



Kenyan Religious Leaders Unite For Peace: KCCB Mullika Initiative Launches Campaign With USAID And Community Organizations

Religious groups, including the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), USAID, SUPKEM, and community-based organizations, have joined forces to launch a campaign

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Thursday, February 1, 2024

No. 00969 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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News >> Dr Thuo Mathenge Shares Vision for Mt Kenya: Unity, Growth, and Prosperity Ahead of 2027 General Election

P. 8. The Mount Kenya region is incredibly diverse and rich in potential. However, to harness this potential fully, we need unity.



News >> Counselling Psychologist Talks About Her Work In Rebuilding Broken Lives

P. 12. Sister Stellamaris Wambui says her worst working day is when she fails to persuade a person hooked on drugs to give their life a better shot.

Tharaka Nithi County Launches New Technology Of Supplying Water

Tharaka Nithi County yesterday became the first devolved unit to use a modern technology to supply water to its residents.

The new technology will see locals purchase water at designated water points at a very minimal cost.

The initiative, area governor Muthomi Njuki noted is his administration's bid to provide clean domestic water to the residents of the partly semi-arid area.



Leaders listening as they are taken through the water situation in Tharaka Nithi County at the governor's boardroom at Kathwana township yesterday

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Teachers Who Send JSS Students Over Uniforms To Be Sacked - Gachagua

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday cautioned teachers against sending home Junior Secondary School (JSS) learners for lack of uniform saying they will face the sack.

Speaking at Enoomatasiani Primary School in Kajiado North Constituency, the Deputy President said all students must be allowed to continue with their studies until they are able to buy the new uniform.

“Any teacher sending JSS children away from school because of lack of uniform or desks will be disciplined,” Mr Gachagua warned.

The DP said money had been disbursed to schools to fully support the rolling out of the Competency Based Curriculum including the JSS curriculum.

“The Ministry of Education has released adequate capitation for JSS, primary and secondary schools. No teacher should send any child home. The children must be allowed to learn,” he emphasized.

The Deputy President visited the Constituency to launch various development projects including the JSS lab at the Primary School. He also launched construction of the Matasia (Silanga) Irrigation Project that will serve thousands of residents in the area. The DP also broke the ground for the tarmacking of Ngong-Kahara Road that will catalyse economic activities in the area.

He was accompanied by Cabinet Secretaries Kipchumba Murkomen (Roads and Transport) and Ezekiel Machogu (Education), Principal Secretaries Ephantus Kimotho (Water and Irrigation), Belio Kipsang (Education), Kajiado Deputy Governor Martin Mishisho, National Assembly Majority Whip Sylvanus Osoro and over 20 MPs and senators led by the host MP Onesmus Ngogoyo.

The DP said the government’s focus remains on development in every part of the country for Kenyans to realise better lives.

He asked lawmakers engaging in premature succession campaigns to stop saying it is an insult to Kenyans who voted for them to craft ways to improve their lives. “This is not time to politick. It is in-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Kajiado County yesterday

sensitive and an insult to the people of Kenya to talk about succession ten years from now. This is the time to work for the people of Kenya. All leaders should stop their talk on succession and focus on serving the people,” he said.

Mr Gachagua said the only conversation

permissible right now is on more roads, higher electricity connection, improved schools’ infrastructure and better water connection among other forward-looking initiatives.

“The conversation in Kenya today is about roads, water, schools, fertilizer,

building markets and making life easy for the people of Kenya. I want to ask all leaders, more so in our coalition, to focus on service delivery and working for wanjanchi,” he reiterated.

Worth Noting:

- “The Ministry of Education has released adequate capitation for JSS, primary and secondary schools. No teacher should send any child home. The children must be allowed to learn,” he emphasized.
- The Deputy President visited the Constituency to launch various development projects including the JSS lab at the Primary School. He also launched construction of the Matasia (Silanga) Irrigation Project that will serve thousands of residents in the area. The DP also broke the ground for the tarmacking of Ngong-Kahara Road that will catalyse economic activities in the area.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Patrick Kilemi, Principal Secretary Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (2nd right), listens as Elud Kiptoo, Business Engineering Adviser, PAVI Cooperative Farmers Society, explains on the operations of a maize processing plant, Tuesday, January 30, 2024 when he visited the PAVI Cooperative Farmers Society at Kinondo area of Msambweni Sub-county. The State Department for Cooperatives, is financing the construction of cotton Ginnery at PAVI Farmers Cooperative Society, as part of its efforts to enhance value addition for cotton farmers thereby improving the livelihoods of the Members.



DCI ballistic examiners are analysing an AK47 rifle that was recovered by police in Kisumu days after a Ugandan police officer based at Central Police Station, Tororo was violently robbed by a gang. The rifle was recovered by Kasagam police officers who were on patrol duties at Nyalenda A ward, after they intercepted a suspicious vehicle whose five occupants immediately flung the doors open and scampered for safety, abandoning the vehicle. A search therein led to the recovery of four mobile phones and the stolen police rifle. Also found in the vehicle during processing by CSI detectives was a homemade gun. The District Police Commander in Tororo Mr Adam Kimuli has confirmed the violent robbery involving his officer, further noting that some accomplices had already been arrested in Uganda and charged before the Tororo District Court. Meanwhile, painstaking forensic analyses are being explored with the aim of obtaining crucial leads to the run-away suspects, and the vehicle detained for further processing.



Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu and his deputy Reuben Kamuri yesterday welcomed and received donation from the Tairus and Esther Foundation consisting of 20 automatic sewing machines, 20 computers, two mobility carts and 10 water backpacks for Olmaran Vocation Training Center. The foundation will also provide an Internet connection to the computer lab and two ICT trainers to offer online Job training for the youth at Olmaran Vocational Training Center. The event also provided a platform to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county government and the foundation that will see the county benefit from technical training equipment for our Vocational Training centers.

Yesterday, Anti-Narcotic Unit officers supported by the Operations team acting on intelligence regarding persons involved in narcotic trafficking raided the residence of one Haggai Anakeya Anian-go within Kamulu area, Kangundo road. Upon conducting a search in his two houses, they managed to recover dry plant materials suspected to be narcotic drugs (Cannabis sativa) weighing approximately 15kg. The suspect, with his three accomplices namely Mario Amukula, Josephine Shimunza and Shirimana Dorine allegedly from Burundi who had no identification documents were arrested and escorted to Kasarani Police Station and placed in custody. The exhibit has been secured as the four pend arraignment.



The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Holdings limited Group Chief Executive Officer Wilson Muthaura together with Senior Management team of KTDA leadership held discussions with a delegation of the North Bengal Tea Producers Welfare Association Producers from India, led by Neeraj Poddar-an industrialist at Uttarayan Tea Industries Pvt.Ltd. The visit, at the KTDA headquarters provided a platform for the exchange of valuable insights between the two countries' respective tea industries experiences where parties explored possibilities for collaboration on peer learning and best practices on tea value chains, training and development, tea eco-tourism, exchange in technologies, and growth of tea culture and heritage leading to mutual growth and prosperity, and building a strong and enduring partnership between the two renowned tea-producing regions. Among those who were also present during the consultative meeting were KTDA-MS Managing Director Julius Onguso, General Manager Operations Kanja Thuku, and Priya D. Bhanot Second Secretary Commerce and Education High Commission of India.



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QUICK REVISION POETRY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Book Title: QUICK revision poetry for secondary school

Book description:

Embark on a transformative journey into the world of secondary learning. This comprehensive revision book guide your key to unlocking the potential of learners by providing a rich tapestry of insights, strategies and joyous activities to Foster a love for learning poetry.

Purpose of the book:

Quick revision poetry is crafted with a purpose to serve as a beacon for educators, parents and caregivers guiding them through the intricate terrain for preparing young minds for poetry examination. More than a mere instructional manual, this book is a call to action urging a paradigm shift in English language. It emphasises vital role foundation skills in a student's academic and personal development, setting the stage for a lifetime curiosity, exploration and success in mastery of poetry.

Key points.

Quick revision poetry: Delve into the significance of secondary school poetry mastery, recognising the critical role poetry plays in cognitive, emotional and social growth. Understand the unique window of opportunity for learning during this formative years.

The revision guide seeks to enlighten the secondary school students. The book employs an easy to understand language guiding the learners through the forms of poetry, poetic devices such as imagery and personification and incorporate them into their own creative writing. Students learn to recognise a wide range of poetic devices and study why poets use them to stress certain content. Teaches students how rhyme, rhythm and repetition influences poetry (The three R's). It also provides a comprehensive guide on how to handle K.C.S.E poetry exam-

ination.

ination.

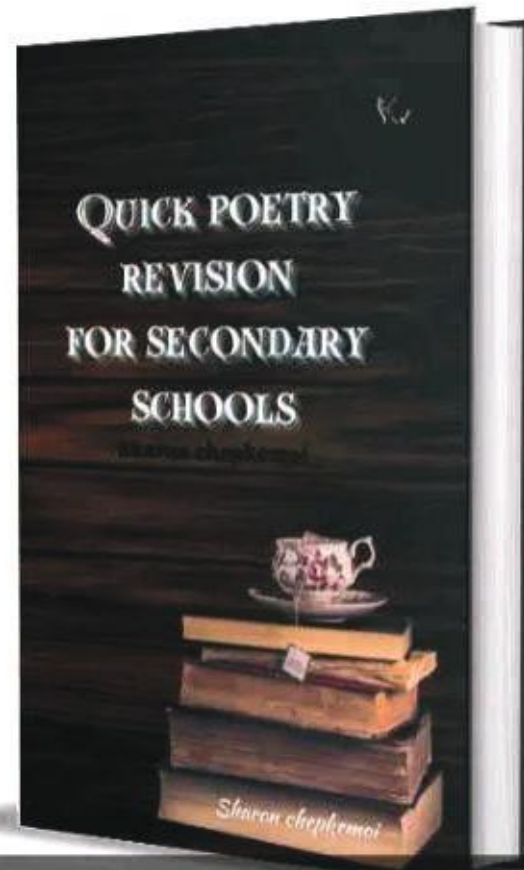
In addition, this book provides simple poetry samples, questions and answers which enhances students mastery of content.

Conclusion

The book is best for secondary school students and educators who are seeking to attain greater heights in the mastery of poetry.

Worth Noting:

- Quick revision poetry: Delve into the significance of secondary school poetry mastery, recognising the critical role poetry plays in cognitive, emotional and social growth. Understand the unique window of opportunity for learning during these formative years. The revision guide seeks to enlighten the secondary school students. The book employs an easy to understand language guiding the learners through the forms of poetry, poetic devices such as imagery and personification and incorporate them into their own creative writing.



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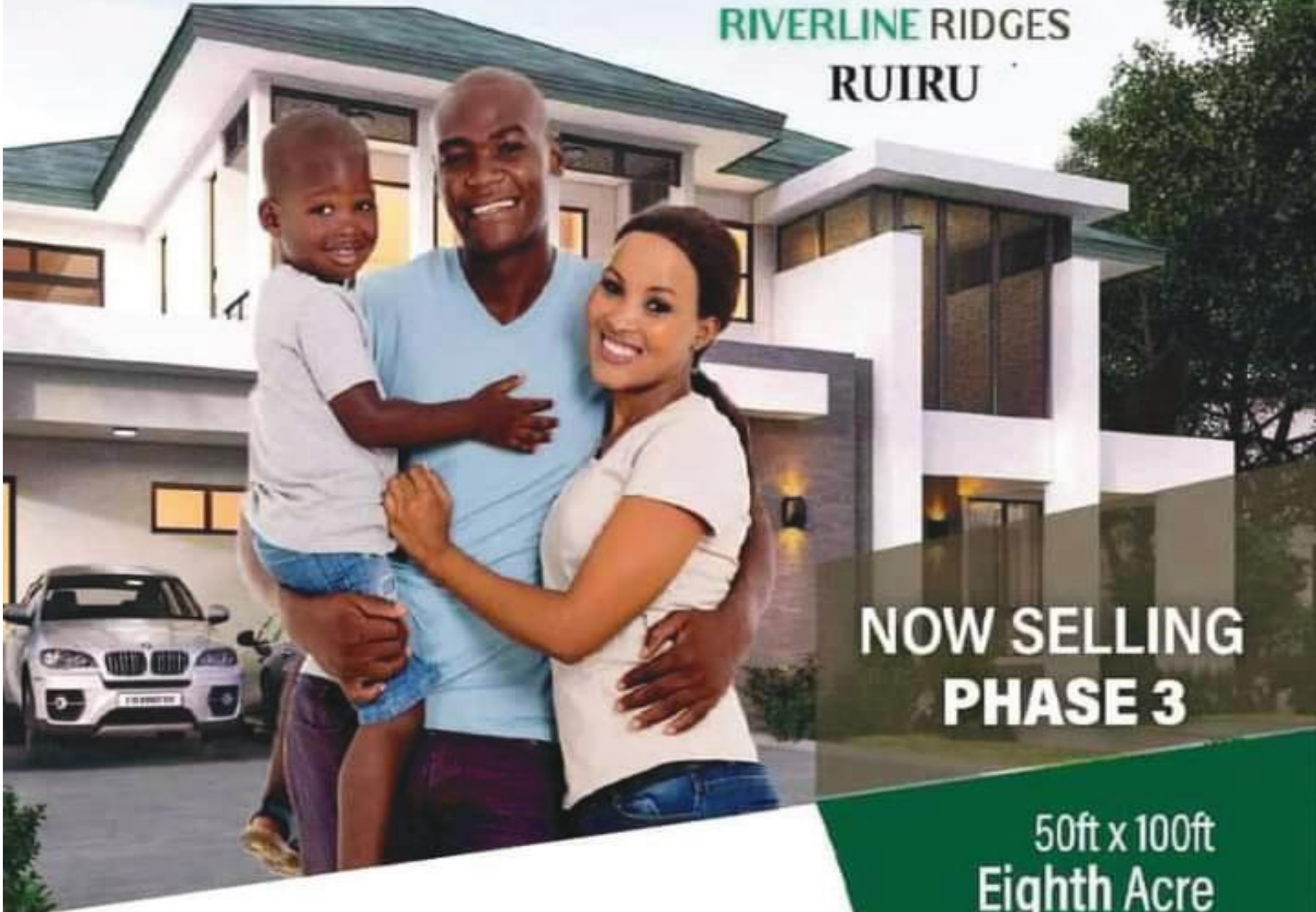
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Dr Thuo Mathenge Shares Vision for Mt Kenya: Unity, Growth, and Prosperity Ahead of 2027 General Election

By: William Muchiri
@themtkenyatimes

Question and Answer interview

Question: Dr. Mathenge, How do you envision the nature of the Mount Kenya region in terms of unity, growth, and prospects leading up to the 2027 general election?

Answer: The Mount Kenya region is incredibly diverse and rich in potential. However, to harness this potential fully, we need unity. Unity is not just a word; it's a commitment to transcending political differences and working together for the common good. Our focus is on fostering a united front that ensures growth and prosperity for everyone in the region.

Question: You've mentioned unity as a central theme. Could you elaborate on your plans to unite the region and bring together leaders from various political backgrounds?

Answer: Absolutely. Unity is a cornerstone of our vision for the Mount Kenya region. We understand that diversity is our strength, and to capitalize on that, we must unite leaders from different political spectrums. I'm in the process of convening meetings with leaders across the region, irrespective of their party affiliations. The idea is to create a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and a shared vision for the future of Mount Kenya.

Question: Recently, you gathered over 10,000 youths in the Mount Kenya region in a place known as Kimorori, Murang'a County. Can you tell us about the purpose of this assembly and the message you conveyed to the youth?

Answer: The youth are the backbone of our society, and their involvement is crucial for the region's progress. I assembled the youth to emphasize the importance of peace and unity. We urged them to be ambassadors of peace, to spread a message of togetherness rather than division. The youth have immense potential to shape the future, and we want them to channel their energy positively for the greater good of Mount Kenya.

Questions: Looking ahead to the 2027 general election, what are your expectations for the New Democrats party in terms of representation and impact on the national stage?

Answer: Our expectations are ambitious, but we believe in the potential of the New Democrats party to make a significant impact. We are opti-

mistic about securing over 100 seats across the country. Our focus extends beyond regional influence; we aim to contribute to national conversations and policies that drive growth and prosperity for all Kenyans.

Question: Mount Kenya youths have sometimes been associated with the term "Mungiki," an illegal group. How do you plan to address this issue and change the perception of the youth in the region?

Answer: The association of our youth with such negative terms is unfair and unfounded. We need to create opportunities for the youth, empower them, and provide avenues for positive engagement. The narrative needs to shift from stereotypes to recognizing the immense potential and talent within our youth. Through education, employment opportunities, and mentorship programs, we can change the perception and uplift the youth of Mount Kenya.

Question: You mentioned the importance of respecting leaders, specifically referring to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Can you elaborate on why you believe respecting him is crucial for the region?

Answer: Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is a respected leader in our region, and he deserves the utmost respect. Unity is built on respect for each other's contributions



Dr Thuo Mathenge.

and perspectives. Deputy President Gachagua plays a pivotal role in the leadership of Mount Kenya, and respecting his position is essential for fostering collaboration and achieving our common goals. I believe that by working together and respecting our leaders, we can create a stronger and more united Mount Kenya.

Question: In closing, what final message would you like to convey to the people of Mount Kenya and the nation as a whole?

Answer: My message is one of hope and unity. Together, we can build a future that is inclusive, prosperous, and harmonious. Let's embrace our diversity as strength, working towards a Mount Kenya that sets an example for the entire nation. The journey ahead may have challenges, but with unity, growth, and a shared vision, we can overcome them and create a better tomorrow for everyone.



Dr Thuo Mathenge who is The New Democrats (TND) national chairman addressing officials of his party during a consultative meeting at Bantu Africa Resort and SPA, Nyeri last Saturday.

Worth Noting:

- Question:** Recently, you gathered over 10,000 youths in the Mount Kenya region in a place known as Kimorori, Murang'a County. Can you tell us about the purpose of this assembly and the message you conveyed to the youth?
- Answer:** The youth are the backbone of our society, and their involvement is crucial for the region's progress. I assembled the youth to emphasize the importance of peace and unity. We urged them to be ambassadors of peace, to spread a message of togetherness rather than division. The youth have immense potential to shape the future, and we want them to channel their energy positively for the greater good of Mount Kenya.

Tharaka Nithi County Launches New Technology Of Supplying Water To Residents

Cabinet Secretary For Water, Sanitation And Irrigation Zachariah Njeru Officially Commissioned The Modern Technology Initiative That Is Expected To End Water Shortage In County's Semi-Arid Areas

By: Wilfred Muchire
@themtkenyatimes



Tana Water Works Development Agency Chief Executive Officer Eng Philip Gichuki taking through Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru and other leaders one of the projects in Tharaka Nithi County yesterday..

Worth Noting:

- The launch of the digital water service project dubbed, Ewater Services in Nkondi ward in Tharaka constituency is a partnership between Tharaka-Nithi County Government and a private investor, Maji Popote based in Kenya and Ewater Services Company from the United Kingdom.
- The Ewater Services Company is involved in managing boreholes by developing infrastructure which includes the installation of smart water kiosks while Maji Popote runs the project.
- While lauding the initiative, the CS noted that the Kenya Kwanza administration is committed to improving water access in the entire country to better the lives of Kenyans.

Tharaka Nithi County yesterday became the first devolved unit to use a modern technology to supply water to its residents.

The new technology will see locals purchase water at designated water points at a very minimal cost.

The initiative, area governor Muthomi Njuki noted is his administration's bid to provide clean domestic water to the residents of the partly semi-arid area.

Cabinet Secretary in charge of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Zachariah Njeru officiated the programme at Nkondi township yesterday during a ceremony that was witnessed by top ministry leadership and hundreds of local residents.

According to statistics, only 48 per cent of an estimated population of 400,000 county residents has access to clean domestic water at their homes while about 41 per cent have water for irrigation.

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The Ewater Services Company is involved in managing boreholes by developing infrastructure which includes the installation of smart water kiosks while Maji Popote runs the project.

While lauding the initiative, the CS noted that the Kenya Kwanza administration is committed to improving water access in the entire

country to better the lives of Kenyans.

The CS and his team was in the County to also inspect other water projects being undertaken by the national government under the supervision of Tana Water Works Development Agency which is chaired by Wanyaga Gathaka with Eng. Philip Gichuki being the Chief Executive Officer.

Yesterday, the team from the head office, that of Tana Water Works Development Agency and from Tharaka Nithi County government undertook an inspection tour of the Agency's projects in the area where they visited the area governor's office in Kathwana where the team was briefed on Water Situation in the area.

The field tour began with inspection of Kerege treatment works which is under Chuka Water Supply Project. Once complete, the treatment works will avail 15 million litres of water a day to 30,000 households in Kianjagi, Kairuni and Iruma regions.

They also visited Kibunga Kakimiki Water Project in Tharaka Constituency. Upon completion, this project will cater for more than 30,000 people across Turima, Karocho, Ntugi, Marimanti, Maragwa, Mwanyani, Matankiri, and Nkondi Locations, significantly enhancing water accessibility.

Among those who accompanied the CS included Water and Irrigation PS Julius Korir, Water Secretary Eng. Sao Alima, Governor Muthomi Njuki, DG Muisraeli Nderebia and Tharaka Nithi County National government officials.

Others were area Senator Mwenda Gataya, Women Representative Susan Ngugi and Tharaka Member of Parliament Gitonga Murugara who all praised the ministry for its intervention in addressing water matters in the county.

The CS noted that the sewage system projects for Chuka and Chogoria towns the county are ongoing and will soon be complete, thereby resolving the problems of waste disposal in the area.

He added that the government has allocated funds for the expansion of Kibung'a Kakimiki Domestic Water Project in Tharaka constituency to reach more people.

"President William Ruto's government is committed to solving the water problem and there are several ongoing projects in this county and the Head of State will soon visit to launch some," said Njeru.

On his part, the governor disclosed that over 1,250 residents are currently benefiting from the water which is treated and safe for direct consumption with more 100,000 litres of water having been drawn.

Njuki said the Maji Popote will run the project which is in the piloting stage for 10 years.

Those who are set to benefit from this project are residents from Nkondi, Njukini and Giekuri in Nkondi ward and Murigi, Barrier and Kaareni in Igamba-Ng'ombe ward within Tharaka Constituency.

"Our people here walk for long distances which take them at least a whole hour to look for water and that is why we have come up with this project to enable you to access

safe water conveniently," said Njuki.

He added that the target was to ensure that the Smart Water Kiosks are installed closer to homesteads within a range of 150 metres to 200 metres.

He said similar projects will be done in Kathanje, Karambani, Ura Gate and Kathandeni areas all Tharaka and Chuka/Igambang'ombe constituencies.

The governor regrettably noted that boreholes that had been drilled by his administration stalled while others were vandalised by a section of residents due to lack of ownership.

Leaders present averred that the provision of water will reduce the challenge of among other things; waterborne diseases which are common in the area and wastage of man-hours in search the commodity.

James Kay, the Chief Operations Officer for Ewater Global said beneficiaries are registered and issued with a smart prepaid token which is used to purchase water at KSh5 for every 20 litres, adding that the little proceeds collected will be used to run the operation and maintenance of the project for sustainability.

"This is our project in Kenya but we have similar water projects in Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania and the technology has worked very well," he revealed.

While lauding the project, Tharaka Nithi Senator Mwenda Gataya, Tharaka Nithi Women Representative Susan Ngugi and Tharaka Member of Parliament Gitonga Murugara said such interventions are welcome to end the water problem in the semi-arid area.

The elected leaders also thanked President William Ruto for the ongoing water projects and for the allocation of more money to expand Kibung'a Kakimiki Water Project in Tharaka constituency to reach more people.

"We recently visited Dr Ruto and we are happy to see CS Njeru visit our county ahead of the former's visit in March this year to commission complete projects and launch new ones," said the area MP.

The water Agency overseeing the projects through its chairman thanked the government for funding such projects to alleviate water shortage in the region.

CHOICES: Whether To Serve The Gods Of Worldliness Or The LIVING GOD Pt 1.



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Joshua, a great military leader in the history of Israel, when he was preparing to die, he called the Israelites at Shekem, where he addressed them:

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).”

Alexander the Great was asked one time, how did he conquer the world, he said: “ by NOT WAVERING.” We’ve to make firm choices. The bible records that a wavering mind, is unstable in all it ways. We have sayings today: “ A stitch in time, saves nine”; “Procrastination is the killer of time”; “No decision, is a decision”, and so on, all these are choices, make the right ones. Ask God for the grace to do so in Jesus name.

Choose TODAY, Christ demands first priority. It is either Him or the world, the Bible says: “ You can not serve two master, you will either love or hate the other; you can NOT serve God and mammon.”

The Lord, God says “deny self, and take up the cross”. You have either chosen to serve the gods of pleasure, gods of materialise, or even gods of war. Some will not admit it that they serve these gods, some do not even know it; their minds is deluded, and have no awareness, nor understanding: God have mercy, deliver us.

Joshua said irregardless of your de-



cision, “Me and my house, we shall serve the Lord”

Adam& Eve, first man made the wrong choice by choosing to listen to the devil. From there, man’s perfect union was cut off, and he became sinful, in need of redemption, and so applies to every man born. David, the psalmist said “in sin, did my mother conceive me. The Bible records”

We’ve all sinned, we are all idolaters,” Make that choice: give your life to Christ Jesus.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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

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

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By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- To them, Gachagua was the senior -most politician in Mount Kenya region. As such, he had already 'wrestled down' the former President Uhuru Kenyatta and taken over the position of kingpin. This was despite his perceived shortcomings.
- This kind of thinking contradicted the democratic values and principles of our constitution. Ndindi was entitled to contest any position. On position of kingpin, the people of Mount Kenya will decide.
- The prerogative of choosing a running mate lies with President Ruto.
- Of the two, I'm sure Dr Ruto will pick the most popular candidate. One would not expect Gachagua's allies to panic if they know that he is still the most popular in the region.

The move by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to throw his hat in ring in the supremacy battle for the Mount Kenya kingpin have continued to elicit mixed reactions.

Those opposed to him have been burning midnight oil cooking all manners of false narratives and propaganda.

The ultimate goal was put him into a collision with members of his community, the Kikuyu.

Listen to this. Hon Ndindi was working for the political forces out to weaken the dominance of Kikuyu as the largest voting bloc in the country. This is by splitting their votes ahead of 2027 General Election. To me, the claims were informed by pure politics and were a sign of fear and panic.

Of course, the allies and confidants of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua did not anticipate that anyone would challenge him.

To them, Gachagua was the senior -most politician in Mount Kenya region. As such, he had already 'wrestled down' the former President Uhuru Kenyatta and taken over the position of kingpin. This was despite his perceived shortcomings.

This kind of thinking contradicted the democratic values and principles of our constitution. Ndindi was entitled to contest any position. On position of kingpin, the people of Mount Kenya will decide.

The prerogative of choosing a running mate lies with President Ruto.

Of the two, I'm sure Dr Ruto will pick the most popular candidate. One would not expect Gachagua's allies to panic if they know that he is still the most popular in the region.

Kenyans have come a long way and so i would not expect them to buy the political card that Ndindi was out to divide the Kikuyu votes.

The fight for the Mount Kenya kingpin 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



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro .

Mount Kenya region kingpin.

Though Ndindi always steered clear of the debate and instead focused 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 fightback.

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

Counselling Psychologist Talks About Her Work In Rebuilding Broken Lives

By: Samuel Maina and Wangari Mwangi
 @themkenyatimes

Sister Stellamaris Wambui says her worst working day is when she fails to persuade a person hooked on drugs to give their life a better shot.

Being the overseer of the Ihururu Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre in Nyeri, Sister Wambui says it's very traumatic seeing an addict turn a deaf ear to pleas from both family and friends, on the need for them to reform.

She nevertheless says since the Center threw its doors open to people addicted to alcohol and substance abuse last year, eight patients previously hooked onto drugs have already been discharged from the facility.

Sister Wambui says it is such memories that give her the greatest joy once she retires to the convent after a day's work.

Perhaps this explains why Reinhold Niebuhr's 1932 Serenity Prayer, stands quite conspicuous among the many messages that you find pasted on her office walls.

"My worst day at work is when I fail to salvage a person already bogged down in drugs or alcohol due to his obstinacy. It breaks my heart when I go to sleep with the full knowledge that help was so near for a desperate person yet so far away. It is such experiences that rob me of sleep," she told KNA when we visited the facility which is situated at Ihururu Trading Center.

Sister Wambui says since the health facility was opened, it has admitted a total of 76 male patients to date.

She says the process of admission follows globally accepted best health practices that demand those seeking admission pass an assessment criterion.

"Most of the patients we receive here fall into three categories. The first two are for those who are either brought here by their parents or chiefs and police officers after their conditions become a security threat in the community. We also have those who come here out of their own volition and want to extricate themselves from the mess," she says.

Once an assessment has been done, the facility gives the mode of treatment according to the extent of an individual's health status.

For those whose conditions are deemed mild, the 18-strong staff recommend admission or arrange for clinical visits to the patient's home on designated days.

Once admitted, a patient undergoes



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki (2nd left), Nyeri County MCEC Dr Joseph Kiragu (Left), Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri and other officials listen as Sister Wambui explains a point when they visited Ihururu Rehabilitation Facility last year.

a 90-day therapy where various forms of therapies which include individual and group therapies are administered.

Spiritual therapy is also roped into the schedule as part of taking the patient along the road to recovery.

Sister Wambui admits that the problem of drug addiction is a ticking time bomb and one that needs tackling with speed to avert losing an entire generation.

"Drug addiction and alcoholism is an epidemic that needs urgent attention before it wipes out an entire generation in this country. Those already caught-up in this web should be viewed as patients who need treatment just like those suffering from diabetes, cancer, or even hypertension. Families sell their property to cater for the treatment of their loved ones once they fall sick. Addiction in whichever form is also a disease that needs the same intervention," she explains.

To make the facility as friendly as possible, the counseling psychologists often remind the patients their main reason for being there is to help them recover and turn over a new page in their lives.

At the moment the ages of those in session range from 21 years to 55 years with the majority of them falling between the 25-38 age brackets.

Cases of patients sneaking out of the facility (though rare) do happen, especially for those brought there against their will.

"One of the things we do after admitting a patient is to inform them that we have his best interest at heart.

This is important since most of those who were brought here happen to be victims of circumstances. Some of the things that push them into drugs include broken relationships, societal abuse, and loss of jobs, situations which they feel unable to cope with. Therefore, when they come here, we often try as much as possible to erase that past which hurts them," she says.

Sister Wambui however says many people are ignorant when it comes to matters of drug and addiction and mental illness.

While Ihururu Center's core mandate is to help salvage those hooked on alcoholism and substance abuse, some families bring patients whose condition require psychiatric treatment.

It calls for much explanation to convince such families that the best route of treatment for their loved ones is a hospital where they can be admitted to an asylum ward.

"Most of our people do not distinguish between persons requiring psychological counseling and those in need of psychiatric treatment. A number of families bring their relatives who are mentally unwell to us hoping we are in a position to help them. But a rehabilitation facility is different from a psychiatric hospital. Mentally challenged patients must first be taken to the hospital and thereafter be referred to us after recovery for therapy sessions in case their earlier health problem arose out of using drugs," explains the officer.

To enable needy families to access treatment at the center, plans are underway to ensure those with Nation-

al Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) cards can also be attended to.

For admission to the rehab, one has to spend a total of Sh90,000 for a three-month stay.

A patient can however seek for extension in case he fails to recover fully after the recommended time of stay.

Sister Wambui says the amount being charged at the County-run institution is quite low when compared with privately-run facilities operating in the country.

"Our charges are quite friendly compared to what other facilities charge to offer. Most rehab centers ask from Sh60,000 to Sh100,000 for each month of admission which is way high compared to what we ask here," she states.

Sister Wambui has also taken note of the surging cases of people taking to alcohol and substance abuse in the country; a trend she says has been on a steady climb within the last decade.

While a number of factors are to blame for the challenge, the counselor says a large part of patients are victims of societal pressure.

She argues that unlike in the past when the community was a close-knit unit, liberalism has reduced society to Charles Darwin's maxim of survival for the fittest.

The end result is that those who feel dejected by society or their loved ones, seek solace in alcoholism or drugs.

There is still the problem of training children which she says has largely failed to equip boys and girls with the necessary mettle to confront

emerging life challenges.

"When we were growing up, boys and girls were trained in the 'school of hard knocks' and therefore life's challenges found us prepared. But the kind of training being given to our children today is too elementary for the crises of the 21st century. This is one of the things pushing some of our young men and women into drugs and sometimes into suicide since they just can't cope," she points out.

But challenges facing humanity notwithstanding, Sister Wambui claims one of the single most threats facing men and women is when they take life too seriously and fail to inject a dose of humour in their everyday lives.

Her parting advice for society is to retrace its steps decades back to a world where mirth and laughter were part and parcel of a day's routine. No wonder the Good Book in Proverbs 17:22 prescribes laughter as the best medicine.

A UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) document titled World Drug Report 2023 warned of converging crises as illicit drug markets continue to expand.

Globally, over 296 million people were hooked on drugs in 2021, an increase of 23 percent over the preceding decade.

In addition, the number of people who suffer from drug use disorders has skyrocketed to 39.5 million, a 45 percent increase over 10 years, according to UNODC.

The report says demand for treating drug-related disorders remains largely unmet leaving millions of addicts to their fate.

Only one in five people suffering from drug-related disorders were on treatment for drug use in 2021, with widening disparities in access to treatment across regions.

In Africa, 70 percent of people in treatment are those under 35 years.

A 2022 report from the National Authority for the Campaign Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse (NAC-ADA) put the number of people abusing drugs and alcoholism in the Mount Kenya region at 635,000.

This is nearly the same number of people who live in Nyeri County whose population is estimated at 700,000.

Roysambu Women Led By Faith Mwaura Threaten To Strip Down If Govt Does Not Crack Down On Femicide Offenders

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Women leaders drawn from the larger Roysambu area have come out to express concern over rising cases of Femicide in the country.

Led by Dr. Faith Mwaura, a reputable leader from the area, they decried that Roysambu has become a haven for the killers.

The killers have always been on the prowl aiming to lure young and naive girls especially the ones in campus. Roysambu houses USIU, PAC University as well as Kenyatta University.

“Statistically at least 504 women have been documented to have been murdered in cold blood. These are one too many and we shan’t sit down. If nothing is done to curtail this we shall strip and walk along

Kamiti Road to express our concerns,” Hon Faith noted.

She at the same time challenged the security apparatus to be more swift in addressing such cases promptly.

Dr. Faith has also hatched a very ambitious program of mentorship for secondary school and college students so that they can avoid cheap money from aliens.

Roysambu Women Led By Faith Mwaura Threaten To Strip Down .



KUPPET Sends Warning Shot To TSC For Procedural Deductions

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) through the Secretary General Akelo Misoru remarks has come out guns blazing castigating the employer, Teachers Service Commission for what the union termed as contempt of court.

This is in regards to a court ruling that advised TSC against deducting housing levy from the teachers’ payroll.

The Secretary General termed it as a blatant violation of the law by TSC to make deductions on teachers pay against advisory of the court.

“Why did TSC deduct levies from the January 2024 pay slip, yet the High Court and the Court of Appeal made



Akelo Misoru, KUPPET Secretary General.

reservations that the housing levy is unconstitutional. Teachers are facing grave and harsh economic difficulties and as such they are not ready for any other financial burden,” Misoru observed.

KUPPET demands that TSC obeys court orders specifically on the housing tax to protect teachers hard earned earnings and benefits.

“We never supported the finance bill and in fact what

the government gave of 7-10 was to mitigate the circumstances the teachers were facing. This was a negotiated package between us and the Finance Committee of Parliament.

KUPPET vowed to institute legal contempt proceedings against the Teachers Service Commission

NEMA Reigns On Companies Polluting Kenyan Rivers

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

The National Environment Management Authority NemaKenya on Wednesday carried out inspections at various points within the Nairobi River catchment on 18th January 2024. The inspection team established that there were assorted synthetic wastes along the river, part of which bore the identity of different producers and the waste had accumulated in the rivers interfering with their flow, posed a potential threat of flooding, water pollution and are likely to have adverse environmental effects on the general environment.

The Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022 requires that every producer shall bear extended producer responsibility obligations to reduce pollution. In addition,



Polluting Kenyan Rivers .

a person who fails to manage waste in accordance with this Act shall be required to clean up and restore the site to its natural state.

Each of the 29 companies polluting Nairobi River is expected within 30 days to clean up the wastes within the specific sites where

the crime was committed to their natural state and submit to NEMA the EPR plan for management of waste emanating from their products and packaging for Nairobi River catchment region.

National Anthem...



By: Mahzuna Habibova

Homeland In this one word, like mountains without a peak, like roads without a base, there is a whole world of meaning. Beautiful trees with leaves fluttering in the gentle breeze, flowers like butterflies landing on their sweet scents, whispering rains from the immaculate sky, thirsting for life, this unique left-wing girl is also talented, exemplary, wise and intelligent, an initiator who will raise the development of the Motherland to the sky. Needs young people. Every little contribution we make to our country is our achievement, our pride.

Our Solim Gosh has not only young people full of enthusiasm, but also a rich and ancient history. The history of this beautiful land known to the world as Turan and Turkestan is very interesting and instructive.

The invaluable works and knowledge of famous scholars like Imam Bukhari, Imam al-Tirmizi, Ahmad Yassavi, Bahauddin Naqshband, who lived and created in the Middle Ages, have not lost their importance even now. We are the descendants of such great, patriotic, world-recognized scholars, it is our duty to be worthy children of them, to raise the flag of our country to higher heights.

Looking back at the history and getting acquainted with the bravery of Jalaluddin Manguberdi, Temur Malik, Sheikh Najmuddin Kubra, Mahmud Tarobi,

Amir Temur in the way of patriotism, even at this age, I still feel the thought that "I could not be a worthy child of my country". Indeed, their bravery is commendable.

How can I not protect such a beautiful, prosperous, admirable country? How can I not sing its praises?

Paradise in its gardens, the fragrance of paradise,

Great history is a line in every poem. The land of Timur is an unfading value. I am the indelible trace of the Zulfiya

Khans,

I am the daughter of a man of this country.

Every leaf is a claim to my pain,

Every step is worth it,

There are poems and ghazals in this, there is navo in this,

Yes, those Sinais are an indelible mark,

I am the daughter of a man of this country.

Fragrant flowers tickle the breath, People's hearts rejoice when they see it, Jewels, jewels of incomparable Paris, Muhammad Yusufar is an indelible mark,

I am the daughter of a man of this country.

There are alpomish: one - braver than the other,

There is Ibn Sina - pain you don't see,

Trust me, you won't get infected,

I am the face of my people, descendants of Tomaris,

I am the daughter of a man of this country.

Awe-inspiring high mountains, It delights the eye with its splendor,

Navosi is special, even strings,

I am an indelible Uzbek,

I am the daughter of a man of this country.

Yes, this is my country, this is my country, this is my country, which has been absorbed from the cradle. Do not let your eyes touch my prosperous Uzbekistan, which breathes freely...

Mahzuna Habibova, is a student of Gulistan State University

Muhammad Yusuf, The Creator Of The Chizgilar...



In general, there is no such thing as a flower similar to each other in the Sharia. Each of these flowers has its own world, its own spirit. If one poem extols friendship, another talks about the warmth of a mother's love from the sun's rays. We want the Sharia chamanzor to be a continuous journey, a journey that we want to be heartfelt. It is Muhammad Yusuf who has spread such a fragrant expression in the garden of poetry. In his poems, Muhammad Yusuf has words about his unique world of poetry, the wandering melodies of the flute, the notes that leave a mark, the life that gives soul to the soulless, and the endless emotions. We talk about Muhammad Yusuf, the owner of the endless feelings and emotions, we send our greetings to the resting place of Beixtiyor Sharia.

There is no such chamber anywhere else. There is an invaluable treasure in it. The ruler of this palace is Muhammad Yusuf, one of the poets who conquered the highest peak of the Sharia mountain.

The poems and stories that we always remember and discuss, which can lead us to understand life, to reflect on the past, present, and future, to appeal to our conscience, to elevate our love for the homeland, and to challenge the thoughts of a reader, have succeeded in making us feel less helpless. When I look at the sky with my eyes, stars are disappointed and look for something, they think. Just like Muhammad Yusuf ("At the End of Heaven" tells us that they become human and are looking for the end of heaven.) Perhaps now they have become stars and found answers to their questions.

Interestingly, whenever there is talk about lack, our poet Muhammad Yusuf comes to mind. Our familiar poets Abdulla Oripov said about them: "He was not afraid to seek advice and walk with dignity. Just being such a good person is natural and legal," he said listening to his past days. People put them on their own pedestal, but they stood still with little praise. Something like their standing still reminds me of Hazrat Alisher Navoiy. (Listen to the portraits of Hazrat Navoiy.)

The shortcomings that have always been thought about by the poet and worried about in society are reflected in their poems, and their victories are found in the points of their pens. So the Sharia is like a mirror to this nation. And poets are masters of this mirror. The playfulness, elegance, charm, and simplicity in their poems are like the colors used in a painting today that have been used in their own right from the lines that have flown from their feelings that have risen from

their hearts like a storm in an artist's work, and they surprise both the reader and amaze him!

Oh, my fatherland
My dear motherland
Uzbekistan.

My life is sacrificed for you!
You are not merciful like you,
I'm not afraid like you,
I don't buy Rome for bedbugs!

Each of our compatriots says these phrases with love and affection for Muhammad Yusuf. The feeling of patriotism is born with man; we just need to bring it out. The poet's poems have such power:

The feeling of patriotism is the basis of all good deeds. If Sharia was created by nature through this feeling, it is no wonder. For a poet who has established himself in poetry, who has comforted hearts with his verses, Sharia is like "Sweet sorrow" for Muhammad Yusuf.

In one conversation with a poet: "Which word do you value most?" when asked, he replied without hesitation "Mother". After all, think for yourself, can you expect anything bad from a child who has shown love for his honorable mother? No, never.

The poet considers mother and Homeland as inseparable; they are different forms of one word. Mother is like a second Homeland. Poetry is never hopeless for me."

This work is dedicated to the poet Muhammad Yusuf, who was born in the Uchqo'rg'on district of Namangan region.

"Has it really come to this, my dear son?"

If every poet's life has a limit,

I wish I could have lived longer, hugged my mother,
And kissed my childhood that I left behind.

In this world, births may be similar,

But the colors of life and death are unique.

Death comes to everyone. It's a fact:

My heart is heavy, now I express this burden,

My friends... my friends, may you be happy,

I'm not the greatest poet in Tashkent,

But when I go home, by the mulberry tree,

I may lie down and die alone!

The death of a poet is not only a loss for his relatives, but also for his admirers and the literary community. Many have left their thoughts about Muhammad Yusuf in the pages of history and literature:

"In his heart, there are still poems that haven't seen the light, orphaned songs that haven't met with a musician!...(Said Ahmad)"

"Muhammad Yusuf lives in his immortal poems, he lives in our songs!...(Yulduz Usmonova)"

As one of the many admirers of the poet, I can say that he will never die, he will always live in our hearts. If literature has an eternal charm, he is alive; in the boundless verses of his poetry, the waves of our hearts will always be stirred in the sea of his words. This world is transient. In it, only love and affection will remain as the poet said! So let's never shy away from expressing love; let's adorn the world with goodness and beauty. After all, if there is love in our hearts, the poet will always be alive."

Yusufjonova Ogilxon

10th grade student at a specialized school in Uchqo'rg'on district, Namangan region

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FEMICIDE

Why Is Femicide Not Treated As A Separate Crime Yet? - Nguvu Change Leaders Demand Answers

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This demand has been made by women for many years now, and evidence to this effect is presented from global civil society organisations and the UN on why femicide is distinct from murder. However, the Kenyan government has not acknowledged these voices and made any progress on amending criminal laws.
- Nguvu Change Leaders Josephine Mwende, Stacy Olendo, Valerie Aura, and Harriet Afandi have now jointly appealed to the Government of Kenya to immediately intervene. This proposed distinction, they believe, will pave the way for a more targeted approach to combating gender-based violence (GBV).



End Femicide Activist.

In the wake of recent gender crimes, Nguvu Change Leaders Josephine Mwende, Stacy Olendo, Valerie Aura, and Harriet Afandi join hands to call for stringent laws

“Sisi ni watu sio wanyama” - “We are human beings, not animals.” - This outcry of anger and pain is on the lips of thousands of women across Kenya, as they pour onto the streets to protest unabating femicide in the country. On January 27, scores of women gathered in Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret, Machakos, Busia, Kilifi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Nyeri, and Lodwar, with this chant, demanding stringent laws against femicide and swift justice.

In solidarity with the on-ground protests, a group of digital crusaders from Nguvu Collective have joined hands to demand the classification of femicide as a distinct and specific crime, separate from murder.

This demand has been made by women for many years now, and evidence to this effect is presented from global civil society organisations and

the UN on why femicide is distinct from murder. However, the Kenyan government has not acknowledged these voices and made any progress on amending criminal laws.

Nguvu Change Leaders Josephine

Mwende, Stacy Olendo, Valerie Aura, and Harriet Afandi have now jointly appealed to the Government of Kenya to immediately intervene. This proposed distinction, they believe, will pave the way for a more targeted approach to combating gender-based violence (GBV).

“Kenyan women are confronted with a myriad of gender-based violence (GBV) forms, encompassing physical, psychological, sexual, socio-economic, domestic, obstetric, and intimate partner violence. Recent incidents underscore the pressing need for corrective measures to avert more women falling victim to such violence. Our collective commitment has strengthened; united, and unwavering in our stand against the multifaceted gender-based violence targeting women from all backgrounds,” share Nguvu Change Leaders Valerie, Stacy, Josephine & Harriet.

These Change Leaders, who have themselves been victims of GBV and have close family members who’ve been through it, ranging from obstetric violence to abuse of persons with disabilities, assert in a unified manner that only a comprehensive approach from the Government can address this grave issue.

All four Nguvu Change Leaders are digital crusaders. They have already launched online campaigns on various aspects of GBV and have been creating awareness of why systemic solutions are critical for addressing GBV-related issues.

Valerie Aura, a survivor of GBV, is advocating for safe houses

where victims of GBV can be isolated and supported to rebuild their lives through an online petition

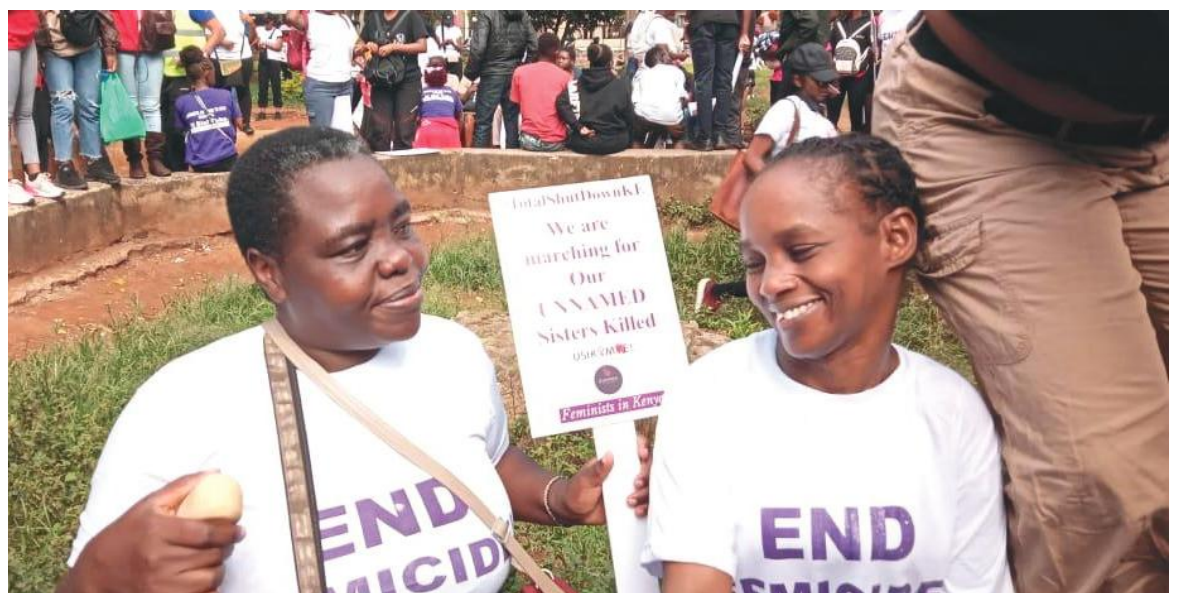
Josephine Mwende, a mother with cerebral palsy, has initiated an online petition for public hospitals to stop Obstetric violence against expecting mothers with disabilities.

Stacy Olendo, in her online petition, points out the need for a specialised Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Police Units dedicated to addressing crimes against women and children.

Harriet Afandi, an advocate for women’s rights, has launched an online petition, urging Members of Parliament to pass an OBV Bill to protect expectant mothers and ensure their rights during childbirth.

The Change Leaders hope that their efforts will raise awareness about the gravity of gender violence and bring about far-reaching positive change in the country.

BACKGROUND: According to Amnesty International Kenya, between 2016 and 2023, over 500 women have fallen victim to femicide in the country. The majority of these gruesome incidents involved women below the age of 35, who were killed by intimate partners or individuals known to them. At least a dozen reported cases since the beginning of 2024 alone.



End Femicide Activist.



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Kenyan Religious Leaders Unite For Peace: KCCB Mulika Initiative Launches Campaign With USAID And Community Organizations

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Religious groups, including the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), USAID, SUPKEM, and community-based organizations, have joined forces to launch a campaign aimed at promoting peace and cohesion in response to recent conflicts among leaders in Kisii County.

The initiative, operating under the umbrella of the KCCB Mulika Initiative, seeks to sensitize the community on the importance of unity and peace. The move comes as leaders in Kisii face unresolved issues that have led to conflicts, prompting the need for constructive dialogue.

During a sensitization meeting in Kisii County, Obino Nyambane, representing Abagusii culture, emphasized the necessity for leaders to govern based on established leadership doctrines.

Nyambane stressed that the primary



Religious groups, including the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), USAID, SUPKEM, and community-based organizations, have joined forces to launch a campaign aimed at promoting peace and cohesion in response to recent conflicts among leaders in Kisii County. Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

purpose of leadership is to impartially unite all community members.

The meeting's main objective is to foster peace and cohesion within the community.

Ednah Atambo, a representative

from civil society, urged individuals to acknowledge and address the peace and conflict challenges in the county.

She called on everyone to speak out collaboratively and encouraged leaders to engage in dialogue to ami-

cably resolve their differences.

Atambo emphasized, "We cannot be seen as Kisii county leading peace talks externally while having unsolved disputes internally. Let our leaders agree to sit down and seek solutions to their differences."

Al-hajj Ramadhan, the secretary of SUPKEM in Kisii County, reminded leaders that they are chosen by God, emphasizing their primary role in uniting people and promoting peace.

He encouraged leaders to focus on fostering development rather than dividing the community. Religious leaders appealed to the political leaders to engage in dialogue and reconcile their differences.

Ramadhan stressed that instead of infighting over politics, leaders should use their platform to advocate for the development of their people.

He called on leaders to continue preaching peace and unity, using dialogue to resolve their political differences.

Citing the direct and indirect impact of political differences on the residents, Ramadhan urged leaders to avoid a situation that could lead the county into political turmoil.

He highlighted the socio-economic and political consequences that could extend beyond the county, urging leaders to forge political dialogue in a spirit of unity and collaboration.

Call To Increase CDF Allocation

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

There's an urgent need for the Government to increase equitable share of the allocation of the Revolutionary fund, the National Government Constituency Development Fund abbreviated as NG-CDF

This clarion call was released by the Member of Parliament for Kasarani Constituency Captain Ronald Karauri.

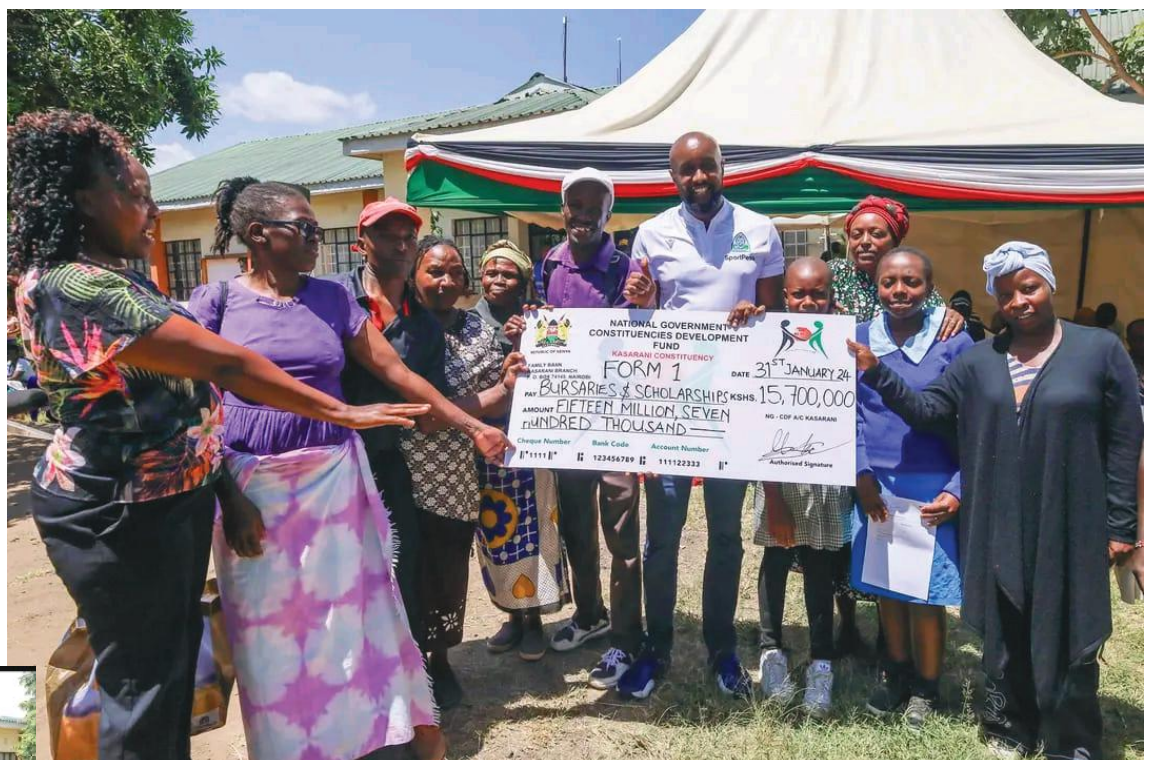
Captain Karauri was kind enough to hand bursary cheques to children from disadvantaged/ vulnerable backgrounds.

In total the MP gave a cheque of 15 Million and he supported the one man one vote policy.

Karauri noted, "Today marks a major milestone in the aim of a 100% transition of pupils from primary to secondary education. More than 1000 Form 1 students received a check of 10,000 KES each, with an

additional 15,000 KES for those with disabilities. The NGCDF awarded 65 students four-year scholarships, while the Captain Ronald Karauri Foundation sponsored 32 complete four-year scholarships. Kasarani leads the country in 2024 bursary issuance.

I pledge to work continuously with all stakeholders to ensure that every child in our constituency receives a high-quality education for a brighter future. Let us embark on this noble journey of transformation and empowerment, guided by the principles of equity, inclusivity, and excellence."



Kasarani MP Ronald Karauri hands over a cheque worth Ksh 15 million to support education for the needy.



Avocado Consultative Meeting Explores Market Trends



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyetimes

Yesterday, the USAID Strategic Partnership Program, in collaboration with the Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya, convened a significant Avocado Consultative Meeting. The gathering centered on dissecting the dynamics of the local, regional, and national avocado markets, while also delving into the prospective outlook of this burgeoning sector.

Representatives from various sectors, including government agencies, industry players, and stakeholders, converged to deliberate on pivotal issues shaping the avocado market landscape. Key topics of discussion encompassed market trends, supply chain dynamics, consumer preferences, and regulatory frameworks. With the support of the USAID

Strategic Partnership Program, the consultation aimed to foster collaboration and strategic interventions to fortify the avocado industry's resilience and competitiveness. Participants engaged in robust exchanges, exchanging insights and experiences to chart a course for sustainable growth and development within the sector.

The meeting underscored the significance of leveraging innovation, technology, and best practices to harness the full potential of the avocado market. Additionally, stakeholders emphasized the importance of promoting sustainability practices and enhancing value addition along the avocado value chain to capitalize on emerging opportunities both domestically and internationally.

Looking ahead, participants expressed optimism about the future trajectory of the avocado market, recognizing its pivotal role in driving economic prosperity and livelihood enhancement for farmers and industry stakeholders alike.

In conclusion, the Avocado Consultative Meeting served as a testament



USAID Stakeholders convene at the Avocado Consultative Meeting to chart the future of Kenya's vibrant avocado industry, exploring market trends.

to the collective commitment towards fostering a vibrant and resilient avocado industry, poised to cap-

italize on evolving market dynamics and emerging opportunities on the horizon.

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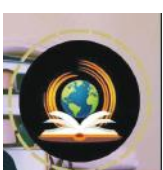
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Group 3

Kiharu, Mathioya, Kangema, Othaya, Tetu, Mukurweini, Mathira, Nyeri

Group 4

Kieni, Laikipia East, Laikipia West, Laikipia North, Ndaragwa, Ol Joro Orok, Ol Kalou, Kipipiri

Group 5

Kinangop, Naivasha, Ndia, Gichugu, Kirinyaga Central, Mwea, Molo, Njoro

Group 6

Kuresoi South, Kuresoi North, Rongai, Nakuru West, Bahati, Subukia, Nakuru East, Gilgil

Group 7

Mbeere South, Mbeere North, Chuka, Igamba Ngombe, Maara, Tharaka Imenti South, Imenti Central, Buuri

Group 8

Imenti North, Tigania East, Tigania West, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Igembe South, Manyatta, Runyenjes



FOOTBALL KENYA FEDERATION



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Sports >> *From Ivory Coast's remarkable resurrection to heavyweight exits and underdog successes, there may never have been a more unpredictable major international football tournament than the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations.

African Heavyweights Tumble Like Dominoes At Cup Of Nations



Morocco's coach Walid Regragui (L), Morocco's defender Romain Saiss (C) and Morocco's defender Nayef Aguerd (R) react after their loss in the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2024 round of 16 football match between Morocco and South Africa at the Stade Laurent Pokou in San Pedro on January 30, 2024. (Photo by SIA KAMBOU / AFP).

From Ivory Coast's remarkable resurrection to heavyweight exits and underdog successes, there may never have been a more unpredictable major international football tournament than the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations.

The last 16 concluded on Tuesday with the continent's top-ranked team, 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, being dumped out by South Africa after Achraf Hakimi missed a crucial late penalty.

Tournament hosts Ivory Coast returned from the dead, narrowly escaping a humiliating elimination in the group stage, but this AFCON has already proven to be a graveyard for many of the traditional powerhouses.

"It is not the end of the world," insisted defeated Morocco coach Walid Regragui, whose country will host the next Cup of Nations.

"We are not the only ones. Lots of the favourites have been eliminated. We will come back stronger."

The three most successful teams

in the history of the competition are out -- Egypt, Cameroon and Ghana have 16 titles between them but the first two were sent packing in the last 16 after the Black Stars limped out in the group stage.

All five of Africa's representatives at the 2022 World Cup have already gone home.

Senegal's exit on penalties at the hands of Ivory Coast continues a trend which has seen no reigning champion win a knockout tie at the Cup of Nations since Egypt in 2010.

Indeed, the last three champions have all been eliminated, with Algeria exiting in the group stage for the second AFCON in a row following their triumph in 2019.

- Hakimi, Mane, Salah out - Mohamed Salah, Riyad Mahrez, Sadio Mane and Hakimi, four of the very biggest stars of African football, will watch the rest of the tournament on television, if they can even bring themselves to do so.

Most remarkably, none of the quarter-finalists at the last edition, two years ago in Cameroon, have reached the last eight this time.

That might suggest that the decision to expand the competition to 24 teams -- a change brought in from the 2019 edition in Egypt -- has helped make many smaller nations more competitive and created a greater strength in depth across Africa.

"There are no small teams anymore" has quickly become a bland cliché, and yet there is some truth to it.

In terms of pedigree, two names stand out among the quarter-finalists.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, have impressed with African player of the year Victor Osimhen leading from the front.

They look good bets for a fourth title, 11 years after their last, although there is a danger that might be a little too logical, given how the competition has been going.

Ivory Coast -- the only one of

the top seeds when the draw was made who are still alive -- have twice been champions, including as recently as 2015. They also have the advantage that supposedly comes with playing at home.

Then again no host country has won the AFCON since Egypt in 2006, and the Elephants have been a basket case, suffering their heaviest ever home defeat as they almost went out in the first round, and then sacking their coach.

- History-makers -

Three of the last eight are into the quarter-finals after winning a Cup of Nations knockout tie for the very first time.

Angola, ranked 28th in Africa, will measure themselves against Osimhen's Super Eagles, while Guinea face the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Most striking of all has been the run of Cape Verde, the tiny Atlantic Ocean island nation with a population of 600,000.

They beat Ghana and drew with Egypt on the way to topping their group, before seeing off Mauritania.

Helped by players of Cape Verdean heritage born in countries such as Portugal, France, the Netherlands and Ireland, the Blue Sharks have been outstanding and face South Africa next.

"You can see that it is not easy for the big footballing nations to win games either now," Cape Verde captain Ryan Mendes told Canal Plus Afrique.

"They have players who play for big clubs, but us so-called small teams play with a lot of heart, and we have a lot of quality at the same time.

"We don't have the same status, but we do have love for our country as well as ability," he added.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Cote d'Ivoire caretaker coach Emerse Fae says his team "must not stop here" after their monumental penalty shootout victory over Senegal in the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations last 16.

"No Stopping Here" - Cote d'Ivoire Interim Boss Fae Eyes Further Glory After Senegal Upset



TOPSHOT - Ivory Coast's players celebrate after the victory at the end of the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2024 round of 16 football match between Senegal and Ivory Coast at the Stade Charles Konan Banny in Yamoussoukro on January 29, 2024. (Photo by KENZO TRIBOUILLARD / AFP) RELATED CONTENT.

By Agencies

Cote d'Ivoire caretaker coach Emerse Fae says his team "must not stop here" after their monumental penalty shootout victory over Senegal in the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations last 16.

The tournament hosts eliminated the reigning champions 5-4 on penalties on Monday following a 1-1 draw after extra time to book their spot in the quarter-finals.

In front of a raucous home crowd at the Stade Charles Konan Banny in Yamoussoukro, Senegal made a blistering start and took the lead just four minutes in.

A superb cross from Sadio Mane found Habib Diallo, who calmly chested the ball down before firing a rocket into the top corner.

Cote d'Ivoire were unfazed and continued pressing and when the game turned on a pivotal 86th minute moment when the host nation was awarded a penalty as Pepe was clumsily brought down by Edouard Mendy.

After VAR reviewed the incident, Franck Kessie coolly sent Mendy the wrong way from the spot to equalize.

In the shootout, Kessie stepped up to smash home the winning kick and send the home crowd into ecstasy.

It capped a remarkable turnaround for the Elephants after a disastrous group stage saw them suffer two defeats, including a humiliating 4-0 loss to Equatorial Guinea.

"We had a difficult start, conceding an early goal, but I told the

players at halftime to keep playing the same way, not get confused," said Fae.

Unlike under previous coach Jean-Louis Gasset, Fae took full responsibility for tactical decisions during the match.

"It was my decision on what needed to be done. With Gasset, I would give an opinion and he would make the decision," Fae explained.

The interim boss admitted he was under intense pressure before the Senegal showdown.

"There was a lot of pressure before the match, and match day was too long for me. I couldn't nap as usual, thinking about all scenarios. If I said there was no pressure, I would be lying," Fae confessed.

But scraping through the group stage boosted belief before facing

the champions.

"Qualifying after Morocco's win gave us confidence. We beat Senegal and eliminated them; morale is good," said Fae.

With a place now booked in the quarter-finals, Fae stressed the team cannot get carried away by this result as tougher tests lie ahead.

"We must not stop here; we must continue working, maintain this morale, and keep playing match by match," the coach asserted.

After inspiring a remarkable reversal in fortunes, Fae seems determined to ensure this giant-killing act is just the start as the Elephants seek further AFCON glory.

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Muhindo Serves Us A Rebels' Bible



By: Nassur Tab'an El-Tablaz
@themkenyatimes



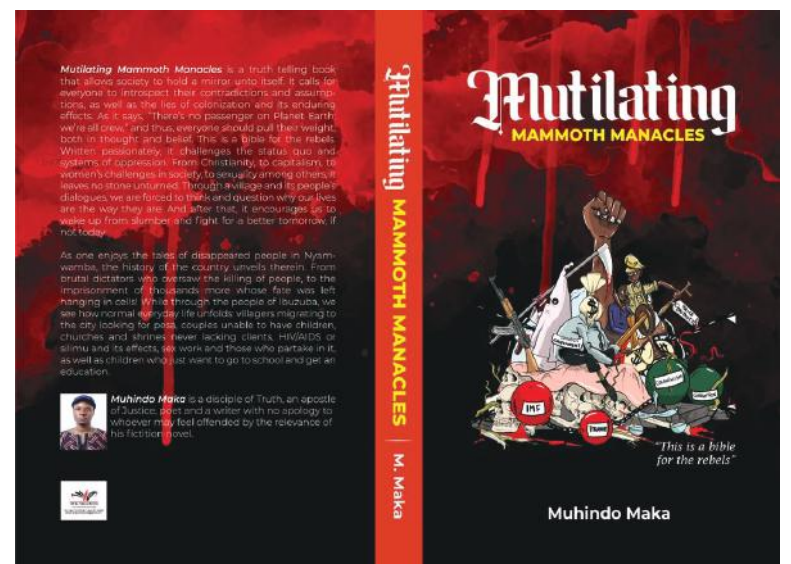
The author, Maka Muhindo...

Worth Noting:

- Maka Muhindo presents lovely debates such as divorce, in a really wonderful way with a beautiful mix and match between history lapses and the story itself. As one enjoys the tales of disappeared people in Nyamwamba, the history of the country unveils therein. From brutal dictators who oversee the killing of people, to the imprisonment of thousands more whose fate is left hanging in cells!
- Through the people of Ibusuba, a normal everyday life unfolds: villagers migrating to the city looking for pesa, couples unable to have children, churches and shrines never lacking clients, HIV/AIDS or silimu and its effects, sex work and those who partake in it, as well as children who just want to go to school and get an education.

Mutilating Mammoth Manacles by Maka Muhindo is a great read as it analyzes society quite well looking at all the heavy topics; from oppression, to corruption, to how money changes people, to HIV/AIDS, to LGBTQ+, to religion, to infertility, to politics... literally every angle of society! It is a truth telling novel that allows society to hold a mirror

unto itself. It calls for everyone to introspect their contradictions and assumptions, as well as the lies of colonization and its enduring effects as it says, "There's no passenger on Planet Earth; we're all crew," and thus, everyone should pull their weight, both in thought and belief. This is a bible for the rebels. Written passionately, it challenges the sta-



tus quo and systems of oppression. thousands more whose fate is left hanging in cells! Through the people of Ibusuba, a normal everyday life unfolds: villagers migrating to the city looking for pesa, couples unable to have children, churches and shrines never lacking clients, HIV/AIDS or silimu and its effects, sex work and those who partake in it, as well as children who just want to go to school and get an education. Although the author tries to question commercial sex, he does not quite critique the system that puts women down, and depending on men. Given the well done critiques on other systems of oppression such as wage/labour capitalism, colonization, democracy, religion and others, one would expect a critique on the societal constructs against women. In some chapters, the author tries to critique patriarchy though not sufficiently. *Mutilating Mammoth Manacles* has a lot of quotable parts that every reader wouldn't wait to use in their daily lives – really lovely use of language and thought. This novel is very open-minded – everything is up for questioning, and that is really refreshing to read. Ultimately, it is a good heavy novel.

From Christianity, to capitalism, to women's challenges in society, to sexuality among others, it leaves no stone unturned. Through a village and its people's dialogues, we are forced to think and question why our lives are the way they are. And after that, it encourages us to wake up, from slumber, and fight for a better tomorrow, if not today.

One of the strengths of this novel is its many characters that speak to its flow. It is about no one in particular – it is about society! The characters, most of the time, tend to take all sides of discussions, giving the reader liberty to pick a side and still recognize the other viewpoint. Everyone is represented in its character distribution. There is literally everyone in it; a woman who sleeps up, men who marry sex workers, villagers just farming, chiefs, people imprisoned for political reasons, dangerous men, shrines, churches and sexually assaulting priests among so many others.

Maka Muhindo presents lovely debates such as divorce, in a really wonderful way with a beautiful mix and match between history lapses and the story itself. As one enjoys the tales of disappeared people in Nyamwamba, the history of the country unveils therein. From brutal dictators who oversee the killing of people, to the imprisonment of