

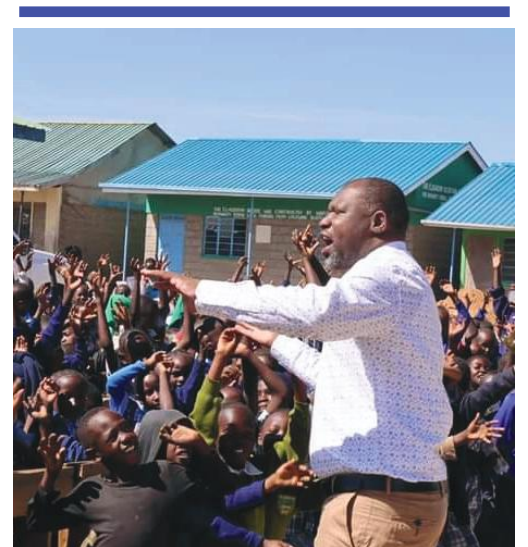
A Bag Of Goodies As Ruto Winds Up Two-Day Tour In Nyeri



P.9 *President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua launching affordable housing program in Nyeri town.*



Political Opinion: Ruto's Tour Of The Kikuyuland Was Purely Meant For Development **P.11**



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Kirinyaga County Concludes Public Engagement On Priority Development Projects

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes



Finance and Economic Planning Jackline Njogu addressing the forum.

Worth Noting:

- The first round of exercises was conducted a Kianyaga and Wanguru, followed by sessions at Kerugoya and Baricho, with hundreds of residents turning up to give their views.
- Njogu attributed success in implementation of development projects in the county to the two-way public participation process.
- “If you invest in a project that is not people-oriented, you will be in conflict with the people’s needs, thus implementation becomes extremely tough. Involving people from the planning stages ensures that implementation becomes much easier and helps reduce waste of public resources,” she emphasized

County Government of Kirinyaga has concluded a two-day public participation exercise on County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2024-2025 that prioritizes implementation of live changing development projects across all sectors.

The public participation aimed at gathering crucial insights from residents on priority programs, policies, and reforms to be implemented in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and Economic Planning Jackline Njogu said strategy paper aims at building on inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory initiatives by Governor Anne Waiguru.

Allocation for the 2024/25 financial year and medium term will be pegged on need to finance investment that directly creates jobs and transforms lives of the people.

The first round of exercises was conducted

a Kianyaga and Wanguru, followed by sessions at Kerugoya and Baricho, with hundreds of residents turning up to give their views.

Njogu attributed success in implementation of development projects in the county to the two-way public participation process.

“If you invest in a project that is not people-oriented, you will be in conflict with the people’s needs, thus implementation becomes extremely tough. Involving people from the planning stages ensures that implementation becomes much easier and helps reduce waste of public resources,” she emphasized

The CEC emphasized on the need of public participation which she said involves “listening to the people,” both to understand their needs and to assess how their lives are actually being affected by government projects and policies.

She said Governor Waiguru’s administration has implemented projects worth billions of shillings in the county with the support of the community.

“The main aim of public participation is to encourage the public to have meaningful input into the decision-making process. Public participation thus provides the opportunity for the government to listen and understand needs of the people,” she said.

The CEC said over the years, the county government has invested in projects that have the greatest impact on people among them construction and equipping of health facilities, water supply, bursaries, road rehabilitation, construction of markets, cabro paving of town, street lighting among others.

“Most of these projects are people driven initiatives, it is through public participation that the community tell us what

they want and then we allocate funds for the projects and this way the projects have support of the people,” she added.

She further elaborated on the significance of the County Strategy Physical Paper, emphasizing its dual role as a developmental roadmap and a legal requirement.

“The county strategy physical paper serves as a report that not only shows projects that people want but also as a record of past projects and their impacts. It is required by law and should be submitted to the county assembly by the 28th of February 2024,” she explained.

Speaking during one of the forums in Baricho, Muriithi Murani asked county government to address develop mechanisms to market the Technical and Vocational Education (TVETs) centres so as to attract more youths to pursue career courses.

“Our TVETs have one problem which I would like the county government to address, mobilization so that many of the youths can enroll for the technical courses. We should also have WiFi in our TVETs institution to help the youths get digital space skills course to tap on online job opportunities,” he said.

Another resident Jeniffer Muriuki, said the surge in lifestyle diseases in the county calls for the county government to consider rolling out of free medication for diabetes and hypertension in all medical facilities.

“There are reports of our county being ranked as having the highest prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, we are asking that the county prioritize provision of free medication for the diseases in all the facilities,” she said.

Kirinyaga County Disability Organization Chairperson Lucy Wangari asked the county government to involve representatives of People Living with Disability (PLWDs) while deciding on which assistive devices to purchase for the people.

She further asked the county to follow up on strict adherence to building codes, standard and regulations to ensure all public facility are accessible by PLWDs.

Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Hotel Owners Association in Nakuru County has held a meeting with Deputy Governor David Kones to address challenges in the hospitality industry.

Key issues include increased water supply, settling Pending Bills, and enhancing security measures. The meeting also discussed infrastructure development, including the completion of projects like Afraha Stadium, Lanet Airport, and the establishment of a Cultural Centre in Nakuru city.

Hotel owners expressed concern over the delayed completion of the stadium, which attracted Kenya Premier League football matches.

Kones assured that the county will review the concerns and commit to follow-up meetings with stakeholders to address them.

County Executive for Trade, Cooperatives, Tourism and Culture Stephen Kuria urged sector players to present their views during public participation forums and emphasized the importance of support and cooperation with the county government.



The Homa Bay County government has partnered with the British government to implement an agricultural project focusing on key value chains to boost economic growth in the county.

The UK High Commissioner to Kenya, Neil Wigan, expressed his desire to encourage British firms to seize these opportunities and invest in jobs.

The UK government will also partner with Homa Bay County in the upcoming International Investment Conference, offering technical assistance and sending a delegation to seek opportunities.

Governor Gladys Wanga expressed appreciation for the cordial relations and emphasized the importance of private sector investment in value chains aligned with UK interests, such as cotton, horticulture, aquaculture, and edible oils.



Police in Meru County have congratulated Bishop Nathan Kirimi of Jesus Winner Ministry Church for surrendering an AK-47 rifle and 17 rounds of ammunition after receiving them from one of his followers.

The Bishop agreed to surrender the rifle and ammunition after a follower who gave his life to Jesus pleaded with him to surrender a parcel.

Police Commander Mr. Ezekiel Chepkwony said the Bishop's decision was due to the pressure on criminals and the warning to those with illegal firearms.

Chepkwony appealed to the community to report any illegal firearms and to know that they can surrender voluntarily before forceful action is taken.

Bishop Kirimi said the clergy in Meru have been working closely with the police to reduce crime rates and that those holding such firearms should surrender them.

He also urged those holding such firearms to surrender them to government offices or churches, saying that it is dangerous when citizens are illegally in possession of these firearms.



Government Spokesperson, Dr. Isaac Mwaura, has emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring a 100% transition of learners from primary to post-primary level.

Out of 1,406,557 pupils who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) last year, 58,429 are yet to join Form 1.

Dr. Mwaura assured that the government has mobilised efforts to track all remaining 2023 KCPE candidates to ensure no one is left behind.

The government has also provided bursaries to facilitate learners from underprivileged backgrounds through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF) and the Elimu Scholarship programme, which has sponsored 14,426 children this year.

He cautioned parents who refuse to take their children to school, as they are liable to prosecution in accordance with the Children's Act.

Dr. Mwaura advised those who wish not to continue with Secondary Education to join public vocational training centres, which are now under the County Governments.

He stressed the digitization of the entire education system, spanning from basic education to tertiary and university levels, to address governance challenges and prevent fraudulent activities.



KUCCPS CEO Dr. Mercy Wahome. Photo/Courtesy.

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) has extended the application deadline for the placement of students to universities and colleges.

In a statement KUCCPS CEO Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome, said the extension deadline to February 26, 2024 was necessitated to ensure that no candidate misses out.

KUCCPS opened application for placement of students to universities and colleges on February 7, 2024 targeting the 2023 KCSE candidates and Form Four leavers from other years to 2000.

According to KUCCPS CEO, the number of applicants selecting degree programmes is higher than those applying for TVET courses so far.

"KUCCPS encourages those with mean grades between C and E to take advantage of the available TVET opportunities. Particularly, applicants with D+ and E are still very low and we are encouraging them to apply. They should walk into their nearest TVET institution for assistance," she said.

She added, "I take this opportunity to assure all those seeking training opportunities through the KUCCPS portal that no one will be left behind."

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Crackdown On Illicit Brews To Continue - CS Kindiki

By: Mutai Kipnetich
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• “This event in Kangai has made it, the consumption of alcohol a more urgent matter than before. The Ministry has identified the sale of alcohol and drugs as a threat to national security. The poisonous alcohol and narcotics drugs are equated to terrorist and banditry,” he noted.

• He declared that the operations countrywide will begin immediately directing all counties to convene and map out how they will do it. The CS who introduced the new security team said they would conduct an impartial inquiry of what happened through a multi-agency team to establish if those recalled to Nairobi had a role to play either action or inaction.



Cabinet Secretary Kindiki Kithure addressing journalists.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kindiki Kithure has ordered a continuous crackdown on illicit brew in the whole country.

Speaking in Mwea West sub-County, Kirinyaga, Prof. Kindiki said the previous Rapid Results Initiative that ran for a stipulated period has not yielded fruits.

“The operation we are commencing will be permanent, no drop on scaling down. It is not a two months’ operation as in the past,” CS said

The CS was meeting the new security leadership of Kirinyaga County to reflect and check the progress report on the incident of illicit brew that has so far claimed 17 lives and others experiencing blurred vision in Kangai area of Mwea West.

“Some members consume drinks with poisonous content resulting in the loss of many people. 17 confirmed death

and others who survived horrific incidents facing blurred vision”

Kindiki further sent condolences on behalf of the government to all affected families adding the ministry is taking the incident seriously, with efforts in place to rid alcoholism countrywide.

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multi-agency team to establish if those recalled to Nairobi had a role to play either action or inaction.

“We will not punish innocent officers. We have not done anything so far, we are conducting an inquiry and any officer who contributed will be interdicted and charged”

He confirmed that the seller of the poisonous drink is a notorious offender, who has been in the past taken to court several times but released on lenient terms. Kindiki challenged the new team to swing into action immediately and commence operations to deal with the menace in the county.

“It’s true that certain officials of the judiciary have let the people of Kenya down. We have arrested John Muriithi. We have applied to stay in custody until the investigation is complete. These officers must roll back whatever has gone wrong in Kirinyaga County and

ensure no loss of lives going forward.” He added

Addressing national measures on alcoholism, the CS asked the security team to team up with respective county governments to review licenses of all bars, close outlets selling alcohol in the villages, and only licensed proper liquor in centers.

He promised to do frequent impromptu visits in the Mount Kenya region to check on how the operation is going on until the region is alcohol-free.

“The way you see me in Rift Valley, Kilifi, and other regions, I will be a frequent visitor to Kirinyaga and Mount Kenya region until we end this alcohol issue. I will not be announcing when but we shall anytime anywhere”

He concluded by recognizing efforts by officers who are doing a good job saying the ministry will promote them for their service to the country.

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Man Beats Stage 2 Cancer After Undergoing 24-Hour Operation

By: Sarah Njagi
 @themtkenyatimes



Bernard Otieno

Worth Noting:

- He was soon to find out that the treatment was challenging and had to go through a series of six chemotherapy sessions as well as a 24-hour-long surgery.
- “In January 2020 I started experiencing ulcer-like symptoms and when I went to the hospital I was treated for ulcers after I experienced burning sensations in my stomach and feeling pain when swallowing solid and liquid food. I took medications for six months and all the symptoms were eradicated,” said Otieno.
- He revealed that he went back to his doctor when he started experiencing pain when swallowing food who recommended an X-ray whose results revealed his narrowing esophagus.

A 36-year-old man from Kericho county has survived the killer cancer disease after undergoing chemotherapy.

In an interview with journalists, Bernard Otieno, a security officer employed by a blue chip company in Kericho Town says he is happy that he is fully recovered from esophagus cancer that had progressed to stage two after he was diagnosed three years ago.

Strong as ever, the father of two decided to share his personal and unique experience to encourage and help raise awareness of others suffering from the disease.

When Otieno was diagnosed with esophagus cancer, he was hopeful and anticipated a few months of treatment and an immediate recovery.

He was soon to find out that the treatment was challenging and had to go through a series of six chemotherapy sessions as well as a 24-hour-long surgery.

“In January 2020 I started experiencing ulcer-like symptoms and when I went to the hospital I was treated for ulcers after I experienced burning sensations in my stomach and feeling pain when swallowing solid and liquid food. I took medications for six months and all the symptoms were eradicated,” said Otieno.

He revealed that he went back to his

doctor when he started experiencing pain when swallowing food who recommended an X-ray whose results revealed his narrowing esophagus.

He continued: “In October the ulcer symptoms disappeared, but while eating food I was not able to swallow but I would vomit it, the feeling would be like having food getting stuck down my gullet and this was very painful. The thought of hunger was agonizing as I would eat but food would just not go down. An X-ray done revealed that I had a narrowing esophagus.”

“I was referred to Tenwek Mission Hospital in October for an endoscopy procedure and the following month a biopsy was done. The biopsy sample was taken to Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) for examination. In January 2021 the results were out which revealed I had cancer of the esophagus,” added Otieno.

A medical report following an endoscopy procedure from Tenwek Mission Hospital dated 29 December 2021 showed that Otieno had a worrying growth building along his esophagus.

“With progressive dysphasia and abnormal esophageal showing a tight structure in the distal esophagus but proximal in EG junction. EGD exam showed the same with features suggestive of infiltration and minimal bulky features to the stricture.”

On 20 January 2022 Otieno traveled to Tenwek Mission Hospital after receiving a call that his biopsy test results from KNH had arrived and was to present himself at the medical facility to know his fate. He said that he went alone to see the doctor and the bad news was that he had stage two cancer of the esophageal.

Esophageal cancer is a type of cancer affecting the esophagus (gullet) the long tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach.

“At first I saw death, but as the doctor explained everything I just went into prayer and asked God to heal me,” recounts Otieno.

He walked back to his motorcycle hoping to break the news to his wife while attempting to understand the medical procedures he was to undergo which were all foreign to him. Otieno said the medic at Tenwek stated it was obvious that he undergoes three chemotherapy sessions then surgery and then back to three more chemotherapy sessions to slow down the growing cancer cells.

“My wife Evelyn Nyaboke could not believe what I told her, but she affirmed that God will not leave my side and we went into prayer sessions with my pastor together with church members. I went for my first chemotherapy session in March 2021 and after three months I went for the sec-

ond one in June and later I completed my last chemotherapy session in October 2021. I experienced severe loss of appetite, I would vomit anything I tried to eat or drink, and developed serious fatigue from the chemotherapy which lasted a week,” Otieno painfully recounted.

In March 2022 Otieno recalls a phone call from a medic at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet County informing him that he was booked to undergo an operation after undergoing an endoscopy whose results revealed that the tumor was still present but reduced in size and necessitated surgery to remove it.

“I was now scheduled for surgery at Tenwek Mission Hospital on 14 July 2022 which would cost Sh 600,000.

My employer assisted in meeting part my surgery expenses with Sh 110,000, my National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) cover package for surgery gave me Sh 250,000 while Tenwek Hospital waived the rest,” revealed Otieno.

Otieno braved a 24-hour long operation an experience he narrates was haunting.

“This was my first operation in my life and when the surgeon asked me if he would pray for me it is when I realized my life was hanging in the balance,” narrated Otieno.

Doctors revealed to him that his surgery took 24 hours before waking up with all manner of tubes sticking out of his mouth and chest. He was discharged on 7 August 2022 and after completing his second chemotherapy session in November 2023 he was declared cancer free disclosed Otieno.

“In January 2023 I went for a check-up where I had my surgery stitches removed and come March 2023 I started my second cycle of chemotherapy with my first session then in May 2023 I had my second session and my last was in July 2023. In November 2023 I was sent to KNH for my Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan and after three days I went back to Tenwek Hospital to check the sent results which indicated I was free from cancer. I have been visiting Tenwek Mission Hospital for check-ups and so far all is well and I am grateful to God for my healing,” revealed Otieno.

Now cancer-free for the last three months, Otieno has been motivating others living with cancer and is grateful that he went through the painful journey to give hope to others today.

Nakuru County Partner With Safaricom To Promote Talents In Informal Settlement

By: Veronica Bosibori
 @themkenyatimes

Safaricom Foundation has partnered with Nakuru County Government, to foster sports and talent among youths, particularly in informal settlement areas.

Nakuru County Chief Officer for Youth, Sports, Talent, and Resource Mobilization, Alex Maina, alongside a team from Safaricom on Friday engaged Mixed Martial Arts Groups at Kivumbini Social Hall.

The groups' spokesperson, Marvin Owino, shed light on the struggles faced by the slum dwellers and the efforts they have put to earn a living.

He made an appeal to Governor Susan Kihika's Administration to support them in establishing SMEs and other projects, that will enable them to improve their livelihoods.

Safaricom representatives, Mr. Felix Mburu and Phyllis Mungai, reiterated the Company's commitment to initiating projects that will benefit the young people in the slum areas.

The Chief Officer encouraged the youth to seize every opportunity, within their reach for economic well-being and a better life.

He assured them of Administrative support and collaboration with partners, to improve the status of youth across the County.

Maina observed that the County has a mammoth population of young people, the majority of whom are not well utilized, despite having various sports capabilities, such as athletics, football and basketball.

He appealed to other companies to come forward and render support.

Owino made a personal petition on behalf of the youth to be assisted with equipment to promote their talents in sports and drama, and make the County an enviable centre of sports



Nakuru County Chief Officer for Youth, Sports, Talent, and Resource Mobilization Alex Maina.

in the country.

He gave an example of boxing where the informal settlements have nurtured champions for the country.

He observed that a number of teenage girls already have children and one of the best ways to prevent early pregnancies, was through invest-

ments in sports to keep school leavers busy instead of idling in the estates.

Man Convicted For Defiling A Teenager Last November

By: Kimani Tirus and Lavinia Nungari
 @themkenyatimes

A man has been convicted by the Loitoktok law court for defiling a 13-year-old girl.

Moses Mutunga Mutuku, who was convicted by Resident Magistrate Nelson Njuguna is said to have committed the offence on November 2, 2023 at Isinet trading centre in Loitoktok Sub County.

While testifying before the court during the trial, Mary Mukandi, the mother to the minor had narrated how on the material day at around 8.00 am had left home for her business leaving her daughter to wash clothes.

However, at around 4.00pm when she called her neighbor to reach out to her daughter, she was informed had not been seen since 9.00am, which prompted her to go back home.

She was informed her daughter went to their neighbour's house for laundry, however when she went there she was told her daughter went back home.

She returned home and alerted a lady working as a Nyumba Kumi elder to assist in the search of her daughter.

While waiting for the lady her daughter emerged from a different direction other than their neighbor's place, giving explanation that her mother doubted, hence escorted her to police station.

When interrogated she said after washing clothes she went to the house of the accused where they had sex.

The girl was escorted to Loitoktok Sub County hospital for medical examination, where it was established she was defiled before the accused was later arrested.

In court the accused denied the allegations citing he was framed for an offence he never committed.

However, the court found the prosecution had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt, hence the conviction.

The case was set for sentencing on February 21.



A Bag Of Goodies As Ruto Winds Up Two-Day Tour In Nyeri

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes



President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua launching affordable housing program in Nyeri town.

Worth Noting:

- The community is set to generate millions of shillings annually into the economy annually by irrigating high value commercial horticultural crops which is contributing to the Big four Agenda on Food Security and Nutrition.
- On Friday, the President laid a foundation stone Affordable Housing project in Blue Valley estate within Nyeri town.
- The 320-unit project in a ten-acre land will create jobs for the local youth and also provide low-income earners with decent homes.
- In Nyeri County, the National Government is planning to construct 15,000 units which will create jobs for over 3,500 youth.

As President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua did wind up their two-day visit in Nyeri, the county was left with goodies which will transform lives of locals if the projects outlined are mentioned implemented.

The two leaders announced that several projects are set to be undertaken in the area.

Several public primary and secondary schools also benefitted from the tour, with the duo pledging to rehabilitation of various projects.

On Thursday, the duo commissioned Changachicha Irrigation Water Project in Othaya constituency which will boost food production and create employment in the area.

The irrigation project which is being implemented by the National Irrigation Authority covers a total acreage of 500 acres within Chinga Ward.

The project will create wealth and job opportunities for about 2,000 direct beneficiaries and about 10,000 indirect beneficiaries.

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The 320-unit project in a ten-acre land will create jobs for the local youth and also provide low-income earners with decent homes.

In Nyeri County, the National Government is planning to construct 15,000 units which will create jobs for over 3,500 youth.

The Kenya Kwanza government will also construct a KSh700 Million market for our local traders in Nyeri town. This will boost business in the town.

The President and the Deputy President later launched the Mathira Community Water Supply Project in Ihwagi, Iria-ini ward, Mathira East.

The project being done by the National Government through Tana Water Works Development Agency will serve 3,500 households with approximately 25,000 persons who will benefit directly from access to water for domestic use and irrigation.

The project is equipped with six storage tanks which have a total capacity of 1.2 Million liters, allowing for efficient water storage management and resilience against disruptions, improving water reliability.

This project is a game-changer project which also contributes to the Big four Agenda on Food Security and Nutrition.

During the three events, the President addressed public meetings where he made several promises.

He told the constituents that Othaya and Ruring'u stadiums would be constructed. Ruring'u stadium seems to have stalled and has been

under construction for more than a decade.

The president said the Othaya stadium will also be upgraded in the next 6 months.

More roads will be constructed in Nyeri County. Some of them, like those in Mathira constituency stalled after the then area MP and now Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua differed with then the top government officials.

Schools like Chinga Boys will be funded by KSh10 million for a dining hall. Ihwagi Secondary will receive 7 Million for expansion and Nyeri National Polytechnic will receive KSh50 million for completing the projects in the institution.

He also promised to return soon to commence more projects.

Dozens of leaders accompanied the two most powerful political leaders in the country.

These included Lands and Housing Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome, his Water, Sanitation and Irrigation counterpart Zachary Njeru, Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira, Tana Water Works Development Agency chairperson Wanyaga Gathaka, Nyeri governor Mutahi Kahiga, area Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Members of Parliament Duncan Maina (Nyeri Town), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), John Kaguchia (Mukurweini) Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu), Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwa, Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu) and a host MCAs among others.



Tana Water Works Development Agency CEO Eng Philip Gichuki explaining areas being served by Mathira Community Water Supply Project to President Ruto, his deputy Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders.

Government Allocates Sh3 Billion To Support Community Health Promoters



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

The government has today disbursed Sh3 billion to compensate Community Health Promoters (CHP) nationwide, marking a significant milestone in public healthcare. Over 13 million Kenyans have directly benefited from the services provided by the 107,000 CHPs stationed in villages across the country.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua commended the CHPs as unsung heroes in advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) during the fund release ceremony held at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi. This administration, under President William Ruto, becomes the first to recognize and remunerate community health workers for their pivotal role in preventive healthcare.

The stipend, aimed at motivating and acknowledging the vital contributions of CHPs, is a joint effort between the National Government and county administrations. Each promoter has also received a smartphone and specialized kits, facilitating the electronic community health information system (E-CHS) for data collection.

Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha, alongside other government officials and partners, emphasized the integral role of CHPs in public health. Furthermore, the Deputy President highlighted the CHPs' rapid outreach, having touched 2.7 million households within four months since their deployment.

Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo of the World Health Organization praised the government's initiative, affirming its sustainability. Additionally, the Deputy President cited other governmental successes, such as the reduction in maize flour prices and the stabilization of the Kenya Shilling against the US dollar, attributing these achievements to prudent economic management under President Ruto's leadership.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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Ruto's Tour Of The Kikuyuland Was Purely Meant For Development



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

I followed with keen interest the just-concluded tour of President William Ruto in Kikuyu land.

For three days, he steered clear of local politics and purely focussed on development matters.

This is once again demonstrated that the President remained focussed and consistent. This is the same message he would make whenever he toured other parts of the country.

This was the second development tour the President was making in the Mountain. In earlier visit, he stayed for six days during which he unveiled a raft of projects.

This clearly showed that he was truly grateful to the people of this region for having voted as a bloc in support of him during the 2022 General Election.

I'm back because I do not want to see Central Kenya lagging behind on matters of development.

I'm the President of the Republic of Kenya. I'm therefore committed to develop all corners of Kenya equally.

In Kiambu, the President read a riot act to the local leaders. It is totally wrong to hire youths to shout at the leaders that you do not want. This habit must stop. As leaders, I urge you to focus on fulfilling the promises you made to the electorates.

Come 2027 polls, Kenyans will judge each one of us based on the work we have done.

They will not re-elect you because of igniting and being the leading light in early and premature succession politics.

It is worth noting President Ruto toured Kikuyuland just a few days after his Deputy President Rigathi visited Muranga County which is the bedrock of his perceived political rival and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

He visited at a time when political temperature was high. It had been caused by Ndindi's heightened political and development activities in Kiharu.

Each had been putting the best foot forward in a bid to take over the Mount Kenya kingdom.

So, during a fundraiser in Kigumo, many reasoned that Gachagua's visit was meant to stamp his authority as the Mount Kenya kingpin.

In his speech, he stated that President William Ruto and I have no problem preparing and nurturing youthful leaders to take over after we have completed our terms.

He was accompanied by dozens of

the MPs drawn from the Mountain and other regions. Many interpreted this to mean sending a strong message to Ndindi Nyoro that he was a lightweight. He cannot play in his league. He cannot match political experience and acumen that spanning three governments of President Moi, Kibaki and Uhuru.

Ndindi was present. This was a wise move. For the second time, the MP declared unconditional and unwavering support for Gachagua and President William Ruto. Was this coming from the bottom of his heart? Only time will tell.

The visit coincided with a post that circulating in social media in which the author argued that Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is not safe politically. Some powerful political forces were working behind the scene to bring him down.

If the forces succeed, President William will pick another person from the Mountain as his running mate 2027.

That is if he opts he to have this seat remain in region.

It is worth noting that the prerogative of choosing a running mate lies squarely with the President.

You would expect him to pick the most popular candidate who will help him to deliver votes. Given that majority of voters in the region are young people, a youthful candidate may stand a high chance.

Given this scenario, I would not expect DP Gachagua to take lightly the recent political developments.

A few days earlier, Ndindi opted to change his political strategy.

Contrary to the impression created by his critics, this was a tactical retreat.

Speaking when he was hosted by the leaders from Northern Kenya, Rift Valley and Nyanza, the Kiharu MP stated that his loyalty to President William Ruto and his deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was unquestionable.

As their worker, my job is to help them implement the pledges they made to Kenyans during the campaigns.

In Luo Nyanza where he was accompanied by local leaders and MP Babu Owino, Ndindi reiterated the commitment of President Ruto to develop all regions of Kenya.

All of us pay taxes and so we are entitled to development goodies.

Speaker after speaker showered Ndindi Nyoro with accolades.

Ndindi is youthful, development conscious and well educated on matters of good governance and social rights. He also believes in peace and unity. Therefore, he is a presidential material.

In his speech, Ndindi steered clear of succession politics. The talk is premature and ill-timed. This is the time of helping our beloved President and his deputy to succeed in their job of transforming the lives of Kenyans.

Ndindi's change of tack was well understood. It came hot on the heels of a meeting he had hosted in Kiharu constituency. It was attended by 20 members of parliament drawn from different

parts of country.

Most of the speakers endorsed Ndindi as the best suited to replace former President Uhuru Kenyatta as the kingpin of Mountain and also to succeed President William Ruto in 2032.

This time, this meeting rattled the deputy President Gachagua and his allies.

The DP troops did not wait for the dust to settle. They accused Ndindi of working at the behest of powerful forces out to cut Gachagua to size.

Though they would not provide evidence to support their claims, media reports indicated that the DP opted to escalate this matter to State House.

Reportedly, this what prompted the President to wade into the succession battle pitting him and Kiharu MP.

My government promised to mentor youthful leaders. We have not changed but I want to caution young leaders not to engage in activities that could jeopardize our development agenda.

A friend of mine told me. Hon Ndindi have a track record of development, reconciling and uniting the people.

He added: We expect the duo to borrow a leaf from the late Kenneth Matiba who said in the countdown to 1992 general elections 'let the people decide'.

This means the people of Mount Kenya will choose candidate.

If it is Gachagua, then he will retain his position as Dr Ruto's running mate. If Ndindi defeats him, he will replace him.

Matiba had made the popular quote in the eve of 1992 general elections during a mammoth campaign rallies in Kiambu district.

This tour shocked Democratic Party (DP) leader Mwai Kibaki, who had taken his campaign there a week earlier. This is because all the gains he had made were watered down.

This is where Matiba branded Kibaki as 'general Kiguoya (coward)' amid cheers, ululations from mammoth crowds.

We wanted Kibaki to resign when he was demoted by President Moi from position of the Vice President to that of the Ministry of Health that had been run down.

He had agreed to do so. This is after a series of the secret meetings with other leaders from across the country who believed that Moi was taking the country in wrong direction.

Kibaki however betrayed us on the floor of parliament. He declined to second a motion of confidence against President Moi which I had just presented.

This was a great betrayal. I become a marked man. I was put on the radar by state security agencies and I ended up in detention, Matiba declared.

The 'let the people decide' clarion call resonated very well with the masses not only in Mount Kenya region but Kenya as a whole.

I remember the famous words of former powerful Attorney General the late Charles Njonjo. He once said that politics is a dirty game.

You may think that today you are very



President William Ruto visiting farmers in Kiambu

powerful but you never know what will happen tomorrow.

Njonjo uttered these words after falling out with President Daniel Arap Moi.

He never thought that this can happen. This is because he was a close ally and confidant of President Moi.

Former Vice President Josphat Karanja had also suffered fate. After Moi fell out with his Vice President Mwai Kibaki, he pointed Doctor Karanja to this position.

Karanja stayed in office for less than one year. It is worth to note the political plot to hound him out of office had crafted by two lightweight politicians-Embakasi MP David Mwenje and the head of Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit Kuria Kanyingi. Just like DP Gachagua, he had downplayed the threat posed by the duo. President Moi replaced Karanja with the late Professor George Saitoti.

In Kiharu, former secretary general of KNUT Wilson Sosian who was among the leaders hosted by Ndindi, stated. I want to assure you the people of Muranga that Ndindi was poised to succeed President Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second term in office. You can take this to the bank.

I heard a section of the politicians allied to DP started peddling unfounded rumors that President William Ruto was sponsoring Ndindi's campaigns. They would not produce an iota of evidence to support their claims.

This is not the first time that the name of the head of state would drag into premature 2032 succession politics.

Sometimes back Kakamega senator Bonny Khalwale had made similar claims. This happened during Dr Ruto's visit to the region.

He alleged that President Ruto had held a closed door meeting with the leaders of Mulembe nation at Kakamega State Lodge. We managed to convince him to support the candidature of ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi in 2032.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is not suitable for the position of the President. We want to tell him to forget it. President Ruto will pass the baton to Mudavadi, Khalwale added.

But in a swift rejoinder, Dr Ruto dismissed and denounced his remarks. It is premature and too early to talk about 2032 succession. We are here to launch and commission development projects. This is in line with promises we made during the campaigns.

I'm not holding brief for the President but I'm persuaded to believe that his position is the same. This is in regard to Ndindi's political game plan for the Mount Kenya region.

The DP should bear this in mind. Ndindi's political star was rising very fast.

I have been listening to the views of the Kikuyus living in Githurai and in my rural constituency of Mathioya

They would aver that Kiharu MP Ndindi is the most suitable candidate to lead the Mountain.

Apart from being youthful and well educated, he is a development conscious leader and a unifier.

Besides, he has never been implicated in corruption or any other wrong-doing. Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

The MPs and other elected leaders are travelling there for bench-marking.

The other day a renowned opinion poll firm rated him as the best performer in the country. This is on matters of development.

Matters of education are close to his heart. Ndindi have done a lot in terms of building new state-of-art classrooms and renovating the old ones.

He has also been spending part of money he receives from National Exchequer to build TVET colleges.

National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) is one of the kitties

In this, the NG-CDF funds will cater for the school fees of the students in day schools in Kiharu. The parents will only pay Sh1,000 per term.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Political Analyst Based In Nairobi

Abagusii Cultural Council Urges Politicians To Respect Sanctity Of Burial Ceremonies

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Abagusii Cultural and Development Council expresses deep concern over the recent trend observed during burial ceremonies in Kisii County.

The Council is dismayed by the prevalence of political discussions, quarrels, name-calling, and physical altercations among mourners, which have marred the solemnity of these cultural events.

It has come to our attention that some politicians even go to the extent of hiring individuals to disrupt proceedings through heckling and violence.

Addressing the press in Kisii County, Chairperson James Matundura reiterated the importance of respecting the cultural significance of burial ceremonies.

He emphasized that such occasions are meant to honor the departed and provide solace to the bereaved family members.

Matundura emphasized that speeches



Abagusii Cultural and Development Council during the meeting have urged politicians to respect the sanctity of the burial ceremony. Photo | Elizabeth Angira

during funerals should be brief and focused on expressing condolences, sharing memories of the deceased and offering support to the family. Any discussions beyond these essential topics are deemed inappropriate and disrespectful.

Matundura firmly asserted that politics has no place in burial ceremonies and called for a complete cessation of

political activities during such events.

He urged politicians to seek alternative platforms for their campaigns and discussions on community development, emphasizing the need to uphold the dignity of the deceased and their grieving loved ones.

Furthermore, Matundura emphasized the importance of discouraging the involvement of youths in causing

disruptions during burial ceremonies. He called upon community leaders to take proactive measures to prevent the hiring of individuals to instigate chaos and heckle speakers.

The Abagusii Cultural and Development Council appeals to all stakeholders, especially politicians, to uphold the sanctity of burial ceremonies and refrain from engaging in any activities

that may detract from the solemnity of these cultural events.

Let us come together to honor the departed with dignity and respect, ensuring that funeral gatherings remain a source of comfort and solace for grieving families.

Dr. Kariuki: 500M To Register A Real Estate Company Is Farfetched

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Comfort Homes Managing Director Dr. Hezekiah Kariuki has taken a moment to share with us his thoughts of the proposed Real Estate Regulation Bill. Dr. Kariuki highlighted his opinion particularly to the phrase that touches on the licensing of real estate agents. The Bill seeks to introduce an annual licensing requirement; the legislation ensures that agents continually meet the stipulated standards of professionalism and ethics.

Dr. Kariuki had this to share with us: "One of the components of the proposed bill is a requirement of the sum of Kenya Shillings five hundred million for registration of a real estate company. Let's try to dissect that a little bit: Since we gained independence in 1963, only a mere two percent (2%) of Kenyans have attained assets worth Ksh 500 million. Now,

calling for a real estate company to pay that much is not only farfetched but also punitive. How many real estate companies can be able to raise that amount, especially during these tough economic times? I guess none," Dr. Kariuki noted

Before any change can be effected, there is a need for stakeholder engagement and participation. Firstly, let us look at the merits and demerits of the real estate industry. Centimillionaires in Africa can be ranked as number one – Egypt (because of oil wealth), and South Africa as a result of gold mining. Nigeria is number three as a result of oil and gas. Kenya is number four and our millionaires rose after the robust infrastructural development borne during the late President Mwai Kibaki.

The real estate company has created a lot of job opportunities – to be precise at least 400,000 jobs directly and another 300,000 jobs indirectly. Why are we enemies of ourselves in Kenya – killing what can be of benefit to us?

After job losses, we shall experi-

ence stagnation in the growth of the upcoming towns that have been enabled by real estate companies.

Another loss is Government revenue which the government obtains through documentation, subdivision and transfer of land. Therefore, I'm calling upon our leaders to rethink about such a move whose disadvantages outweigh the gains."

Dr. Kariuki also expressed his full support for the Government's affordable housing program which he said other than creating employment, is offering a beacon of hope to many Kenyans whose dream of owning a house could have remained a pipe-dream.



One of the awards that Comfort Homes won in Pacesetters Awards.

Habitat For Humanity Partners With Laikipia Gov't To Feed Pupils

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Laikipia has been in the forefront in ensuring that feeding programmes are supported in our schools, therefore it has embraced partnerships in fighting and mitigating effects of hunger and Climate change.

This journey has involved many partners who have supported us in ensuring that remedies towards the aforementioned issues are arrived at.

Habitat for Humanity is one of the partners we have been collaborating with in mitigating the ravaging drought and hunger brought by climate change.

Yesterday, in the collaborative efforts, Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri joined Habitat for Humanity Kenya in distribution of food to five schools in support of a one year feeding programme in several schools which include; Mbombo primary school in Laikipia west, Kandutura primary school, Naibor Primary School in Segera ward, Mutirithia Primary School and Mbogoini Primary School



Kiambu Residents To Benefit From Oesophageal Cancer Screening

By: Hellen Lunalo
 @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu County is among five counties that hosted a delegation from the University of Manchester and Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) to deliberate on areas of collaboration on matters of health specifically oesophageal cancer.

The County Executive for Health Services Dr. Elias Maina who received the delegation at Thika Level 5 hospital noted that there was a unique partnership between The University of Manchester, The Christies NHS Foundation Trust, and KUTRRH focused on raising awareness in regards to Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oesophagus (OSCC) in the country and increasing engagement in public screening opportunities using mobile detection units.



The delegation was led by Dr. Marion Kiguoya, Deputy Director Research and Clinical Trials at KUTRRH.

According to the International Agency for cancer research, Oesopharyngeal Carcinoma is the 3rd most common cancer in Kenya and the most lethal, as 99 percent of pa-

tients with the disease die within 5 years of initial diagnosis.

This is largely attributed to the late diagnosis of the patients who present themselves for screening when the disease is in the advanced fatal stages.

Speaking in his office, Maina said the delegation's objective was to fa-

miliarize themselves with the Kiambu County Health Care system and the oncology department's specific requirement gaps to facilitate identification of areas, where partnership was necessary in bridging cancer screening measures.

"The organization will establish small screening facilities across the

county, with Thika Level 5 being one of the key areas where endoscopies for the project will be conducted. This will ensure that services are accessible to most residents and we will also get to utilize Community Health Volunteers (CHV) for referrals at the community level," said Dr. Maina.

He added that the initiative would enhance early screening and detection of OSCC that would therefore establish and strengthen a favorable referral system between the county hospitals and KUTRRH.

The delegation also ventured into the community to witness the community unit, the focal point for providing and promoting awareness among functionaries involved in healthcare initiatives.

The visit marked a crucial step in fostering collaboration and understanding for the advancement of cancer research and healthcare initiatives in the country.

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.

Fake



I don't know the language, but the
language of others
The heart is in the stain of burning
sorrow
Sometimes you don't even come
The one shot in you will break your heart

If you trust someone, you will not go far
Or with you for the benefit
Naqilay, my heart, you are so simple
Live a little for yourself

My eyes laugh but my insides cry
To whom it is joy and to whom it is
sorrow
If only I knew what you shot from me
No more fake feelings

Khudoyberdiyeva, daughter of Rayhona Abbas, was born on 22.02.2005 in Nurota district of Navoi region. She is a 1st year student of Pediatrics at Tashkent Medical Academy. Until now, she is the author of several international certificates, poems and articles.

My Lovely Teacher



In halls of wisdom, where minds take
flight,
There's a guiding star, shining ever so
bright,
A beacon of knowledge, all hearts adore,
My lovely teacher, whom I deeply adore.
With grace and charm, she enters the
room,
Radiating warmth, dispelling all gloom,
Her laughter, like music, fills the air,
Bringing joy and inspiration, beyond
compare.
With patience abundant, she nurtures
our minds,
Unfolding each lesson, with a touch so
kind,
Her wisdom and expertise, an endless
well,
Her passion for teaching, impossible to
quell.
A master storyteller, she weaves magic
with words,
Painting vivid portraits, like fluttering
birds,
Through her tales, she opens doors to
the unknown,

Igniting a thirst for learning, like seeds
being sown.
She's a gentle guide, leading us with care,
Encouraging dreams, helping us reach
there,
She sees the potential in each student's
heart,
Unleashing their brilliance, a true work
of art.
In her eyes, a spark, a never-ending
quest,
To ignite minds, spreading knowledge
with zest,
She molds us like clay, with love in her
hands,
Shaping futures, in her classroom's
magical lands.
My lovely teacher, a guiding star in my
days,
An inspiration, illuminating life's maze,
In gratitude, I stand, forever in awe,
For the gift of your teachings, my heart
forever will adore.

Dildora Yangiboyeva was born on
February 2, 2005 in Bukhara city.
Initially, she studied at the 26th school
in this city. Currently, she is a second
-year student of the Bukhara State
Pedagogical Institute, majoring in foreign
language and literature (English). Today,
more than 10 of her articles have been
published in Uzbek and English languages
at national and international conferences
and journals

Translation Of Anecdotes Of Nasriddin Efanding



By: Fayzullayeva Munisa Fozil
A young man asked Khoja Nasriddin for a
rope. The master came in and said that
the women had sprinkled flour on the
rope since it was not empty, and the
young man was surprised and asked, "Sir,
what kind of rope is sprinkled with flour?"
What kind of way is this?
Khoja said, "I didn't have the heart to give,
he sprinkled flour on the throat".
One day, Khoja locked his chickens in
a cage and was going to Akshahar,
Sivrihisar. I then released the animals
so they wouldn't die in the heat. With
that they were freed and scattered in
all directions. All the chickens ran away.

Khoja took a stick in his hand and put
his chicken in front of him and started
chasing the chickens.
The Khoja was sent to Kurdistan through
the embassy " Kurdish gentlemen
gave the Khoja a big feast with great
compliments. The Khoja was also dressed
in a beautiful yellow turban and fur,
and behind his mullah, he was properly
prepared for the party. He turned into
a frenzy from the suggestion and
individual thoughts that contradicted his
character. He was bored and yawned in
the hall and said, "Shame on you, teacher".
Khoja Effendi goes to a party in old
clothes and no one looks at him. Khoja
quickly ran to his house, put on his
wonderful clothes and furs, and became
as usual. They take the Khoja from the
door with honor and respect and point
to the main table and say, " Here is the
Khoja Efendi". The owner hands his fur
to the dining area and says, "Here is my
fur". People asked what Khoja Efendi was
saying, because the fur is a divine blessing,
he should order it.

I am Fayzullayeva, daughter of Munisa
Fozil, I was born on July 7, 2004 in
Shakhrisabz district of Kashkadarya
region. I am currently studying at Chirchik
State Pedagogical University

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Beware!! Surge In Violent Robberies Targeting Taxi Drivers

By: The DCI

The DCI cautions taxi operators to be wary of an ongoing trend by criminal syndicates that are hiring taxi services for either long distances or trips with several pickup points while guised as cash-rich customers, only to turn violent robbers along the way.

A member of a well-organized criminal ring identifies a target whom they deem vulnerable to a good deal of money out of the ordered trip, and whose car suits their need.

The “customer” negotiates with the taxi driver on the charges for the trip, and while on the way communicates with one or more accomplices who will be conveniently waiting along the route.

With promises of an extra inconvenience fee for the stop, the driver goes ahead to let onboard new passengers. In some occasions, the accomplices lie in wait at the drop off

point.

Usually, the route or destinations picked will have secluded areas, where the gangs turns against the drivers, robs them off their vehicles and at times murder them in cold blood.

In one of the latest scenarios reported at Kikopey Police Post within Gilgil, Nakuru County, a 42-year-old male taxi operator in Nairobi CBD was hired by a customer to drive him to Nakuru using his motor vehicle make Toyota Fielder.

Once in Naivasha, the customer requested that they pick his two friends at Karagita area before setting off towards Nakuru.

A short moment into the final stretch of the journey, the passengers turned against the male driver before robbing him of his vehicle and dumped him at Diatomite area in Gilgil.

On receiving the report, a team of detectives from DCI Headquarters was deployed to launch a manhunt for the suspects, two of whom were traced to Bungoma County.

Francis Ojerepata Omoindi, 39 and



Jack Odhiambo Otieno, 38 were both arrested and the vehicle recovered, before being handed over to DCI Gilgil for further police action.

In their possession were seven sim cards, five national ID cards and two driving licences.

Their case is ongoing at the Chief Magistrate’s Court in Naivasha as

pursuit for other accomplices continue.

While the DCI understands the challenge in identifying potential threats by hardworking taxi drivers who wait late to ensure their customers get to their destinations safely, we encourage operators to be vigilant and report any suspicion of dan-

ger to the police through the various police hotlines.

At the DCI, we remain committed to our key mandate of investigating serious crimes in the country, and assure Kenyans that we shall continue serving with Dedication, Care and Integrity.

The Government Has Been Urged To Invest More Money In CDF Allocation

By: Waithaka Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The government has been urged to invest more money in CDF allocation in order to add more infrastructures in public schools which are in dire need to be decongestion

Most of the public schools are full and need infrastructure and furniture plus manpower.

These were words from speakers during official opening of 4 classrooms in Githuamba primary school Kasarani constituency led by Leonard Karauri.

Karaurli promised to lobby for new Gatie primary as most children are walking 10 kilometers to few primary schools in the area.


He condemned the delay of disbursement of CDF funds even county governments funds that are delaying development in counties and

constituencies.

Most of the contractors who were given contracts to build Ruai roads were not paid and they are stall but promised to push for their construction.

Kasarani constituency MP Leonard Karauri.





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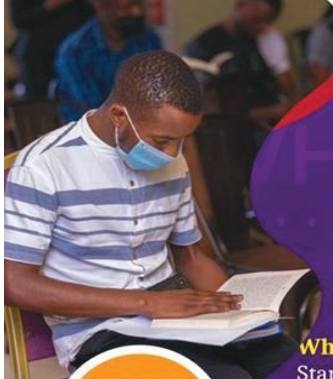


Join us for the
Public Health March: Unite, Advocate, Transform
on
13th Feb 2024

Venue :Green Park terminus
Time:8am

“ UNITING FOR A STRONGER FUTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH!”

#Nothing4us without us
#PHOs4aPH
#KEHPHUdelivers



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,
+ Gift hamper



1st Runner-up
Ugx.150,000,
+ Gift hamper

2nd Runner-up
Ugx.100,000,
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Certificates of participation at each level.

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

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Kenya Signs Landmark Agreement with UK Firm to Revive Fluorspar Mining



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

In a momentous development for Kenya's mining industry, the government has entered into a transformative agreement with the United Kingdom's Soy-Fujax Mining Company, aimed at breathing new life into fluorspar mining activities within Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The contract, ceremoniously signed by Mining Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, accompanied by Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi and Fujax UK Regional Director Hendrick Ryst, marks a significant stride towards reinvigorating Kenya's mining sector. Noteworthy in the agreement is the

provision for the Kenyan government to hold a 15 percent equity stake in the mining operations, a strategic measure designed to uphold national interests and ensure equitable participation in the venture. This aspect underscores Kenya's commitment to leveraging its resources for sustainable economic growth and development.

Forecasts from the State Department of Mining project an infusion of Sh4.8 billion into the local economy as a direct result of this partnership. This substantial investment is poised to catalyze economic activity, foster job creation, and stimulate regional development, particularly within the Elgeyo Marakwet community.

"The signing of this agreement marks a monumental milestone in the mining sector, signaling the beginning of a transformative journey that promises to inject over 4.8 billion shillings into the local economy," affirmed the state department of mining. The ensuing economic ripple effects are expected to resonate far beyond the

mining sector, contributing to the broader socio-economic upliftment of the region.

Furthermore, the State Department of Mining is actively engaged in securing strategic partnerships aimed at diversifying Kenya's mining portfolio. Initiatives such as establishing a gold refinery in Kakamega and a granite plant in Vihiga County underscore the government's proactive stance in exploring untapped potential within the sector.

The presence of senior officials from the mining department at the signing ceremony underscores the gravity of the occasion and highlights the government's unwavering commitment to fostering an enabling environment for both local and international investors. The ongoing reforms within the mining sector reflect a concerted effort to enhance transparency, efficiency, and attractiveness to investors, positioning Kenya as a competitive player in the global mining landscape.

In essence, the agreement with



Salim Mvurya signs contract with the United Kingdom's Soy-Fujax Mining Company

Soy-Fujax Mining Company heralds a new era of collaboration and prosperity for Kenya's mining sector, promising tangible benefits for local communities and stakeholders alike. As the nation continues to chart its course towards sustainable development, mining stands poised to play

a pivotal role in driving economic transformation and unlocking the full potential of Kenya's rich mineral resources.

Upping Employment Opportunities For the Youth

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

To increase job opportunities for the youths abroad, especially those learning hands-on courses, the Amboseli Institute has signed a memorandum of understanding with a company from Dubai – Evolving Women.

The youths now have a golden chance to learn more about hands-on courses and gain experience.

Speaking when signing the agreement at the Amboseli Institute Thika, the managing director of that institute Hellen Kibe-Kanyoro urged the youths to take up the courses they are passionate about and more so thanked the Government for expanding opportunities for the youths.

"We're glad to partner with you! Did you know that Evolving Women specializes in job placement and ca-



Amboseli Institute Thika

reer advancement services for women in the hospitality industry? They provide mentorship, training, and networking opportunities to help women succeed in their professional lives."

Support for job Creation responds to the need for job creation with initiatives to help launch new businesses, improve the productivity and job creation potential of existing micro-enterprises

and among self-employed youth, and support innovative approaches to improving job and earning opportunities among the hard-to-reach youth.

It addresses key constraints and market failures that limit the demand for youth employment and their productivity once in employment.

Mary Maingi Joins Campaign Against Illicit Alcohol



Mwea MP Mary Maingi with interior CS Kithure Kindiki

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Mwea Member of Parliament Mary Maingi has reiterated her unwavering support towards the eradication of the illicit alcohol. Mwea, which is in Kirinyaga County has not been spared by the voracious menace.

Earlier on Friday, Mary Maingi joined the Cabinet

Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Prof. Kithure Kindiki in a consultative meeting with the new Mwea security team, following the illicit alcohol incident which led to the loss of many lives.

The government, through the Cabinet Secretary, has issued a commitment to conduct a thorough and impartial inquiry into the involvement of officers in the incident. A program to assist those

chronically addicted to alcohol so that they are rehabilitated and reformed is also set to take off soon, and a crackdown to ensure all those running bars are adequately licensed and abiding to the required standards.

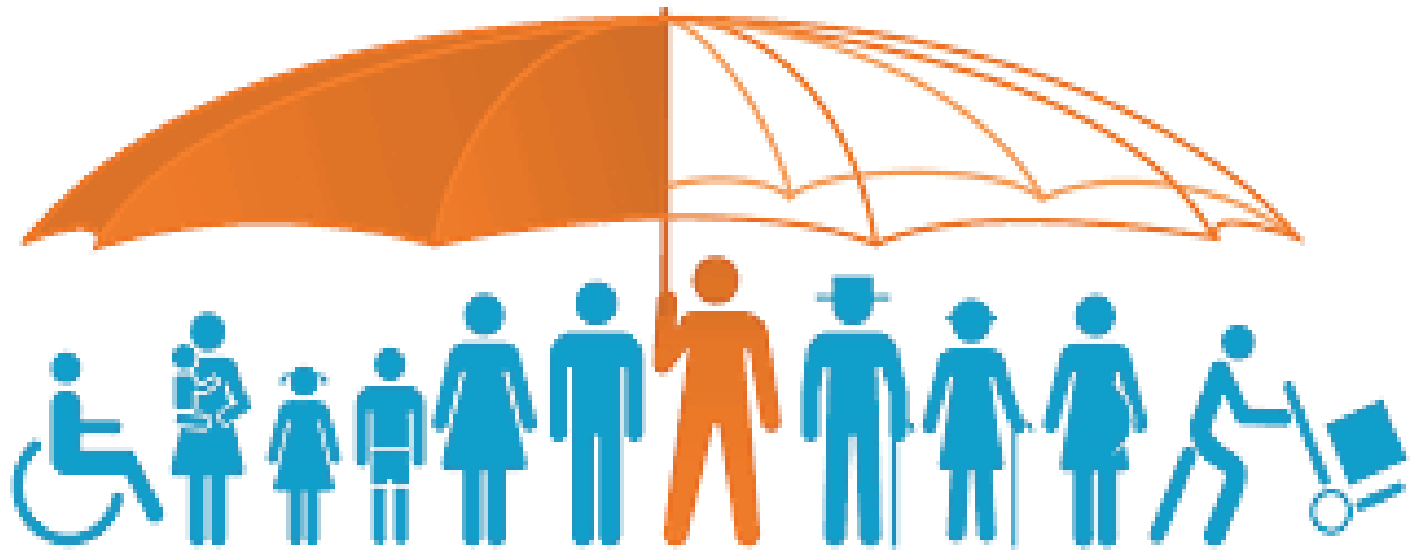
Through collaborative efforts, we will prevail in the war against illicit alcohol.

Validate The Social Protection Bill, 2024



By: Dennis Wendo

Email: dambehi@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- The ILO monitoring system on social protection, based on the ILO world social protection database, indicates approximately 55 per cent of the world's population does not have access to at least one social protection cash transfer.
- There is a need to address the existing gaps in the social protection sector in the country in order to promote the gradual realization of economic and social rights as well as the overall global agenda of universal social protection.
- The gaps include fragmented legislation and interventions, lack of a coordinated governance framework, lack of an inventory of all social protection interventions and beneficiaries, lack of coordination and coherence in the delivery of social protection and above all inadequate funding.

Social protection or social security, encompasses a set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability to people's wellbeing. It is enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 under article 43 that guarantees all Kenyans their economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, article 21 establishes the progressive realization of social and economic rights and obligates the state to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfill the rights and fundamental freedom in the bill of rights.

Social protection systems and its floors, if well designed and managed, largely support incomes and domestic consumption, build human capital and increase productivity.

Unlike before, the global trends in social protection are showing significant progress over time. Kenya is not on the periphery. It has gradually put into place measures and infrastructure geared towards cushioning its citizens as entrenched through the cash transfer programmes for orphans and vulnerable children, older persons and persons with severe disabilities. In addition, the ministry of devolution and planning implements the hunger safety net programme through the National Drought Management Authority. The school feeding programmes, bursary schemes and subsidy programmes are being implemented through various ministries, departments and agencies. Though commendable, the situation and impact is not optimal and requires much more input.

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tion cash transfer. There is a need to address the existing gaps in the social protection sector in the country in order to promote the gradual realization of economic and social rights as well as the overall global agenda of universal social protection. The gaps include fragmented legislation and interventions, lack of a coordinated governance framework, lack of an inventory of all social protection interventions and beneficiaries, lack of coordination and coherence in the delivery of social protection and above all inadequate funding.

In 2011, Kenya developed its first social protection policy namely the National Social Protection Policy, 2011. It reflected the Constitution's view of social protection as a fundamental right. Building societies based on the objective of guaranteeing a dignified life for all individuals, without exception, is adequately reflected in the recommendation No. 202 on national social protection floors adopted by member countries of the ILO in 2012, Kenya being part.

In 2013, the Social Assistance Act was enacted with the aim of enhancing the provision of social assistance to vulnerable members of society and providing a legal framework for an effective delivery. The Act went beyond the need for cash and anticipated social, psycho-social needs, community development and rehabilitation.

The Kenya Social Protection Policy, 2023 was developed to address the country's evolving and growing social protection needs. It adopts a rights based approach and life-cycle point of view that supports the implementation of the population's right to social security and contributes at ensuring the right to basic education, nutrition, food security,



health care, and employment.

The policy takes stock of the achievements and challenges over the last 10 years of implementation of the Kenya National Social Protection Policy, 2011 and offers a robust premise for the institutionalization of social protection.

The Social Protection Bill 2024 adopts an expansive meaning of social protection far away from the limited scope provided for in the Social Assistance Act, 2013. This Bill expands the coverage of social protection to include, income security to all persons in Kenya throughout their lifecycle, access to social health protection and shock responsiveness. The proposed bill means well for the nation. If enacted, the objects of this law give effect to Articles 21, 43, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57 of the Constitution. It further gives effect to the State's obligation under international laws in respect of the

rights guaranteed under Article 43 of the Constitution, provides mechanisms for effective coordination of actors in the social protection sector at the national and county levels and provides an institutional framework for the provision of social protection in the country.

The bill, provides a throng of opportunities for the social protection sector. It is cardinal for the legislatures to critically internalise and interrogate it, devoid of political stands and affiliations. Assenting the bill to law will colossally boost poverty eradication and spur prosperity for all.

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8 Round of **16** Matches
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2 Semi Final Matches



1 3rd Place Play off Match
1 Final
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- 18** Jerseys
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- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots
- Ksh 100,000** Participation Fees
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- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls



LET US JOIN HANDS TO SAVE OUR YOUTH

Sports >> *Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe seems to be edging towards a Real Madrid move, with excitement already building in the Spanish capital.

Potential Mbappe Arrival Excites Madrid Fans After PSG Decision



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe arrives at the stadium prior to the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Real Sociedad at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris, on February 14, 2024. Kylian Mbappe told PSG directors he plans to leave the club, a source close to the club told AFP on February 15, 2024. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP).

By AFP

Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe seems to be edging towards a Real Madrid move, with excitement already building in the Spanish capital.

The 25-year-old France captain informed PSG officials he intends to leave in the summer at the end of his contract, a source close to the Ligue 1 champions said Thursday.

Madrid are in pole position to sign a player whom they have moved for several times in the past only to be rebuffed, although they declined to comment when asked by AFP.

Spanish media report Madrid's offer to Mbappe is lower than in 2022 when he decided to renew his PSG contract, with Cadena SER saying he wants 50 million euros (\$54 million) gross a season along with a hefty 120 million euros signing-on bonus.

With the numbers and financial

fair play impact left for Madrid's accountants to manage, supporters and local media are starting to dream of what may come.

"The countdown has started," wrote Madrid-based national newspaper Marca.

"Seven years later everything points to Mbappe's arrival being a reality from July 1."

Mbappe had the chance to join Madrid from Monaco in 2017 but chose PSG instead, perhaps cowed by the difficulty of ousting Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale or Karim Benzema from the attack.

Now he could lead the line alongside Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham.

"That would be perfect," Luis Caceres, the president of Real Madrid's fan club federation told AFP.

"He's the best player in the world, that's undeniable. We've seen him play and we know what he can do, he's a great player."

Mbappe, yet to win the Champions League, could yet cross paths with record 14-time winners Madrid in this year's competition.

Spanish newspaper AS say Madrid will "keep silent" on Mbappe while the two sides are still competing in Europe.

Last June a Real Madrid fan did manage to lure club president Florentino Perez into giving a clue away about Mbappe's future.

Enrique Higuera, 22, stumbled across the chief outside a restaurant and asked him if he would bring Mbappe to the Santiago Bernabeu.

"Yes, but not this year," replied Perez.

Higuera, a student doctoring in sports science, told AFP he believes Mbappe will succeed if and when he arrives.

"I am sure that he will play at Madrid and make history," said Higuera.

"I don't think Madrid needs Mbappe to win the Champions League ... but obviously if Mbappe joins then the chances of winning that precious trophy go up a lot."

- 'Bitterness' -

However some supporters still recall Mbappe's snub and perceived slights since.

Oscar Movellan Martinez, a 42-year-old business consultant and self-described "huge fan" of Madrid, said he was not happy with Mbappe seemingly mocking Los Blancos after renewing his PSG deal.

"What happened in 2022 I can understand, for the pressure the kid received ... in the media all the way up to (French president Emmanuel) Macron," said Movellan.

"What I didn't like was the attitude after ... I understand that he might have been pressured to renew with PSG when he wanted to come to Madrid, but I don't understand his reaction."

If Mbappe does join Madrid in the summer then it may take a few goals from PSG's all-time top scorer to smooth things over.

"I think the fans at the Bernabeu will have a bit of bitterness at the start, but look -- it's a fanbase that even whistled (Zinedine) Zidane back in the day," added Movellan.

Others are cautiously choosing not to trust Mbappe will join until it is made official.

"Until I see him sign, I won't believe it, after what happened in 2022," added Caceres.

SPORTS NEWS

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Lisa Christoffersen, the founder of the Lioness Rally, Africa's first all-female rally, is set to make history once again as she takes part in her first WRC Safari Rally, supported by the Talanta Hela initiative.

Lisa Set To Make A Mark At WRC Safari Rally



Lisa Christoffersen speaks to the press on Friday, 16th February, at Lifestyle Off UN Avenue..

By Agencies

Lisa Christoffersen, the founder of the Lioness Rally, Africa's first all-female rally, is set to make history once again as she takes part in her first WRC Safari Rally, supported by the Talanta Hela initiative.

"I believe this year's rally will be one of the most exciting Safari Rallies, especially because it will have one of the largest numbers of female drivers and navigators," says Lisa.

Her preparations for the rally have involved fundraising and

getting her car ready.

"I'll be driving a Subaru N10 in this WRC Safari rally. I'll need to ensure I have all my equipment and rally gear and that it is updated," she states.

Lisa, a cancer survivor, is not only aiming to compete at the highest level but also using her participation as an opportunity to give back and inspire others.

Her initiative, "Driving for Change," aims to raise funds for children with cancer at Kenyatta Hospital.

"For every kilometer I drive, I will donate 1,000 Kenyan shil-

lings," she explains. "With the rally covering 1,200 kilometers, the total amount will be at least 1.2 million Kenyan shillings. It's my way of giving back and making a difference in the lives of those in need."

Regarding what she hopes to achieve during the rally on the course, she says, "I want to finish the rally and stand on the podium, not just for myself but for all the women and girls who dare to dream,"

For Lisa, getting involved in a male-dominated sport like rallying is about women empowering

women.

"By taking charge of your life, you are steering in the direction, metaphorically, where you are supposed to be going," she emphasizes. If you can survive as a rally driver in an event like Safari Rally, you can survive anywhere.

As Lisa prepares to make her mark on the WRC Safari Rally, her message is clear, "women can achieve anything they set their minds to, both on and off the track."

SPORTS NEWS



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The Mt Kenya Times



Young Habits Die Hard



By: Irfan Khan Tareen
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Overeating is another habit which also appears hard to abandon it. A child who is diverted to this habit, repeats it time and again when grown to manhood. Overeating also leads to a number of psychological complications. Till he breathes, it remains in his existence. To prevent a child from adopting this habit, much attention is required from parents' side in this direction.

- Likewise, stealing is another habit which also develops in childhood. This applies to ordinary people as well as kings. For instance, Late King Farooq was a compulsive thief, though he did not have the need to do it. This habit initiates in early part of life, which eventually appears a big hurdle. Children in this point of view must be discouraged at every cost.



'Young habits die hard' is a maxim that shows the bare reality of life which is important to be well understood. It clearly shows that the habits formed in the earlier part of life become difficult to give up in the later part of life. Undeniably, habits define one's character in the eyes of others. It is extremely imperious to work on the habits and manners of children, and to develop them in a civilised shape. This is crucial duty that is attached to parents, educators and teachers. Once this fact is let out of sight, it will be quite hard to civilise children's habits that are disliked. This fact should be brought under the spotlight.

Undeniably, a child who appears to be the victim of overindulgence in childhood becomes abnormal to deal with the problems independently. That's why it is said that a child must be loved, but not be shown overindulgence in childhood. This may

become a source of abnormality for him in the long run. Once a child suffers from abnormality, the latter kills the former's potential to work and to struggle in life. This fact must not be overlooked, but instead it should be brought under public attention.

Overeating is another habit which also appears hard to abandon it. A child who is diverted to this habit, repeats it time and again when grown to manhood. Overeating also leads to a number of psychological complications. Till he breathes, it remains in his existence. To prevent a child from adopting this habit, much attention is required from parents' side in this direction.

Likewise, stealing is another habit which also develops in childhood. This applies to ordinary people as well as kings. For instance, Late King Farooq was a compulsive thief, though he did not have the need to do it. This habit initiates in early part

of life, which eventually appears a big hurdle. Children in this point of view must be discouraged at every cost.

Similarly, lying is another habit that exhibits in childhood. This leads to various vices of life. A child, speaking lies remains unable to avoid it when grown to manhood. Particularly, this originates in a child due to parent's negligence. This is the evil that defames and debunks one's character in society. It certainly crazes ones respect to ground. Hence, it is disliked habit which can be abandoned by scolding children when they seem speaking lies.

In the same way, smoking is another habit which one commits in childhood or young stage. It leads to a number of respiratory confusions that pose massive threat to one's internal organs. However, people with strong will power can prevent this slowly and gradually.

Inshort, habits that are formed in childhood are sublimely hard to give up. Everyone is responsible to civilise children's manners, in a loving manner. Children must be dispirited from adopting such habits that come up unlikely. Overeating, stealing, lying, smoking, are undesirable habits, which develop in early stage of life which must be left as soon as possible. As a student, I assert that "this venture will be of an immense significance for the bright future of children, and they will be able to live happily in the later part of life, if they get rid of these stated vices."

The Writer is the Student of BRC Zhub.