



Disease-Resistant Seeds, Grain Dryers, Necrosis Containment: Govt Activates Food Security Campaign In South Rift
The government has activated a multi-pronged approach to support Kenya's efforts to attain self-reliance on food as Kilimo House unveiled more grain dryers in the South Rift region yesterday. Page 18

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News>>House Committees To Conduct Comprehensive Public Hearings On Affordable Housing Bill In 19 Counties

P. 8. The National Assembly is set to commence public hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill, 2023

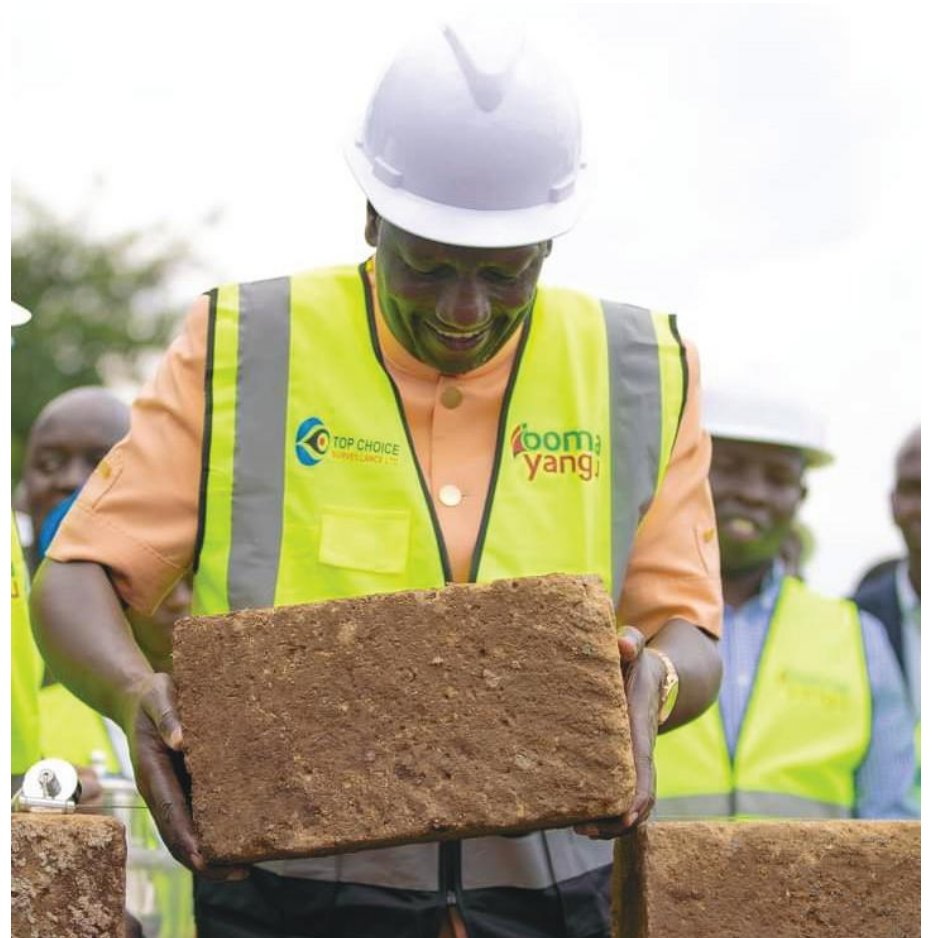


News>>Showmax Revolutionizes Streaming In Africa With New Features And Affordable Pricing

P. 12. In a groundbreaking move for the African streaming landscape, the new Showmax is set to redefine the streaming experience with a refreshed brand, robust content lineup, and competitive pricing.

Ruto: Affordable Housing Project Solution To Land Fragmentation

⚡ The President said his government is using the Affordable Housing Programme to cater for the increasing demand for housing in agricultural rich regions. He noted that if the fragmentation of agricultural land is not managed, the country will soon run out of adequate farming space. The Head of State explained that the government is keen on supporting farmers to scale up the production of food to help the country attain its food security goals.



President William Ruto laying a foundation stone in Kapsabet, Nandi County yesterday.

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Three-Day Visit In Embu County For Charity Programs

By: OSDP

Worth Noting:

- In her efforts to rescue the boy child from alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse, Pastor Dorcas and her office partners with local rehabilitation centres in different parts of the country for those willing to undergo inpatient rehabilitation.
- Later. She held a widows meeting, which aligns with the Widows & Orphans pillar under her office; the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP). She started working with widows and advocating for their empowerment since her days at Kenyatta University, having been brought up by a widow.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi at a past event, the Nairobi CBD Medical Camp targeting those in the matatu sector. Photo/OSDP.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi landed in Embu on Monday evening for a three-day stay in the County to launch different programs and hold meetings to push her agenda for the vulnerable in the country.

Pastor Dorcas has kicked off the new year with an elaborate program that includes meetings with widows, people with disabilities, boys and men in fulfillment of the vision of 'A Dignified Future for Vulnerable Populations' in the county.

Yesterday, she started by visiting a rehabilitation centre a few kilometres from Embu town, the county headquarters.

In her efforts to rescue the boy child from alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse, Pastor Dorcas and her office partners with local rehabilitation centres in

different parts of the country for those willing to undergo inpatient rehabilitation.

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She then held a boy child preventive programs at the Embu University with a similar forum being expected to take place today at Kangaru High School where she will speak to the student population about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, mental wellness

and academic excellence.

She is also expected to open a two-day medical camp geared at screening those in addictions for rehabilitation.

The medical camp will be held at the Moi Stadium in Embu town.

She will also hold a meeting with the clergy from Embu County and her environs. Pastor Dorcas works with clergy from the Christian, Muslim and Hindu circles to actualise the vision of a dignified future.

Other events lined up during her three-day working tour include visiting a home for those with mental challenges, and a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution.

Pastor Dorcas encourages an end-to-end

rehabilitation program for those in addictions that includes skilling and reskilling at a TVET to produce whole men who can gain employment, start businesses and engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The OSDP will collaborate with local leaders, faith-based organisations and clergy as well as the County Government of Embu in sustaining the programs and transforming lives.

In the past, Pastor Dorcas has taken her programs to Narok, Nyeri, Kiambu, Kajiado, Bomet and Mombasa Counties.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kiambu County Governor Kimani Wamatangi has commissioned the construction of the Gitaru Market in Kabete Sub County, which can now accommodate 700 traders. The market was a project of the previous administration that had stalled for four years. The Governor aims to refurbish and construct modern markets in the region to improve the trading environment and ease traders' congestion. He is committed to investing in market infrastructure, capacity building, and empowering small and medium-sized enterprises to increase revenue uptake. The project will help solve hawkers' problems and reduce crime, encouraging the youth to engage in business and contribute to revenue generation. Plans are underway for a carwash in the market to create jobs for the youth.



Romania and Migori County are set to collaborate in areas such as Information Communication Technology (ICT), agriculture, education, and emergency services. The Romanian government will sponsor a learning tour for delegations from Migori to Romania, focusing on IT, waste management, emergency administration, and agriculture. The partnership will also help boost economic development in the region. Romania's Ambassador, Ms. Gentiana Serbu, highlighted the importance of education in shaping a country's foundation and workforce. The partnership between Romania and Migori County is expected to contribute significantly to the growth and prosperity of Migori County and Kenya as a whole.



Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Leader Raila Odinga has urged Chief Justice Martha Koome to abandon her proposal to hold talks with President William Ruto over allegation of graft in the Judiciary.

Speaking during an Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Membership Recruitment drive in Vihiga yesterday, Odinga said the move will destroy the public confidence of a just and independent judiciary.

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna had earlier expressed his disappointment in the CJ's failure to defend judicial officers.

Senior Counsel Ahmednasir Abdullahi equally advised the CJ to focus on getting rid of all corrupt and incompetent judges.

The remarks come after Koome called for talks between the Judicial Service Commission and the President over his recent claims on judicial officers working in cahoots to frustrate his projects.



Kenya Forest Services (KFS) is aiming to increase tree cover by planting over 5000 Blue-gum trees at Upland Forest Escarpment Block. The organization, led by Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, has been working with the Community Forest Association (CFA) and other stakeholders to improve tree management and reduce deforestation. The government has provided 321 personnel, resources, and training to KFS, which has helped reduce deforestation in most of their forests. Technology is being used to monitor activities and forest areas against threats, and KFS is being supported by the French government in building personnel's capacity for monitoring, response, and mitigation of fires. KFS is also enhancing the skills and competence of officers through ongoing training. EarthLungs Reforestation Foundation, which has been working with KFS and communities to protect the degradation of forests, is asking Kenyans to join the government's tree planting initiative. Uplands Forest CFA, which supports KFS, has a target to plant over 300,000 tree seedlings at their three blocks at the Uplands Forest.



On Day 4 of the Government Performance and Delivery Roadshow yesterday, Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria paid a courtesy call to Attorney General, Justin Muturi ahead of a meeting with the State Law Office.

The meeting was held to review the office's performance and delivery of programmes and projects in alignment with Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) in the last year of the Kenya Kwanza Administration.

Also present was the Solicitor-General, Shadrack Mose, Principal Secretaries Ms. Veronica Nduva, Mr. Amos Gathecha and Ms. Aurelia Rono.

Later, Kuria led the steering committee in a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Peninah Malonza and her team from the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development.

Like in other meetings, the forum was used to review their performance and delivery of programmes.

He was accompanied by among others, Secretary to the Cabinet, Mercy Wanjau, Principal Secretaries, Veronica Nduva, Aurelia Rono, Abdi Dubat Fidhow, Harsama Kello, James Muhati; and Government Spokesman, Dr. Isaac Mwaura.

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Navigating The Emotional Rollercoaster Of A New Academic Year For Students



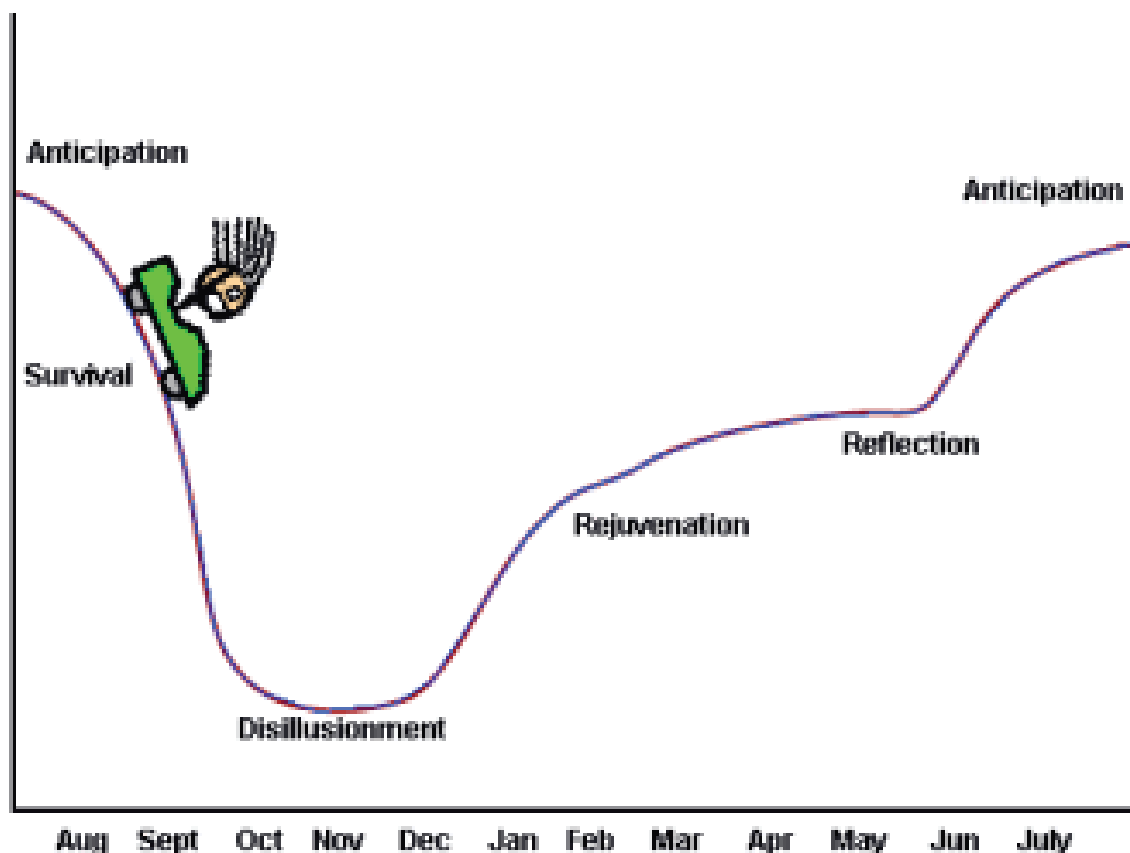
By: Ezekiel Muriithi

@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The complex emotional and psychological landscape that students navigate during this period is intense and there is a need for parents and schools to acknowledge and address these feelings to avoid rebellious outcomes throughout the year.
- Learners need to embrace the process of loss, new gains and challenges as an integral part of personal growth.
- The ability to sustain, or bid farewell to current friendships to forming new connections while worrying about fitting in and the fear of rejection can be a handful.



The start of a new academic year marks a time when learners find themselves on different paths.

Some embark on a journey to a new school while others progress to the next grade within the familiar walls.

These changes are not just logistical shifts, they elicit a range of emotional, psychological and sometimes physical effects on the learners.

The first term of the year acts as a transition period for learners as they progress to the next grade. It marks a significant milestone, but it also signals a sea of changes that can stir up a myriad of emotions.

The anticipated challenges of separation from old friends, new study

schedules, facing unfamiliar teachers, increased workload, just to mention a few.

The complex emotional and psychological landscape that students navigate during this period is intense and there is a need for parents and schools to acknowledge and address these feelings to avoid rebellious outcomes throughout the year.

Learners need to embrace the process of loss, new gains and challenges as an integral part of personal growth.

The ability to sustain, or bid farewell to current friendships to forming new connections while worrying about fitting in and the fear of rejection can be a handful.

Students need to grasp that this is all part of growing up and understanding the intricate dance of social dynamics.

Moving beyond changes in friendships, the shift to a new academic year introduces learners to a fresh set of educators and subjects adds another layer of psychological complexity.

The strain of adapting to different teaching styles, meeting varied expectations and facing new evaluation methods can be overwhelming.

This psychological toll may lead to self-doubt, imposter syndrome and heightened pressure to meet academic standards.

In unfamiliar academic environments, the need to prove oneself intensifies,

contributing to increased stress levels and a sense of vulnerability.

The emotional and psychological effects of this transition can manifest physically in students. Stress, anxiety and the pressure to perform can disrupt sleep patterns, alter appetite and even result in somatic complaints. Headaches, stomach aches and fatigue become common companions as students deal with the demands of their academic journey.

Recognizing and addressing these physical manifestations is crucial not only for the student's well-being but also for their academic success.

Parents and teachers play a vital role in supporting students through this emotional and psychological whirlwind. Effective coping strategies such as open communication about their feelings, the creation of a supportive home environment and access to mental health resources if needed, can significantly impact a student's ability to navigate the challenges of the first term.

Learning institutions also bear the responsibility of providing support through orientation programs, mentorship initiatives and counselling services to help students navigate the emotional terrain more smoothly.

By fostering a holistic approach to student well-being, schools can actively contribute to creating an environment where learners not only survive but thrive in the face of the emotional rollercoaster that is the new academic year.

Ezekiel Muriithi is Crawford International School Head of Marketing and Communications

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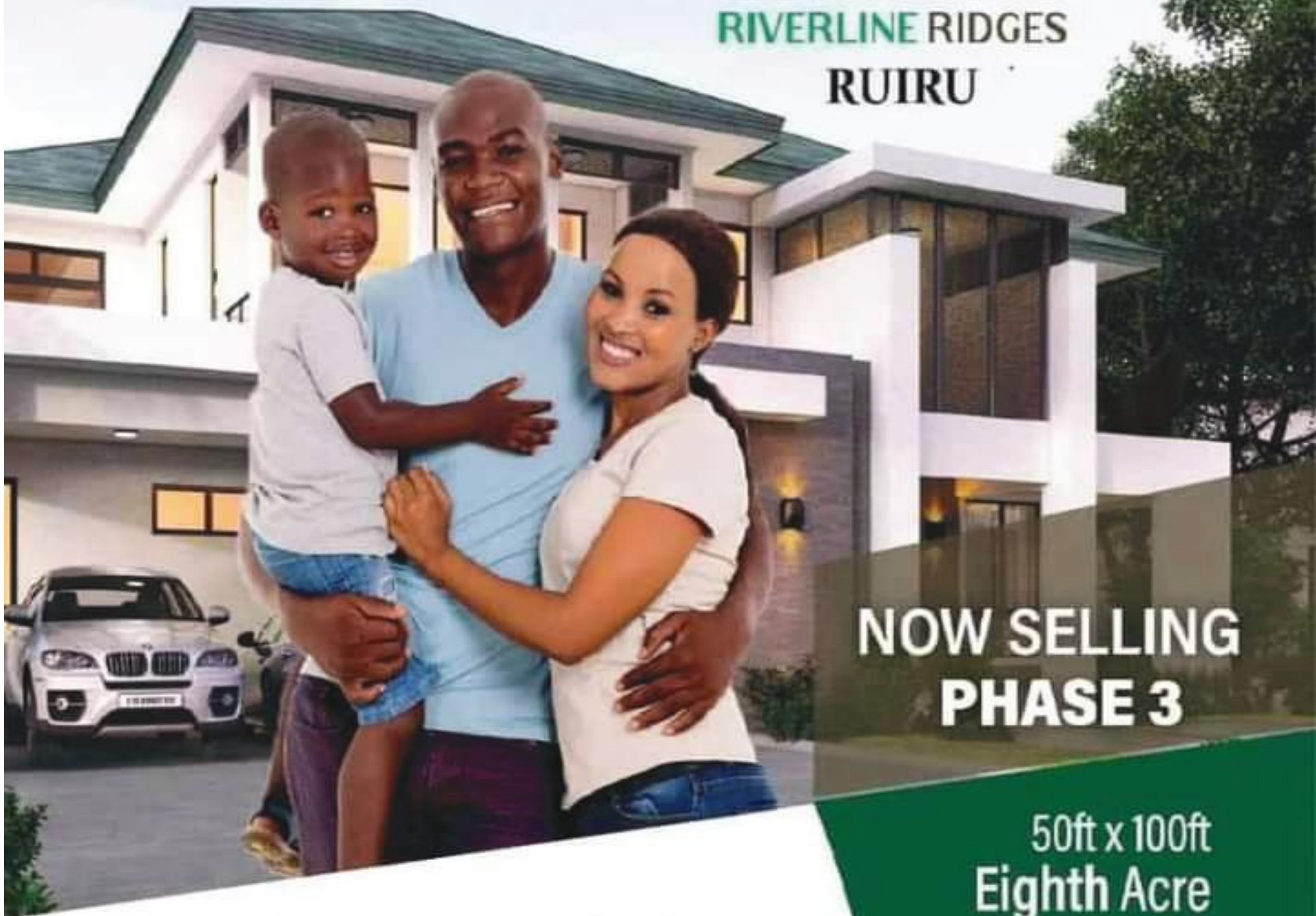
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House Committees To Conduct Comprehensive Public Hearings On Affordable Housing Bill In 19 Counties

By: PSCU

The National Assembly is set to commence public hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill, 2023.

The House through the Departmental Committees on Finance and National Planning and that on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works, has lined up public meetings to jointly collect views from the public on the Bill across nineteen counties, starting today.

According to a two-week program placed in the local dailies and other platforms, scheduled hearings will see the legislators visit Narok, Embu, Kisii, Kirinyaga, Homabay, Kiambu, Vihiga, Machakos, Uasin Ngishu and Turkana Counties.

Other devolved units where lawmakers will collect views include Baringo, Nairobi, Wajir, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Tana River, Kilifi, Nairobi and Mombasa counties.

The Affordable Housing Bill 2023 has already undergone the First

Reading. The Bill was born out of the need to create a comprehensive framework for the affordable Housing Program following a High Court order that declared the housing levy unconstitutional.

The Affordable Housing Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 75 of 2023) sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Kimani Ichung’wah, seeks to provide a legal framework for the establishment of the Affordable Housing Fund, access to affordable housing and to give effect to Article 43(1)(b) of the Constitution on the right to accessible and adequate housing.

The Bill further seeks to impose the Affordable Housing Levy to finance the provision of affordable housing and associated social and physical infrastructure.

In anticipation of the scheduled public hearings, Ichungw’a on Wednesday last week sought to clarify on the public hearings following a recent court order by the High Court sitting in Kisumu that had halted the public participation process in a manner prescribed on an earlier advertisement in the dailies.



Parliament..

The advertisement then had requested the public to send their written submissions as opposed to the current methodology where lawmakers will directly go to the public to seek their views on the Bill.

The orders were issued after litigants moved to court soon after the two House committees in a notice published in the dailies on December 9, 2023, invited the public and stake-

holders to submit memoranda on the Bill.

Ichung’wah noted that the orders by the High Court only apply in respect of the conduct of public participation in the manner indicated in the public participation advert issued on December 9, 2023, on submission of memoranda but they did not entirely halt the public participation process.

“The orders did not prohibit Parlia-

ment from conducting any other form of public participation including undertaking public hearings across the country on the Bill, or the ordinary stakeholder engagements with key sectors, experts, workers, employers, informal sector, political parties, civil society and marginalized communities etc,” he observed.

Nyeri County To Host The 5th Engineering Partnerships Convention

By: William Muchiri
@themtkenyatomes

Nyeri County will host the 5th Engineering Partnerships Convention in May.

The convention is scheduled to take from May 7 to 10.

The forum is aimed at taking stock of the strides made by the Engineering sector as well as reflecting and celebrating the achievements attained and responding to emerging trends and challenges.

Yesterday, the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) team led by the chairperson Engineer Erastus Mwongera, the Registrar and CEO Engineer Margaret Ogai, and other officials from EBK paid a courtesy call to Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga where they briefed him on the upcoming forum.

They among other things, discussed

the essentials of adequate preparation for the national convention which will be held at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) a few kilometres from Nyeri town.

The three-day conference will host over 3,000 participants who will join in both physically and virtually.

The Vice-Chancellor of DeKUT Eng. Prof. Peter Muchiri expressed his optimism in the institution’s capacity to hold a convention of such magnitude and importance.

He at the same time emphasized the convention’s alignment with his institution’s objectives of technological advancements and innovations.

The convention will also seek to showcase Kenya’s engineering innovations and analyze the milestones in engineering over the past 60 years as well as strategize for the future and set new goals and directions for the engineering field.

It will also seek to foster collaboration and networking among pro-

fessionals, innovators, researchers, policymakers, academia, and organizations.

The governor and his team further engaged the engineering fraternity on their professionalism where they expressed their desire in partnering in weeding out quacks in the industry.

They noted that lack of adherence to professionalism standards and ethics have in the past been at the center of collapsed buildings and other malpractices and challenges.

During yesterday’s consultative meeting, the governor was accompanied by among others; his deputy David Kinaniri, County Secretary Benjamin Gachichio, CECM Engineer Abdi Hanif who is in charge of Transport, Public Works, Infrastructure and Energy as well as Chief Officer in the Governor’s office Lucy Kiogora.



Affordable Housing Project Solution To Land Fragmentation - Ruto

The Head Of State Disclosed That His Administration Want Kenyans To Stop Dividing Land And Live In Affordable Housing programme Houses So That The Land They Would Have Settled In Can Be Utilized To Produce Food And Eradicate Hunger

By: PSCU and WILFRED MUCHIRE

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto said the Affordable Housing Programme is one of the areas identified to create jobs and spur the country’s economic growth.
- He said the country must have a conversation on how to promote the programme to run smoothly.
- Earlier, he commissioned the Tinderet integrated technical and trainers college in the same County.
- He announced that an ICT hub has been established at Kaiboi National Polytechnic to help create more job opportunities for the youth.
- “We are committed to ensuring the establishment of ICT hubs in every corner of the country to help create more job opportunities for the youth at the grassroots,” said Dr Ruto.



President William Ruto laying a foundation stone in Kapsabet, Nandi County yesterday.

The implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme will play a pivotal role in safeguarding arable agricultural land from fragmentation, President Ruto has observed.

The President said his government is using the Affordable Housing Programme to cater for the increasing demand for housing in agricultural rich regions.

He noted that if the fragmentation of agricultural land is not managed, the country will soon run out of adequate farming space.

The Head of State explained that the government is keen on supporting farmers to scale up the production of food to help the country attain its food security goals.

“We want you to stop dividing land and live in Affordable Housing programme houses so that we can use the land you would have settled in to produce food and eradicate hunger,”

he noted.

He made the remarks in Kapsabet, Nandi County where he laid the foundation stone for the Emgwen Affordable Housing Project.

The 220 units project will create 500 direct jobs and another 3000 indirect jobs including the local Jua Kali sector stakeholders who will produce 1,200 doors costing about KSh26 million.

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opportunities for the youth.

“We are committed to ensuring the establishment of ICT hubs in every corner of the country to help create more job opportunities for the youth at the grassroots,” said Dr Ruto.

At Kapsabet, the President also commissioned the Nandi Poultry Processing Plant that will handle more than 5,000 birds daily and employing at least 500 people.

He noted that the large-scale value addition that the government is pursuing will ensure that poultry farmers sustainably produce more to support more livelihoods.

Later, he launched the Kaiboi National Polytechnic, Jitume ICT Laboratory and laid the foundation for the ICT Complex at the institution.

The President also inspected the Nandi County Dairy Cooperative Creameries in Kabiyeet.

The 95 per cent complete facility

has a processing capacity of 200,000 litres a day and targets 100,000 farmers in the area.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said the Government is focused on delivering services to the people.

Cabinet Secretary for Land and Housing Alice Wahome, her Education counterpart Ezekiel Machogu, area governor Stephen Sang, and National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, several MPs and MCAs also accompanied the President and his team.

In the recent weeks, President Ruto has launched the Affordable Housing Programme in various parts of the country.

Some of the other counties include Nairobi, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru and Nyandarua.

The Grace To Build



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

For the grace to build to be effective, you must recognize that you are not alone, but with God in this life, His righteous right hand upholds thee. Avoid, and do not let negativity enter your mind, do not entertain. They naysayers tried to discourage Nehemiah on the building of the wall of Jerusalem, but he did not listen to them.

What is needed:

- FAITH
- PARTNER WITH GOD: COVENANT
- COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Note, you must be built, in order to build. In this year 2024, we are rising as Kingdom builders. God told Joshua, I will exalt you in the presence of Israelites, just as I was with Moses, I will be with you. God can open

doors, “Mungu anakunjenga katika mlima wa biashara.”

God is the lifter of men, “ promotion does not come from east or west, it comes from the LORD.” You do NOT have to manipulate, you do NOT have to force it, or fake it. The same God who changed me in the past, is able and will change me to a new vision. Say and believe : “Mungu atanifanya chombo ambayo iita-siaga milima(umaskini, magonjwa). Uwezo wa kukata Pembe za uwovu.”

“Wengi wataona utukufu wa Mungu katika maisha yangu, Neema ya kujenga imeachiliwa kupitia mtumishi wake.” Maajira ya kuinuliwa ya watu wasio wa kawaida: in the mighty name of Jesus.” Moses was a stammer, but God exalted him. Mungu anaweza kufanya chochote anachotaka. He told Moses “ I am going to make you like a god towards Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.” Mungu anapenda hao waliodharauliwa, waliodunishwa ili ajitukuze!

Paul said to Timothy: “ be strengthened by the Grace of God that is in Christ Jesus.”

Read Hebrews 13:9 ; say “I receive an impartation of grace: in the market



place”. Some people have gifts that have never manifested. This year, is a year of manifestation: “For the world awaiteth the MANIFESTATION of the sons of God,...”

Proclaim: “I am UNSTOPPABLE IN THE YEAR 2024, my manifestation has come: my FULL potential. All opposition, all talks, divinations, curses, negative words are destroyed.”

Receive courage you need to face every mountain, every giant. Tell the devil, enough is enough! In Jesus Name: Amen& Amen.

NB: Written in both swahili and English. You can reach out for translation.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as

your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

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CJ's Move To Seek Audience With The President Most Welcome



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Many Kenyans believed that some of the lawyers and judges were birds of same feather. They were very corrupt and eating proceeds of corruption together.
- The high and mighty would always have their way. This is because they had money to buy them. Perhaps, this is what prompted CJ Martha Koome to change her mind.
- This would take me down the memory lane. Why hire lawyer when you can buy a judge? This was a popular phrase during the tenures of the previous administrations.
- As such, this is one of the challenges that President Ruto inherited when he assumed office.
- For the 'corrupt' lawyers, they know they can only have their way if they work with 'corrupt' judges and magistrates.



President William Ruto and Chief Justice Martha Koome at a past event

I have been following closely the war of words pitting President William Ruto and his allies on one hand and Chief Justice Martha Koome, the opposition coalition Azimio and their foot soldiers on the other.

When it started, the first question that came to my mind was. Who will blink first?

Well, the other day the CJ addressed the second press conference on the same matter. Unlike the first one when she came out gun-blazing and cast a demeanor of being ready to face the President head-on, this time she had toned down.

We heard the President. After doing a critical analyses and considering the concerns he had raised, the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) gave me the greenlight to seek audience with the president.

In this meeting, I'm sure we will come up with an amicable solution.

It is worth noting that the CJ softened her hardline stance just four days after members of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) took to the street.

Though President William Ruto was their main target, he remained undeterred. The lawyers had alleged that he was interfering with the independence of the Judiciary. The head of state is out to derail the gains anchored in the new constitution that was promulgated in 2010.

How? They would not convincingly prove their claims.

To me, this would not come as a surprise.

Many Kenyans believed that some of the lawyers and judges were birds of same feather. They were very corrupt and eating proceeds of corruption together.

The high and mighty would always

have their way. This is because they had money to buy them. Perhaps, this is what prompted CJ Martha Koome to change her mind.

This would take me down the memory lane. Why hire lawyer when you can buy a judge? This was a popular phrase during the tenures of the previous administrations.

As such, this is one of the challenges that President Ruto inherited when he assumed office.

For the 'corrupt' lawyers, they know they can only have their way if they work with 'corrupt' judges and magistrates.

This explains why they would come out to defend the 'tainted' judicial officers.

Well, I heard the lawyers challenging President William Ruto to produce evidence to prove his claims. I never heard them piling the same pressure on President Mwai Kibaki and his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta.

So, I would interpret this as a strategy designed to blackmail and intimidate President Ruto. I want to remind them that Dr Ruto is a hard nut to crack. He is also a clever and well schooled leader. Having served the previous administrations, he had also learnt big lessons.

He therefore knows the tricks that the lawyers use to defend their accomplices. Therefore, he is not afraid of facing them head-on.

The Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua have since set the ball rolling. He has announced that he had a water-tight evidence against one of the senior judge which he will present to the Chief Justice this week.

Reacting to lawyers protest, President Ruto stated. I heard some people making noises in the streets. This is what I want to tell them.

My plan to clean the judiciary is unstoppable. The days of 'corrupt' judges are numbered.

It is worth noting the President receives undiluted intelligence briefings on daily basis.

Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga have lately been working very hard to gain political relevance. This explains why he is leading the anti-Ruto brigade.

During the second term of Uhuru Kenyatta presidency, Raila served as a co-principal of the 'Handshake' government.

I never heard him asking President Uhuru Kenyatta to prove his claims whenever he had run-ins with the judiciary.

President Ruto rightly states. As the custodian of the constitution and other written laws, the core mandate of the Judiciary is to interpret the law.

However, it is unfortunate to note that some of the 'corrupt' judges had been rendering decisions that flew in the face of this imperative.

The Judges' endgame was to derail and sabotage my government's efforts to implement the pre-election promises.

As a President, I also took the oath of office to protect, defend and uphold the Constitution of Kenya. So, I want to tell them. We will no longer obey their orders.

I'm not holding brief for the President but contrary to recent media reports he has not changed his position. He was very clear in his mind while calling on the three arms of the government-Executive, Parliament and Judiciary-to live up to their constitutional oath of office. Each arm have a role to play in furthering the common good of the Kenyan public. Let us put the people of Kenya first. Let us work together.

Dr Ruto's critics have been doing very well. This is in terms of distorting and misinterpreting his statements.

At no time did the President say he will not obey court orders. My government remains true to the course of respecting the independence of judiciary and honoring its decisions.

The judges have had a bone to pick with me because I have kept my word that we will never bribe any of them.

During the era of President Mwai Kibaki and predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta, the story was the same.

In numerous occasions, the two leaders used to come out gun blazing. They would accuse the corrupt judges of pushing the agenda of opposition leaders with the ultimate goal of derailing and sabotaging development plan of their respective government.

However, their efforts to clean the rot of judiciary did not bore the fruits.

This brings me to the question. Will President Ruto succeed? Let us pray for him. If he succeed to clean the rot, this will be for the good of all of us as Kenyans.

Last year as he led the nation in marking 60th Mashujaa day celebrations, Dr Ruto reiterated.

The days of public servants and state officers who were contemplating stealing and looting the taxpayers' money were numbered.

He noted that billions of shillings had been allocated to run Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

A huge chunk of the money comes from your pockets, your monthly contributions.

The national and county governments will also allocate more funds to power this noble initiative.

My fellow Kenyans, take I will be hard very on corrupt riddled personalities.

The president had earlier reiterated the place of state officials stealing hard earned public taxes is in jail.

During Devolution Conference held in Eldoret, he had fired a similar warning. He told governors of 47 counties. The national government has been allocating a huge chunk of taxpayer money. Kenyans want to see the value of thier money. What most of you have done so far is below thier expectations.

He spoke as some 8 current and former governors were battling charges of corruption, economic sabotage and abuse of office in court.

This reminded me of what happened in Nigeria when the devolution was introduced. The pioneer county bosses thought that it is time to eat.

Little did they know that then President was a non nonsense man. He was committed to walk the talk in slaying the dragon of corruption. He left half of them in jail when he retired.

Showmax Revolutionizes Streaming In Africa With New Features And Affordable Pricing



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyetimes

In a groundbreaking move for the African streaming landscape, the new Showmax is set to redefine the streaming experience with a refreshed brand, robust content lineup, and competitive pricing. The introduction of the world’s first stand-alone Premier League plan for mobile, offering all 380 live games for just Ksh 500 a month, marks a significant milestone. Marc Jury, CEO of Showmax, highlights the product’s game-changing nature, providing affordable access to football for millions of smartphone users across the continent.

With over 450 million smartphones in Africa, Showmax aims to be the



top streamer on the continent, emphasizing affordability. The Showmax Entertainment plan drops to Ksh 650 a month, while the Showmax Entertainment Mobile plan is offered at an astonishing Ksh 300 a month. Bundled offers starting at Ksh 700 provide additional value.

The success of Showmax’s streaming ambitions hinges on a new

technical platform, developed in collaboration with Comcast’s NBCUniversal and Sky. Leveraging the expertise of thousands of engineers, the platform has a proven track record, streaming major events like Super Bowl LVI and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final. Patrick Miceli, EVP & CTO of NBCUniversal, assures a world-class streaming

experience for Showmax audiences. Showmax’s content expansion includes 21 new Originals launching in February, contributing to a 150% increase in production output. The international partnership with Comcast’s NBCUniversal and Sky ensures a diverse content lineup, featuring popular titles from Universal Pictures, NBC, Peacock, and more.

Paramount, HBO, and other renowned brands add to the rich content offering.

Recognizing the importance of the African market, Showmax CEO Calvo Mawela states, “Nobody understands Africa like we do,” positioning Showmax as a service designed to cater specifically to the continent’s diverse audience.

The new Showmax app, set to launch on January 23, 2024, will be available in app stores across 44 markets. Existing customers will receive communication on the migration process, with full implementation expected by February 12, 2024. The introduction of mobile downloads for offline viewing and a mobile-only plan further enhances accessibility, while partnerships with Moment and DStv offer a broad range of payment options and discounts for subscribers. Showmax’s evolution marks a significant leap forward in the African streaming landscape, promising an exciting era for viewers across the continent.

I&M Bank Expands Its Presence In Kenya, Opens 8 New Branches

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

I&M Bank has opened eight new branches in Kenya as part of its retail expansion strategy to further strengthen its presence in the region. As a leading financial partner for growth, the opening of the new branches has signaled I&M Bank’s commitment to addressing the needs of the people and bridging the gap to financial inclusivity across the country. The newly opened branches across various Kenyan counties bring the bank’s total branch network to 49 in Kenya and 93 regionally.

The eight (8) new branch locations include three in the Coast Region (Diani, Watamu, Kilifi), one in Naivasha, one (1) in Tatu City in Kiambu County, and three within Nairobi County (Eastleigh, Gikomba, and Saifee Park in Langata). The expansion, which puts I&M Bank in 15 Counties, is an early step in a strategic push to be present in all 47 Counties in Kenya through various

distribution channels.

Shameer Patel, I&M Bank’s Executive General Manager – Personal & Business Banking commented on the Bank’s commitment to offering personalized customer-first services and products that will support and uplift individuals and local communities: “Our branch expansion complements our digital services and is a result of our focus to being close to our customers and driving higher personalized engagement. The expansion is geared towards driving financial inclusion and extending our reach to new locations across the Country”, said Mr. Patel.

Three (3) out of the eight (8) new branches are upcycled shipping container branches. This is in line with the Bank’s sustainability agenda exemplified in its green building headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and Kigali, Rwanda.

“As I&M Bank, we recognise the adverse environmental impacts of construction materials extracted through harmful means like quarrying and tree logging,” noted I&M Bank Kenya CEO Mr. Gul Khan.

“Guided by our ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) policy



framework, these three branches are constructed using end-of-life shipping containers and use of solar power as an environmentally friendly alternative to reduce our carbon footprint significantly,” added Mr. Khan.

The container branches were fabricated in partnership with Container Technology (ConTech) Limited, a company that builds modular structures using upcycled end-of-life shipping containers, and the solar installation was provided by East Africa’s largest solar solutions provider Spenomatic Group.

ConTech Managing Director

Naeem Pasta commended the efforts of I&M Bank in realising the lender’s commitment to the environmentally resilient and sustainable growth of their branch network using innovative approaches. “I&M Bank has been our Group’s trusted and reliable banker, contributing significantly to our growth. We are pleased to extend our business relationship into their supply chain environment, offering eco-friendly, rapid-build solutions as they embark on their expansion plan.”

Nikita Surty, Business Head at Spenomatic Group, added, “I&M Bank continues to be a valued partner to

Spenomatic Group in implementing green transitions across East Africa.”

Now in its 50th year, I&M Bank intends to grow its countrywide network by 20 branches in 2024. The outlets will be spread across various counties nationwide.

Under its iMara Strategy, I&M Bank has prioritized expanding its retail services to bring its products closer to Kenyans. This includes introducing innovative retail products, expanding its credit facilities, and eliminating Bank-to-MPESA transaction costs among others.

CJ's Move To Seek Audience With The President Most Welcome

Contd from Page 11.

Since he assumed office, President Ruto has remained consistent and focused in these endeavours. He always escalated the matters by calling on the heads of the anti-graft bodies to live up to thier oath of office. There are no sacred cows in my government. You have my full support.

Turning to elected leaders, he always reminded them that they were not above the law. You must be accountable to the electorates. If not, you are not worth to be called leaders. They did not elect you to steal thier resources.

The President's interventions have been resonating very well with the masses because this signaled a radical departure from Uhuru Kenyatta's presidency.

Uhuru was known for talking tough but without taking any tangible action.

There was a time he said that Sh2 billion was being stolen every day in Kenya but this matter ended there.

The head of public service Felix Koskei announced a few days ago that

Ruto administration is in the process of setting an inquiry to look at this matter.

As of now, we cannot tell whether what the former President said is true or not. Koskei further stated that a donor have agreed to fund the inquiry.

Having said this, I want to assure Kenyans that President Ruto is committed to win the war against graft. You can take this to the bank. Koskei, the head of public service spoke at the Bomas of Kenya where he was hosted by the civil society organizations involved in the fight against.

Back to Uhuru, he had earlier shocked Kenyans when he hosted the heads of anti-graft bodies at State House Nairobi.

Though one would have expected him to take on them for frustrating his administration's efforts to fight mega corruption scandals, he instead appeared helpless as he threw his hands in air. He posed: What do you want me to do? Kenyans interpreted this to mean they were on thier own.

President Ruto again took a bold move when he thwarted a plot to steal Sh3.7 billion from the Global Fund earmarked for purchasing and supplying mosquito nets to tens of thousands of downtrodden Kenyans.

He fired the senior officials at the Ministry of Health and Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) who had been adversely mentioned.

He also called for the prosecution of the culprits.

The other day we saw Koskei unveiling a raft of measures aimed at streamlining the water works sector.

At Athi Water Works Development Agency, he announced the cancellation of the contract of the Chief Executive Officer and anti graft bodies to commence investigations against him.

At KFS, President Ruto endorsed the decision of the board to sack and send 29 managers and forest rangers packing. Those culpable should face the law.

The claims by Azimio leader Raila Odinga and his brigade were mainly politically motivated and geared towards settling political scores. Raila never believed that he can lose elections to Dr Ruto.

This is because he was enjoying the support 'Handshake' partner President Uhuru Kenyatta. This is the first time he enjoyed the backing of the outgoing President.

In yester years, Azimio leader Raila Odinga had curved a niche of being a whistleblower. He had indeed become a household during the reign of President



Chief Justice Martha Koome

Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

He had unearthed and exposed a number of mega corruption scandals.

He would play this role when he was fighting and pushing these governments to succumb to his demands.

Once he had fought his way and occupied his seat at the high table where the national cake is being shared, he always become contented.

We know today he is harboring a major grudge with the current government of

President Ruto.

As such, he could have been in forefront of exposing the so called corruption scandals if they ever existed.

He would not dare to do this. Reason? He knew he would end up being embarrassed and ashamed because of peddling outright lie.

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

Five Reasons Why Businesses Should Make Social Media Analytics A Priority In 2024



By: Veerakumar Natrajan, Country Head - Kenya, Zoho Corp.



Statistics show that Kenya leads East Africa when it comes to mobile connections and social media users, sitting at 63.94 million connections and 10.55 million users respectively. This alone requires every business to have a strong social media presence in order to tap a wider audience for their products and services. That said, being active on social media without measuring the impact is like painting a picture with your eyes closed. It won't give you good re-

sults, and whatever minimal benefits you get out of it are purely by luck.

If you're managing a social media account, it's crucial to analyse and understand your followers. Below are five top reasons why you need to start analysing the data from your business' social media campaigns and even consider adopting business intelligence platforms like Zoho Analytics, which offer direct integration with top social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, YouTube, and

more.

It will help you understand your audience better. Understanding your audience will help you create content that resonates better with them. Knowing which age group and industry your audience belongs to will go a long way towards creating targeted content.

You can measure the impact of your ad campaigns. Are you measuring the reach and impact of your social media ad campaigns? Are your ads leading people to your landing

pages? Are you getting sufficient conversions from these campaigns? Which ads are performing well? These are some of the questions you might want to ask once you launch a new ad campaign on Instagram, TikTok, X, Facebook, or YouTube.

It will assist you in identifying content that works. Creating the right content keeps your audience engaged and increases your brand awareness. This will help you plan and create tailor-made content that will strike the right chord with your

followers. This will also significantly reduce the time you might otherwise spend on guesswork and iterations.

It is a way to analyse your competitors' strategies. While you plan, execute, and experiment with your social media strategy, you can also learn a lot from your competitors. You can instantly track key metrics on post frequency, engagement, and even the keywords used—among many other options. Using this knowledge, you can make necessary changes and evolve your social strategy to increase your reach and outperform your competition.

Finally, it will provide a boost to your ROI. At the end of the day, it all comes down to having a good return on investment from all your marketing efforts and money spent. This return could be things like increased conversions or sales, better brand awareness, a reduced load on technical support teams, or boosted website traffic and customer engagement.

Mother



By: Bobojonova Rukhshona

What a beautiful word. There are so many meanings in this word. A mother sacrifices her life for her children even when she has the last resort.

A mother is such a breed, the closest friend, confidante and pain-bearer.

There was a girl named Sadiyya. She used to fight with everyone, yelled at her mother every day and argued with her father. Sadiyya was an intelligent girl with a thirst for knowledge and education. Something happened that she fell into a lot of stress. Then she became very nervous, belligerent and a street girl.

One day, they were invited to a training session at a college near their high school. Sadia and 5

other friends went to the training session. The training was based on the topic of "Terrorist currents". From this, the girls knew that the topic was about the headscarf. Because they are allowed to wear headscarves in the high school. Sadia's cousin and 2 of her friends were also wearing headscarves. During the training, the girls received answers to many of their questions, and at the end of the training, a wise woman gave such a definition of a mother that all the girls in the hall were proud of being a child and thanked God for the happiness of being a mother.

The definition was as follows: "When a girl child comes into the world, she comes with her paradise, that is, the mother becomes one paradise. Because when a woman is about to give birth to a child, she is carrying one heaven with her. For example, heaven has food to eat, but it cannot be taken out. A child in the mother's womb also has food to eat, but it cannot be taken out. When he was born, heaven fell under his mother's feet, and that's why he said, "Heaven is under the feet of mothers." After that, Sadiyya also started to be kind and attentive to her parents.

Bobojonova Rukhshona is a 2nd year student of TashDO'TAU academic lyceum in Tashkent city

Independent Change



By: Koshimmatova Charos

Dilnavaz came from school and went to his mother. Mother, what were you interested in when you were young? Mother thought for a while and answered, "I was more interested in painting and creativity." Hearing her mother's answer, she immediately ran to her room. She opened those 2 personal diaries and told her about her goals and interests. Then she began to write down the thoughts that came to her mind one by one. He was interested in learning languages. When Dilnavaz woke up in the morning, he fell asleep on a book. Then, while turning the pages of Paulo Coelho's book The Alchemist, in his mind he thought of a girl with wild dreams, that is, himself. Then Dilnavaz witnessed another new side of himself. He began to write poetry on a white sheet next to him while imagining his dreams. His first poem is as follows:

My distant relatives

In the people of Turkmenistan,
My aunt lives.
Her name is Erur Manzura,
My dear sweetheart.

Two girls, one boy,
They grew up.
When your children grow up,
They really want to see.

My aunt Manzura,
You are the epitome of fortitude.
Women's clothing
Fierce and without fire.

Dilfuza, who is my sister,
She is a gentle woman.
There is no equal in beauty,
Bamisoli is the sun.

My brother Azizbek,
Very kind to me.
The boy's school,
Without you brother.

A sweet word is peace to hearts,
The flowers are without tulips.
Her name is Erur Gullola,
You are a beautiful sister.

Shirinsoz is also kind,
There is magic in his eyes.
My sister is Dilraba,
Very beautiful priceless.

who knew my messenger,
My aunt taught me
Jalaluddin, who is my brother,
He is very handsome.

His first poem was dedicated to his uncle in Turkmenistan. No one knew about his poem. Of course, except for his teacher. His native language and literature teacher named Karima saw his first poem and told him that you must be your own poet. He told me that you will publish your book. Dilnavaz practiced poetry with great hopes. When the total reached 40, she finally handed it over to the publisher. After 1 month, she came home and said, "My dear, I'm here, look, this is my first book, this is my dream, dear." My mother gently wiped the tears from her eyes, and congratulated my daughter, may God bless you always. he prayed for a long time for your face to be bright. Dilnavaz was happy and this first one increased his confidence by saying that he will conquer many milestones ahead. Dilnavaz continued to write poems again.

Koshimmatova Charos is an 8th-grade student of school 44, Gurlan district, Khorezm region. In particular, she won the 2nd place in the contest "I am a follower of Zulfiyakhanim".

Is Phone Useful For Pupil?



We all know that modern equipment is of great importance in human life today, when techniques and technologies are developed. One such device is the phone, and not only adults, but also many young people spend a lot of time on the phone. At this point, a question arises: How correct is it for schoolchildren to use phones?

Many people find this situation correct, because they believe that today it is difficult to get an education without a phone, in general, without mobile devices (especially students who are preparing for higher education). In a sense they are right, because indeed many books and information are now available only in electronic format. In addition, in today's increasingly crowded cities and social dangers, parents can give their children a phone to know where they are and what they are doing.

On the other hand, parents are giving their school-aged children a lot of freedom by giving them phones. If this freedom is not controlled, children who have not yet fully formed their worldview may unknowingly go down various wrong paths, use the phone ineffectively because their goals are not yet clear, engage in useless chats and various games excessively. can take a lot of time. Research shows that today, seventy percent of people

with diagraphophobia (fear of being without a phone or losing it) are children under the age of eighteen. For this reason, many parents believe that children should not be given phones, and teachers usually agree. Because the inefficient use of the phone has a significant negative impact on the child's education.

Analyzing the opinions of both sides, we see that both sides have their own reasons. In my opinion, it all depends on the child. The phone has many features for quick and easy learning. If the child's age, worldview and responsibility are taken into account, as well as why the parent is giving the phone to the child before giving it to him, it should not distract the child from studying, but on the contrary, it should be an aid to his education and the phone should be wrong. If the consequences of using the phone are explained, problems caused by the phone can be avoided.

With the above in mind, I believe it is right for students to use phones.

Umirzakova Barno

Umirzakova, daughter of Barno Akram, was born in 2007 in Juma, Pastdargom district, Samarkand region. She is currently a 10th grader at School 69.

She is the author of many scientific and journalistic articles and poems regularly published in international magazines.

Participant of the almanacs "Giovani Uzbek i di talento" published in Italy and "Talented youth from Uzbekistan" published in Egypt. The first author's book was published in America under the name "A drop from the sea".

The Autumn Air Is Unstable



The autumn air is unstable,
Sometimes it's sunny, sometimes it's raining.
That's why Spring, Autumn
Enter the inevitable secret.

An example could be
From summer to winter:
Baba Anwar also wrote,
Surprised by this work:

"The advice is this:
The two of us -
Let's gather strength together.

Then Autumn and Spring
Let's get rid of it.

Mediocrity, warmth
Who needs it, it's interesting!
It is necessary to be in life
It's bitterly cold,
It's hot."

No wonder Summer and Winter,
He didn't think straight.
Autumn, summer and winter without a dream,
I didn't know it wouldn't happen.

Farzona HOSHIMOVA

January 8- People's poet of Uzbekistan, "Shu it is the birthday of Anvar Obidjan, winner of the "Uhrat" medal, the pride of our Ferghana, the favorite writer of children.
Similar to Anvar Abidjon's poem "Winter's Letter to Summer

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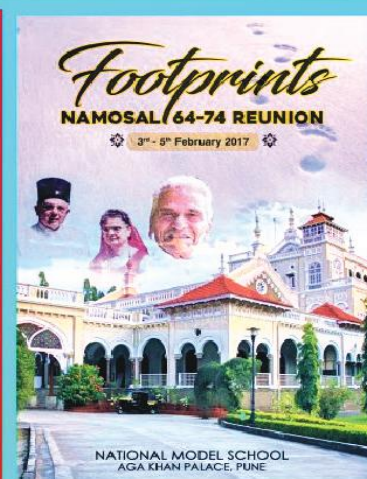
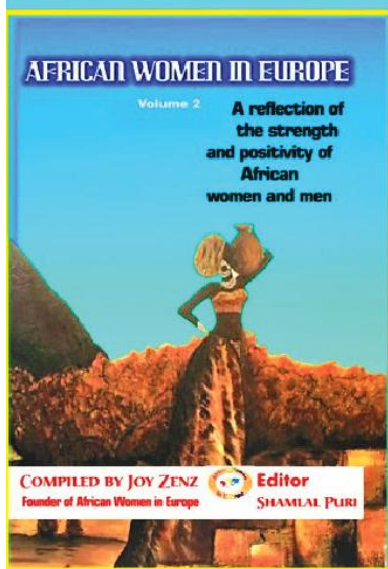
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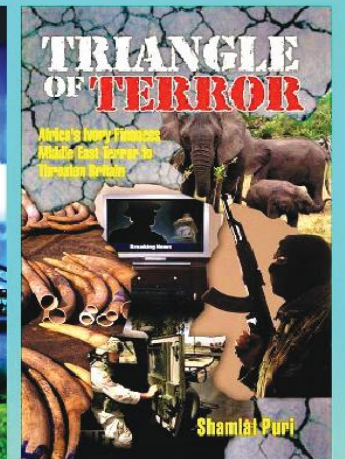
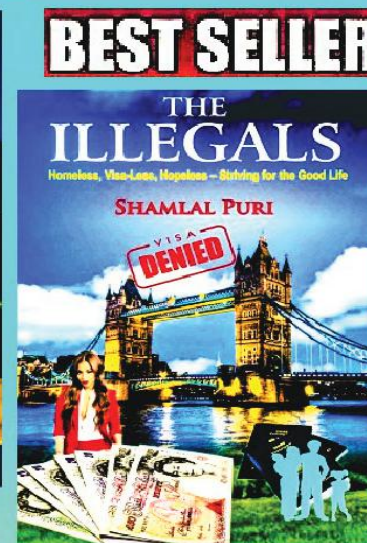
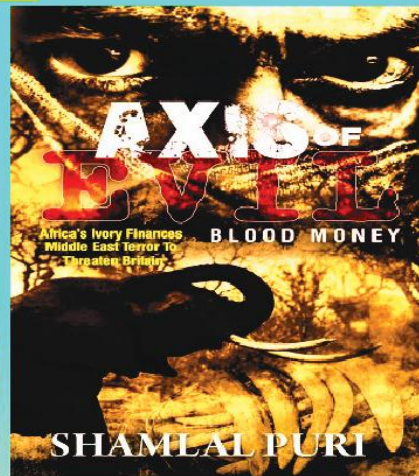
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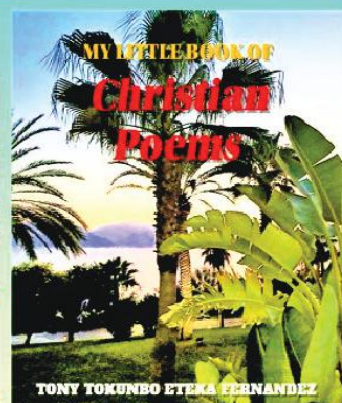
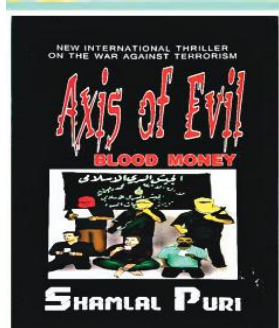
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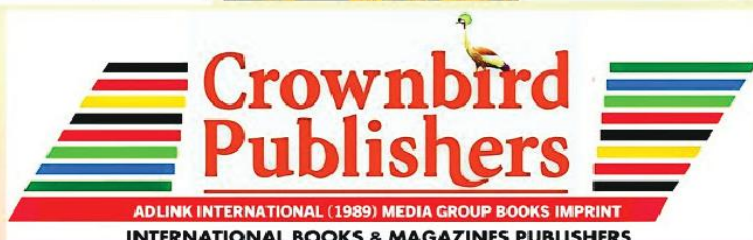


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CRIME

Thika Villagers Up In Arms As Armed Gang Terrorize Them

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyatimes

Villagers in Karibaribi area of Thika constituency, Kiambu County are now living at the mercy of an armed gang that has been terrorizing them for the past one month.

The criminals are said to have been breaking into their homesteads at night stealing assorted items including food items, livestock and house appliances.

The armed crooks are also said to have been raiding shops stealing money among other items before fleeing using unnumbered motorbikes.

A tour in the area revealed that over 80 per cent of homesteads within the scarcely populated but geographically expansive village have been affected by increased crimes that are now giving locals sleepless nights.

According to Wahito Wa Kariuki whose 10 sheep were recently stolen



One of the victims showing an empty pen.

from their pen, the criminals could be using anaesthetic drugs to sedate the unsuspecting residents as no one has ever been arrested or heard orchestrating the robbery.

Kariuki decried that the sheep which she thought would multiply to help

her raise her children were all stolen in one night, a situation that impoverished her and made her lose taste in being a livestock farmer.

Speaking at her home, Kariuki lamented that despite a police post being a few meters from her home,

nothing substantial has been done to contain the crime that has spread in the entire village.

"They stole the sheep I thought I would multiply to help me earn a living to easily bring up my children. They left me with nothing and I don't know how to start again," said Kariuki.

Wanjaria Njararui, another resident decried that despite locals having conducted security meetings in the area involving all stakeholders, enhancing the movement of police by buying them a motorbike and enhancing security at their homes by erecting security lights, the crime is still prevalent.

Njararui revealed that locals are now sleeping in shifts to guard their property from further damage and theft.

"They have stolen most of the livestock and farm items and the crime is still there. They might soon start stealing dogs as no one is willing to keep livestock any longer. We have

bought special torches, installed security lights among other measures to tame the thieves. We are asking the government to come to our rescue now that we have exhausted most of the means," said Njararui.

Zachary Munyambu, another resident narrated how the criminals raided her retail shop along the Thika-Magumu highway, tied her wife and area security guard before they stole unspecified amount of money.

"The criminals who had a gun tricked my wife who was outside the shop to sell them airtime. As she entered the shop, they followed her and tied her. A security guard at the premise who came to her rescue was also tied. They stole all they wanted including money, sodas among other items," narrated Munyambu.

Tired of the increased crimes, the residents called on the government to swiftly come to their rescue to enable them go about their businesses smoothly.

Boost For Customer-Facing Staff As Pesapal Introduces A Digital Tipping Solution

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Pesapal, a leader in building payments and business tools for Africa, has released a new feature that allows customers to add a tip directly on its POS devices.

This new feature will be available on all Pesapal Sabi POS terminals and aims to make tipping easier and more convenient as cashless transactions continue to grow across East Africa.

"As transactions go cashless, we are adapting our POS machines to accommodate digital tipping. With this new feature, we are providing a convenient way for customers to show their appreciation for good service," Pesapal Technical Director Fred Mwangima said.

According to McKinsey Global Payment Map, Africa's domestic e-payments market is expected to see revenues grow by approximately 20 per cent per year, reaching around \$40 billion by 2025. With this new fea-



Pesapal Introduces A Digital Tipping Solution.

ture, customers can now effortlessly include a tip to their total bill amount right on the POS machine, eliminating the hustle of searching for cash tips.

"We are responding to the current dynamics of the payment landscape that has seen a surge in digital payments. Tipping is a great incentive for atten-

dants to provide great service, but it has become more difficult in the post-covid era as most consumers migrate toward cashless transactions," Pesa-

pal Group CEO Agosta Liko said.

The introduction of this new feature makes the checkout process simple for both the merchant and their customers. When the customer is ready to pay, the POS will display the total amount due, along with options for adding a tip. Customers can choose from preset tip percentages or enter a custom amount. The tip amount is then added to the total bill, and the transaction is complete. The tip will then be directly transferred to their mobile wallet.

In recent years, merchants across multiple industries, including hospitality, retail, service, entertainment, healthcare, and fuel stations, have embraced digital technology. Advances in payment acceptance have led to transformative results, and the digital tipping experience will be an extension of that push to digitize these industries.

Merchants who already have the terminal can easily activate the feature through a simple software update.



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Disease-Resistant Seeds, Grain Dryers, Necrosis Containment: Govt Activates Food Security Campaign In South Rift

By: Capital Correspondent

The government has activated a multi-pronged approach to support Kenya's efforts to attain self-reliance on food as Kilimo House unveiled more grain dryers in the South Rift region on Tuesday.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi also unveiled disease-resistant seeds aimed at boosting farmers' yields even as he announced a campaign to combat necrosis in maize.

Speaking at the National Cereals and Produce Board grounds in Bomet County during the launch of the Kenya Seed Company Depot in the area, Linturi said farmers in the South Rift region can now access quality seeds that are resistant to diseases.

The Cabinet Secretary said his Ministry is actively collaborating with stakeholders in the maize sub-sector to address challenges hindering optimal crop production including initiatives to combat the deadly Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND).

He also added that the main challenges facing maize farmers in the



Linturi said farmers in the South Rift region can now access quality seeds that are resistant to diseases/Kilimo House

region include; diseases like MLND, high post-harvest losses due to limited drying facilities, and limited access to quality certified maize seeds.

"The inauguration of the Kenya Seed Company Depot in Bomet County is an initiative aimed at combating fake seeds, improve access to agronomic technologies, mitigate MLND threats, and reduce the distance farmers need to travel for farm inputs in Bomet and neighboring

counties of Narok, Kisii, and Kericho," added the CS.

Linturi also flagged off four mobile maize dryers with a capacity of ten to fourteen tons to tackle post-harvest losses in Bomet, Narok and neighbouring Counties.

"The mobile maize dryers will be used by farmers in the larger South Rift region at the NCPB depots. We have already procured 100 mobile grain dryers with. Currently, forty

three dryers have been delivered and distributed to various NCPB Depots," he said.

Seed inspectors

He further stated that his Ministry will increase the number of seed inspectors to enhance surveillance in maize seed farms and agro vet shops nationwide to remove fake seeds from agro vet outlets and tackle maize diseases.

Bomet Governor Dr. Hillary Barchok who also graced the event welcomed the opening of the Kenya Seed Company Depot facility in the area terming it a big boost for farmers in the region.

"Bomet is known for maize farming, unfortunately for the last 13 years we have been supplied with fake seeds but with this new development, we are now guaranteed quality seeds and improved production," said Barchok.

The Principal Secretary State Department of Crop Development Dr. Paul Rono who was also present warned middle men who sell fake seeds to farmers adding that the Ministry will improve surveillance to curb the incidents.

"Anyone selling fake seeds must be ready to face a fine of Ksh 1 million or face six months imprisonment or both. Our farmers deserve quality inputs to enable them to succeed," added the PS.

The event was also attended by Kenya Seed Company MD Sammy Kiplagat Chepsiror, Bomet County Commissioner Dr Ahmed Omari, local MPs and MCAs, officials from national and county levels of government.

ANAF Meeting Kicks Off In Kenya To Chart A Course For Aquaculture's Role In Africa's Food Security

By: Capital Correspondent

The 2nd General Assembly Congress of Aquaculture for Africa (ANAF) kicked off in Naivasha on Monday, with more than a hundred delegates from all African states and representatives from regional economic communities attending.

Also present during the three-day continental event that has been hosted by the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) are development partners drawn from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and officials from the Kenyan Government.

The meeting comes at a critical moment when the continent is reviewing its food security policies amidst major global disruption in the food supply chains.

During the meeting, various stake-

holders will review ways of enhancing aquaculture development in Africa, to ensure there is sufficient fish production and empowerment of communities.

AU-IBAR Director Dr Huyam Salih said the participants will also be looking into ways of promoting Africa's aquaculture production and ways for governments to partner with the private sector, in a bid to promote the sector and eliminate existing challenges.

"Governments' participation in their own continental organization and developing a work programme based on their common problems bestows assurance that appropriate strategies are engaged to resolve priority issues, create wider impact and efficiently perform more effectively in its institutional roles," Dr Salim said.

While Africa has a significant potential, she said the current aquaculture production is still low, for it to



sustainably feed a growing population and provide employment and social economic development needs.

Only 600,000 people are directly employed in the sector, in a continent of more than a billion people,

with Africa contributing a meager 6 percent in global fish production.

Speaking during the event, State Department of Fisheries and the Blue Economy in Kenya's Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and

Maritime Affairs Principal Secretary Betsy Njagi said Aquaculture is a critical component of aquatic food systems.

Contemporary Methods In The Elementary School System



By: Buriboyeva Dinora
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- According to the creative methodological structure of teaching through the technology of the structure, the creative lesson is quite different from the traditional lesson and accomplishes the aims of creative education with blocks that cover the lesson's purpose. The child primarily grows in this, strengthens his memory, and avoids becoming bored during the session. The curriculum aims to elevate students to a new level of intelligence and radically change their modes of thinking. because we employ a visual aids-based teaching methodology.
- D. B. Elkonin asserts that the degree of student ability development and the quantity and caliber of knowledge learned during the teaching process define how effective an educational program is.

This page should effectively arrange the changes occurring in the educational system today, as well as the development processes in contemporary schools, Uzbekistan's modern approaches to primary education, methods, approaches, accomplishments, and deficiencies of the educational process. On the basis of ADVANCED FOREIGN EXPERIENCE, grades 1-4 were created.

For this reason, textbooks based on "Advanced Foreign Experience" were used in classes 1-4, while the STEAM technique was used in the creation of lesson plans for classes 5-11. Classes are being held based on this material as of September 2023. Up until now, integration has been the foundation for teaching in primary education. A pupil in junior high school views the world as a whole.

The noises, colors, and range of sizes in the world around him pique his curiosity more than the names of academic subjects like music, natural science, or the Russian language. Since daily life is more fascinating to them, these things ought to be taught in a way that builds upon one another in order to help the child remember them.

It serves as a methodical manual for integrating the system of making connections between subjects in order to learn the fundamental sciences and comprehend the rules governing the universe. An integrated lesson that promotes repeating the knowledge learned in prior educational classes is the examination of concepts. The lesson is free-form and creative, yet it follows a logical, essential development. During the inspection, the appropriateness of the subjects for integration and the selection of methods and methods, taking into consideration the child's age and mental capacities, are the variables leading to active mental activity in the process of educational subject integration.

According to the creative methodological structure of teaching through the technology of the structure, the creative lesson is quite different from the traditional lesson and accomplishes the aims of creative education with blocks that cover the lesson's purpose. The child primarily grows in this, strengthens his memory, and avoids becoming bored during the session. The curriculum aims to elevate students to a new level of intelligence and radically change their modes of thinking. because we employ a visual aids-based teaching methodology.

D. B. Elkonin asserts that the degree of student ability development and the quantity and caliber of



Contemporary Methods In The Elementary School System..

knowledge learned during the teaching process define how effective an educational program is. One of a person's attributes is their ability growth, which also affects how effective an activity is. In the context of this program's implementation, an individual's ability is crucial for increasing the functional system. Primary school students are engaged in active educational activities by the educational structure that impacts their development. They learn different kinds of active activities by using different tools, thinking critically about amazing objects, solving puzzles, and solving riddles, all of which contribute to the students' development.

Every instruction has the power to kindle a child's potential. The child starts to have the power to spark, and it must pass for a minor invention. The entire educational process is made intriguing, unusual, and exciting by even minor gains in self-awareness of the outside world and self-awareness. Why are kids able to display themselves to their peers? His capacity to demonstrate it is crucial. For them to benefit from this, chances must be created.

For instance, first graders might use their imagination to plan their activities as an unending adventure and creative imagination. Students gain an understanding of the fundamentals of imagination through this, and stories, poetry, riddles, and fairy tales are developed based on these ideas. The educational process has an increasing effect on how controllably creative children may express themselves. Students should be able to autonomously create stories and fairy tales by the conclusion of the school year, and they should understand how systems work internally. In addition to being able to perform

a lot of things on their own, second graders should be able to engage their imagination in the classroom and produce short stories, novellas, and fairy tales based on topics.

Children will be able to construct a new educational story based on the topics covered in the textbook or a new "Book of Fairy Tales" from fairy tales related to various subjects in the third grade, where they will have a different activity environment. Third graders' primary goal is to study, and they are able to automatically recognize system interdependencies and organize systems into departments.

Third graders are interested in a variety of topics, and they want to ask questions and receive answers about those topics. Given their widening worldview, the questions and answers they provide may come from a variety of professions.

Fourth graders are able to write a variety of stories and fairy tales with ease and freedom. Teachers and students work together to provide education, and as part of this process, a person's upbringing, education, and personal growth are all put into practice. Through exercises, the teacher imparts his knowledge, skills, and abilities to the students during the classes. As a result of mastering these abilities, the students get the capacity to employ them throughout their lives. Students employ a variety of learning methods during the process, such as Individuals rely on particular variations in processing and application of the knowledge they are learning. During the educational process, problems related to education and upbringing are resolved through collaborative efforts between educators and learners, individual student work, and extracurricular involvement.

The use of interactive techniques, approaches, and information technology in the classroom is becoming more and more popular these days. One of the causes of this is that, up until now, students in traditional education were only taught how to obtain pre-made knowledge; but, with the use of contemporary technologies, they can now do independent research, think critically, and analyze the information they learn. Because they learn to think for themselves, even the final conclusions are taught by the pupils.

During this process, the teacher not only fulfills the roles of management and supervision, but also establishes the conditions necessary for the individual's growth, formation, learning, and raising. In today's classroom, techniques like "Brainstorming," "Thoughtstorming," "Networks" method, "Sinquain," "BBB," "Fifth plus," "Find a partner," "Debate," and "Role-playing" are employed. , Teaching procedures include FSMU, "Working in small groups," "Rounded snow," "Zigzag," and "I will say the last word."

Finally, it ought to be mentioned that. Every educator ought to be capable of delivering a creative lesson in his own unique way. Young employees should gain more knowledge and expertise in order to do this. The competitiveness of the educational system and the advancement of science determine a nation's economic might as well as the increase in social and spiritual life.

Buriboyeva Dinora. 2nd grade student of the Bachelor's degree in Primary Education at the Kimyo International university in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Dinaraomono6@gmail.com

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Sports >> *Jose Mourinho's time at Roma came to an end on Tuesday after the Serie A club sacked the "Special One" midway through what has been a deeply disappointing third season in the Italian capital.

Roma Sack Mourinho, Eye Former Star De Rossi As Successor



(FILES) AS Roma's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho takes off his runners-up medal after the UEFA Europa League final football match between Sevilla FC and AS Roma at the Puskas Arena in Budapest on May 31, 2023. (Photo by Odd ANDERSEN/AFP).

By Agencies

Jose Mourinho's time at Roma came to an end on Tuesday after the Serie A club sacked the "Special One" midway through what has been a deeply disappointing third season in the Italian capital.

Mourinho departs Roma after an emotional two-and-a-half years in which he won Europa Conference League in 2022, ending a 14-year trophy drought for the capital club.

Roma said that Mourinho would leave alongside his staff "with immediate effect", adding that it was "in the best interests of the club" after a series of poor results left the team way off the pace in the Italian top flight.

Italian media report that former Roma captain Daniele De Rossi, a World Cup winner with Italy in 2006, is the favourite to replace Mourinho as coach.

Mourinho's contract was due to expire in June and although he had repeatedly stated that he

wanted to stay on, talks about an extension to his deal never materialised.

Rumours of his departure grew more persistent after Sunday's dismal 3-1 defeat at AC Milan which left Roma ninth in Serie A, five points away from the Champions League positions.

"We would like to thank Jose on behalf of all of us at AS Roma for his passion and efforts since his arrival at the club," said owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin in a statement.

"We will always have great memories of his tenure at Roma, but we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club."

"We wish Jose and his assistants all the best in their future endeavours."

The 60-year-old Portuguese was a shock appointment in 2021, Roma's announcement of his arrival as the replacement to Paulo Fonseca coming almost completely out of the blue.

- Fan favourite -

He immediately became a huge fan favourite, with his image popping up on walls around Rome as supporters dreamed of success under one of football's greatest ever coaches.

And in his first season he guided Roma to the inaugural Conference League, a triumph which brought Mourinho to tears on the pitch and made him an almost God-like figure to one Europe's most passionate and success-starved fan bases.

He then came to within a penalty shootout of winning back-to-back European finals, Roma falling at the last hurdle against Sevilla in last season's Europa League.

That was a defeat which both enraged Mourinho and supporters, who attacked referee Anthony Taylor with chairs at Budapest's Ferenc Liszt airport in anger at what they considered

bad decisions which cost their team the trophy.

However the magic between Mourinho and the fans began to wear off this term, with poor results and performances partly due to a raft of injuries and summer transfers which haven't worked out.

Roma have failed to qualify for the money-spinning Champions League under Mourinho's charge, a big problem for a club operating under Financial Fair Play constraints which struggles to balance its books.

De Rossi is another idol for Roma fans as a local boy done good who played in some of the club's best teams of the last two decades, alongside fellow icon Francesco Totti.

The 40-year-old has little pedigree as a coach however, his only job at SPAL lasting just four months last season, which finished with the team being relegated to the third-tier Serie C.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Cabinet secretary for Youth and Sports Affairs Ababu Namwamba has reiterated his ministry’s tough stance on doping across all sporting activities in the country

We’ll Uphold Zero Tolerance For Doping, Says Sports CS Namwamba



Youth Affairs, Sports and Arts Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba at a past meeting with the Talanta Hela Council.

Cabinet secretary for Youth and Sports Affairs Ababu Namwamba has reiterated his ministry’s tough stance on doping across all sporting activities in the country. Speaking at a sports partners meeting in Nairobi on Tuesday, Namwamba bemoaned the malpractice and warned athletes of tough penalties should they be found culpable. “Today and forever, zero tolerance for doping. And we are confronting doping in a systematic way deliberate, intentional and structural manner like Kenya has ever done before,” the CS said.

The minister’s sentiments come after nearly 70 Kenyan athletes—mostly long-distance runners—failed drug tests in the last five years alone, prompting a ban from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Namwamba further revealed that the ministry signed partnership deals with the US National Basketball Association (NBA) to develop the game in the country. On music and acting, he detailed how a deal signed with Grammy and animation studios will not only grow the entertainment industry to a global stage but also

see the animation studios shoot 15 premier movies in different parts of the country this year. More bilateral agreements, he added, with countries like China, France, and Mozambique and Angola will put the country on the global map, not just in sports affairs but in the arts as well. “Last year, our boxers travelled to train in Cuba under such agreement as part of a partnership between the government of Kenya and Cuba to grow the game,” he further added. Quizzed on the chances of national team Harambee Stars excelling

at Afcon 2027, the lawyer cum politician expressed optimism that Kenya will post incredible results. He urged corporations and partnerships to come on board in preparing the country for the continental football showpiece that Kenya is co-hosting with Tanzania and Uganda.

By Citizen Sports

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Interpretation Of The Image Of The Heroes In The Novel “Between Two Doors” By Otkir Hashimov

By: Muzaffarova Feruzabonu
Yodgor

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- In the character of Muzaffar in the work, one can see the image of a sincere person who has experienced many difficulties. Especially, the image of the elder Arif gives the novel its charm. His humanitarianism, the reputation he gained among people, and his strength to overcome difficulties in the most difficult moments will be imprinted in the reader's memory.
- When talking about the image of Robiya, the reader imagines the qualities typical of a real Uzbek girl: beautiful, hardworking, sincere, with long hair. Fate does not smile at Robiya. Robiya, orphaned by her mother since she was young, grows up under the care of her father. How complicated the fate of people in the work is can be seen in the image of Robiya alone.



Author Otkir Hashimov.

Annotation: In this article, the novel “Between Two Doors” by Otkir Hashimov, a well-known writer of Uzbekistan, is partially analyzed, the life path, positive and negative characters of the heroes of the work, and the complexity of human life are discussed.

Key words: humanitarianism, “Between Two Doors”, hero, pathos, novel.

Although O'tkir Hashimov's novel “Between Two Doors” was written in 1986, it is one of the masterpieces that readers have not lost their hands to today. A reader who reads the work will have a strange feeling in his heart. In the novel, the scenes of the bloody war of the last century are illuminated by the example of the fate of people. At the same time, through the system of events in the play, it is said that the war left an indelible mark on the hearts of every

family member. There is a saying in the work, “Between the truth and the lie - four latitudes”. This single proverb compares the difference between the change of a person's destiny for the better or for the worse to four steps. This is characterized by the writer's deep understanding of all aspects of life, skillfully interpreting this fact in the case of the heroes of the work. At the same time, there are four latitudes between a person's eyes and ears. There is a saying in our people, “Believe what you see, not what you hear.” This is also a sign that our wise people have tasted the bitter and sweet life and that they have come to a deep meaningful conclusion.

The skill of the writer is that the person who reads the work feels the inner experiences of the hero. When they cry, he cries, and when they rejoice, he rejoices with them.

The scenes of life depicted in the work, interpersonal relations, their

dialogues, as well as the author's own artistic style are distinguished by their naturalness and sincerity. The compositional structure of the novel is also unique. The writer skillfully connects the stories of the characters in it. Such a poetic method chosen for the image requires high skill from the writer.

In the character of Muzaffar in the work, one can see the image of a sincere person who has experienced many difficulties. Especially, the image of the elder Arif gives the novel its charm. His humanitarianism, the reputation he gained among people, and his strength to overcome difficulties in the most difficult moments will be imprinted in the reader's memory.

When talking about the image of Robiya, the reader imagines the qualities typical of a real Uzbek girl: beautiful, hardworking, sincere, with long hair. Fate does not smile at Robiya. Robiya, orphaned by her

mother since she was young, grows up under the care of her father. How complicated the fate of people in the work is can be seen in the image of Robiya alone.

The character of Kimsan, the only son of Black aunt, who embodies the image of a truly brave, brave, selfless Uzbek boy, which increases the value of the work. Through the image of Kimsan, we can see that the writer clearly expressed the image of loyalty, who literally sacrificed himself at the hands of the Nazis to protect his country, family, and his beloved. Through the image of Kimsan, we can learn how dangerous war is and its consequences.

Some of the characters in the work have a positive place in the reader's mind with their honesty, conscience, and faith typical of the Uzbek people, but Umar, like Zakunchi, is strict, unscrupulous, and will do anything for his own benefit. The unattractive, unpopular person occupies a negative position.

In short, the reader reads each work of the writer with great interest and enthusiasm. O'. In Hashimov's novel “Between Two Doors”, the emotions of the characters acquire a negative meaning. The reason is clear, war is a great burden for the people. In the age of technology, we young people should be proud of our endless opportunities to read our golden heritage and spiritual masterpieces whenever we want, under whatever conditions we want. In such a time, let's not get tired of stepping towards new opportunities in New Uzbekistan, contributing more to the development of my country, and let's use all our opportunities in this way.

Times pass, people change, development reaches its climax, but it is not surprising that O'tkir Hashimov's novel, like other classic works, remains in the public eye!

Feruz Muzaffarova Yodgor's daughter was born on March 8 Kogon, Buxoro region. She 18 years old now.

A first-year student at the Bukhara Institute of Psychology and Foreign Languages .