



#### Hamis Deputy Leader Saleh Al-Arouri Killed In Beirut Blast

Israel has insisted the assassination of a Hamas leader in Beirut was not an attack on Lebanon, as its enemies warned of "punishment" for his death.

An Israeli spokesman said Saleh al-Arouri had died in a "surgical strike against the Hamas leadership".

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## Daily ePAPER

Thursday, January 4, 2024

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#### News>> State House Defends President Ruto After Criticism Over Judiciary Remarks

P. 6. State House has now affirmed that President William Ruto's push for judicial reforms is unstoppable, telling off the Law Society of Kenya



#### News>> Gachagua's Stern Warning On Outlawed Criminal Gangs Revival

P. 12. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has issued a stern warning against any attempts to revive outlawed criminal gangs in the country, particularly Mt Kenya saying he is ready to pay the political price to ensure they are fully dealt with.

## Opposition, Judiciary And The Law Society Slams Ruto

⚡ Yesterday, the opposition leader Raila Odinga, the Chief Justice Martha Koome and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) president Eric Theuri strongly condemned the president's remarks against the judiciary terming it as undermining the independence and functions of the judiciary and a scapegoat by the Kenya Kwanza government in failing to meet the interests of the people.



Azimio One Kenya Alliance leader Raila Odinga, Chief Justice Martha Koome & LSK President Eric Theuri

STORY ON PAGE 8&9

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# Wetangula Expected To Address CSPOC Conference In Kampala

By: SPU

## Worth Noting:

- Speaker Wetang'ula was received by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Hon Opolot Fred, MP and the Kenya High Commissioner, Ambassador Maj. Gen. George Owinow.
- This year's CSPOC is scheduled to take place from 3rd – 6th January, 2024 and will be hosted by the Parliament of Uganda.
- Other topics to be covered during the conference include; Diverse and Inclusive Parliaments, security measures for Parliamentarians and Parliaments and bilateral opportunities among Parliaments within the Commonwealth environment.



The Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Masika Wetang'ula has this evening arrived in Kampala, Uganda to participate in the 27th conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) where he is expected to deliver a key note address on the role of Parliaments in mitigating the effects of climate change to safeguard our environment.

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Opolot Fred, MP and the Kenya High Commissioner, Ambassador Maj. Gen. George Owinow.

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The conference is geared towards maintaining, fostering and encouraging fairness on the part of Speakers and presiding officers of Parliaments. Further, it provides an ideal forum to promote knowledge and understanding of Parliamentary democracy in its various forms aiming at developing Parliamentary Institutions.

The CSPOC was established in 1969 and operates on a two-year cycle where it brings together the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the national Parliaments

of the independent sovereign states of the Commonwealth.

The Speaker is accompanied by the Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Ms. Serah Kioko and by the Deputy Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Mohammed Ali.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



At least 26,000 individuals who applied for the Inua Jamii scale-up program last year will have to wait a little longer before being enrolled to benefit from the Sh2,000 monthly stipend. The only individuals currently captured under the Government Consolidated Cash Transfer Program Management Information System (CCTPMIS) will receive disbursement for the month of December. The state has released Sh2.08 billion for the social welfare program, which has been released to address perennial backlogs and help families taking care of orphans and vulnerable children ahead of schools’ opening next week. The state began disbursing funds for the Inua Jamii cash transfer program on a monthly basis last year to address perennial backlogs and ensure timely disbursement of funds to enable the most vulnerable in society to enhance their quality of life. Beneficiaries must be registered through the CCTPMIS and have an Inua Jamii payment card, national identity card, and caregiver identification card for withdrawals. The National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) covers a total of 1.2 million households in the three cash transfer programmes.



Melelo youth are being encouraged to reach their full potential, according to lecturer Stanley Yiaile of Maasai Mara University. He emphasized the importance of utilizing time effectively, addressing negative peer pressure, and focusing on their lives. Yiaile also urged parents to support their children in obtaining tertiary education and to provide girls with a second chance at education. He also encouraged young people to use technology for inventions and earning money.



Nyeri Town Health Centre is now operating 24/7 for both Outpatient Consultation Services (OPD) and Free Maternity Services. Its doors are wide open as the Centre embarks on ushering in a new era of maternal care that reverberates with warmth, compassion, and the joy that only a newborn can bring. The Modern Mother and Child unit is a partnership with the Government of Japan through the Japanese Organization for International Family Planning (JOICFP) and the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services following the signing of an MOU in March 2022. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU



Security personnel and village elders have recovered 201 stolen camels from the Mlango grazing area in Burat Ward, Isiolo County, a week ago. The animals were found in five suspected hiding spots, with 44 at Kipsing, 40 at Tasia, and 16 at Kalama. Eight others were found at Learata in Samburu East Sub-County. 300 goats and sheep were also recovered, and 10 cattle were recovered at the Ngaremara area. The DCC has called for collaboration between chiefs and assistant chiefs to ensure security.



Maureen Wanjiru, a seven-week-old mother whose infant was weighing 750 grammes, has been reunited with her tiny, water-filled baby, now slightly above 3200 grammes. The Gilgil Sub-County Hospital in Nakuru successfully convinced Wanjiru to choose Kangaroo Mothercare as her nursing option for her child’s survival. Kangaroo mothercare involves a mother carrying her preterm or underweight child with skin-to-skin contact, similar to a natural pouch for a child’s warmth. The hospital superintendent, Dr. David Kuria, notes that this method directs energy towards body growth, resulting in faster weight gain than self-feeding or incubator-based methods. The World Health Organisation estimates that Kangaroo Mothers reduce child mortality by between 36 to 50% of the over 20 million preterm and underweight babies born annually. Esther Wangari, a nurse at a facility, emphasises the Kangaroo method over conventional incubation for underweight children, citing its importance and effectiveness. The Level Four facility records slightly over 200 births every month and is expanding to serve the population better. Dr. Kuria emphasises the youth-friendly services offered at the facility, encouraging pregnant youths to access antenatal and postnatal services to ensure proper birth weight is attained. World Prematurity Day encourages mothers with preterm babies to embrace Kangaroo Mothercare as an effective intervention to ensure children receive love, warmth, and nutrition for growth, just as they would receive while in the womb.

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# State House Defends President Ruto After Criticism Over Judiciary Remarks

By: Ian Omondi



State House Spokesperson Hussein Mohamed addresses the press on August 4, 2023. PHOTO| COURTESY

## Worth Noting:

- Mohamed cited another example of President Ruto's first order of business upon assuming office where he appointed judges who had been denied appointment by the past government, as another instance where he followed the law.
- "We, however, agree with the Law Society of Kenya that Executive impunity is unacceptable. However, legislative impunity, by its own measure, is also unacceptable and so is judicial impunity," he stated.

State House has now affirmed that President William Ruto's push for judicial reforms is unstoppable, telling off the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) for criticising and attempting to advise the Head of State on the independence of the Judiciary and Constitutionalism.

This comes after LSK President Eric Theuri, in a press address on Wednesday, urged President Ruto take back his remarks on the Judiciary, vowing to take to the streets for peaceful protests next week.

In a subsequent statement by Spokesperson Hussein Mohamed, State House intimated that the advice by LSK was not necessary as the President has consistently upheld the rule of law and respected court orders,

even in regards to his affordable housing pet project.

Mohamed cited another example of President Ruto's first order of business upon assuming office where he appointed judges who had been denied appointment by the past government, as another instance where he followed the law.

"We, however, agree with the Law Society of Kenya that Executive impunity is unacceptable. However, legislative impunity, by its own measure, is also unacceptable and so is judicial impunity," he stated.

"As a believer in the Constitution, President Ruto recognises the imperative to lead by example in defending our constitutional values. This

includes shielding innocent citizens from judicial misconduct perpetrated by corrupt officers colluding with vested interests."

Mohamed added: "Corruption, whether within the Judiciary, the Executive or the Legislature and, indeed, among the general public must not find refuge behind the shield of judicial independence. It is our duty to expose and hold accountable those who engage in corrupt practices wherever they maybe and wherever they are."

According to the State House Spokesperson, it would be a dereliction of the President's oath of office, and a betrayal of the people's mandate to allow their hopes and aspirations to be obstructed by corruption and impunity.

"We are back to the clamour for judiciary reforms last witnessed during President Mwaki Kibaki's tenure when it was said: 'Why pay for a lawyer's services when you can pay a judge?' We must never allow the return of such impunity in Kenya," Mohamed added.

"The Executive is mandated to deliver to the people after an election. Should the President fulfil commitments to the people and their needs, or should the Executive seek concurrence from the Judiciary to deliver on what the people voted for?"

The

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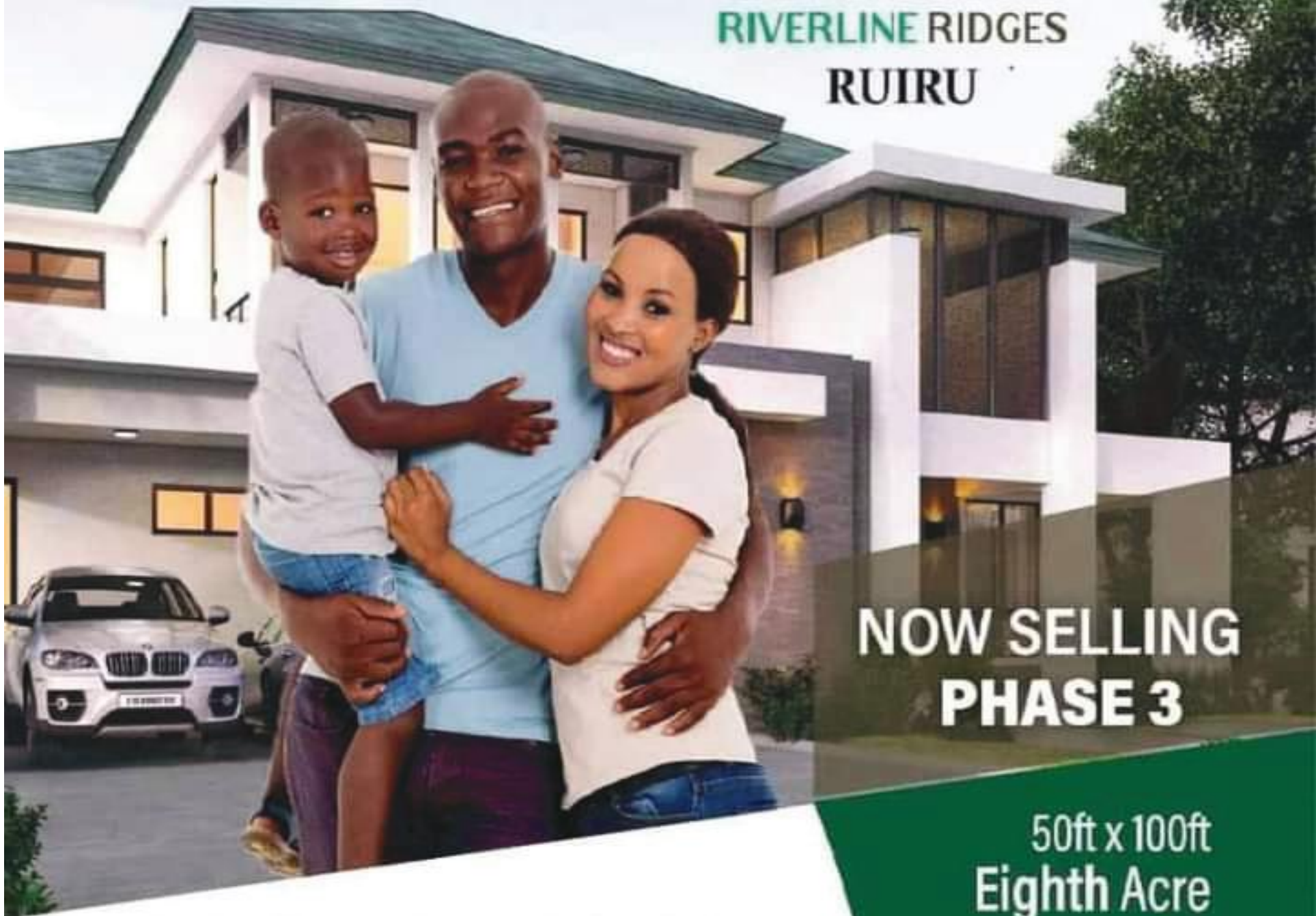
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# Opposition, Judiciary And The Law Society Of Kenya Call Out President William Ruto On Undermining The Judiciary



By: Sefu Sabila  
@themtkenyentimes



## Worth Noting:

- “The JSC has noted with concern that judges and judicial officers have been subjected to public criticism and vilification for issuing court orders that are perceived to be against state programmes and policies. The JSC wishes to reaffirm the independence and integrity of the judiciary as a co-equal arm of government and urges all judges and judicial officers to continue performing their judicial duties without fear or favour.” Justice Martha Koome said.
- In his statement, the Azimio One Kenya Alliance leader Raila Odinga said the president’s remarks are unfortunate at a time when Kenyans had hopes of a relieving year, following a hard 2023. Responding to the remarks made by the head of state, the opposition leader states that the president is using threats to cover for his administration failures.



Azimio One Kenya Alliance leader Raila Odinga

During his visit in Nyandarua county on Tuesday, President William Ruto fired his remarks towards the judiciary being led by corrupt judges. President Ruto said the judges are stopping his development agenda for the people of Kenya. In his remarks the president further said he will not allow few individuals to sabotage the programs of the government.

“Our Judiciary, we respect you but judicial impunity by corrupt judicial officers must stop in Kenya...we’ll stop it and whatever it takes,” he said.

Yesterday, the opposition leader Raila Odinga, the Chief Justice Martha Koome and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) president Eric Theuri strongly condemned the president’s remarks against the judiciary terming it as undermining the independence and functions of the judiciary and a scapegoating by the Kenya Kwanza government in failing to meet the interests of the people.

In his statement, the Azimio One Kenya Alliance leader Raila Odinga said the president’s remarks are unfortunate at a time when Kenyans had hopes of a relieving year, following a hard 2023. Responding to the remarks made by the head of state, the opposition leader states that the president is using threats to cover for his administration failures.

“Yesterday, on the second day of the New Year, William Ruto hit the ground more haughty, abrasive, dismissive and dictatorial than we have ever known. It would have been easy

to let Ruto’s threats against the Judiciary pass as those of a leader who is ever getting frustrated by the reality of imminent abject failure. Certainly, the threats that Kenya Kwanza regime continues to huff and puff about must be seen in their correct context – as a scapegoating and diversionary tactic from the pressing social and economic pressures that the regime has subjected the people to.” Mr. Odinga stated.

“It was my hope that after the tumult and pain experienced in 2023 and from which Kenyans are still deeply suffering, the Kenya Kwanza administration would begin this New Year with much more reflection and humility that would plant hopes that vital lessons have been learnt and 2024 would be better. We were wrong.” He further added.

The statement by LSK President Eric Theuri says the recent roadside attacks by the president towards the judiciary as a threat sabotage of the independence of the judiciary, saying it downplays the role of judiciary in contribution to the national growth. According to Theuri, the same judiciary still upheld the president win.

“It is imperative to remind our esteemed president that the judiciary through its impartial interventions has both nullified a prior presidential election and at another juncture uphold his very own election. This underscores the sacrosanct role of a robust independent judiciary in fostering national growth, stability and

economic prosperity.” Mr. Theuri said.

The LSK President further called upon the president to lead by example through channeling any allegations made towards the judiciary to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), and avail any evidence instead of tinting the whole judicial system on roadside shows. The LSK President urged the government to follow the channels in place to resolve legal disputes.

“Any allegations of corruption against Judicial officers must be channelled through the JSC and avoid arbitrary roadside declarations. We therefore call upon the president to avail any evidence of corruption of judges to JSC and avoid casting aspersions upon the entire judiciary. The rule of law requires the president to lead by example fostering a society where legal disputes are resolved through established channels not through public lynching.” He further stated.

In support of the judiciary, the Chief Justice Martha Koome said the constant attacks towards judiciary and any claims of impunity by judicial officials, should be channelled through the JSC and its independence as an arm of government should be respected; urging the judges to continue serving without fear and favour. The CJ attributes the current attacks towards the judiciary from the courts’ stand on the government latest reviews halted by the courts, and called upon the

unsatisfied parties to access the other courts including the Supreme Court.

“The JSC has noted with concern that judges and judicial officers have been subjected to public criticism and vilification for issuing court orders that are perceived to be against state programmes and policies. The JSC wishes to reaffirm the independence and integrity of the judiciary as a co-equal arm of government and urges all judges and judicial officers to continue performing their judicial duties without fear or favour.” Justice Martha Koome said.

The opposition leader says the president remarks are a threat to the unity and democracy of the nation, with a indication of defiance against the judiciary and uncalled from the top office. The opposition leader reiterated on their stand on the supreme court’s decision on 2022 general elections, bug respected the courts ruling for the interests of Kenyans.

“But the subject of Mr. Ruto’s latest strange rage -the Judiciary-is too critical to the well-being of our country and our democracy, making it extremely important that we call Ruto out and tell him that he has crossed the line. Kenyans will recall that when the Supreme Court made its contemptuous ruling against Azimio la Umoja’s presidential election in 2022, we said we strongly disagreed, but accepted it in the interest of furthering the rule of law, democracy, stability and healing of our nation.” Raila Odinga said.

The opposition claims the president is always disobeying the court rulings, saying that the president has captured Parliament, where laws are passed without consideration for by MPs in one sitting, saying the current regime has no regard for the constitution of Kenya.

“It remains our position to date that disobeying court rulings is a sure path to chaos and the collapse of a nation. Mr. Ruto has captured Parliament and Bills now come straight from State House and get ratified by law makers. Sometimes, up to two bills are ratified in one afternoon. If there was ever any doubt about the malevolent intent of the Kenya Kwanza regime in regard to the Constitution of Kenya.” He added.

The former Prime Minister says president William Ruto is a beneficiary of the judiciary, as all cases laid against him, he was vindicated by the same judiciary is now attacking.

# Opposition, Judiciary And The Law Society Of Kenya Call Out President William Ruto On Undermining The Judiciary

Contd from Page8.

Worth Noting:

- The statement by LSK President Eric Theuri says the recent roadside attacks by the president towards the judiciary as a threat sabotage of the independence of the judiciary, saying it downplays the role of judiciary in contribution to the national growth. According to Theuri, the same judiciary still upheld the president win.
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Chief Justice Martha Koome.

Stating firm attempts of ayopinythe- or presidential bud with Uhuru Kenyatta over crimes against humanity, Kenya Pipeline land case among others, the judiciary acquitted him of the charges.

According to the opposition Chief, the recent attacks by the president towards judiciary is not about the judges but a plan to create a dictatorship and capturing the judiciary so as to have rulings in his favour or dismissed. Mr. Odinga saying the president intends to take the country in dark days of where the judiciary was controlled by the government undermining the independence and democracy of the judiciary.

yesterday’s attack by William Ruto on the Judiciary removes all the doubt. After executing a civilian coup in the election of 2022 and receiving backing from the Judiciary in the illegality, Ruto has now turned upon the institution he deceptively seduced with false assurances that he had credentials in the rule of law.

“Having captured parliament, Ruto now wants to intimidate, subdue and capture the Judiciary. He wants Judges not to hear cases against his policies, dismiss such cases or always rule in his favour. Ruto wants to establish an absolute dictatorship. Kenyans know we have been here before. We have seen days when judges heard cases in the dead of the night, way past official working hours and sent opponents of the state to jail. Kenyans know we have seen days when judges got transferred,

sacked or, even got poisoned for delivering rulings that did not favour the State.” Raila Odinga explained.

“Kenyans have every intention to see to it that every text of the constitution that we promulgated in 2010 finds meaning in the manner in which we are governed every minute and day of their lives – and no sacrifice will be too much to pay to ensure this. Our Judiciary is imperfect. It has corrupt elements.” He added.

The opposition leader condemned the release of former Cabinet Secretary of Treasury Henry Rotich over the Kimwarer and Arror Dams in Elgeyo Marakwet county where eyhe tax payer lost Kshs 67 billion, the Kshs 17 billion fuel oil scam, Kshs 16.5 billion edible oils and the KCPE exam printing, where the executive is involved was not called out by the president.

But Ruto cannot convince us that the Judiciary is more corrupt than the Executive branch of government, which he leads. Corruption resides in the Executive. The worst case of Executive corruption of impunity right now is the acquittal of Mr. Henry Rotich over the Arror and Kimwarer dams where a whopping Ksh63 billion was lost. The Executive went all out to ensure witnesses were never summoned or those summoned were never questioned. The entire plot was to save Mr. Rotich and close the case. Ruto is not outraged by that. Ruto has not expressed anger at these deals because they belong to the Executive.” For-

mer Prime Minister stated.

The former Prime Minister commending the service of the judiciary since the promulgation of the constitution in 2010, the judiciary has given rules in the recent years in favour of the people of Kenya. He called upon the judiciary to avoid the side-kicks by the president in delivering their ruling, instead stand firm in professionalism and independence and uphold the rule of law as articulated in the constitution, and any attempts by the president to sabotage the functioning and independence of the judiciary shall be stopped.

“Since the promulgation of the constitution of Kenya 2010, our Judiciary has proven to be an ingenious

arbitrer in the social, political and economic tribulations that we have encountered as a people and presented to them. The courts have set the pace in clarifying the intentions of the people of Kenya expressed in the text of the constitution both for and against the government. In doing so, the courts have shown valour in their interpretation of the law and never shied from speaking truth to power when the occasion demanded it.” He reaffirmed.

“The Kenya Kwanza regime must therefore be no exception as Mr Ruto now imagines it should. We appeal to the Judiciary to stand firm in defense of professionalism, independence, the rule of law and constitutionalism. In this Judiciary, I see products of the old struggle against a vicious dictatorship. I trust that they will not allow judicial proceedings and decisions to be determined by Ruto’s tantrums.” He further explained.

The opposition leader further reaffirmed their trust and confidence in the judiciary saying, it’s an institution to help uphold the rule of law, stating that the remarks by the president against the judicial arm of government as unacceptable, and the president should obey the constitution.

“Ruto must learn that his best insurance is to obey the law. He must not depart from the book of the law to the left or the right. There is no other way about it and we will not allow him to invent any other way other than the law.” Mr. Odinga said.



LSK President Eric Theuri .

# Raila Concerned Early Political Campaigns Will Compromise Development

By: Eric Biegon

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Azimio la Umoja One Kenya leader Raila Odinga has decried what he termed as early political campaigns barely 15 months after the country held its general elections.

Odinga discouraged leaders from engaging in campaigns saying it's against the wishes of the electorate who are expecting service delivery.

"Premature campaigns are putting the country in a perennial state of political campaigns. We just had elections recently but people are declaring interest in various seats from MCA, MP, Senator, and Governor in 2027," said Raila

"There is nothing wrong in aspiring to rise in leadership, the only problem is that campaigns become an occupation," he added

The Former Prime Minister said a charged political atmosphere distracts the nation, especially those given the mandate to lead, to execute their con-

stitutional obligations to wananchi.

"When you start challenging a governor now, he will stop working so as to engage in campaigns. Even an MP in Nairobi will not execute his/her mandate well when someone is campaigning in their backyard," he said

Raila who was in Kakamega asked all who are aspiring to take up leadership positions in 2027 to concentrate their energies on the nation's development until the official campaign period is declared stressing that the next poll is still years away.

"The political campaign period is coming. A time will come when people can declare interest in political seats, but it's still too early. If we start now, development will not be possible," he said



Azimio la Umoja One Kenya leader Raila Odinga

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# Ruto Holds Talks With RSF Leader Gen. Hemedti In Nai-robi

By: KBC.....  
.....

President William Ruto held talks with the RSF Leader General Mo-hamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, in State House, Nairobi, yesterday.

Their discussions focused on the conflict in Sudan and how warring factions can come together and agree to negotiate a way out of the raging political disagreement.

“Kenya appreciates the commit-ment by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its leader General Mo-hamed Hamdan Dagalo in ending the conflict in Sudan through dia-logue,” said Ruto

the Kenyan head of state said the ongoing Intergovernmental Author-ity on Development (IGAD) talks should bring about a political set-tlement that would effect a lasting peace in the country.

“We are looking forward to nothing but a peaceful resolution and a stable

neighbour,” he said

General Hemedti arrived in Nairobi yeterday morning and is expected to issue an update later in the evening on the current situation in Sudan.

President William Ruto held talks with the RSF Leader General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

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# Kenya Airways Share Trading Suspension At NSE Extended

By: Our Reporter  
@themtkenyentimes

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Trading of Kenya Airways (KQ) shares at the Nairobi Securities Ex-change (NSE) has been extended.

NSE said that the extension will re-main enforced for an additional 12 months, effective January 5, 2024.

“The extension of suspension seeks to enable the company to complete its operational and corporate restructuring process,” NSE said in a statement.

“The suspension was approved and issued by the Capital Markets Au-thority (CMA) pursuant to section 11(3) (w) of the Capital Markets Act and regulation 22 of the Capital Markets (Securities) (Public Offers, Listings and Disclosures) Regula-tions, 2002,” NSE added.

“All shareholders, investors and the general public are asked to take note of the suspension.”



# Gachagua's Stern Warning On Outlawed Criminal Gangs Revival

By: DPCS and WILLIAM MUCHIRI

@themkenyentimes



## Worth Noting:

- “An attempt is being made to revive that criminal gang. Two months ago, they were back in bus stages extorting from matatu operators and business owners. That can not happen. We can not allow anyone to misuse our youths and engage them in crime. We have a responsibility to protect our young people from being misused by anybody,” said Mr Gachagua.
- Following orders to rein in on the gang, the DP said order had been quickly restored when a revival attempt was made.
- “We thank our security teams in Central Kenya and in the Rift Valley for their swift action in the last three months. The attempt to revive the gang has been stopped and people are now going about their business without fear,” he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua condoling Nyandarua County Senator John Methu at Karomboithi village. Looking on is area governor David Kiarie Badilisha..

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has issued a stern warning against any attempts to revive outlawed criminal gangs in the country, particularly Mt Kenya saying he is ready to pay the political price to ensure they are fully dealt with.

The Deputy President said the government is on high alert and would swiftly move in to stop attempts by the gang's leaders and their sympathisers to recruit young people in the region adding that heinous acts they committed previously were still fresh in the memories of the residents. Speaking when he accompanied President William Ruto at Karomboithi Village in Njabini, Nyandarua County for the burial of Senator John Methu's father Michael Maigo Waweru on Tuesday, the DP said no one will be allowed to misuse the youths from the region.

“I am ready to pay any political price to protect these women and our young girls from the criminal gang. We cannot allow this,” he stated.

He added that those involved in attempted revival of such groups will face the full wrath of the law.

“An attempt is being made to revive that criminal gang. Two months ago, they were back in bus stages extorting from matatu operators and business owners. That can not happen. We can not allow anyone to misuse our youths and engage them in crime. We have a responsibility to protect our young people from being misused by anybody,” said Mr Gachagua.

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“We thank our security teams in Central Kenya and in the Rift Valley for their swift action in the last three months. The attempt to revive the gang has been stopped and people are now going about their business without fear,” he said.

Mr Gachagua also said the fight against illicit brew and drugs was bearing fruit revealing that efforts had seen the vices drastically reduced in the last one year.

He said the drinks had become so rampant after a deliberate move to allow its production and distribution in the previous regime.

“We have succeeded in the fight against illicit drinks. our community was almost becoming extinct because of the deliberate proliferation of poisonous drinks in the region. We must protect our young people because we have a responsibility to do so,” said the DP who is leading the war against the drinks in the country.

In 2023, he held meetings with security teams, county and national leaders in various regions in the country in a bid to heighten the fight and wipe out the poisonous drinks.

Mr Gachagua said the war will be intensified this year.

At the same time, the Deputy President urged judges and magistrates to exercise judicial restraint as they adjudicate matters touching on programmes towards improving the lives of Kenyans.

He said it was unfortunate that programmes such as the affordable housing and universal health bills had been suspended via court injunctions.

He said the President had been supportive of the judiciary saying his first executive action when he took office was to approve recruitment of

judges earlier denied appointment. He also said the President has agreed to increase the judiciary budgetary allocation by Sh3 billion to improve delivery of its services.

“We are asking the judicial officials to be patriotic Kenyans and should stop being misused to stop programmes beneficial to Kenyans,” Mr Gachagua said.

The Deputy President also called on the security officers to intensify the search for the killers of Meru blogger Daniel Muthiani, also known as Sniper.

“I ask the DCI to quickly conclude investigations and bring to book those involved,” he said.

On Sunday, dozens of youth suspected to be members of the outlawed Mungiki sect were rounded up in Nyeri and arraigned on Tuesday when they denied criminal charges.

The 292 suspects were released on KSh10,000 bond with their cases set for mention between January 16 and 19 in various Law Courts in Nyeri town.

# Opposition Devoid Of Ideas To Address Cost Of Living – President Ruto

By: Eric Biegon

President William Ruto has hit out at the opposition for carrying out relentless criticism of his development approaches for the country, without offering viable options.

The president particularly accused the opposition of lacking in ideas to address the cost of living and lift the country out of an economic quagmire. “Give us viable alternative views if you have any. The opposition is empty and has nothing to offer. It has no plan. All they know is protests,” charged the President

He insists the Raila Odinga-led coalition cannot be resorting to demonstrations on any given issue. “Instead of disturbing citizens through protests, please tell Kenyans what your plans are compared to ours. We have said paying taxes is the only way to save our country from debt. What about you? Don’t tell us it’s through mass protests,” said the head

of state

Amid pressure from the opposition and civil society to have the prices of commodities reduced, Ruto said his administration had already rolled out policies that would ease the burden on ordinary citizens.

We already have 200,000 sacks of fertilizer in the country. Some 2 million other sacks will be arriving at the end of the month (January), he said

“Get ready to go back to farms, we produce enough food and eliminate starvation in our country. That is how we are going to sort the cost of living and hunger in the Republic of Kenya,” he added

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga has warned that if the president does not bring down the cost of living, he will mobilize Kenyans to put pressure on the government to address the situation.



President William Ruto

# Uganda Takes Kenya To The East African Court Over Fuel Import Saga

By: Capital Correspondent

Uganda has taken Kenya to the East African Court of Justice after it was denied a permit to operate in the country as well as export fuel to the neighboring nation.

Kenyan authorities failed to issue the license to the Ugandan National Oil Corporation after failing to meet requirements.

The Ministry of Energy and the Energy and Petroleum Authority requested ENOC to get an import, export, and wholesale license so that its petroleum products could access Kenya Pipeline Company’s storage and transportation infrastructure.

UNOC was also asked to show an annual sale of 6,600 cubic metres of either a combination of premium motor spirit or automotive gasoline,

among others.

It was also required to show an annual turnover of \$10 million as well as proof of ownership or long-term lease of one licensed petroleum bulk storage depot in Kenya.

Uganda imports a bulk (about 90 percent) of its refined petroleum products through the Port of Mombasa before being transported to the East African nation via the KPC pipeline.

President Yoweri Museveni said fuel prices in Uganda were huge after Kenya signed government-to-government fuel import deals with Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Corporation, and Emirates National Oil Company.



Shell fuel station /FILE.

## Abu Nasr Farabi's City Of Virtue People As A Spiritual School For Today's Youth



By: Anorov Sirojiddin Nozimjon

Our country is currently experiencing radical changes in all areas. The main reason for this is that the President of our Republic, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, pays great attention to the development of all sectors in our country. We can see the practical significance of this attention through changes in the fields. A lot of work is being done by our President in education, one of these areas. We can see the appearance of these reforms on the following grounds. 2022 is little reflected in the new development strategy of Uzbekistan for 2026, in the new version of the Law on Education dated September 23, 2020, and in other decisions. In Article 5 of the Law on Education, there are ideas about supporting innovative activities and implementation of educational programs using innovative technologies, ensuring openness and transparency in the field of educational activities in educational organizations. Given so, from the content of these decisions and laws, it is possible to understand that it is important for our youth to be mature both educationally and morally. In the 4th article of this law, the following points are also given to help the students to become morally perfect

people; – inculcation of national and universal values in education and training; – the main principles of education and training, such as humanitarianism and democratic features, are shown.

Today, it is important to form the spiritual and moral qualities of students through the examples shown in the pedagogical views, works and works of our great writers and scholars. For example, in the pedagogical views of our great pedagogue Abu Nasr Farabi and in the work "The City of Virtuous People", the leading ideas on the moral maturity of our youth are given. Farabi's works contain a number of thoughts, wise sayings, poetic texts, stories and texts based on instructive life experiences for the moral education and politeness of our students today. Before analyzing these ideas, we should have a brief information about the life and work of the scientist.

Anorov Sirojiddin Nozimjon

He was born in Karabakh MFV, Chortok district. His father Shayunusov Nozimjon is a highly educated accountant.

His mother, Shayunusova Mohida, is a highly educated financial worker.

His sister Anorova Mohigul is a 10th grade student.

Her younger sister, Anorova Mohlaroy, is a 4th-grade student at her school.

11th grade student of Chortoq District, Namangan Region, School No. 14.

2-time winner of the Basic Science Olympiad in English in Uzbekistan.

French language republican activist.

Laureate of the Brave Boy State Award.

Holder of President's Certificate.

Asian karate champion (master class).

According to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, he was approved as an international expert in 2022.

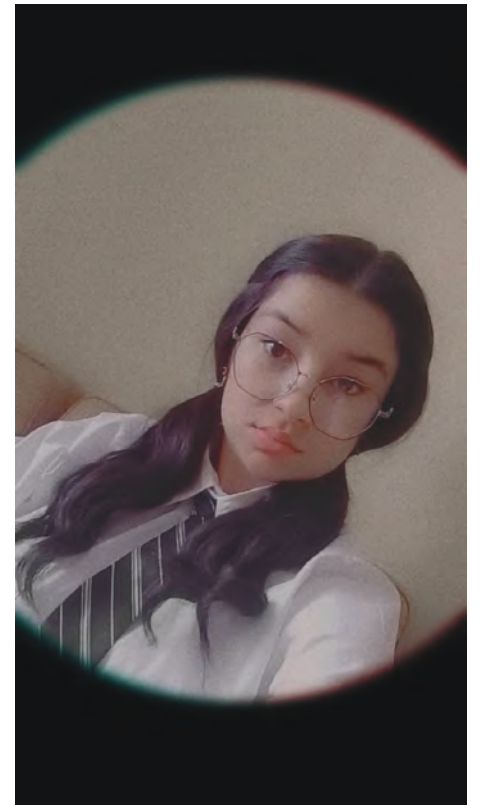
## I Am Zulfiya's Daughter!

I read a lot of books  
I am Zulfiya's daughter.  
I weave beautiful poems,  
I am Zulfiya's trail.

A poet like him,  
It's my dream to be.  
taking your prizes  
Walking is my dream.

Gudratova Gulsanam

Gudratova Gulsanam was born on March 20, 2008 in Yakkabog District, Kashkadarya Region. In 2014, he started studying at the 6th general secondary school in the district, and now he is studying in the 10th grade of this school. Until now, he has participated in many contests and has taken pride of place. He reads books and writes poems to spend his free time productively.



## A MACCABEUS IN THE PINK HOUSE



Who with his five dog brothers  
They will be gladiators who will fight for him  
And against his people let him stick out his tongue.

Uplifted and happy with a good puppy  
His little sister became general secretary  
With whom, in his childhood  
He played making oil  
Chewing nine olives (green olives)  
Putting the gúitos (stones) into her vagina  
Wanting to make the Casa Rosada  
Argentina's Pink House  
A new Jerusalem temple.

There it is, there it is, see it now  
Like a beautiful "Yehuda"  
Telling all his countrymen and women:  
-You are going to have to eat pork  
I don't know for how many days  
Or how many years.  
As you stick your tongue out at me

Or against me  
Making any bad demonstration  
I'll have to cut off your head  
Or the main hand  
With my chainsaw  
My dogs barking:  
"Twist chainsaw, twist chainsaw".  
-Daniel de Culla

Up there, up there from the Casa Rosada  
Pink House in Argentina  
A "Maccabeus" with deep crazy eyes  
Greeting his excited people  
And to other people coming from outside  
Leaning on his dog cane  
Which includes his five dogs  
Promising to them hunger and misery  
Hard hand, stick and temptation  
Because the churches order it.  
They call him "the Hanukkah Puppy"  
(Cachorro de Janucá)  
Because he has been blessed by all faiths  
Why he adores his undead dog  
That lived a miracle because he gave it  
A luminary in the ass that lasted eight days  
And on the ninth  
It rose again with a deep bark  
The same day they named him President

## Would You Be Mine?



By: Sankalp Mirani

If I were a love poet, I'll gladly say  
You heavily rained your emotions on me  
Making the ground of feelings slippery  
That no matter how good grip I had  
So hard with a thud I fell in love with you

The sparkles of light in your twinkling eye  
And the soft chuckles, grins and moans

With the sweet melody of your voice  
And with your cold breath that makes  
the hair in my body stand still  
All these weakens my bones and melts  
my heart in your presence

The room temperature accelerates  
rapidly in your tender touch  
As the speed and rhythm of my  
heartbeat drums at a hundred beats per second

I want to spend every moment of  
life with you abiding by the law of  
magnetism

The butterflies and the goosebumps are  
things I can't explain to nature  
And loving you is the best thing that  
ever happened to me so will you be mine  
forever?

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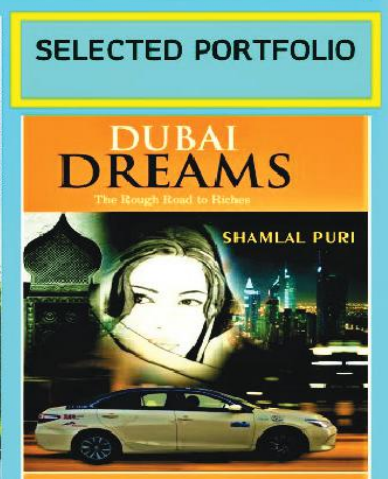
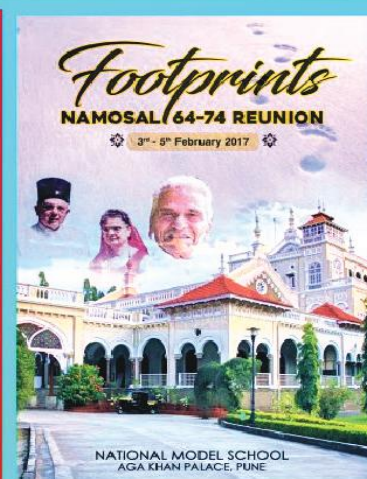
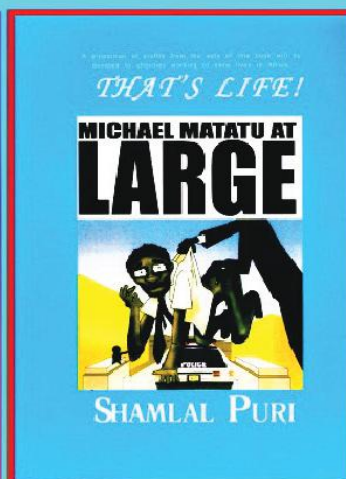
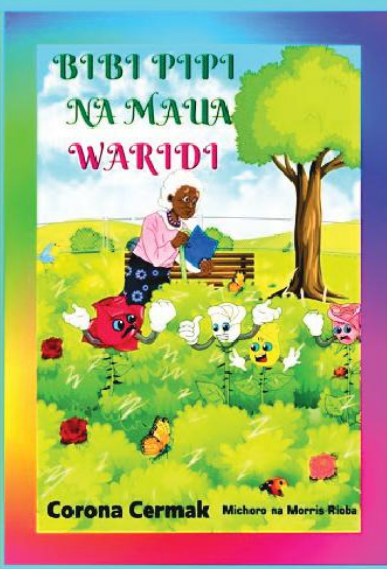
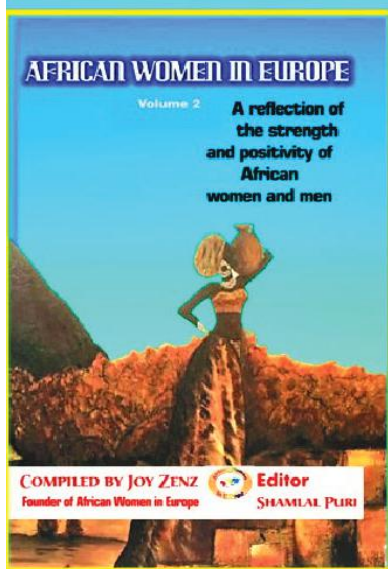
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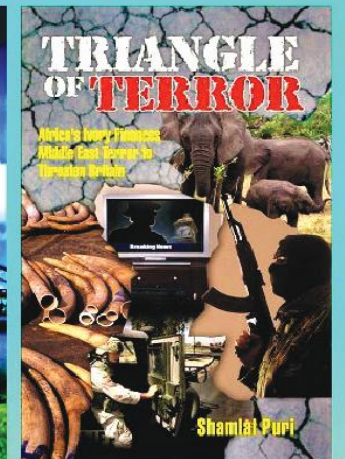
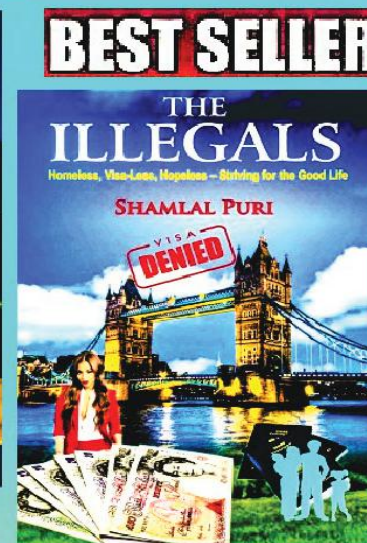
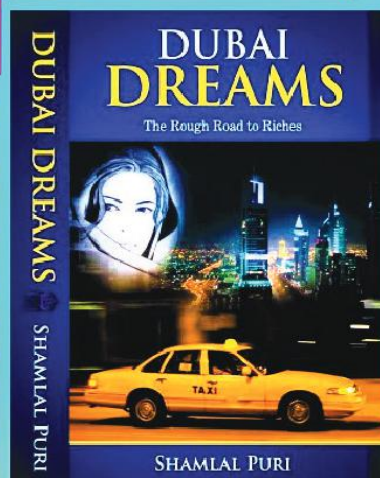
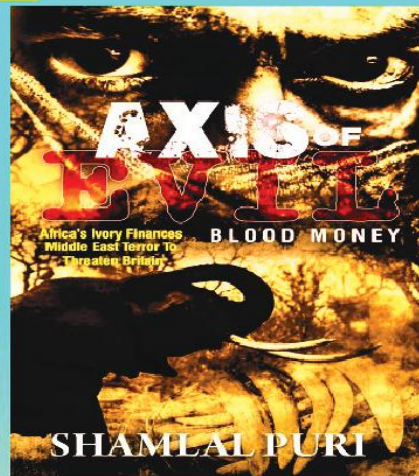
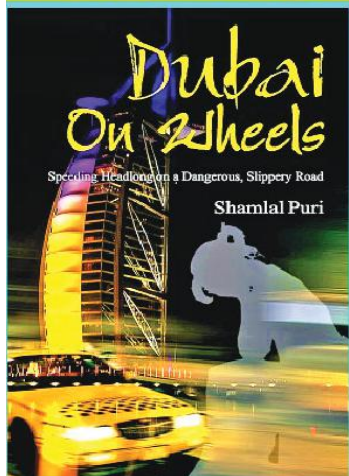
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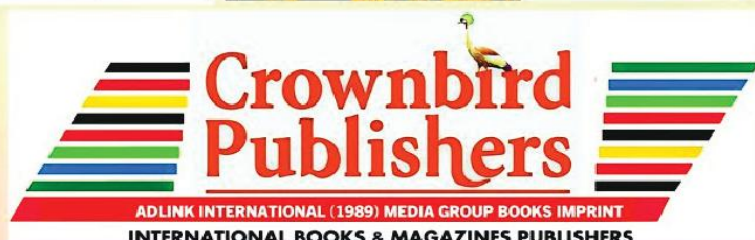
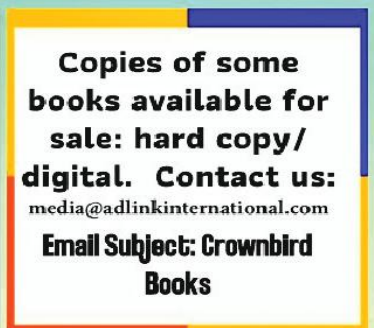
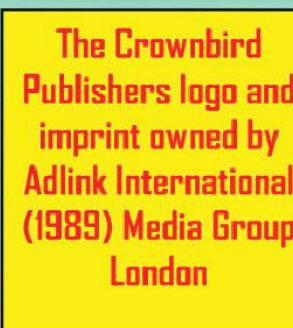
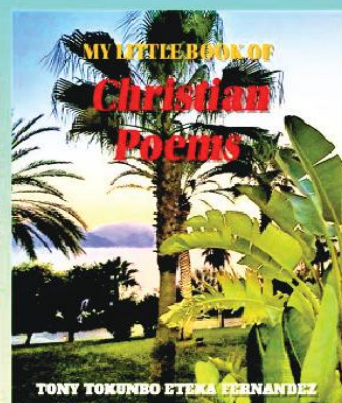
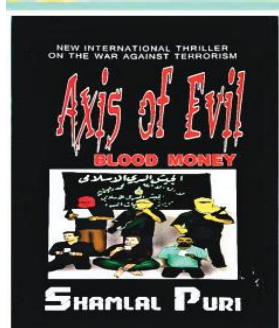
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# EDUCATION

## Govt Asked To Disburse Funds Owed To Schools

By: WANGECHI PURITY

### Worth Noting:

- “So, which funding did the Kenya Kwanza government increase? If funding has been increased, why is the Medical (NHIF Eduafya) program running into trouble? Is the regime funding corruption or learners? Is Kenya Kwanza funding real or ghost learners and schools? he questioned.
- According to him, the government subsidy for Free Day Secondary Education fell way below requirement in 2022/2023 Financial year noting that government’s own data indicate that the country had a total of 3,690,376 learners who required sh. 82, 088,723,744 in funding. But the government approved only sh. 64,421,865,698.



Opposition leader Raila Odinga has urged the government to release all monies owed to schools as well as capitation at the approved rate of Sh22, 244 per child for the financial year 2023/2024

Odinga claimed that there is a big disconnect between what the government says and what is actually implemented, faulting remarks made by President William Ruto in his new year message to Kenyans stating that his administration had increased allocations to the education sector and enhanced learners’ capitation in Primary and secondary schools.

“In his New Year address, Hon. William Ruto openly lied to parents, teachers and the children of Kenya that his administration had increased allocations to the education sector and enhanced capitation for all learners. Well, on Monday, learning will

resume in primary and secondary schools to a very different reality,” Odinga said.

He stated that the Kenya Kwanza administration has failed to enhance funding for free education.

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the government approved only sh. 64,421,865,698.

Of this approved amount, only sh. 64,421,850,160.01 was actually disbursed to schools, leaving a deficit of sh17, 666,873,584 leaving 794,231 students without any form of funding.

“In the Financial Year 2022/2023, the Ruto administration disbursed only sh.17, 339.00 instead of sh. 22,244 per child. Ruto owes each child on this programme some sh.4, 905.00. The total money owed to schools from the Financial Year 2022/2023 is sh.18,101,294,80,” he said.

He revealed that in the 2023/2024 Financial Year, the government disbursed only sh3, 327.87 per child instead of sh.22, 244, a mere 14 per cent of the required amount.

“He owes each child some sh.18, 916, 13 or 85 percent of what is needed. Ruto owes secondary schools a

total of sh. 69,807,632,165. It is not even clear whether the paltry 14 per cent said to have been disbursed has actually been discharged,” he said.

Odinga emphasized government failure to release full capitation to all schools is affecting learning differently across the country therefore eroding fair and equitable access to education.

“This funding shortage for public schools is not inevitable. It’s the direct result of corruption and deliberate and harmful political choices. It is also a deliberate continuation of a policy of suppressing regions seen to have no shares in Kenya Kwanza. It is discrimination and marginalization by another means and name. It must be resisted and the government forced to deliver money to schools,” he noted.



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# Ham as Deputy Leader Saleh Al-Arouri Killed In Beirut Blast

By: BBC

Worth Noting:

- Lebanese media report that Arouri, a deputy political leader of Hamas, was killed in a drone strike in southern Beirut along with six others – two Hamas military commanders and four other members.
- He was a key figure in the Qassam Brigades, Hamas’s armed wing, and a close ally of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader. He had been in Lebanon acting as a connection between his group and Hezbollah.
- Israeli spokesman Mark Regev stopped short of confirming Israel had carried out the assassination, a standard position for Israeli officials, but he told MSNBC: “Whoever did it, it must be clear that this was not an attack on the Lebanese state.



Saleh al-Arouri (left) masterminded attacks in the occupied West Bank.

Israel has insisted the assassination of a Hamas leader in Beirut was not an attack on Lebanon, as its enemies warned of “punishment” for his death.

An Israeli spokesman said Saleh al-Arouri had died in a “surgical strike against the Hamas leadership”.

Hamas condemned the death, while its ally Hezbollah said it was an assault on Lebanese sovereignty.

Lebanon’s prime minister, meanwhile, accused Israel of trying “to drag Lebanon into... confrontation”.

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Israeli spokesman Mark Regev stopped short of confirming Israel had carried out the assassination, a standard position for Israeli officials, but he told MSNBC: “Whoever did it, it must be clear that this was not an attack on the Lebanese state.

“It was not an attack even on Hezbollah, the terrorist organisation.

“Whoever did this did a surgical strike against the Hamas leadership.

Whoever did this has a gripe with Hamas. That is very clear.”

Arouri, 57, is the most senior Hamas figure to be killed since Israel went to war with the group after its 7 October attack.

On that day, waves of Hamas gunmen invaded Israel and attacked communities around the border, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 240 to Gaza as hostages.

Israel launched a military offensive in response, with the declared aim of destroying Hamas.

Since then, more than 22,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza, according to Gaza’s Hamas-run health ministry.

Hezbollah has fired scores of rockets into Israel and fought several skirmishes with Israeli forces during the Gaza war.

Lebanon’s state news agency said Arouri had been killed by an Israeli drone attack on a Hamas office in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh.

A witness from Reuters news agency saw firefighters and paramedics gathered around a high-rise building where there was a large hole in what appeared to be the third floor.

Video footage on social media showed a car in flames and extensive damage to buildings in what is a busy residential area.

Dahiyeh is known as a stronghold of Hezbollah.

Mr Haniyeh, the head of Hamas’s political wing, called the attack a “cowardly... terrorist act, a violation of Lebanon’s sovereignty, and an expansion of its circle of aggression”.

Hezbollah said that it considered Arouri’s death “to be a serious assault on Lebanon, its people, its security, sovereignty, and resistance, and the highly symbolic and significant political and security messages it contains”.

It said the attack was “a dangerous development in the course of the war... and we in Hezbollah affirm that this crime will never pass without response and punishment.

“Its hand is on the trigger, and its resistors are in the highest levels of readiness and preparedness,” it added.

Iran, a major supporter of both groups, said Arouri’s killing would “undoubtedly ignite another surge in the veins of resistance”.

An Israeli security cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening to discuss the post-war plan for Gaza was cancelled.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister, Abdallah Bou Habib, told BBC Radio 4 his government was talking to Hezbollah to “impress on them that they should not respond themselves” but that: “We don’t tell them, we dialogue

with them in this regard.”

Over the next 24 hours it will become clear “whether they respond or not”, he said, adding: “We are very concerned, [the] Lebanese don’t want to be dragged, even Hezbollah does not want to be dragged into a regional war.”

And he called on the West to “pressure Israel to stop also all its violence and all of its actions, not only on Lebanon, not only on Beirut, but also in Gaza”.

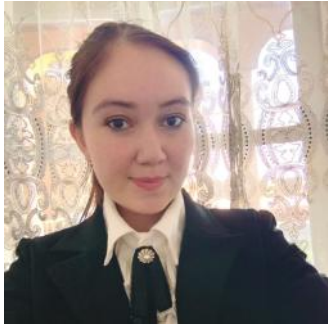
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has previously vowed to eliminate Hamas’s leaders, wherever they are.

Arouri was also considered the de facto leader of Hamas’s military wing in the West Bank, overseeing attacks there, according to Israeli media reports.

He is believed to have been involved in the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers in the occupied West Bank in 2014, reports say, and had served time in Israeli jails for other attacks.

The Times of Israel says he was also one of the Hamas officials most closely connected to Iran and Hezbollah.

# Family, Neighborhood, Education In The Education And Upbringing Of Young People



By: Umirova Mohinur  
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The neighborhood council should also pay attention to the education of young people. There is a wonderful saying in our country: “Seven neighborhood parents for a child.” we will not be mistaken if we say that this valuable information will serve as a program for their future. Propaganda work should be carried out in every neighborhood to help young people spend their free time effectively.
- Holding various sports competitions among the youth of the neighborhood. By organizing sports competitions, it is possible to achieve the development of a healthy lifestyle among the youth and to spend their free time effectively.



Education in Uzbekistan..

Annotation. In this article, the author reflects on the role of the family and neighborhood educational institutions in the education and upbringing of each young generation.

Key words: family, education, sports, reading, invention, knowledge

The example of each young generation is like a seedling. If you take good care of the seedling and give it love, it will bear fruit in the future and show its results. If the child is given education and training in harmony from a young age, it will be in accordance with the goal. The role of the family, neighborhood and educational institutions in the upbringing of the child is incomparable. It is necessary to be extremely attentive. Because the child receives the primary and basic upbringing from his parents and close relatives. Even a small mistake made in the upbringing of the child will certainly not leave its impact on his future. Every parent should not neglect their

child’s upbringing. There is a wonderful saying in our country, “A bird does what it sees in its nest.” Indeed, if every parent sets an example for their child with their positive feelings , such positive feelings begin to form in the child’s mind. If the parents are indifferent to the fate of their child, a void will appear in the child’s mind, and he may indulge in various foreign ideas.

The neighborhood council should also pay attention to the education of young people. There is a wonderful saying in our country: “Seven neighborhood parents for a child.” we will not be mistaken if we say that this valuable information will serve as a program for their future. Propaganda work should be carried out in every neighborhood to help young people spend their free time effectively.

Holding various sports competitions among the youth of the neighborhood. By organizing sports competitions, it is possible to achieve the development of a healthy lifestyle among the youth and to spend their

free time effectively. The following views of the great scholar, astrologer and statesman Mirzo Ulugbek are commendable. He said: “If you want your child to grow up healthy and strong, make him do physical exercises and exercise from a young age.” Healthy and educated youth are the backbone of the country and the future of the country.

Promotion of reading in neighborhoods and among families. Organization of reading evenings.’ By carrying out this process, it is to further increase the love for books among parents, to strengthen the unity and activity of the family. The head of our state Sh. Mirziyoyev gives the following points in his speeches: “A person who has read books and worked on himself has wings. That’s why he doesn’t look down on anyone. He doesn’t flatter “adults”. He has knowledge, he has knowledge. Here’s why. we say read a book. If you read a book, you know how to ask questions. In fact, the thinking of a person who has read a lot of books is also differ-

ent from that of others they can distinguish between black and white, good and bad.

*Umirova, daughter of Mohinur Mirza, was born on June 26, 2005 in the city of Shahrizabz, Kashkadarya region. His poems were published in creative collections such as “Novdalar sasi”, “Mitti styzn jilosi”, “Kesh hilqatlari”. Currently, Shahrizabz is studying at the State Pedagogical Institute*

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# The Torch Of Behbudi



By: Tursunov Ahliddin Davlatjon  
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### Worth Noting:

- In connection with the tragic death of Alloma Sadriddin Ainiy, he wrote: “The name of the brave poet Behbudi is mentioned with respect in the Muslim East, because for 20 years he called all beings who knew the value of their consciousness and human value to fight for free life, light and enlightenment.”
- The city of Karshi was called Behbudi in 1920-1930. The name of Behbudi was suppressed by 1937 and was acquitted in 1956.
- Today, the rich and colorful literary, cultural and educational heritage left by the poet is serving the independence of his people.
- 1977 Behbudi’s “Tanlangan asarlar” was published. This collection included textbooks and study guides, and today streets and schools are named after him.



Torches are also different. There are those who get bored of radiating within seconds, minutes, hours. But there are those who believe that as long as humanity exists, its light is eternal. One of such torchbearers of Uzbek society is Mahmudhoja Behbudi. Mahmudhoja Behbudi is the founder and bright figure of the Jadidist movement in Turkestan (now Uzbekistan). Jadid is an Arabic word meaning new. In those days, the rule of Tsarist Russia in Turkestan and the ills that followed the illiteracy of the people deeply saddened Makhmudhoja Behbudi and motivated him to fight against it.

Mahmudhoja Behbudi was born on January 20, 1875 in the city of Samarkand in the family of muftis. The environment in which he grew up had no influence on his world view.

Mahmudhoja’s father was a major specialist in Islam and wrote a number of articles on the religion and conducted scientific work, so this important environment had an impact on the boy’s worldview.

He studied politics along with literature and history. He got acquainted with the news happening in the world through newspapers and magazines. His travels to Mecca, Egypt and Istanbul completely changed his outlook. He es-

tablished cooperation with newspapers and magazines and began to publish his articles, in which he raised the issues of school and art improvement.

Behbudi was the founder of “Oyna” newspaper, editor I.Gasprinsky, a regular contributor to “Tarjumon” newspaper. Mahmudkhoja is the author of more than 200 publications in Uzbek and Tajik languages. In particular, “Muntakhabi general geography” - “Kiskacha general geography” (1903), “Kitab-ul-atfol” - “Children’s book” (1904) and others. The foundation point of Bekhbudi’s writing is the drama “Padarkush” written in Samarkand in 1911. It states that the young generation should be educated and cultured. The drama was first published in “Turon” newspaper in 1912, and in 1913 it was published as a separate book.

Behbudi’s play was a great success and was staged in the theaters of Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent. From the compositional point of view, the work looks simple, but the idea is very complex and can meet all the requirements of the drama genre. He was the first swallow of Uzbek dramaturgy and inspired the creation of A. Qadiri’s “Bakhtsiz Kuyov”, Mirmukhsina-Fikriya’s “Childless Ochildiboy” and a number of works by Hamza.

In 1919, Behbudi was captured during his travels in Karshi and executed by order of Said Alijon.

In connection with the tragic death of Alloma Sadriddin Ainiy, he wrote: “The name of the brave poet Behbudi is mentioned with respect in the Muslim East, because for 20 years he called all beings who knew the value of their consciousness and human value to fight for free life, light and enlightenment.”

The city of Karshi was called Behbudi in 1920-1930. The name of Behbudi was suppressed by 1937 and was acquitted in 1956.

Today, the rich and colorful literary, cultural and educational heritage left by the poet is serving the independence of his people.

1977 Behbudi’s “Tanlangan asarlar” was published. This collection included textbooks and study guides, and today streets and schools are named after him.

He went on pilgrimage in 1899 and returned with the title of mufti. Behbudi wrote more than two hundred articles and works in Uzbek and Persian-Tajik languages. The city of Karshi was called Behbudi in 1920-1930.

Behbudi wrote more than two hundred articles and works in Uzbek and Persian-Tajik languages. For example, “Muntakhabi jugrofiyai umumiy”

(“Brief general geography” 1903), “Kitab-ul-atfol” (“Book for children”, 1904), “Mukhtasari tarikhi islam” (“Brief history of Islam”, 1904), wrote textbooks and books such as “Practice of Islam” (1905), “Brief Geography of Russia” (1908).

Since 1901, he has published “Turkistan Regional Gazette”, “Taraqqi”, “Khurshid”, “Shuhrat”, “Tujjor”, “Asiyo”, “Hurriyat”, “Turon”, “Sadoi Turkistan”, “Ulug’ Turkistan”, “His articles published in newspapers and magazines such as “Samarkand”, “Samarqand”, “Oyna”, “Samarqand”, “Samarkand” has gained the attention of people and especially young people.

At the same time, he became the founder and propagator of new schools, the first author of new textbooks. So, Mahmudhoja Behbudi has a strong place in the history of our national culture as a great enlightener and leading fighter.

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**Sports >>** \*Nigeria's hopes of securing a fourth Africa Cup of Nations crown suffered a blow on Wednesday as influential midfielder Wilfred Ndidi was ruled out of the tournament.

# Ndidi Delivers Blow To Nigerian Cup Of Nations Hopes

Nigeria's hopes of securing a fourth Africa Cup of Nations crown suffered a blow on Wednesday as influential midfielder Wilfred Ndidi was ruled out of the tournament.

The 27-year-old missed his team runaway Championship leaders Leicester City's 4-1 win over Huddersfield Town on Monday due to an unspecified injury.

Team spokesman Babafemi Raji said Ndidi has been replaced by midfielder Alhassan Yusuf, who has been in good form with Belgian champions Royal Antwerp.

Yusuf has yet to be capped by Nigeria, but was named in the 40-man provisional squad for the Cup of Nations.

Ndidi's Leicester City teammate Kelechi Iheanacho said he hopes to shake off a muscle injury to be available for the competition, which is being hosted by Ivory Coast and kicks off on January 13 in Abidjan.

The three-time African champions are training in the United Arab Emirates ahead of the tournament.

They have been drawn in Group A alongside Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau and Equatorial Guinea.

They face Equatorial Guinea in their opening match on January 14.

AFP



Influential midfielder Wilfred Ndidi

**Sports >>>** \*Algerian international footballer Youcef Atal was handed an eight-month suspended sentence by a French court Yesterday for inciting religious hatred in a social media post about the conflict in Gaza.

# Algerian Football International Atal Convicted Over Gaza Post



Algerian international footballer Youcef Atal

Algerian international footballer Youcef Atal was handed an eight-month suspended sentence by a French court Yesterday for inciting religious hatred in a social media post about the conflict in Gaza. The 27-year-old defender, who plays for Ligue 1 side Nice, must also pay a fine of 45,000 euros (\$49,000) for sharing a video calling for a “black day for the Jews”, the Nice criminal court ruled. He will further pay for details of his conviction to be published in regional daily Nice-Matin and national newspaper Le Monde, and make it visible for one month on his Instagram page. The comments at issue came in a video of a preacher, Mahmoud Al Hasanat, which Atal posted to his

3.2-million-follower Instagram account five days after Hamas’ bloody October 7 assault on Israel. Israel in response launched a campaign against the militant group which has cost over 22,000 lives according to the territory’s Hamas-run health ministry. After speaking about the children killed in the bombardments, Al Hasanat called on god to send a “black day for the Jews” and “guide the hand” of Gazans striking back. Atal was with the Algerian national team in his home country when he shared the video. He withdrew it the following day when Nice warned him it was likely to attract controversy, offering his apologies.

Atal had apologised again to the court during the hearings, saying he had wanted to send a “message of peace” and did not watch the entire 35-second video before posting it. That argument did not convince prosecutors or plaintiffs, mostly Jewish organisations and the Professional Football League (LFP). “Sharing a video means being party to its message and lending it visibility,” prosecutor Meggi Choutia told the court. “There is no talk of peace at any moment in these 35 seconds,” she added. Wednesday’s decision was “expected, given the context and the strong political pressure,” Atal’s lawyer Antoine Vey told AFP fol-

lowing the verdict. He added that the footballer would likely appeal his conviction. Nice have suspended Atal from playing “until further notice”, while he received a seven-match ban -- since expired -- from the LFP. He has however appeared for Algeria’s Fennecs three times, he is in their squad for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations tournament, and received support in his home country.

AFP

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## Backpage



## Sanobar MEHMON

By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV  
@themkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- In the words of the poet Fakhriy-or: "The guidance of mistakes" has passed through my youth, and these mistakes may have been a lesson for me to understand myself, to recognize black and white, and to reach guidance.
- As a blessing of God to me, this path of guidance was due to the answered prayers and grateful support of my dear sister Sanobar Mehman, whose ancestors were true Sufis who knew God, and who is also a descendant worthy of their ancestors.

The world is fleeting, people are perishable.

There is no need to feel sorry for the past life, for the lost luck.

The most important thing is to keep moving towards the goal without getting lost.

The great German thinker Goethe said, "To be human is to be a fighter."

Indeed, the world is a battlefield, and human beings are warriors.

In order to achieve happiness, you have to fight with misfortune, and in order to achieve success, you have to fight with bad luck.

As I set out on the path to the bright future, I encountered so many difficulties, obstacles, lost myself, got lost on the roads and hearts, lost my life, hurt my heart...

However, the more I read Maulana Rumi, the more I discovered it through Sanobar Mehmon, a person whose name literally deserves to be written in capital letters as "TEACHER".

After all, if you don't get lost in the darkness, you don't deserve the light.

I was young, with a baby heart

As a teacher, I found a way to the hearts of those whom I tied my heart to with loyalty and love...

I created an ideal, as in my imagination, I gave them my love and devotion.

Unfortunately, not everyone is what we think.

There are those who teach only for their own benefit...

A teacher should be someone who supports the student, leads him on the right path, and shows kindness like a parent.

In good times and in bad times, a parent should always be a friend to his child, just like a teacher should be.

But I have also seen such teachers, who serve only their own benefit, and the future of the student is not worth a penny for them...

You are afraid to call him a teacher.

You can't call a person a teacher, who was able to do good things when he had the opportunity, and did not look up to you...

I've been wrong a lot, but even being wrong leads to guidance.

In the words of the poet Fakhriy-or: "The guidance of mistakes" has passed through my youth, and these mistakes may have been a lesson for me to understand myself, to recognize black and white, and to reach guidance.

As a blessing of God to me, this



Sanobar MEHMON.

path of guidance was due to the answered prayers and grateful support of my dear sister Sanobar Mehman, whose ancestors were true Sufis who knew God, and who is also a descendant worthy of their ancestors.

I am grateful to God, since I became a teacher-student with my sister Sanobar, my ways became clearer. What can be said about a person who is unable to cope and is full of pain, even in the time of Covid 19, who does not think about his health, but thinks about the fate of a student, a human being?...

You can't even find words to describe it.

Who can call a noble person like Sanobar Mehmon, who accompanied me with his baby in the 40 degree heat, looked for a job for me on the stone streets of Tashkent, and thought of my future as his own child?...

For this, I will be guilty in front of my conscience if I do not write that I am indebted to Sanobar Guest until the end of the day, who did not ask for anything from me!

That's why I went through a lot of suffering for my sister Sanobar until she literally reached the bright threshold of that person.

Those who read his poems as a teacher and followed them as a fan of his poems, crushed my great love for the artist and creativity into small pieces for their own little tastes and demands....

They pampered my feelings and affections by looking at them as mere quirks in the way of their trivial low needs and false claims of ambition.

Because of these unusual shocks, the pains of the lying world filled my heart, I could not get out of the vortex of depression, the times when I waved my hand at creativity and everything, surrendering to fate, when I was disappointed with everything, and when I hid myself away from everything, I asked God for guidance for me and a bright path. Sanobar Mehmon, the real person who brought me back to life by praying and praying in shrines, is my original "MASTER".

Many made fun of my heart and abused my love and discipleship.

But I have no place in my heart for them.

My love for them also faded.

You need to keep yourself, mind, and spirit together.

As our grandfather Babur wrote;

We must forget the one who forgot us...

It's been five years since I first saw Sanobar sister...

I will never forget that first meeting. She still has a two-three-month-old baby in her arms, but a poet says that she is constantly depressed because of the lack of tobi and the lack of tobi:

"Let's cheer up this sister" was the only thing he thought.

Summarizing the year 2022, I thank God immensely.

My works have been published in more than 20 countries, published in the international collections "Mujde", "Flashmab", "AZAHAR", and my poetry book "Breath of the Sun" was published in Turkey. I thank God that 2022 was a very lucky and successful year for me.

I was able to achieve these results primarily due to the desire of my loving God and the support of my teacher Sanobar Mehman's prayers.

God bless those who wish us well!

God, may the coming year 2023 be a lucky, happy, victorious year for all of us!

Author: Jakhongir NOMOZOV