



Preparations Upbeat For Pastor Benny Hinn Mega Crusade, February 2024.

The Steering Committee of the Pastor Benny Hinn Mega Crusade on February 24th and 25th, 2024, at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi, has announced that it's putting up the necessary touches to welcome and host the International Evangelist.

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News>>Hope For South Ngariama Residents As Government Finally Kicks Off Land Titling Process

P. 8. Thousands of residents in the disputed 17,000-acre South Ngariama ranch in Mwea East Sub-County of Kirinyaga are set to be issued with Title Deeds



News>>AG Appears Before The Justice And Legal Affairs Committee, Supports Autonomy Of His Office

P. 12. The Attorney General (AG), Justin Muturi has supported a proposal on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill, 2023; that seeks to amend his office's Act, 2012.

PSC Hands Over Report On Forged Academic Certificates

Public Service Commission (PSC), yesterday handed over the Report on Forged Academic Certificates to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), to take legal action against individuals, who used fake certificates to join public service.

Handing over the report to the two institutions at the Commission House, in Nairobi, the chairperson of PSC Amb. Anthony Muchiri, said falsification of academic certificates has far-reaching implications on service delivery by public institutions, the country's education system and economic development.



PSC chairman handing over the report to EACC and DCI bosses

STORY ON PAGE 9

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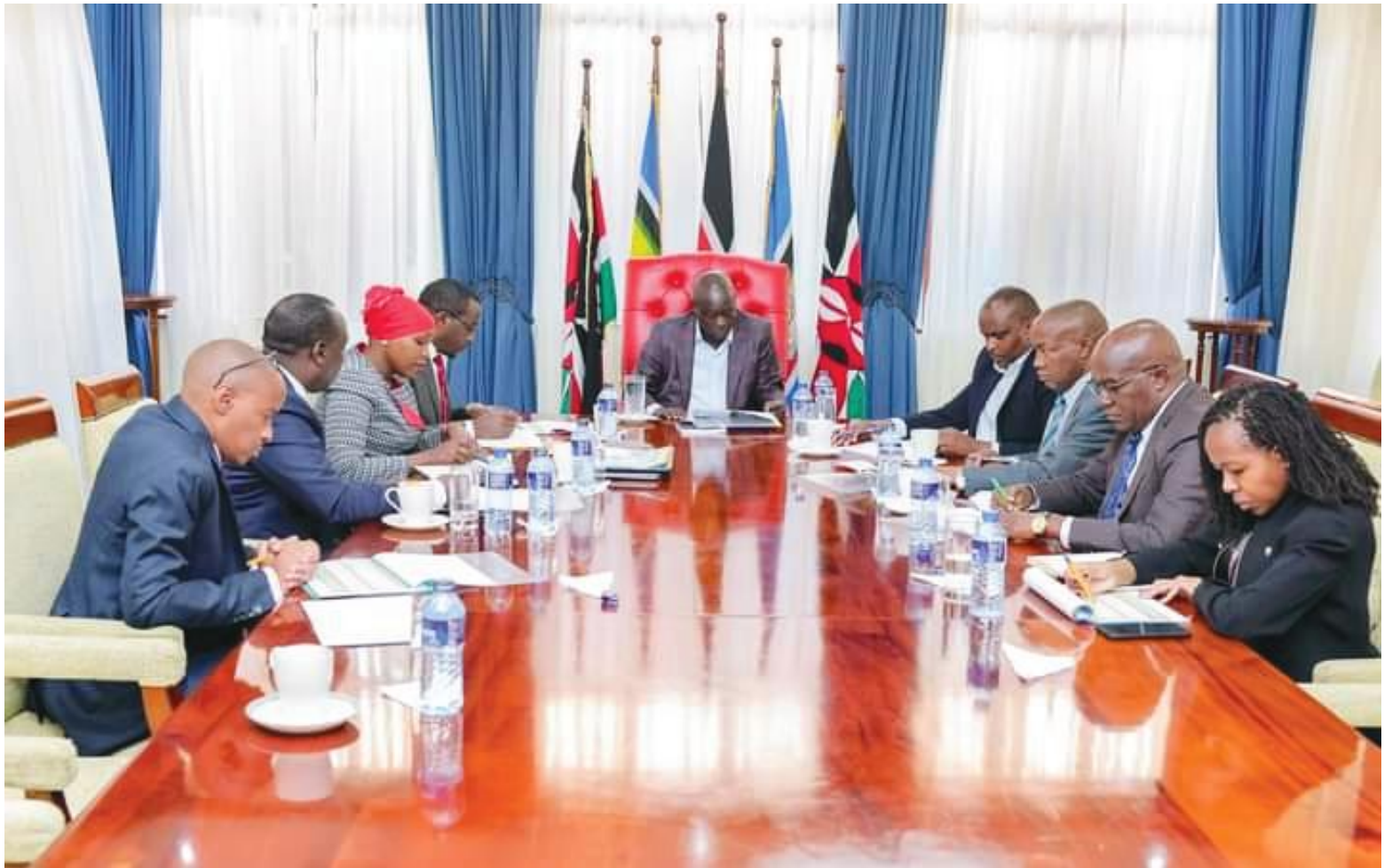


DP Asks KTDA To Pay Farmers As Per Dollar Exchange Rates

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “Farmers have been concerned that they are not receiving better earnings despite the dollar fetching a higher exchange rate. I have consulted and we have agreed that KTDA will ensure the farmers receive what is commensurate with the higher exchange rate,” the DP added.
- Last Saturday while in Kigumo, Murang’a County, the Deputy President promised to meet the officials yesterday saying the issues raised were critical.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in a meeting with KTDA officials at his Karen office yesterday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) to negotiate for the best rates for their US dollar earnings and ensure farmers receive benefits commensurate with the higher exchange rates.

The Deputy President met senior KTDA officials at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi yesterday, following complaints by farmers who requested for his intervention on their pay.

“We have agreed that KTDA will negotiate for the best rates for the dollar earnings from the sale of the tea and make sure the benefits trickle down to the farmer,” said the DP.

He said he had called for the consultative meeting with the officials following concerns raised by farmers.

“Farmers have been concerned that they are not receiving better earnings despite the dollar fetching a higher exchange rate. I have consulted and we have agreed that KTDA will ensure the farmers receive what is commensurate with the higher exchange rate,” the DP added.

Last Saturday while in Kigumo, Murang’a County, the Deputy President promised to meet the officials yesterday saying the issues raised were critical.

Mr Gachagua was addressing concerns by Gatanga MP Edward Muriu, who said

income of tea farmers had dipped despite the high exchange rate of the dollar.

Mr Gachagua also said the government was working hard to expand the foreign market for Kenyan tea because of its global appeal.

“We must make sure we continue to market our tea. We must expand the existing markets, explore the prospective ones and look into new markets. The objective is to improve what our farmers earn,” he said.

The DP also said the government was working closely with KTDA on distribution of cheaper fertiliser in a bid to reduce the cost of production.

Present were KTDA National Chairman Enos Njeru, Solomon Maina (Chairman KTDA Management Services), Wilson Muthaura (Chief Executive Officer), Simeon Rugutt (Group Finance and Strategy Director), Dorcas Mohammed (Finance Director, Management Services) and Mose Maganya (Board Member).

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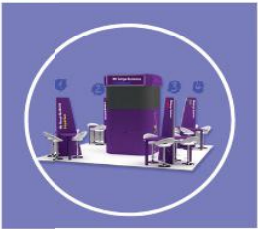
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Gichugu MP Githinji Gichimu has announced that all 57 public primary schools in his constituency will undergo renovations to modern standards through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF). The facelift will involve fixing metallic doors, window-panes, plastering floors, fencing, renovating toilets and kitchens, and roofing. The MP aims to motivate learners and parents to prefer public schools over private ones, reversing the trend of transferring pupils to private schools due to poor infrastructural development. The focus will shift to day secondary schools once all institutions meet acceptable standards.



The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) held a training for media practitioners and trainers in Kisii County to prepare for World Radio Day national celebrations. MCK Media Training and Development Director Victor Bwire emphasised the importance of development journalism, covering human interest stories that provide solutions to everyday problems. He called for factual reporting, using simple language, and removing personal bias to maintain accountability and clarity. MCK Assistant Director Christine Nguku encouraged reporters to use factual, in-depth data and produce positive stories that give hope. She urged the media to pay special attention to the young people, who are greatly affected by decisions made by those in power. Creative thinking is also important for journalists, as it encourages them to produce unique stories focusing on youth, gender balance, and ordinary people in society. MCK Press Freedom, Safety, and Advocacy Manager Dinnah Ondari urged journalists to learn about rights and privileges, avoid misreporting, and protect privacy. MCK Research, Planning, and Strategy Officer Jacob Nyongesa advised media practitioners to fact-check online content and access local and national events, seminars, and rallies.

The government has emphasized the urgent need to address critical healthcare challenges through innovative solutions and collaborative efforts.

Speaking during the opening of the 14th Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Annual Scientific and Health (KASH) Conference in Nairobi Tuesday, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Susan Nakhumicha, highlighted the imperative to translate research outcomes into tangible health products to benefit communities effectively.

Under the conference theme, “Harnessing Biomedical Research Innovations and Big Data for Health System Resilience, Local Manufacturing and Commercialization,” the conference marks a significant milestone in advancing healthcare innovation and research across the region, and focuses on regional biopharmaceutical and medtech innovation, echoing the CS call to action.

Celebrating KEMRI’s achievements, Health CS lauded Kemri’s recognition as Kenya’s premier health research institution and its global impact through groundbreaking studies.

Notably, the recommendation by the World Health Organization for the use of the RTS, S/AS01 malaria vaccine underscores KEMRI’s commitment to excellence in research and its contribution to combating pressing health challenges.



Mama Ngina Gardens Recreational Park in Thika has been re-launched through the County Leisure Parks’ Beautification and Transformation Programme. This is to provide residents with recreational spaces and parks that ensure safe congregation while enjoying nature and fresh air in relaxed environments. The project was in response to the increasing stress levels due to economic, work, and societal pressures. Governor Kimani Wamatangi called upon residents to patronise the park with their families to reduce stress levels and enjoy the fresh air and nature. The park has been transformed into a modern botanical garden, benefiting both locals and visitors from other countries. The park also encourages local artists, musicians, and food vendors to take advantage of the lucrative opportunity to showcase their services and wares to the community. The partnership between Thika Water and Sewerage Company (THIWASCO) and the County Government has made water availability at the park a priority, with a water tank with a 244,000-litre capacity to ensure proper hygiene in washroom areas. The project aligns with plans to elevate Thika town into a smart industrial city, which would attract one billion shillings annually for infrastructure development.



Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Wallace Ng’ang’a and Rev. Fr Dr. Simon Peter Kamomoe as Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Nairobi. This announcement was made yesterday by Archbishop Hubertus Van Megen, the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan during the 1 pm Mass celebration at the Holy Family Minor Basilica in Nairobi.



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Government Defends Move To Send Nurses Abroad

By: Antony Gitonga
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The PS downplayed concerns by the Council of Governors (COG) Health Committee Chairperson Muthomi Njuki that the move could affect the country's health sector leading to understaffing in hospitals.
- She noted that last year, the Kenya Medical and Training College (KMTTC) produced over 22,000 medics into the job market which was way above the country's need.
- "We have thousands of trained nurses who are unemployed in the country and we should not deny them a chance to work abroad," she said.



Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni



Governor Muthomi Njuki

above the country's need.

"We have thousands of trained nurses who are unemployed in the country and we should not deny them a chance to work abroad," she said.

Muthoni attributed the impasse to lack of information adding that the ministry would supply the Council of Governors with the latest data.

The PS was addressing the press in Lake Naivasha Resort after meeting stakeholders who are involved in the development of the Quality Health Bill of 2024.

She said that the bill would be looking at the current status of health care in the country with focus on infrastructure, operating systems and human resources.

According to her, the bill which was supposed to come into law in three months would see all public health centers inspected to review their status.

"We have done a survey on the status of public health and we are now targeting the qualitative issues so that we can be in line with the Social Health Act," she said.

Muthoni admitted that the country's health care had challenges like dilapidated infrastructure and experts working in the wrong departments noting that this would be addressed by the bill.

"We are working with development partners and stakeholders in formulating this bill which will be a game-changer in the health sector," she said.

The Ministry of Health has defended the Government's move to send over 2,500 trained nurses abroad, saying that the country has excess medical practitioners to address health matters locally.

Defending the move, Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni said that the country is producing adequate healthcare workers every year to meet the rising market demand.

The PS downplayed concerns by the Council of Governors (COG) Health Committee Chairperson Muthomi Njuki that the move could affect the country's health sector leading to understaffing in hospitals.

She noted that last year, the Kenya Medical and Training College (KMTTC) produced over 22,000 medics into the job market which was way

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Hope For South Ngariama Residents As Government Finally Kicks Off Land Titling Process

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Assistant Director for Adjudication and Settlement in the Ministry of Lands, Ezekiel Kiania said after declaration of the area as an adjudication section, the team will undertake a recognizance survey which will involve data collection on existing facilities like hospital, wetlands, riparian, schools among others.
- He said that over 40 land Surveyors drawn from ministry of Lands headquarters and from the neighbouring counties will be on the ground to offer technical support to the process.
- Kiania said during the exercise, all land owners are required to be present on their parcel of land with documents to prove ownership.



Thousands of residents in the disputed 17,000-acre South Ngariama ranch in Mwea East Sub-County of Kirinyaga are set to be issued with Title Deeds after the Ministry of Lands kicked off the adjudication process.

The long-awaited exercise has started off with national and county government mobilizing dozens of surveyors to undertake the exercise.

The exercise was initiated with the surveyors backed by a contingent of police moving round to determining external boundaries of the settlement scheme.

This will pave way for the declaration of the area as an adjudication section before the start of internal boundaries identification.

The commencement of the adjudication exercise follows a court order issued by Justice John Mutungi sitting at Kerugoya Environment and Lands Court directing the ministry to resolve the disputes that has rocked the area for over three decades.

Assistant Director for Adjudication and Settlement in the Ministry of Lands, Ezekiel Kiania said after declaration of the area as an adjudication section, the team will undertake a recognizance survey which will involve data collection on existing facilities like hospital, wetlands, riparian, schools among others.

He said that over 40 land Surveyors

drawn from ministry of Lands headquarters and from the neighbouring counties will be on the ground to offer technical support to the process.

Kiania said during the exercise, all land owners are required to be present on their parcel of land with documents to prove ownership.

The exercise has renewed hope for about 8,000 residents who have been waiting for the Title Deeds for decades.

Kiania called on residents to support the initiative, pledging to oversee the process in a fair and transparent manner.

“Our duty here is to ensure that the rightful owners get their Title Deeds, and to amicably resolve any arising issue, we urge for peace and patience as we seek a solution to this problem,” he said.

The CECM for Lands, Rev. Kanjobe who represented Governor Waiguru in the public participation forum urged residents to cooperate and ensure the process was successfully concluded adding that there was political goodwill to have the residents get their land ownership documents.

During a recent visit to the area, Waiguru said the adjudication and issuance of title deeds had been delayed by endless disputes over ownership.

“As you can recall, we had started

the adjudication process but were stopped due to political interference. We are hoping that the process will be concluded and no one loses their parcel of land to middlemen and brokers,” said Waiguru.

She underscored the issuance of Title Deeds in South Ngariama as one of the priority objectives for her current tenure.

“We are resolute in our mission to secure Title Deeds for the rightful 8,200 families and reclaim unlawfully appropriated public land. We will spare no effort in achieving this goal,” she said.

The governor further said that the county government has no other interest than to ensure that the land matter was permanently settled.

South Ngariama residents hailed the County Government for keeping the pledge to solve the long-standing issue.

Nancy Wanjiku expressed the community’s collective relief as the adjudication process commenced. She emphasized that having ownership documents will save the community from disputes within the land that at times escalated to violence or fatalities.

“In the past, the spectre of violence loomed large, disrupting our children’s education and robbing us of peace. With the government initiating

this crucial process, there’s newfound hope that this longstanding conflict will be laid to rest,” she remarked.”

Murimi Muciri, a resident in the area, expressed profound satisfaction as the adjudication process commenced, affirming that many in the community now felt a sense of relief. “With the titling process underway, the once prevalent unrest in our region has significantly diminished, instilling hope among residents that rightful land ownership will be restored. We are grateful for the concerted efforts of both county and national governments in addressing this long-neglected issue,” he remarked.

Another resident, James Njagi, urged fellow South Ngariama inhabitants to exercise patience and cooperate with adjudication officers.

“We are pleased that our voices have finally been heard and acted upon. It’s been a prolonged struggle, and I implore on my neighbors to allow the officers to carry out their duties diligently to ensure equitable land distribution. This collaborative approach is crucial for a swift and successful resolution,” he emphasized.

With the process finally underway, there is renewed hope for peace and justice among residents who have endured uncertainty and conflict over land ownership.

PSC Hands Over Report On Forged Academic Certificates

The Fake Certificates Submitted Were Disowned By The Alleged Issuing Learning Institutions And Alleged Candidates Confirmed As Not Ever Registered In The Institutions Alleged To Have Issued Them

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Amb. Muchiri said the exercise carried out by the Commission to verify academic and professional certificates of employees in the public service, has revealed that forged certificates have been used for the award of appointments, promotions and re-designation in public service.
- He noted that most MDAs with verified cases of forged or fraudulently obtained certificates have instituted disciplinary action, including termination of service for the affected officers, while in others there has been notable inaction without valid reasons.
- "Some public institution have allowed the offenders to resign or proceed on early retirement against section 78 of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017, which stipulates that the Commission or any other appointing authority, should not allow exits from the Public Service," he stressed.



The Chairman, Public Service Commission, Ambassador Anthony Muchiri (2nd right), delivers keynote address at the Public Service Commission Office, Nairobi, during a media briefing on the Status of Authentication of academic and Professional Certificates in the Public Service yesterday. He is flanked by Twalib Mbarak, the Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (left), Mohamed Amin, the Director, Directorate of Criminal Investigations (2nd left) and Dr. David Oginde, Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Photos by Boniface Malinda.

Public Service Commission (PSC), yesterday handed over the Report on Forged Academic Certificates to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), to take legal action against individuals, who used fake certificates to join public service.

Handing over the report to the two institutions at the Commission House, in Nairobi, the chairperson of PSC Amb. Anthony Muchiri, said falsification of academic certificates has far-reaching implications on service delivery by public institutions, the country's education system and economic development.

"It also affects the global competitiveness of our graduates at a time when the government is reaching out to various countries, with a view to exporting labour," said Amb. Muchiri, assuring the public that PSC, will not relent until the issue is wiped from the society.

He announced that the Commission has provided guidance to the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on initial disciplinary action, that should be taken against culpable employees, which includes dismissal from the service.

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He noted that most MDAs with verified cases of forged or fraudulently obtained certificates have instituted disciplinary action, including termination of service for the affected officers, while in others there has been notable inaction without valid reasons.

"Some public institution have allowed the offenders to resign or proceed on early retirement against section 78 of the Public Service Commission Act, 2017, which stipulates that the Commission or any other appointing authority, should not allow exits from the Public Service," he stressed.

The Act and Regulation 69 of Public Service Commission Regulations, 2020, prohibits exit on account of fraud, when it is aimed at avoiding anticipated disciplinary case and when the culprit is avoiding outstanding liabilities, owed by the officer to the public body.

He said out of the 53,599 cases of the forged certificates referred to Kenya National Examinations Council by 91 institutions for authentication, 1,280 were verified as forged, but clarified that the verification is still ongoing and expects the number to increase.

"A total of 195 MDAs including universities and other tertiary institutions have finalized authenticating certificates for 29,314 out of which 787 officers have been verified to have used forged certificates to procure appointment, promotion or re-designation in the public service," added Amb. Muchiri.

He said the report also revealed that most common types of forgeries on the academic certificates involved alteration of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) mean grades, the alleged candidates of forged KCSE certificates did not sit for the exams, but produced the certificate required for appointment.

Others factors were the certificate number of the submitted certificate did not belong to the alleged owner, the certificate had fake names, as the culprit's name is different from the real owner of the produced certificates, forgery on Bachelor's Degree certificates Second Division Lower were altered to reflect Second Division Upper, it was also established that alleged candidates have never sat the alleged examination or registered as candidates.

"The fake certificates submitted were disowned by the alleged issuing learning institutions and alleged candidates confirmed as not ever registered in the institutions alleged to have issued certificates," revealed Amb. Muchiri.

He said a total of 331 institutions are targeted for the exercise namely 52 in all the Ministries, State Departments and Agencies, 239 in all State Corporations and Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies and all 40 public universities.

The Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Mohamed Amin, said the hiring of unqualified employees can have significant negative effects

in organizations across various aspects of their operations, thus exposing the country into economic insecurity.

"We in DCI will play our part diligently in accordance with the law and take appropriate action against all the culprits," he assured, and urged for cooperation from MDAs involved to enable his office expedite the investigations.

Amin said in the year 2023 the Office of DCI managed to investigate a total of 23 cases of alleged forgery of academic and professional certificates and those of unqualified person masquerading as professionals.

"This is a clear indication that the problem is rampant and it is the high time that all organizations took cue from what the Public Service Commission has done and act on employees with bogus academic and professional certificates," he urged.

The Director, however, noted that the war cannot be won by one agency, and urged all institutions to join hands in order to arrest the menace and meritocracy in the recruitment and promotions of employees.

The Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer of Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Twalib Mbarak, said those found culpable of forging certificates, will be deemed as criminals and the government will recover what they were paid as salary.

"We request Members of Parliament to amend laws, to enable the country expedite forgery of certificate cases quickly," he urged.

Dr. David Oginde, Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, said Education system is the most powerful tool that can be used to develop a nation, a need that requires the country to preserve the integrity of the education system.

PSC, in pursuant to provisions of Article 234 of the Constitution, embarked on the exercise of verifying academic and professional certificates of employees in the Public in October 2022 in an exercise that involved the participation of all public institutions, all public and private universities and tertiary institutions and the Kenya National Examination Council.

During the exercise, the Commission directed all Authorized officers in public institutions to undertake an audit of academic and professional certificates of all officers employed in the last 10 years and to continuously validate academic and professional certificates, prior to any appointment or promotion.

Who Is Jesus?



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We cannot escape hearing about Him all over the world, everywhere you go, every you hear or see, you are confronted by Him!

We know, He existed, was fully man; but He never committed a sin, he was tempted and He overcame all. He was more than that. He claimed to be the unique, only begotten son of God. He proclaimed preexistence: He Himself said "Before Abraham, I AM" No wonder they rejected him, no wonder they stoned him, no wonder they eventually killed/ crucified: HE CLAIMED TO BE GOD.

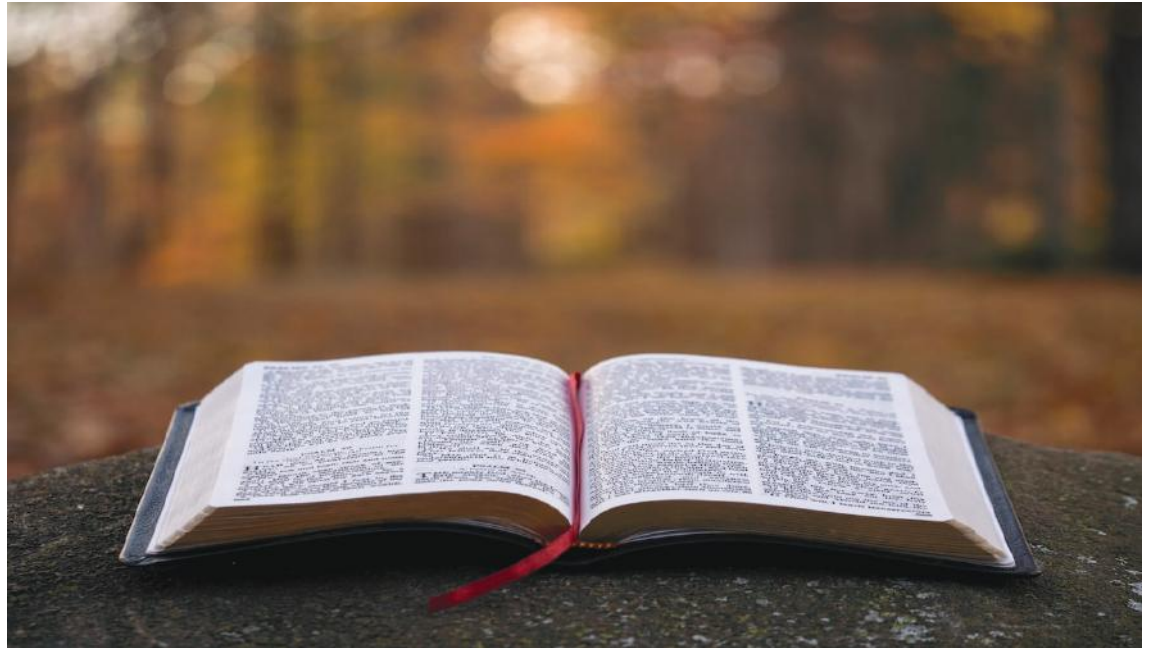
Note that, His birth was not His beginning of existence, but rather it was the beginning of His incarnation, He always existed. He was GOD IN THE FLESH! No one has ever spoken like him!.. For instance, He said, "forgive seventy times seven(70 x7)." I discussed with my beloved wife Rebecca the other day, and we con-

cluded, "The secret of success in marriage is having TWO GREAT FORGIVERS". Jesus indeed lifted man standards to the highest plains, and demanded we live by those high standards.

The Psalmist David, once said, "in sin did my mother conceive me." Jesus said, "From a man's heart flows envy, wickedness...all forms of evil..." Nature obeys Him; He calmed the sea. He had power over nature. He had authority over disease, he made blind to see, he made deaf hear. He had authority over demons, and those who encountered Him, were delivered.

Look at his death. Has anyone died and it became night at midday? earthquake, the dead rising? Shameful death, ridiculed, flogged, despised, and through this, legions of angels had already drawn their sword in readiness to avenge Him and annihilate His persecutors; but he said, "NO, to this end did I come."

Jesus belong to Africa, as much as he belonged to Asia, Europe. Never say: he is a white man or black religion, He belongs to the world. On the cross he said: "please forgive them Father, for they know not what they are doing!" At the cross, he said "it is FINISHED." When Jesus; God



looks at you, He looks at you as THE ONLY PERSON in the world. He was buried, and in the third day HE RESSURRECTED, HE LIVETH. If you do NOT have the RESSURRECTION, it is in vain.

When you receive Christ, the world is going one way, but you stop and turn, and go against the tide! It is difficult, you always ought to be in your knees, and in the word, and always have your guard on!

The peace that surpasses all human

understanding He gives, the joy, transformation, fulfilment, healing, plus much more are a TESTAMENT THAT HE IS INDEED WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, GOD HIMSELF INCARNATE, THE MESSIAH, THE LIVING WATER, THE EVERLASTING KING, THE GREAT "I AM", OUR GOD.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, re-

ceive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM.

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Kenya Breweries Scales Up New Tech Platform To Drive Access To Quality Products

By: Christine Muchira

Kenya Breweries Limited (KBL) is scaling up the rollout of a new technology platform to enable retailers to place orders online, ensuring they make timely orders for products they need from their distributors.

The platform, dubbed Diageo One, has been on trial for the last year and has now been scaled wider for more distributors and retailers across the country to use to order stock.

The new option will ensure retailers order their stocks on time and get quality products from the alcoholic beverages maker.

Speaking at the customer launch, KBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti said the platform is a powerful solution that will streamline and expedite transactions between distributors and downstream trade partners such as bars, cash-and-carry shops, and other retailers.

Ocitti said: “From what we have

seen in the trial stage, Diageo One will revolutionise the way we engage with our trade partners – distributors and retailers – at the point of purchase. Specifically, this new digital platform will help retailers make informed purchase decisions by keeping themselves up to date on distributor inventory, product promotions, brand campaigns and more. Simply put, putting the power of seamless trade in their hands.”

He added: “Even as the times change, our success depends on effectively reaching our consumers with the right products. We operate with the primary focus of being our customers’ most preferred partner and creating the most efficient customer experience and in the digital age, there is nothing more powerful than putting the power in their hands to place orders instantly.”

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a dramatic and lasting shift within the consumer goods industry leading to technology upgrades and digital innovations and moving power from brands to consumers and driving emphasis on their experience.



These shifts are further driven by access to mobile and internet services among Kenyans shifting their purchases online. This is helping companies such as KBL to leverage data and analytics for better precision and innovation, tailored to consumers’ changing tastes and preferences.

EABL Commercial Director Joel Kamau said the platform will work for distributors the same way as The

Bar (ke.thebar.com), a digital-based platform that is revolutionising the way consumers order for drinks.

Said Kamau: “One of the greatest advantages of the rapid advances in technology over the last two decades is the power it puts in the hands of the consumers. Our trade partners now have this platform on their palms and can order quality drinks from KBL via our distributors and serve

their customers on time and in full. We want to bring the benefits of advanced technology right through our route to market.”

KBL revenues grew 10 percent in the half-year to December 31, 2023, with evolving digital transformation driving sales expansion, as consumers explore spaces and occasions to connect and enjoy across price tiers.

Kirinyaga County Assembly Condemn Kangai Deadly Brew

By: David Wandeto
@themtkenyetimes

Kirinyaga County Assembly has expressed concern over illicit brews in the county, citing Kangai Village poisonous brew that left 23 people dead and five with visual impairment.

The County Assembly led by Speaker, Muteti Murimi, said the unfortunate incident stresses the urgency with which the county needs to address alcohol related issues, within the county.

In a press statement, the Speaker while extending heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and wishing quick recovery to those still in hospital said, “regrettably the incident has occurred when the County Assembly is in the advanced stages of enacting the Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill 2023.”

“Whereas the Legislation focuses on comprehensive measures to address the production, distribution, sale and consumption of alcohol, we propose the implementation of programs to support individuals struggling with alcohol dependency, promoting treatment and rehabilitation,” said the Speaker

He indicated that the Assembly is collaborating with the law enforcement agencies, County Health Department and community leaders from Kangai Ward, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

“We are committed to understanding the root causes and implementing the necessary measures, to prevent such tragedies in the future,” he said.

The Speaker added that Kirinyaga County Assembly, will double efforts to promote responsible drinking habits and will work closely with the law enforcement agencies and support them, as they enforce existing laws



Kirinyaga County Assembly officials issuing a press statement.

on alcohol and illicit brew consumption.

He also called on consumers to be vigilant and be very wary of suspi-

ciously cheap brands.

His sentiments were echoed by Deputy Speaker, Njenaro Jamumo, who said the incident has come as a awak-

ening call to the law enforcement bodies, that deliberate efforts need to be made to eradicate illicit brew and its consumption.

AG Appears Before The Justice And Legal Affairs Committee, Supports Autonomy Of His Office

By: PSCU

.....

The Attorney General (AG), Justin Muturi has supported a proposal on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill, 2023; that seeks to amend his office's Act, 2012.

The Act aims at establishing the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) as an independent office.

The committee that is chaired by George Gitonga Murugara (Tharaka), has been holding public hearings with different stakeholders on the Bill, which has different Acts with different amendment proposals.

In the Office of the Attorney-General Act, 2012, the Bill proposes to remove inconsistencies in the operational framework of the OAG, in line with Article 156 of the Constitution.

The move to make the OAG an independent office will separate it from the Public Service Commission (PSC), a move that the AG fully

supported.

"The Attorney General should have the freedom to appoint his or her subordinate officers and to determine, on the advice of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, their terms and conditions of service," said Muturi.

The AG further highlighted before the committee the impact his State Counsels among other members of staff have had, in terms of their remuneration and benefits being determined by the PSC salary bands.

"I have been losing staff to other Government institutions and as long as we continue being under Public Service Commission, these general salary bands they give to every cadre which apply to the public service, will continue applying to our officers and we need to consider the specialized nature of the job they do including advising the rest of Government," he said.

The former Speaker of the National Assembly also proposed an establishment of a Board, that shall advise the AG on the recruitment



Attorney General Justin Muturi when he appeared before the parliamentary committee yesterday

.....

and appointment of the Deputy Solicitors-General, State Counsel and other members of staff of the office; promotions of State Counsel and other members of staff of the office; discipline, remuneration and any other matters that may be referred to the Board by the Attorney General.

The committee shall be drafting a report based on all the views presented on the different Acts in the Amendment Bill, and tabling it in the National Assembly.

National Assembly Lands Committee Engages With NLC On Lands Laws Amendment Bill

By: PSCU

.....

The National Land Commission has said a number of amendments proposed in the Land Laws Amendment Bill will create conflict of interest between the National Government and County Governments.

In a meeting with the National Assembly Lands Committee chaired by Joash Nyamoko, NLC led by Vice Chair Commissioner Mrs. Gertrude Nguku and Commissioner, Mr. Reginald Okumu laid bare the Commission's views on the Land Laws Amendment Bill, 2023.

In their submissions, NLC raised concerns over the amendments which propose to transfer several functions including the publication of Gazette Notices of Intention to Acquire, inspection of properties to be acquired, oversight on determination of legal and financial claims by Project Affected Persons and issuance of awards from the Commis-

sion to the Ministry of Lands.

"Clause 107 of the Land Laws Amendment Bill should be deleted because the proposed amendment will create a conflict of interest whereby the National Government determines the location of projects, approves the acquisition, determines the value, provides compensation funds and makes the payment," said the Vice Chairperson NLC.

However, during the meeting committee members expressed dissatisfaction with NLC's submissions with legislators noting that the Commission has agreed to less than 10 per cent of the proposed amendments without providing justification or making alternative proposals.

"The impact of the amendments proposed in the Land Laws Amendment Bill are enormous. This Bill should be taken seriously. It is very important for this committee to understand and take into consideration all dimensions of this legislation by interacting with all stakeholders." North Mugirango MP and Chair Joash Nyamoko.

In response NLC CEO, Ms. Ka-



Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara consults with North Mugirango MP Joash Nyamoko during yesterday's session.

.....

bale Tache noted the progress made in land policies and adjudication of land matters saying that, "Alot has changed in the lands sector. Looking at the Land Policy of 2009 and Land Laws of 2012."

Members of the committee on Land are expected to meet with the National Land Commission in the coming days as the they continues its review of the Land Laws Amendment Bill, 2023.

Promoting Peace: Observing the International Day of Preventing Violent Extremism



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Uniting Against Extremism to Foster Global Security and Tolerance

As the world today commemorates the International Day of Preventing Violent Extremism as and When Conducive to Terrorism on December 9th, the global community reaffirms its commitment to combating radicalization and fostering peace. This annual observance serves as a reminder of the imperative to address the root causes of terrorism and promote dialogue, understanding, and tolerance across borders.

Understanding the Significance

Violent extremism continues to pose a significant threat to global security and stability, with its manifestations varying across regions and communities. Whether driven by ideological, political, or socioeconomic factors, the consequences of extremism re-



Lobby addressing media.

verberate far beyond the individuals directly involved, impacting entire societies and undermining fundamental rights and freedoms.

Global Initiatives and Collaborative Efforts

In response to the multifaceted challenges posed by violent extremism, international organizations, governments, and civil society entities have mobilized efforts to prevent radicalization and promote resilience. Initiatives such as community engagement programs, educational initiatives, and

interfaith dialogue have emerged as crucial components of comprehensive strategies to counter extremism.

Addressing Root Causes and Building Resilience

A fundamental aspect of preventing violent extremism lies in addressing its underlying causes. Socioeconomic disparities, political grievances, marginalization, and lack of opportunities can fuel feelings of disenchantment and vulnerability, making individuals susceptible to radical ideologies. By tackling these root causes and

promoting inclusive societies, communities can build resilience against extremist narratives.

Harnessing Technology for Positive Change

The rise of digital platforms has transformed the landscape of radicalization, providing avenues for the dissemination of extremist propaganda and recruitment tactics. However, technology also presents opportunities for counter-narratives, online monitoring, and community engagement efforts aimed at preventing radicalization and promoting digital literacy.

The Role of Civil Society and Community Engagement

At the heart of preventing violent extremism lies the involvement of local communities, religious leaders, educators, and civil society organizations. By fostering trust, promoting dialogue, and addressing grievances at the grassroots level, communities can effectively challenge extremist narratives and empower individuals to resist radicalization.

Ensuring Accountability and Promoting Rehabilitation

In addition to preventive measures,

it is essential to ensure accountability and provide support for victims of extremism while offering pathways for rehabilitation and reintegration for those who have been radicalized. Rehabilitation programs that address psychological, social, and ideological dimensions are crucial in facilitating the reintegration of individuals into society.

Looking Ahead: Sustaining Momentum for Peace

As we observe the International Day of Preventing Violent Extremism, it is imperative to recognize that the fight against extremism is an ongoing endeavor that requires sustained commitment, cooperation, and innovation. By fostering a culture of peace, inclusivity, and dialogue, we can collectively build a world where tolerance triumphs over division and where the ideals of peace and security prevail.

In commemorating this day, let us reaffirm our shared resolve to prevent violent extremism in all its forms and work towards a future where every individual can live free from fear and oppression.

Nakuru County In Enhanced Surveillance Of Hospitals For Efficient Services

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County government has embarked on an audit of health centres through engagement of both patients and staff on the quality of services provided as a concerted effort to enhance efficiency and effective health care as they prepare to implement the improved Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

Yesterday, the County Executive for Health Dr. Joy Mugambi accompanied by staff from her Department toured Rongai Health Centre to carry out an assessment of all amenities offered at the facilities.

The team engaged with both patients and staff taking their feedback on the quality of services provided, with the County Executive reaffirming the County's commitment to continuous improvement on pa-

tient-centered care.

Dr. Mugambi emphasized that with the rollout of the enhanced Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) which has replaced NHIF, there was need for a concerted effort to advance on management efficiency and ensure alignment with Standard Operating Procedures.

"We now task you as the Facility Management Team to implement the restructuring initiatives proposed today for optimal operations for the benefit of the community served by this facility," said Dr. Mugambi said.

On her part, the County Director for Public Health Elizabeth Kiptoo who was part of the team emphasized the need to provide the highest standards of care for the community, reinforcing public health interventions alongside the service delivery team.

The team noted the need to modernise infrastructure in the long-term, but stressed the immediate obligation and commitment to tackle



Officials visiting one of the health facilities.

facility's infrastructural challenges with instant renovations to ensure a conducive environment for optimal conditions for patient care.

Dr. Mugambi said the heightened supervision is augmented by the support of USAID Tujenge Jamii (UTJ) and the construction of the new ma-

ternity block in the Sub-County.

In Memory Of The First President Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan



Autumn has arrived, bringing with it sorrow
on its wings,
Lamenting not just one nation but the
entire planet,
Our happiness, our joy
The river persisted even after we soaked
the land with tears

You looked for liberation.
You've given the place back to its rightful
owner.
Are you happy with the individuals you
have?
It was once your mantra, "Let my people be
happy."

This Azrael got lost and arrived a little
early, You still have a thousand years to .

live.
This year, you are upset with us.
Last year, you would kiss us, and we would
kiss you.

My husband, I wish my nation loved me as
much as you do.
Sincerity is wiped from the brow;
You lived asking for the truth and keeping
the people in mind.
Take your leave now, paradise!

On January 10, 2004, Esanboyeva Umida
Esanboyevna was born in the Khorezm
region's Gurlan area. She is a second-year
student in the Uzbek language department
of philology and language teaching at
the Mirzo Ulugbek National University of
Uzbekistan. He graduated with honors
from school No. 20 in the Gurlan area.
Numerous compilations, including "Dilchiroq,"
"Qaldirg'ochlar qo'shigi," "Uyg'onish," and
"Ustoz saboqlari," feature his imaginative
samples. His artistic creations are
frequently included in a number of periodicals
and newspapers, including "Universi," "Altin
Kalam," and "Guncha."

A sharp look, from evil eyes



Never take my medicine
God will always protect me.

If my strength goes from my back,
No benefit comes from me,
When the words don't come from my tongue,
God will always protect me.

Halima Vahobjonovna

Hadiya Baratovna:
Ibrahimova Halima Vahobjonovna was born on
February 11, 2007 in the Bukhara region of the
Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, he is a 10th
grade student of the 7th SSSDTM located
in Uchkuduq District, Navoi Region. Author of
the book "Lines in my heart". His poems have
been published in several newspapers and
magazines.

A sharp look, from evil eyes,
Of sweet but false words,
From unfamiliar and ugly faces,
God will always protect me.

Don't miss anyone
My legs and arms do not get tired,

A Dying Cactus



Mahbuba Husniddin Girl (Fairy Tale Girl)
A worm's dream
(Fairy tale)
Once there is, once there is no. A worm lived in a
beautiful meadow. He has many friends. A worm's
best friend is a hawk. They love each other very
much, they always play together; they are good
friends. The worm has a dream. Only his wife knew
him. This dream is to travel on a ship in the sea
(river).
One day, he gave his friends the following advice in
the presence of worms:
- Friends, it's our friend worm's birthday soon, shall
we do something to make him happy?
Grasshopper:
- We will.
Firefly:
- What do we do? Shall we have a party?
Sister:
"Yes, good idea, but the worm has a dream." How
about we make that dream come true?
All insects are equal:
- What kind of dream is it?
Sister:
- The worm dreams of going on a trip on a ship in
the sea (river).
Shillcourt:
"So how do we do it?"
Sister:
- We will build a ship. In it, we all go on wonderful,
adventurous trips. Everyone liked this idea. They
agreed not to let anyone know about this, and
started work on the same day. The ship was
ready in a week. He did not decorate it beautifully.
Finally, the long-awaited day has come. It was as
if he had brought the worm to the ship. The lady
came to the worm and said:
"My friend, I need your help with something." will
you go with me
Worm:
"Of course I'll help, my friend." So the worm
went to the ship with his mother. Seeing the
ship, the worm went away very happy. Everyone
congratulated the worm on his birthday. The worm
thanked everyone. He celebrated his birthday on
the ship. Everyone is happy and the birthday party
ends with fun. The next day, all the friends went
on a sea (river) trip.
Mahbuba husniddin girl (morning girl)

Once upon a time, there was a gardener. He works
in his garden on Gardener's Day. There are various
fruit trees in the garden, and part of the garden
is a flower garden. Gardeners take special care
of their flowers. He loves them very much and
spends hours admiring their flowers. Don't let
anyone pick the flowers. If someone finds out that
he has plucked even a single piece of flowers, he is
very upset. The gardener also had a cactus flower,
which was always alone and bored at the window
of the house. Seeing the gardener's love for the
flowers in the garden, the cactus always looked at
them with envy. The gardener was busy with the
flowers in the garden and sometimes forgot about
the cactus. Cactus would be very upset about
that. He was upset that they were not paying
attention to him. He began to cry day by day,
suffering from sadness and loneliness.
One day, a neighbor boy named Ali came to the
gardener. Having a conversation with the gardener,
the garden turned. Ali helped the gardener in
the garden. They moved from the garden to the
flower garden. While looking at the flowers, Ali's
eyes fell on the cactus on the window. He asked
the gardener why the cactus was withering.
Gardener:
"This flower is alone, that's why it withered,"
he answered. Ali felt sorry for the flower. He
looked at her lovingly. He asked the gardener to
give him the flower. He promised to care for and
protect the cactus. After thinking for a while,
the gardener agreed. He took the flower to Ali's
hand. Ali was happy and took the flower home. He
took care of it by placing it next to other flowers.
Other flowers also accepted the cactus well. They
became friends with him. Cactus now found his
home, happiness and friends.
Cactus woke up one morning and saw something
growing out of his head. The flowers nearby saw
it too. He was told that a flower had blossomed
from his head. Cactus was very happy. Having
found a suitable home, the cactus lived a happy life
with its friends.

Choriyeva Mahbuba Khusnid
Choriyeva is the daughter of Mahbuba Khusnid.
He was born on January 25, 2005 in Pastdargom
district of Samarkand region. Currently, he is
a 1st-year student at the Faculty of Primary
Education of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University

A Rose



Named after the queen of flowers
Delicate, elegant, beautiful flower
It put a sense of beauty in my heart
My heart is broken, my tongue is
always with you

Mixed even when there are the most
beautiful descriptions
They are amazed at your beauty and

smell
How much less we want to know
Your thorns hurt the heart

Nothing there is no beauty, there is no
fall
Even roses have thorns
It is necessary to admit without a single
word
Love is also a place of roses

Usmonova Mohidil Laziz s daughter
was born in 2003 in Kashkadaryo region.
She graduated from the 28th general
secondary school in Karshi.From 2021
a student of Karshi State University.
Her scientific works are published in
the newspapers of the time, local and
international journals.Also, she attended
a lot of international conferences with
her articles.She is winner of „Yosh
kitobxon ” (Young booker) and „Men
o‘qigan kitob” (Book that I read).

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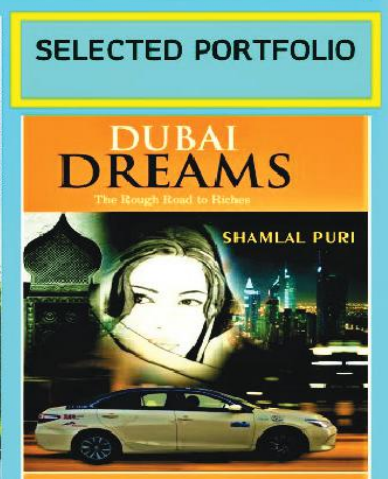
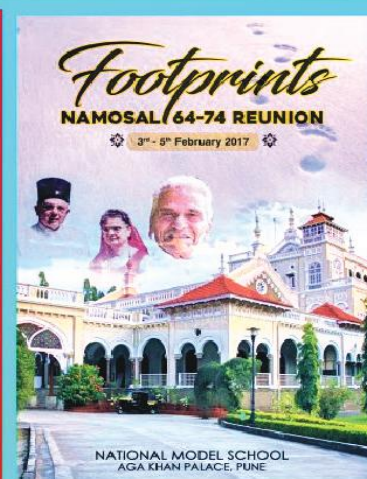
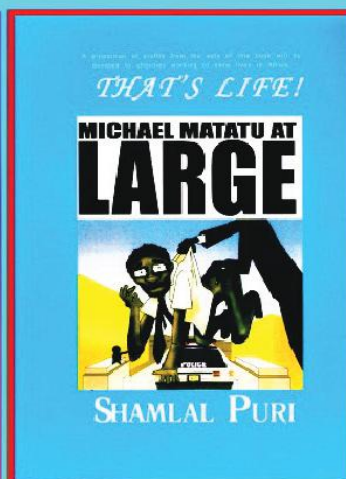
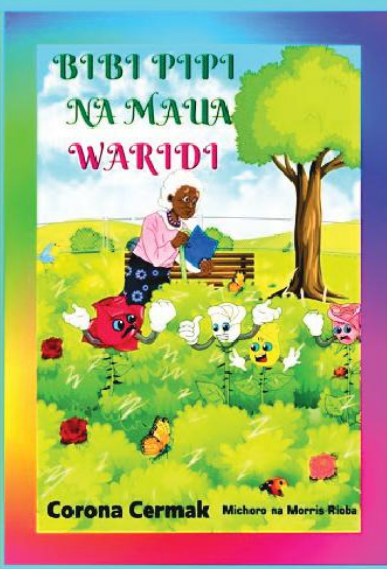
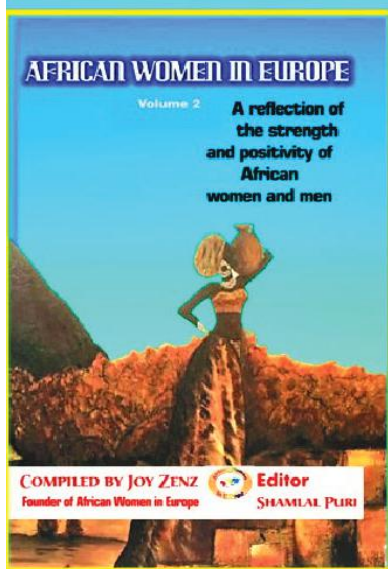
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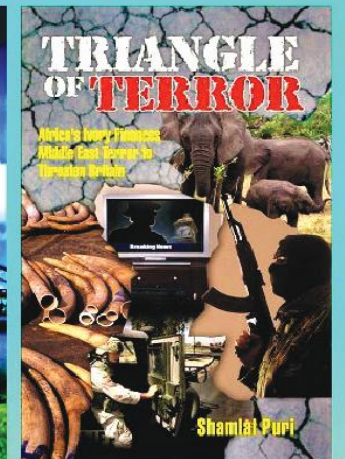
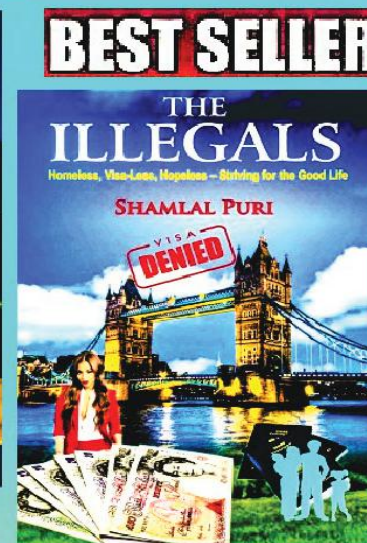
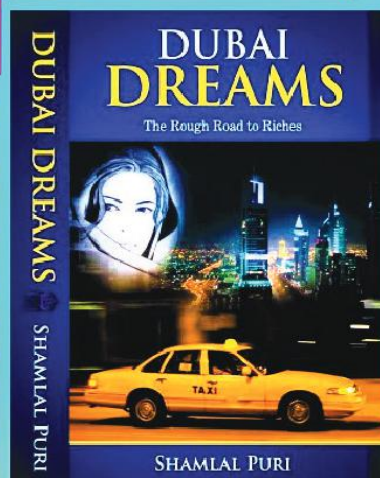
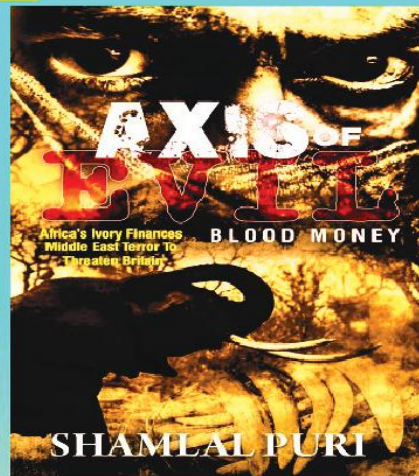
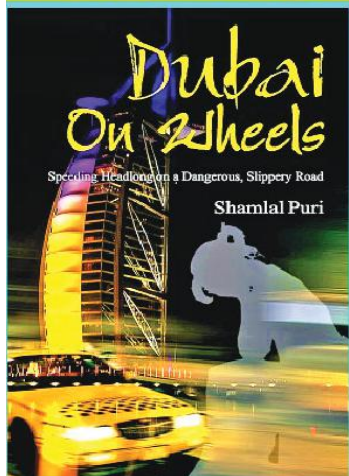
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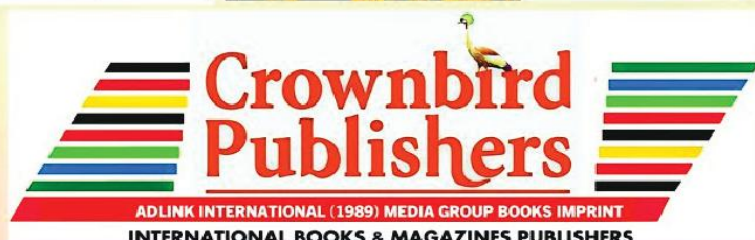
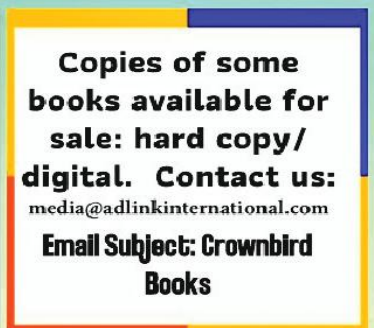
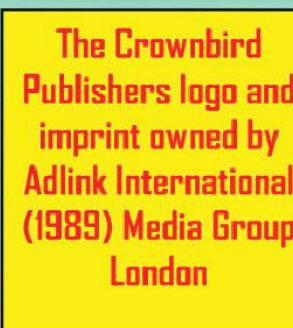
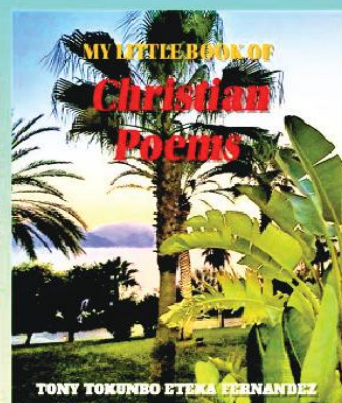
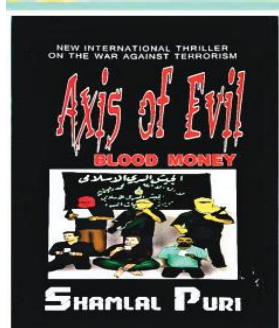
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BUSINESS

CFAO Motors Kenya's Strategic Steps Boost Market Share Gain, Industry Data Confirms

^...Growth Attributed To The Firm's Recent Rebranding, Local Assembly And Consolidation Initiatives

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenytimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking when he confirmed the details, CFAO Motors Kenya Managing Director Mr Arvinder Reel said the firm is beginning to reap growth benefits attributed to the firm's recent rebranding, local assembly and consolidation strategy.
- The strategic merger of Toyota Kenya and DT-Dobie, he said, has allowed the firm to boost its local assembly capacity and deliver a more expansive portfolio of mobility solutions to a growing and diversified client base. Strategic local assembly initiatives, including KSh300 million investments in the local assembly lines for Toyota Hilux Pick-ups, Toyota Hiace Passenger Vans and Toyota Fortuner Sports Utility Vehicles, also contributed to the accelerated growth last year.



CFAO Motors Kenya Managing Director Arvinder Reel with President William Ruto at the Toyota Fortuner Assembly line commissioning in Mombasa in July last year.

Local mobility solutions provider CFAO Motors Kenya's strategic initiatives, including its recent merger and business consolidation efforts, have powered the firm to a sustained market share gain, data by Kenya Motor Industry (KMI) 2023 indicates.

According to the KMI market share report, CFAO maintained its market dominance in the general segment, excluding the Trucks—medium and Large Buses category, with a 59% share.

CFAO Motors Kenya's dominance was primarily fueled by stable sales derived from its flagship Toyota brand, with a 53% contribution and increased contribution from non-traditional market segments, including passenger vans and Prime Mover categories.

In the total market analysis, CFAO Motors Kenya enjoyed a 32% growth, up from 28% registered in 2022, with total sales of 3639 vehicles across its Toyota, Suzuki, Hino, VW, Mercedes

Benz, Hyundai and SINOTRUK portfolio.

Speaking when he confirmed the details, CFAO Motors Kenya Managing Director Mr Arvinder Reel said the firm is beginning to reap growth benefits attributed to the firm's recent rebranding, local assembly and consolidation strategy.

The strategic merger of Toyota Kenya and DT-Dobie, he said, has allowed the firm to boost its local assembly capacity and deliver a more expansive portfolio of mobility solutions to a growing and diversified client base. Strategic local assembly initiatives, including KSh300 million investments in the local assembly lines for Toyota Hilux Pick-ups, Toyota Hiace Passenger Vans and Toyota Fortuner Sports Utility Vehicles, also contributed to the accelerated growth last year.

CFAO Motors' portfolio expansion in the Truck and Bus category in 2023, with the addition of the SINOTRUK brand, also inspired growth

in the highly competitive Truck and Bus category. SINOTRUK has begun to make a mark in the category and is now ranked as the leading Prime Mover with a 48% Market share thanks to its growing demand, particularly in the building and construction sector. Overall, in the Truck and Bus category, Isuzu continues to enjoy a 66% market share, followed by Simba Corp at 15%, while CFAO comes in 3rd at 9%, with SINOTRUK contributing 4% of the share.

"The KMI market share report for the calendar year 2023 confirms that the CFAO Motors Kenya strategy is set on a solid foundation. We are investing heavily to grow our market share further and explore new mobility horizons, including Hybrid vehicles, as part of our commitment to be Kenya's most preferred mobility solutions provider."

He added, "The market witnessed a significant decline from the Pick-Up segment with both Single Cab 4x2 and Double Cab 4x4 segment experi-

encing decline in the wake of a weakening shilling, decreased government expenditure and increased interest rates affecting borrowers, inherently impacting the total auto industry in general amidst these uncertain economic times."

The locally assembled Toyota Hiace Van maintained a growth trajectory as the preferred Matatu option in public transport. The growth of the Toyota Hiace Passenger Vans is attributed to increased demand by discerning public service transport operators who prefer the competitively priced van for its value for money and enhanced safety standards.

The company, he disclosed, is optimistic about further growth this year as the Government's Leasing programme resumes.



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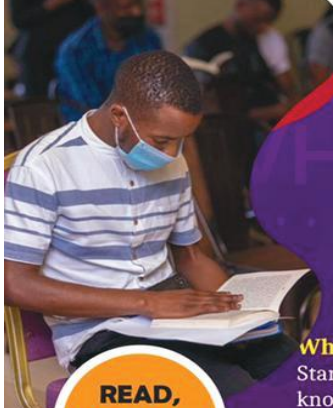


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13th Feb 2024

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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
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Preparations Upbeat For Pastor Benny Hinn Mega Crusade, February 2024

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

The Steering Committee of the Pastor Benny Hinn Mega Crusade on February 24th and 25th, 2024, at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi, has announced that it's putting up the necessary touches to welcome and host the International Evangelist.

Benny Hinn is an American evangelist, teacher, and author of best-selling books. He has impacted the world for more than five decades with the lifesaving and miracle-working messages of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He returns to Kenya after two decades, and we, the Churches of Kenya, are privileged to host him.

The Steering Committee is working with key stakeholders to host over 60,000 Kenyans and international guests from over 20 countries.

In a news conference Tuesday, the Steering Committee alluded: "We have partnered with Homeboyz Entertainment, Kenya's leading events, media, and public relations Management Company, among others, on the ground handling and logistics for this mega crusade. I want to assure the public that the



Archbishop Dr. Arthur Kitonga makes a point during the news conference in Nairobi.

Steering Committee is fully committed to ensuring the success of this crusade and upholding the highest standards of integrity and transparency. We have worked tirelessly to coordinate this event with the utmost respect for all involved parties.

This event has been organized, funded, and coordinated by the Churches of Kenya, which include both mainstream churches and evangelical churches in Kenya, to connect the Body of Christ in Kenya with the Global Body of Christ.

It is common ministry practice for faith leaders from outside Kenya to

visit the country and for our Kenyan faith leaders to receive invitations to minister in other countries to enable the cross-pollination of grace and effective engagement of the fivefold ministry.

This mega crusade is organized by the Church in Kenya, and the churches and Kenyans of Goodwill have supported and funded this event in cash and kind.

Kenya is open to all visitors in Kenya, both for tourism, business, and even faith-related and charitable activities. I do not believe that the Government funds religious activi-



Members of the clergy address the media.

ties.

We understand the importance of maintaining the trust and confidence of the public, and we chose to reassure Kenyans that this is not their tax used in this event.

Lastly, we appreciate the support of our security agencies in the planning of this event to ensure that all the over 60,000 Kenyans and visitors expected in this event will be safe, and our logistics partner is working round the clock with all stakeholders to ensure that there will be minimal disruptions to our day-to-day business by this event.

This crusade will further be televised on various media and online channels to ensure that all Kenyans, either at work in the evening or living outside Nairobi, have a chance

to join this crusade from the comfort of their homes or offices. Information on the 2-day crusade is shared on various public media platforms, including billboards and TV advertisements.

As a steering committee, our primary focus remains delivering a spiritually uplifting and impactful experience for all attendees of the mega crusade. We invite the public to join us in this celebration of faith and unity, and we thank you for your continued support and understanding.

We welcome Kenyans from all walks of life to attend this life-changing crusade."

Implementation Of Key World Bank Funded Projects Underway

By: Gene Gituku
@themtkenyentimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi says the government has commenced implementation of multi-million World Bank fund development projects as it seeks to empower local farmers.

While assuring Kenyans of sufficient food in the country this year, Linturi said, "Five key World Bank-funded projects are being implemented in 46 Counties, including the National Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP), covering 33 counties; the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), covering 24 counties; and the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) in 21 counties."

During the annual joint Nation-

al-County World Bank agriculture portfolio performance review consultative forum in Mombasa, the CS shed light on the agricultural projects, approximately costing 100 billion shillings meant to end the traditional annual cases of food importation due to the food shortage in parts of the country.

This year's theme, "Nurturing Sustainable Agricultural Growth for Food Security and Wealth Creation," aligns with the government's efforts to bolster the agricultural sector in line with Kenya's development objectives and the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

With participation from County Executive Committee Members for Agriculture from all 46 counties, the forum serves as a platform to evaluate the counties' performance; reflect on successes and challenges; share experiences and foster mutual learning.



Sustainable Development Goals Stands As A Guiding Map

By: Brenda Holo
@themtkenyetimes

In The Pursuit Of A More Equitable And Sustainable World, The United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Stand As A Guiding Map

Among them is Goal 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” emerges as the linen that holds the fabric of progress together. Women’s equality and empowerment are not just lofty ideals but essential catalysts for addressing the scarce commodity of inequality. At its core, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 stipulates a commitment to dismantle discriminatory practices by ensuring that women and girls have equal access to opportunities in all spheres of life. It is not merely a stand-alone Goal but a fundamental foundation for the success of the remaining 16 SDGs. Without achieving gender equality, the aspirations of eradicating poverty

(SDG 1), ensuring quality education (SDG 4), and even combating climate change (SDG 13) remain elusive. Empowering the female-folk is not just a moral necessity; but an economic necessity. Statistics show that balancing gender representation could indeed boost the economy, foster innovation and bring diversity to decision-making. By dismantling barriers that impede women’s participation in the workforce, societies unlock a vast reservoir of talent and creativity. The empowerment of women is not a zero-sum game but an investment in a prosperous and sustainable future. Education lies at the heart of SDG 5 calls for ensuring that girls receive quality education not only to transform their lives but also that of the entire community. An educated woman is more likely to make informed decisions about her health, contribute meaningfully to her community and break the cycle of poverty. As we champion education for girls, we lay the foundation for achieving several other SDGs, including good health and well-being



(SDG 3) and decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). SDG 5 also addresses the pervasive issue of violence against women, recognizing that a world free from violence is essential for true empowerment. By fostering environments that protect women and girls from violence, we create societies where everyone can thrive. This, in turn, supports SDG 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive so-

cieties for sustainable development. To achieve the targets set out in the SDGs, we must view Goal 5 as a keystone. Progress in women’s equality and empowerment is the fabric for health, education, and economic prosperity. The empowerment of women is not a stand-alone objective but a cross-cutting theme that weaves through the entire fabric of sustainable development. As we work towards the realization of the SDGs, let us recognize the integral role that gender equality plays in creating a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

Brenda Holo
Communication Intern
CENTER FOR ENHANCING DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (CEDGG),
NAKURU.

Passaris Is A Beacon Of Hope For Many

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

Nairobi County Woman Representative Esther Passaris breathes hope to some of the people who were on the brink of losing hope, more so due to circumstances like financial hardships. Passaris shares with us her strongest motivation: “Today, my heart overflows with admiration and gratitude for the determination of mothers who defy all odds to ensure their children have the opportunities they themselves never did. I was moved when Meshack Von Oketch’s mother approached me during our recent bursary issuance ceremony. Her eyes reflected both hope and desperation as she pleaded for help to send her son to Langata Boys High School. Despite his acceptance, Meshack faced the reality of being unable to attend due to the burden of school fees.



Esther Passaris has enabled many Nairobians access education.



The cost of uniform alone amounted to Ksh 30k, a sum beyond the means of many families in these harsh economic times. Yet through the kindness of generous souls who rallied behind Passaris Foundation, we managed to secure Meshack’s place at school. As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I offer him not only my heartfelt wishes but also a silent vow to continue fighting for every child’s right to education.”

PS Mining Meets Governor Muthomi



PS Mining Elijah Mwangi.

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

The Principal Secretary for Mining Elijah Mwangi yesterday held a consultative engagement with Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki on modalities of strengthening working collaboration between the Mining department

and Counties in the mining sector. Continually engage and consult with counties as a way of promoting mining investments in the counties and spurring the growth of this sector. While welcoming the pledge for mining sector collaboration, Governor Muthomi Njuki noted that minerals were economic catalysts for

counties. He further called for increased sensitization of communities living in areas where minerals are located on what mining operations and the ground truthing exercise entails. Senior officials from the State Department for Mining and Tharaka Nithi County were also present.

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1 3rd Place Play off Match
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Overall Winner gets **Ksh 5 Million**
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- 18** Jerseys ✓
- 18** Pairs of Socks ✓
- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots ✓
- Ksh 100,000** Participation Fees ✓
- Match Day **Allowances** for Teams ✓
- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls ✓



LET US JOIN HANDS TO SAVE OUR YOUTH

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Sports Cabinet secretary Ababu Namwamba has urged more corporates to invest in local sports which will not only help the growth of sports but also spur talent nurturing and development in country.

Ababu Calls For More Public Private Partnership As ABSA Bank Injects Ksh 75 Million To Magical Kenya Open

Absa Bank Kenya PLC announced a KES 75 million investment for the this year's championships with KES 55 million supporting the Local Organising Committee through Kenya Open Golf Limited, while the remaining KES 20 million is allocated to enhancing the overall experience, creating memorable experiences for attendees and followers of the tournament.

By: Dismas Otukey

Sports Cabinet secretary Ababu Namwamba has urged more corporates to invest in local sports which will not only help the growth of sports but also spur talent nurturing and development in country.

CS announced the ministry's sponsorship of Ksh 370 million for this year's Magical Kenya Open golf tournament, which is scheduled to take place between the 22nd and the 25th of this month, during a speech on Tuesday at the Muthaiga Golf Club.

"We are committed to creating an enabling environment for sports organizations, both public and private to thrive. We are working on policies that encourage private-sector partnerships. These collaborations are instrumental in providing the necessary resources to organize world-class events and support our sportsmen and women in their pursuit for excellence," said Ababu Namwamba.

Absa Bank Kenya PLC announced a KES 75 million investment for the this year's championships with KES 55 million supporting the Local Organising Committee through Kenya Open Golf Limited, while the remaining KES 20 million is allocated to enhancing the overall experience, creating memorable experiences for attendees and followers of the tournament.

Absa Bank demonstrates its dedication to advancing talent and enterprise while providing support for sports tourism by announcing this sponsorship.

Golfers from all over the world come together to compete for the



Absa Bank MD Abdi Mohamed, KOGL Tournament Director Patrick Obath, Sports CS Ababu Namwamba and PS Peter Tum pose with the dummy cheque during sponsorship announcement event at Muthaiga Golf Club today.

title at Muthaiga Golf Club, one of the most prestigious and difficult courses in the area, during the Magical Kenya Open, which acts as a major international platform.

This year's edition will be more than just golf, will feature the first ever in Africa golf for the disabled with 10 players from all over the world as well as a charity dinner for sports development.

In addition, a business conference is planned which will bring together government, business leaders and investors with an aim of attracting investors to Kenya, including DP World.

Speaking during the announcement ceremony, Absa Bank Kenya PLC's Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed, emphasized the bank's long-term commitment to elevating the tournament's stature which goes beyond golf to creating impact across various sectors of the economy.

"As a brand, we have a long-standing sponsorship of golf in this country, which has promoted Kenya as both a sporting and a tourism destination while illuminating the remark-

able stories of determination and resilience within our nation. This tournament has proven itself as a platform that showcases Kenya to the world, as a vibrant tapestry of culture, talent, and opportunity," said Mr. Mohamed.

Mr. Mohamed further highlighted the significance of the MKO as a driving force for positive societal change saying:

"This tournament represents a story of business opportunities spanning various sectors, including transport, entertainment, hospitality, and beyond.

It serves as a cultural showcase, enriching our communities and empowering our people well aligned with our purpose of Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together ... one story at a time. Additionally, we have harnessed the unique influence of sports, such as golf, to unite our stakeholders around sustainability and climate action through our Birdies for Good initiatives."

Speaking at the same event, Mr. Patrick Obath, the Kenya Open Golf Limited (KOGL) tournament director, expressed his appreciation for Absa's continued

support saying:

"The MKO 2024 is a platform that transcends sports and provides opportunities to enhance socio-economic and sustainability linkages around the globe. With the support of like-minded partners like Absa, we look forward to delivering an unforgettable experience for players, spectators, and partners alike," said Mr. Obath.

With over 140 top golfers from across the globe registered for this year's event, including three regional pros, nine Kenyan professionals (Pros), and four amateurs competing for the tantalising \$2 million prize fund, it promises to be an exciting display of talent. Additionally, this is the ideal time to introduce and establish genuine relationships with Kenyans who adore and follow the game.

First staged in 1967, the Kenya Open has developed into one of the most prestigious athletic tournaments in Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Police from Elgeyo Marakwet have confirmed that marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum died as a result of a traffic accident amid questions over what really transpired on Sunday night.

Kelvin Kiptum: MPs Call For Further Probe As Police Confirm Cause Of Death



Kelvin Kiptum.

By Chemutai Goin

Police from Elgeyo Marakwet have confirmed that marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum died as a result of a traffic accident amid questions over what really transpired on Sunday night.

The confirmation came even as members of the National Assembly demanded that further investigations be done to ascertain who the individuals alleged to have visited Kiptum’s home in unclear circumstances were.

According to the police, a further review of the accident scene and the Toyota Premio vehicle involved in the accident that was towed to Kaptagat Police Station, showed that the front part was intact and the airbags did not deploy.

Keiyo South OCPD Abdullahi Dahir said: “The sensor of the airbag normally is at the front, and if there was no impact on the front

part of the vehicle, the airbags will not move. The impact (on Kiptum’s car) was on the roof...on the top of the car...so that’s why we could not see the airbags out.”

Dahir further stated that they had widened their probe into claims that four unknown men followed Kiptum four days before his untimely death.

Sharon Kosgey, who survived the fatal accident unscathed, is also expected to aid police recreate events leading up to the death of the athlete and his coach.

At the National Assembly, Members of Parliament observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the world marathon record holder who passed away alongside his coach in a tragic traffic accident Sunday.

Keiyo South MP Gideon Kimaiyo said: “As we mourn the death of Kelvin, some actions must be taken by the Ministry of Sports.

Wanjiru died at 24...the lady killed in Iten...we call on the sports ministry to take our athletes seriously.”

His Lang’ata counterpart Felix Odiwuor said: “Having listened to the father, we call for a thorough research...we call on the athletes to be treated as VIPs...they represent the country.”

Endebess legislator Robert Pukose noted: “We need to counsel our athletes, advise them properly so that they can be able to live in a better way.”

Nominated MP Irene Mayaka, on her part, said” “I want to urge Kenyans to watch the insensitive comments they have been posting on social media, we have seen a lot...”

Senators also called for the consideration of the welfare of sportsmen and women,

Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot stated: “Many us who

are fans of athletics were looking forward to the battle with (Eliud) Kipchoge, so many of our athletes have departed in this way...Rudisha had such an incident which he never recovered from, and its points out to a lack of mentorship...”

“As a people of Kenya, we have lost part of our story and history because we didn’t get to experience the gift he was,” added Nominated Senator Karen Nyamu.

Kiptum’s father has implored police to launch investigations into details of individuals whose pictures he took and a car he claimed to have ferried the persons he said were following his late son.

Meanwhile, the family continues to come to terms with the loss of Kiptum whom they termed a beacon of hope.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



What Exactly Is Meditation?



By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Meditation can take different forms and have different goals. Someone turns to meditation to relax, overcome stress, stop the flow of thoughts. Others meditate by focusing on one thought, or on God, or on an entirely different concept.
- Muslims are often skeptical of the practice of meditation, and rightly so: there are many different types of meditation, some of which are directly related to religious beliefs and practices that are anti-Islamic. However, meditation, in the literal sense of the word, was also practiced by our ancestors in various forms. Through contemplation, they reached high levels of spirituality, improved their prayers, prayers and remembrance of Allah.



Meditation

We know that meditation is emphasized in many psychological trainings. We will see how esoteric psychologists define good meditation, and whether there is an alternative to it.

Meditation has been a part of spiritual practice in many religious traditions since ancient times, especially in Buddhism and Hinduism, and is an important component of yoga. Certain fixed positions (asanas) are used in yoga to eliminate physical tension.

What is meditation? In a deep sense, meditation is a tool of the spiritual teachings of Buddhism, which helps to purify the mind and learn to control it. It allows you to achieve a state of inner peace of mind and body with complete awareness. There are many different practices of meditation. Let's talk about what a mantra is:

What is a mantra?

The article on types of meditation gives some information about what a mantra is. "Man" means "mind" and "tra" means to free. A mantra is something that frees the mind. A mantra is usually a word or phrase

(prayer) used in meditation to focus the mind and achieve a certain emotional state.

For example:

MAHA-MANTRA (The Great Mantra):

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare

"It is a 16-word mantra in which 3 names are repeated – Hare, Krishna and Rama (where Hare refers to the energy of God, and Krishna and Rama are the names of God). This mantra is considered the strongest among the existing ones, it has a cleansing effect on the mind, heart, soul, and body; "Anyone who hears this mantra even as a joke or by accident will benefit greatly," writes an esoteric psychologist practicing meditation.

Om Mahadevaya Namah – (quoted above) is a magical mantra for union with the divine. Removes all negative energy from the path. He calls guardian angels, protects from enemies. (in Buddhism and Hinduism) Let's take a look at Yaqeen Institute's 2020 article on Meditation.

Meditation is defined as "prolonged deep reflection, religious reflection, or spiritual introspection." The word "meditation" is derived from the Latin meditatio (contemplation). In a broad sense, meditation can be called any conscious and purposeful mental activity. Various types of meditation in therapeutic and spiritual practices have been scientifically proven to help the mind and, as a result, achieve general well-being in everyday life. According to the encyclopedia of positive psychology, "meditation, whatever it is, meditation leads to the next consciousness."

Meditation can take different forms and have different goals. Someone turns to meditation to relax, overcome stress, stop the flow of thoughts. Others meditate by focusing on one thought, or on God, or on an entirely different concept.

Muslims are often skeptical of the practice of meditation, and rightly so: there are many different types of meditation, some of which are directly related to religious beliefs and practices that are anti-Islamic. However, meditation, in the literal

sense of the word, was also practiced by our ancestors in various forms. Through contemplation, they reached high levels of spirituality, improved their prayers, prayers and remembrance of Allah.

Rasulullah, may God bless him and grant him peace, said: "Wisdom is the lost wealth of a Muslim. Wherever he finds it, he will own it."

By getting used to remembering Allah and developing a relationship with His presence and contemplation, we purify our hearts and reveal the noble nature of the soul (nafs ar-rabbaniya) – a pure state of mind, the pursuit of which is characteristic of man.

Ibn al-Qayyim writes in his book:

"The heart hardens for two reasons: negligence and sin. And it is purified by two things: asking for forgiveness from Allah and remembering Allah.

For example, meditating on the blessings of Allah, the Most High, is also a beautiful act of worship, a mental activity that creates gratitude in the heart and removes ingratitude.

Based on this, a Muslim should take time to think quietly about God and the Hereafter every day, realize His existence, thank Him for His innumerable blessings and prepare for the future life.

Reading the Qur'an was considered one of the most powerful and meritorious forms of meditation.*Based on two articles, we can conclude that if you want to meditate with mantra (Buddhism, Hinduism) prayers, you can harm your self-worth by following the religious practices of representatives of other religions and saying their prayers. It is better for those who want to practice meditation to choose the Muqoraba form that exists in our religion.

Risolat Roziboyeva, daughter of Furqat, was born on July 4, 2005 in the Uchtepa district of Tashkent city. She is currently studying at the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan at the 2nd level of applied psychology. Her main hobby is reading - she has been awarded by actively participating in many scientific talks, marathons and training courses, she loves to acquire new knowledge very much.