



Inclusivity In Action: Citizen Governance As A Catalyst For Climate Change Mitigation In Kenya
Climate change is an omnipresent global challenge, impacting nations across the globe, and Kenya is no exception. In recent years, the East African nation has experienced the adverse effects of climate change, including erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. Page 18

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News>> Kenya Unveils TB Strategic Plan 2023-2028


P. 8. Kenya has launched the TB Strategic Plan 2023-2028, featuring a community-centered Universal Health Coverage approach.



News>> Government To Increase Jobs In Leather Industry To 40 Million By 2027

P. 12. Principal Secretary in the State Department of Trade Alfred Ombudo and his Livestock counterpart Jonathan Mueke, yesterday made a tour to Kariokor market/ Leather Industry to see how government can help to increase the manufacturing of finished leather goods.

Ruto, Koome Reach Consensus After Weeks of Political Tussle

 President William Ruto and Chief Justice Martha Koome yesterday reached an agreement, ending their weeks-long feud, where they struck an agreement that will see the three arms of government work in unison to eradicate corruption.

According to a statement, released by the Statehouse Spokesperson, Hussein Mohammed, the meeting between Ruto, and Koome attended by senior government officials reached several conclusions.



Chief Justice Martha Koome at the meeting held at Statehouse on January 22. Photo | Courtesy

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Kirinyaga County Government Steps Up Efforts In Reduction Of Maternal And Child Mortality

By: ur Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Among the babies admitted at the unit are those born premature, with low birth weight, those born at term but have conditions such as jaundice or infections. Babies recovering from complex surgery are also admitted at the unit. Pre-term babies are those born before attaining 1,800 grams where they are nurtured until they attain at least 2,500 grams after which they can be further managed by the outpatient pediatric clinic.
- Further, statistics shows that cases of mothers dying while giving birth have reduced to the current average of 60 deaths per 100,000 mothers against the national rate of 414 deaths in every 100,000 cases.



Nurses attending to mothers and new borns.

The county government of Kirinyaga has stepped up efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality in the county.

Statistics from Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation shows that deaths of infants have gone down from 22 per cent in 2013 to about 8 per cent.

Among the measures that Governor Anne Waiguru's administration has taken include expansion, improvement and equipping of health facilities, expansion and equipping of a New Born Unit (NBU), capacity building of health workers and strengthening of community health systems.

Due to the sustained interventions, maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the county have significantly reduced.

Medics have hailed Governor Waiguru for the notable improvement in medical services at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital NBU.

The County Executive Committee

Member of Health, George Karoki, said that the aim was to reduce all preventable neonatal deaths by ensuring that all expectant mothers receive antenatal care and deliver in hospital. Currently, 80 per cent expectant mothers in the county attend at least four antenatal clinics towards the delivery time.

"The NBU at the hospital can only be compared to one in the high-end private hospitals and is the best in the region," he said.

The NBU has modern equipment such as incubators, CPAP machines, Phototherapy machines, fluid pumps, oxygen splitters, light meters, radiant warmers, oxygen concentrators, sanction and resuscitating machines among others. With this equipment, pre-term babies and those born with other conditions are supported until they are fit survive on their own once discharged.

Since not many hospitals provide spe-

cialist neonatal services, Kerugoya NBU receives many referrals from public and private health facilities in and outside the county.

Among the babies admitted at the unit are those born premature, with low birth weight, those born at term but have conditions such as jaundice or infections. Babies recovering from complex surgery are also admitted at the unit. Pre-term babies are those born before attaining 1,800 grams where they are nurtured until they attain at least 2,500 grams after which they can be further managed by the outpatient pediatric clinic.

Further, statistics shows that cases of mothers dying while giving birth have reduced to the current average of 60 deaths per 100,000 mothers against the national rate of 414 deaths in every 100,000 cases.

Waiguru has stressed on the optimization of community health programs to strengthen care coordination by connect-

ing expectant mothers with the available healthcare and social support systems.

"To achieve this, the county government has deployed 1,205 Community Health Promoters who are fully equipped with knowledge and medical kits to offer basic services to people in the villages. They maintain a register of expectant mothers within their allocated households with the aim of checking on them to ensure they are doing well and that they attend their antenatal clinics accordingly," she said.

The Council of Governors (COG) chair has reiterated her commitment towards continuous improvement of mother and child healthcare across the county.


To further enhance the county's referral system and ensure that all the expectant mothers in the county deliver safely in the health facilities, Waiguru said that her administration is in the process of rolling out a program to offer free transport to expectant mothers to hospital for delivery. Through M-MAMA Emergency Transport System, the County Government will contract and train transport service providers and provide the mothers with toll free number that they will call when their time to deliver comes.

Ann Nyawira, a nurse at the NBU said that the county government has supported the unit through trainings as well as equipping it with the necessary equipment.

"The unit has adequate room for Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) where teach mothers how to keep their pre-term babies warm through body contact and how to breast them after they are weaned off the feeding tubes, before they are discharged from the hospital. The transitional care also allows mother and child to bond," she said.

Before the county government established the NBU, babies in need of specialized neonatal care could be referred to Kenyatta National Hospital. Such referrals were not only expensive but could also cost the life of a baby since critical time could be lost in between the referral process.

Editor's Desk




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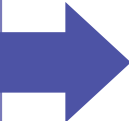
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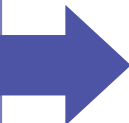
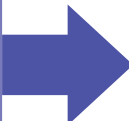
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira yesterday chaired the inaugural preparatory meeting for the East African Power Pool (EAPP) Council of Ministers (COM) meeting that is coming up next month. There are currently thirteen member countries of the Eastern Africa Power Pool and we are glad that Kenya was chosen to host this year's COM. The goal of EAPP is to be a framework for pooling energy resources, promoting power exchanges between utilities in Eastern Africa in order to secure their respective power supply, provide mutual assistance in case of failure in their respective power systems and reduce power supply costs based on a pre-established grid code. The PS was joined by Eng. Peter Njenga MD KenGen Kenya Eng. John Mativo MD Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited staff from Kenya Power Care and State Department for Energy.



A Kangundo family has found their missing kin, Ngina Ndeto, in Garissa town after two years of searching. Ndeto, a mother of four, was reported missing in April 2022 after returning from her matrimonial home in Kaiti constituency, Makueni County. She had been experiencing mental problems in 2021, which led to her disappearance. The family had searched for her in major towns and morgues without finding any trace but finally received information that she was in Garissa. Ndeto's brother, Charles Katumo, expressed joy at the reunion and urged her siblings to take her to a mental institution to stabilise her condition and help her children. The family is now taking her home.



Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit and Nandi senator Samson Cherargei have called for tough measures against individuals who kill innocent girls in AirBnB. They emphasised the moral decay in Kenyan society and called on the church to pray for the nation. Sapit urged young girls to be self-guardians and protect themselves from inappropriate practices, calling for the government to investigate the markets where these atrocities occur and for those apprehended to be

charged with high-degree murder. Cherargei called for the government to regulate social media outlets like TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram to trace individuals who lure young girls and kill them. Both leaders urged young people to be vigilant and not be swayed away by big cars, which could lead to their destruction. They urged the church to pray for the nation and protect the lives of innocent girls.



Ajira empowerment centres in Nyeri, Murang'a, and Kirinyaga counties have been attracting a large number of young people who have completed their college or university studies. The centres have been equipped with computers, laptops, and internet by the government, and are trained in computer literacy, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and programming. Over 16,000 youths have been trained within three years in the central region. The centres also offer training in digital marketing, transcription, data entry, and virtual assistant. One beneficiary, Mary Maina, has already started earning income through online jobs after receiving training. The centres encourage young people to exploit opportunities in the digital world and learn how to make money through online work.

Turkana County has received 2,454 kits and 2,454 tablets to cover 225 active community health units. The kits contain items for Community Health Promoters (CHPs) to address minor ailments in the community. The county also received 2,454 phones for distribution to CHPs for digital reporting. County deputy governor Dr. Erus praised CHPs as the engine in the provision of community health services and called for the integration of national and county government health structures to deliver quality healthcare services. County Commissioner Jacob Ouma urged CHPs to promote latrines in households to reduce the spread of hygiene-related diseases. County Chief Officer Peter Lomorukai said the launch of the kits marked the commencement of household registration to strengthen health services at the community level. The Health Committee chair Bethwel Kobongin commended the committee's efforts to ensure sub-county hospitals have enough doctors, nurses, and clinical officers to improve access to health services.



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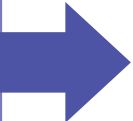
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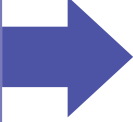
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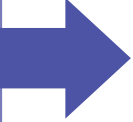


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Uashin Gishu Embrace Affordable Housing Bill, Seek Formation Of Tribunal To Settle Disputes

By: PSCU



Committee members pose for a photo with Uasin Gishu County leaders

Worth Noting:

- At the same time, the residents sought clarification on the role of County Governments in the implementation of the Programme.
- Speaking during the opening session, Uasin Gishu Governor told the committee that there is need to agree with the counties on the role of the devolved units in the programme and how the units would benefit from it.

Residents of Uasin Gishu County have urged lawmakers to consider incorporating a provision for a tribunal to address any issues that may emanate from the transactions of the affordable housing project.

The residents who lauded the program for creating job opportunities in the county, were speaking during the fifth day of public hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill conducted at the Eldoret County Hall.

Noting that there might arise disputes, Nicholas Tarira a lawyer, but who is currently in carpentry business, observed that with the ongoing civic education, there might be an oversubscription on the housing units, locking some of those who have registered and paid deposits out.

He further noted that there might arise other disputes concerning con-

tractors who deliver housing units with defaults, hence disenfranchising the buyers.

At the same time, the residents sought clarification on the role of County Governments in the implementation of the Programme.

Speaking during the opening session, Uasin Gishu Governor told the committee that there is need to agree with the counties on the role of the devolved units in the programme and how the units would benefit from it.

“Hon. Chair, the County Government welcomes the implementation of this program. We are happy because it is going to help us meet the shortfall of housing units, which has been created by the anticipated ascension of Eldoret Town to City Status. We however would wish to know how the county government will benefit after surren-

dering land to the affordable housing project”, he told the members.

His sentiments were echoed by County Executive Member for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Janet Kosgey who sought to know how the sectional property housing rate will be managed.

She also observed that there would be need to create a legal framework outlining how the devolved units would partner with the State Department of Housing on joint expansion of services such as water and sewerage.

Some residents also sought that the law incorporates provisions on green housing and adoption of latest building technologies during the hearings that were also attended by the Deputy Governor, Eng. John Barorot and Uasin Gishu County MPs Gladys

Boss Phylis Bartoo (Moiben), David Kiplagat (Soy) and Janet Sitienei (Turbo).

While thanking the committee for having elected to conduct the hearings in the county, the lawmakers led by the Shollei underscored the essence of the public hearings on the Bill.

She noted that the government has a role in facilitating housing in line with Article 43(1)(b) of the Constitution which provides that, ‘every person has the right to accessible and adequate housing, and to reasonable standards of sanitation.

On his part, the chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Financial and National Planning Kuria Kimani (Molo) sought to clarify that those charged the housing levy would not be automatic owners of the housing units.

This is after a number of residents sought to know if those charged the housing levy would be prioritized in the allocation of houses.

“There is no relationship between the housing levy and the affordable housing program. The fact that you’re deducted 1.5 per cent of your gross pay does not guarantee you house ownership. You have to register and pay a deposit to get allocated a house because the levy is just like any other tax that the government charges you”, he told the residents.

Other matters that arose include inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the program, capacity building for artisans involved in the program and the reconsideration of the payable deposits for the housing units.

The committee is set to conduct public hearings at the Kenya School of Government in Kabarnet, Baringo County, today.

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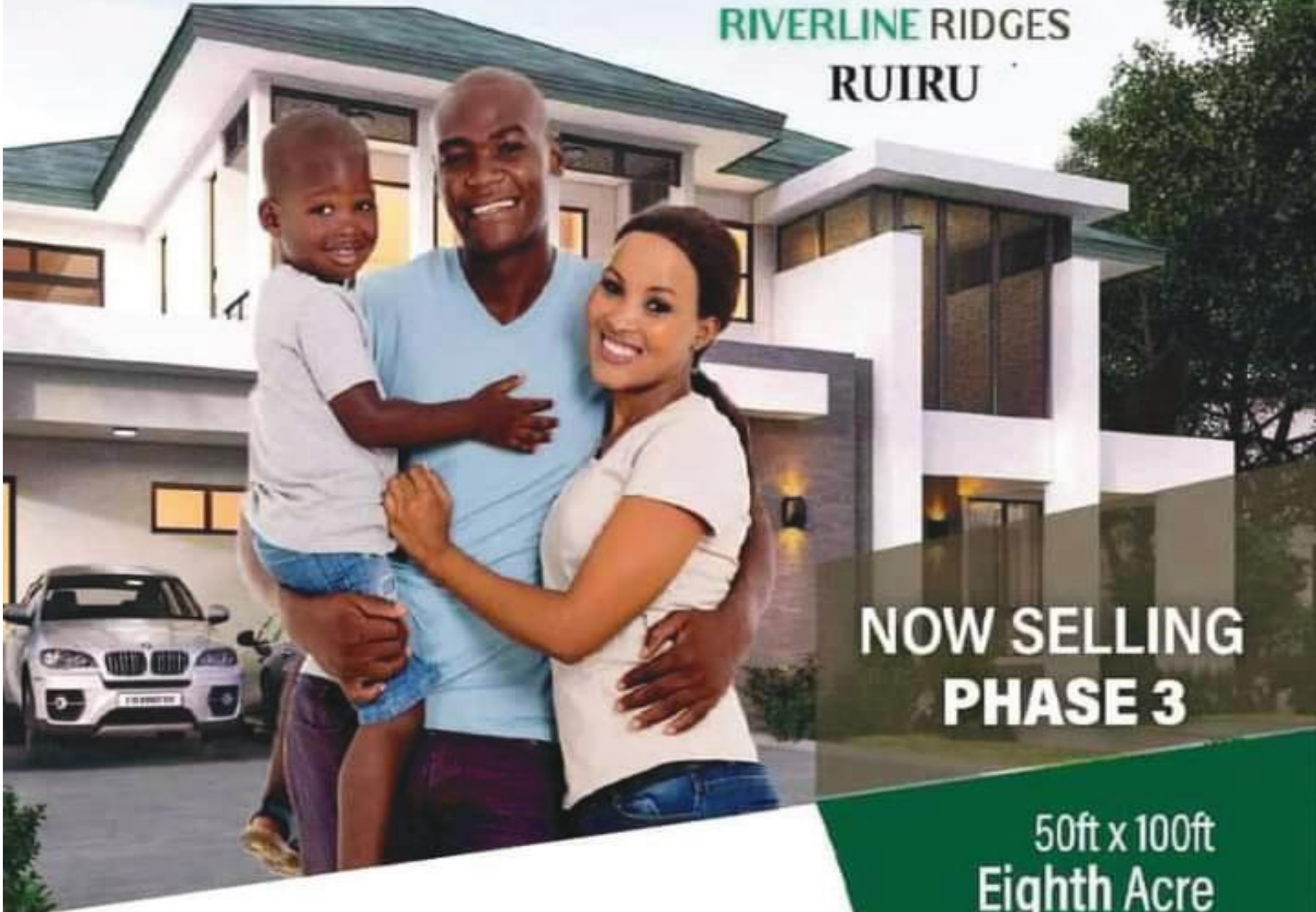
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Kenya Unveils TB Strategic Plan 2023-2028

By: Christine Muchira

Kenya has launched the TB Strategic Plan 2023-2028, featuring a community-centered Universal Health Coverage approach.

According to Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni the approach aims to address a surge in TB cases through grassroots detection with support from global partners.

“The plan aims to address the crisis by incorporating a community-centered Universal Health Coverage initiative. This involves the deployment of Community Health Promoters for grassroots TB detection.” Said PS Muthoni.

The global impact for TB was 10.6 million in 2022 which underscores the need for such initiatives.

Kenya recorded progress of 32pc decline in TB incidence and a 42pc mortality reduction between 2015-2020.

In 2022, Kenya recorded 90,841 TB cases, which accounts for only 68pc of all the detected TB cases and 756 anti-microbial resistant (AMR) cases. The people-centered plan unveiled Monday emphasizes a bottom-up strategy, acknowledging challenges and proposing practical interventions.

The PS noted that the launch of the TB Strategic Plan 2023/24-2027/28 marks a pivotal moment in Kenya’s fight against TB.

The plan will serve as a vital advocacy tool for mobilizing resources across sectors.

She appreciated the immense support of the partners in the fight against TB, including the World Health Organization, USAID, and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), among others noting that: “This plan is a testament to the collective efforts of the Ministry of Health and various stakeholders determined to bring an end to the devastating impact of TB on communities.”



Kenya unveils TB Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

Sonko Vows To Pursue Recovery Of Sh2.4bn In Contested Land Compensation

By: Capital Correspondent

Former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko has vowed to pursue the compensation of over 400 families seeking reparations for a 94-acre parcel of land.

Sonko made the undertaking yesterday after representatives of the Dupoto Darfur land sought his intervention during a visit to his Uper Hill office in Nairobi.

The representatives accused a powerful individuals of colluding with unnamed officials of the Kenya Railways Corporation to loot Sh2.4 billion allocated for compensation.

“I am going to take up the matter. We are going to work with the DCI to investigate how the families ended up missing their compensation,” Sonko said.

The former Governor vowed to pursue a settlement in court.

“We are going to use every available

legal means to ensure that those paid the Sh2.4 billion are identified and the money is returned to the bonafide beneficiaries,” he promised.

The affected families are said to have vacated the land to pave the way for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

They however said the compensation was not awarded as promised leaving them exposed.

The group said it will seek the suspension of the payment of an outstanding sum of Sh1.6 billion for bonafide beneficiaries are paid their due.

Claims of land grabbing have been on the raise in recent years with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) identifying the cases as a key concern.

Speaking in a press briefing in Kisumu on Monday, EACC Chairperson Dr David Oginde said the commission was keen to ensure grabbed public lands are recovered.



Sonko made the undertaking on Monday after representatives of the Dupoto Darfur land sought his intervention during a visit to his Uper Hill office in Nairobi..

Ruto, Koome Reach Consensus After Weeks of Political Tussle

By: Hellen Njoroge
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto and Chief Justice Martha Koome yesterday, reached an agreement, ending their weeks-long feud, where they struck an agreement that will see the three arms of government work in unison to eradicate corruption.

According to a statement, released by the Statehouse Spokesperson, Hussein Mohammed, the meeting between Ruto, and Koome attended by senior government officials reached several conclusions.

Per the statement, the leaders present at the meeting agreed that corruption is a major problem across the three arms of government hindering service delivery.

“Corruption remains an existential threat to the nation which has permeated the three arms of Government, undermining our country’s tremendous development potential and sabotaging the much-needed trans-

formation of our nation”, read the statement in part.

Judiciary Funding

The Judiciary scored a huge win from the meeting after President William Ruto agreed to CJ Koome’s request for increased budgetary support.

As outlined in the statement shared by Hussein Mohammed, the extra funds will facilitate the recruitment of an additional 25 Judges of the High Court.

The money will also facilitate the recruitment of 11 new Judges of the Court of Appeal. Similarly, part of the money will also be channeled towards the Judiciary’s vehicle leasing program to support the judiciary’s transport needs.

Formulation of Policies to Tackle Corruption

The meeting also slapped a 30-day ultimatum on the leadership of the three arms of government to submit proposals made to a forum of the National Council of the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) convened by CJ



President William Ruto meets Chief Justice Martha Koome, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu, Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetangula, Attorney General J B Muturi, Solicitor General Shadrack Mose, Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki and Council of Governors and Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru at State House.

Koome.

The forum is expected to be a roadmap for the immediate, medium-term, and long-term measures to be undertaken to fight corruption in the three arms of government.

In line with this plan, the leaders of the three arms of government agreed to formulate policies to fight corruption and enhance service delivery to

the Kenyan people.

The meeting was concluded with the three arms agreeing to perform their functions in a manner that respects, promotes, and enhances the rule of law, institutional independence, and respect for court decisions.

Notably, the truce comes after rising tensions between the Judiciary and the Executive, where it was per-

ceived that the Judiciary was under attack by the Executive.

The President had previously committed to bypass court orders to push the government’s agenda, while the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua had committed to present a petition calling for the removal of Justice Esther Maina before shelving the plan.

Supremacy Battle: Mt. Kenya MPs Throw Weight Behind DP Gachagua

By: KBC Digital

A Section of Mt. Kenya and Nairobi County MPs have thrown their weight behind Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua as the current Mt. Kenya region kingpin.

Led by Kiambu Senator Karungu Wa Thang’wa and Embakasi North MP James Gakuya, the political leaders said they will not allow political division in the region.

Their remarks come a fortnight after another section of MPs from the region endorsed Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro as the most suitable successor of President William Ruto.

The Deputy President has dismissed the debate by a section of politicians over regional kingpins and tribal groupings, terming it trivial and against development.

Gachagua said his bid to consolidate



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

Mt Kenya behind President William Ruto is part of a strategy towards uniting the country.

The second in command asked politicians and analysts to stop dragging him into the debate about kingpin saying he was busy executing duties assigned to him by the Constitution and the Head of State.

Recently, DP Gachagua alleged there was a plot meant to split the Mt Kenya voting bloc.

He dismissed the attempts. He warned that the masterminds will not succeed. This also comes a fortnight after a section of MPs from the region promised to rally behind Kiharu Lawmaker Ndindi Nyoro as far as political supremacy in the region is concerned.

“Those scheming to divide the region should know that the people of Mt Kenya are intelligent and are aware of what is happening. Those seeking to divide us are enemies of the region,” he charged.

The DP instead called on leaders to focus on growing the economy. He wants the region’s leaders to unite and promote more youth participation in productive, economic activities.

Thika Town MP Alice Ng’ang’a backed the DP’s sentiments. She said there is a push to divide the region through intercounty politics. She insists it was disrespectful to start succession politics barely a year after Gachagua and President William Ruto formed government.

“There is always one leader at a time. We are fine with DP Gachagua’s leadership,” she said

Irrigation and Correctional Services Departments To Partner In Increasing Farming Acreage

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

State department for irrigation in partnership with state department for correctional services to increase area under irrigation & irrigate 9,000 acres for food production

Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho, yesterday hosted his counterpart Principal Secretary for Correctional Services Dr. Salome M. Beacco, who paid him a courtesy call.

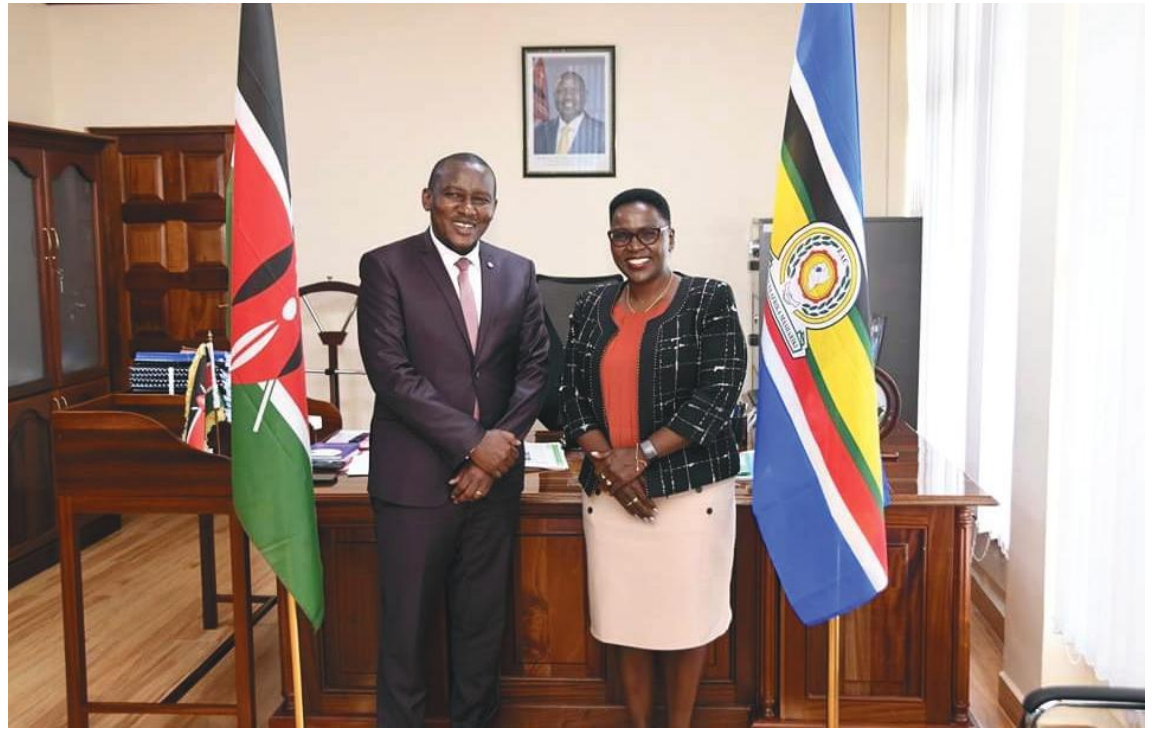
The two Principal Secretaries centered on areas of collaboration and majorly how the State Department for Irrigation would facilitate in irrigating 9,000 acres of land under the State Department for Correctional Services which will come in handy in increasing area under irrigation and food production, output ranging from rice, maize, tea, coffee, sunflower and oth-

er high value crops.

The discussion also evaluated the existing infrastructure in relation to the current output and what needs to be done to ensure maximisation of the available land.

State Department for Irrigation in regards to its mandate will ensure increase in land under irrigation as per the Government's agenda on climate resilience for food security, while working with like-minded MDAs to achieve its target of bridging maize and rice deficit in the country.

Also in attendance were technical officers from the two State Departments.



PSs Ephantus Kimotho with Correctional Services PS Dr. Salome Beacco.

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Koome, Ruto Meeting Was Long Overdue



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto meet Chief Justice Martha Koome, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwili, Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetangula, Attorney General J B Muturi, Solicitor General Shadrack Mose, Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki and Council of Governors and Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru at State House



Worth Noting:

- The CJ fell short of making these revelations after the meeting. She said the information that the President had cannot be swept under the carpet. He got this information from various state agencies that had been established by the law.
- On his part, President William Ruto stood his ground. We are going to work with the Judiciary to root out the corrupt judicial officers.
- When the war started, the first question that came to my mind was. Who will blink first?
- During the first press conference, the CJ came out gun blazing but in the second one she toned down.

Just a few days after Chief Justice Martha Koome revealed that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) had agreed to meet President William Ruto, the head of state hosted this meeting at State House yesterday.

The parliamentary leadership also attended this meeting. This was in line with the President's wish.

He had a few days earlier emphasized on the need for the three arms of government to embrace the spirit of interdependence and unity of purpose.

Being 'independent' arms does not mean we lose the sight of the bigger picture. Our responsibility is to transform and better the lives of Kenyans.

Though it was a closed door meeting, one of the media houses reported that sources indicated CJ admitted that some of judicial officers were corrupt.

The CJ fell short of making these revelations after the meeting. She said the information that the President had cannot be swept under the carpet. He got this information from various state agencies that had been established by the law.

On his part, President William Ruto stood his ground. We are going to work with the Judiciary to root out the corrupt judicial officers.

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

During the first press conference, the CJ came out gun blazing but in the second one she 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, she stated.

I'm sure in that we will come up with an amicable solution. It has since been held.

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.

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.

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.

Contrary to Ruto's critics, 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.

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 their money. What most of you have done so far is below their 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.

Since he assumed office, President

Government To Increase Jobs In Leather Industry To 40 Million By 2027

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyaintimes

Principal Secretary in the State Department of Trade Alfred Ombudo and his Livestock counterpart Jonathan Mueke, yesterday made a tour to Kariokor market/ Leather Industry to see how government can help to increase the manufacturing of finished leather goods.

Leather is one of the value chain in the government under the bottom up transformation agenda. The government is targeting to manufacture 40 million pairs of shoes every year from 8 million and this will help to create more jobs to Kenyans. Finished leather goods are shoes, wallet, bags, belts and jackets.

Mr. Mueke said that the government is targeting to increase jobs from 19,000 that are in leather industry to 100,000 jobs by 2027. Mueke urged



Principal Secretary in the State Department of Trade Alfred Ombudo (right) and his Livestock counterpart Jonathan Mueke (second left), yesterday made a tour to Kariokor market.

leather goods manufacturers to invest in machinery and embrace technology to make more quality shoes which will attract customers. The use of machinery will help manufacturers produce large volumes which will increase jobs and supply our market, the schools uniform and the uniform for-

ces e.g. army, police NYS and export to East Africa, continent and globally. Kenya has a capacity to manufacture quality shoes for export which will help foreign exchange and increase quality of life.

Markets for finished leather goods are there as indicated by Mr. Ombudo.

He said that manufacturers and traders in Kariokor market have capacity to produce quality shoes but the market is not working well. He added that it is important to identify the market and ensure that all people working there can access raw materials, machinery at cheaper prices, which will be more benefit to entire community. The government will invest more in training, bulk purchasing of inputs so that traders can access quality inputs at the correct prices.

The government is working on a solution that combines an access market, improve production and improve sourcing of raw material. A product of good finished leather quality will help traders to get market easily. The country has a regional market within the East Africa Community, countries such as Congo Kinshasa and Boma and more many countries. There is a lot of opportunities in export and government is trying to ensure that they export more and more products where value have been added.

European Union- Kenya economic partnership has created a permanent quarter free access to European Union market. The European Union has about 27 countries with 14 trillion Euros market hence a larger market that Kenyans can benefit to get better market

Kenya Leather Development Cooperation (KLDC) is working with national and county governments to offer services to people working in Kariokor market. The interest of the government is to reduce challenges by providing machinery that is charging minimal, 5ksh and 10ksh. Kenya Leather Development Cooperation Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Nur, urged traders in Kariokor market to make use of the services which they asked from the government.

Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists And Dentists Union Meets Health CS

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyaintimes



National Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer at Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union Davji Bhimji Atellah.

National Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer at Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union Davji Bhimji Atellah Monday morning, held a breakfast meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health Susan Nakhumicha, to follow up on the Kericho Declaration.

Amongst the issues discussed were:

Interns' posting - which will happen in February. A follow-up meeting with the Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni is scheduled for next week.

Enhanced medical cover for our members - now that the Social Health Insurance scheme has terminated the Civil Servant's scheme. A meeting is scheduled be-

tween the Social Health Authority and the Health sector unions to discuss SHA regulations. Further discussion is set on comprehensive medical cover with regards to the medical allowance that was relinquished by civil servants.

Postgraduate training - The Ministry agreed to fast-track the payment of university school fees. We shall do a follow-up in February.

Ministry and CoG to expedite

CBA negotiations and implementation.

We have agreed to have quarterly meetings chaired by the CS. We thank Waziri for always being ready to meet with the unions and also for acknowledging that unions and government are social partners that must walk together for meaningful and progressive gains in the health sector.

House Committee Camps in Turkana On Housing Bill

By: PSCU



Members of the House Committee in a working visit to Turkana.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning, and Public Works, yesterday, held a public participation exercise in Lodwar, to hear views of the residents on the Affordable Housing Bill.

The team paid a courtesy call on Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai, who supported the Bill and urged the National Government, to consider Turkana County in its Affordable Housing Programme.

Governor Lomorukai acknowledged the importance of the housing programme in creating employment opportunities and addressing the housing challenge.

He assured the Committee, chaired by Emurua Dikirr legislator, Johana Ngeno, of the county administration's readiness to embrace it.

The Committee is in Turkana to conduct public participation on the Affordable

Housing Bill, 2023, which is expected to provide a legal framework for the programme's implementation.

The County Government has earmarked 40 acres of land in Turkana South, Turkana Central, and Turkana West Sub-counties, for construction of housing units.

Governor Lomorukai expressed optimism that the programme will address pressing housing challenges in Turkana, particularly in educational institutions, such as universities and colleges.

He assured the Committee of the hospitality of the Turkana people and briefed them

on efforts to foster peaceful cohesion among the Ateker communities.

The Committee Chair revealed that the National Government, would construct 200 units in every Constituency and stressed that public views collected will shape the programme's implementation.

Present during the talks were County Secretary, Peter Eripete, Deputy County Secretary, Dr Albert Gamoe, County Executives David Erukudi (Trade) and Peter Akono (Lands), as well as Chief of Staff, Peter Yoromoe

Koome, Ruto Meeting Was Long Overdue

Contd from Page 11.

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



A photo of the President William Ruto, and members of the three arms of the government at the meeting held at Statehouse on January 22. Photo | Courtesy

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 Sup-

plies 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 streaming 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.

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

Inspection Of Infrastructure Development Of Juakali Worksites In Ruiru

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



MSEA Director, Infrastructure Development, Eng. Edward Karani, recently conducted an inspection of the progress at the worksites of the Ruiru By-Pass Association. This inspection follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) between the Project Developer and the Association. Among the key items on his agenda were product quality, timely delivery, financial access and management, as well as the overall business growth beyond the project's duration.

The 100-member team is currently engaged in a race against time to meet the stringent deadlines set for the Ruiru Affordable Hous-

ing Project. Their focus is on delivering the first batch of doors, windows, and grills to the project site.

In just a week's time, the team aims to have fully installed all 14 housing units on the first floor, consisting of 28 doors, 84 windows, and 14 grills. This rapid pace of work underscores the commitment of the team to ensure the success of the

project, meeting both quality standards and delivery timelines. Eng. Karani's inspection aims to ensure that all aspects, including product quality, financial management, and business sustainability, are being effectively addressed during this crucial implementation phase.

MSE Sensitization In Embu County

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



The MSEA Embu office recently conducted a visit to the Farmers Field School (FFS) CBO in Riandu, where the group engages in diverse agricultural activities, including poultry farming, horticulture, and value addition to their farm produce.

The group has actively participated in various agricultural training programs facilitated by esteemed institutes and organizations such as Embu University and the Anglican Development Service.

Notable among these trainings is the Smart Climate Agriculture program, which introduced the members to organic farming techniques and tree nursery management. As a result, they have acquired skills in producing composite manure and foliar

fertilizers.

Additionally, the group has honed its abilities in value-added processing, transforming products like lemongrass into powder, crafting hibiscus juice, and drying vegetables to extend their shelf life.

Despite their successes, the group faces challenges in product development, particularly in the areas of packaging, branding, and obtaining @KEBS_ke certifications.

To address these challenges, the MSEA Embu team sensitized the group on the

functions of MSEA and the potential benefits available to them. The presentation highlighted opportunities such as market linkages, product development training, KEBS certification recommendations, and the possibility of forming partnerships with other organizations. The collaborative effort aims to empower the FFS CBO in overcoming their current challenges, fostering sustainable growth, and establishing a stronger presence in the market.

Hey



Hello self
How are you
Today i came so that we talk
There things personally i am not happy
Yes and i am sorry
First let me congratulate you for there are
things i am happy of
Which for today i will name but a few
I am happy that you are grown
Grown to be a great man
Grown to make your own decisions
I am happy for this
Hello self
I am happy for you

Now self
We need to talk
Talk with mich seriousness
What were you thinking
When you followed the advise of letting go
What were you thinking
When you did what men do in the hideout
No! I am not happy
That you allowed them to trick you to that
It will cost you a future self
A future without your look alike
Self it is addictive
I am not happy self
Why did you?

Again self
Why?
You followed the crowd
You think i am happy
No! Not at all
It led you to ways that were bot good
Palm wine
How sweet was it
But now see
All your investment gone
Now crying
Crying yet tears are late
Self
I am not happy self
Why did you

Listen once more self
You did the unimaginable
That twilight girl
Was carrying the untreatable
Yet you didn't think twice
Nor even thought of protection
Now see
I have to carry your own mistake
Self
I am not happy self
Why did you?

Self i wish you to learn new ways
New ways of becoming better
But wishes can't be horses
Because if they do beggars would ride
Listen self
I want you to rethink
Rethink and make it better
Self
I am not happy
Try to please me self

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Weeping Onion

Sincere Love



In a world of fleeting moments and transient affairs,
There exists a love that transcends all worldly affairs.
It's a love that's true, pure, and ever so sincere,
A love that brings solace, wiping away every tear.
Sincere love is like a gentle breeze on a summer's day,
Caressing our souls and guiding us along the way.
It knows no bounds, no limits, no walls,
It's a love that lifts us up whenever we may fall.
In the depths of sincerity, this love finds its home,
It flourishes and grows, no matter where we roam.
It's in the tender touch, the words whispered in the dark,

A love that leaves an indelible mark.
Sincere love is patient, understanding, and kind,
It's a love that sees beauty in every corner of the mind.
It cherishes flaws, embracing imperfections with grace,
A love that stands strong, no matter what we may face.
It's the laughter that echoes through the night,
The shared dreams that take flight.
A love that supports, encourages, and believes,
A love that gives us the strength to achieve.
In a world that often feels cold and detached,
Sincere love warms the heart, leaving nothing unmatched.
It's a love that's genuine, honest, and true,
A love that's built on trust and always comes through.
So let us cherish sincere love, let it guide our way,
For it's a beacon of light that brightens even the darkest day.
In its embrace, we find solace, understanding, and peace,
A love that brings us to a place where all worries cease.
By Tursunboyeva E'zoza Bekmurod qizi

God, Give Me Patience



God, give me patience, don't bow my head,
Do not touch the heart of the one who turns away from me.
Give me so much patience that I feel my value,

Don't make others need you.
Freeze my heart like a stone
Do not melt into all kinds of woes,
Stop my tears for a while
Don't let it flow to the blows of this life.

Let me laugh like this, my pain
Don't let anyone notice
My tiny heart, tired of tyranny,
Don't stop beating prematurely!

Momo (granny) So'najon was born on March 8, 1934 in Yangibozor district of Khorezm region. She wrote poems. She was the winner of the "Heroic Mother" gold medal. Currently, she is considered one of the most exemplary grandmothers.

Lament

I want to shout like a madman in a wide field,
Why do I always think of you?
I wish I was born again
I promise, I will never love again.

It's raining like a torrent,
I don't want to raise my voice.
Butchered my heart without a knife
Oh my cry in the rain.

Even life laughs at me
Hadeb reminds me of the past.
I faced him again and again,
I asked three times if you are happy

Smile on the lips, sadness in the eyes,
He could not even answer my question.
Yesterday it rained for an hour on the horizon,
This time did not pass me by.

I know...
I know that your days are in pain without me,

I understood it from your eyes yesterday.
My heart is burning without you.
I don't hide that I still love you.

This heart...
This heart is truly a fool,
There is no difference between good and bad.
Once you love, it's over.
Not knowing the name of love.

Qayumov Sardor was born in Bakhmal district of Jizzakh region. He is currently a student of the Faculty of Uzbek language and literature of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. In 2023, he was awarded a first-class diploma at the "SUPER STAR" festival held in Moscow. Participant of issue III of "Hildal" publication. Participant of the regional stage of "Zomin Seminar" in 2023. Student of the year-2023.
The owner of the badge "For contribution to development".

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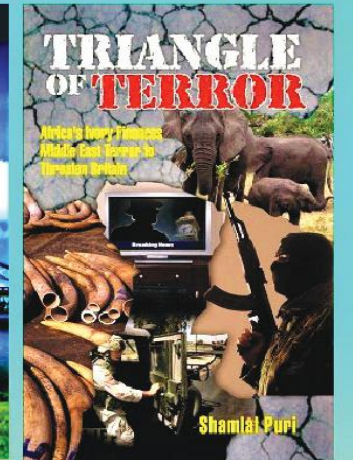
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“Whispers Of Gold” Delves Into The Profound Impact Technological Innovation



By: Elizabeth Angira



CEO Hales Matt guides Lolghorian gold miners in utilizing modified AI Whatsapp, enhancing their access to crucial information for efficient farming operations. Innovation meets tradition in the pursuit of gold excellence. Photo / Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- The narrative unfolds in the open spaces where male and female miners, united by a common goal, find solace in their shared labor.
- The modified WhatsApp app becomes more than just a tool; it transforms their daily struggles into a tale of resilience, innovation, and, most importantly, hope. No longer do they merely endure the hardships of their work, but they embrace the prospect of a brighter future.
- As the sun beats down, casting its golden hues over the landscape, the miners continue their quest, fueled not only by the promise of precious metal but also by the whispers of a technology, that has woven itself into the fabric of their lives.

In the heart of Lolghorian, nestled within the rugged landscapes of Kilgoris Narok County, where the scorching sun beats down relentlessly, a community of gold miners perseveres through their daily struggles.

The air is thick with the sound of grinding, crushing, washing, and sieving stones, as both men and women laboriously toil in the pursuit of precious gold.

Amidst the dust and determination, a transformative technology emerges, casting a ray of hope on their challenging lives.

A modified WhatsApp AI becomes the harbinger of change, promising to reshape not only the way these miners work but also how they live.

“Whispers of Gold” delves into the profound impact of this technological innovation. As the miners engage with the modified WhatsApp app, efficiency becomes the newfound ally in their pursuit of gold.

Collaborative efforts are enhanced, weaving a tapestry of shared aspirations and collective progress.

The once arduous tasks of grinding, crushing, washing, and sieving stones are now accompanied by the whispers of a digital assistant, guiding them towards optimized processes and streamlined workflows.

The narrative unfolds in the open spaces where male and female miners, united by a common goal, find solace in their shared labor.

The modified WhatsApp app becomes more than just a tool; it transforms their daily struggles into a tale of resilience, innovation, and, most

importantly, hope. No longer do they merely endure the hardships of their work, but they embrace the prospect of a brighter future.

As the sun beats down, casting its golden hues over the landscape, the miners continue their quest, fueled not only by the promise of precious metal but also by the whispers of a technology, that has woven itself into the fabric of their lives.

Each tap, each message, resonates with the optimism that their toil, combined with the assistance of the modified WhatsApp AI, will pave the way for a life made easier, a future illuminated by the whispers of gold.

Lillian Achieng’35, a miner with over years of experience, believes that artificial intelligence, originally designed for communication, is proving to be an unexpected ally in the pursuit of precious metals.

She commends the app for its potential to transform the efficiency and safety of gold mining. Expressing her first encounter with the app, Achieng’ sees it as a valuable tool that can simplify their work and significantly reduce the time spent searching for gold.

She hopes the app can provide information in the local language to address the language barrier.

On the other hand, John Omondi, another miner, expresses concerns that AI may lead to job loss as it streamlines their tasks.

While acknowledging the potential for the app to make their work easier, Omondi fears that it might affect their income negatively.

Accessibility of the information

Dan Odida, National Chairman of the Artisan and Small-Scale Miners Association of Kenya (ASMAK) emphasizes the crucial role of AI in providing specific information to miners, aiding them in locating valuable extracts.

Odida reveals ongoing efforts to explore alternative methods of obtaining information within the mining industry, aiming to streamline processes.

According to Odida, an AI application will offer relevant information, preventing miners from experiencing resource losses due to a lack of vital information.

He anticipates that AI will guide participants in identifying sources of information, suggesting collaborations, and advising on partnerships. This aligns with emerging policies and regulations aimed at ensuring miners access accurate information and comply with established rules.

Odida underscores the significance of AI in assisting miners to access correct information, highlighting its role in addressing key issues affecting the industry.

He expresses optimism about leveraging technology to address challenges related to information, particularly in determining suitable locations for mining activities.

‘Amidst the dusty trails and makeshift camps, a group of miners stumbles upon a mysterious app tailored to their needs – an advanced version of WhatsApp infused with cutting-edge

artificial intelligence,” he says.

Modified WhatsApp Dr Mining Manhattan

Lolghorian Farmers of Gold Chief Executive Officer Hales Matt says that the WhatsApp app Dr mining Manhattan the AI’s language capabilities prove indispensable, breaking down linguistic barriers among a diverse group of miners.

He says that the multilingual features empower the miners to share insights and experiences, fostering a sense of community that transcends cultural differences.

“With improved communication, the miners efficiently coordinate their efforts, maximizing productivity and minimizing risks,” he says.

Matt says that the modified WhatsApp AI becomes a digital ally, offering predictive analytics to identify optimal drilling locations and potential dangers within the mines.

“The miners receive instant alerts about seismic activity, gas leaks, or unstable tunnels, allowing them to react swiftly and avoid disasters,” says Matt.

As the miners embrace this technological marvel, their lives transform.

Dr. Mining Manhattan pilot program that marks a pioneering initiative is a brainchild of an experienced miner and visionary Matt Hales who has been working with the community for six Years since 2017.

According to Hales, who is a Co-chair of the Global Community Miners Forum, the new concept is a conversation robot, which is bound to bring expert guidance to the fingertips of miners through question and answer model in social media networks including WhatsApp, Instagram, and face book messages among others.

He says that the miners must become adept at leveraging the AI to access market prices, ensuring fair compensation for their hard-earned gold.

Dr. Mining Manhattan pilot program that marks a pioneering initiative is a brainchild of an experienced miner and visionary Matt Hales who has been working with the community for six Years since 2017.

Additionally, the newfound efficiency allows for reduced working hours, affording the miners precious time for rest and leisure.

“The miners must unite to safeguard their digital advantage and preserve the newfound harmony in their lives,” he says.

“Whispers Of Gold” Delves Into The Profound Impact Technological Innovation

Contd from Page 16.

“Whispers of Gold” explores the intersection of tradition and technology, illustrating how a modified WhatsApp AI empowers a community of gold miners to navigate the complexities of their industry and forge a brighter future together.

Challenges

However, not everyone in the industry is ready to embrace this technological leap.

Encounter the challenges and skepticism faced by our protagonist as they strive to convince traditional miners, skeptical executives, and regulatory bodies of the potential benefits.

The clash between tradition and innovation becomes a central theme as the modified AI WhatsApp system proves its worth in increasing yield and minimizing environmental impact.



Achieng’ acknowledges that not everyone can afford a smartphone to access the information provided by the app due to the high cost of living. She emphasizes that many miners prioritize basic needs like food over

purchasing a smartphone. Additionally, she points out the language barrier as a challenge, noting that most miners are more comfortable with the local language.

Simon Othoyo, the Chair of the Lol-

ghorian Farmers of Gold, highlights the challenges they face, including a lack of machines and protective gear.

However, he sees the app as a resource that can provide information on how to protect miners, offering a potential solution to some of their safety concerns.

Othoyo says that, despite the optimism and concerns voiced by different individuals in the mining community, the overarching theme revolves around the potential impact of artificial intelligence on the efficiency, safety, and livelihoods of those involved in gold mining.

Embracing digital

Amidst the tension, explore the human side of the story as miners adapt to working alongside AI.

Information Communication Technology expert Calvin Ochieng, asserts that the country is rapidly embracing digitalization, evident in the widespread ownership of smartphones within families.

He emphasizes that the integration of AI presents an opportunity to educate miners about the potential risks

associated with their work and to promote measures for safeguarding their well-being.

Omondi highlights that, even in cases where individuals may not personally own smartphones, there is usually access to communal cyber facilities at the community level.

“This accessibility ensures that valuable information, including safety guidelines for miners, can be disseminated effectively,” he says.

The concept for Dr. Manhattan was conceived following Hales’ early recognition of the potential in chat GPT technologies last year.

He says the name came from a movie he had watched called ‘The Watchman’, where there was a very intelligent character who was able to know everything and be omnipresent at the same time.

This he says is what is intended for Dr. Manhattan who is expected to interact with Miners in all social media platforms on mobile phones or cyber Cafe.

Eugene Wamalwa Leads Western Region Leaders In Opposing The Government’s Plan To Privatize Nzoia Sugar Factory



By: Sefu Sabila
@themkenyatimes

Democratic Action Party Kenya DAP-K leader Eugene Wamalwa leads Western leaders in opposing the privatization of Nzoia Sugar Company. Addressing new recruits of the party, the former Cabinet Secretary stating the process lacked public participation and further consultation.

Speaking in Bungoma county yesterday, the former CS said, Azimio la Umoja, went to court to stop the process of privatization. According to Wamalwa, the process lacks clarity, sincerity and oversight of the nation assembly.

“We have oppose the privatization of the Nzoia sugar company, without parliamentary oversight. As Azimio, we went to court with our

leader Hon. Raila Odinga to stop the process of privatization. This is a plan to take and buy Nzoia sugar, by those who want the privatization of government parastatals.” Former Defence CS Eugene Wamalwa said.

Supporting the sentiments of his party leader, former Legislator for Kanduyi Wafula Wamunyi said the government promises to revive the sugar factory, and end the miseries of sugarcane farmers are yet to come into realization. The promises include, new machines for the factory, paying of farmers, as well as clearing the factory’s arrears.

“When they were promising to buy new machines, to clear arrears, as well as pay farmers, none of the promises has been achieved. Yet they are now talking about selling Nzoia sugar.” Former Mp Wamunyi added.

Additionally, New recruit DAP-K, and Bungoma seasonal political leader Zacharia Barasa, dismissing the plan. According to Mr. Barasa, Nzoia sugar is the only surviving pride of Bungoma. The vocal political activist adding that they will not allow any leasing of the company at all cost as a region.

“Nzoia is the only remaining factory operating in Bungoma county. We take pride as a people in Nzoia. Hearing them saying that they want to lease for 50 years. I want to tell those who are planning and want to lease Nzoia sugar company, that it will never happen under our watch, at all cost.” Political activist Zacharia Barasa strongly stated.

Kakamega senator Boni Khalwale public in 2023, disagreeing with the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over the same matter. The senator noting that it is only little resource for the region. Further the senator adding that people will lose their ancestral land.

“We cannot accept, this is not out of disrespect from the president or the government that is the little we have,” he stated.

Noticably, the contention over sugar factories in the Western Region, is not a new topic. In December last year, a delegation of Western leaders from Kakamega county meeting with the president, made declarations of reviving the sugar sector, top of the list including reviving of Mumias Sugar Company.



DAP-K party leader Eugene Wamalwa, Former MP Wafula Wamunyi, politician Zacharia Barasa during a recruitment process of new members in Bungoma, where they opposed the government process of privatization of Nzoia sugar.

Inclusivity In Action: Citizen Governance As A Catalyst For Climate Change Mitigation In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Community planting trees Photo | Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- Citizen governance intersects with climate change mitigation through advocacy and awareness campaigns that mobilize communities to adopt eco-friendly behaviors. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations play a crucial role in educating citizens about the impacts of climate change and the importance of sustainable living. Grassroots movements, driven by passionate individuals and community leaders, are instrumental in raising awareness about the nexus between human activities and climate change.
- By fostering a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship, these initiatives contribute to behavioral changes at the individual and community levels, reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainable consumption patterns.
- In addition to shaping policies and practices, citizen governance also holds governments and corporations accountable for their environmental impact.

Climate change is an omnipresent global challenge, impacting nations across the globe, and Kenya is no exception. In recent years, the East African nation has experienced the adverse effects of climate change, including erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this crisis, Kenya has embarked on a multifaceted approach to climate change mitigation, with a crucial emphasis on citizen governance. This essay delves into the intricate interplay between citizen governance and the mitigation of climate change in Kenya, exploring how the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes and sustainable practices can contribute to a more resilient and environmentally conscious nation.

Kenya's commitment to citizen governance in the context of climate change mitigation is evident in its efforts to promote inclusivity and participation. The country has established platforms for public engagement, encouraging citizens to actively participate in the formulation of climate change policies and strategies.

Through town hall meetings, community forums, and digital platforms, the government seeks to tap into the collective wisdom of its citizens, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in the development of climate action plans. This inclusive approach not only fosters a sense of ownership among citizens but also leverages local knowledge and traditions to tailor mitigation strategies that align with the unique challenges faced by different communities.

Furthermore, citizen governance plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable practices at the grassroots level. In rural areas, where a significant portion of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods, citizens are actively involved in agro-ecological initiatives that prioritize climate-resilient farming practices. Through community-based organizations and cooperatives, farmers collaborate to implement sustainable agricultural techniques, such as agroforestry, crop diversification, and water conservation measures. These efforts not only contribute to climate change mitigation by sequestering carbon and enhancing ecosystem re-

silience but also empower local communities economically.

Citizen governance intersects with climate change mitigation through advocacy and awareness campaigns that mobilize communities to adopt eco-friendly behaviors. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations play a crucial role in educating citizens about the impacts of climate change and the importance of sustainable living. Grassroots movements, driven by passionate individuals and community leaders, are instrumental in raising awareness about the nexus between human activities and climate change. By fostering a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship, these initiatives contribute to behavioral changes at the individual and community levels, reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainable consumption patterns.

In addition to shaping policies and practices, citizen governance also holds governments and corporations accountable for their environmental impact. Through civic engagement and advocacy, citizens can influence policymakers to prioritize sustainable

development and enact stringent environmental regulations. Moreover, the active participation of citizens in monitoring and reporting environmental violations acts as a deterrent, encouraging industries to adopt cleaner technologies and adhere to environmentally friendly practices. This collaborative approach fosters a culture of transparency and accountability, reinforcing the connection between citizen governance and effective climate change mitigation strategies.

Despite these positive strides, challenges persist in fully integrating citizen governance into climate change mitigation efforts in Kenya. Limited access to information, especially in marginalized communities, poses a barrier to effective citizen participation. Additionally, issues related to socio-economic disparities and unequal distribution of resources can hinder the implementation of inclusive climate policies. To address these challenges, there is a need for targeted capacity-building programs, improved infrastructure for information dissemination, and the creation of mechanisms that ensure the equitable distribution of resources for sustainable development.

In conclusion, the nexus between citizen governance and the mitigation of climate change in Kenya is a dynamic and multifaceted relationship that holds significant promise for building a resilient and sustainable future. Through inclusive decision-making processes, sustainable practices at the grassroots level, advocacy campaigns, and accountability measures, citizens actively contribute to shaping climate policies and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. However, addressing existing challenges and fostering greater inclusivity in climate change initiatives are essential to harness the full potential of citizen governance in mitigating the impacts of climate change in Kenya. By strengthening the bonds between citizens, government, and environmental organizations, Kenya can pave the way for a more sustainable and climate-resilient nation.

Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo is a lawyer and legal researcher with interests in interdisciplinary nature of law, environmental law and data privacy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eradicating Femicide And Gender

Based Violence

By: **Virginia Mutheu**

Femicide and gender based violence remain a global pandemic with prevalent occurrences affecting women of all races, age and social backgrounds. According to reports from the world health organization and the UN women, approximately one in three women have been subjected to acts of physical or partner intimate sexual violence or non-partner sexual violence once in their life time.

Persistent gender inequality is a fundamental contributor to Gender based Violence and femicide. Societal norms, stereotypes, and power imbalances reinforce the subordinate status of women, creating an environment where violence can thrive.

Cultural norms that perpetuate traditional gender roles and a patriarchal society contribute signifi-

cantly. These norms may normalize control, dominance, and violence against women, reinforcing harmful expectations, additionally economic disparities can trap individuals in abusive relationships, financial inadequacy may limit survivors' ability to leave abusive situations, making them more susceptible to ongoing violence.

violence against women accounts to high deaths rates worldwide , depression and anxiety disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV , unplanned pregnancies and other health risks that may escalate after such instances. While gender based violence may directly affect individuals who are survivors or victims, the impact trascends across borders resulting to widespread societal implications, affecting communities, families, economies, and the overall well-being of individuals.

Victims of violence remain hesitant

in reporting cases associated with instances of abuse, fear shame and the stigma linked to being a victim can be overwhelming contributing to survivors reluctance to call for help. Societal attitudes that blame victims rather than holding perpetrators accountable exacerbate the issue. Additionally, systemic failures within legal and support systems may discourage reporting, as some victims doubt the effectiveness of seeking justice. Breaking this cycle requires fostering environments where survivors feel safe, supported, and confident that their voices will be heard without judgment or retaliation.

Engaging men and boys in fighting gender based violence and ending femicide is crucial let us all promote positive masculinity, respectful relationships amicable conflict resolution as well as challenging harmful stereotypes.

Combating violence and femicide

begins at the grassroot levels, organizations and community leaders should create awareness and integrate education programs that promote gender equality and protection against femicide

Femicide and gender-based violence are urgent global challenges that demand collective action. By understanding the regional dynamics, advocating for policy changes, and fostering education, societies can work towards eliminating this deeply rooted epidemic. It is essential for individuals, communities, and governments to unite in the fight against femicide, striving to create a world where every person, regardless of gender, can live free from the threat of violence.

Virginia Mutheu is a Public Relations practitioner



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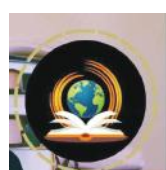
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Sports >> *Ivory Coast slipped to the brink of a humiliating exit from the Africa Cup of Nations as the hosts suffered a 4-0 thrashing by Equatorial Guinea in their final Group A game in Abidjan yesterday

Hosts Ivory Coast On The Brink Of Exit After Equatorial Guinea Humbling



Ivory Coast's defender #05 Wilfried Singo reacts after Equatorial Guinea won during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2024 group A football match between Equatorial Guinea and Ivory Coast at the Alassane Ouattara Olympic Stadium in Ebimpe, Abidjan on January 22, 2024. (Photo by Issouf SANOGO / AFP)

RELATED CON

Ivory Coast slipped to the brink of a humiliating exit from the Africa Cup of Nations as the hosts suffered a 4-0 thrashing by Equatorial Guinea in their final Group A game in Abidjan yesterday.

Emilio Nsue scored a double to follow up his hat-trick against Guinea-Bissau as Equatorial Guinea finished top of the group ahead of Nigeria on goal difference.

Nigeria saw off Guinea-Bissau 1-0 in the group's other game.

Ivory Coast have only failed to get out of the group phase once in the previous nine editions of the tournament, in 2017.

The two-time champions will have to endure a nervy wait to find out if they will go through to the last 16 as one of the four best third-placed sides.

Jean-Louis Gasset's men need a series of results to go in their favour to avoid sliding out of the competition, after suffering their

heaviest ever home defeat.

Thousands of Ivory Coast supporters filed out of the stadium late on as Equatorial Guinea scored three goals in 15 minutes to embarrass their opponents.

The Ivorians started brightly but struggled to create any clear-cut chances, with Oumar Diakite's wild effort off target after a poor punch by Equatorial Guinea goalkeeper Jesus Owono their best opportunity in the opening 25 minutes.

Nicolas Pepe appeared to be fouled in the box on the half-hour mark, but the winger decided to stay on his feet and a penalty was not given despite Owono coming out to gather the ball.

Equatorial Guinea grabbed a surprise lead with their first real attack shortly before half-time.

Right-back Carlos Akapo weaved his way past a couple of weak challenges and into the area before squaring for Nsue to

divert the ball into the bottom corner.

Ibrahim Sangare briefly thought he had equalised in first-half injury time, but VAR quickly ruled the goal out for a clear offside against the Ivory Coast midfielder.

Sangare wasted an excellent chance less than two minutes after the restart, ballooning the ball high over the bar from close range with only Owono to beat at the back post.

Fiorentina forward Christian Kouame also failed to draw the home side level when face to face with Owono, firing his shot straight at the 'keeper.

Ivory Coast were again denied an equaliser in the 67th minute by VAR for offside after Jean-Philippe Krasso slotted home left-footed.

The underdogs made the Ivorians pay for their profligacy six minutes later, as Pablo Ganet

curled a wonderful free-kick into the top corner.

That goal prompted many of the fans in the Alassane Ouattara Stadium to vacate the stands, and the ones who remained were left stunned when Nsue tucked away his fifth goal of the tournament after a quick counter-attack.

Ivory Coast's goal difference, which could prove crucial in the fight for qualification, took another dent with two minutes of normal time remaining, as Jan-nick Buyla bobbed a shot into the corner from a rebound.

Equatorial Guinea should have rubbed further salt into their opponents' wounds in added time, but Luis Asue's mishit strike with the goal gaping could not take the gloss off a famous victory.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A first-half Opa Sangante own goal gave Nigeria a 1-0 win over Guinea-Bissau yesterday as the Super Eagles clinched their place in the last 16 of the Africa Cup of Nations.

Nigeria Beat Guinea-Bissau To Seal Last-16 Spot



Nigeria's forward #15 Moses Simon (C) celebrates with teammates after Guinea-Bissau's defender #22 Opa Sangante (unseen) scored an own-goal during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2024 group A football match between Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan on January 22, 2024. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP).

A first-half Opa Sangante own goal gave Nigeria a 1-0 win over Guinea-Bissau yesterday as the Super Eagles clinched their place in the last 16 of the Africa Cup of Nations.

Sangante emphatically turned a Moses Simon cross into his own net in the 36th minute, after feeling compelled to intervene with Victor Osimhen lurking behind him.

The result means the Super Eagles qualify in second place in Group A with seven points, behind Equatorial Guinea whose 4-0

destruction of hosts Ivory Coast leaves them with a far better goal difference.

Nigeria, who drew 1-1 with Equatorial Guinea in their opening game, have since been efficient if not spectacular, defeating the Ivorians 1-0 with a William Troost-Ekong penalty before this result.

Jose Peseiro's team will now stay in Abidjan for a last-16 tie on Saturday at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium against the runners-up in Group C, which will be Senegal, Guinea or Cameroon.

Nigeria's domination had been sterile before the goal came, but they should have added to their lead after the break.

African player of the year Osimhen and substitute Zaidu Sanusi both had goals disallowed for off-side in the second half, while Calvin Bassey had a penalty appeal turned down and Ola Aina blasted a good chance over.

Franculino Dju had a goal ruled out at the other end for Guinea-Bissau, who were already eliminated before this game and finish with three defeats.

Shock winners away to Nigeria in qualifying last March, they have still never won a game in 12 attempts across four appearances at the Cup of Nations itself.

AFP

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Transformative Role Of Modern Technology In Enhancing English Language Teaching



By: Inomjonova Dildora
Rustam

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Worth Noting:

- Fostering Student Engagement 2.2.1 Gamification and game-based learning 2.2.2 Virtual reality and augmented reality applications 2.2.3 Online collaborative platforms for group projects and discussions
- Promoting Authentic Communication 2.3.1 Video conferencing tools for real-time communication with native speakers 2.3.2 Social media platforms for language exchange and cultural immersion 2.3.3 Online language communities for authentic writing practice and feedback
- Integration of Technology in English Language Classrooms 3.1 Teacher Training and Professional Development 3.1.1 Importance of digital literacy and technological proficiency for teachers 3.1.2 Workshops, seminars, and online courses for professional development



Transformative Role Of Modern Technology In Teaching in Uzbekistan

Abstract:

This research paper aims to explore the significance of modern technology in the field of English language teaching. It delves into the various ways in which technology can revolutionize language learning, improve student engagement, and enhance pedagogical practices. The paper highlights the importance of integrating technology in English language classrooms and provides concrete examples of how it can be effectively utilized to foster language acquisition, promote authentic communication, and create a dynamic learning environment. Furthermore, the research paper addresses potential challenges and limitations, as well as strategies for successful implementation.

Overall, it emphasizes the transformative impact of modern technology in teaching English and its potential to shape the future of language education.

Introduction 1.1 Background information on the role of technology in education 1.2 Importance of English language teaching in a globalized world 1.3 Thesis statement: Modern technology plays a pivotal role in enhancing English language teaching by providing students with innovative tools, interactive learning experiences, and authentic language practice opportunities.

Benefits of Modern Technology in English Language Teaching 2.1 Enhancing Language Acquisition 2.1.1 Interactive language learning apps and software 2.1.2 Multimedia resources for listening and speaking practice 2.1.3 Adaptive learning platforms for personalized instruction

2.2 Fostering Student Engagement 2.2.1 Gamification and game-based learning 2.2.2 Virtual reality and augmented reality applications 2.2.3 Online collaborative platforms for group projects and discussions

2.3 Promoting Authentic Communication 2.3.1 Video conferencing tools for real-time communication with native speakers 2.3.2 Social media platforms for language exchange and cultural immersion 2.3.3 Online language communities for authentic writing practice and feedback

Integration of Technology in English Language Classrooms 3.1 Teacher Training and Professional Development 3.1.1 Importance of digital literacy and technological proficiency for teachers 3.1.2 Workshops, seminars, and online courses for professional development

3.2 Overcoming Challenges and Limitations 3.2.1 Digital divide and access to technology 3.2.2 Technological reliability and infrastructure 3.2.3 Balancing screen time and maintaining a healthy learning environment

Case Studies and Examples 4.1 Successful implementation of tech-

nology in English language classrooms 4.2 Innovative projects and initiatives showcasing the impact of technology on language learning outcomes

Future Implications and Conclusion 5.1 Potential advancements in technology and their impact on language education 5.2 The need for continuous research and adaptation to changing technological landscapes 5.3 Conclusion: Modern technology has a profound impact on English language teaching, revolutionizing traditional pedagogical practices and providing students with unprecedented opportunities for language acquisition, authentic communication, and global collaboration.

Inomjonova Dildora Rustam qizi is a Jizzakh Pedagogical in University 4th year Faculty of Foreign languages student