



**Mr. President Where Did Your Electric Cars Go?**  
On a memorable Sunday of September 3rd, 2023, the streets were buzzing with excitement as the presidential motorcade made its way through the city. The motorcade consisted of a perfect combination of two electric cars, motorbikes, and bicycles, with each vehicle bearing the number plate "Air Ev Yetu".

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**News>>Safaricom Boss Inaugurated As Meru University Chancellor**

P. 8. Safaricom Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Ndegwa was inaugurated as the second chancellor of Meru University of Science and Technology, marking the start of his five-year term.



**News>>Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Makes Trip to Kirinyaga, Condolences Bereaved Families Following Alcohol Consumption**

P. 12. A visibly enraged and sad spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi visited families who lost family members in Kirinyaga following the consumption of alcohol.

# Government Exploring Increasing Tea Earnings To Match US Dollar

**Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua will meet Kenya Tea Development Agency management this week in a push to increase tea earnings for small-scale farmers in response to the appreciating US Dollar against the Kenyan Shilling. Speaking on Saturday in Ki-gumo, Murang'a County, the Deputy President said that since KTDA sells tea in US Dollars, the farmers' earnings should not be constant.**



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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# Government Exploring Increasing Tea Earnings To Match US Dollar

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- Mr Gachagua was responding to concerns of Gatanga MP Edward Muriu, who said income of tea farmers had dipped despite the high exchange rate of the dollar. The Deputy President said the government is already seized of the matter to ensure the high exchange rate of the dollar must match in the earnings of the farmer.
- “I concur with Mr Muriu that if the exchange rate for the dollar is high, the same should reflect on farmers’ income because the crop trades in the USD. I will convene a meeting with KTDA and explore ways of improving the earnings. We cannot have a fixed rate of payment, the price should be paid at the existing exchange rate of the dollar on the respective day,” said Mr Gachagua.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Murang'a County residents on Saturday

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua will meet Kenya Tea Development Agency management this week in a push to increase tea earnings for small-scale farmers in response to the appreciating US Dollar against the Kenyan Shilling.

Speaking on Saturday in Kigumo, Murang'a County, the Deputy President said that since KTDA sells tea in US Dollars, the farmers' earnings should not be constant.

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As at the end of the week, the official exchange rate of the shilling against the US dollar was Sh163. Currently farmers earn between Sh20 and Sh25 for every kilogramme of greenleaf delivered. They also receive a bonus from sold tea, usually, annually, which is also varied depending on, among other factors, the quality of the sold tea.

The Deputy President also called out

the Judiciary for stopping implementation of government-led reforms in the tea subsector, delaying determination of the legal dispute filed in court in 2020.

“I appeal to the Judiciary that tea reforms were so well crafted; the public was engaged. The courts suspended implementation of regulations aimed at reforming the subsector and delayed determination of the case for over three years now,” said the Deputy President.

The interim court orders issued in 2020 halted the implementation of some clauses in the Tea Act.

The orders were to remain in force pending hearing and determination of case.

But the Deputy President asked the judicial officers to consider the Kenyan farmer.

“Be true to the interests of Kenyans. Do not unnecessarily lock every thing without considering the impact on the public,” said the DP.

Mr Gachagua was tasked by President William Ruto to lead reforms in tea, coffee and dairy subsectors, with the key agenda of weeding out cartels across the value chain for farmers to earn more money.

Further, the Deputy President said despite challenges in reforms, even in coffee the Government is determined to streamline the subsector for the benefit of the farmers. He said no amount of resistance will stop him from delivering on the reforms as assigned by President Ruto.

Editor's Desk

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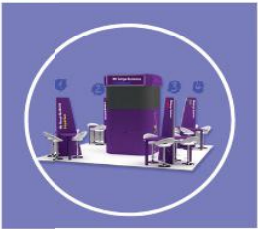
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kirinyaga County Senator Kamau Murango, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, said the 8.2 million Thiba Dam is a game changer in rice production in Mwea. Farmers in the scheme have now started doing double cropping, which will be done annually, as the dam provides continuous, sufficient water. The senator said to enhance water retention capacity, dam lining should be done to reduce water loss through seepage, thus ensuring maximum water reach for farmers.



Thousands of Catholic faithful attended the annual pilgrimage prayers at Komarock Shrine in Kangundo, Machakos County. Machakos Diocese Bishop Norman King'oo led the prayers, urging Kenyans to show patience and tolerance during economic times. He also urged Kenyans to pray for the country as it navigates these challenges. King'oo emphasised the responsibility of elected leaders to protect Kenyans' rights and interests and called for the government to expedite providing affordable and quality healthcare.



The Kenyan government, through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and Commodities Fund, has flagged off the first consignment of 1000 bags of subsidised fertiliser to farmers in Kajiado County. The first batch, targeting 22,000 farmers, will provide fertiliser at an affordable price of Sh2,500, compared to Sh6,000 from various agro dealers. The government is shouldering over 50% of the cost to ensure every farmer increases their yield using high-quality, subsidised fertilizer. The government is also aiming to reduce importation and increase exportation to address food security issues in the country. Kajiado West Sub-County Agricultural Officer, Ruto Joseph, called for the government to find ways to distribute the fertiliser closer to farmers at the grassroots level, minimising transport costs and increasing productivity in Kenya.

Rose Thuo (2nd right) receiving a certificate for Bantu Africa Resort and SPA which is based in Nyeri County after the establishment emerged one of the top hotels in the country. The hotel which is owned by businessman cum politician Dr Thuo Mathenge is one of the few high end establishments that are still running in the mountain region, with majority having closed down following the Covid-19 pandemic that led to their temporary closure. Ms Thuo, the hotel General Manager in charge of marketing was accompanied by Operations manager and his deputy.



Eldoret High Court Judge Justice Reuben Nyakundi is set to rule on whether security firms should comply with the requirement or continue paying their guards at the current rates under legal notice PSRA/005/2023.

The security firms moved the High Court under a certificate of urgency, seeking conservatory orders to put on hold the implementation of the legal notice as directed by the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA) Director General Fazul Mohamed.

Justice Nyakundi will rule on whether the security firms will have to pay their security guards as per the revised rates or not. The Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Attorney General, and Private Security Regulatory Authority Director General have been named as respondents in the matter.

The security companies pleaded with the court to put on hold the implementation of the government directive due to the hard economic challenges the industry is facing.

Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome has fired two senior officials from her Ministry for colluding with cartels to facilitate the grabbing of public cemetery land in Thika. The Cabinet Secretary vowed to expose those who aid in stealing public land and warned her Ministry officers involved with cartels of their potential termination and prosecution. A police officer allegedly aided a private investor in acquiring a public land title deed, while the other officer testified in court, providing false information. The Cabinet Secretary instructed the Principal Secretary to have the two interdicted, as she cannot be fighting corruption in the Ministry while her people are dragging efforts and aiding in crime.



On the grabbed cemetery land in the Gatitu area, the CS reverted it to public land despite a ruling by the area Lands and Environment Court in favour of a private investor who went to court claiming ownership. Wahome ordered police officers who were providing security to leave the site.

During the digging by excavators, the bodies of people who had been buried at the cemetery were exhumed, causing a huge public outcry.

"From the records and maps that we have, it is clear that this is public land. How it was reverted to a private developer is a mystery. But for now, it will remain so. No development should be done in this area," said CS Wahome.

# Natembeya Blast Kenya Kwanza Leaders In the County For Shifting Blame On Him Over Demolitions For Affordable Housing Project



By: Sefu Sabila  
@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

During his visit in the county early this year, the president send a warning to the land grabbers, which governor Natembeya says is a proposal from the people chanting in support of the president efforts to restore government's land under grabbers.

"The president was came to the Buspark where there were more than 4,000 residents of Trans Nzoia. He said those people who have grabbed the main Prison's land 3,2700 acres should do the famous three options the president said. It is not my words, but those of the president. I'm not involved anywhere as Senator Allan chesang says. It thus the plan of the Kenya Kwanza people." Governor Natembeya added

Trans Nzoia County governor George Natembeya distances himself from the evictions notice for residents in the controversial 3,2700 acres of land for Kitale Main Prison's in the outskirts of Kitale town. The section is set to host 10,000 units of affordable housing.

Speaking on Sunday at a fundraiser at St. Andrew Kaggwa Catholic church, in Kwanza Constituency, where the Deputy President was the guest of honour; the he county boss said he is not in any involvement of the coming demolitions and notice of eviction for the residents at the Prison's land.

According to governor Natembeya, the plan switch from development of a mini-city to expand the town, to construction of the affordable housing project was informed to him by the county commissioner.

"I now hear meetings converging that I told the president to demolish and take people out is the Prison's land. I want to say that I don't advice the president. There are institutions in place including the cabinet and the deputy president. Any utterance by the president is not an outburst, people should respect the president. The affordable housing program is a national Government's project, neither are there returns I get nor the county of Trans Nzoia. It is a national's government agenda. " The governor stated.

Governor Natembeya stating that the ongoing hearsays about him on eviction and demolition by Kenya Kwanza leaders in the county was their plan. The governor revealing the president's visit to the county in January over his request during the governors summit with the president at statehouse. According to the governor, the leaders planned his visit without involving him.

"The president had told me he will be in Trans Nzoia in January during the summit. But his people went ahead and planned, the president was in Kaptega, molem and other places. I want not involved at all. You can go and plan the matters of the president I will join you." The

county boss said.

During his visit in the county early this year, the president send a warning to the land grabbers, which governor Natembeya says is a proposal from the people chanting in support of the president efforts to restore government's land under grabbers.

"The president was came to the Buspark where there were more than 4,000 residents of Trans Nzoia. He said those people who have grabbed the main Prison's land 3,2700 acres should do the famous three options the president said. It is not my words, but those of the president. I'm not involved anywhere as Senator Allan chesang says. It thus the plan of the Kenya Kwanza people." Governor Natembeya added.

In defending his people, governor George Natembeya said the land grabbers are powerful individuals with influence over the government's policy, and no local resident is able to acquire a protected land with ease. Further urging the government to have a proper mechanism to ensure common mwananchi are cared for and know where they are going.

"The rich, people with muscles are the ones taking the Prison's land not common mwananchi. Those who are in position of the big portions of land have power to influence government policies." Natembeya stated.

"Those who bought a portion one acre, a quarter acre are the ones suffering at the expense of the grabbers. There should be a proper plan to how and where they should go. The land is set for a government's project I'm not there, it is the responsibility of the government." He further added.

The governor faulting the leaders opposing his support you the government project, he said the two government's work joint and collaborative as a system. An emphasis by the speaker of the national assembly, saying it is critical for both government's to work together.

On Saturday, the speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetangula,



DP Rigathi Gachagua, Trans Nzoia County governor George Natembeya, speaker Moses Wetangula, Retired Bishop Crowley far behind in green CS Susan Nakhumicha at St Andrew Kaggwa church in Kwanza Constituency on Sunday during a fundraiser

held a meeting with the residents and land owners of the disputed land at the Kitale club, where he assured residents of a proper eviction by the government.

The over 3000 families affected, presented their concerns and grievances, through a memorandum seeking the Parliament's intervention to prevent their eviction from the place they have called home for over five decades.

"Let us confront it and face it once and for all. We will solve this issue as a government. As your leader, I will have talks with the president and the government institutions to ensure your problem is solved. Do not panic and start leaving Kitale, we need you in Trans Nzoia. There is no one amongst you whose house will be demolished. Even if the government wants to regularize everything, it is will be done properly, with civility and care, so as not to hurt anybody." Speaker Moses Wetangula affirming to the residents.

The government plans to build 10,000 units of houses in the affordable housing project, at a 75 acre from the disputed Prison's land donated by the government.

Pledging his support to the government's Agenda, the county boss said, the agendas could not be friendly, but he is not in position to oppose the plan of the government to it's people.

"When a government makes a decision, not all decisions are popular, do not confuse us as a county government and blame us fo supporting the government." Governor Natembeya reiterated.

The deputy president defending the government on social health insurance fund SHIF, and the recovery of the economy, in the ongoing debt payment shifting the blame on the previous regime. Similar the speaker of the nation assembly Moses Wetangula blaming the Uhuru government for neglecting the county in terms of infrastructure.

Addressing the residents, the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua promised residents of the government's effort to reduce the cost of living, and further sending a warning to the heads of schools over sending students home very arrears, as the government had in place mechanism to cater for the students in primary and in day school secondary schools.

"I want to tell teachers in JSS not to send learrbers away because of lack of desks or uniforms and other levies, the ministry released the money for students." The DP said.

His sentiments coming after the Matisi MCA and Trans Nzoia County Assembly Deputy Speaker Obed Mwale outcried the extra fee and constant sending of learners home, despite the government releasing capitation for students.

Dr. Wetangula assuring farmers of the government's support in ensuring that the farmers receive inputs on time, as the county is the largest cereal producer of all cereals in the country. Additionally, the third in command pleading with residents to embrace peace as the constituency is a border of West Pokot and as well hosts Kenyans from across the country.

"Trans Nzoia is a cosmopolitan county, I'm glad that both MPs Samuel Moroto and Ferdinand Wanyonyi agree to settle the dispute between the two constituencies. This is the most secure county for food production in the country, a third of the cereal of Kenya comes from Trans Nzoia. Our efforts should thus be encouraged, there will be more distribution of subsidized fertilizer than it was before, and ensure supply of seeds and fertilizer." Speaker Moses Wetangula said.

The DP further urging the county boss to ditch the opposition and join government, claiming that the opposition leader Raila odinga, also visits the statehouse for his 'share'.



Host MP right Ferdinand Wanyonyi, Speaker Moses Wetangula, DP Rigathi Gachagua and CS Susan Nakhumicha arriving for a church service in Trans Nzoia County

# Murang'a County Gender Team Urged To Act On SGBV Cases

By: Florence Kinyua and Anita Omwenga

@themtkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- “Currently, cases of suicide are on the rise in Murang’a, and a week does not pass without us getting a report that someone has committed suicide,” he said, revealing that some of the cases involve boys and girls as young as 13 years old.
- Kasyoka further urged the multi-sectorial team to boost the efforts the government is making to address the vice by sensitising the public to report incidences, support victims, and speak against harmful and retrogressive cultural beliefs and practices like female genital mutilation and early marriages.

Murang’a County Gender Technical Working Group has been challenged to be proactive in dealing with the rising cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGV).

Speaking during the Gender Technical Working Group training at a Murang’a hotel, Administrative Assistant One, David Kasyoka, noted that the Gender Technical team ought to go to the grassroots level and help address some challenges like gender violence, alcohol, drugs, and substances, among other challenges crippling the county.

He observed that some of the factors leading to GBV in the county included drugs and substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic disputes, and retrogressive cultural beliefs and practices.

The gender technical working group will play a role in sensitising society to peaceful coexistence.

“Currently, cases of suicide are on the rise in Murang’a, and a week does not pass without us getting a report that someone has committed suicide,” he said, revealing that some of the cases involve boys and girls as young as 13 years old.

Kasyoka further urged the multi-sectorial team to boost the efforts the government is making to address the vice by sensitising the public to report incidences, support victims, and speak against harmful and retrogressive cultural beliefs and practices like female genital mutilation and early marriages.

“Leave the boardroom and get into society; that is where the real problem lies, and your expertise is needed if we are going to develop as a county, as a society, and as a country,” he urged.

The training that brought together representatives from various state



departments, Civil Society Organizations, social workers, medical personnel, non-state actors, persons with disabilities, and Maendeleo ya Wanawake, among others, was to capacity-build the participants on a gender and gender-based violence policy formulation.

The training was organized by the State Department for Gender and the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) in partnership with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE Kenya).

On his part, Murang’a County Director for Gender Peter Muhia noted that the training was aimed at building the capacity of the working group on policy formulation on issues of Gender-based Violence that are affecting the county.

“The development of the Policy is a multi-sectoral approach involving many different stakeholders working in the gender space to facilitate the prevention and response to GBV,” said Muhia.

He explained that the working group has held quarterly reviews of deliberations to come up with gender-responsive measures to curb sexual and GBV and formulate measures aimed at reducing cases in the county.

“The policy will include strategies to effect its implementation in the community,” he said, adding that the policy is being developed against the backdrop of rising cases of GBV in the county.

Meanwhile, the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Kenya Coordinator in Murang’a, Pauline Masese, stressed that FAWE Kenya intends to support the development of the policy by contributing resources and in-depth knowledge towards its formulation until it is successfully drafted, launched, and rolled up for implementation.

“To successfully develop and implement this gender policy, state and non-state actors must work together and coordinate their efforts to ensure that the county has a gender policy,”

she said.

Masese divulged that the purpose of the policy is to guarantee the presence of robust and efficient processes and structures to operationalize laws and plans, along with effective measures for SGBV prevention and response.

“The policy will outline guidelines and regulations to ensure there are adequate and effective GBV prevention, response, and support structures for victims and survivors and their families and communities,” she added.

The Demographic and Health Survey 2022 report released by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) indicated that 54 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 in Murang’a County have experienced physical violence, which is higher than the national average of 34 per cent.

Further, the report shows that in 2022, the rate of women who experienced sexual violence was 14 per cent, as compared to the countrywide rate of 7 per cent.

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# Safaricom Boss Inaugurated As Meru University Chancellor

By: Dickson Mwiti  
@themkenyetimes

Safaricom Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Ndegwa was inaugurated as the second chancellor of Meru University of Science and Technology, marking the start of his five-year term.

Dr. James Mwangi, the founding chancellor of Equity Group Holdings Plc, has been succeeded by Mr. Ndegwa.

Mr. Ndegwa's appointment as chancellor demonstrates the university's commitment to utilising industry expertise and collaboration to enhance its academic programmes and innovation efforts.

The individual expresses their gratitude for being appointed as the chancellor at M.U.S.T., expressing their commitment to the institution's mission and purpose.

Mr. Ndegwa expressed excitement about collaborating with the university's leadership, faculty, students,

and community to build academic integrity and innovation, committing to pursuing new horizons with passion.

The University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, expressed his delight at Ndegwa's inauguration, stating that it was with great enthusiasm that they were welcoming their new chancellor.

Ndegwa's leadership at Safaricom, a leading communications company in Africa, demonstrates his commitment to transformative change and technology, demonstrating his ability to address societal needs effectively.

"His visionary leadership at Safaricom, marked by a strategic shift towards a purpose-led technology company, is an inspiration for us all. We are excited about the potential for collaboration and growth under his guidance," said Professor Odhiambo.

About Dr. Mwangi, the outgoing Chancellor, Prof. Odhiambo, said his standing in Kenya, Africa, and globally has been a unifying figure among stakeholders in the university.

Prof. Odhiambo praised Dr. Mwangi's sagacious actions at Meru University of Science and Technology,



Safaricom Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Ndegwa (Right).

highlighting his family's exceptional philanthropy and their impact on the university's success during challenging seasons.

He added that the first and founding chancellor has been released from his noble duty, feeling honoured, proud, privileged, and respected.

Mwangi, on his part, welcomed and promised full support to Ndegwa as he took over the leadership.

"I have no doubt that he will continue to keep alive the vision and mission of the institution, more so in building on the foundation of academic excellence, innovation, and a

commitment to societal impact," said Dr. Mwangi.

Meru University of Science and Technology was established as a full-fledged university following the award of its charter on March 1, 2013.

# Tourism Authority Plans To Register 50, 000 Airbnb

By: Bernard Munyao  
@themkenyetimes

The authority's General Manager, Norbert Talam, said that already about 8, 000 AirBnB facilities have registered with the Tourism Regulatory Authority and were issued with licenses, stressing the importance of recording data on operations in the country.

He said the short-term accommodation facilities were critical to boosting tourism in the country while emphasising the need for registration and authority support.

The director, who was speaking in Murang'a during an award ceremony for hotels and tourism establishments accredited in nine counties of the Mount Kenya region, explained that after Airbnb was registered, the owners will get trained and guided on how to offer quality services and security to their guests.

"In the recent past, there have been several criminal cases at Airbnb, and we want to ensure the safety of all guests accommodated in the facilities are guaranteed. Some owners of AirBnB have already registered and issued licenses, and we call upon



The authority's General Manager, Norbert Talam.

those yet to do so to come out and register with us," averred Talam.

With the registration of Airbnb, the director noted it will boost tourism in the country as guests, both local and international, will not fear accessing the services of the facilities. Airbnb will receive licenses and receive support from the Tourism Regulatory Authority, through training and security maintenance, working with the Private Security Regulatory Authority to ensure guest registration and

security.

The director further indicated that the authority will launch a national classification of all tourism and hospitality facilities in the country next month. Talam announced that the Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary will launch an exercise within six months.

"During the classification exercise, hospitality facilities, including hotels, will be star-rated from 5-star to 1-star. This will ensure a facility

gives quality services as stipulated in the categorised cluster." He added.

Talam divulged that the last classification of hotels in the country was done between 2018 and 2019, thus the need for the exercise to be done this year as a mark of quality that guests, both international and local, can associate with.

He called on those who will be involved in the exercise to cooperate to ensure the classification is done prudently and in accordance with the

guidelines. The director reported that 290 hotels and tourism facilities from Mount Kenya participated in the award ceremony.

"From the hotels that participated in the accreditation exercise, 63 of them were awarded gold, which is a mark of high quality; 64 others got bronze; and 21 were awarded silver. With these awards, the hotels can now market themselves with the qualities they have, and this will boost tourism in this region," he added.

On his part, James Ndungu of the Silver Lodges of Lake Nakuru unit lauded the TRA for coming up with the initiative of assessing the tourism facilities, saying the process has provided ways for improvement. The authority's support is expected to drive numerous investors into the tourism sector, thereby creating employment opportunities for numerous young people.

"The assessment was quite fair, and those who participated are now encouraged to improve the quality of services they offer. Fair competition in the tourism sector will ensure the industry grows and plays a part in growing the country's economy." He added.

# Gachagua Beseeches Leaders In Trans Nzoia To Work Together

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- The DP welcomed the move by Trans Nzoia Governor George Nantembeya to work with the government despite being elected on an opposition party.
- “The governor did well to come to work with the President. That is leadership. It is being pragmatic because it is in government where resources are shared,” added Mr Gachagua who was accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha, host MP Ferdinand Wanyonyi and Trans Nzoia Senator Allan Chesang, dozens of MPs and local leaders.
- The Deputy President also asked farmers in Trans Nzoia to increase acreage under maize saying the government had released adequate subsidized fertilizer which is being sold at Sh2,500 per 50kg bag.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Kwanza constituency residents yesterday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called on leaders in Trans Nzoia to keep the existing unity and peace saying it was crucial for enhanced development in the cosmopolitan county.

Speaking on yesterday when he attended a Holy Mass at St Andrew Kaggwa Catholic Church in Kwanza Constituency in the County, the Deputy President thanked the leaders for working together despite the existing diversities.

“This is a cosmopolitan county with members of different communities living here. We thank the leaders led by the governor for maintaining peace. As people of Trans Nzoia love one another and peacefully coexist,” said the Deputy President.

He also called on the leaders in the Western region to unite for the benefit of the people in the region.

“We congratulate the western leaders for the effort to unite the people. I call on the leaders to continue uniting the people and behind the President for the good of our country,” said Mr Gachagua who also led a fundraiser for the construction of the church after the mass presided over by Retired Kitale Diocese Bishop Maurice Crowley.

The DP welcomed the move by

Trans Nzoia Governor George Nantembeya to work with the government despite being elected on an opposition party.

“The governor did well to come to work with the President. That is leadership. It is being pragmatic because it is in government where resources are shared,” added Mr Gachagua who was accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha, host MP Ferdinand Wanyonyi and Trans Nzoia Senator Allan Chesang, dozens of MPs and local leaders.

The Deputy President also asked farmers in Trans Nzoia to increase acreage under maize saying the government had released adequate subsidized fertilizer which is being sold at Sh2,500 per 50kg bag.

“Trans Nzoia County is important in our country’s food security. The subsidized fertilizer is readily available here. We thank the governor for ensuring last mile distribution of the fertilizer,” said the Deputy President who discouraged the farmers against selling all their harvests asking them to keep some for domestic consumption.

He also asked dairy farmers to supply milk to the New KCC saying



they are offering better prices after the government’s intervention. The DP said the milk glut that had seen prices drop had been dealt with.

“As a government, we released Sh900 million to stabilise the prices in the milk sector after a glut following the heavy rains. The prices at Kenya Cooperatives Creameries will be raised from Sh45 per litre to Sh50 from March 1 and up to Sh60 in the coming months,” he said.

At the same time, the DP warned teachers against sending learners home Junior Secondary School learners for lack of school uniform or desks saying stern action will be taken against them.

“Let them not send our children home over levies and unnecessary fees introduced at the school. Any teacher defying the government’s orders will face stern action,” he warned.

# Dr. Alfred Mutua Launches Kivulini Eco-Park

By: Nyambura Muigai  
@themkenyatimes

Tourism Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua has emphasized the improvement of quality tourism in the country. He stated that countries which offer quality and expensive services attract more tourists.

Speaking during the launch of Kivulini Eco Park, Mutua urged the Kenyan hospitality industry to work hard by improving the value of the services they offer, to get better returns.

Dr. Mutua noted that many tourist centers in the country lack quality services; lack of good sanitation facilities is one challenge that made many tourists prefer other countries like United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Kivulini Eco-Park plays a vital role in enriching tourism. The park not only offers good services but also is a tourist attraction where you can experience a picturesque scene of animals like monkeys

Susan Mumo the Managing partner

at Kivulini Eco-Park urged Kenyans to embrace environmental conservation to enhance biodiversity. Susan who has a passion in game drives urged stakeholders in the hotel and hospitality industry to ensure quality service.

Tourism Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua launches of Kivulini Eco park



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# I Paid The Ultimate Price During The ICC Trial



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



## Worth Noting:

- The Jubilee flag bearers are free to run for political office of their choice. This judges cited the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence until proven guilty.
- After winning the elections, UhuRuto presidency recognized my passion. I started receiving a monthly stipend as preparations were being made to get me a job in the civil service. The plan to get me a permanent job did not materialize. I become one of the victims of the fall out between President Uhuru and then his deputy William Ruto.
- During the trial, I worked closely with a top aide of the Dr Ruto. Today, he is senior state officer.



Deputy President William Ruto consults with his lawyers during the ICC hearings. Image: FILE .

Before the International Criminal Court (ICC) trial, I was one of key players in civil society/human rights movement.

I worked closely with the top leaders of the lobbies as well as some of the opposition leaders. I got blacklisted and eventually become jobless after I totally declined to heed their call to stop defending and supporting UhuRuto during the ICC trial.

After President Uhuru's case was withdrawn, I dedicated all my time and energy in fighting for the acquittal of the current President, Daktari William Samoei Ruto.

Hardly a week passed without denouncing the charges levelled against him. I also defended him through verbal commentaries and this would land me in trouble with members of my community of kikuyu.

I believed the charges had been trumped up and were politically motivated.

The endgame was to bar Dr Ruto and Uhuru Kenyatta from contesting the presidency.

This will clear the way for him to ascend to power with ease.

My prayer and that of other Kenyans were heard by the ICC trial chamber.

The Jubilee flag bearers are free to run for political office of their choice. This judges cited the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

After winning the elections, UhuRuto presidency recognized my passion. I started receiving a monthly stipend as preparations were being made to get me a job in the civil service. The plan to get

me a permanent job did not materialize. I become one of the victims of the fall out between President Uhuru and then his deputy William Ruto.

During the trial, I worked closely with a top aide of the Dr Ruto. Today, he is senior state officer.

He has deserted me. This is despite the fact that I have kept the faith since President Ruto won the elections. This is in terms of championing his political, social-economic agenda.

My woes got exacerbated during the Raila-led demonstrations. I wrote many articles denouncing he protests. One of them was titled 'Is Raila Out To Cause A Total Economic Sabotage?'

It goes: Azimio La Umoja-OKA Party leader Raila Odinga has announced that the third wave of anti-government protests across the country will proceed as planned.

This is despite the top state officials led by President William Ruto vowing that they will not allow the demonstrations to take place.

As we know, Raila's previous protests have always turned chaotic and bloody. This means when he avers that the demos will be peaceful and held in full compliance with the provisions of constitution, this is just a political ploy. He means the opposite of this.

One can therefore understand where President Ruto is coming from when he reiterates. I took the oath of office to protect the lives of Kenyans and their property and this is my core function as spelt out in the constitution.

He would use this as the basis of defending his decision that he was not vi-

olating any law.

It is true that Article 37 of the constitution allows Kenyans to exercise freedom of assembly, expression, demonstration and picketing. The same Article, however, emphasizes that these activities should be held within an environment that is peaceful and non-violent. So, those participating- organisers and their supporters-must be unarmed.

In Raila's demos, the picture is totally different. Some of the protestors were always armed to the teeth.

The video clips taken by the mainstream media and social media would attest to this.

In recent demo, they escalated the orgy of violence and destruction. At least 9 people lost their lives. The government installations were also not spared. A government office and a national flag were set ablaze. The flag had been hoisted. A goon climbed the pole and pulled it down then burnt it. Report indicated he was among those lost who died.

The newly constructed Nairobi Expressway was also vandalized and destroyed, causing a damage worth Sh700 million.

They also used machetes to break into a Supermarket and stole all goods and money. The money vaults were turned upside down.

One may ask. Where were the anti-riot police? Well, we saw them engaging the protesters in running battles.

But as it turned out, they were dealing with hardcore criminals who were ready to pay the ultimate price. Some reports indicated a good number of them had been hired and had allegedly been given

clear instructions that Baba wanted to see them cause a heavy damage to our economy.

A report released by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KPSA) showed that the business community was losing Sh3 billion every day when the demonstration was held.

For Baba Raila, many believed that he had come to this conclusion. President William Ruto is a big-headed and a hard nut to crack. So, Raila had only option and this is to do a total economic sabotage.

He hoped this will force Dr Ruto to climb down, invite and engage him on a one-on-one talk.

Once the talks are concluded and Raila have his way, he would emerge and tell the country that we have reached 'a ceasefire'.

He will also climb down from his earlier hardline stance and now recognize Ruto as the President of Kenya.

For those well conversant with the history of Raila, I'm sure they would agree with me. He had previously played a similar script.

In 2007, he forced President Mwai Kibaki to share the government with him on 50-50 basis.

In 2017, he forced President Uhuru Kenyatta to shake hand with him.

Given this scenerio, I would agree with President Ruto. Raila developed a bad habit and 'I will not allow this to continue anymore'.

Raila lost the election. He should accept this bitter truth and move on.

This is my advise to him. He should stick to his role as an opposition leader.

I'm ready to facilitate the work of his office because I believe in a strong, vibrant and robust opposition that will put my government in checks.

Taking cognizant that the opposition is alternative government, the outfit ought to shun politics of bloody confrontations, malice, and destruction of properties.

When we go wrong, we are ready to be corrected. We are also ready to hear the solutions they have.

This engagement should be done in a structured and constructive manner.

Equally, the opposition leaders ought to support our agenda and policies that are designed to better the lives of the citizens. Some of the achievements might not be realized immediately.

The mature opposition is supposed to support explanation given by the state rather than contradict it.

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

# Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Makes Trip to Kirinyaga, Condoles Bereaved Families Following Alcohol Consumption

By: OSDP

Worth Noting:

- She expressed her pain, watching the news, and following the reports of the rising number of deaths of those dead (23) and others going blind (5), and tens hospitalized.
- “Tell your children, women, and men to stop taking this alcohol. It is wrong for people to line their pockets with blood money. Parents burying their children is very wrong. Even women of 60 years and above dying from alcohol is very wrong,” said Pastor Dorcas.
- The killer bar, California is tucked away between maize and banana farms at Kangai Ward. The bar was turned to a shell by angry residents who burnt it a few days ago following the deaths, and blindness to locals.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi speaks to members of families who lost their loved ones following taking alcohol at California bar in Kangai Ward, Kirinyaga County. She spoke to the families at the Kangai primary school grounds, where prayers for the bereaved were conducted against the alcohol, drug and substance abuse menace in the nation, and especially in Mount Kenya region. Photo/OSDP.

A visibly enraged and sad spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi visited families who lost family members in Kirinyaga following the consumption of alcohol.

As a mother, and campaigner against alcohol, drug and substance abuse, Pastor Dorcas took the trip to console the bereaved families. She termed income gained from such killer businesses like the California bar ‘blood money’.

“You go to the bar counter, and buy death, and also buy tears for your entire family. As a Pastor, I am tired of burying our children and husbands from deaths caused by alcohol,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She expressed her pain, watching the news, and following the reports of the rising number of deaths of those dead (23) and others going blind (5), and tens hospitalized.

“Tell your children, women, and men to stop taking this alcohol. It is wrong for people to line their pockets with blood money. Parents burying their children is very wrong. Even women of 60 years and above dying

from alcohol is very wrong,” said Pastor Dorcas.

The killer bar, California is tucked away between maize and banana farms at Kangai Ward. The bar was turned to a shell by angry residents who burnt it a few days ago following the deaths, and blindness to locals.

“How would we keep quiet as our children die like animals? We take our own money, and go buy death. This is sad for our nation, and especially in mount kenya region. For 23 to die and 5 to lose their sight, and this number has climbed over the days is sad,” said Pastor Dorcas.

The community was angry that the owner of the killer bar had been arrested 16 times in the past, but still managed to evade the justice system and continue with the business.

Peter Waweru lost his 40 year old son and decried the high number of bars in the area, saying, “Young people are the most affected leaving us with a huge gap in the community.”

Leah Waruingi was in pain expressing how she four family members to the killer brew; Stella Muthoni

(mother), Wachira Gitari (Cousin), Alice Wanjiru (Sister in Law), and Wanguthii Kaguru (aunt).

“This bar is located within where people live. We are mourning as a village, and as a family. The burden of emotional burden of burying four people is too much to bear,” said Ms Waruingi.

Peter Mwai lost his father to the killer brew, Willie Githai. He asked pertinent questions to the county government and national administration. “Who licensed this bar, right inside the farms where people live? This man should face the full force of the law. He has evaded justice one time too many, 16 times.

He alleged that the owner of the bar even brings a lorry into the night and distributes the alcohol.

Bonface Muthii also lost his mother, Margaret Wanjira. “California bar manufactures the alcohol. It is painful that he has killed our people, and my mother also died,” he said.

Different church leaders that included evangelists, pastors, and bishops prayed for the families, the commu-

nity and nation against the alcohol, drug menace, and also those operating the illicit businesses.

Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba said, “We came to pray for you so God may strengthen you. We have lost fathers and strong young men who would have helped build this nation, and now we are in tears.”

Others present were Kirinyaga Deputy Governor David Githanda, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) Assistant County Commissioner Sarah Kurgat, Evangelist Lucy Wangunjiri, Rev Kabaiya, Bishop Paul Wanjohi, Bishop Michael Karanja, Bishop Matthew Monde, Bishop Samuel Karimi, Bishop Mary Wanderingi, Bishop Michuki, Bishop Samuel Karimi, Bishop Dickson Njoroge, and Apostle Gitundu among others.

# Delmonte’s Atrocities Against Innocent Civilians Spark Outrage

By: John Kariuki  
@themtkenyatimes

The Multinational Company Delmonte Kenya Limited, has continued to dent its image following unwarranted atrocities that it has continued to commit to innocent civilians. Those who bear the blunt are especially those in the surroundings.

On Friday evening, residents raised the red flag once again after a Delmonte cruiser that was chasing after pineapple thieves ran over an innocent mzee way outside the farm, which is against their security policies. Once the thief runs out of the farm, it’s a policy not to chase them past the farm.

Geoffrey Kairu, Secretary General of the Kandara Residents Association, condemned the act in the strongest possible terms, saying that they will not tolerate any more loss of life.

“We have had enough. Many people have died in the hands of the ruthless security guards who patrol the large swathes of land. Those who were lucky to escape death by a whisker

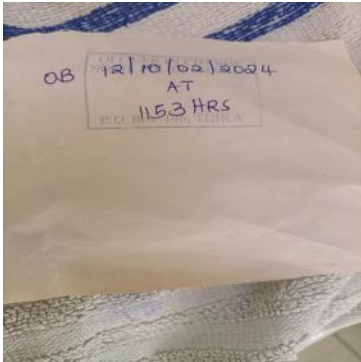


are maimed or incapacitated due to the injuries they sustained during their ordeal. We are calling upon the security apparatus to move swiftly and take the appropriate legal action against the perpetrators.

Apart from calling for security apparatus to move swiftly, we are also call the local leaders within Delmonte land environment to take action and force the company to pay for the wrongdoing against victims, now and the past

Kagama Community is seeking to enjoin the latest victims in their on-

going suit at Thika High Court. The Chairman declined to comment on the incident as the matter is already before the court



Victim of Delmonte’s atrocities against innocent civilians.

# Sorghum Is Mwea’s Newly Found Gold

By: John Kariuki  
@themtkenyatimes

When everyone hears the name Mwea, they resonate with the native rice crop that is synonymous with the region. Whether it’s the aromatic pishori or any other variant, Kenyans flock the paddy fields to purchase the freshly harvested rice.

But now, there’s a new catch, Sorghum.

Mwea Member of Parliament (M.P) Mary Maingi has expressed optimism with the flourishing sorghum farming in the constituency. She shares with us her optimism:

“I am immensely happy because farmers are now excelling in their sorghum harvest. I toured one of the farms and met Mr Mugweru from Kibukure village, Kangai Ward who harvested two tons equivalent to 2000 Kgs, from the one acre he had planted sorghum and had all his produce bought by Kenya Breweries

Limited. This is truly a testament to the possibilities of financial success for farmers. It’s a perfect example of what I mean when I say “Pesa Mfukoni” for Mwea farmers.

Kenya Breweries have started buying the sorghum harvest from farmers and will continue until they collect and pay every farmer who had planted sorghum in Mwea.

Sorghum farming in Kenya is currently done in semi-arid areas of Kenya’s Western, Eastern, and Coastal regions. The government advocates for sorghum farming because it is a traditional High-Value crop. It is a high-value crop because it contains minerals such as Vitamin B, potassium, phosphorus, zinc, and iron.

Sorghum is also a rich source of fiber and antioxidants. The baking industry uses sorghum to manufacture unleavened and leavened bread. Unleavened bread is bread that has been prepared without the use of a rising agent such as yeast.

Similarly, unleavened bread contains small amounts of yeast.



Mwea MP Mary Maingi (extreme right) admires a healthy sorghum crop farmed in the Constituency.

## Winter Season



Winter has come  
Make it beautiful  
The seasons are beautiful  
Lands will be pleasant.

The days are much shorter  
Freeze the environment  
Covers fields and gardens  
White snowflakes.

Let the trees wear white clothes  
The boy and the girl are happy  
Playing snow storms  
Enjoys winter.

Snow falls in winter  
Rest in peace

Children on the street  
They play for fun.

They fly on sledges  
Snowflakes are also made  
Santa came home  
Share your gifts.

🍷 Ruzmetova Zuhra

Ruzmetova Zuhra Vyacheslavovna  
November 30, 2006 I was born in the city Urgench, Khorezm region. There are 6 of us in the family my father, my mother, my brother, my twin, and me. I am currently a student of the 11th grade of school no 14 in Urgench city. I appeared on Google on the international website "Synchronized chaos". Every week I am guest on Khorezm TV channel. I am the holder of the badge "For international Services" 🏆 By the bi wing poets writers association. I am winner of competitions of more than 100 national and international organization. I have a B2 certificate of knowledge of the Turkish language. I have many future dream goals.

## Time



We say honor, we say it in the language,  
But it does not come out, they are not in the heart.

The way of life, it seems, is to do.  
We are stuck, we are in the middle of the road,  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

There are also mothers who cannot be told,  
There are also fathers who don't have children.  
Poverty for them,  
Wealth and wealth are always available  
What do we do as humans?  
How will we answer when we go.

Humanity is worth gold,  
Instead of a heart, our houses are wide,  
Can't be anymore, rich and poor are equal,  
Women can't eat,  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

Faces with beautiful masks,  
Corruption, with exclamations.

We have become friends with the devils,  
With friendly animals like smoke  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

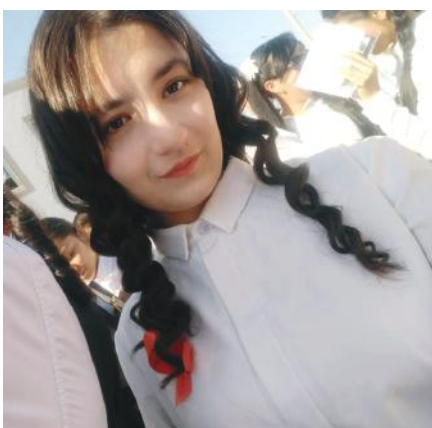
There are also hands that do not hold the Qur'an.  
He does not tremble when he sins.  
Our hearts seem to be one  
Even the mungli is forced to  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

The belly is full, and the eyes are open.  
If you are human, avoid sins.  
After all, the witness, the cross on which Jesus died,  
Repent before it's too late  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

We have a lot of wealth, but we have no faith.  
The neighbor is open, and we are full,  
The so-called "lust" is ready to shoot,  
We do not have prayer as a shield  
What we do as human beings  
How will we answer when we go.

Elmuradova Muattar Abdulkhalil qizi born on April 25, 2004 in Samarkand region.  
In 2021, I completed 11 years of education with high marks at the 134th school of Kashkadarya region. In 2022, I was a student at the Faculty of Philology of Karshi State University in Kashkadarya region. Currently a 2nd year student. Official member of the People's Democratic Party.

## Father...



A father's kindness is incomparable in human life. He is a real shield for a child, a shoulder companion on good days, and a true friend who can understand him on bad days.

Despite the fact that the person I want to tell you about is no longer among us, this event is not a myth. I am a participant in this event.

It was not long before the death of a loved one. Although he was very young, he had three children. Their children are two girls and a boy who are sweet to each other.

My relative passed away in a car accident. I used to visit them often because of their children. One day such

an incident happened and made me realize how great my father is. We were playing in the street with some children. Once the father of one of those children came home from work. The boy ran to his father and jumped into his arms.

His father hugged him tightly and kissed him. One of the children who heard this said that his father liked it very much. My three nephews were laughing at me. One of them went home crying. Another

one could not lift his head from the ground. The boy in my nephew's car crashed and fell to the ground.

After this incident, I could not say anything. Because I didn't know what to say. After that, a thought came to my mind: "FATHER, THANK FOR YOU BEEING THERE!"

Ibrahimova Halima Vahobjonovna was born on February 11, 2007 in the Bukhara region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, she is a 10th grade student of the 7th SSSDTM located in Uchkuduq District, Navoi Region. Author of the book "Lines in my heart"

## Teach Me, Father



It's dawning again, my heart is sick  
Looking around from the window,  
Days pass, alas, slowly  
Life is a puzzle, teach me, father!  
It's raining when I go outside  
My soul is as heavy as the weight of drops  
Kiss my forehead and open it  
Teach the world why, father!  
I go to study, my friends laugh  
Neighbors gossip behind me  
My heart is filled with countless questions  
What is patience, teach me, father!

People never stop slandering  
They will never turn back from the crooked path  
They never get rich by criticizing someone  
What is faith, father!  
I don't know what thoughts my heart desires  
If I stumble, they will stumble with me  
Gossip, sinner, neighbor - the rich  
There is no real wealth, father!  
Will I be satisfied if I pour out my pain?  
Or will people be better one day  
Will envy die in their hearts?  
If you don't die, hit the lust, father!  
May the purity of the heart come from you  
May the purity of the language shine from you  
May you be surprised by the sparkling eyes  
Open your heart, father!

Jumayeva Ozoda

# Govt Housing Project Transforms Urban Poor Population

By: Ekuwam Sylvester

@themtkenyentimes

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**Worth Noting:**

- In the second approach, the Housing Director indicated that the government seeks to lessen the cost of acquiring a house for civil servants, where it has taken the initiative of building houses for them through the housing levy fund and also making the acquisition process much simpler compared to other forms of ownership.
- “We are doing the four-category process, where we are building four typologies of houses: the studio, which is a modern single self-contained room, which will be sold at Sh 680,000, the 1-bedroom at Sh 1.5 million, the 2-bedrooms at Sh 1.980 million, and the 3-bedrooms at Sh2.880 million under the AHP,” added Chepsiror.



The government continues to implement various housing programmes across the country under the Affordable Housing Project (AHP), aimed at transforming the lives of urban poor populations who live in slums.

Speaking when he gave a report on the status of the projects during the National Government Development-County Implementation Coordination and Management Committee (NGD-CIMC) Meeting, the Uasin Gishu County Director for Housing and Urban Development, Edwin Chepsiror, said the housing project is one of the greatest pillars of the Kenya Kwanza government under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which seeks to uplift the socio-economic status of vulnerable communities by offering them a decent living environment.

He said the government intends to upgrade the living environment for the expanding population in slum areas by moving them from temporary to more permanent and decent houses.

“We want to establish permanent two-roomed houses for each person, and the acquisition is under the tenant budget purchase scheme. In other words, we want to transfer the people in slum areas to more decent houses, but then what

they are paying as rent can be used to acquire affordable houses,” said Chepsiror.

In the second approach, the Housing Director indicated that the government seeks to lessen the cost of acquiring a house for civil servants, where it has taken the initiative of building houses for them through the housing levy fund and also making the acquisition process much simpler compared to other forms of ownership.

“We are doing the four-category process, where we are building four typologies of houses: the studio, which is a modern single self-contained room, which will be sold at Sh 680,000, the 1-bedroom at Sh 1.5 million, the 2-bedrooms at Sh 1.980 million, and the 3-bedrooms at Sh2.880 million under the AHP,” added Chepsiror.

The Director urged the members of the public who may want to own a house under the housing project of the government to register at the Boma Yangu portal, choose the desirable housing plan, and pay the 10 per cent deposit and the balance through monthly installments up to 25 years.

The third housing plan, the Affordable Market-Based Housing Plan, will favour those who may want to buy hous-

es, but because they don’t qualify under the AHP, they will buy those houses at market-based prices, for example, the 3 bedrooms will be sold at Sh5.6 million.

Chepsiror also indicated that the housing project has positively impacted the lives of local communities in terms of employment opportunities for casual and skilled labourers working on sites.

Additionally, the project will spur economic growth in terms of enabling people to open up businesses to serve the demand of the increasing population in urban centres, where the project takes place, and also ensure there is planned tenancy in towns.

Meanwhile, two housing projects are currently on course in Uasin Gishu, one in Kidiwa Estate, which sits on 2.5 acres of land and where the government is constructing 220 housing units of various typologies.

The project, which began in October 2023, is at 17 per cent completion and is expected to be complete by September this year.

“We are looking forward to extending the Kidiwa site to 50 acres to accommodate up to 10,000 units by 2027,” he added.

The next project at Pioneer Estate, Kapseret sub-county, with the G plus 9

plan is a 9-storey building, which under the initial plan was expected to have 1508 units, but the president proposed it to be adjusted to the G plus 16 plan, or a 1-storey building to accommodate up to 2300 houses.

The project, which was started in January this year, is at 2 per cent completion and is expected to be completed in two years, up to March 2026.

“The projects are of great benefit to our people in terms of those working on site and those supplying construction materials. Currently, 315 casuals, including 51 artisans, work at the Kidiwa affordable housing project, and 700, including 100 artisans, are working at the pioneer site,” alluded Chepsiror.

The Housing Director further noted that they intend to construct at least 220 housing units in each constituency in Uasin Gishu and that they are currently in the process of identifying sites to ensure the project covers all the sub-counties to contain the population pressure that may arise due to rural-urban migration.

# BUSINESS

## How Optiven Foundation CEO Celebrated His Education And Social Achievements In Style

*More Than 5,000 Guests, From Different Walks Of Life, Drawn From All Corners Of The World Followed The Colourful Event, Either Physically Or Through The Modern Technology*

By: Our Correspondents

@themtkenyentimes

### Worth Noting:

- Dressed in Doctorate Academic gowns, Dr Wachiuri received a heroic welcome and a standing ovation from hundreds of those present.
- Dozens of entertainers led by various media personalities were at hand to guide the thrilling entertainers who were drawn from primary, secondary and religious organisations.
- The event, held at Dr Wachiuri's former primary school was graced by hundreds of his village neighbours, former colleagues at Primary, Secondary and university where he studied as well as business associates.
- The main objective of the special event that also attracted some politicians, clergymen and administrators was to celebrate a Honorary Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Philanthropy that was bestowed on him a few weeks ago.

It was pomp, song and dance at Labura Primary School in Kieni constituency of Nyeri County as one of their sons celebrated diverging milestones.

Dr. George Kariuki Wachiuri, the Chief Executive Officer of the country's leading and most efficient Real Estate dealer; Optiven had on Saturday invited all and sundry for a rare event; a thanks giving ceremony to celebrate his achievements.

The celebrations were a two-fold ceremony; his Academic achievements and Social undertaking, at his Labura village and other parts of the country.

Guests thronged the Labura primary school playground, a few metres from Nyeri-Nyahururu highway to witness the rare occasion.

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The main objective of the special event that also attracted some politicians, clergymen and administrators was to celebrate a Honorary Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Philanthropy that was bestowed on him a few weeks ago.

As part of his celebration, him, his family and several friends donated millions of shillings to different churches in the area as well as several learning institutions; starting with his former primary school.

Dr Wachiuri, a motivation speaker, author and mentor to hundreds of people said he set the day to thank God, celebrate, and inspire generations.

"Each interaction, each lesson, contributes to the realization that education truly is the key to unlocking countless opportunities and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. Today is an extraordinary day. This milestone represents years of hard work, learning, and growth,

and I'm incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement that has fueled my journey," he noted.

Through the Optiven Foundation, he revealed, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are supported through bursary and mentorship where so far, more than 600 youngsters from all parts of the country have benefited from the Optiven's philanthropy gesture.

The Foundation has also been supporting the People With Disabilities where more than 5,000 equipment to aid their mobility have been donated.

Optiven Foundation, he further noted has been in the forefront of addressing climate change through planting of trees.

On education, he called on leaders led by President Ruto to intervene saying many families, mostly in rural areas were unable to raise fees.

"Things are bad especially in the rural areas. We are calling on the government to intervene and save the situation," Dr Wachiuri said.

As he urged the government to consider making education affordable to all, he urged Kenyans to consider going back to where they started education and support those currently in school through formation of alumni groups.

This proposal was supported by his former colleagues at Chinga Boys High School where he studied his secondary education led by Alex Gathii, Tanalope Consultancy CEO who said, the best way forward of helping the disadvantaged was forming alumni groups.

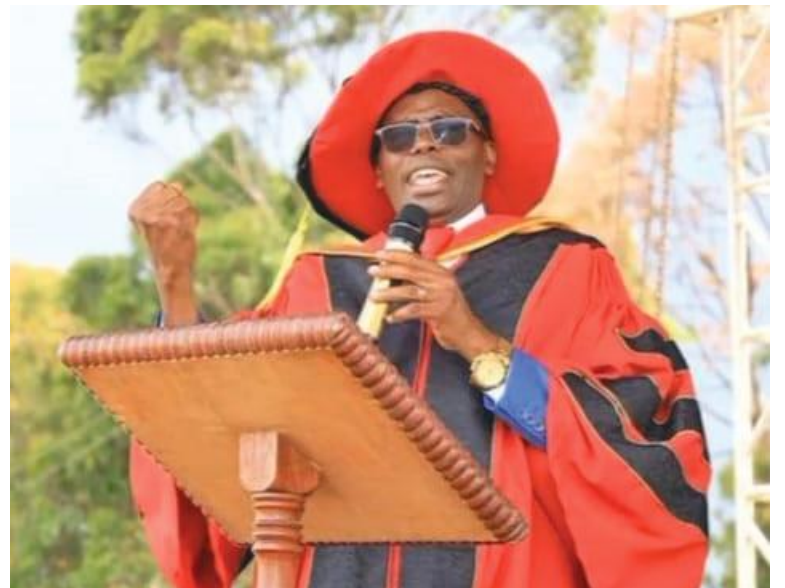
Gathii, a dairy expert also donated books worth Kshs.100,000 for the support of the local schools.

Several other guests present or following the event through Internet pledged and donated cash to Labura Primary and secondary schools.

On his part, Dr Wachiuri and his family donated cash to the schools as well as dozens of churches which have branches in the area.

At the end of the daylong event, the guests were provided with sumptuous meal.

They thanked Dr Wachiuri and his family for organising the rare event where the youngsters were motivated and inspired to take learning seriously.



Dr George Wachiuri addressing guests



Dr. George Wachiuri and his spouse join women in entertaining guests



Some of the guests who graced the event.



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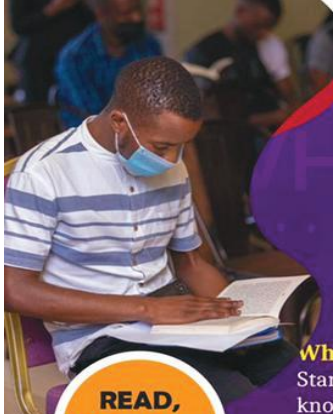


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**Venue :Green Park terminus**  
**Time:8am**

**“ UNITING FOR A STRONGER FUTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH!”**

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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**  
Ugx.100,000,  
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**All participants**  
Certificates of participation at each level.

**How to submit:**  
Send your typed review and photo to theelblazannualreadingcontes@gmail.com or WhatsApp +256 772 674 093.

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# Mr. President Where Did Your Electric Cars Go?



By: Tonny O. Blair  
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The effects of climate change, such as shifts in weather patterns, droughts, famines, and food shortages, continue to wreak havoc on communities around the world. We must take urgent action to address the issue of climate change before it's too late.
- As the world grapples with the climate change crisis, it is imperative that our leaders take a proactive stance in mitigating its impact. The reduction of emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels, particularly from vehicles, is a crucial step in ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all.
- While education and advocacy are important, they must be coupled with responsible action to prevent the unnecessary loss of life resulting from the climate change crisis.



President William Ruto driving the Autopax Air Yetu electric car from State House to KICC

On a memorable Sunday of September 3rd, 2023, the streets were buzzing with excitement as the presidential motorcade made its way through the city. The motorcade consisted of a perfect combination of two electric cars, motorbikes, and bicycles, with each vehicle bearing the number plate “Air Ev Yetu”.

It was a remarkable achievement for the president, who had been pushing for technological advancements and modernisation in favour of sustainable development. The president himself drove the lead car, and all eyes were on him as he progressed through the streets, waving to the crowds and acknowledging their cheers. The sight of the eco-friendly motorcade was a testament to the government’s commitment to sustainable development and the preservation of the environment. It was a day that would be remembered for years to come.

The issue of climate change is a

global crisis that cannot be ignored or dealt with in a business-as-usual manner. It is a problem that affects every sector and leads to economic degradation. Despite the efforts made by world leaders during the summit to address the issue, the situation on the ground remains dire.

The summit may have ended, but the pollution levels and the use of non-renewable energy sources continue unabated. The electric vehicles that were showcased during the summit were merely for display and were taken away for parking soon after. It begs the question, what has changed after the summit? Has the climate change crisis been solved for good? The answer is a resounding no.

The effects of climate change, such as shifts in weather patterns, droughts, famines, and food shortages, continue to wreak havoc on communities around the world. We must take urgent action to address the issue

of climate change before it’s too late.

As the world grapples with the climate change crisis, it is imperative that our leaders take a proactive stance in mitigating its impact. The reduction of emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels, particularly from vehicles, is a crucial step in ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all.

While education and advocacy are important, they must be coupled with responsible action to prevent the unnecessary loss of life resulting from the climate change crisis. Planting more trees is one of the most effective ways to combat climate change. Trees absorb CO2 from the atmosphere, acting as carbon sinks and reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the air. In addition, trees provide vital habitats for wildlife and help to prevent soil erosion.

As individuals, we can also do our part in reducing emissions. Using pub-

lic transportation, cycling or walking instead of driving, and carpooling are all excellent ways to reduce our carbon footprint. We can also make conscious choices to support companies that prioritize sustainability and environmentally-friendly practices. Ultimately, prevention is better than cure when it comes to climate change. It is up to all of us, including our leaders and policymakers, to take action now to create a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come.

Tonny O. Blair - Environmental Advocate & SDGs Champion.  
tonnyblairomondi908@gmail.com

# Political Heirs Are Eating Up Uganda’s Politics

By: Byamukama Richard Bard  
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Well, these have in most cases succeeded in garnering sympathy votes from the gullible voters because at this point, the chances of a worthy opponent with a clear manifesto and ideas winning are actually reduced to slim as the chosen persons do not have to campaign with substance but rather shed tears. Everyone, wherever you are, in your faith, should pray for the politics of Uganda
- The state of democracy in Ugandan political parties is completely in question. In cases of untimely death of politicians in Uganda, the political parties are no longer considering the due democratic process. Individuals are just handpicked based on sympathy.



Oyam North bye-election candidate Samuel Okello Engola.

It has now become a common practice in Uganda that when a politician dies. Someone from the deceased’s family is chosen to replace them. This started as a vice but has now evolved into a common culture in Uganda’s politics that whenever there is any untimely death of a politician at any level, a relative takes the first priority to politically succeed them which leaves a number of unanswered questions on whether it is the end of a beginning or the beginning of the end to political heirs in the succession politics of Uganda. Gone are the days when Uganda’s politics was by the people’s choices. It is now no longer a habit but rather a culture, that family now fronts their own relatives to the deceased politicians. This is especially the case in the event of death, and not a surprise that the replacements are tactically announced during funerals and even endorsed by the deceased’s respective political parties. Are we sane? Why has the politics of our country Uganda been reduced to this extent of kinship? Well, these have in most cases suc-

ceeded in garnering sympathy votes from the gullible voters because at this point, the chances of a worthy opponent with a clear manifesto and ideas winning are actually reduced to slim as the chosen persons do not have to campaign with substance but rather shed tears. Everyone, wherever you are, in your faith, should pray for the politics of Uganda. The state of democracy in Ugandan political parties is completely in question. In cases of untimely death of politicians in Uganda, the political parties are no longer considering the due democratic process. Individuals are just handpicked based on sympathy. This has been evident on several occasions for example during the Oyam North bye-election where Samuel Okello Engola was just handpicked by the National Resistance Movement to replace his father Retired Colonel Charles Okello Engola who was in May 2023 shot dead by his body guard Private Wilson Sibiiti etc. This year, the Dokolo district woman MP seat fall vacant after the sudden death of Hon Cecilia Ogwal, and the FDC party has this

week handpicked Rosemary Alwoc Ogwal a daughter to the fallen former Dokolo district woman MP. From Milton Obote to Miria Kalule Obote, to Olara Otunou, to Jimmy Akena Obote, the UPC (Uganda’s oldest political party) is a good example of political heirs in succession politics and no wonder, the successors can no longer hold the party together like Obote did with several disgruntled member for example Joseph Ochieno. Every concerned right thinking Ugandan, the donor community, the civil society among others should take a key role in re-directing the democracy of Uganda. It is quite bad that the administration of the country has been reduced to kinship and this is most likely to create a feeling of self-entitled amongst deceased politicians families or even ethnic communities. More so, it does not reflect the real ideals of a democratic society. Families and kinsmen/kinships should own no stake in the administration of the state. The practice despises the democratic levels of Uganda, which should be a worry

of everybody. Political heirs have been a trend over the recent past for each and every bye-election in Constituencies and Local Governments in Uganda including the replacement of former Ugandan speaker Rt Hon Jacob Oulanyah in Omoro County in Acholi sub region. This leaves serious concerns on whether it is the end of a beginning or the beginning of the end to the delight democratic values of political parties, and Uganda’s democracy. Byamukama Richard Bard is a lawyer and also a student of security and strategic studies. byamukamarichardbard@gmail.com

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**233** Group Matches  
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**4** Quarter Final Matches  
**2** Semi Final Matches



**1** 3rd Place Play off Match  
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- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots ✓
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- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls ✓



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# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> \*Declan Rice scored on his return to West Ham as Arsenal smashed David Moyes' men 6-0 in a statement of intent in the Premier League title race yesterday.

## Rice Scores On Return As Arsenal Hit West Ham For Six



Arsenal's Declan Rice (L) reacts after scoring their sixth goal during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Arsenal at the London Stadium, in London on February 11, 2024. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP).

By Agencies

Declan Rice scored on his return to West Ham as Arsenal smashed David Moyes' men 6-0 in a statement of intent in the Premier League title race yesterday. Bukayo Saka struck twice, while Leandro Trossard and centre-backs William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes were also on target in a ruthless display from Mikel Arteta's men as they set a new club record for a Premier League away win. Victory takes the Gunners back to within two points of Premier League leaders Liverpool and behind Manchester City only on goals scored. The wheels of Arsenal's challenge for a first league title in 20 years appeared to be coming off when they lost at home to the Hammers amid a run of one win in seven games either side of the

new year. However, they have bounced back emphatically since a two-week winter break to lay down the gauntlet to perennial title challengers City and Liverpool at the top of the table. West Ham had beaten the Gunners twice this season, also dumping them out of the League Cup in November. But they were outclassed to up the scrutiny on Moyes, who is out of contract at the end of the season. Arsenal's title challenge last season began to wobble when they blew a 2-0 lead at the London Stadium last season. This time there was never any doubt of the outcome once Saliba headed home Rice's corner to open the floodgates on 32 minutes. Saka missed a penalty in that draw last April, but made no mis-

take from the spot after he had been brought down by Alphonse Areola. Rice led West Ham to Europa Conference League glory in his final game for the club before moving to north London for a fee in excess of £100 million. The England international was given a clear demonstration of why he had to make the move to fulfil his ambition of more silverware as another wicked Rice delivery was nodded in by Gabriel. Trossard pilled on the West Ham pain in first-half stoppage time as he cut inside to fire brilliantly into the top corner. That goal was the trigger for many of the home support to leave for the afternoon as the second half was played out in front of vast swathes of empty seats. Moyes made two changes at half-time to try and stop the

bleeding as Calvin Phillips and former Arsenal defender Konstantinos Mavropanos were introduced. By the visitors cut loose again with two goals in two minutes just after the hour mark. Saka's first had been his 50th Arsenal goal and he cut inside to fire home in trademark fashion on his left foot. Rice then rubbed salt in West Ham wounds with a stunning finish into the top corner from outside the box. The 25-year-old refused to celebrate out of respect for his former teammates and supporters. But after Arsenal were criticised by some members of the media for going overboard in their celebrations of a 3-1 win over Liverpool last weekend, there was even more for Arteta and his players to get excited about.

**Sports >>>** \*Iran's football federation said Saturday it has asked world football's governing body, FIFA, to suspend Israel's football federation over the country's war in Gaza.

# Iran Asks FIFA To Ban Israel Over War In Gaza



Iran joins Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates in calling for a ban on Israel [Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images].

Iran's football federation said Saturday it has asked world football's governing body, FIFA, to suspend Israel's football federation over the country's war in Gaza. In an announcement posted on the Iranian football federation's website, Iran asked FIFA to "completely suspend" the Israeli federation "from all activities related to football". The request also asks for "immediate and serious measures" by FIFA and its member associations "to prevent the continuation" of the Israeli "crimes and provide food, drinking water, medicinal

and medical supplies to innocent people and civilians". The war in Gaza began on October 7 with an unprecedented attack by Hamas militants against Israel. It resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. In response, Israel vowed to eradicate Hamas. It launched air strikes and a ground offensive that have killed at least 27,947 people, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. Iran has hailed Hamas's October

7 attack as a "success" but has denied any direct involvement. The Islamic Republic does not recognise Israel, its sworn enemy, and prohibits all contact between Iranian and Israeli athletes. The Iranian authorities last August gave a lifetime ban to Mostafa Rajaei, a weightlifter after he shook hands with an Israeli competitor at an event in Poland, state media reported at the time. The Iranian weightlifting federation also dismissed the head of the delegation for the competition, Hamid Salehinia. In 2021, Iran's supreme leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged athletes "not to shake hands with a representative of the (Israeli) criminal regime to obtain a medal". A group of Middle Eastern football associations, including Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, have also "asked world football chiefs to ban Israel over the war on Hamas in Gaza," Sky News reported on Thursday.

AFP

## SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





# The Government Should Involve The Youth In Addressing Climate Change Impacts

By: Stephen Ahereza  
@themtkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- It's important to note that diverse impacts of climate change greatly impact marginalized women, girls and youth. This is according to UN women reports. However their voices are not heard and recognized.
- In my view, I implore the government through its ministries, the ministry of energy, ministry of education to mention but a few to devise means and solutions on how to get the youth from grassroots to engage in climate change decision making processes in protecting and conserving nature from climate catastrophes.
- This can be done through introduction of environmental courses in institutions at all levels, organizing environmental campaigns through youth's leaders.



Climate Change.

The youth constitute the majority of population in many countries and have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness which has the power to transform our societies towards a low carbon and climate resilient future.

It is very important to shape an object in its initial stages, in the same case, it is very crucial and important to teach children environmental and climate issues at a tender age. This enables them to grow with the environmental discipline which limits the environmental stress. Communities face challenges of clean water, poor sanitation, food insecurity and many families in rural areas are struggling to make ends meet without social protection and all this due to climatic changes.

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women reports. However their voices are not heard and recognized.

In my view, I implore the government through its ministries, the ministry of energy, ministry of education to mention but a few to devise means and solutions on how to get the youth from grassroots to engage in climate change decision making processes in protecting and conserving nature from climate catastrophes. This can be done through introduction of environmental courses in institutions at all levels, organizing environmental campaigns through youth's leaders.

It's clear that this may help in enhancing the capabilities of the youth to become more effective stakeholders and be able to express their unique concerns to a wider audience, capacity building trainings for skill development, provide and create awareness to environmental funding opportunities generated specifically to the youth because it has been

found out that these opportunities when they come up, they are grabbed by the old people already in the system for their personal benefits.

The government leaders should come on ground and follow keenly to these programs to ensure their proper implementations to reduce on corruption and embezzlement of funds. More so, the government should focus on creating more green jobs. These jobs will give youth an outlet to contribute directly to the fight against climate change by adopting green behaviors in their workplaces as well as in their private lives hence increasing on climate adaptation solutions.

There is also need to equip the youths with the knowledge and skills they need to actively participate in global climate negotiations and contribute to a meaningful climate action both in their communities and countries at large especially

at this critical moments.

In a nutshell, according to the latest survey which focused on the G-20 countries found out that under 18's had greater support than adults for bold climate policies to reduce emissions such as conservation of forests and land rolling out solar, wind and renewable power and using climate friendly farming techniques. This implores everyone to leverage the immense knowledge, creativity and energy of young people to design and implement the climate solutions that the world needs now.

For God and my Country  
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