon sitting.

The House Speaker was forced to adjourn the house.



Coffee Reforms Is On The Right Track - DP Gachagua

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with UK Ambassador to Kenya Neil Wigan yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- The 2020-2025 Partnership focuses on key pillars on Mutual Prosperity, Security and Stability, Sustainable Development, Climate Change as well as People-To-People Interaction.

- “Our ties date back to the 19th century when the British came to Kenya. Since then we have partnered in the development of our country in many sectors. This is a friendship and partnership we would like to see grow in strength,” said the DP.

- Mr Gachagua said Kenya and the UK had, for years, seen flourishing relations in many sectors including security cooperation, fighting against terrorism in the region, intelligence gathering and in trade among others.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has defended the coffee reforms instituted by the government dismissing as misleading, the narrative by critics that the reforms are punitive.

Mr Gachagua extended an invitation to coffee business companies in the United Kingdom for open discussions on the reforms in the subsector, to be able to understand what the changes are all about.

Speaking yesterday when he hosted the new United Kingdom High Commissioner to Kenya Neil Wigan at the Official Residence in Karen, the Deputy President said the reforms were not prohibitive or punitive as has been portrayed by those against the changes.

“We have explained what we are doing to many people and they have understood. There is a lot of activity now at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange. We would be happy if you can create a forum for us to talk to coffee companies in the UK so we explain to them what we are doing and they can share their ideas. We would be happy to have that engagement,” said the DP.

He said the interventions in the subsector were to rescue it from

collapsing following sustained low production over the years.

Mr Gachagua also said the Government is keen to ensure the success of the Kenya-United Kingdom 2020-2025 partnership which is crucial in deepening the relations between the two nations.

He said the two nations were eager to explore new areas of cooperation under the Partnership on top of strengthening the existing cordial ties.

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Mr Gachagua said Kenya and the UK had, for years, seen flourishing relations in many sectors including security cooperation, fighting against terrorism in the region, intelligence gathering and in trade

among others.

“We have thwarted many attempted terrorist attacks because of our close cooperation with the United Kingdom,” he added.

With trade between the countries still in favour of the UK, the Deputy President urged for more markets for Kenyan products, including tea and coffee.

“We want more exports to the United Kingdom to ensure balanced trade between the two countries,” he added.

Mr Wigan, who replaced former High Commissioner Ms Jane Marriott last July, appreciated the cordial ties saying his country was ready to strengthen them for the mutual benefit of the nations.

“The relations are strong, and we look to do much more in technological advancements, innovation, climate change, and renewable energy. We want to keep the security cooperation even stronger,” he said.

The DP assured the envoy of President William Ruto’s administration readiness to deal with hurdles frustrating British investors in a bid to boost foreign investment in the country.

“We are dealing with the red tape

and bureaucracy to streamline the business environment to attract more investors in our country,” said the DP who promised Mr Wigan that his office was always open for consultations on investment and trade opportunities in the country.

With the UK being one of the leading destinations of Kenyan tea and coffee, the Deputy President said the reforms in the sub-sectors were geared towards higher production in the farms and better income for farmers.

“We are ready to explain what we are doing in these sectors and show the positive outcomes,” he said.

Mr Gachagua also appealed to the UK to help boost the efforts to mitigate the effects of the El Nino rains in the country.

Mr Wigan said more British investors were coming to Kenya saying they will continue to push for more. “We would like a balanced trade that will benefit both sides,” he said.

Attaining An Excellent Tongue Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

You have to agree with me that amongst the most difficult things in this life is to have a disciplined tongue. No wonder the writer of Proverbs had so much to say about this small part of our anatomy, which has gigantic effect! We are never to give up on attaining an excellent tongue. Consider PROVERBS:

10:11 — “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.”

10:18 — “He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

10:19 — “When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

10:20 — “The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of

the wicked is of little value.”

10:21 — “The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.”

10:31 — “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out.”

10:32 — “The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.”

11:9 — “With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.”

11:11 — “Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.”

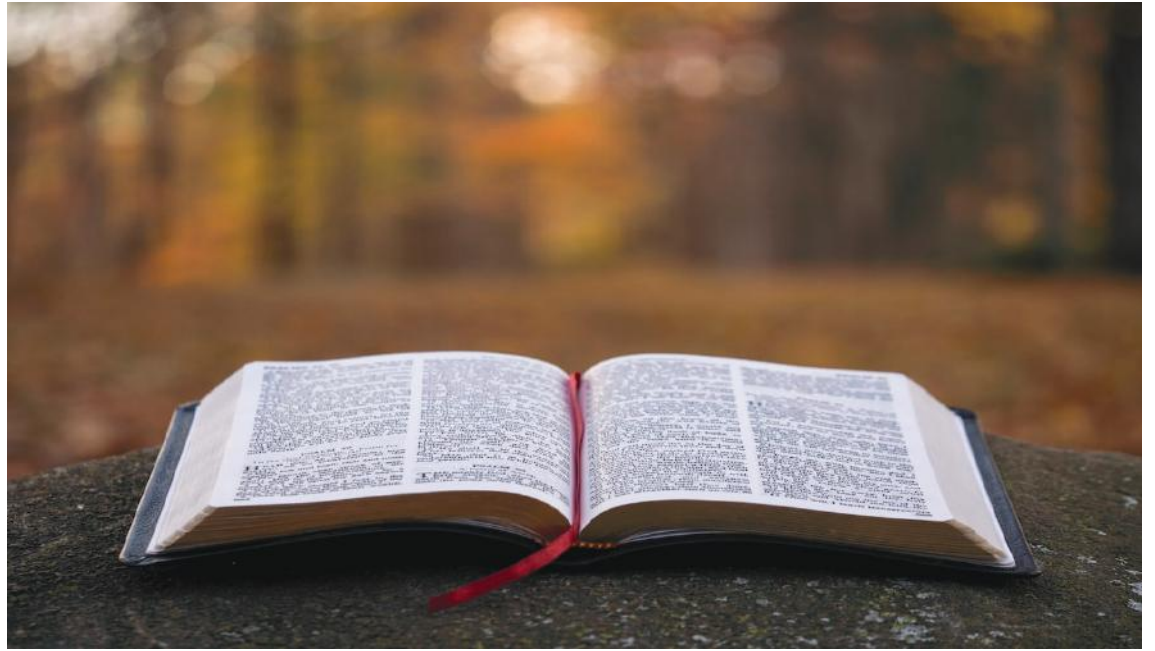
11:12 — “A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.”

11:13 — “A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”

12:6 — “The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.”

12:19 — “Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.”

12:22 — “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.”



13:3 — “He who guards his lips guards his soul, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.”

14:3 — “A fool’s talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.”

15:1 — “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

HALELUJAH, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

References:

The Living Bible
Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TO-

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

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Ruto's State Visit To India, Kenya Reaps Big



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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President William Ruto.

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto's commitment to the course of Pan-African agenda and climate change has in the recent past thrust him into international limelight.
- A few days ago, he had a busy and tight one-week schedule. He first jetted out to Dubai, United Arab Emirate, to attend United Nations Conference of State Parties on Climate Change (COP28).
- He ably presented the narrative and position of Africa. He had earlier convened the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi. Dubbed Nairobi declaration, the Africa heads of state government had chosen him to push for the adoption of blueprint at COP28.
- Dr Ruto would not let them down. Most of the resolutions were adopted without any amendment.

President William Ruto has been leaving nothing to chance in terms of strengthening ties and creating new linkages with community of the world.

He fully understands the importance of these engagements. As a developing country, Kenya cannot be able to raise and generate enough financial resources for the implementation of mega development projects and provision of other crucial and critical services to Kenyans.

As we recall, the Kenya Kwanza ascended to power on a platform of a raft of pre-election promises.

President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua have been reiterating they were committed to fulfill them. They have so far made great strides.

DP Gachagua stated recently that we are not able to raise enough resources and so these big projects we have been launching are funded by our foreign development partners and donors.

He spoke in the presence of the President in Coast during a launch of a Sh3 billion project. This is one of such projects.

The DP repeated the same sentiments during Kapsaita cross country marathon where he was a chief guest.

He had been invited by Farouk Kibet, President William Ruto's top aide, to this event in Uasin Gishu county.

Ignore those claiming that President Ruto was making too many foreign travels.

They were our political enemies. They want us to fail so that they can use this card to discredit our leadership. But we are clever than them.

We inherited a government that had been run down. For one year, we have made great progress. I'm sure you now agree with me that things are starting to get better.

The DP further stated: President Ruto is the father of our nation.

Given that this is the position held by the world leaders, the President was obligated to honor their respective invitations.

If he failed, Kenya would not have been considered for the loans and grants. The signing of the agreements are preceded by the bilateral, multilateral, commercial banks talks.

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Dr Ruto would not let them down. Most of the resolutions were adopted without any amendment.

On the sidelines of Dubai summit, Ruto signed agreements and deals worth Sh680 billions for Kenya. The lion share of the funds will go towards mitigating effects of climate change. With this, Kenya is set to become the pioneer in Africa Green Industrialization Initiative.

From Dubai, President Ruto flew to India for a two-day maiden state visit. He was accorded a warm reception. After being received and welcomed by his host Her Excellency and Prime Minister Nehendra Modi, he inspected a guard of honor mounted by Indian military.

After this, they proceeded for bilateral talk. The talks bore the fruits. President Ruto managed to secure Sh38 billion for Kenya. The money will boost key sectors of our economy including agriculture, health, education and digital economy.

Dr Ruto had a month earlier made a state visit to Germany and later France.

This came hot on the heels of bilateral talks he had held with the President of Germany here in Nairobi.

He had also met the President of France. Two of these meetings took place on the sidelines of Global Conference of Parties on Climate change and United Nation General Assembly (UNGA).

The problem of unemployment in Kenya featured prominently in all these meetings.

Dr Ruto would mince no word in drawing the attention of these leaders to this issue.

In response, the President of Germany assured him that his country will offer Kenya 200,000 jobs opportunities. I'm going to sit down with my government so that we draft the agreement.

Then Mr President William Ruto we will invite you for a state visit during which we will sign the final agreements which will pave the way for Kenyans to start working in Germany.

Before flying out, President Ruto informed Kenyans that this is one of issues taking him there.

Many people have no jobs. I promised to address this problem which I inherited from the previous administration. I'm committed to walk the talk.

President Ruto had a few days earlier visited Saudi Arabia where he managed to secure 350,000 job opportunities for Kenyans.

The noise being made by my critics that the visits are not bearing any fruits is hollow, totally misleading and being made in bad faith. I'm not a tourist. I mean business. The business is to return our economy back on track and consequently elevate your leaving standards.

You know these critics. They want me to fail and capitalize on this that I never kept my words during the campaigns for next General Election.

The other day Weega TV, a Kikuyu station, hosted me for a political show. One of the questions that came up was whether Dr Ruto's frequent foreign travels were bearing fruits.

My response: Kenya is reaping big from these visits and they were within the mandate bestowed on the President by the constitution.

As the CEO of this nation, the President had no option but to honor the invitations from the heads of states of the developed and rich nations.

It is worth noting when President Uhuru Kenyatta ascended to power, he also made similar trips.

Those faulting Dr Ruto today did not raise a finger at the time. This is because Uhuru was their buddy.

Recently, President Ruto made a high profile official visit to China where he stayed for three days. It was the first since he assumed office.

Just like his previous visits to European countries, he managed to secure lucrative deals worth Sh63 billion.

Under this arrangement, China will buy our avocados, tea, coffee and other farm produce.

He also convinced Chinese companies to rollout investments worth Sh644 billions in Kenya.

This trip came at a time when speculations were rife that he had shunned the East in favor of the West, a narrative peddled by those who cited his numerous visits to the Western capitals.

To me, it is too early to judge him. Dr Ruto is a democrat and a strong believer in the Kenyan constitution and the rule of law. So, he cannot make such a decision without seeking concurrence of the relevant arms of the Kenyan government.

It is worth noting that former President Mwai Kibaki laid the foundation that saw Kenya turning East and sought to strengthen ties with China.

As a result, China was awarded contracts worth billions of shillings.

Thika Superhighway, Lamu Port and Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) were among the major projects clinched by the Asian giant.

Kibaki's successor President Uhuru Kenyatta followed the suit.

On SGR, he managed to negotiate for a whopping contractual loan totaling to Sh370 billion.

The monies were used to construct the new modern line from Mombasa to Nairobi and to buy the rolling

stocks.

For President Ruto, my considered view is that his wish is to maintain cordial relationship with all development partners.

In this maiden visit, President Ruto joined more than 100 heads of state and government invited by the President of China to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

During his tenure, President Uhuru used to attend this forum.

In one of them, he was accompanied by ODM leader Raila Odinga. This was during the reign of the 'Handshake' government.

Dr Ruto had a busy schedule during this visit. On the sidelines, he held talks with chief executives of the big companies.

Other deals he witnessed being signed covered strategic areas of mutual interest including energy and technology.

One of the firms agreed to help Kenya generate more energy at a lower cost. With this, hustlers in Kenya have a reason to smile as this would lead to lowering of the cost of electricity.

On technology, Ruto's interventions were equally fruitful. The cost of the communication gadgets and internet services was bound to come down.

On SGR, I'm sure many recalls that this was a government-to-government deal. It follows that some of the key contents of agreement were not made the public.

The content became the top secret of Uhuru's administration.

We recall that during this period the relationship between Uhuru his deputy Ruto had begun to worsen. It did not take long before the implosion preceded by the 'handshake' between the President Uhuru and his arch rival Raila Odinga occurred.

From then, Dr Ruto was kept in darkness. Uhuru would not share critical information with him.

This is despite these mega projects having generated a public debate.

As Kenyans, this is a big burden being placed on our shoulders. The big question was. Are we going to get value for our money?

Ruto's visit was therefore long overdue.

It gave him an opportunity to get to know the secrets.

It is worth noting that during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi, the West stood as Kenya's key development partners.

I have been listening to the powerful speeches Dr Ruto had been making when the Presidents of Western countries invited him. He would boldly champion the course of Kenyans and that of Pan Africanism.

Given this scenerio, the President would not shy working with the partners who gave us better deals.

For the contracts, the government would always consider the firms that offer better terms. The cost of the project. But the quality of the work would surpass all the considerations.

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

Understanding, Thinking And Reasoning Of A Child



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- **Proper performance behaviour:** It means that the child will behave in the manner approved by the society. Every society or the social group has a norm of behaviour. The standard is prefixed as per the need of the social group. The child has to go along the line for his own benefit and for the benefit of other members of the society.
- **Playing approved social roles:** In a society the standard of behaviour may vary from age group to age group. For example, the prescribed behaviour for the father may not be same for the son and may also be different for the grand father. Even though this norm appears sometimes unpleasant to some individual it is desirable for peaceful co-existence.

When the child is born he finds before him a complete new world with a changed atmosphere. As per James, this world appears to him as a "big, blooming buzzing confusion". He finds everything new and at first fails to understand the phenomena taking place before his eyes.

This becomes uncomfortable to him as a result he starts crying. But as time passes he becomes able to understand gradually but slowly. This process goes on along with the development of the child's brain, nervous system and sense organs.

The rate of understanding is parallel with that of mental growth and exposures of the child to different phenomena. Maturation makes the child ready for understanding. For survival every living being has to adjust to environment and this adjustment is possible when they understand the situation. This is also true in case of a human child.

He has to understand his environment, the people around him and himself too. Before reacting to any situation he is also required to know about his limitations, both physical and mental. This can gradually be learnt by the children through association with elders and exposures to nature. Better understanding will help to have better development.

Even when children play together in a group they have to understand many things otherwise they cannot acquire sufficient skill to even play successfully. Understanding paves the way for thinking and reasoning. Even though this is a complex process, many psychologists believe that reasoning being looked upon as the understanding of cause and effect relationship, young infants can acquire

it.

This has also been experimentally found out by many psychologists, like Gesell, Reasoning also includes ability to generalise and make deduction. Of course, this may not be experienced with very young children but this is quite expected with pre-school children. While playing, they can very well be tested on this aspect. In a nursery school, therefore, there should be ample opportunity to develop this aspect through problem solving plays and games. Problem solving or reasoning capacity of young children can be nurtured by experiencing success. Children are to be provided with puzzles for experiencing the joy of success. They should be allowed to work independently and take their own time to find out the solution so as to enable them to reason out something of their own.

There should not be any spoon feeding at it debar the child to acquire reasoning capacity. It is not that parents and teachers would not come to his assistance. They can help the child develop reasoning by directing his attention to the crucial source of his difficulty. This would help the child to save time and choose the proper approach. Exposure to nature and study of environment would help the children to have wider understanding and better reasoning capacity. This would also help him to grow his knowledge.

Hence there should be ample opportunity in pre-school centres to take children round, show different places and enable them to come across different birds and animals and plants to enhance their knowledge. This would also help them to acquire skill in having little arithmetical knowledge like counting, adding, subtracting simple

numbers and quantities.

During infancy the child is self-centred. As he grows he has to face the realities of the society in which he is brought up. In every society there is a norm of behaviour for its members and they have to obey it in order to be called social beings. Their dealings and way of life are to be accepted by the society, otherwise there may not be peaceful co-existence among members. According to Hurlock there are three processes involving socialisation. Those are: (1) proper performance behaviour, (2) the playing approved social roles, and (3) development of social attitudes.

1. Proper performance behaviour: It means that the child will behave in the manner approved by the society. Every society or the social group has a norm of behaviour. The standard is prefixed as per the need of the social group. The child has to go along the line for his own benefit and for the benefit of other members of the society. 2. Playing approved social roles: In a society the standard of behaviour may vary from age group to age group. For example, the prescribed behaviour for the father may not be same for the son and may also be different for the grand father. Even though this norm appears sometimes unpleasant to some individual it is desirable for peaceful co-existence. 3. Development of social attitudes: Freeman has defined social attitudes as that of becoming "imbued with a sense of oneness, inter communication and co-operation". Once a person develops social attitudes he will appreciate social customs and will be involved in social activities of his own, as a result he will be a wanted person in the society.

The child is neither social nor anti-social when he is born but he will definitely follow the behaviour of his elders. Hence the elders have to set before him a standard to get him along the proper line. There should be learning experiences for him as expected by the society and he is to be motivated and guided to behave in that line. Moreover, the experience as per the guidelines need be ample and favourable to him so that he develops such attitudes for socialisation. This process of socialisation takes longer period. The improvement with the child in this regard may not be uniform. Sometimes very little progress is also marked and sometimes there may be retardation too. But parents and teachers have to have patience and guide and motivate the child from time to time. A child is not born 'introvert' or 'extrovert' but he is rather made like that in course of socialisation.

Family is the first place for the child to develop socially. All members of the family contribute towards this. If global character of the home is favourable, there are changes for developing favourable social attitudes with the child. On the other hand, if the home atmosphere is with constant tension and friction, this will act as an unfavourable atmosphere to the child and the attitudes developed with child will be greatly influenced by this. This will also have a greater after effect in the life of the child. Hence, the members of the family are to be very careful about this and try to set a better example before the child for better social growth. There are a number of factors which influence the social growth of the child while in the family.

Locked Up, Whipped, Stripped” - The Harrowing Story Of A Survivor Of Brutal Abuse In A Mental Health Facility In Kenya

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, Nguvu Change Leader John Mwangi appeals for dignified care for mental health patients in Kenya

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

In August 2023, the Kenyan government revealed that 4 out of 10 Kenyans suffered from mental illnesses and publicly admitted that the public mental health infrastructure of the country was struggling from the progressively increasing workload. The lack of a long-term vision and inadequate resourcing of mental health infrastructure continues to take a toll on Kenya’s mentally ill patients.

John Wainaina Mwangi, a Nguvu Change Leader from Nakuru County, and a survivor of severe abuse in a mental health facility has launched an online petition with a haunting personal account of the abuse he faced.

“I was locked up, whipped, and stripped. I endured solitary confinement, physical abuse, and a denial of basic human dignity in a mental healthcare facility. There was no one to speak for me when I was suffering.

Now, as a mental health advocate, I am speaking up to ensure that no one faces traumatic experiences in places that are supposed to offer help and healing,” says John.

John’s experiences underscore systemic issues prevalent in Kenya’s mental healthcare system. And his petition is an attempt to expose the harsh realities within these care centres.

In December 2021, a research report published in the National Library of Medicine assessed the human rights record of a large mental hospital in Kenya, and observed 5 key gaps - 1) the buildings and infrastructure were in a state of disrepair; 2) staffing was inadequate; 3) patients had no right to legal capacity; 4) there was gross neglect of patients as well as physical and verbal abuse; 5) there were no strategies in place to support community reintegration and independent living.

According to John, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) guarantees every citizen equal access to the highest attainable health standards while section 51

of the Mental Health Act (Rev. 2012) mandates that any person within a mental hospital who harms, mistreats, abuses, or neglects patients is guilty of an offense. However, despite these legal safeguards, numerous human rights violations persist without being challenged or proper justice. He emphasizes, “It’s time to translate these rights into tangible reforms within our mental health care system. Untreated mental health problems are a ticking timebomb. Urgent action is needed to ensure that those who need support don’t endure distress in silence due to fear and prejudice.”

John’s petition, launched through his organisation Psychosocial Development and Response Organization, urges the Kenyan Health Ministry to intervene and ensure sensitisation training for all staff in mental health facilities on human and patient rights.

He believes that stringent action to counter the kind of abuse he has suffered will encourage people to seek treatment without fear. “Every human being deserves to feel safe while seeking help to address a mental health



John Wainaina Mwangi.

crisis. Ostracising such a person and abusing their trust should not be normalised especially in mental health facilities. It is time to change this narrative once and for all,” he concludes.

Govt Rules Out Tiktok Ban In Kenya After Stricter Rules Are Applied

By: Capital Correspondent

Kenya has ruled out ban of social media giant TikTok in the country after stricter rules were applied.

According to Youth Affairs, Arts and Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba, this followed a meeting between TikTok and President William Ruto.

In August, a petitioner sought a ban on TikTok in the country due to inappropriate content has toned down and now wants regularization of the application through strict regulations.

Appearing before the National Assembly Public Petition, Bob Ndolo,

the Executive Director General of Bridge Consultancy, amended the petition to focus on regulation after receiving calls from various stakeholders regarding the App’s usage.

Music and Copyright Society of Kenya Chief Executive Officer Ezekiel Mutua who had supported the petition decried that the App has massive negative effects on the masses due to unregulated content.

Mutua implored MPs to take immediate action to safeguard Kenyans from the negative effects of the App which has exposed children to nudity and profanity.

“The social media sites that are unregulated are conduit for the destruction of our moral values. We have forgotten the software which is the moral fabric of our nation and where children are concerned,” he noted.



Why It Is So Difficult?



In today's fast-paced world, we can't imagine our lives without smartphones. The sale of mobile communication devices along with household appliances, which are the demand of the time, attracts the attention of many buyers. Because people are making their lives easier through mobile communication tools. The digital phone "Nokia", which has helped people a lot for many years and has become the "father" of mobile communication devices, is losing its value more and more. Nowadays, people prefer to buy new, latest mobile phones and they are also available on sale. Many people use mobile devices to fulfill their needs. At the same time, mobile communication means people

it should be noted that it can bring them closer to each other.

As if on the other side of the coin, today they do not have a negative impact on human health and life. Because smartphones mainly work with the Internet. However, what is not on the Internet! The Internet is full of useful and unnecessary things. People use them as they wish. Someone uses the internet with good intentions, someone...

That is why our society is constantly changing. Studying online courses over the internet and trying to produce about yourself and someone else is often a waste of time. In addition, through the game called "Blue Whale", many teenagers are addicted to this game, even suicide cases are constantly observed. In addition to this, I must mention that many teenage children these days are playing a recent game called "1 X Page". Young people of school age, even current students, spend their time any time of clubs. If this situation continues at this rate, how will be our tomorrow?!

After all, isn't the future in the hands of young people?!

In fact, first of all, who is to blame for children playing such unnecessary games and wasting their time?! In addition to this, I must mention that many teenage children

these days are playing a recent game called "1 X Page". Young people of school age, even current students, spend their time any time of clubs. If this situation continues at this rate, how will be our tomorrow?!

After all, isn't the future in the hands of young people?!

In fact, first of all, who is to blame for children playing such unnecessary games and wasting their time?!

Are they parents who work day and night for their children, or are they teachers who dream big so that they will be more educated than everyone else?!

The time that passed before the bud opened,

Let's compare it to the life of a butterfly. Sometimes a respite—

Enough for a thousand stars to fade.

In fact, nowadays, many parents are soothing their child by handing them a phone. Are we putting a smartphone in the child's hand before baby can speak?

Aren't these contrary to morals and education?

Instead of them, when the child is still a baby, we should communicate with him a lot. Because the child's language comes out quickly, he learns to speak quickly as he hears. We should tell stories to sleep. Only then will he step into the future with good intentions. We need to educate him spiritually and physically from a young age. Because a child who is reading a book in the library today can lead ten children tomorrow.

Therefore, many opportunities are open in our country. If you read vast range of books, you drive SPARK.

According to the law introduced in 2019 by the initiative of our President, the introduction of the "Young Reader" competition was a great news for young people who love books. Anyone under the age of 30 can participate in this competition.

In conclusion, it should be noted that time is a precious commodity, equal to gold. Instead, let's spend time on things that are useful for us. Time is like water, if you don't drink it, it swallows you, drowns you, will ruin your life. It is a non-renewable resource, so we must use it wisely and invest in learning. Because every second that life is giving you now is a second chance to live and be thankful!

The time that passed before the bud opened,

Let's compare it to the life of a butterfly. Sometimes a respite—

Enough for a thousand stars to fade.

There Is A Voice From Inside That Tells You To Sleep A Little



Have you ever noticed?

Something prevents you from waking up early in the morning, before dawn, at the time of Morning Prayer.

There is a voice from inside that tells you to sleep a little, there is still time, you will make it. This is the voice of the ego. This ego often deceives us. He pulls it into his trap. We say we are Muslims, but we cannot defeat the ego inside us.

When you think about something, two thoughts come to your mind, one is bad and the other is good. No, it's bad, you can't do it, you can't do it, it's a bad idea, etc. This game will give you lust. Do not forget that the heart always senses and senses good things for you. On the contrary, lust scares you and turns you away from the path. In a sense, we are slaves to our own desires. We won't say you can't do it. If he says it's not necessary, we don't give a damn.

However, if our hearts and faith are united, we can overcome our ego. People are different... Some people are completely enslaved by their desires. They live only saying "I, I, mine".

Someone is like an angel in disguise. They pretend to believe in everyone and overcome their ego, but they also live only as "I". Some people have overcome their true self. They speak only with faith and heart. Not myself, but my relatives, Muslims, pray for the poor.

In fact, a person feels the desire, feels that it is the cause of his change, but knowingly turns a blind eye. Jealousy, hypocrisy, living only for myself, i.e. saying that the best things should be mine, the best words should be mine, the happiest people should be mine, meanness, betrayal

— all converge around the ego. Eventually a person becomes addicted. A believer's eyes are dirty.

Even if the heart beats, he will make him a prisoner with his own hand. Sometimes the heart is hurt. The destination is the

heart. Only then will the believer's eyes be washed with tears. When it's hard for a person, lust pushes him from his chest. He blames the person saying that it is his fault. A helpless person goes back to his heart.

The wound heals, the heart heals it in an instant. Nafs comes out again. It prevents revenge and jealousy. Again the heart is imprisoned. Again and again, a person rips his heart with his own hand. Again, he gets into the words of the ego and looks for fault from others.

This is the bad luck of this person. This is not a bad luck. The person who chained the ego to his feet, thoughts and imagination is actually to blame.

When lust is a friend of the devil I have moved away from you, my Lord One day I will doomsday, when my day comes

Will the sins come from my blind eyes?

How many times have I deceived myself by calling it fate

I am a slave to my ego Sometimes I close my believing eyes I am dependent on my lust and Satan

Blaming fate may be the best salve. But never forget, this is not only the best consolation, but also the best deception. This deception is not for others, but for yourself.

To live knowing that you are a slave to your ego without deception, to keep your faith in the black box inside you, to tear your heart to shreds with your own hands, and to take comfort in this by blaming others is the injustice of a person to himself.

An example of lust is a wild brook. To saddle it, to teach it to your hand requires infinite strength, perseverance and patience. Tell me where? Can you ride a horse? Or is he already riding you? In conclusion, you only have you.

Both victory and defeat are in your hands. It can be passion, if you want it to be. To overcome it, it is enough to talk to your heart, in fact.

GULIMOVA UMIDA

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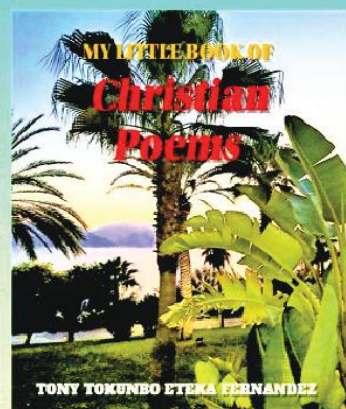
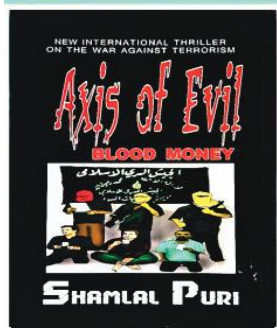
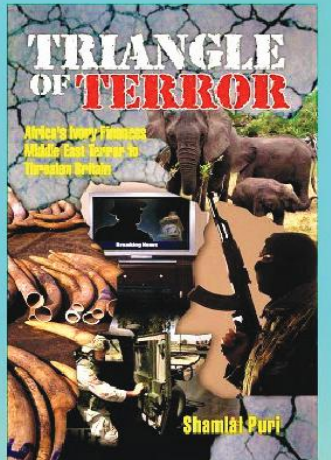
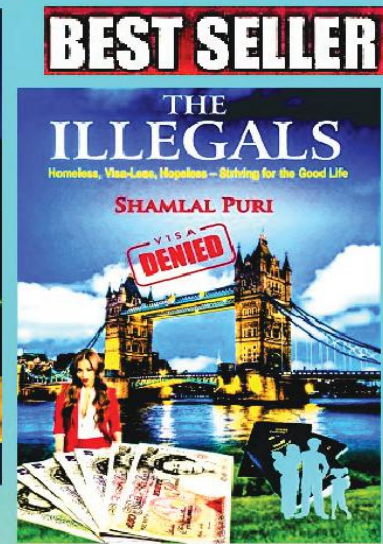
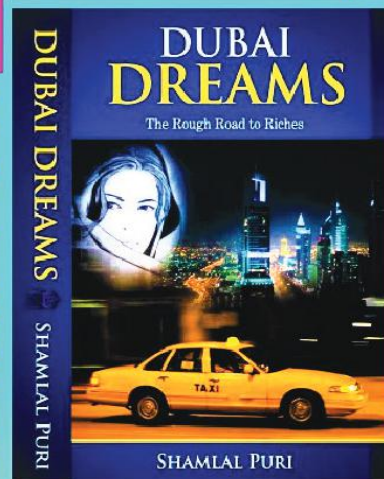
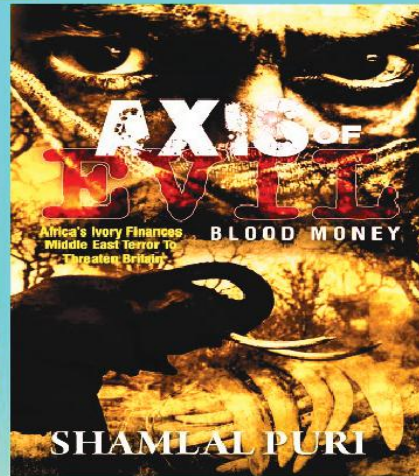
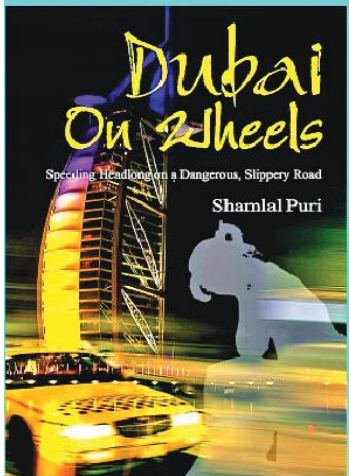
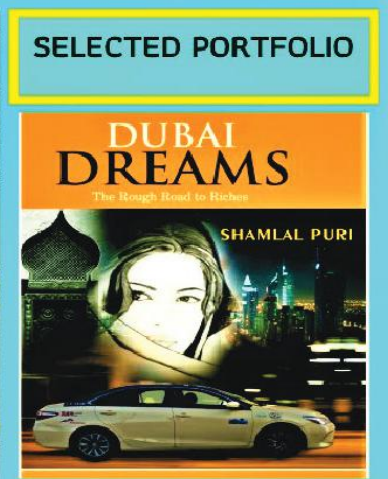
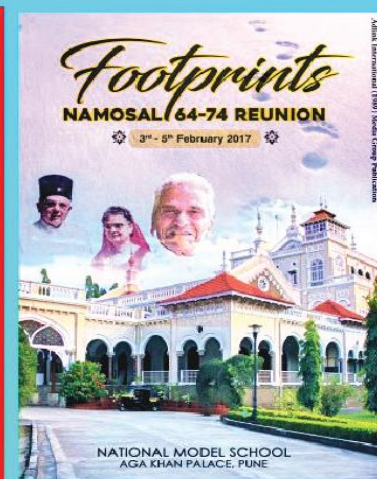
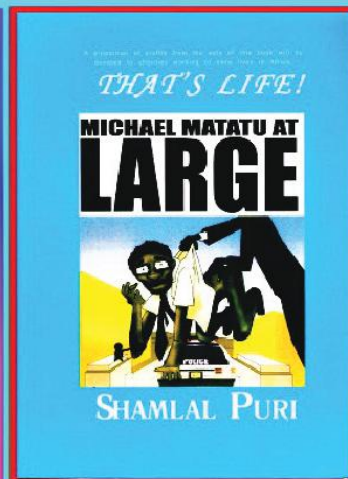
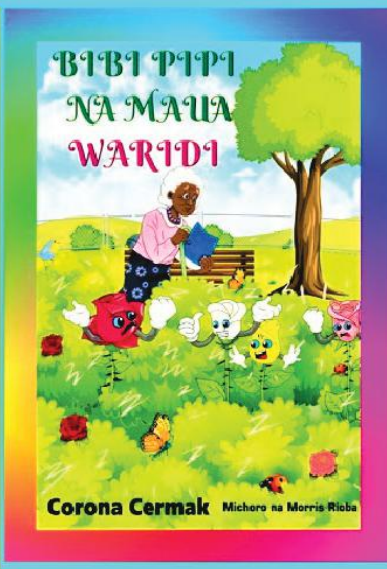
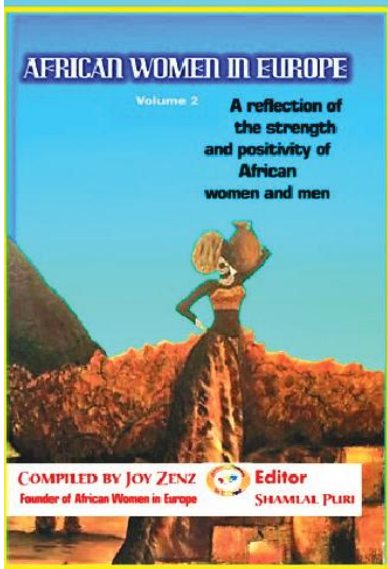
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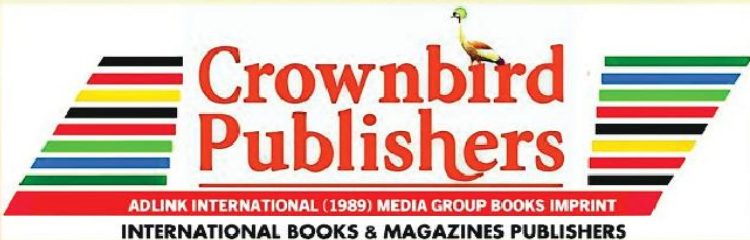
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BUSINESS

Making Agtech Smarter Needs To Be A COP28 Priority



By: Wendy Gonzalez
@themtkenyatimes



Agtech Smarter.

Worth Noting:

- We have to be ready to make agriculture smarter with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies and perhaps more importantly, prepare to come together to support that across borders, governments and private companies.
- Artificial Intelligence broad set of use cases in agriculture makes a clear case for more investment and collaboration in this area.
- Take pesticides as an example. Many of them, including sulfuranyl fluoride (which is nearly 5,000 times as potent as carbon dioxide), are powerful greenhouse gases. In addition, 99% of synthetic chemicals, including pesticides, are derived from fossil fuels.

Around one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions result from food production, distribution and consumption — meaning that any attempt to meet the terms set out in the Paris Agreement has to address this vital part of our global ecosystem to have a chance of success.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and feeding a growing population are contradictory: more sustainable agricultural practices would, almost by necessity, reduce the amount of output in our food ecosystem because that ecosystem has been optimized for maximum output at all costs.

Agricultural technology in its myriad forms has to help bridge the gap and must be a key consideration in climate talks as nations gather for COP28 hosted in the Middle East and North Africa region, where food insecurity is quickly growing.

We have to be ready to make agriculture smarter with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies and perhaps more importantly, prepare to come together to support that across borders, governments and private companies.

Artificial Intelligence broad set of use cases in agriculture makes a clear case for more investment and collaboration in this area.

Take pesticides as an example. Many of them, including sulfuranyl fluoride (which is nearly 5,000 times as potent as carbon dioxide), are powerful greenhouse gases. In addition, 99% of synthetic chemicals, including pesticides, are derived from fossil fuels.

This is before we get to biodiversity loss or other more visible effects of pesticide overuse.

Studies have already found that we can reduce pesticide use by 50% without significant changes to crop yields — meaning there is a real opportunity to use pesticides more wisely and less wantonly than current practices. A computer vision model trained to discern crops from weeds or identify different types of insects can enable more targeted application of pesticides, resulting in less greenhouse gases and environmental damage. It also reduces costs for farmers, improving their overall profitability.

Finding more efficient ways to raise livestock is also critical. Current farming practices, especially when raising cattle, are some of the single biggest contributing factors to climate change. Here, AI can help with precision feeding, which takes an individual animal's needs into greater account. Research has found that the use of precision livestock

feeding decreased protein intake by 25%, reduced nitrogen excretion into the environment by 40% and actually increased profitability by nearly 10%.

Granted, this technology can be expensive, and this is where government support could be most impactful. For example, the Kenyan government is set to sign into law a start-up bill that will provide employment opportunities for Kenyan youth and tax breaks for startups. There will also be a plan for a credit guarantee scheme to provide financial support and training for start-up growth. What if there were credits for investing in a precision feeding system or using an AI model to identify when to use pesticides? What if other subsidies were altered to encourage these practices or even regenerative agriculture?

Of course, smart technologies like AI aren't the only solution, and they have some caveats, with environmental concerns of their own — like energy usage. We can't zero out the gains made with AI in agriculture to pay for the added resources used in computing power to build effective models. Instead, we need to focus on processing only the data that has the biggest impact on model performance. For example, understanding data diversity and proactive identification of crit-

ical edge cases can help drive model maturity earlier on, reducing the need for excessive retraining and, therefore, energy use.

COP27 was a huge step forward in terms of centering the roles of agriculture and food security in the climate crisis, and the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative even included plans to financially support agricultural transformation. But time is running out. In our work with startups and agricultural giants, we have seen the impact AI can have. What would happen if we all came together globally to help drive better understanding and, ultimately, policy changes around AI and agricultural technologies?

I think the answer is simple: We'd make huge gains in the fight against climate change. COP28 is the perfect time to look beyond governments, beyond NGOs, to all stakeholders, from farmers and major corporations to businesses like ours, in data validation and find a way for us to work together towards the same goal of a sustainably fed planet.

Wendy Gonzalez is the CEO of Sama, which helps companies develop artificial intelligence and machine learning models. www.sama.com



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KNUT Holds Its 63rd Annual Delegates Conference

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua Who Was The Chief Guests Assured Teachers Of Their Security

By: DPCS and Our Correspondent

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured teachers of their safety in all parts of the country, including in areas facing security challenges.

While addressing the Kenya National Union of Teachers Union (Knut) annual National Delegates Conference at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi yesterday, Mr Gachagua said adequate security measures have been put in place to ensure teachers go on with their work in volatile areas without fear for their lives.

“We have taken enough measures to ensure that the teachers are secure and there is enough security for them. A lot of work is going on in those regions to make sure that teachers and everybody and the rest of the country is secure,” said the Deputy President.

The Deputy President also said that the government had stopped the sacking of teachers, who fled from their working stations over insecurity in Northern Kenya.

“You cannot punish people who are running away to save their lives,” he said.

He said Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki was seized of the matter and would ensure the measures

are fully implemented.

“The National Police Service and all our security agencies are doing whatever needs to be done so that our teachers and the rest of Kenyans are secure,” noted the Deputy President.

He continued, “We are undertaking a disarmament exercise to rid these areas of criminals. We also understand the value of education in sustainably addressing banditry and other forms of security threats, as we progressively move communities from past retrogressive practices.”

He stated that security in the North Rift and areas prone to terrorism are on the government’s radar and it will not relent until peace is restored.

The DP was representing President William Ruto at the event attended by over 2,000 delegates drawn from the 47 counties.

The Deputy President, who paid tribute to teachers for their patriotism, also commended them for their savings culture through cooperative societies to harness income for their future financial stability.

The Deputy President further said that the government plans to bridge the teachers’ deficit by hiring at least 116,000 teachers to cover the gap. This year, the government has hired over 56,000 teachers.

He said they are working with the Teachers Service Commission to gradually convert the teachers on con-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Knut officials Patrick Karinga and Collins Oyuu among others leaders.

tract to permanent and pensionable, saying financial constraints had delayed its implementation.

“This is because we appreciate the fact that achieving the recommended ratio reduces the burden on teachers, directly improving quality,” he stated.

He was accompanied by Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection Florence Bore and Knut officials led by the Secretary-General Collins Oyuu and chairman Patrick Karinga.

For his part, Mr Oyuu said the union

will continue supporting the Kenya Kwanza administration as he highlighted achievements of the government in streamlining the education sector and improving teachers’ welfare.

“Education matters have been streamlined courtesy of the Kenya Kwanza administration. Learners’ capitation has been improved, employment of teachers of a record 56,000 teachers, no Administration has ever hired such a high number in one year. The Pres-

idential working party was well selected by the President. We were confident of the work and streamlining take off of the CBC,” said Mr Oyuu.

He added, “Knut and teachers support the government. Knut is not a political wing, and we cannot afford to place ourselves to oppose the government because it is the same table we sit to negotiate with the government”.

PS Kipsang Says Marking Of 2023 KCPE Exams Was Fool Proof

By: Capital Correspondent

Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang says the marking of the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) Examination was full proof.

He was speaking while defending results before National Assembly Education Committee Wednesday where he pointed out that the marking of the exams was of the highest standards.

“The marking includes a period of coordination of the marking schemes and quality assurance by the senior examiners where they randomly sample what has been

marked by each examiner and remark to ensure the scoring does not deviate from the marking scheme,” the PS stated.

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) further indicated that errors witnessed in varying marks for the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) were only limited to the SMS platform, which they say was down to the provider.

In a report, KNEC says the truncation and misalignments were caused by configuration issues on the interface used to access results data from the database of the service provided by mobile network operators

“KNEC verified the query and noted that the challenge was only affecting the results accessed through the SMS services. The SMS service

provider identified the issues of results data truncation and encoding that affected accurate and complete representation of the characters in the SMS text,” the report from KNEC said.

The examinations body says the issues were rectified in about 10 minutes and the results sent through SMS after the correction were indicating the correct grade and in expected format.

Meanwhile, KNEC says it is keen to ensure that all disputes arising from the examinations are resolved within the stipulated 30 days.

“KNEC has been receiving and reviewing queries from clients since the release of the results. The review of the queries involves the verification of the score in the database and the candidate’s answer script,” said



Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang

the exams body.

There have been numerous issues raised around the exams, but KNEC says the entire process was beyond reproach and the few issues that have arisen will be dealt with in ut-

most dignity and fairness.

KNEC said that the processing of the 2023 KCPE took the longest number of days since 2016 when the Ministry of Education introduced reforms in national examinations. The process took 22 days.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Promote Sustainable Measures To Prevent Further Environmental Degradation

The issue of environmental injustice and its impact on our planet cannot be overstated. It poses a severe threat to all living organisms, and its effects are far-reaching. Rainwater, for instance, is an essential resource for human survival, and scientific research confirms that up to 75% of our body is made up of water, making it an indispensable resource for all living organisms. However, the question that comes to mind is, what is the quality of the water we consume?

One of the most significant environmental issues we face today is the contamination of rainwater leading to the formation of acid rain. This problem is primarily caused by industrial waste and the emission of poisonous gases into the atmosphere, such as sulphates and nitrates, which contribute to environmental degradation. These gases interfere with the Ozone (O3) layer, which plays a crucial role in preventing direct ultraviolet rays from reaching the earth's surface, thus protecting living organisms from harmful effects such as skin cancer.

The impact of acid rain is not only limited to humans but also extends to other living organisms in the ecosystem. Acid rain can cause extensive damage to forests, lakes, and rivers, leading to the destruction of habitats for plants and animals. It can also impact agricultural production, leading to reduced crop yields and economic losses for farmers. Additionally, acid rain can cause damage to infrastructure such as buildings, bridges, and roads, leading to safety concerns and financial losses.

Environmental injustice is a multifaceted and complex issue that poses a significant threat to our planet and all its inhabitants. The emission of poisonous gases and industrial waste is one of the leading causes of this problem. These gases and waste materials are often released into the atmosphere, leading to the formation of acid rain, which can have devastating effects on our environment. Acid rain is a type of precipitation that carries harmful chemicals and pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which can damage crops, forests, and aquatic life.

Furthermore, acid rain can also cause respiratory problems in humans and animals, leading to a decline in overall health and well-being. The economic impact of acid rain is also substantial, as it can damage infrastructure and affect tourism, among other things. To combat this issue, it is vital to reduce industrial pollution by implementing more sustainable practices and regulations. Such

measures will not only help to protect our planet and its inhabitants but also lead to a healthier, more prosperous future for all.

It is imperative to address the serious issue of continued production of poisonous gases that cause damage to the Ozone (O3) layer. This damage leads to significant loss of life, food insecurities, global warming, and other natural hazards and disasters that leave many vulnerable. It is a pressing matter that requires immediate attention and action.

Despite the devastating effects of acid rain, it is often ignored. Acid rain can have a cascading effect on various sectors, including agriculture. Reduced crop yields due to acid rain can lead to food insecurity, which can have far-reaching consequences. Moreover, acid rain's impact on large water bodies can interfere with the pH balance, affecting the breeding rates of fish in various water bodies. This can have a significant impact on the economy of third-world countries.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) to hold industries responsible for their actions. These industries should ensure that they control their waste products and have filters in place to minimize the release of poisonous gases into the atmosphere. It is equally important to focus on promoting sustainable measures to prevent further degradation of our environment. We must all take responsibility for our actions and contribute towards preserving our planet for future generations.

In conclusion, we must take immediate action to safeguard our environment and embrace sustainable practices to avoid further deterioration. One small step we can take is by boiling drinking water and storing it securely. It is our responsibility to prioritize the environmental welfare and the well-being of future generations and strive towards establishing a safer and more pleasant world for all forms of life.

Tonny O. Blair - Education Science Student, Rongo University



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First Dream!



By: Shokirkhonova Ezoza
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The reason for this is that people often dream of things beyond their capabilities. A blind king dreams of flying, a bird dreams of being a famous person, children dream of becoming adults. Sometimes, ridiculing others' dreams and hopes puts a burden on our hearts. Knowing that we are being ridiculed for our dreams, we stop dreaming altogether.
- If we pay attention, young children express their hopes and desires without any hesitation. If you ask a five-year-old what they want to be in the future, they would say an astronaut or president at least. Or if you ask a ten-year-old girl, she would say she wants to be a translator who speaks multiple languages, or a doctor who is famous in all countries.

When a person is wounded, they continue their life with some hope and dreams. These feelings make people vulnerable either mentally or physically. Some people living in this world may lack intelligence or have spiritual deficiencies. However, a person with no hope cannot do anything for the next day, let alone for today.

A person with hope can dream. A person who dreams directs their dreams towards a goal. When that goal is reached, they use their strength and courage to take action. In general, the concept of dreaming is considered abstract because there are no limitations when it comes to dreaming.

We learn to dream from childhood because dreams and fantasies are created according to people's hopes and desires. Just as hundreds of fairy tales and legends are created based on people's hopes and dreams, such as the story of Zumrad and Qimmat, the story of a mother with three-headed dragons taking away her precious child, or the story of a blind opening his eyes thanks to a magical spell, they all reach their goals with the dreams of hundreds of heroes.

Goals are structured based on reality. Goals have specific plans and structures. Our people have numerous sayings such as "Everyone has their own dreams", "There is no shame in having dreams", "Two dreams make one".

The reason for this is that people often dream of things beyond their capabilities. A blind king dreams of flying, a bird dreams of being a famous person, children dream of becoming adults. Sometimes, ridiculing others' dreams and hopes puts a burden on our hearts. Knowing that we are being ridiculed for our dreams, we stop dreaming altogether.

If we pay attention, young children express their hopes and desires without

any hesitation. If you ask a five-year-old what they want to be in the future, they would say an astronaut or president at least. Or if you ask a ten-year-old girl, she would say she wants to be a translator who speaks multiple languages, or a doctor who is famous in all countries.

Now tell me, what did you dream of becoming when you were a child, and how is your place in society now? When we conducted a survey with such questions, it was proven that seventy percent of people do not pursue the careers they dreamed of as children.

Why do we have dreams but do not act on them? Why do we need to continue this tradition? Do we need to leave our childhood hopes and dreams behind? Do we continue to pressurize others with phrases like "Do what you can do" and "Don't aim too high" during times when we are filled with courage and determination to conquer the world?

Why do we have dreams in our childhood, in our stories, and in everything outside our real lives, but obstacles are put in place for our dreams in our lives? In fact, every person has a unique dream that resides deep within their heart. We call this dream the first dream rather than a harmony.

In reality, I was passionate about dance from my childhood. My mother enrolled me in a dance class at the children's center. Every time I focused my attention on something from my childhood, I would carry it out when it came time to act.

I waited anxiously for the day when dance classes would start. And finally, our dance teacher appeared. Their steps were as light as a dance move itself. The first lesson was over too soon. When I returned home, I danced with the dancers who were dancing around the world in my imagination. When I started dancing, my heart was filled with joy;

whether it was a dance from Khorezm, Bukhara, or Tanovar, my heart moved with the melody. I couldn't understand why I felt these emotions from childhood. But that's exactly what happened at that time. An ensemble was formed by the children's center where I was studying. I became an active member of this ensemble.

Since then we started going to concerts in different places. My tiny childish heart was burning with the desire to become a dancer that the world knew in the future. Every concert was a universe for me. For the audience who watched us, it was a dance performed by children, as always. But for me it was a work of art made by my body.

The reason is that before going on stage, there was always a strong tremor, from excitement my teeth constantly touched each other and interfered. All this spread after the dance, which went on stage and was performed. So I went to school when I reached school age. Even at that time, dancing was with me. However, one day my father told me that I would no longer be engaged in dancing, but would spend my free time sewing and haircuts, which are now beneficial and suitable for girls.

A bucket of icy water turned over on me. After all, why? Why can't original girls leave the dance industry? Weren't Mukarrama Turgunbayeva, the founder of Uzbek dance art, and Tamarakhonim a real woman? Questions tormented my brain. The patronymic should always be implemented. These questions and dreams now remain in childhood, in memories.

I followed the path of science. Despite the fact that this path is very laborious, the result from it is achieved in giving a special taste to a person. Today dreams have already become a concept by heart for me. Now I have become a person

who builds a goal based on facts and results and moves towards this goal.

But, believe me, no triumphant achievement could make me feel an extraordinary birth at the time when this dance was performed. I still haven't found joy and energy from other areas in him. From this we can understand that if, on the basis of the first dream, children's future professions are formed and sent to the same profession, there will be growth and development in the area that the child chooses. Because a child does his profession with love.

We see those who have been working in this profession for twenty years, not loving their profession. When they are asked about a dream, the word "dream" comes to their mind as an appropriate concept. They don't spend more time dreaming. Because for them, it is no longer a dream that is more important, but the struggle for life, the search for opportunities to live for today. When you wonder what you would do if you had a bag of money, they tell you to talk about the job ahead. Armon realized that wasting time on them was a waste of time.

In conclusion, each person builds his own life path. In many cases, people succumb to external influences and turn their dreams into dreams. Once they realize their mistake, they should refrain from being the cause of such a nightmare for the next generation. Because when Mirza Ulugbek also dreamed of heavenly bodies, he was also influenced by external forces. When he also lived in the sphere of influence, he remained in history only under the name of the king.

SPORTS NEWS

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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Rafael Nadal on Wednesday insisted he will be “competitive” when he returns to professional tennis next month after enduring nearly a year out of action due to injury.

Nadal Confident He Will Be ‘Competitive’ On Return



(FILES) Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning against Britain's Jack Draper during their men's singles match on day one of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on January 16, 2023. Spaniard Rafael Nadal, absent from the courts for almost a year with a hip injury, announced on December 1, 2023 that he would return to competition in Brisbane next month ahead of the Australian Open. (Photo by WILLIAM WEST / AFP).

By AFP

Rafael Nadal on Wednesday insisted he will be “competitive” when he returns to professional tennis next month after enduring nearly a year out of action due to injury.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion has undergone surgery twice in 2023 after struggling with a hip injury.

He has said next year will likely be his last season before retirement and announced last week he would make his comeback at the Australian Open warm-up event in Brisbane, which runs from January 1-7.

“I don’t know at what level (he will play at), I don’t know what to expect, I have no idea, but I

don’t care right now,” Nadal said in a video posted on social media.

“I’m just happy to be back and with great excitement to make the effort that is necessary to have fun and I believe that I will be competitive.”

Nadal last played at the Australian Open in January, losing in the second round to American MacKenzie McDonald.

He originally hoped to be back in time for the clay-court season and Roland Garros, where he is a 14-time French Open winner, but had to end his campaign early.

The 37-year-old Spaniard has slipped to 664th in the world rankings while sidelined.

“It’s been a long year in which I’ve gone through many phases,

from trying to get back to compete at the clay season, week after week, disappointment after disappointment,” said the former world number one.

“Of course I have had many doubts, of course there were moments where it seemed impossible that this moment would come, but we’ve maintained the work, spirit and hope and I think I am ready.”

Nadal is a two-time Australian Open champion, in 2009 and 2022.

He has slipped behind old rival Novak Djokovic in the all-time list of Grand Slam singles titles, as the Serb won three this year in his absence to take his tally to a record 24.

“I have finally had good training

weeks at a level that allows me to have the possibility to compete again,” added Nadal.

“I have gone through many phases, but today I think it’s time -- I’m coming back in a tournament that I’ve played in the past, that I’m familiar with...”

“I know it’s a difficult tournament but I hope to be ready to compete, I don’t aspire to anything else but to be competitive.”

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Bayern Munich have reached an agreement to sign Spain winger Bryan Zaragoza from La Liga side Granada next summer, the German champions announced on Wednesday.

Bayern Munich Agree Deal To Sign Spain's Zaragoza Next Season



By AFP

Bayern Munich have reached an agreement to sign Spain winger Bryan Zaragoza from La Liga side Granada next summer, the German champions announced on Wednesday.

The agreed fee for the 22-year-

old winger is a reported 15 million euros (\$16 million) and Bayern said he will pen a five-year deal running until 2029.

“Bryan is one of Spain’s up-and-coming players and has been on our radar for a while,” Bayern’s sporting director Christoph Freund said.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Issues Of Social Protection Of The Population In The Development Strategy Of New Uzbekistan

By: Mo'ydinjonova
Gulifarkhon
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Speaking about social protection, we should highlight the development strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026. In it, such goals as the consistent continuation and further improvement of systemic reforms in the field of social protection, ensuring the rights of the population to receive Social Protection, the creation of an effective inter-agency coordination system for the provision of state social assistance and services are set as a priority.

- Including covering all families and individuals who need social assistance and meet the criteria for the appointment of social benefits with social assistance programs; expanding the possibility of using mandatory social guarantees, including types of social protection, at the expense of digitization of the industry, introducing the principles of openness and transparency into this process

Annotation:

This article reflects on the issue of social protection, social benefits and social programs aimed at a person and his comfortable life in our country.

Keywords:

Human interest, Social Protection, low-income family, development strategy, social benefit, required length of Service, Disability Benefit, global system.

In the world, human interests and its prosperity have always been the main and most pressing issue. At the bottom of all the efforts for this issue lie strategies based on tremendous courage, strong social protection.

In recent years, consistent reforms in the direction of improving the system of social protection of the population, increasing the amount of funds allocated to the social protection sector from the state budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan and introducing additional mechanisms aimed at attracting additional resources, expanding the scope of social protection programs and bringing families out of difficult life situations are carried out at Today, the number of families receiving low-income benefits has quadrupled

in the last three years, reaching 1.9 million; the coverage of child care benefits in low-income families expanded, the age of children taken into account in the appointment of benefits was increased from 14 to 18 years, the period of payment in question was increased from 6 to 12 months, and the amount of benefits was increased on average by 1.5 times; the minimum amounts of unemployment benefits were increased by 3.2 times, more

Speaking about social protection, we should highlight the development strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026. In it, such goals as the consistent continuation and further improvement of systemic reforms in the field of social protection, ensuring the rights of the population to receive Social Protection, the creation of an effective interagency coordination system for the provision of state social assistance and services are set as a priority. Including covering all families and individuals who need social assistance and meet the criteria for the appointment of social benefits with social assistance programs; expanding the possibility of using mandatory social guarantees, including types of social protection, at the expense of digitization of the

industry, introducing the principles of openness and transparency into this process; ensuring mandatory social guarantees for the population, strengthening; we are witnessing to what extent such goals are being pursued in practice, as a step-by-step transition to the social model of disability designation and ensuring employment of persons with disabilities and disabilities; providing the needy part of the population with modern prosthetic-orthopedic items and rehabilitation tools; introducing the practice of providing social services to the population directly at the neighborhood level. As a direct participant in these processes, I can say that today, more than ever, our population is satisfied with these reforms and are in a mood for gratitude.

The strategy in particular covered the following state-guaranteed social protection programs:

- Assignment of material assistance to low-income families;
- Assignment of child benefits to low-income families;
- Material assistance to needy families in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region;
- Appointment of age benefits;
- Appointment of benefits to elderly and incapacitated citizens who do

not have the necessary work experience;

- Appointment of a care allowance to the legal representative of a child who is engaged in the care of children under 18 years of age with disabilities who need care;

- Assignment of disability benefits from childhood (to persons with disabilities of Group I and II);

- Appointment of child benefit with disabilities (up to 18 years old);

- Assigning benefits to children with HIV infection under the age of eighteen and a rare (orphan) disease that is life-threatening and chronically developing;

- Appointment of the breadwinner loss benefit;

- One-time burial allowance;

- To give a one-time allowance (suitor's money), which is given at the birth of a child;

The fact that our goal is to create together a fair global system that ensures the basic rights and freedoms, health and well-being of each person, while always keeping in mind, makes our mark closer and opens up a wide path for us to achieve high results.