



Increased Human Trafficking Is A Great Worry In East Africa

The East African region is currently battling with the menace of human trafficking. Men, women and children are trafficked from rural communities to large cities like Kampala, Nairobi and Dar-el-Salaam for Labour and sexual exploitation for example the Banyarwanda commercial sex workers in Nairobi and Kampala are often trafficked from Rwanda

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News>>Gachagua Leads Leaders In Visiting Nyandarua's Kinangop Disaster Victims

P. 8. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday visited families affected by heavy rains and windstorms Kinangop constituency



News>>Private Sector Roots For Inclusion As Committee Wraps Up Public Hearings On Affordable Housing Bill

P. 12. Various organised groups and stakeholders have asked the Joint-Committee conducting Public Hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill 2023 to create a provision in the Bill that allows for private sector participation.

Ruto: The Future Is In Africa

 President William Ruto has urged European investors to explore investment opportunities in Africa.

The President said investing in Africa is a smart business decision owing to its vast untapped resources. He described Africa as a continent with a great future, huge opportunities and tremendous potential.



Photo: President William Ruto during a meeting with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Qu Dongyu in Rome, Italy, on January 30, 2024. PHOTO | PCS

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Facility To Boost Potato Industry In Meru County Unveiled

By: Dickson Mwitii
@themtkenyatomes

Worth Noting:

- “During the harvesting period, we have many brokers all over the area who buy potatoes at their preferred prices. Farmers usually have no option but to sell them at poor prices lest they will all rot due to lack of proper storage,” said Mr Mugambi.
- He expressed his contentment with the commissioning of the new facility by President William Ruto last week during his development tour of the area adding that farmers will now be getting the value for their labour.



Potato farmers in Meru County are upbeat after the unveiling of a new cold room storage facility that ensures the produce minimizes wastage and attracts good prices by being sold at the right time.

Eliud Mugambi, a potato farmer from Ngusishi in Buuri West sub-county where the facility is located said the move was long overdue, as farmers were previously forced to sell potatoes at a throwaway price fearing that they would rot due to poor storage.

“During the harvesting period, we have many brokers all over the area who buy potatoes at their preferred prices. Farmers usually have no option but to sell them at poor prices lest they will all rot due to lack of proper storage,” said Mr Mugambi.

He expressed his contentment with the

commissioning of the new facility by President William Ruto last week during his development tour of the area adding that farmers will now be getting the value for their labour.

Fridah Kathure, another farmer from Timau said she will increase the acreage under potatoes now that they will be storing their potatoes safely and selling them when they attract good prices.

“We will now get back to our farms and work hard without any fears of losses following the commissioning of the cold room facility that we have been yearning for,” said Kathure.

With a capacity to store 2,000 metric tonnes of potatoes per year, the state-of-the-art facility incorporates cutting-edge technology to maintain optimal temperatures for the stored potatoes.

It is expected to serve more than 14,000

farmers, ensure minimal wastage, and incorporate advanced grading and sorting equipment, enhancing the competitiveness of the potatoes in both local and international markets.

Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development Simon Chelugui who was present during the launch said that the cold storage project is a testament to the potential of Kenya’s productive capacity and the Government’s commitment to creating sustainable solutions for MSMEs in the agricultural sector, and especially towards achieving food security.

The cold storage facility, part of a Shs300 million investment covering Kisii and Nyandarua counties, aims to minimize post-harvest losses, ensure the economic viability of potato farming, and create competitive and sustainable jobs along the value chain.

The three projects collectively contribute to increasing the income of small-holder farmers and rural entrepreneurs engaged in potato and vegetable production.

Other government officers present during the commissioning included Agriculture and Livestock Development CS Mithika Linturi, State Department for MSMEs Principal Secretary Susan Mang’eni, Micro Small Enterprise Authority board members led by the Chairman Mr. James Mureu, Director General Henry Rithaa and the Meru County Governor Kawira Mwangaza.



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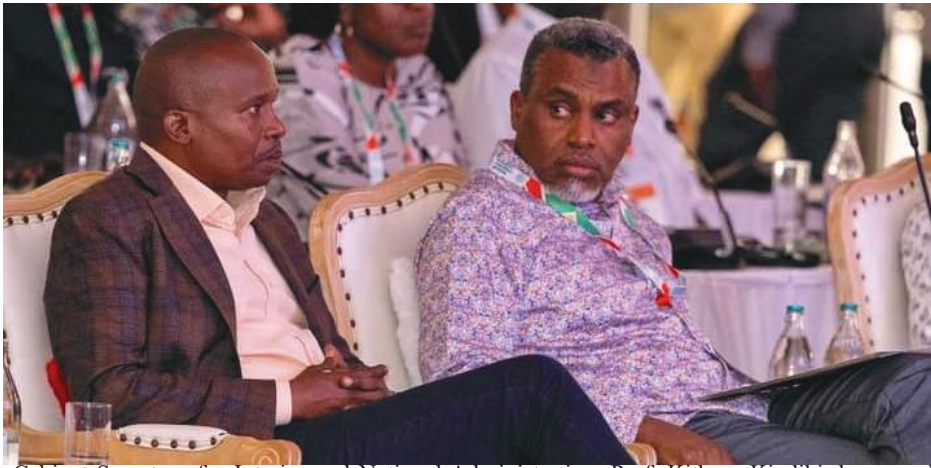
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Prof. Kithure Kindiki, has urged Eastern African Regional Chiefs of Intelligence and Heads of Security to embrace inter-agency cooperation in counter-intelligence, law enforcement, and crime prevention. The region faces unprecedented transnational crime, terrorism, and cyber threats, which threaten national security and developmental prospects. The Cabinet Secretary encouraged the region to unite, fortify alliances, exchange insights, and devise innovative strategies to safeguard the security and prosperity of the nations. The collective response must be comprehensive and two-fold, involving breaking down silos, fostering synergy among law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and ensuring a seamless exchange of information. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director General, Noordin Hajj, said the cooperation formed with the region heads of intelligence will bear fruit, providing a new opportunity to work, trade, and live peacefully together. Former CS Amina Mohamed urged the intelligence chiefs to innovate and upgrade methods to achieve optimal results.



The government is set to establish a satellite sports academy at the Wang'uru Stadium in Mwea East, in line with the Ministry of Youth Policy. Sports Principal Secretary (PS), Eng. Peter Tum, announced the plans during a tournament sponsored by area Member of Parliament (MP), Mary Maingi. The initiative, Talanta Hela, aims to monetize talent and revolutionise sports and the creative space into a mega industry. The programme, which started with football and volleyball, will expand to cover other talents in the next financial year. The MP emphasised the importance of sports in creating social networks among constituents and enhancing cohesion among residents. She urged youths to join TVETs to gain the necessary skills, with the Constituency Bursary Kitty covering part of the fees. The MP also urged local youth to apply for passports in readiness for the labour export programme. The proposed local Sports Academy will provide a platform for gifted youths to build and sharpen their skills, allowing them to compete with other young people.



The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, State Department of Creative Economy, has engaged with creative industry youth to develop a Creative Economy Policy and Creative Industries Bill. The session, led by Ismail Maalim Madey, Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, emphasised the importance of public participation in governance to enhance the quality of life. The bill aims to unlock the creative potential of youth and promote their engagement with government services. The County Executive Committee announced an initiative to establish an innovation centre to keep the youth engaged and enhance their talents. However, stakeholders expressed a desire for additional domains to encompass creative art forms.



Epson Kenya has donated Sh4.9 million worth of printers, projectors, and visualizers to 80 schools in partnership with Liquid Intelligent Technologies. The initiative aims to aid in the implementation of the competency-based curriculum (CBC) in schools from early childhood to secondary education. The Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group Technology and Innovation Officer, Ben Roberts, praised the partnership as a significant step in enhancing educational technologies. Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Epson and Liquid Technologies to make education more interesting and easier for students. Rosemary Bosibori Onyacha, the African Union award-winning best teacher in 2023, expressed her dedication to empowering young minds through education and overcoming challenges in integrating educational technology into classrooms.



The County Government of Narok has sponsored a three-week training programme for about 500 boda-boda riders in Narok town, aimed at curbing petty road accidents. The training, conducted by the Moran Driving School, will cover basic road regulations, the Highway Code, road signage, and riding skills. The programme, which is expected to reduce accidents, will start in Narok Town and extend to other sub-counties within the county. By the end of the training, riders will be subjected to a driving test conducted by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) and awarded an interim driving license. Eliud Mathu, a boda-boda rider, expressed gratitude for the initiative and said it would reduce accidents and deaths along the highways. Joseph Masika, another beneficiary, believes the training will help build trust between riders and their customers, reducing road accidents.



The Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice (OAG&DOJ) has held a stakeholder forum at KICC to validate its 2023–2027 strategic plan. The forum aimed to meet and exceed the expectations of internal and external stakeholders and the general public. The Solicitor General, Shadrack J. Mose, committed to reviewing and drafting laws related to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) priorities. The OAG&DOJ identified four key performance metrics, including Legal Services, Governance, Legal Training and Constitutional Affairs, Leadership and Integrity, and General Administration, Planning and Operations. The forum also included ten other strategic objectives, strategies, and activities to be implemented during the plan period. Stakeholders have until February 28, 2024, to provide their input for consideration and incorporation into the Strategic Plan before its launch.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Kiambu County is set to benefit from a multi-million three-storey modern market project in Wangige, Kabete Sub County. Under President William Ruto’s flagship programme, the national government has allocated Sh400 million for the market, with the administration contributing Sh150 million to construct a suitable facility for traders. The multi-storey business hub, which will accommodate approximately 700 traders, will create a conducive working environment for traders in Wangige town. The facility will be completed in 13 months, allowing traders to return to their spaces soon. The public participation exercise follows the approval of the market’s designs by architects from the Kenya School of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs). Residents also voiced their challenges and requests to the governor, including space allocation and market leadership. The governor praised traders and elected leaders in Kabete Constituency for endorsing the planned construction, stating that the tender advertisement will take place next and the allocation of spaces in the new facility will be transparent.



The Narok County Directorate of Disaster Management has successfully recovered the body of a man who drowned in the Ewaso Nyiro River over two weeks ago. The body was found floating on the water and squeezed between heavy logs, suggesting it could have been swept from a long distance. The pale and peeling skin of the body suggests it had been in the water for over two weeks. Local elder Oloishuro Ole Naeni revealed that the river had swept many villagers, whose bodies had been identified and buried accordingly. He called on area residents to avoid crossing flooded rivers or bathing beside rivers, as they could easily be swept downstream. The retrieved body was taken to the Narok County referral hospital mortuary for preservation while awaiting a postmortem and identification. People who have lost a loved one have been called to visit the police station or the mortuary to identify the body. Over 16 people have drowned in different parts of the county since the onset of enhanced rainfall.



60 students from Ijara Constituency, enrolled in Garissa Teachers College, will receive scholarships from the National Government’s Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF). The decision was made due to the area’s low teacher-pupil ratio and aims to address teacher shortages. Local teachers trained at Garissa Training College will be posted to various schools in Ijara Constituency upon graduation. The MP stated that the area needs more teachers due to the expanding education opportunities, with plans to add more schools soon. Residents expressed gratitude for the move, stating that more teachers would ensure increased student enrollment and quality education.



Nyeri County Director of Education, Jane Njogu, has partnered with National Government Administrative Officers to ensure that the remaining 3% of learners who are yet to report to secondary school join Form One before Friday this week. Out of the over 16,000 who sat the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Primary Schools (KCPE) in 2023, an estimated 1,000 learners are yet to take up Form 1. The County Director facilitated the registration of over 25 learners from Nyeri Central sub-county during a mop-up exercise. A similar exercise is taking place in the remaining seven sub-counties to ensure that 16,470 students transition to secondary school. A majority of learners will be joining nearby day secondary schools to avoid lag far behind their counterparts who joined secondary schools on January 15. The Ministry’s directive allows learners who cannot afford new school uniforms to continue donning their primary school uniforms until their parents can afford the new set. As of Friday last week, about 131,854 learners were expected to transition to Form One this year.



Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has arrested seven traders in Kisii and Nyamira counties for selling uncertified maize seeds. The officials conducted a two-week surveillance on seed certification in the region and impounded 210 kilogrammes of counterfeit seeds from three unlicensed individuals in Kisii and another 100 kilogrammes from four people in Nyamira County. The operation is ongoing across the country to weed out individuals who are taking advantage of the planting season to sell fake seeds to unsuspecting farmers. The Seed and Plant Varieties Act, Cap. 326 of 2012, stipulates that individuals arrested for dealing in fake seeds should pay a fine of up to Sh. 1 million and a jail term of up to two years if found guilty. KEPHIS Acting Deputy Director, Kisumu Region, Chelangat Tonui, urged farmers to purchase seeds from licenced agrovets and ensure seed packets have quality marks and sticker labels from KEPHIS. The KEPHIS is working closely with counties through the Departments of Agriculture to recommend individuals for licencing their agrovets and sensitising farmers on good agricultural practices. The county government has employed Extension Officers to assist farmers in identifying certified maize seeds.

Faith Communities Unite Against Fossil Fuel Extraction: GreenFaith Launches Africa Office



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Rev. Dr. Gibson Lesmore, Director of Programs at the AACC, delivered a stirring rebuke against complacency, asserting that the preservation of habitats is a moral imperative. He decried the deceptive language used to perpetuate fossil fuel dependency and called for unwavering solidarity in the face of climate crisis.
- GreenFaith Executive Director Rev. Fletcher Harper condemned the exploitation of Africa's resources by global corporations, declaring it morally reprehensible. He championed the campaign for clean, accessible energy and demanded an immediate halt to new fossil fuel projects.

In a fervent call to action, faith communities from across Africa convened at the All African Council of Churches (AACC) premises in Nairobi to denounce the perils of fossil fuel extraction and advocate for sustainable energy solutions. The occasion marked the launch of the GreenFaith-Africa office, a pivotal moment in the continent's fight against environmental degradation and social injustice.

Meryne Warah, the Global Director for Advocacy at GreenFaith, set the tone by highlighting the catastrophic consequences of the fossil fuels industry on Africa's people and environment. Emphasizing the abundance of renewable energy sources available, she urged faith leaders to confront the powers behind destructive extractive practices.

Representatives from indigenous communities, women, and youth across Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) shared harrowing accounts of the devastation wrought by fossil fuel projects. Videos depicting the aftermath of oil spills, land displacement, and cultural disruption underscored the urgency of the situation.

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Alhaji Uthman Raji Abubakar

ally reprehensible. He championed the campaign for clean, accessible energy and demanded an immediate halt to new fossil fuel projects.

In a show of unity, representatives from diverse faith backgrounds stressed the intrinsic connection between spirituality and environmental stewardship. Hindu council member Sujarta Kotamraju urged for the protection of Mother Earth, while Muslim leader Salim Bayani emphasized the shared responsibility to safeguard the environment as ordained in Holy Scriptures.

Indigenous voices, represented by Elija Toirai, emphasized the importance of indigenous knowledge in mit-

igating climate change and called for greater inclusion in decision-making processes.

Sabina Chege, Secretary of the Kenya Women of Faith, highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and called for their increased involvement in climate justice efforts.

Ezekiel Chibeze, Executive Director of the Strategic Youth Network for Development in Ghana, underscored the pivotal role of youth in driving climate education and innovative solutions.

GreenFaith-Africa, now operational in 12 African countries, aims to mobilize faith communities to oppose new

fossil fuel projects and advocate for universal access to clean energy and green jobs. The organization's campaign against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) serves as a testament to its commitment to environmental justice and sustainability.

As the voices of faith and conscience rise in unison, the launch of GreenFaith-Africa heralds a new era of collective action and hope for a greener, more equitable future on the African continent.

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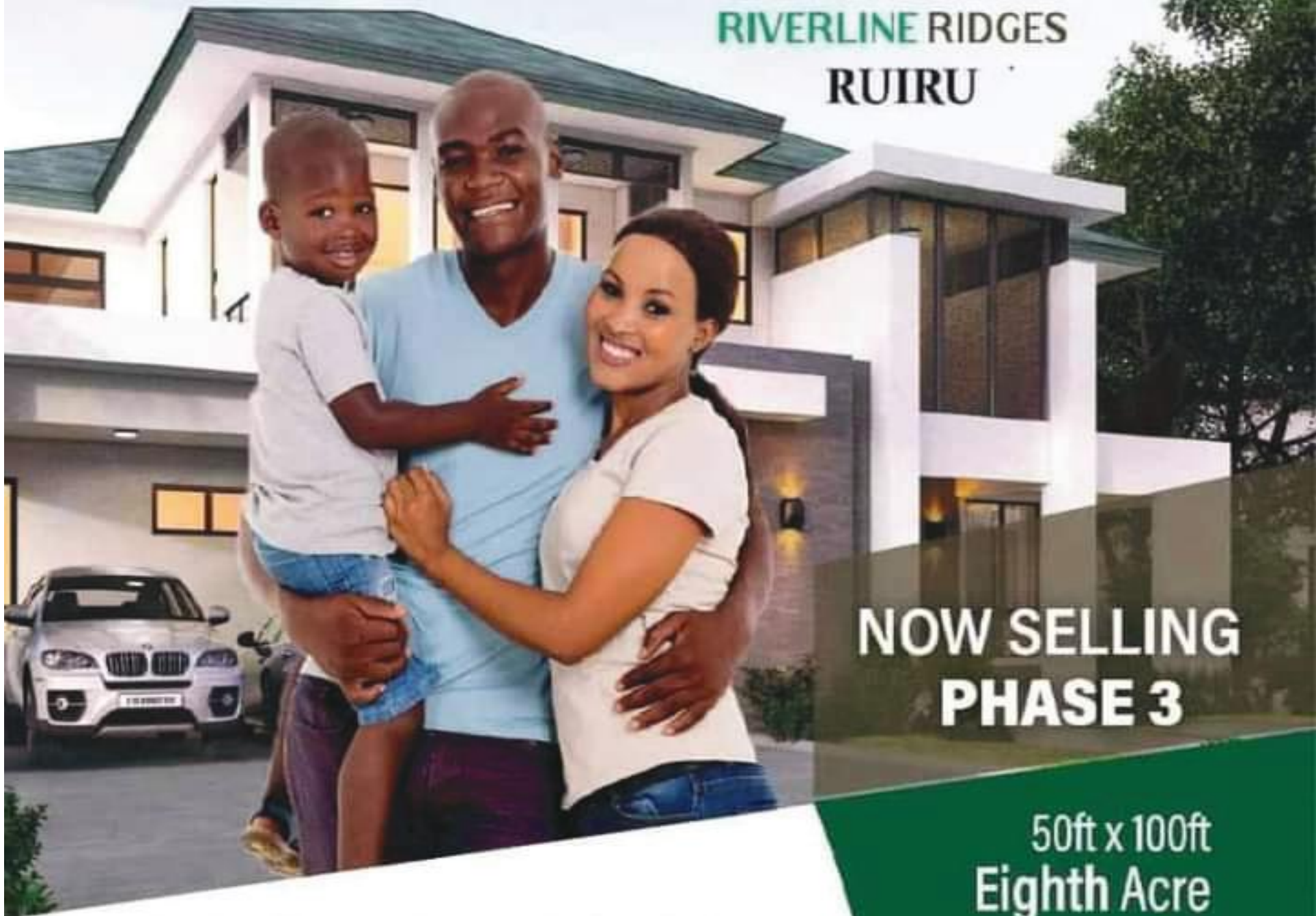
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Gachagua Leads Leaders In Visiting Nyandarua’s Kinangop Disaster Victims

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “Although the damage is huge, I am happy that there were no casualties. No one died or was injured during the calamity. I have been sent by our President William Ruto to encourage the families and ensure that those affected reconstruct their lives,” he said.
- During his visit to the villages, to inspect the extent of the damage, the DP he promised more support from the government.
- Mr Gachagua visited the homestead of Mama Dorcas Wangui Kamaru, one of the most affected, whose house was destroyed by the wind, and left her family destitute. The DP comforted the distraught mother, who was part of those who received Government’s support.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua presenting assorted humanitarian stuff to Monday rain disaster victims in Kinangop, Nyandarua County.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday visited families affected by heavy rains and windstorms Kinangop constituency in Nyandarua county, which caused massive destruction rendering them homeless.

Gachagua delivered assorted items to the displaced families, including, foodstuff and mattresses, blankets and iron sheets to assist the affected families reconstruct their houses and livelihoods.

The DP responded to the humanitarian crisis caused by the natural disaster that occurred on Monday night.

The families mainly at Bongo, Mukiri, Kagera-ini and Ndogonye villages were rendered homeless by the disaster, which also wreaked havoc on crops resulting from the heavy rains and strong winds.

“Although the damage is huge, I am happy that there were no casualties. No one died or was injured during the calamity. I have been sent by our President William Ruto to encourage the families and ensure that those affected reconstruct their lives,” he said.

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ment’s support.

The Deputy President, who was joined by local leaders, said that he will ensure that the destroyed houses will be reconstructed.

He later addressed hundreds of residents at Kwa Haraka township, where he updated them on the government’s development projects in Nyandarua County. He said the projects were on course in a bid to boost the economy.

He said the government had approved construction of the Ithithe-Ndunyu Njeru Road that will connect Nyandarua and Nyeri Counties and also reduce travel time.

The Deputy President vowed to continue advocating for national unity and development as he advised youthful leaders in Mt Kenya region to shun divisive politics. He asked leaders from the region to unite, rally behind President William Ruto and support him to deliver to Kenyans.

This comes even as MPs drawn from the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and Jubilee Party said they were behind him as he focused on Mt Kenya unity behind President Ruto.

He said, President Ruto, and him will continue to mentor youthful leaders.



Zaheer Jhanda, the MP for Nyaribari Chache in Kisii County addressing residents of Nyandarua at Kwa-Haraka Township in Nyandarua County yesterday

“But they have to be cautious and understand that our strength and relevance in national politics is based on our unity. We were divided in the past and we vowed never again shall we be so,” he stated.

“President Ruto and I will continue mentoring young leaders to take up political leadership in future.

Relating to the economy, the Deputy President said that though President Ruto inherited a debt burden the nation’s economy is on a stable and sustainable path.

He was accompanied by Nyandarua Governor Kiarie Badilisha, deputy governor John Mathara, senator John Methu and MPs Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop) and Zaheer Jhanda (Nyaribari Chache) and MCAs led by the host Ward Representative Zachary Njeru.

The leaders said the Mt Kenya voting bloc was solidly behind the President and the DP.

“Do not listen to the political noises involving succession. Do not be distracted by the politics. We are solidly behind you and the President. You are our leader not only now but also in future,” said Kinangop MP Kwenya Thuku.

Senator Methu said Mt Kenya region’s kingpin is the DP as he told off those attempting to introduce inter-county politics.

“As Nyandarua people, we love you and we will continue supporting you. We are grateful as youth leaders over the mentorship. I wish to remind Mt Kenya leaders that the Deputy President is our leader and our kingpin,” said Mr Methu.

‘The Future Is In Africa,’ President Ruto Woos European Investors

By: PCS

President William Ruto has urged European investors to explore investment opportunities in Africa. The President said investing in Africa is a smart business decision owing to its vast untapped resources. He described Africa as a continent with a great future, huge opportunities and tremendous potential. “If you are looking at the future and you are not looking in the direction of Africa, then you are looking in the wrong place. The future is in Africa,” he said. He made the remarks on Tuesday at the European Corporate Council on Africa and the Middle East (ECAM) dinner in Rome, Italy. He said Africa has the largest renewable energy assets in the world, making it the most ideal green industrial hub of the world. “Africa also has the world-critical minerals necessary for energy transition,” he added.

The President said the continent has two-thirds of the world’s arable land and thus the potential for immense agricultural production to feed itself and, indeed, the world. He also noted that Africa has the youngest population, with more than 70 per cent below the age of 30. He explained that by 2050, a quarter of the world’s population will be living in Africa, making the continent a profitable market to invest in. President Ruto, however, said Africa’s potential cannot be realised without the right technologies and financial support. He called on Europe to harness its technologies in Africa and help unlock its vast resources for the mutual benefit of both parties. “We can forge a win-win outcome for Europe, Africa and the globe,” he said. The President said the Italy-Africa summit, the first-ever, is a demonstration that Africa is no longer the dark continent it has previously been profiled to be. During President Ruto’s two-day visit to Italy, he addressed the Italy-Africa Summit that focused on



President William Ruto held talks with President of Italy Sergio Mattarella in Rome. PHOTO | PCS

food security, vocational training, energy and infrastructure development. He also held talks with President Sergio Mattarella of Italy. During the meeting, Italy accepted Kenya’s proposition to use its G7 presidency to push for reforms of the international financial system. President Ruto also held talks with

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and the President of the European Council Charles Michel. He also met Axel van Trotsenburg, senior managing director of the World Bank Group, Food Agricultural Organisation Director-General Qu Dongyu and the Rome Initiative Group on the Peace Process in South

Sudan. Others were the Executive Director of the World Food Programme Cindy McCain and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva.

Azimio Tells U.S To Respect High Court Ruling On Police Deployment To Haiti

By: Bashir Mbuthia
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The Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition party has urged the United States government to respect the High Court’s ruling barring the government from deploying police to troubled Haiti. This comes after the High Court on Friday declared that the National Security Council lacks the authority to dispatch police officers to another country. Despite the verdict, the Kenya Kwanza administration has affirmed its intention to appeal the decision, a move seemingly backed by the U.S. government. In a statement yesterday following an Azimio summit meeting in Nairobi, the coalition underscored that domestic and foreign entities that hold reservations about the ruling should

respect the autonomy of the Judiciary. “We take note of the support expressed by the US government for the Ruto regime to appeal the ruling on the deployment of police to Haiti. It is our hope that all parties shall respect the independence of the Judiciary,” said Azimio in the joint statement read by Narc-Kenya party leader Martha Karua. The National Security Council, in October last year, petitioned Parliament to approve the deployment of Kenyan police officers on a UN-backed security mission to war-torn Haiti. The National Assembly subsequently approved the deployment. The approval by Parliament came amid a High Court order temporarily blocking the planned deployment pending the hearing of a petition filed by Thirdway Alliance party leader Ekuru Aukot and two others. In the petition, Aukot argued that the Constitution does not envisage



Azimio co-principal Martha Karua addresses the press after an Azimio summit meeting on January 30, 2024. PHOTO | COURTESY.

the deployment of the police service outside Kenya. He went on to add that the deployment of police officers or the forces outside Kenya is a matter of great public interest and importance and can only be done in accordance with

the provisions of the Constitution. Kenya had pledged to deploy 1,000 security personnel for the mission seeking to combat a decades-long gang violence characterized by widespread murders, kidnappings and extortion.

The UN Security Council gave the go-ahead in early October for the deployment of a multi-national security support mission, led by Kenya, to help the overwhelmed Haitian police.

Evil Spirits Can Be Controlled By The Child Of God Pt 1



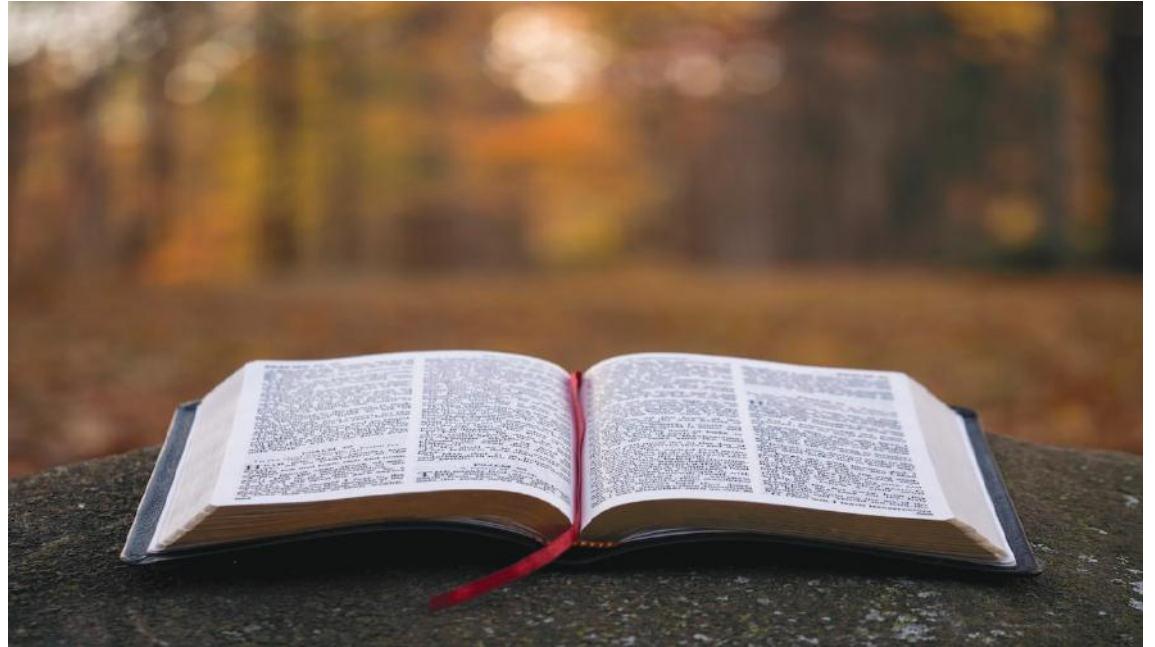
By: Eric Musa
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Even Christians can be influenced by demon spirits. This is why there are sometimes problems in churches. And this is why pastors, instead of fighting with combative individuals in their churches, should take authority over the evil spirits who are behind the actions of these people. Some may ask, "How can Satan compel Christians to do certain things?" The answer is fairly simple. It is because many Christians have shortcomings in their lives.

Let's take the example of Peter, the Rock, a committed beloved disciple of Jesus; when he was informed by Jesus of the destiny he had to suffer, die on the cross. Peter in his weakness; overzealous, said it would not

happen under his watch; delusion of grandeur. But, immediately, Jesus recognising that it was not really him saying this; but rather being influenced by Satan; He commanded Satan directly: "Get behind me Satan, you are an offense to me, you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns (Matthew 16:23)." The will of God was to be fulfilled regardless. We see clearly, Satan takes advantage of these failings and causes problems. But the fact remains, it is evil spirits who cause the problems. If pastors; ministers would take authority over those spirits and command them to depart, most church problems could be solved with no confusion. And this holds, of course, for many other situations.

This revelation is very key in dealing with many troubles that we encounter. Instead of targeting men, target evil spirits that cause people to act wickedly. We know very well, we do NOT wrestle against flesh and blood (man in human form), but against principalities; against powers, against the rulers of the darkness



in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,, (Ephesians 6:12). So, let us be wise, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be fully armoured always for victory in battles. TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY, THE MIGHTY MAN OF WAR: JEHOVAH NISSI, THE EVERLASTING KING.

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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Those Opposing Ndindi's Candidacy On The Basis Of His Age, Experience Will Not Succeed



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Though Ndindi always steered clear of the debate and instead focussed on development agenda for his Kiharu constituency, DP allies were following and monitoring his activities very closely.
- The pronouncements in the second meeting rattled them to a point of launching a fierce fight-back.
- The first strategy saw Gachagua allies dragging the name of President Ruto by claiming he had a hand in Ndindi's heightened development activities in Kiharu.
- They would not mention the President by his name. They would only talk about a hidden powerful hand being behind Ndindi. The widely held view was that they were referring to the President.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

I have been following with keen interest the supremacy battle for the Mount Kenya kingpin pitting Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, who is also the chairman of the Finance and Appropriation Committee in Parliament.

The debate took a new turn recently when Ndindi hosted twice dozens of members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country.

This was during the launch of Kiharu Masomo Bora Initiatives.

The first meeting was attended by 15 MPs and the number rose to more than 20 MPs in the second one.

The MPs were reading from the same script. God loves you the people of Murang'a because He has given you a great leader in Ndindi Nyoro. He bears the qualities of person poised to become the President of Kenya.

Apart from being youthful and well-educated on matters of good governance and civil rights, he is a development conscious and has never been implicated in corruption.

He also believes in building a united and cohesive nation of Kenya.

In light of this, we want to reiterate he is the best suited to succeed President William Ruto in 2032.

Meanwhile, we fully support the candidature of Ndindi in the race to succeed former President Uhuru Kenyatta as Mount Kenya region kingpin.

Though Ndindi always steered clear of the debate and instead focussed on development agenda for his Kiharu constituency, DP allies were following and monitoring his activities very closely.

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The first strategy saw Gachagua allies dragging the name of President Ruto by claiming he had a hand in Ndindi's heightened development activities in Kiharu.

They would not mention the President by his name. They would only talk about a hidden powerful hand being behind Ndindi. The widely held view was that they were referring to the President.

For Gachagua team, the second strategy was to escalate the matter to State House.

This left no doubt they felt the threat posed by Ndindi is real and cannot be taken for granted.

Many believed that this is what prompted the President to wade into this matter.

First, he set the record straight that he has not taken side. We all know both Gachagua and Ndindi were his close

allies. He also took this opportunity to caution the leaders against engaging in early, premature succession politics.

Yes, we promised to mentor young leaders and we have not changed our position. I however want to urge youthful leaders not to go overboard and instead play their politics in a respectful manner.

This time, our focus is to deliver on what we promised Kenyans during the campaigns.

We cannot succeed if we engage in activities meant to divide and polarize our country.

In 2027, Kenyans will judge each one of us based on the work we have done.

Earlier on, during a working tour of Western Kenya, the President gave a similar advise.

Senator Bonny Khalwale had introduced the debate of Ruto succession. He had told Gachagua to forget ever becoming the President of Kenya. You are unfit to lead this nation. President Ruto will pass the baton to ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi in 2032.

So, Dr Ruto was responding to these claims. He told Khalwale. We have no time for sideshows. We are here to do development.

At this juncture, allow me to focus on the two grounds cited by those opposed to Ndindi Nyoro's bid to take the mantle of the Mount Kenya kingpin.

One, that he is too young. Two, he has no experience. In my view, the two arguments do not make any sense.

If you are able to meet the expectations of the electorate, it means you have experience. The age also does not matter. A young person can do better than an old man. Ndindi is in this category.

The opinion polls conducted in recent past rated him as best performer in the country.

He has so far done a lot for the people of Kiharu.

We have been seeing him hosting leaders who travel to Kiharu for benchmarking.

He has also been honoring invitations from elected leaders drawn from different parts of the country. He would join them as a chief guest to launch the projects similar to those he had pioneered in Kiharu.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Private Sector Roots For Inclusion As Committee Wraps Up Public Hearings On Affordable Housing Bill

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- They however appealed for the elimination of the tax burden imposed on them through stamp duty and capital gains, to enable them support the program.
- “Hon. Chair, we propose the amendment of Clause 42 to provide the manner and form by which Real Estate Investment Trusts may develop affordable housing units under the program. We also propose a new clause to allow for private sector participation of institutions licensed by the Capital Markets Authority”, they submitted.
- The Bill in its current form does not recognize the participation of private sector professionals in the management of the fund.



Committee chairman Kuria Kimani (in White Shirt) and other legislators during yesterday's session.

Various organised groups and stakeholders have asked the Joint-Committee conducting Public Hearings on the Affordable Housing Bill 2023 to create a provision in the Bill that allows for private sector participation. Noting that the private sector could play a key role in the implementation of the Affordable Housing Program, the stakeholders called on the legislators to consider incorporating a mechanism by which additional housing stock can be adopted by the program to supplement the Housing levy. They made these sentiments when they appeared before a section of the Joint- Committee led by Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning who is also the Molo MP Kuria Kimani. A consortium comprising of Kenya National REIT, Nairobi Securities Exchange, the Kenya Association of Stockbrokers and Investment Banks, Fund Managers Association and the Association of Pension Trustees and Administrators of Kenya, told the legislators that they had capacity to contribute meaningfully to the government's affordable housing agenda. They however appealed for the elimination of the tax burden imposed on them through stamp duty and capital gains, to enable them support the pro-

gram. “Hon. Chair, we propose the amendment of Clause 42 to provide the manner and form by which Real Estate Investment Trusts may develop affordable housing units under the program. We also propose a new clause to allow for private sector participation of institutions licensed by the Capital Markets Authority”, they submitted. The Bill in its current form does not recognize the participation of private sector professionals in the management of the fund. Weighing into this debate, the Real Estate Development and Finance Association (REDFA) Kenya, told the Committee that the government should adopt alternative development approaches. They opined that Kenya could emulate successful models employed in the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, where the government promotes self-builds through providing serviced plots affixed with essential infrastructure either at subsidized cost or free of charge to its citizens. They called on the legislators to create a provision that allows for more public-private partnerships where under such arrangements, the government offers land and leaves construction and financing to developers. “The government should refrain

from directly engaging in unit construction to mitigate potential citizen losses and avoid potential financial risks through government-led projects”, they argued. The same view was raised by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK). The Institute further observed that the proposed imposition of a Housing Levy on personal income was tantamount to double taxation and against international best practices. They proposed that Parliament should set aside funds for housing and not through the payroll. Appearing on behalf of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), the Kenya Green Building Society's CEO Ms. Nasra Nanda pointed out that there was need to amend the Bill to provide for a guideline for basic standards of housing units built under the affordable housing program. She also held that the proposed housing levy should be voluntary and not imposed, and based on pensionable salary to ease administrative costs for small employers. The Society further proposed for the amendment of the Housing Fund's allocation to prioritize the development of EDGE-certified green affordable buildings. They argued that this would yield long-term cost savings, improve environmental performance,

promote residents well-being while positioning Kenya as a global leader in innovative and responsible development. Others who made presentations to the Committee were Oxygene Marketing Communications Limited and the Vice Chancellor of the Technical University of Kenya, Prof Benedict Mutua. On their part, Oxygene held that there was no need to establish a new Housing Board while the National Housing Corporation's Board is still in operation. They observed that with the creation of a board from scratch, it would take time to have it operational. Prof. Mutua who supported the Bill appealed to the Committee to create an avenue in the Bill to allow the State Department of Housing to incorporate Universities students' hostel projects under their docket to meet the large shortfall of students' housing. The Joint-Committee has wound up public hearings and is expected to engage with the State Department of Housing before proceeding to prepare its report for consideration by the House.

Kirinyaga County governor Ann Waiguru condoling the family of the late Isaac Njagi

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has rolled out mental health programme in all medical facilities in the county to address rising cases of suicide.

Waiguru termed mental health as a big problem across the country that must be sorted out to avert unnecessary deaths.

The governor attributed increased cases of suicide among men in Kirinyaga to mental health challenges arising from depression and family pressures.

Speaking during the burial ceremony of Wasafi Bodaboda Chairman Isaac Njagi alias Muthii in Ndiriruku area of Mwea constituency, Waiguru noted that there is a worrying trend of suicide cases among men in the county.

Waiguru said the mental health programme involve training and deploying counsellors in all medical facilities.



Kirinyaga County governor Ann Waiguru condoling the family of the late Isaac Njagi

“The counsellors will provide guidance, support, and advice to individuals, couples, families, or groups facing personal, social, or psychological issues,” the governor said.

She said the rise of mental health problems highlights the need for qualified professionals to help victims to overcome the mental issues.

The governor asked people to moderate their expectations and reduce unnecessary pressures in life so as to avoid being victims of mental health.

“I want to ask youth, especially young men to speak out when you have an issue, let’s join social groups, and engage in sports activities. They help you relieve the pressures and get guidance,” Waiguru added.

For the last one year, there has been increased cases of death related to suicide in Kirinyaga with majority of them being attributed to family disputes.

Mwea Member of Parliament Mary Maingi asked men to speak out and seek help, instead of taking their own lives because of issues that can be sorted out.

Maingi asked young men not to lose hope or give up in life because there are a lot of opportunities awaiting them.

World Health Organisation (WHO) attributes majority of suicide cases to joblessness, academic failures or pressures, legal difficulties and financial difficulties. Others include bullying, alcoholism and substance misuse, depression and bipolar disorder

WHO has also rated suicide as among top 20 leading causes of death worldwide with Kenya being ranked position 114 among the 175 countries with the highest suicide cases.

At the same time, Waiguru has promised to extend domestic water supply to Mbambaini and Muthuthuini villages in Tebere.

Waiguru said her administration will allocate more funds in the next financial year for undertaking of the water supply project.

Gender Equality Commission Unveils Key Reports On Social Inclusion

By: Capital Correspondent

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) successfully launched a series of crucial reports on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in an event was graced by Cabinet Affairs Principal Secretary Dr Idris Salim.

The launch of the four reports are part of NGEC’s ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination.

They offer comprehensive policy recommendations, some of which have already been implemented, showcasing the Commission’s commitment to fostering a more inclusive society.

They include; the 2023 Inequality Diagnostics: Mind The Gap-Towards A More Equal Kenya, a National Inclusive Development Framework for Marginalized Communities in Kenya, The Status of Gender Equality and Inclusion in the Public Sector, 2023, and Model



The launch of the four reports are part of NGEC’s ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination. ..

Gender Mainstreaming Policy for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector (With Elements of Inclusion), 2023.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Dakota, lauded NGEC on the launch of their reports that provide solutions that “address Gender Inequalities in the TVET sector, strategies for Inclusion of minority and marginalized groups in national development; and opportunities for accelerating gender mainstreaming in the public sector.”

Dr Dakota also highlighted specific areas where Kenya had excelled in improving livelihoods of Kenyans and taming major drivers of inequalities and outlined strategies for further improvement. “Notable achievements include the transformational agriculture initiatives, expansion of opportunities for decent work and job creation, comprehensive responses to climate change, and reforms in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector,” he said.

In his address, Dr Dakota acknowledged challenges such as corruption, climate hazards, global competition, and weakening democracy, urging a collective effort from all stakeholders to mitigate these drivers of inequality.

He called for a stronger partnership

between the government, private sector, citizens, and development partners to address these challenges.

NGEC expressed gratitude for the government’s openness to accountability and feedback, noting that the assessments provided valuable insights for shaping policies, resource allocation, and investment priorities.

The Commission also recognized government agencies and individuals who have excelled in promoting gender equality and social inclusion.

As part of the commitment to reducing inequalities, the government will seek to scale up efforts highlighted in the various reports.

He specifically mentioned the expectation that inequalities resulting from the not more than two-thirds gender rule would be addressed by the current Parliament.

The four reports were developed by NGEC in close collaboration with various stakeholders, with support from various development partners including the Republic of Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and the World Bank.

Education



In the realm of learning, where knowledge unfolds,
A language awaits its beauty untold.
English, a path to new horizons and dreams,
Unveiling a world of endless streams.

With eagerness, we embark on this quest,
Seeking effective ways to learn, to be our best.
Let's delve into the depths of this poetic rhyme,
And uncover the secrets, one step at a time.

First, immerse yourself in the language's embrace,
Surround yourself with English, in every place.
Watch movies, listen to songs, and read with delight,
Let the language seep into your soul, day and night.

Engage in conversations, with others who share,
The passion for English, the desire to dare.
Practice speaking, stumble and rise,
For it's within these moments, true fluency lies.

Seek out a mentor, a guide on your way,
Someone to inspire, to help you convey.
Their wisdom and expertise, a guiding light,
Will lead you through the darkness, and into the

light.

Embrace technology, a powerful tool,
With language learning apps, you'll never be a fool.
Interactive lessons, games, and quizzes galore,
Make learning English an adventure, forevermore.

Don't forget the power of reading, my friend,
Books, articles, and stories, a journey without end.
Expand your vocabulary, ignite your imagination,
Through the written word, find true liberation.

Grammar and structure, the backbone they provide,
Master the rules, and your confidence will glide.
With practice and patience, you'll conquer each rule,
And English will become your language jewel.

Lastly, never fear to make mistakes along the way,
For they're stepping stones, leading to your English bay.
Be bold, be curious, and let your fears dissolve,
In the pursuit of English, let your passion evolve.

So, embark on this journey, with heart and with zest,
And let the English language put you to the test.
With effective ways to learn, you'll surely find,
English mastery, a treasure undefined.

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

Ozod Sharafiddinov Ways Of Life



By: Akbarova Shakhzoda

Ozod Sharafiddinov is a critical journalist of Uzbekistan. Today, this person is known as a new unit of the state. He is the editor-in-chief of "Gazeta.uz".

Sharafiddinov is a critical uncovered of messages, covering everything from complex and impactful negotiations to contemporary, lively messages and exhibitions.

Ozod Sharafiddinov was born in Tashkent in 1983. After studying, he developed foreign language fields of Uzbekistan.

He studied and mastered the documents on the topics of Hello, Creativity, Justice and Political Processes, came to a conclusion and made the information about it public.

After entering the field of journalism, Ozod Sharafiddinov worked in various newspapers of Uzbekistan. He stood out from other people in his fair speaking, in using his whole thinking with other processes, in revealing critical measures. In the articles of Ozod Sharafiddinov, creative works such as love, loyalty, lies are presented in one collection. With the conduct of his current state policy, various privileges and conflicts have arisen. Sharafiddinov's articles are aimed at supporting the information of Uzbekistan to the society, studying honest and fair history and other facts and news.

Therefore, we, the youth, should study and study the politics of our country thoroughly.

Ozod Sharafiddinov was incredibly noble in his work and in matters that concerned him personally. Even the desire to pour water under people who once wronged him was alien to him.

Here is an event that happened in his life and has surprised everyone until now. After independence, Ozod Sharafiddinov was presented with a number of awards. Among them, the laureate of the state award named after Beruni, the Order of Meritorious Services, and the Order of Labor Fame. On August 23, 2002, he was awarded the title of "Hero of Uzbekistan".

We are proud to have such knowledgeable persons in our country.

Fortunately, You Are With Me, Mother!



now,
You see, I will be the happiest
Mom, I'm Fine, you're with me!

Don't be discouraged, after all, you have God.
Some people call their mother a disgrace.
Waiting for my unexpected ways,
Mom, I'm Fine, you're with me!

I will feed the soul to death,
I will build a palace, a house of joy,
One day I'll be crowned in Heaven,
Fortunately, you are with me, mother!

We will happily leave,
We fulfill God's duty,
We will reach blessed Mecca together.
Fortunately, you are with me, mother!

Qamashi District, Kashkadarya Region:
2004.10.09; Daughter of Jamilova
Gulshoda Sarvar: Student of the Faculty
of Philological Languages and Uzbek
Language at Karakalpak State University
named after Berdak

Father



No Father will pass away from the world,
They just fall in love with heaven.
For the remaining children.
They will build a castle until the Day of Resurrection.

No Father will pass away from the world,
They will leave the laughter childhood.
He woke up with a kiss on your face in the morning,
That burning love will fade away.

No Father will pass away from the world,
They will decorate your paths if life.
The first step that made you happy,
They will pour on your leaf of life.

No Father will pass away from the world,
A handful of prayers every day,
In every beating heart,
There are pictures left, I cry without voice.

No Father will pass away from the world,
What does "meet" remember in dreams,
The hours that I spent without worries,
My heart melts in my heart.

Bakhromova Nazokat

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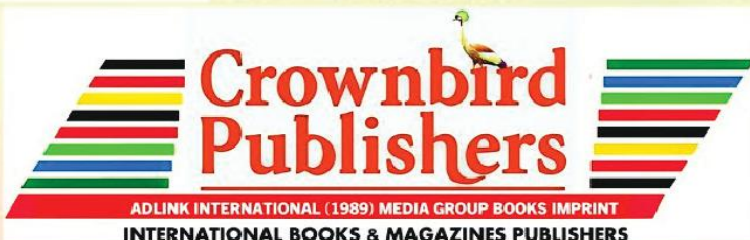
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Disbursements To Counties Will Be Timely – Gachagua

By: Eric Biegon

The Government is committed to disbursement of funds to counties, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said.

Speaking on Monday when he chaired the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) session at the official Residence in Karen, Nairobi, the DP said the Ruto Administration will make sure devolution works.

“I wish to emphasise our commitment to the timely disbursement of funds to counties. We are nearly up to date for December 2023,” he said.

In a communique after the meeting, the IBEC asked the National Treasury to release the pending allocations and priority to be given to counties yet to receive theirs.

“The National Treasury has committed to clear December 2023 disbursements to Counties of sharable revenue within two weeks from the date of this meeting. Priority will be given to counties that had not received any allocation in January 2024,” the statement said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at a past event.

A Committee comprising Council of Governors, Commission on Revenue Allocation, the National Treasury and IBEC will be constituted to examine the equitable sharable revenue proposals for the financial year 2024/25 and be concluded within a week.

On Division of Revenue, the CRA recommended Ksh.398.14 billion, the National Treasury proposed

Ksh.391.1 billion while the Council of Governors proposed Ksh.439.5 billion as equitable share to Counties for FY 2024/25.

In his opening remarks, Mr Gachagua challenged the governors to settle the pending bills running into billions of shillings to enable the local economies to thrive.

“I strongly urge you to fast-track payments of Pending Bills. Indeed,

we should not be having Pending Bills for the last Financial Year. Prompt payments for goods and services releases funds to our business people, especially the hustlers, for a better economy,” he said.

The Deputy President chaired the 22nd Ordinary Session of IBEC bringing together his office, the Council of Governors and agencies tasked with ensuring smooth in-

tergovernmental relations assuring them of the Kenya Kwanza Administration’s determination for devolution to prosper.

“President William Ruto and I are committed to the success of devolution,” said Mr Gachagua.

With the fight against corruption intensified, the DP urged the governors to join hands with the national government to wipe out the vice.

“Corruption is a threat to both levels of Government. Let us work collectively to put in place control measures to monitor use of public funds for all procurement and expenditure to be within the law,” he added.

For higher collection of local revenues, he asked all the counties to adopt the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) system.

The DP also urged the governors to fully support key programmes including the Affordable Housing and the Universal Health Care Programmes geared towards improving the lives of the people.

He also called on them to support the fertiliser subsidy programme to enhance food production as one of the ways of reducing the cost of living.

Ruto Lauds Italy’s Support For Multilateral Reforms, Cooperation With Africa

By: OPrudence Wanza

President William Ruto has expressed appreciation for Italy’s support in advocating for reforms of multilateral institutions, starting with the replenishment of the World Bank’s International Development Association.

Ruto said Italy’s approval of a new, win-win cooperation with Africa on energy will facilitate the decarbonisation of the world and ensure a smooth and sustainable energy transition.

“We laud Italy for joining Kenya in pushing for more reforms of multilateral institutions, starting with the replenishment of the World Bank’s International Development Association,” President Ruto stated

Ruto is currently in Rome for the Italy-Africa Summit which brings to-

gether 20 African Heads of State to discuss areas of collaboration among them food security, education, energy and infrastructure development.

In the sidelines of the Summit, President Ruto also met with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme Cindy McCain.

Ruto underscored the importance of collaborative efforts to address food security challenges, stating that Kenya is eager to work with the World Food Programme (WFP) to tackle famine and end hunger.

“With the Executive Director of the World Food Programme Chief in Rome, Italy, we discussed the harmonisation of our tactics to increase food production in Kenya,” President Ruto remarked.



President William Ruto with Executive Director of the World Food Programme Cindy McCain..



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Increased Human Trafficking Is A Great Worry In East Africa

By: Byamukama Richard
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Trafficking young people is a growing and profitable business in East Africa. At times, these are often aided by respective Immigration officials to enable the transit of victims.
- In June 2023, the INTERPOL issued a global warning on the increased activities of human trafficking networks fuelled by fraud. In particular, INTERPOL noted an escalation in human trafficking networks using online scams to lure victims who are then forced to commit cyber-crime, and financial crimes on an industrial scale. Have the East African governments acted to this warning yet? Not convincingly, if not at all!



Increased Human Trafficking Is A Great Worry In East Africa

The East African region is currently battling with the menace of human trafficking. Men, women and children are trafficked from rural communities to large cities like Kampala, Nairobi and Dar-el-Salaam for Labour and sexual exploitation for example the Banyarwanda commercial sex workers in Nairobi and Kampala are often trafficked from Rwanda with promises for better jobs, children in the Karamoja region, and Northern Kenya are always seen begging on the streets of Kampala and Nairobi. Where do these young kids get transport to come to these major cities? And urban authorities in these cities often don't care about the enslaved young kids!

Others, who seek better job opportunities in the Middle East, are often recruited under vague contractual conditions that can encourage subsequent abuse by human traffickers. According to victims, they are convinced at lower monetary costs to dodge the high costs and bureaucracies associated with licensed Labour recruitment companies and often offered visit visas to go and work in Middle

East Countries of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar among others

An increasing number of East Africans are being lured through online job scams that promise to pay well in Southeast Asia. For example, a 'sales specialist' is promised US\$2 098 a month, while a bilingual translator is promised up to US\$3 000. These job opportunities overseas are particularly appealing to youth in East Africa, where recent studies show that up to 80% are unemployed and the average monthly salary is around US\$634 a month. Are the ICT regulators in the respective East African nations aware of these scams? Undoubtedly, yes!

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and financial crimes on an industrial scale. Have the East African governments acted to this warning yet? Not convincingly, if not at all!

According to the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, there is an increase of East African human trafficking victims in the Southeast Asian countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines. It said that on arrival at the border and airports, victims are often driven to deserted hotels where they are forced to work in 'fraud factories', conducting love scams, money laundering and illegal gambling. Victims who try to leave are often asked to pay back a debt that can be as high as US\$10 000.

Well, most states tend to focus on state security as the only key security concern. There is an urgent need to adopt human security awareness and protection initiatives in order to guarantee survival of human beings. There should be efforts to counter human trafficking, and also to repatriate hundreds of thousands of East Africans from the Middle East, and Southeast Asia through the required

collaboration between Southeast Asian countries.

East African governments should adjust their cyber legal regimes to ensure that technology companies embrace more robust scanning practices to detect cons that result in human trafficking online for example Google, Meta, Twitter, and watsapp among others

It is also important that vulnerable groups are made aware of these cons and scams for example University graduates, commercial sex workers, children, and the entire population, and protected from the consequent harms. In this case, the target group for the Middle East and Southeast Asia traffickers is educated youth desperate for employment and the rest of the categories are trafficked and enslaved internally within East Africa

Byamukama Richard Bard is a lawyer and a student of Security and Strategic Studies



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unmasking The Shadows; Navigating Kenya’s Homicide Surge Beyond Media Spotlight

By **Brian Magiri**

Kenya has in the last two weeks caved in to an accelerating wave of tragic deaths and murders that have left the entire country shocked and stupified. Truly, different voices criticizing the surge in violence have expressed themselves as the public grapples with the distressing reality and even advocating for a movement to halt these senseless acts.

However, let’s take a step back and think about how media houses mold our view of these events. Personally, I think murders are quite unfortunate on a weekly basis and this recent increase is not a new phenomenon. The difference of this murder to those that were common is the involvement of a socialite, things which ignite reporters

to aggressively cover its similar incidents. Ever thought why the deaths of over 70 girls went unnoticed until Scarlet’s tragic end, or the gory fate of the Roysambu girl who was horrifically dismembered? In 2020 alone, statistics revealed that 3,123 Kenyans fell victim to homicide, averaging nine lives lost every day. The fact of the matter here is that just because we’re hearing about it now for the first time doesn’t take away from the atrocities that have been occurring below.

Looking back, there was a time that Kisii County hit the headlines all pertaining to rising killings and murders which were all aired in media. A glaring example is the Shakahola Massacre, where 600 people were said to be missing and over 400 lost their life in

an incident directly related to cult.

Looking back these last years, the numbers are frightening. In 2022 3,056 people were killed in homicide cases, which transits last year’s worrying course: 3,281 killed in 2021, 3,111 killed in 2020, 2,971 killed in 2019 and 2,856 killed in 2018. The total number of reported crimes increased by 8.4% amounting to 88,083 in 2022.

An absolute need for all concerned parties to act decisively and immediately is felt in order to contain these alarming increase in number of homicides. The Interior Minister, General of the Police and finally the President must join hands and devise strict guidelines and rules for lodgings as well as Airbnb. When strong and well implemented regulations are put in

place, the environment is made safer and equally prevents potential crimes.

A compound strategy needs to be evolved to match the gravity of the situation. Organisation and educational campaigns for conflict resolution, mental health awareness and community policing. Law enforcement agencies need to enhance their investigative capacities in order to make available quicker justice to the families affected.

Besides, this would also result in the establishment of a culture where citizens will feel free to offer information to the law enforcers. Engaging the public in reporting any suspicious activities at the same time assuring them their safety will result in prevention of crime even before committing it.

While contemplating the recent up-

swing of tragic events, it is a shock to the nation yet at the same time one must take into consideration that this phenomenon is not just emerging recently but rather rearing its head until a solution can be found. Kenya can only hope that through a concatenated effort by the government, law enforcement, and its citizenry it will be able to curtail the rising wave of homicides and ensure that its citizens are safe and live at peace with themselves.

Brian Magiri is a journalism and Mass Communication student at Mount Kenya University-Nairobi

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Manchester United forward Anthony Martial has been ruled out until April following surgery on a groin injury, the Premier League giants announced.

Manchester United's Martial Out For 10 Weeks

Manchester United forward Anthony Martial has been ruled out until April following surgery on a groin injury, the Premier League giants announced.

The 28-year-old, out of contract at the end of the season, has managed just two goals in 19 appearances during another frustrating campaign at Old Trafford.

Martial has been absent from United manager Erik ten Hag's first team since United fans cheered his substitution in the 3-0 home defeat by Bournemouth on December 9, with the club now announcing he faces a lengthy lay-off.

"Manchester United striker Anthony Martial has completed successful surgery to address a groin complaint and will be out of action for about 10 weeks as he rehabilitates," said a club statement.

"We wish Anthony a speedy recovery and look forward to his return."

Martial made an encouraging start with United after joining from Monaco in 2015 but his career at Old Trafford has tailed off, with the Frenchman scoring 90 goals from 317 appearances in all competitions.

His absence leaves Rasmus Hojlund and Marcus Rashford as the only central striking options in Ten Hag's senior squad.

But if the Dutch boss wants to add to his forward line-up during the January transfer window, he will need the approval of Jim Ratcliffe as the British billionaire prepares to take control of football operations as part of his minority ownership of United.



By AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Mauricio Pochettino aims to build a Chelsea team with the “capacity to win titles” as he bids to create a side that can measure up to the Blues’ trophy-winning squads.

Pochettino Wants To Build Side Worthy Of Chelsea’s History



Middlesbrough’s Surinamese defender #15 Anfernee Dijksteel (front) fights for the ball with Chelsea’s English defender #26 Levi Colwill during the English League Cup semi-final second leg football match between Chelsea and Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge, in London on January 23, 2024. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP).

Mauricio Pochettino aims to build a Chelsea team with the “capacity to win titles” as he bids to create a side that can measure up to the Blues’ trophy-winning squads. Pochettino’s men cruised into the English League Cup final with a 6-1 semi-final second-leg thrashing of second-tier Middlesbrough on Tuesday to easily overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit. Jonny Howson’s own goal set Chelsea on their way at Stamford Bridge before further goals from

Enzo Fernandez, Axel Disasi and Noni Madueke and a Cole Palmer double booked their place at Wembley on February 25 against either Fulham or Liverpool. “The most important thing is keeping the focus, seeing reality in the way we need to see the reality and see the difference between what is Chelsea and what is the team we are building,” Pochettino said. “They are two different things.” Chelsea won the last of their five

Premier League titles in 2017. The Blues sit ninth in the Premier League, closer to the relegation zone than the top of the table, despite a recent run of three straight wins. “Our challenge is the history of Chelsea, the capacity to win titles and build a team that can match the mentality of this club,” Pochettino added. Chelsea next host Aston Villa in the FA Cup fourth round on Friday.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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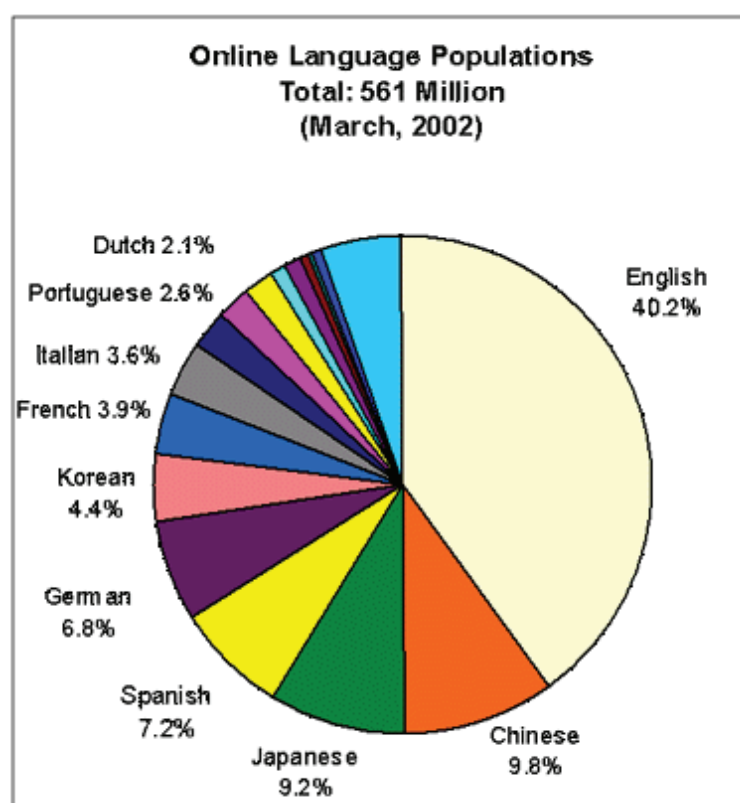
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The New Ways To Expand Popularity Of English And Other Language Among Pupils In Schools And Lyceums



By: Ruziboyev Asilbek
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Worth Noting:

- At the moment, in Uzbekistan, different classes are being setting up by the government for teachers to aid them increase their level and help them become professional in their inch. For example, English-teaching tutors are going to universities in other regions around the country in every 5 years to strengthen their language.
- Furthermore, the decision of the head of state "On measures to support public education scientific-research services and introduction of professional development" PQ-4963 on the radical renewal of qualification control is introducing a new procedure in the field. That is, the current regulation, public education, that is, the involvement of teachers in training courses every 5 years.

Annotation: in this article, it said that there needs to be new methods to make English more popular among new growing number of children who are owners of our future. In addition, there is a huge role of teachers' skills and their teaching methods.

Key words: methods, modern technologies, internet, mindset, self-improving books.

First and foremost, I need to say there are currently about 6,500 languages around the world, but as we know, the most well-known one is English. Because almost every international trade, every international political issue is held by this language. Historically, the world after the first two world wars was a vulnerable and changing one. American businesses were booming and started doing trade all over the world; much like Great Britain had done in the previous century. This bolstered the use of English as the language of global trade. That can be the main reason why all countries are learning English as their second language. So, if English is such worldwide, how can we learn it? Or how can we treat it as our second mother tongue? I guess, to reach these things, we need to raise new generation with

better knowledge towards languages and provide them with solid mindset with the use of teachers' professional work.

There was organized many events in Uzbekistan for the development of other languages due to the first President of Uzbekistan Islom Karimov's decision about 'improving the system of learning international languages' on the 10th of December 2012. It was the very proof that language-developing works have already been started in Uzbekistan.

Furthermore, current President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has also added his share for the improvement of international languages. For example, on the 6th may there was a video selector carried out about improving teaching international languages in Uzbekistan. Sh. Mirziyoyev said, 'The time has come to establish a new system for teaching foreign languages in our country, which will be a solid foundation for the future.'

Since we have set ourselves the goal of building a competitive country, from now on, graduates of schools, lyceums, colleges and universities must know at least two foreign languages perfectly. strict demand should become the main criterion for the activity of the head of every educational institution'. In my opinion,

it is high time now to educate people, especially kids as their second language. Because after so many events, so many works that are being carried out nowadays, it is very hard not to learn other languages. There is great respect and attention towards them in our people.

These days, the number of library lovers in Uzbekistan is increased a lot compared to 2 or 3 years ago. The reason can be this that, I think, there are new technologies, computers, as well as new facilities in every library around the country.

The readers can take any information or material he or she wants. For example, if he/she cannot find the information that they are searching for in books, they can easily put it on the internet, and it will help them immediately. All I am going to say is this that now, there is a massive advantage to learn everything.

Then, teachers' skills and their knowledge are also one of the most important things in the improvement of child's language-learning process. There reason why only the teachers who have solid knowledge and educating skills can provide learners with unlimited education.

At the moment, in Uzbekistan, different classes are being setting up by the government for teachers to aid them increase their level and help them become professional in their inch. For example, English-teaching tutors are going to universities in other regions around the country in every 5 years to strengthen their language.

Furthermore, the decision of the head of state "On measures to support public education scientific-research services and introduction of professional development" PQ-4963 on the radical renewal of qualification control is introducing a new procedure in the field. That is, the current regulation, public education, that is, the involvement of teachers in training courses every 5 years.

Now they will be able to improve their qualification level not once every 5 years, but every year, if possible - every day.

For this purpose, "continuing professional education" is introduced, taking into account the qualification of public education every year. According to the previous procedure,

only 20 teachers were involved in the auxiliary qualification every year, but according to the new procedure, 100% of the teachers were involved in the qualification every year.

Previously, 144 hours were taught in qualification courses once every 5 years, but according to the new rules, teachers should be involved in at least 36 hours of studies every year.

Moreover, in my opinion in order to educate pupils, teachers need to obey following rules:

- 1. Make It Fun**
Fun, fun, fun! This is one factor that really matters to kids. And that goes for kids on the playground as well as those in the classroom.
- 2. Play Games**
Games are a great way to make learning fun. Not only do games play on the competitive nature of most children, but games also give them a goal to accomplish. When you win a game, you have really done something, and you can feel good about your success.
- 3. Be Creative**
Doing the same things in class every day is boring for the students, and you're liable to fall asleep on the job, too. So you need to be creative with plans.

Conclusion

To conclude, in this developing world, it is very beneficial to learn international languages especially the most popular one English, because it can lighten your way wherever you are, as well as there is always a high demand for teachers that are professional in their job.

In addition, I am sure, if the new growing generation has much information and knowledge about life, culture, economy or language of different countries, we can totally be sure that our country is in trustful hands.

Ruziboyev Asilbek Bakhtiyor's son is a first course student of Samarkand state institute of foreign languages.