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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua



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CS Linturi Puts Outlets Selling Counterfeit Seeds Put On Notice

By: Patrick Nyakundi and
Emmaculate Kinyumu
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “As a government, we will certainly impose stringent measures to ensure our farmers only plant certified seeds,” said Linturi, while speaking at Utangwa Market in Mbooni West Sub County, where he commissioned the Utangwa Small Irrigation Scheme Project on Thursday.
- “While promising to open a Kenya Seed Company (KSC) branch in Mbooni, the CS urged farmers to buy certified seed from government stockists in order to improve their yields and ensure food security in the country.



Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi when he commissioned the Utangwa Small Irrigation Scheme Project in Mbooni, Makueni County..

The government has ordered a crackdown on all agrovets selling uncertified seeds to unsuspecting farmers, thus contributing to food insecurity in the country. Consequently, Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi has directed the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to work closely with the relevant authorities with a view to ensuring all unscrupulous business people found perpetrating the vice are promptly apprehended and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

He further warned such agrovets selling uncertified seeds that they risk cancellation of their licenses, so as to curb rampant cases of farmers being conned, especially during this period when farmers are heading closer to the planting season.

“As a government, we will certainly impose stringent measures to ensure our farmers only plant certified seeds,” said Linturi, while speaking at Utangwa Market in Mbooni West Sub County, where he commissioned the Utangwa Small Irrigation Scheme Project on Thursday.

“While promising to open a Kenya Seed Company (KSC) branch in Mbooni, the CS urged farmers to buy certified seed from government stockists in order to improve their yields and ensure food security in the country.

“Buy your seeds only from KSC and other licensed outlets so that your production can improve, even as the government works on plans to put up a branch here,” he noted.

“I have heard the cry of farmers from all over the country and even here in Mbooni, where I am reliably informed that some farmers were sold some fake ‘nduma’ maize seeds that never germinated or got stunted, leaving the farmers in distress.

At the same time, the CS challenged farmers in Makueni County to position themselves to benefit from the upcoming Thwake dam, which will irrigate 40,000 acres of land in the larger Ukambani region once completed.

“The Kenya Kwanza government is undertaking construction of the mega Thwake dam, with a capacity of 688 cubic million litres of water for both domestic and irrigation purposes, which will be a game changer for the people of Makueni and Kitui counties,” he said.

Additionally, the CS promised to construct a cold room for horticultural products in Mbooni West to save farmers from exploitation by middlemen who offer them low prices for their perishable goods, only for the brokers to sell the same at higher prices later on.

During the function, Linturi also launched three dryers to help farmers in the Lower Eastern region to dry their maize to avoid post-harvest losses, where Machakos, Kitui, and Makueni counties will each get one dryer.

However, the CS promised to add one drier for Makindu sub-county following a request made by his host, Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr.

The launch was done at the Wote National Cereals and Produce Board offices, where Linturi also flagged off 1,700 bags of subsidised fertiliser that will be distributed to farmers in Makueni County.

On his part, Mutula asked the national government to open an Agricultural Training Centre to help train youths and women on new innovative methods to boost crop production in the region.

“With such an agricultural college, farmers planting French beans, for instance, can get skills in that field to improve on food production,” he emphasised.

The governor also said that a cold room will be constructed in the area to save mango farmers from exploitation by middlemen, who buy the commodity at throwaway prices.

“It is wrong for our farmers to sell their mangoes at Sh10 per kilogramme to brokers, who later sell the same at Sh200,” lamented Mutula.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by Exponential International Limited, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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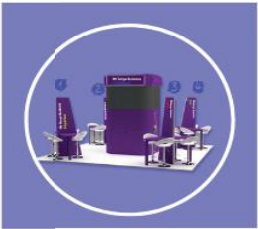
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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Can-Do-Kids Organisation, under the patronage of Karanja Wamatangi, has constructed mega water storage tanks in Kiharu constituency. The 300,000-litre capacity tanks have helped schools harvest rainwater and improve hygiene in the schools. Wamatangi led a team from the USA to launch a new tank at Gitige Secondary School, and the organisation aims to construct 165 mega tanks in public secondary and primary schools, hospitals, colleges, markets, and churches.

Can-Do-Kids is working with various organisations, including churches, both locally and in the USA, to ensure the programme is fully realised. They have partnered with Catholic and ACK churches in Murang'a to actualize the programme, especially in learning institutions. Local priest Fr. Clement Mwangi, representing the Diocese of Murang'a, praised the programme, stating that some schools sponsored by the diocese have benefited from the tanks.

Pastor John Braland of Freshwater Church emphasised the importance of the construction of water storage tanks, stating that rainwater will be collected and preserved for use during the dry season.



Detectives have seized 132 bales of bhang after a truck ferrying them was intercepted last night along Garissa-Thika Road at Kyanunda area of Mwingi. The interception and subsequent recovery also saw two male suspects arrested, Daniel Yohana and Ismail Wakob being the driver and co-driver respectively. In the intelligence-led operation conducted by a joint operation team, a KAT 198H Isuzu truck was searched where an initial 28 bales were found on the roof cabin of the vehicle, before it was escorted to DCI HQRS for further processing by the Anti-Narcotics detectives. A thorough search revealed that the vehicle had a false bottom reinforced with strong bolts and rails, where 104 bales had been stashed. To reduce chances of suspicion, the vehicle carried 31 mattresses which the driver claimed to have been delivering to waiting customers. The suspects have since been placed at Muthaiga Police Station and the exhibits secured awaiting weighing and sampling. In an earlier operation yesterday at Fedha Estate within Embakasi, Nairobi, a 51-year-old woman and her youthful male associate were arrested, after sachets of heroin weighing 650g were found in their house. Mary Adhiambo Opollo and Charles Kimani Wanjiku, 24 were ambushed at Fedha Heights apartment following a tip-off on their drug trafficking deals, before they were escorted to Muthaiga Police Station pending processing and arraignment. Both operations were conducted jointly by the DCI's Anti-Narcotics and Operations Support Units.



The biggest threat to the survival of cranes is habitat, where they can breed safely, raise chicks, flock together, and grow in population. Factors such as wanton destruction of wetlands and surrounding areas, human activities like farming, settlement on the birds' habitats, poisoning, and unwarranted collection of crane eggs and chicks from the wild by people, among others, could threaten these habitats. Dr. Joseph Mwangi, Country Manager for ICF, reiterated the need for the National and County governments to develop proper measures in terms of regulations to help in the conservation and protection of wetlands.



Police in Eldoret have arrested a group of 10 youth suspected of harassing business operators and the public in the town and its outskirts, demanding money by force. The County Police Commander (CPC), Benjamin Mwanthi, stated that the suspects were arrested following reports of a group of suspected people armed with pangas and other crude weapons threatening the lives of business operators. The CPC called on business people to report any individuals who are tormenting or intending to extort money to the nearest police station, county government enforcement, or NGAO. The CPC warns against scammers who lure unsuspecting individuals, particularly graduates, with overseas employment opportunities. In return, they steal valuables like computers and phones. An incident involving a nurse trainee in Eldoret involved scammers obtaining her contact information and convincing her to apply for a job outside the country, but withholding her application due to system failure.

Former Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich has declined his appointment by President William Ruto as the Budget Policy Advisor.

He has instead elected to pursue reinstatement at the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), his former employer.

A day ago, President Ruto appointed Rotich as the Senior Advisor on Fiscal Affairs and Budget Policy after the prosecution dropped charges against him in the Arror and Kimwarer dams case.

The prosecution had failed to demonstrate charges associated with Rotich to specific breaches under procurement and public finance management laws.

Before his appointment as a Cabinet Secretary in 2013, Rotich was the head of Macroeconomics at the Treasury.

He was removed from this position on January 14, 2020, and was replaced by Ukur Yatani.

He also holds a Master's degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Sociology from the University of Nairobi.



Gachagua Says Security Agencies Frustrated Waiguru’s Effort To Fight Illicit Brews

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “Our governor has tried his efforts to fight illicit brews but the efforts were being obstructed by the police and the court. And Governor I want to assure you that we are going to give you officers who will support you in your effort to eliminate illicit brews,” Gachagua said.
- He said security agencies were complacent with the activities of California Bar whose owner is accused of manufacturing and selling illicit brew that caused death of more than ten people.
- On her part, Waiguru said her efforts to deal with sale of illicit brews in in the county were being frustrated by a cartel of bar owners through court.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders being taken through Joy Millers plant yesterday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says top national government officials have been recalled to Nairobi over their failure to stop death of 23 people who consumed illicit brew in Kirinyaga.

The DP said the officials include the County Commissioner, Mwea West Deputy Commissioner, County Police Commander among other head of security agencies in the county.

Speaking after commissioning a flour milling plant for Joy Millers Limited at Kutus area of Kirinyaga, Gachagua said the security officer had neglected their duties by failing to stop sale of the illicit alcohol.

He said 23 people had so far died after consuming illicit liquor at California Bar in Kangai area of Mwea West.

DP Gachagua lauded Governor Waiguru’s effort to fight sale of illicit brews in Kirinyaga but however said the effort were being frustrated by police and courts.

Gachagua said instead of security agencies helping the county government in the fight against manufacture and sale of substandard brews and operation of unregistered bars, they were busy collecting bribes.

“Our governor has tried his efforts

to fight illicit brews but the efforts were being obstructed by the police and the court. And Governor I want to assure you that we are going to give you officers who will support you in your effort to eliminate illicit brews,” Gachagua said.

He said security agencies were complacent with the activities of California Bar whose owner is accused of manufacturing and selling illicit brew that caused death of more than ten people.

On her part, Waiguru said her efforts to deal with sale of illicit brews in in the county were being frustrated by a cartel of bar owners through court.

Waiguru said for years, a section of bar owners have not paid for liquor license and instead have been paying money to a cartel that has launched endless litigation in court against the County Government.

She said the cartel had obtained court orders that blocked the County Government from inspecting their premises for purposes of licensing and checking on compliance.

Waiguru said she is pained by the death of more than 20 people who had consumed illicit alcohol at a bar in Kangai area of Wea West.

“We are devastated by the death of our people because of people who do not want to comply with the law. I don’t know how to deal with this cartel, they have taken us to court to frustrate our effort to stop sale of illicit brews,” Waiguru said.

The governor some of the bar owners have not paid liquor licenses estimated at about Ksh. 100 million.

She accused the Kirinyaga Bar Owners Association of protecting liquor outlets selling illicit brews at the expense of the lives of the people.

“Am asking you to help us in this fight against illicit brews and bar owners who do not want to comply

with regulations,” she added.

Waiguru said her administration will not license liquor outlets that do not comply with necessary provisions of the law.

The COG chair asked the national government to join the county government in fighting illicit brew cartels that were using money to fight efforts to regulate sale of alcohol.

She termed the cartel as powerful but warned that she will not be cowed to stop the fight against illicit liquor and illegal outlets.



FGM Survivors To Be Incorporated In The Fight Against Vice

By: Sebastian Miriti
@themkenyetimes

The prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which has reduced from 21 per cent in 2014 to 15 per cent in 2022, demonstrates the Kenyan government and stakeholders' commitment to end the harmful practice.

However, the freedom of women, especially small girls, continues to be suppressed as various communities in the country continue to subject them to the cut either against their will or out of ignorance.

But one would wonder why the customary practice outlawed through the prohibition of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011 has not stopped, despite various actions that have been taken to rescue women from the shackles of this retrogressive practice.

According to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Health, Marsabit County is ranked third with 83 per cent FGM rate in the country after Mandera and Wajir.

The Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Performance, and Delivery Management, Moses Kuria, noted that FGM has persistently continued to pose challenges due to the complexity that surrounds it, but that the government is committed to eliminating the harmful practice.

Mr. Kuria called for collective efforts in developing and implementing strategies to counter the practice, which is deeply rooted among com-



Women taking part in peaceful demonstration.

munities spread in 22 counties across the country.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Anti-FGM Board Chairperson, Surum Ipato, during the commemoration of this year's International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM held at the Marsabit stadium, the CS said that survivors-led movements would be supported to end FGM.

Kuria said the focus should now be on women survivors, whose resilience in the fight against the outlawed practice is remarkable and deserves support.

The cabinet secretary further lauded the collaborative approach at the county level spearheaded by the

county governor's wife, Alimitu Jattani's Mama Guyo Foundation, CBOs like the Inua Dada Mashinani, the Marsabit women advocacy development organisation (MWADO), and the affirmative action pushed by the office of the county woman representative, Naomi Wako.

He observed that the comprehensive approach in tackling the issue had also seen the highest decision-making organ of the Borana community pass a revolutionary decision against the rite.

"The active involvement of community-based organisations, development partners, and stakeholders further amplifies our impact on the

ground," he noted, and he asked agencies charged with the responsibility of enforcing the law to ensure no girl or woman is subjected to the practice.

In her remarks, Mrs. Ipato said the drive towards the eradication of FGM should be sustained by ensuring that the fight is collectively done so that women and especially survivors of FGM are not held back by the chains of tradition.

"Empowering women is key to breaking the cycle of female genital mutilation," she said, adding that adolescent men should also be actively involved in the programme so that they can help in demystifying the

traditions associated with the rite.

She called on the leadership of other communities that live in Marsabit to make declarations similar to the one made by the Borana Council of Elders, Abba-Gada, prohibiting FGM.

The chairperson was echoing the sentiments of the county first lady that other communities were still clinging onto the practice and challenged their leadership to declare it harmful and untenable.

Governor Ali said everyone has the power to bring about the desired change, hence contributing to the eradication of FGM.

The Governor, while lauding the good work being done by various actors, observed that FGM was a hindrance to gender equity and equality because it denied the girl child the right to education and subjected her to forced early marriage and abuse.

He said that building the nation calls for the involvement of all citizens, irrespective of gender, and that protecting the rights of women was important to the improvement of the living standards of the people through poverty reduction, promotion of good governance, and development.

The survey by the KNBS and the Ministry of Health further revealed that 92.5 per cent of women and 88.8 per cent of men believe that FGM has outlived its purpose and should be stopped.

Leaders, the youth, and elders at the ceremony spoke against the practice and called for lawful action against those still propagating it.

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Tough Sentences in the Fight Against Alcohol, Drugs, Substances: Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

By: OSDP

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi called for tougher sentences for those who kill through illicit brews, adulterated drinks and drugs, terming them as murderers.

Speaking at Ngorano, in Nyeri County, said the deaths in Kirinyaga and cases of blindness were a crisis leading to the loss of a generation. “Those killing are murderers, and should be in the cells behind bars,” said Pastor Dorcas.

“In Mount Kenya, we have lost enough men. We have so many widows. It is time to say no, and bring this to an end,”

She committed to stepping up her campaign for the boy child, and advocacy against alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse.

“I will continue to advocate for the boy child even if it means legislating very strong laws, I am willing to mobilise to make sure we are not losing

our men,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She has time and again warned the nation that boys and men were the seed carriers, propagating generations, and their deaths were a danger to the future of the nation.

She also urged parents, the church to join efforts with the government and national administration to bring the consumption of illicit brews, second generation drinks, drugs, and other substances to an end.

Present in Ngorano were Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi, and Area MCA Erastus Muriuki.

The leaders participated in a meeting for the establishment of the Ngorano Health Village geared towards providing an end-to-end solution to those rehabilitated from alcohol, drugs, and substances through skilling them, sporting activities, TVET training, and agribusiness.

Over the years, many people have died from alcohol related deaths. Others have gone blind, suffered body injuries, diseases, and also become handicapped.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse, Pastor Dorcas, during a meeting in Ngorano, Nyeri County geared towards establishment of the Ngorano Health Village that will include a health centre, sporting facilities, boarding facilities, TVET, and agribusiness in the fight against alcohol, drugs and substance abuse. Photo/OSDP.

Gov’t To Construct Classrooms For Grade Nine Learners

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themtkenyatomes

The State will construct 16,000 classrooms across the country in readiness for the transition of learners to grade nine next year.

Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang said the government also has plans to construct 10 additional classrooms to cater for the learners who will transition to grade nine next year.

“We welcome the World Bank to support and partner with the government to build even more classrooms in this school,” said the PS.

Dr. Kipsang made the remarks in a speech read on his behalf by the Director of Projects Coordination and Delivery for Projects, Mr. Elijah Mungai, at Olympics Primary School in Kibra Sub County, Nairobi.

Speaking at the event, the Vice President for Human Development at the World Bank, Mamta Murthi, who had visited the school, praised Kenya for

the strong educational outcomes that schooling stimulates in children.

“The schooling system in Kenya is ably imparting to learners the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that students ought to acquire,” Murthi said.

She at the same time commended the country for performing well in the enrolment rate of children in schools, noting that education was a critical factor in determining the future of a country.

The Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Odidi Otieno, said the government worked through its structures to ensure 100 per cent transition of learners from primary to secondary education.

The Headteacher of Olympics Primary School, Mr. Cyrus Okumu, said that the school had developed a friendly learning environment and excellent instruction for learners in the school.

He attributed the huge learner population of 5108 to supportive teaching and non-teaching staff that made learning enjoyable.

“Children keep coming back to



Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang in a past function

school because of the good learning experiences good pedagogy creates,” Mr. Okumu said.

Present at the event were the Manager, Practice, Education at World Bank Group, Meskerem Mulatu, Senior Educational Specialist at the World Bank office in Nairobi, Ms. Ruth Charo, and the Nairobi Regional Director for Education, Margaret Lesuuda, among other senior officials in education.

State Recalls Kirinyaga County Top Security Officers Over Deadly Killer Brew

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “Those culpable will be sacked and prosecuted not transfered. Traders using short cuts to enrich themselves through poisonous alcohol must know their days are numbered. We, however, have no problem with legitimate alcohol,” said Mr Gachagua adding that new security officers will be deployed in Kirinyaga to commence a crackdown on illicit brews immediately.
- The Deputy President spoke in the company of over 20 leaders and business persons after commissioning the expanded Joy Millers Ltd processing plant.
- He further stated that officers who have failed in their duties will not be moved to new working stations as that amount to “transferring a problem”.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (right) consults with Kirinyaga County governor Anne Waiguru (left) and the owner of Nice City businesses Njiru Mkobozi (centre) in Kutus town yesterday..

The government has recalled Kirinyaga County based top security officers after more than ten people succumbed to deadly illicit brew and others went blind in Mwea constituency early this week.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday said that the County Commissioner, County Police Commander, County Director of Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the County Administration Police Commander have been ordered to return to Nairobi to allow for investigations on who slept on the job.

He added that the area chief and assistant chief will be required to also explain why this was not stopped.

He said this while asking the Judiciary to stop issuing orders barring arrest and prosecution of rogue traders who are taking shortcuts to getting rich in selling illicit brews.

Addressing hundreds of Kirinyaga residents in Kutus, the Deputy President said that the government will open an inquiry into the incident to determine culpability of the officials.

“Those culpable will be sacked and prosecuted not transfered. Traders using short cuts to enrich them-

selves through poisonous alcohol must know their days are numbered. We, however, have no problem with legitimate alcohol,” said Mr Gachagua adding that new security officers will be deployed in Kirinyaga to commence a crackdown on illicit brews immediately.

The Deputy President spoke in the company of over 20 leaders and business persons after commissioning the expanded Joy Millers Ltd processing plant.

He further stated that officers who have failed in their duties will not be moved to new working stations as that amount to “transferring a problem”.

Deputy President has been leading the war against illicit brews, drug and substance abuse across the country since 2023.

He has convened regional multi-stakeholder conferences in Nyeri, Chuka and Nakuru, with more others in the lineup. He has also held targetted meetings with the relevant agencies.

The Deputy President said he will convene another meeting with chiefs and their assistants over laxity in eradicating the menace in Mt

Kenya region.

“I will convene another meeting for chiefs and sub-chiefs and issue a last warning over existence of illicit brews. The officers in Central are trying us (President and the deputy). I sat with all County Commissioners, Police Commanders and DCIs, National Intelligence Service, Administration Police Commanders, Officers Commanding police stations and agreed that the illicit brews must be eradicated,” he said.

He added: “Illicit brews are thriving because the officers are busy taking

bribes. Had President William Ruto and I not intervened, the entire generation in this region would have been wiped out by poisonous alcohol in ten years.”

The Deputy President asked the Judiciary to stop issuing court orders that allow for distribution and sale of illegal and poisonous brews.

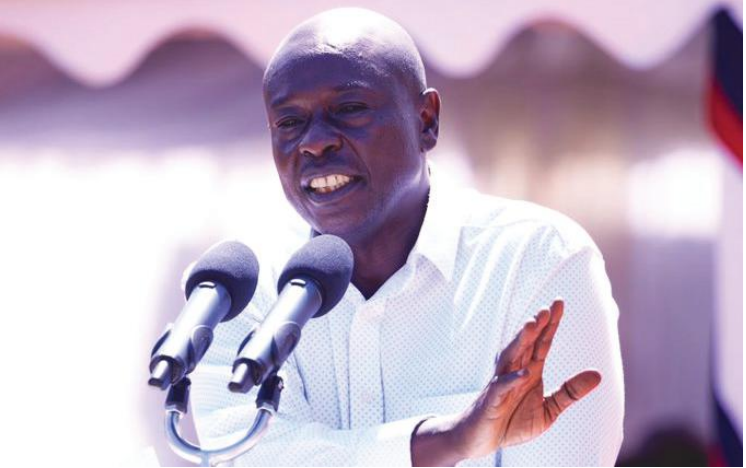
“Chief Justice Martha Koome, how come all traders of illicit brews are getting orders to continue selling the poisonous brews? To the Judges and the Chief Justice, what will you tell Kenyans? Judges should be patriotic and reasonable. How can you apply the law to the detriment of the people,” he remarked.

He noted that the businessman behind the killer brew in Mwea had been arrested several times by security agencies, but secured a relief through court orders; he continued to sell the alcohol.

He further urged police to work hard on the crackdown and shun bribes.

“We are going to increase the salaries of the police by 40%, but I urge them to give back to society by doing the right thing,” said the Deputy President.

In his Kirinyaga tour, the DP was accompanied by among others; area governor Anne Waiguru, Senator Kamau Murango, Woman Representative Njeri Maina and MPs Githinji Gichimu (Gichugu), Gachoki Gitari (Kirinyaga Central), Mary Maingi (Mwea), George Kariuki (Ndia), Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta), Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Nebeart Muriuki (Mbeere South), Caleb Mutiso Mule (Machakos town), a host of MCAs led by Kirinyaga Speaker Julius Murimi Muteti, Kenya Seed Company Board chairperson Wangui Ngirici and several business persons led by the Joy Millers proprietor Julius Chomba and his Mwea town’s Nice City counterpart Njiru Mkobozi.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Tanolope Consultancy To Assist In Bridging Dairy HR Gap

By: Our Correspondents
@themtkenyentimes

The leading dairy consultancy firm is set to help the country develop a programme that will see professionals in the sector effectively address various concerns.

Tanolope Consultancy has, over the years, been concerned with the lack of efficient sector’s workers who can effectively assist thousands of stakeholders in maximising profits.

Through its Chief Executive Officer Alex Gathii, the consultancy firm is working out with various stakeholders, which include learning institutions and organisations dealing with the multi-billion sector.

Such institutions include the Kenya Dairy Board and the University of Nairobi.

Speaking during a Inooro TV morning show last month, Gathii disclosed that his private firm that has presence in 12

countries in Africa took part in establishment of a journal by the Dairy board titled, “Kenya Dairy Industry Sustainability Roadmap”, which articulates various issues that the stakeholders should take to consideration in order to maximise milk production in the country.

Some of the issues Gathii noted include how to double the country’s milk production from the current 5.4 billion litres per year to about 10.4 litres.

This, he further noted, can be achieved through an increase of a cow daily production from the current 10 litres to 20 litres.

Kenya, he said, has huge potential of local and export of the commodity and thus, the increase of the product will not affect the price of the same.

Currently, he disclosed, the country produces 95 per cent of its consumption capacity.

The major concern that most professionals in the sector are not able to address, he said, is how best to make feeds which can allow the cows yield more milk.

Most of the agricultural based professionals joining the sector, he noted



Alex Gathii of Tanolope Consultancy when he appeared on Inooro TV last month..

didn’t have the capacity to address that issue as well as others that are crucial for maximum profitability.

These include how to set up a good cow shed, how and when to feed the dairies. To address the critical issue, he said, his

firm had sought to help the stakeholders, which he hoped would turn around.

Reformed Brewers To Receive Financial Support

By: Kiptanui Cheronu
@themtkenyentimes

The County Government of Uasin Gishu will financially support 300 reformed illicit brewers to start alternative income-generating activities, the Director of the County Alcoholic Drinks Control Board, Koiya Arap Maiyo, has said.

Maiyo said the 300 reformed brewers identified by the county government out of the 1,300 notorious illicit brewers profiled in all six sub-counties last year have already been trained in basic entrepreneurship to enable them to pursue legitimate alternative economic opportunities to earn a living.

During a multi-sectoral planning committee meeting chaired by Uasin Gishu County Commissioner Dr. Edyson Nyale, Maiyo said Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii has already set aside funds to support reformed illicit brewers.

“The county is also in the process



Uasin Gishu County Commissioner Dr. Edyson Nyale chairing a multi-sectoral meeting.

of identifying another 300 reformed brewers who will be trained and offered financial support to start honest income-generating activities,” he added.

He also announced that the licensing of alcohol outlets would start at the end of this month (February) once the migration of the new licensing

system initiated by the county government to streamline the issuance of licenses for bars and other alcohol-selling premises is completed.

County Commissioner Nyale announced that the county action plan on alcohol and drug control would be launched on Tuesday next week.

“The action plan will be adapted to

suit the county in implementing resolutions on how to tackle the brewing, distribution, and consumption of illicit brews and counterfeit alcoholic drinks,” explained Dr. Nyale.

He said the crackdown on illegal and illicit trade of alcohol and other goods in the county would be scaled up to ensure the menace is addressed

significantly.

“We are getting partners to work with the multi-sectoral agency team to implement the county action plan on alcohol and drug abuse; trainings and sensitization forums will be carried out involving all stakeholders if the war on alcohol and other drugs is to be won,” he said.

Dr. Nyale further revealed that a pilot outreach programme where members of the communities would be engaged in interactive public barazas would be carried out in Soy and Turbo sub-counties to give the public a forum to give their input on the implementation of the county action plan strategies.

After the launch, the first batch of national government administrative officers will be trained, followed by another 80 enforcement officers from the national police service and the county government.

Ruto's 2-Day Trip To Japan Was Long Overdue



By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Japan tops the list of Kenya's leading international development partners. The just-concluded President Ruto's 2-day state visit to Japan was premised on this key consideration.

Kenya secured goodies worth Sh350 billion. This could not have happened if Dr Ruto opted to snub the trip and instead sent a low keyed Kenyan delegation to represent him.

The deals signed after the bilateral talks between the host and visiting head of state are major. As such, this visit was long overdue.

Japan's history of partnership with Kenya dates back to 60 years.

Kenya has once again reaped big from the head of state's trip to Japan.

A lion share of Sh350 billion will go towards infrastructural development, energy, security sector as well as boosting agriculture, Trade and Investment sectors.

This time, I have not heard the opposition leaders making usual political noises.

This is because of realization that Kenyans did no longer believe their narrative that the visits were of no benefit to them and amounted to wastage of their taxes.

Just like the previous trips, President William Ruto would not drop the ball or get distracted by the noises.

The Japan's visit have once again proved that he was truly committed to walk the talk. This is in terms of strengthening ties and creating new linkages with community of the world.

As a developing country, Kenya cannot be able to raise and generate enough financial resources for the implementation of mega development projects and provision of other crucial and critical services to Kenyans.

As we recall, the Kenya Kwanza ascended to power on a platform of a raft of pre-election promises.

President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua have been reiterating they were committed to fulfill them. They have so far made great strides.

Sometimes back DP Gachagua stated that we are not able to raise enough resources and so these big projects we have been launching are funded by our foreign development partners and donors.

He spoke in the presence of the President in Coast during a launch of a Sh3 billion project. This is one of such projects.

The DP repeated the same sentiments during Kapsaita cross country marathon



President William Ruto and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

where he was a chief guest.

He had been invited by Farouk Kibet, President William Ruto's top aide, to this event in Uasin Gishu county.

Ignore those claiming that President Ruto was making too many foreign travels.

They were our political enemies. They want us to fail so that they can use this card to discredit our leadership. But we are clever than them.

We inherited a government that had been run down. For one year, we have made great progress. I'm sure you now agree with me that things are starting to get better.

The DP further stated: President Ruto is the father of our nation.

Given that this is the position held by the world leaders, the President was obligated to honor their respective invitations.

If he failed, Kenya would not have been considered for the concessional loans and grants.

Besides, President Ruto's commitment to the course of Pan-African agenda and climate change has in the recent past thrust him into international limelight.

I recall when he first jetted out to Dubai, United Arab Emirate, to attend United Nations Conference of State Parties on Climate Change (COP28).

He ably presented the narrative and position of Africa. He had earlier convened

the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi. Dubbed Nairobi declaration, the Africa heads of state government had chosen him to push for the adoption of blueprint at COP28.

Dr Ruto would not let them down. Most of the resolutions were adopted without any amendment.

On the sidelines of Dubai summit, Ruto signed agreements and deals worth Sh680 billions for Kenya. The lion share of the funds will go towards mitigating effects of climate change. With this, Kenya is set to become the pioneer in Africa Green Industrialization Initiative.

From Dubai, President Ruto flew to India for a two-day maiden state visit. He was accorded a warm reception. After being received and welcomed by his host Her Excellency and Prime Minister Nehendra Modi, he inspected a guard of honor mounted by Indian military.

After this, they proceeded for bilateral talk. The talks bore the fruits. President Ruto managed to secure Sh38 billion for Kenya. The money will boost key sectors of our economy including agriculture, health, education and digital economy.

Dr Ruto had a month earlier made a state visit to Germany and later France.

This came hot on the heels of bilateral talks he had held with the President of Germany here in Nairobi.

He had also met the President of France. Two of these meetings took place on the sidelines of Global Conference of Parties on Climate change and United Nation General Assembly (UNGA).

The problem of unemployment in Kenya featured prominently in all these meetings.

Dr Ruto would mince no word in drawing the attention of these leaders to this issue.

In response, the President of Germany assured him that his country will offer Kenya 200,000 jobs opportunities. I'm going to sit down with my government so that we draft the agreement.

Then Mr President William Ruto we will invite you for a state visit during which we will sign the final agreements which will pave the way for Kenyans to start working in Germany.

Before flying out, President Ruto informed Kenyans that this is one of issues taking him there.

Many people have no jobs. I promised to address this problem which i inherited from the previous administration. I'm committed to walk the talk.

President Ruto had a few days earlier visited Saudi Arabia where he managed to secure 350,000 job opportunities for Kenyans.

The noise being made by my critics that the visits are not bearing any fruits is hollow, totally misleading and being made in bad faith. I'm not a tourist. I mean business. The business is to return our economy back on track and consequently elevate your leaving standards.

You know these critics. They want me to fail and capitalize on this that i never kept my words during the campaigns for next General Election.

It is worth noting when President Uhuru Kenyatta ascended to power, he also made similar trips.

Those faulting Dr Ruto today did not raise a finger at the time. This is because Uhuru was thier buddy.

Recently, President Ruto made a high profile official visit to China where he stayed for three days. It was the first since he assumed office.

Just like his previous visits to European countries, he managed to secure lucrative deals worth Sh63 billion.

Under this arrangement, China will buy our avocados, tea, coffee and other farm produce.

He also convinced Chinese companies to rollout investments worth Sh644 billions in Kenya.

This trip came at a time when speculations were rife that he had shunned the East in favor of the West, a narrative peddled by those who cited his numerous visits to the Western capitals.

To me, it is too early to judge him. Dr Ruto is a democrat and a strong believer in the Kenyan constitution and the rule of law. So, he cannot make such a decision without seeking concurrence of the relevant arms of the Kenyan government.

It is worth noting that former President Mwai Kibaki laid the foundation that saw Kenya turning East and sought to

strengthen ties with China.

As a result, China was awarded contracts worth billions of shillings.

Thika Superhighway, Lamu Port and Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) were among the major projects clinched by the Asian giant.

Kibaki's successor President Uhuru Kenyatta followed the suit.

On SGR, he managed to negotiate for a whopping contractual loan totalling to Sh370 billion.

The monies were used to construct the new modern line from Mombasa to Nairobi and to buy the rolling stocks.

For President Ruto, my considered view is that his wish is to maintain cordial relationship with all development partners.

In this maiden visit to China, President Ruto joined more than 100 heads of state and government invited by the President of China to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

During his tenure, President Uhuru used to attend these forum.

In one of them, he was accompanied by ODM leader Raila Odinga. This was during the reign of the 'Handshake' government.

Dr Ruto had a busy schedule during this visit. On the sidelines, he held talks with chief executives of the big companies.

Other deals he witnessed being signed covered strategic areas of mutual interest including energy and technology.

One of the firms agreed to help Kenya generate more energy at a lower cost. With this, hustlers in Kenya have a reason to smile as this would lead to lowering of the cost of electricity.

On technology, Ruto's interventions were equally fruitful. The cost of the communication gadgets and internet services was bound to come down.

On SGR, I'm sure many recalls that this was a government-to- government deal. It follows that some of the key contents of agreement were not made the public.

The content become the top secret of Uhuru's administration.

We recall that during this period the relationship between Uhuru his deputy Ruto had began to worsen. It did not take long before the implosion preceded by the 'handshake' between the President Uhuru and his arch rival Raila Odinga occurred.

From then, Dr Ruto was kept in darkness. Uhuru would not share critical information about the SGR project

It is worth noting that during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi, the West stood as Kenya's key development partners.

For the contracts being awarded by President Ruto's administration, the priority would be given to International firms always consider the that offer better terms. The cost of the project. But the quality of the work would surpass all the considerations.

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

Calls For Efficiency And Transparency In Health Services Towards SHIF

By: Samuel Maina
@themtkenyatimes



A participation putting across a point during the forum.

Worth Noting:

- “We need a scheme where both the rich and the poor will not be demarcated but where there is equality in providing health services at a health facility of one’s choice. We also wish to request that the Government ensure that those living with physical challenges are treated as equals when rolling out the new scheme. Finally, let the money that is being proposed to cater for the deceased be relocated to improve the provision of services in our health facilities,” he added.
- A hearing-impaired person who identified herself as Susan requested the drafters of the new regulations to insert a clause that will cater for travel expenses for those seeking treatment abroad.

Residents of Nyeri are calling for comprehensive reforms in the health sector ahead of the country’s transition to the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

While airing their views during a public participation forum on the draft Social Health Insurance Regulations 2024 Bill, the majority of the speakers want the government to ensure there is availability of essential drugs and quality health services under the new scheme.

They also want the new scheme to focus more on funding medical needs for all people, devoid of discrimination, to enable those at the bottom of the economic ladder to access quality health care.

“While we welcome the rollout of the new Social Health Insurance Fund, let the scheme cater for the revival of our health care system, which is in a deplorable state. We want to get treated when we visit our health facilities, even as we pay into the new health insurance scheme. There is no need to replace the current National Health Insurance Fund if the problems we have been experiencing are to be replicated in the new one,” submitted Kabatha Wanjohi, who is chair of the Nyeri Disability Network.

Wanjohi has also urged the State to review a proposal meant to cater for funeral expenses, arguing that such money should be directed towards catering for critical medical needs such as drugs and screening for non-communicable diseases.

“We need a scheme where both the rich and the poor will not be demarcated but where there is equality in providing health services at a health facility of one’s choice. We also wish to request that the Government ensure that those living with physi-

cal challenges are treated as equals when rolling out the new scheme. Finally, let the money that is being proposed to cater for the deceased be relocated to improve the provision of services in our health facilities,” he added.

A hearing-impaired person who identified herself as Susan requested the drafters of the new regulations to insert a clause that will cater for travel expenses for those seeking treatment abroad.

She argued that under the new insurance scheme, contributors who cannot access advanced treatment in the country should be catered for while flying out of the country since the majority of their families may not be in a position to foot such expenses.

Margaret Mwangi, a social worker for persons living with HIV/AIDS, called for the new scheme to cater for the cost of obtaining P3 forms for Gender Based Violence (GBV) victims, as the majority of them cannot afford the documents when seeking treatment.

She said that owing to the current hard economic times, the majority of GBV victims infected with HIV fear being ostracised any time they visit a health facility due to lack of P3 forms.

“I work with the key population, or those living with HIV. One of the challenges these people encounter, especially those who have been subjected to Gender Based Violence is lack of access to treatment due to lack of a P3 form. Most of these people cannot afford the documents that are sold at Sh400 and would rather buy food and take care of their children. My proposal is for the new insurance health fund to cater for such expenses in order for the vic-

tims of such vices to get assistance,” she said.

Reverend Bildad Wangonde, a prelate at the Mweiga Anglican Church, proposed the establishment of counselling services in all public health facilities to cater for the rising cases of mental health challenges.

The cleric argued that the majority of people struggling with mental health challenges cannot get help since most public health facilities lack such services.

“Mental health challenges are no longer new in this country, and it is time our health facilities get equipped adequately to deal with the new health scare. I am therefore proposing the new regulations to incorporate that our public hospitals be staffed with counselling psychologists and medics who can assist patients battling depression and other mental illnesses,” he stated.

Dr. Ruth Laibon-Masha, the CEO of the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, assured the participants that their proposals will be considered when coming up with the final regulations expected to be operational late in March this year.

She also promised to escalate the challenges of accessing P3 forms for victims of GBV to the Ministry of Interior, under whose docket the matter falls.

Dr. Masha assured the public that the proposed SHIF scheme will be a game changer in the provision of quality services in the country as it will address all the challenges that have dogged the National Health Insurance Fund for years.

“Our sole responsibility is to ensure every proposal that has been given in this forum with regard to the Social Health Insurance Fund regulations is taken into consideration. A point of note is that the new health insurance fund will take care of each

and every person who will be registered, regardless of his social or economic status,” she stated.

“The President has helped put up a robust health scheme, which he hopes will bring to an end to the many fundraising meetings by the public in a bid to offset medical expenses for families stretched to the limit by the high cost of footing health bills for their loved ones,” she added.

Following the lifting of a court order suspending the implementation of the Social Health Insurance Act 2023 early this year, the Ministry of Health immediately kicked off countrywide public participation workshops to help come up with the regulations that will guide the implementation of the Act.

The Ministry is seeking views on the Social Health Insurance General Regulations 2024, which will provide for the implementation of the Primary healthcare fund, the Social health insurance fund, the Emergency chronic and critical illness fund, and the Social Health Insurance Dispute Resolution Tribunal Regulations 2024.

The new regulations have put deductions for salaried employees at 2.75 per cent per month, while unsalaried households will also pay 2.75 per cent of their income per year.

The capping will, however, take into account housing characteristics, access to basic services, household composition, and other socio-economic aspects of the households under review.

The minimum amount payable to the fund will be Sh300.



A section of people who attending the forum.

Ol Pejeta’s Trans-Continental Odyssey to Save African Black Rhinos

—The Rhino Translocation Is A Symphony Of Humanity And Technology That Converges To Orchestrate A Daring Mission – The Translocation Of Rhinos, An Exhilarating And Enlightening Endeavor That Unfolds Against The Backdrop Of A Majestic Wilderness Struggling For Balance.

By: Special Correspondent
@themkenyatimes



A Rhino being prepared for translation.

Worth Noting:

- One cannot help but marvel at the global collaboration fueling this effort. Experts from Ol Pejeta, The Kenya Wildlife Service and beyond form a united front.
- They bring not only their diverse skills but also a shared passion for preserving the rhino population. The international consortium combines traditional knowledge with state-of-the-art technology, creating a synergy that transcends borders.
- As the golden sun stretches its warm rays across the vast landscape, the helicopter rotors begin to hum, lifts off and banks sharply to the right in search of the targeted rhinos.
- The precision of modern tracking technology ensures that every step is deliberate. Drones equipped with thermal imaging sweep the landscape, identifying the rhinos’ heat signatures even in the thick bush.

The chilly air sweeps past a group of 60 or so individuals, all standing erect in a horse-shoe formation. Their faces still invisible in the dawn semi darkness.

As dawn breaks, the icy air in Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Laikipia County is charged with anticipation.

Vets meticulously prepare tranquilizer darts as the team leader conducts the final briefing under the keen eye of Kenya Wildlife Service experts.

A distance away, the helicopter that had been circling noisily above the attentive souls finally touches down in a thunderous roar.

Soon after, the pilot jumps out in a springy gait and starts conducting the final checks on his black metallic bird.

Radio static crackles in unison as spotters and trackers synchronize their movements and confirm Rhino locations.

The mission is not just a logistical marvel; it is a testament to the collective commitment to safeguarding the endangered black African rhino at Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

One cannot help but marvel at the global collaboration fueling this effort. Experts from Ol Pejeta, The Kenya Wildlife Service and beyond form a united front.

They bring not only their diverse skills but also a shared passion for preserving the rhino population. The international consortium combines traditional knowledge with state-of-the-art technology, creating a synergy that transcends borders.

As the golden sun stretches its warm rays across the vast landscape, the helicopter rotors begin to hum, lifts off and banks sharply to the right in search of the targeted rhinos.

The precision of modern tracking technology ensures that every step is deliberate. Drones equipped with thermal imaging sweep the landscape, identifying the rhinos’ heat signatures even in the thick bush.

This marriage of ancient tracking skills and contemporary tools enables the team to locate the rhinos without undue stress to the animals.

In the heart of Laikipia County, Kenya lies the Ol Pejeta Conservancy – a sanctuary pulsating with the

rhythm of untamed life. On this particular day, the air hung heavy with anticipation as a monumental event unfolded.

The conservancy, a haven for endangered species, stands as a beacon of hope in the struggle against the relentless poaching that threatened these majestic creatures. A team of dedicated conservationists, with their hearts woven into the fabric of the land, embarked on a mission to relocate six rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy a safer haven, far from the menacing shadow of the poacher’s greed.

The Rhino translocation is a symphony of humanity and technology that converges to orchestrate a daring mission – the translocation of rhinos, an exhilarating and enlightening endeavor that unfolds against the backdrop of a majestic wilderness struggling for balance.

The rhinos, immense and ancient creatures, are gently cradled into specialized crates. It is a delicate ballet, as the animals are loaded onto transport trucks that will carry them to their new home.

The sheer size and strength of the rhinos are humbling, yet their vulnerability in the face of poaching and habitat loss is a stark reality that propels the team forward

The Rhino translocation exercise was part of larger plan to translocate 21 black Rhinos from various conservancies and the Nairobi National Park to Loisaba Conservancy to ease overcrowding in the existing habitats.

According to the Philip Coulson, the of chairman of Ol-Pejeta conservancy, the Rhino population stood at 171 just before the translocation began.

Six Rhinos were translocated with Ol Pejeta contributing partly to the capture expenses with the support from Kenya Wildlife Service and donor support.

“Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is in charge of all captures operations in the Country – being the body mandated by law to undertake this.

However, the rhino population on Ol Pejeta are monitored and protected by Ol Pejeta teams.

As such, candidate identification/selection was done by Ol Pejeta teams in consultation with KWS and Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) guided by a set criterion” says Philip.

Further, alludes the chairman, Rhino conservation efforts on Ol Pejeta are guided by the Kenya’s National strategy dubbed “Black Rhino (Diceror bicornis michaeli) Recovery and Action Plan in Kenya (2022-2026)”In this plan, it is proposed that the established populations (across Kenya) and that are above 50% of Ecological Carrying Capacity (ECC) should undertake harvesting (removal) at a minimum average of 5% of the population / year.

“Ol Pejeta strives to fulfil the above objective and is quite pleased that Loisaba was secured as a rhino range. One of the greatest challenges facing Kenya is the lack of suitable and secure space to offload the surplus rhino held in the various rhino sanctuaries across the country” adds Philip.

In line with the above, the plan estimated that at least 500 rhinos will need to be moved across the country by end of the year 2026.

Ol Pejeta alone will need to move at least 30 rhinos before by that time - which is a huge undertaking given the limitation in the lack of such suitable spaces for range expansion.

To mitigate this challenge Ol Pejeta is collaborating with the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS) to secure funding and other logistical support required to identify and prepared potential range areas to take up these surplus rhinos.

“The Loisaba translocation marks the first large scale capture and translocation over the last five years. This exercise has shown great deal of professionalism from all teams involved and hoping to complete this exercise without any issues.

I believe this will help repair Kenya’s image among the various critiques out there and perhaps “soften the current grip” on approval of such activities in the country” quips Philip.

Over the years various Ol Pejeta Conservancy has deployed cutting edge technology towards enhancing monitoring and protection of rhinos which include the roll-out of Digital Radios – System to receive live transmission of monitoring and security patrols which enhances com-

Father Of Uzbekistan



It is not for nothing that Uzbekistan is called a paradise country.

The first president of Uzbekistan is Islam Abduganiyevich, who is ready to give. Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, the first president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was born on 30-30-1938.

He was born in Samarkand in January in the family of a servant. His education is considered high, he graduated from the Central Asian Polytechnic and Tashkent Institutes of Public Economy.

The only goal of our first president, Islam Karimov, was to join Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people to the ranks of independent countries. Uzbekistan he did not want to be dependent on other countries. As every good deed is rewarded, the first president of the Uzbek people will be rewarded for his deeds.

And for the establishment of independent Uzbekistan, for his contribution to ensuring the peace of citizens and national harmony, for his work and

He won many achievements for his bravery. These are the titles of Hero of Uzbekistan, Independence and Amir Temur orders.

He was also awarded with orders and medals of foreign countries and prestigious international organizations. In a word, the first President Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov freed our country from the dependence of the authoritarian regime and restored our country that was on the brink of destruction. The father of the Uzbek people our first president Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov died on September 2, 2016. This was a great loss for us. Prosperous and prosperous Uzbekistan has become a legacy.

The birthday of our president is widely celebrated as a holiday. Many things are done in the name of our first president.

Presidential schools were established in our country. Although we did not have the first president, he is forever in everyone's memory. He will remain the father of Uzbekistan for us.

I am Oralova Dilrabo Gayrat, I was born on January 3, 2004 in Chinabad neighborhood of Angor district of Surkhondarya region. Currently, I am a 1st year student of Termiz Economic and Service University in Termiz

About Bozorboeva Buvhojar Bahodir's Daughter



Information

Bozorboeva Buvhojar, daughter of Bahadir, was born on 29.01.2005 in the village of Uzunbuloq MFY Avliya, Gallaorol district, Jizzakh region, in a family of entrepreneurs. There are 3 girls and 2 boys in the family. B. Bozorboeva is the youngest girl in her family. From a young age, she is very interested in different sports. In 2017, B.Bozorboeva began training under the trainer Ravshanov Abdusalam of the Sports School, which was opened in the 33rd general education school of the district. She is achievements in sports;

In the 2021 year she regional championship, she took the proud 1st place in the 60 kg weight category. 2022 year's of 29st On March and 1st on April, she won the 1st place in the 60 kg weight category at the Championship of Uzbekistan in Chortoq district of Namangan region.

2023 year's of 23-26days on August, the Republic of Karakalpakstan won the 2nd place in the 60 kg weight category at the Cup of Uzbekistan in Elik Qala district.

16-20days on November, in the city of Gulistan, Syrdarya region, he took the proud 1st place in the 60 kg weight category at the World Championship in the Belbogli category of the Belbog sport.

Information about Kholmurodov Samandar

2017- years of 16-17th on March, the son of Uzbekistan national team member

Kholmurodov Samandar the son of Akmal, the student of teacher-coach Eshkuvatov Sherzod, he took the first place in the 49 kg weight category at the international boxing tournament among teenagers born in 1999-2000 in Anapa, Russia.

1-7th On July, he took the proud 1st place in the 49 kg weight category at the Asian Boxing Championship among young people in Bangkok, Thailand.

3-10th On October he won the second place in the 52 kg weight category at the Boxing Championship of Uzbekistan in the city of Almalyk, Tashkent region.

2018 year's of 18-30nd on April, he took a proud 2nd place in the 52 kg weight category at the Asian Youth Boxing Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

That year 20-30nd on August, a participant in the 52 kg weight category at the World Youth Boxing Championship in Budapest, Hungary.

10-18st on December he participated in the Boxing Championship of Uzbekistan among adults in the 52 kg weight category in the city of Samarkand.

2019 year's of 22-29st on November, he took a proud 3rd place in the 56 kg weight category at the Boxing Championship of Uzbekistan among adults in the city of Tashkent.

2020 year's of 20-25st on February, he took the proud 1st place in the 56 kg weight category at the International boxing tournament among adults in the city of Chirchik, Tashkent region. Currently, he is a member of the national boxing team of Uzbekistan.

Dad, I Have Pains That I Can't Tell You About



I am a bird that follows your footsteps,
My tears are flowing slowly.

My soul is tired of bitter blows,
No father! These words hurt my heart.
The city of my dreams is now comfortable,
I feel your hot palms.

A house without a father is a body
without a head,

I am a dove with clipped wings.
You're right next to my house,
I sing in the melody you played.

Author: Bakhtiyorova Mashhurakhon
Tashpolot's daughter

I was born on February 19, 2008 in Shofirkon district of Bukhara region, daughter of Bakhtiyorova Mashhurakhon Tashpolot. I have been interested in journalism since I was young

Dad, I miss your footsteps today,
I want to feel your love.
Every day without you is a painful knot,
The heart feels your untiring.

I really enjoyed your expression, father.
The gardens you created are still blooming.

Should I ask for smallpox or moss?
The wind caresses my head saying don't cry.

I am a girl who has not had enough of
your love,
I am quiet in the house you built.

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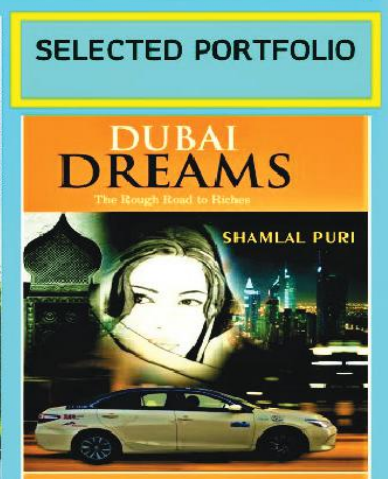
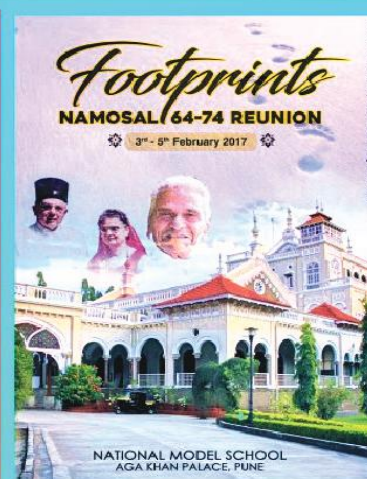
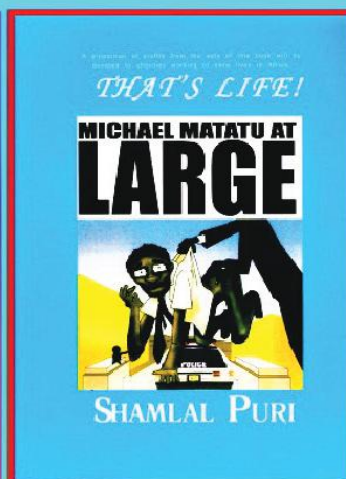
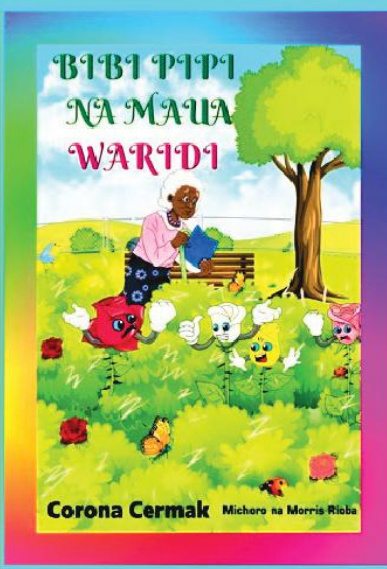
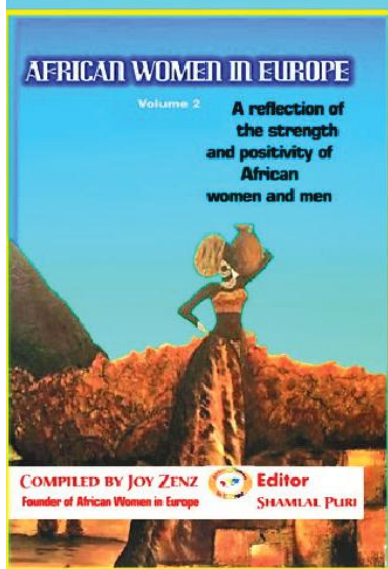
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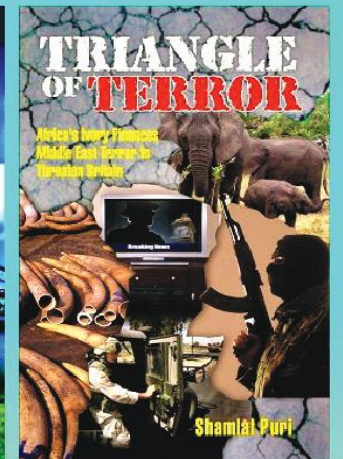
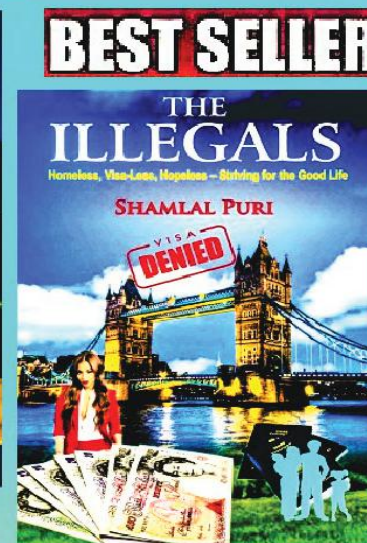
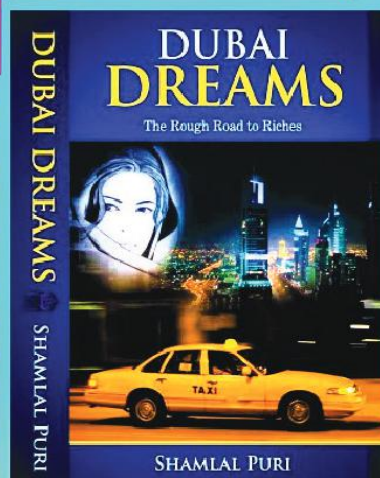
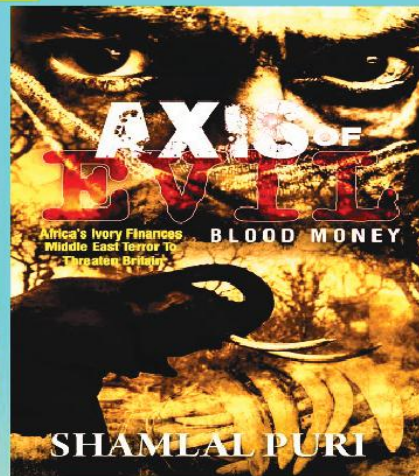
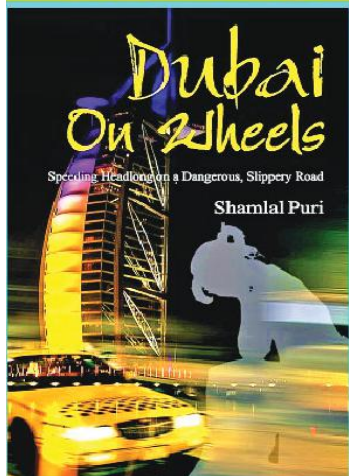
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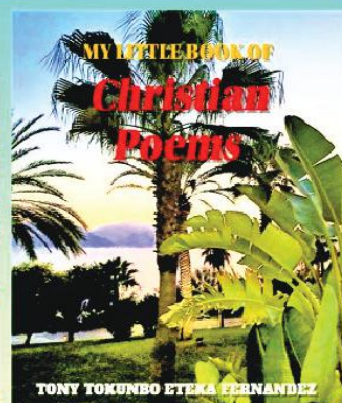
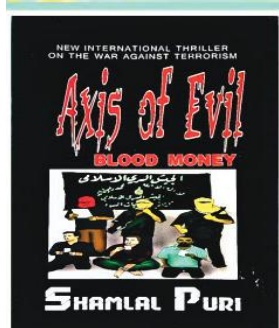
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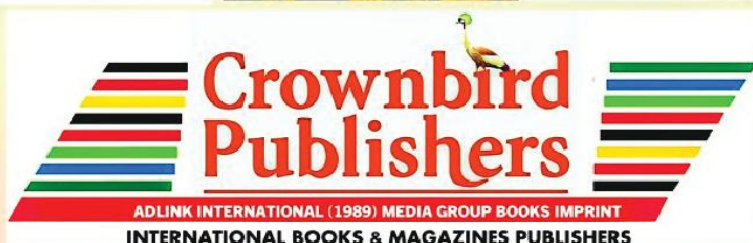


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Nakuru County Gears For Inaugural Cochlear Implant Surgeries

By: Jane Ngugi and Angela Musonye [@themkenyetimes](#)



Medics conducting surgery.

Worth Noting:

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), early intervention is critical to successful rehabilitation outcomes in people with hearing loss, as delays harm language development, communication, social well-being, and cognition.
- Since hearing loss is invisible, it commonly remains undetected in children and adults. For this reason, extraordinary measures must be put in place to screen for hearing loss at different stages across the life course, according to the organisation.
- The governor noted that the costs of cochlea implant surgeries were inhibitive in private facilities, with some amounting up to Sh3 million, adding that her administration's initiative was geared towards benefiting families from low-income settlements.

Cochlear implant surgeries will for the first time be conducted at the Nakuru Teaching and Referral Hospital (NTRH) by Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeons in the county, collaborating with doctors from the Baker Institute for Children with Hearing Loss, Stanford University.

The inaugural surgery (cochlear) that helps a patient with severe hearing loss or profoundly deaf get some sense of sound will be held in September this year.

According to Governor Susan Kihika, the surgeries will be performed on children under three years of age who have not developed hearing or speech (pre-lingual) and on older children who have developed hearing or speech but have lost hearing (post-lingual).

Though the initiative will particularly target needy children with hearing impairments who require surgery, the governor assured that adults are also expected to benefit.

Ms. Kihika further announced that the medical procedure, which is performed under general anaesthesia with a small incision made behind the ear to access the cochlea, will also benefit residents from the neighbouring counties of Kericho, Bomet, Narok, and Baringo.

Speaking in her boardroom when she held discussions with the President of the Baker Institute for Children with Hearing Loss at Stanford University, Ms. Jennifer Jordan McCall, the Governor noted that each year at least 3,000 children in Kenya are born deaf.

Ms. Kihika advised parents to have their babies undergo screening at birth so that they do not end up missing out on currently available interventions for them courtesy of technology.

She pointed out that children's development of spoken language was

directly related to their hearing ability, adding that most studies on hearing loss had confirmed that delayed speech and language development in children was likely to continue into adulthood.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), early intervention is critical to successful rehabilitation outcomes in people with hearing loss, as delays harm language development, communication, social well-being, and cognition.

Since hearing loss is invisible, it commonly remains undetected in children and adults. For this reason, extraordinary measures must be put in place to screen for hearing loss at different stages across the life course, according to the organisation.

The governor noted that the costs of cochlea implant surgeries were inhibitive in private facilities, with some amounting up to Sh3 million, adding that her administration's initiative was geared towards benefiting families from low-income settlements.

"The surgery is quite expensive. Our intervention is geared towards ensuring that a deaf child grows and attends school normally, thereby becoming a productive member of society," she said.

Kenya has about 153,381 people who are deaf, according to the Kenya Population and Housing Census. The report shows that there are more hearing-impaired people in rural areas (129,518), as compared to urban areas (23,843).

Ms. Kihika expressed confidence that surgeries will significantly improve the hearing and quality of life for people with severe hearing loss and enable them to continue with their normal lives after a successful operation.

Ms. McCall indicated that those

most likely at risk of hearing loss include newborns and infants; children, especially in preschool and school settings; older people; and those exposed to noise, toxic chemicals, and other medicines.

Ms. McCall, also the founder of the Hear Kenya Project, explained that a lack of hearing could be congenital or acquired.

"Congenital means one is born deaf. When this happens, it could be hereditary (the result of defective genes) or acquired through intra-uterine infections like syphilis and rubella during pregnancy," she said.

She added that lack of hearing could also be acquired during life through infections like measles, chicken pox, malaria, meningitis, or even ear infections. In many cases, acquired hearing loss is preventable, she said. Congenital deafness, Ms. McCall noted, could be corrected through surgery.

"We want to improve the lives of Kenyans by giving those who can't hear the ability to hear," she stated.

The World Health Organisation estimates that there are 360 million people globally with disabling hearing loss. Close to 91 per cent, or 328 million, are adults, while the rest are children.

Ms. McCall warned that some subtle and unsuspecting lifestyle habits may cause deafness.

"The use of ear buds and other objects that can cause infections and trauma to the ear is dangerous," she said. "But we also have exposure to loud noise through gadgets like earphones as well as industrial noise, especially jua kali workshop exposure without the use of ear muffs."

Among children, immunisation against childhood diseases is touted as one of the major prevention methods against infections that lead to hearing loss.

Children born near noisy places are also likely to develop hearing problems because of the high compression inside the ear, which bursts their drums.

Ms. McCall noted that, other than noise pollution, hearing impairment can also be caused by diseases like HIV/AIDS and diabetes from the mother to an unborn child.

"There are also diseases like meningitis, malaria, mumps, whooping cough, and other infections in the ear such as otitis media (where pus comes out of the ear), which could lead to hearing loss," she explained.

A person is said to have hearing loss if their hearing capacity is reduced and they are not able to hear as well as someone with normal hearing.

Normal hearing, according to the World Health Organisation, refers to

a hearing threshold of 20dB or better in both ears. Decibel (dB) is a unit for expressing the ratio between two physical quantities, usually amounts of acoustic or electric power, or for measuring the relative loudness of sounds.

Those with a hearing threshold above 20dB may be considered "hard of hearing" or "deaf," depending on the severity of their hearing loss.

The term "hard of hearing" is used to describe people with mild to severe hearing loss, as they cannot hear as well as those with normal hearing. The term deaf describes the condition of people with severe or profound hearing loss in both ears who can hear only very loud sounds or hear nothing at all.

WHO says more than 1.5 billion people suffer hearing loss globally. The health body categorises hearing loss as mild, moderate, moderately severe, severe, profound, or complete.

According to Ms. McCall, hearing aids consist of a microphone, amplifier, and receiver. The microphone picks up the sounds around the wearer and converts them into electrical signals, which are then processed and amplified. The electrical signals are converted back to sound, and the receiver sends the amplified sounds into the ear through the earmold.

"An audiologist will programme the hearing aids to match a child's deafness before testing them in the child's ear to make sure that the signal (or frequency response) coming from the hearing aid matches as closely as possible."

Ms. McCall further explains that a cochlear implant differs from a hearing aid.

"Hearing aids amplify sounds, so damaged ears may detect them. However, cochlear implants bypass damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve."

Signals generated by the implant are sent by way of the auditory nerve to the brain, which recognizes the signals as sound. Hearing through a cochlear implant differs from normal hearing and takes time to learn or relearn.

But it allows many people to recognise warning signals, understand other sounds in the environment, and understand speech in person or over the telephone.



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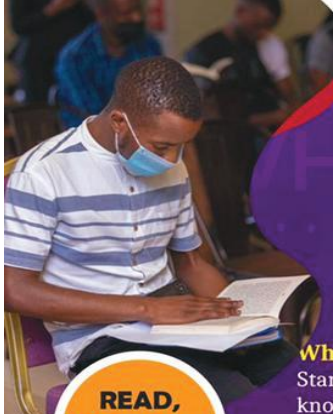


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Venue :Green Park terminus
Time:8am

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THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!
The El-Tablaz Books, in partnership with Read-Us Africa and Literature & English Forum – Uganda, invite you to enter their 1st annual reading contest.

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?
Starting this year, 2024, a reading and writing contest known as The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest shall be held nation-wide for high school students in Forms 1-6. Students are asked to **READ** and **REVIEW** a given book, clearly explaining how the text affected them personally. Reviews shall be judged on national level.

How to enter the contest:

- * Buy and read the novel, *The Spirit Whisperer* by Nassur Tab'an El-Tablaz.
- * Write a review of the given novel (at least 2 pages, typed; Times New Roman, font 12, 1.15 line spacing)
- * Take a photo clearly showing you in your school uniform reading the given novel
- * Clearly indicate your full name and school

ENTRY LEVELS
Submissions are accepted starting 1st March, 2024. Prizes will be awarded in April, 2024, in each of the three competition levels:

- Level 1: Form 1 – 2 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 2: Form 3 – 4 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 3: Form 5 – 6 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)

Judges :
Judges will include teachers and teacher-consultants of the Literature & English Forum – Uganda from across the nation.

Winners
Ugx.200,000,
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1st Runner-up
Ugx.150,000,
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2nd Runner-up
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How to submit:
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Ol Pejeta’s Trans-Continental Odyssey to Save African Black Rhinos

The Rhino Translocation Is A Symphony Of Humanity And Technology That Converges To Orchestrate A Daring Mission – The Translocation Of Rhinos, An Exhilarating And Enlightening Endeavor That Unfolds Against The Backdrop Of A Majestic Wilderness Struggling For Balance.

Contd from Page 13.

mand and deployment effort.

The use of Earthranger as a platform that consolidates various field/remote sensors – this enhances effectiveness in monitoring various installation and resources deployed across the conservancy, remote fence performance monitoring devices which helps in monitoring fence voltage, which help in detecting interference by intruders (or poachers) and in the management of human wildlife conflict issue, perimeter intrusion detection system – This is re state of art cameras that stream live fed from areas along the fence line that were identified as poaching hot spots.

The cameras are armed with infra-red capability plus Artificial Intelligence analytics to enhance their effectiveness in intrusion detection, stealth cameras which are deployed on specific target areas to covertly monitoring activities in such areas

and data handling is now digitized through deployment ruggedized phone with SMART for conservation installed, which is integrated on to Earthranger platform.

Back to the exhilarating rhino capture action, once located, the ground team moves into action and with practiced precision, they create a perimeter around the darted rhino, ensuring safety for both humans and wildlife.

The vets, armed with their tools of trade deliver tranquilizers with accuracy honed through years of experience. As the sedative takes effect, a hush descends over the scene, a poignant pause before the monumental task of data collection, vaccination, installing of tracking devices and finally loading the Rhino into a special purpose container begins.

After a tiring, bone breaking and tension filled day, a sense of accomplishment and gratitude pervades the air. The guardians of giants, the dedicated individuals who orchestrated this transcontinental odyssey, stand united in their mission.



A rhino being translocated.

.....
Their collective wisdom, fueled by cutting-edge technology, has given the rhinos a second chance, a beacon of hope in a world grappling with the challenges of biodiversity loss.

MELTA Chair: Don’t Gag The Hospitality Sector

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

Chairman of medium liquor traders association Frank Mbogo has shared with us his thoughts urging the authorities not to criminalise the hospitality industry which definitely plays a pivotal role in economic development of our Nation

He notes, “As part of the committee that was entrusted by the Nairobi City County Government under the leadership of Governor Sakaja Arthur Johnson to come up with an all-inclusive recommendations,

we urge our leaders not to criminalise the hospitality business but find good ways to regulate them working hand in hand with the stakeholders. In relation to the all-inclusive approach of solving challenges within the liquor industry, we condemn with the loudest voice the MCA’S from Nyandarua County who without being human think of closing

down wines and spirits shops prior to seeking audience with the traders for lasting solutions to lend an ear to the challenges of concern.

Less we forget that the industry is a source of employment to over 1.2 million young and old Kenyans ,not forgetting those who benefit from it indirectly hence the more they come up with punitive laws the more they risk rendering people jobless.

Secondly, we echo our willingness and commitment to work with all authorities in the fight against illicit brew since the vision cannot be achieved in the absence of the liquor stakeholders

Finally, We MELTA acknowledge the Nairobi Governor’s all inclusive challenges solving approach and commit our support towards his dream of restoring sanity to the liquor industry while supporting a decently thriving business environment with a “City of order, dignity, hope and opportunity for all” mindset.



MELTA Chair Frank Mbogo.

SGA Security Champions Sustainability Through Recycling of Old Guards' Uniforms

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

SGA Security, a leading private security firm in East Africa has committed to environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility. Through this commitment, SGA Security will be recycling old guards' uniforms to school bags that will be donated to underprivileged children living in the informal settlements.

SGA Security, which employs over 19,000 employees across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania will collect old uniforms from their security guards and recycle them into functional school bags, ensuring that they are repurposed and that children in underserved communities have access to essential educational tools.

The first set of bags was donated during an art exhibition at the Ardhi Gallery, where artists showcased their work under the theme 'Ubuntu: Humanity & Environment'. The bags were donated to children from Mathare slums who performed



SGA Security CEO and Chairman Jules Delahaije, Anthony Odhiambo Founder and Choreographer of Mathare Kids Talent Hub and Myrna van der Veen, Curator at the Ardhi Gallery pose with the bags made from recycled SGA old guards' uniforms during an art exhibition. The bags were donated to the Mathare Kids Talent Hub to ensure that the kids have access to essential educational tools..

during the art exhibition.

SGA Security CEO and Chairman Jules Delahaije, speaking during the handover of the recycled bags reaffirmed the commitment of the company towards ensuring a clean and safe environment.

"At SGA Security we are keen to ensure that the environment around us flourishes and is taken care of, as

well as to give back to the society. The old guards' uniforms, if not recycled will end up in landfills and might cause harmful effects to the environment. Recycling these uniforms to school bags ensures that health and safety are promoted as well as livelihoods of the underprivileged communities improve," said Jules.



SGA Security CEO and Chairman Jules Delahaije hands over school bags to Anthony Odhiambo Founder and Choreographer of Mathare Kids Talent Hub during an art exhibition. The bags, made from SGA old guards' uniforms, were donated to the Mathare Kids Talent Hub to ensure that the kids have access to essential educational tools.

One of the artists who showcased his work appreciated the contribution that SGA Security has made to the Mathare Kids.

"I would like to thank the sponsors of this exhibition, who have championed the rights of the underprivileged. I was once a kid living in the slums, and as I saw people use guns to shoot other fellow humans, someone sponsored me and gave me

a camera, which I used to shoot different aspects of humanity as showcased in the exhibition today," said Julius Mwelu.

The art exhibition, curated by Myrna van der Veen will run through February and provides a platform for talented artists who may otherwise go unnoticed.

Kenya Keen To Realize Resilient Feed And Fodder Systems

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mithika Linturi, on Friday morning led a high-level forum on feed and fodder policy and the continental launch of the Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems Project (RAFFS) in Kenya.

With the livestock subsector contributing 12% to Kenya's GDP, it holds a pivotal role in the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda, where the Kenya Kwanza government is prioritizing investments in innovative, commercially oriented agriculture.

Key focus areas within the livestock industry include feed production, value addition, and mechanization, as well as the digitization and digitalization of the sector through initiatives like the Livestock Identifica-

tion and Traceability System (LITS).

The CS noted, "Our commitment is resolute in addressing the 60% deficit in annual animal feed production.

This initiative stems from a proposal by the AU-Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), tasked with supporting and coordinating the enhanced utilization of animals (livestock, fisheries, and wildlife) as a vital resource for human wellbeing across AU member states."

The CS was together with African Union Commissioner, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and esteemed colleagues, Hassan Hussein Mohamed of Somalia and Lt. Col (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama of Uganda.



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi.

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- 18** Pairs of Socks ✓
- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots ✓
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- Match Day **Allowances** for Teams ✓
- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls ✓



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SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Winners of the inaugural Talanta Hela Under-19 tournament have something to smile about after receiving their cash awards.

Talanta Hela Cup Top Performers Receive Cash Prizes



Homa Bay County men's football team players celebrate with the title in the presence of Sports, Arts, and Youth Affairs Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba following their 4-2 triumph over Kisumu County in the Talanta Hela U-19 finals played at Nyayo Stadium on Tuesday, December 12th. (PHOTO COURTESY)..

Winners of the inaugural Talanta Hela Under-19 tournament have something to smile about after receiving their cash awards. The tournament started from the grassroots level in all the 47 counties with 16 teams- eight from each gender- qualifying for the national finals held in Nairobi in December last year. In the boy's category, Homa Bay County edged Kisumu 4-2 in an exhilarating final held at the Nyayo Stadium while Busia trounced Kisumu 2-1 to claim the girl's title in the same venue. All the participants from the top five in the tournament were due to receive cash prizes. The teams

received their payments at the County Commissioners offices in Kisumu with the winners in both categories bagging each Ksh 5 million. According to the Kenya Academy of Sports, the cash awards which were initially scheduled for prompt disbursement, the cash awards faced a slight delay with some players having failed to submit their bank accounts details in time. Speaking after receiving the money, Busia County girl's captain Lornah Faith Wasike was glad that they were finally reaping the fruits of their hard work. What wowed the captain

the most was leading her team to victory in the inaugural tournament at only 16 years old to pocket Ksh160,000. "I am very happy that today I am finally collecting my money. I want to thank CS Ababu Namwamba for making this happen. I will pay my school fees and help my younger brothers who are struggling at home. "We hope to go one step further and retain our title this year," Wasike told Citizen Digital. At the same time, the Kenya Academy of Sports has revealed that plans are underway to make the second edition of the tournament more vibrant with a possi-

ble inclusion of other disciplines. *Citizen sports*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Pep Guardiola says Manchester City cannot afford to take victory against Everton for granted as they bid to return to the top of the Premier League despite a formidable recent record against the Toffees.

Guardiola Warns Man City Of Everton Threat



Soccer Football - UEFA Super Cup - Manchester City v Sevilla - Georgios Karaiskakis Stadium, Athens, Greece - August 16, 2023 Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola celebrates after winning the UEFA Super Cup REUTERS/Stoyan Nenov

Pep Guardiola says Manchester City cannot afford to take victory against Everton for granted as they bid to return to the top of the Premier League despite a formidable recent record against the Toffees.

Guardiola's men, seeking their 10th straight win in all competitions, have won 11 and drawn two of their past 13 league games against Everton, who last won in 2017.

Everton have managed only one win in their past 10 matches in all competitions and are languishing in the relegation zone.

But Guardiola has frustrating memories of Everton's 1-1 draw at City last season and has urged his players not to let their guard down on Saturday.

"Tomorrow we wake up and go

direct to play a football game at 12:30 pm, so we have to be ready," he said on Friday.

"Since arriving, Everton always took results here. I don't know why, maybe because they are good. So we have to be ready.

"Hopefully it's going to go well, but last season we could not win."

Victory for City would lift them above Liverpool to the top of the table, at least temporarily, with Jurgen Klopp's men hosting Burnley later on Saturday.

Everton have not won in the Premier League since December and face a fight to avoid relegation after being deducted 10 points for breaching financial regulations.

The Toffees have been hit by another financial charge that could bring further punishment, prompting boss Sean Dyche to question

why his club's cases have been dealt with quicker than City's.

City were charged with 115 breaches of Premier League financial regulations 12 months ago but their case is still to be heard.

Guardiola refused to be drawn on Dyche's comment, saying only: "I know my opinion about that. I have spoken many times. I don't have anything else to add. We wait."

City's hopes of winning an unprecedented fourth successive English title have been significantly boosted by the return of Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne.

Belgium midfielder De Bruyne has missed most of the season with a hamstring injury, while Norway striker Haaland is two games into his comeback from a foot problem.

The pair are set to start their first home game together this season against Everton and Guardiola acknowledged their presence was vital to City's trophy chase.

"It's simple. They are players that win games by themselves. When one player scores 60 goals, it helps you to win games," he said.

"When you play with a player that makes a thousand million assists and goals, it helps you to win games.

"You don't have to study at Harvard or Yale to understand that."

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SPORTS NEWS



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Kenyatta National Hospital Performs First Successful Laparoscopic Surgery Kidney Transplanting



By: Sefu Sabila
@themtkenyatomes

Worth Noting:

- With the technology advancement the new development in every sector, Laparoscopic Surgery in the country is the new wave successful achieved by the renal department of the Kenyatta National Hospital.
- In laparoscopic surgery, a digital laparoscope, where a miniature digital video camera is placed at the end of a laparoscope, eliminating the rod lens system.
- The hospital making a major milestone in the kidney transplant, previous surgeries were done by the visiting doctors. However, Dr. Charles Waihenya, also a lead surgeon, urged patients requiring the surgery to visit the hospital for a similar surgery.
- "Many patients gave gone abroad to get this surgery, for now, we are offering this kind of surgery here at Kenyatta National Hospital." Dr. Waihenya confirming.



Kenya's Nairobi Hospital Successfully Performs First Laparoscopic Kidney Transplant

The Kenyatta National Hospital performed its first successful laparoscopic surgery in the country. The national referral hospital is the first public hospital to perform a technological medical surgery in the country.

According to the lead surgeon Dr. Paul Njogu, laparoscopic donor surgery is a technological advanced form of surgery, which requires high skillful knowledge, good training and experience, as well as familiarity with what one is doing.

"This is an advanced form of surgery that requires expertise, good training and experience, and familiarity of what kind of work you're doing," Dr. Njogu explained.

With the technology advancement the new development in every sector, Laparoscopic Surgery in the country is the new wave successful achieved by the renal department of the Kenyatta National Hospital.

In laparoscopic surgery, a digital laparoscope, where a miniature digital video camera is placed at the end of a laparoscope, eliminating the rod lens system.

The hospital making a major milestone in the kidney transplant, previous surgeries were done by the visiting doctors. However, Dr. Charles

Waihenya, also a lead surgeon, urged patients requiring the surgery to visit the hospital for a similar surgery.

"Many patients gave gone abroad to get this surgery, for now, we are offering this kind of surgery here at Kenyatta National Hospital." Dr. Waihenya confirming.

Since 2010, the hospital has conducted 250 successful transplant on patients, with at least one transplant conducted every week. However, according to the Head Of Department (HOD) Renal Unit at the Hospital, Dr. Patrick Mbugua, the hospital is aiming to do at least 2 kidney transplants every week in the future. Dr. Mbugua further confirming of an active transplant program by the hospital in the run.

"For now, we have an active transplant program since 2010, and have conducted at least 250 transplant on patients. At the moment, we are able to do at least one transplant on a patient, we as hospital are not yet there, but in the near future we hope to be doing a minimal of 2 transplants on patients every week," Dr. Mbugua explained.

Dickson Dekei Wanjiru, whose son underwent the laparoscopic donor surgery says the procedure was seam-

less and has not experienced any complications since donating one of his kidney to son. Mr. Dekei says he is normal day to day activities are ongoing without interruptions.

"I have been well since the procedure, and I haven't seen anything threatening complications so far, and I have been going about my duties well and as usual," Mr. Wanjiru explained.

"I really appreciate the doctors at Kenyatta National Hospital, they are very friendly. Unlike in the past where anxiety would hit you while going for surgery, the doctors have a brief and tell you what is about to happen with ease," Mr. Dekei's son said.

Explain the advancement in surgery from open to virtual, Dr. Njogu explained, "in open surgery, we create and access open through the skin into the muscles to be able to reach the kidney."

"But for laparoscopic surgery, we are using Laparoscopic, which we say is minimal access, we create more holes, using instruments and a camera into body, where that image is magnified on the screen, and one is able to operate without looking at the image," Dr. Njogu further explained.

The digital surgery has more benefits as compared to the open surgery. According to the lead surgeon Dr. Njogu said the procedure is less painful, easier return to work, better aesthetic look after the surgery.

"The blood loss is almost minimal and the procedure is even cheaper," Added Dr. Waihenya.

Congratulating the doctors, health CS Susan Nakhumicha said the doctors exhibited a well resourced health unit of the country and advance in the health sector in the country.

"Congratulations to the remarkable team of doctors at Kenyatta National Hospital for successfully performing the first laparoscopic kidney transplant at a public hospital in Kenya. This achievement not only demonstrates the exceptional skill and dedication of our local medical professionals but also signifies advancement in healthcare accessibility and expertise within the nation. Our health fraternity continues to showcase Kenya's potential for medical innovation and setting a new standard for excellence in patient care. Hongera to all the doctors involved in achieving this fete," CS Nakhumicha said.