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Sexual and gender-based violence is an omnipresent human rights violation and continues to be interminable and injurious to the majority globally. It remains one of the most persistent barriers to gender equality and sustainable development.

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News>> Government Asked To Expedite Retrieval Of Dedan Kimathi Remains

P. 8. The daughter of Mau Mau freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi, Wanjugu Kimathi, has asked the government to expedite the search and exhumation of her father's remains.



News>> Kakuzi Welcomes Avocado Harvest And Export Season-Opening, Offers Free Maturity Testing For farmers

P. 12. Publicly Listed agribusiness and superfoods producer Kakuzi has welcomed the Avocado Export season opening notification announced by the sector regulator with an offer to provide free maturity testing services to smallholder farmers.

DP Gachagua Reaches Out To Uhuru, Azimio Leaders In Mt Kenya Unity Bid

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has welcomed Mt Kenya leaders, who are in the Opposition-including former President Uhuru Kenyatta- to support and work with the Kenya Kwanza Administration. The Deputy President said that he is ready to meet and reconcile with the former President, stating that he had no problem with him as they were longtime friends before political differences arising from the 2022 elections.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing mourners during the burial of former top cop, King'ori Mwangi

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Waiguru Order Immediate Closure Of All Bars In Kirinyaga As 17 Victims Of Illicit Brew Are Buried

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his Spouse Pastor Dorcas being welcomed in Kirinyaga County on Saturday.

Worth Noting:

- The Council of Governors (COG) chair further called on all law enforcement agencies in enforcing the closure order so as to get rid of illicit brews from towns and villages ravaged by the menace.
- “We have put in place tighter liquor outlets registration and inspection mechanism that requires the support of the law enforcement agencies to implement. This has been the missing link,” Waiguru said.
- The governor further asked County Government staff operating liquor outlets to make a choice of venturing into business or retaining their employment.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has ordered immediate closure of all liquor outlets in the county following deaths of 17 people after consuming illicit brew. Waiguru said the County Government has withdrawn all licenses issued to the bars to allow for a fresh vetting. Speaking on Saturday during a mass burial ceremony of the 17 illicit brew victims at Kangai Primary School, Waiguru said no alcohol outlet will be allowed to operate in the county until it is vetted and found to be in compliance with liquor licensing regulations. “I have today ordered the closure of all bars in Kirinyaga to pave way for fresh vetting, those bars that will be found to have been operating without license or

had previous cases of selling unauthorized products will not be allowed to open again,” Waiguru said. The illicit brew that killed and left others blinded at Kangai and Kandongu village is suspected to have been laced with ethanol. The Council of Governors (COG) chair further called on all law enforcement agencies in enforcing the closure order so as to get rid of illicit brews from towns and villages ravaged by the menace. “We have put in place tighter liquor outlets registration and inspection mechanism that requires the support of the law enforcement agencies to implement. This has been the missing link,” Waiguru said. The governor further asked County

Government staff operating liquor outlets to make a choice of venturing into business or retaining their employment. She said some 11 staff from the County Government were operating bars and therefore were conflicted and a hindrance to the enforcement of the liquor licensing regulations. Waiguru accused Kirinyaga Bar Owners Association of using courts to frustrate her effort to regulate sale of alcohol. However, the Governor said she will not be threatened or blackmailed in her effort to stop sale, distribution and manufacture of illicit brews. “Their remains, in front of us, radiates the full horror of alcoholism and the ferocity of greed among the merchants of

death who manufactured and distributed the killer drink, we must not allow this to happen again,” the Governor said. Saying that no one is safe from illicit brews, Waiguru said unscrupulous traders are packaging third-generation brew into bottles belonging to popular brands and using fake Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) stamps to get their products into the shelves. “As these families prepare to lay their spouses, children, relatives and friends to rest, the disturbing concern is that illegal trade in ethanol is fast becoming pervasive in the country, fueling the re-opening of backyard alcohol manufacturing facilities that had been shut and a rise in the consumption of illicit brew. She said her administration will tighten regulatory check on manufacturers, distributors and sellers of alcoholic beverages to avert more deaths in future. “Sale and distribution of illicit brews does not only deny the government requisite and legitimate traders’ revenue, but also poses a serious health risk to our people. Kirinyaga will be the county that will show an example that we will not tolerate sale of illicit brews and drugs,” she added. She reminded bar owners that they have a responsibility to protect lives of their patrons and the Kangai and Kandongu deaths should “prick their conscience”. “They must ensure they are selling products that conform to standards set out by the Kenya Bureau of Standards,” she said. She said the county has launched campaign dubbed “Fichua Pombe Haramu”, an initiative meant to help eradicate manufacture and sale of illicit brew through sharing of information. “We have introduced a toll-free line 0800721812 and SMS number 0759674392 that you can use to give us information on suspicious cases of illicit alcohol brewing and sale in your area,” the Governor said.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The lack of a reliable market has led to the continued exploitation of mango farmers in Makueni County by middlemen who buy the commodity at low prices and sell it at huge profits. The county chief officer for agriculture, Japheth Kiminza, stated that farmers have yet to find a reliable market, even for their high yields this season.

The Faidika Project, funded by USAID, the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), and the Chyulu Foundation, aims to promote the fruit value chain and ensure market access for fruit farmers.

Speaking at the same event, a mango specialist at the county, George Kimani, said local mangoes fail to meet the European Union market due to the bad chemicals farmers use, besides the effects of fruit fly and other diseases.

Kiminza assured farmers that the government will explore new markets, enhance creative innovation, and add value to cushion farmers from further losses.

The Texas Company has been buying spoiled mangoes from farmers to cushion them from further losses.



The suspension of the law banning the sale of unprocessed macadamia nuts in Kenya has led to farmers reaping significant profits for the last two months.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi suspended Section 43 of the Crops Act of 2013 that prohibits selling unprocessed nuts for one year. The move allowed farmers to sell their nuts at a price of over Sh. 100 per kilo.

The association chairman, Johnson Kihara, revealed the law had affected many farmers since processed macadamia could not get better prices in international markets.

The association's secretary general, John Ndirangu, urged farmers not to fall prey to brokers who buy nuts at less than Sh. 100 and called for surveillance and to apprehend those behind buying immature nuts.

AFA Representative Kirangu Gathutha, urged traders to adhere to the conditions set by the government when suspending the law and to establish a grading system to ensure only quality nuts are exported to overseas countries.

Residents of Mugira, Makuyu ward in Maragua Constituency, who have been trekking long distances for clean water, are set to benefit from a sh30 million water project.

Stephen Maina Mburu, who has been working on this project since 2020, decided to give back to his community by connecting the water to them.

"One day in 2020, at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, I came home to visit my aged father but did not find him as he had gone to fetch water, his age and the distance he had to cover to get the commodity notwithstanding," he reminisces.

He erected a 216-cubic tonnes holding tank and plans to have a one million cubic tonnes underground tank under-way.

Mburu obtained approval from the Water Resources Authority (Warma) and the Water Services Regulatory Board (Wasreb) and successfully registered Mountain View Springs Water Limited with the registrar of companies in November 2021.

As part of corporate social responsibility, the water was piped to some of the most vulnerable families ahead of the official launch of the project on Saturday.

One beneficiary, Jane Wangari, notes that having clean water outside her house is a dream come true, as her journeys to the river have become difficult due to her old age.



In 2022 and early 2023, Kenya Power experienced losses of over Sh2 billion due to the vandalism of 894 transformers nationwide.

Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira stated that vandalism is responsible for increased power bills in the country and that the demand for copper, among other metals, is the main cause of the vandalism.

Adding that, "Its worrying to witness increased vandalism of KP infrastructure, especially transformers. This trend usually slows economic activities in the country since many business activities have to use power."

PS Wachira called for Kenyans to be on the frontlines in the fight against vandalism and the destruction of KPC's infrastructure.

"50 per cent of Kenya's power is owned by the government and about 48 percent by the private sector. This means Kenyans need to feel part of the company and protect against vandalism and destruction of its infrastructure," said the PS at Maragua, Murang'a south subcounty.

Lagdera MP Mohamed Abdikadir has launched a bursary programme to benefit 12,682 students in secondary schools, colleges, technical institutes, and universities.

The Sh76 million in bursaries will be disbursed through the government's initiative to achieve 100% transition, aiming to enhance access and retention of students.

Abdikadir urged parents to return students to school immediately, and appealed to principals to ensure no learner is sent home for lack of fees.

He also handed over a cheque to Garissa Teachers Training College to cover the full fees for 60 students.

Abdikadir also supported the government's directive for parents to pay school fees through the E-Citizen platform, stating that it would eliminate unnecessary levies.

However, he called for measures to allow parents from pastoral areas to access the E-Citizen service seamlessly to avoid interruptions in their children's school life.



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Four-Day Cabinet Retreat Kicks Off In Naivasha

The retreat will review the performance of the current administration in implementing THE BETA PLAN

By: KBC Digital



Worth Noting:

- The programmes and projects include Agricultural Transformation, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, the Affordable Housing Programme, Healthcare through Universal Health Coverage, the Digital Economy powered by the Digital Superhighway, and the Creative Economy.
- Dr Mwaura in a statement on Sunday emphasised that the government shall be reviewing the GOK Lab Report, based on the 15 key parameters, that were deployed to assess government performance across the 23 ministries, 51 state departments and 348 Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs).

President William Ruto will this week preside over a four-day annual retreat of the National Executive which kicks off Sunday in Naivasha. Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura, says the retreat will be used to review the government’s performance in 2023 and chart the way forward for 2024. The President who presided over the inaugural Cabinet meeting of the year 2024 last month at State House outlined the agenda of the retreat bringing together all members of Cabinet, all Principal Secretaries and Members of the Presidential Advisory Team which he termed as an accountability tool. “The year 2024 is expected to be a consequential period in the Administration’s tenure in office as the implementation of key flagship programmes and projects under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda

(BETA) begin to take shape; guiding the nation along a path of national renaissance” read a cabinet dispatch. The programmes and projects include Agricultural Transformation, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, the Affordable Housing Programme, Healthcare through Universal Health Coverage, the Digital Economy powered by the Digital Superhighway, and the Creative Economy. Dr Mwaura in a statement on Sunday emphasised that the government shall be reviewing the GOK Lab Report, based on the 15 key parameters, that were deployed to assess government performance across the 23 ministries, 51 state departments and 348 Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs). “Over the last 17 months, we have documented more than 105 achieve-

ments of the 122 commitments that are enshrined in THE BETA PLAN, which is the social contract between the government and the citizenry” he stated. The meeting will be preceded by the Kenya Kwanza parliamentary group slated for Monday, Feb 19, before senior government officials including cabinet secretaries convene to review the performance of all ministries and State offices. “On 19th February, there will be a Kenya Kwanza Parliamentary Group meeting, which will report on the progress of the 2nd session of the 13 Parliament, with a view to setting the agenda for the 3rd session. On the 20th and 21st February, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and other senior government officials, will review the performance of the current administration, in implementing THE BETA

PLAN, as was agreed upon during the inaugural retreat on the 5th – 8th January 2023” Mwaura explained. The anchor of the BETA is a five-point plan that involves Food Security, Jobs and Economic Empowerment, Health, Housing, and Social Protection. This is the second retreat since the Kenya Kwanza Government assumed office. The retreat comes in the wake of Kenya’s bid for the AU Commission chairperson seat, which opposition leader Raila Odinga has since expressed his interest. *Additional reporting by Joseph Wakhungu*

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Government Asked To Expedite Retrieval Of Dedan Kimathi Remains

By: Wangari Mwangi and William Muchiri @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In September last year, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua committed to tracing and exhuming the remains of the freedom fighter.
- Addressing mourners during the burial ceremony of Mau Mau war hero, Brigadier John Kago Kiboko in Nyandarua County, Gachagua pledged to lead the process by engaging sources privy to the location of Kimathi's grave.
- Brigadier Kiboko had confessed to being among the people who buried Kimathi and he had volunteered to help locate Kimathi's grave.
- "I am going to call a meeting with 10 leaders of Mau Mau, the senior ones from the 11 counties of Mount Kenya. We shall meet in Sagana and plan how they shall go to Kamiti and stay there, even if it shall take them months," said the DP.



Eva Wanjugu with other dignitaries who attended the 67th Dedan Kimathi memorial at Kahiga-ini area, Tetu in Nyeri County.

The daughter of Mau Mau freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi, Wanjugu Kimathi, has asked the government to expedite the search and exhumation of her father's remains. Speaking in Kahiga-ini Mau Mau Memorial Park in Nyeri during the 67th commemoration of Dedan Kimathi day, Wanjugu expressed her concerns over the continued delay, saying that the number of sources who can help with the process of tracing Kimathi's grave was dwindling by the day. "We have noted with great concern that as we (the family) are told to wait, those people who participated in Kimathi's burial or were working in the prison at the time or in the forest, are dying. Only a few people who can help with the search are remaining," she said. "I am appealing to the government and the international community to expedite the process. It is now or never. We should not wait anymore because if we wait a bit longer we might not get Kimathi at Kamiti Maximum prison," added Wanjugu. In September last year, Deputy Pres-

ident Rigathi Gachagua committed to tracing and exhuming the remains of the freedom fighter. Addressing mourners during the burial ceremony of Mau Mau war hero, Brigadier John Kago Kiboko in Nyandarua County, Gachagua pledged to lead the process by engaging sources privy to the location of Kimathi's grave. Brigadier Kiboko had confessed to being among the people who buried Kimathi and he had volunteered to help locate Kimathi's grave. "I am going to call a meeting with 10 leaders of Mau Mau, the senior ones from the 11 counties of Mount Kenya. We shall meet in Sagana and plan how they shall go to Kamiti and stay there, even if it shall take them months," said the DP. The late Dedan Kimathi was the senior most military commander of the Mau Mau uprising. Kimathi led the Mau Mau in fighting against British colonial rule in the 1950s before he was captured on October 21, 1956 in Kihaga-ini after he was shot in the thigh. In their book, The Trial of Dedan

Kimathi, authors Ngugi wa Thiong'o and the late Micere Githae Mugo say that following his arrest, Kimathi was charged at the Nyeri court with being in possession of a firearm and ammunition. According to their account, Kimathi was sentenced to death by hanging by Chief Justice Kenneth Kennedy O'Connor on November 19, 1956. Kimathi would later file an appeal at the Court for Eastern Africa, but the court dismissed his first appeal in December 1956. His subsequent petition for a review of the sentence before the Judicial an unofficial holiday in his honour in Kenya and around the world Committee of the Privy Council in London was similarly declined by the Committee in February 14, 1957. After the two failed appeals Dedan Kimathi was hanged to death and buried in an unmarked grave in the grounds of Kamiti Maximum Security prison on the morning of February 18, 1957. Dedan Kimathi day is the unofficial holiday that is celebrated annually on February 18 in honour of the day

Kimathi was executed. In Nyeri, the day was graced by some of the Mau Mau Freedom fighters, representatives from the British High Commission and the County Director of Tourism Mary Kimamo. Wanjugu said the Dedan Kimathi Foundation was working with county governments, which host freedom fighters with a view to localizing the Dedan Kimathi day. "We want to localize the Dedan Kimathi commemoration to be celebrated in all counties that host the Mau Mau veterans," she said. At the same time, she called on the government to take care of the welfare of the surviving liberation struggle veterans. Wanjugu said that more should be done to ensure that the freedom fighters, who are languishing in colonial villages, are recognized for their sacrifice in liberating the country from colonialism.

DP Gachagua Reaches Out To Uhuru, Azimio Leaders In Mt Kenya Unity Bid

By: DPCS and William Muchiri
@themkenyatimes



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing mourners during the burial of former top cop, King'ori Mwangi.

Worth Noting:

- On his push for unity, Mr Gachagua said that the relevance of the region in national politics is based on the unity of its people.
- “Our unity is our strength. Let us shun divisions and avoid inter-county politics,” he said.
- Leaders present at the event backed the Deputy President and praised his resolve to work with all people -both in government and the opposition.
- “I am in the front supporting the Deputy President and we are solidly behind him as a region. We also support his initiatives such as the fight against illicit liquor and reforms in the agricultural sector,” said Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Moses Kuria.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has welcomed Mt Kenya leaders, who are in the Opposition- including former President Uhuru Kenyatta- to support and work with the Kenya Kwanza Administration.

The Deputy President said that he is ready to meet and reconcile with the former President, stating that he had no problem with him as they were longtime friends before political differences arising from the 2022 elections.

Speaking in Tetu, Nyeri County, during the funeral service of former Assistant Inspector-General of Police King'ori Mwangi, 63, on Saturday, Mr Rigathi said it was time to unite leaders of the region behind President William Ruto for more benefits.

Mr Kenyatta attended the funeral service of the former AIG early and left before the DP arrived. The former President left for a celebration Mass of the late wife of former Kipiripiri MP Amos Kimunya.

“I was looking forward to meeting my friend and former boss President Uhuru Kenyatta. I wanted to come and greet him because I have not seen him for a while, tell him it is well and we have a new government. He is our son and we love him. We still love him,” said the DP.

He added: “Him (Uhuru) and I had some little disagreements over the elections but it's over. We had 17 years of friendship and disagreed for two years only. The issues are over

and we have moved on. We made a conscious decision to work together. I urge those in opposition to come to us and join government. We have no problem with anybody. We do not want divisions. We are not bitter,” said the Deputy President adding that he had directed other leaders to stop verbal attacks against the former Head of State.

On his push for unity, Mr Gachagua said that the relevance of the region in national politics is based on the unity of its people.

“Our unity is our strength. Let us shun divisions and avoid inter-county politics,” he said.

Leaders present at the event backed the Deputy President and praised his resolve to work with all people -both in government and the opposition.

“I am in the front supporting the Deputy President and we are solidly behind him as a region. We also support his initiatives such as the fight against illicit liquor and reforms in the agricultural sector,” said Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Moses Kuria.

Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang'wa also commended the Deputy President for welcoming opposition politicians to the Kenya Kwanza's fold and described him as the region's uniting factor.

“As the uniting factor and senior most leader convene a meeting for Mt Kenya leaders and invite retired President Kenyatta. You are the uniting factor,” said Mr Thang'wa.

In his message of condolence, the Deputy President eulogised the late Mwangi, as a very principled man, who spoke from his heart truthfully and candidly.

“We have lost a distinguished public service officer. He was a hero. As the Provincial Police Officer in Nairobi, he demonstrated wisdom in his leadership. In Mombasa, he also exhibited pragmatism and good leadership,” said the DP, who was accompanied by his Spouse Pastor Dorcas.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Senators Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri) and MPs Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu), Benjamin Gathiru Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central), Jane Kagiri (Laikipia Woman Rep), Geoffrey Ruku (Mbeere North), Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town), Kanini Kega (EALA) and Principal Secretary State Department for Energy Alex Wachira and a host of MCAs led by the area Ward Representative Sebastian Mugo were present.

Former Nyeri Deputy Governor Caroline Karugu, former Limuru MP Peter Mwathi, former Nairobi Woman Representative Rachel Shebesh and Businessman Dan Wamahiu were also present at the event.

Also present were hundreds of serving and former police officers led by Deputy IG Douglas Kanja.

Relating to the fight against illegal alcoholic drinks, the Deputy Presi-

dent said he will convene a meeting of Mt Kenya leaders and chiefs to tackle the illicit brew menace.

He warned administrative and security officers condoning sale of illegal liquor in their areas.

The DP also said the business persons selling illicit brews have no space in Kenya.

“I will convene a meeting of chiefs from Central region, 1700 of them, and leaders including governors to discuss the issue of illicit liquor. We will have a seating. The traders selling killer brews, the merchants of death, will be dealt with. All poisonous brews were dumped in Central Kenya to eliminate the youth,” he said.

He added that the government-ordered crackdown on illicit liquor was bearing fruits, save for the isolated incident in Kirinyaga where police officers sold confiscated poisonous alcohol to a local trader and killed 17 consumers.

The Deputy President further asked Mt Kenya leaders to get involved in the fight, whose aim, he explained, is to restore dignity to the people, especially the youth.

The DP said since the crackdown begun last year, broken families had been rebuilt and youths sombred-up.

“The youth in this region have sombred-up, families are coming together and children being born. We are doing well. We must act to stem alcoholism crisis and create a sombre community,” he stated.

Ministry Of Energy To Install An LPG Gas Cooking System At Kanjuri School

By: William Muchiri
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Energy will install an LPG cooking gas at Kanjuri Boys High School in Mathira constituency. Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira revealed that the Ministry will install the gas system which will help save energy and prevent the use of firewood in the school.

The school Chief Principal Paul Gachoka had earlier complained that the school uses about KSh800,000 in both use of firewood and electricity and so there was a need for urgent intervention.

This will help conserve the environment and save the cutting down of trees.

The Chief Principal also said there was a need for a solar project in the institution to cut down the cost of electricity.

The PS also noted that there was a dire need for a new dining hall as the current one is worn out and promised to mobilize resources once a harambee is organised.

The PS revealed that the upgrading

of the school kitchen to LPG will be undertaken through the Ministry's LPG for schools project supported by the State Department for Energy, JICA & UNDP.

Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga who was the Chief Guest promised to ensure a masonry tank is constructed in the area to help in distribution of water.

The two who were speaking during the Prize Giving Day of the school dished out Kshs. 400,000 for a school bash involving over 1,500 students and teachers.

The duo also mentored the students as education is the most powerful weapon to change and transform the world and equipping young minds is vital.

Started in 1963, the school has continuously recorded a streak of stellar performance over the years thus placing it among the best extra county boys high schools and one of the academic giant in the region.

Kahiga also urged the parents and teachers to do their best in uplifting the skills of the students while at the same time harnessing the requisite skills.



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga and Energy PS Alex Wachira at Kanjuri High School on Saturday.

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10.8M FOR SIX ACRES

Support Men To Prevent Increasing Cases Of Suicide, Drug Abuse

The rare meeting was held against a backdrop of growing concerns in Kenya over the alarming rise in suicide cases.

By: Lydia Mwangi

Kenyans have been urged to offer moral and emotional support to men following a spike in cases of mental health that have taken a toll on them.

The call was made Saturday during a meeting organised by Nyandarua County Woman Rep Faith Gitau bringing together over 500 men from Simbara Village, Sobara Sub location, Ndaragwa Constituency.

The rare meeting was held against a backdrop of growing concerns in Kenya over the alarming rise in suicide cases.

The MP regretted that mental health issues among young and older men had been overlooked as many continued to suffer in silence. The obtaining situation she noted had forced men to abdicate their roles leading to

existing gaps in many families.

“It has been established that many families where men were initially addicts and are now in the process of recovering undergo numerous challenges and stigma which negatively impact their fatherhood role triggering an emotional breakdown,” she said.

She emphasized that the family is the basic unit of society where men should be role models to inspire young men and generations.

However, this was not the case in most households characterised by the absence of a father which had a profound effect on the boychild particularly in Central Kenya who were engaging in destructive habits like crime, drug abuse and alcoholism.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Dr. Susan and Specialist in matters mental health and a lecturer at Kenya Methodist University who decried broken marriages which have



contributed to an increase in the number of single mothers. The government has consequently

been challenged to mount awareness campaigns across the country to save the male population from mental dis-

orders including stress, depression, and emotional problems.

AU Resolves To Produce 60pc Of Vaccines By 2040

By: Margaret Kalekye

The African Union has resolved that by 2040, 60 percent of vaccines used in Africa will be produced locally.

This was revealed by President William Ruto who co-hosted a meeting on vaccine manufacturing in Africa with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He regretted that the Covid-19 pandemic exposed the dire state of Africa’s pharmaceutical manufacturing, including that of vaccines.

“We were the last continent to access Covid-19 vaccines, and suffered greatly from ‘vaccine nationalism’. But this situation will change for the better. AU has resolved that by 2040, 60 percent of vaccines used in Africa will be produced locally” he said.

He explained the breakthrough had been bolstered by the solid research

capacity in vaccines.

He cited Kenya, as one of the countries that participated in the Covid-19 vaccine trials.

Presidents Mohamed al-Menfi (Libya) and Brahim Ghali (Sahrawi) were present. Others were Ahmed Hachani (Prime Minister, Tunisia), IVI Director-General Jerome Kim, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, among others.



Kakuzi Welcomes Avocado Harvest And Export Season-Opening, Offers Free Maturity Testing For farmers

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Publicly Listed agribusiness and superfoods producer Kakuzi has welcomed the Avocado Export season opening notification announced by the sector regulator with an offer to provide free maturity testing services to smallholder farmers.

Following the notification issued last week by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) through its Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD), harvesting avocados for export will now be opened on March 1, 2024.

It will be subject to strict compliance with the prescribed maturity and related market access standards.

With the strict regulatory requirements outlined by AFA-HCD, Kakuzi PLC Managing Director Chris Flowers has confirmed that Kakuzi's free avocado maturity testing services will be available from Wednesday.

The free maturity testing services offer, targeting smallholder avocado farmers around Mt Kenya region and

beyond, he said will be available at the FSSC 22000 Food Safety Management Systems certified Kakuzi Avocado Processing and Packhouse facility located near Makuyu town, along the Nairobi-Nyeri highway.

"Kakuzi welcomes the directive provided by AFA-HCD and confirms that for shared prosperity, we shall be providing free Avocado maturity testing services for all smallholder farmers to ensure compliance with the regulatory, national and international market requirements," Flowers said.

He added, "Kenya currently enjoys a favourable international market position for quality avocado production, and this status needs to be jealously guarded by ensuring phytosanitary, environmental, social, and governance standards are strictly maintained across the board."

He disclosed that Kakuzi has already undertaken internal maturity testing at its Quality Control Room within its GlobalGAP-certified Makuyu Packhouse, with a forecast to commence its HASS avocado harvests in compliance with the regulations.

In its directive, AFA-HCD has reiterated that all avocado export pro-



A Kakuzi PLC Quality Assurance Executive at the firm's Quality Control Room within its GlobalGAP-certified Makuyu Packhouse..

duce will be subject to inspection by AFA-HCD inspectors. Exporters will also be required to apply for inspection at least three days prior to shipment.

To ensure product traceability, all

exporters must also submit a list of their Horticultural Produce Marketing Agents (HPMA) or suppliers before Monday next week.

The directives to ensure quality and market standards also stressed

that exporters or their agents found transporting avocados without crates or on open pick-up trucks (or Probox vehicles) contrary to the Horticulture Regulations shall be penalized.

Sakaja Orders Long Term Businesses To Seek Unified Business Permits

By: Capital Correspondent

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has ordered the transitioning of cess payments for long term businesses to Unified Business Permits with immediate effect.

Speaking during a Revenue Mobilisation meeting which was attended by County

Executives, Chief Officers, Directors in charge of Revenue collection and Sub County

Administration, Sakaja stated that the UBP must be embraced by all departments to enhance Revenue collection.

"Any business that runs consistently at one spot for over six months will be required to acquire a Unified Business Permit (UBP) including in Markets and also those allowed to operate on road reserves," he said.

"The annual UBP for such businesses is ultimately a lot cheaper than daily cess that the businesses have been paying which mostly doesn't get to the county and leaves them open to daily harassment. We must quickly embrace technology because it has the potential to increase revenue collection, monitor compliance, and facilitate compliance."

The Governor also announced that effective immediately all County Executives and Chief Officers will be involved in revenue collection and mobilisation alongside sub counties.

"I have assigned all the County Executives, Chiefs Officers, Sub counties. They will be required to monitor and assist Sub County and ward administrators in revenue

Mobilisation exercises. They will also use this opportunity to monitor other on ground projects and help with decision-making on the ground. Nairobi must work!"



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja .

Convocation Caps A Historic Year For The Aga Khan University

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

159 students graduated from the Aga Khan University in Kenya on Saturday at a ceremony attended by Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu who read a speech from President William Ruto.

“I have great faith in this group of men and women,” President Ruto said in the remarks shared by Cabinet Secretary Machogu. “The reason for my faith is simple: I know what the Aga Khan University stands for. It stands for high standards, access based on merit and service to society.”

“On graduating, you return to a world that is full of daunting challenges but also of endless possibilities,” Princess Zahra Aga Khan said in Nairobi, speaking on behalf of AKU’s founder and Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan. “Continue to strive with courage and optimism to grasp opportunities to serve your communities and contribute to a more pluralistic and peaceful world.”

The graduates – more than 60 percent of whom are women – were awarded

degrees in nursing, medicine, education and journalism.

On March 16, 2023, AKU celebrated its 40th anniversary. Princess Zahra detailed some of the many achievements that have made the University’s 40th anniversary year one of the most consequential in its history. Four new academic programmes welcomed their first students, increasing total enrollment to more than 3,600 for the first time in the University’s history. These are the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery programme in Nairobi, the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing programmes in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Karachi. In Nairobi, the Aga Khan University Hospital implemented East Africa’s first integrated electronic health records system. In Uganda, construction began on the University’s new 60-acre campus, which will feature an academic centre, student housing and a new Aga Khan University Hospital. In Tanzania, the University launched the Arusha Climate and Environmental Research Centre.

“We are hopeful that these new and continuing programmes and facilities will make AKU an increasingly



Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu (Centre).

powerful platform for the education of leaders, the creation of relevant knowledge and the delivery of world-class education and health care,” said Princess Zahra, who credited the Government of Kenya with creating an enabling environment for the University.

AKU President and Vice Chancellor Sulaiman Shahabuddin called the day a “crowning moment” for the graduates, noting that the University has awarded nearly 20,000 diplomas, degrees and postgraduate certificates to date. He outlined the University’s plans for the future, which are con-

tained in its new five-year strategic plan. They include launching close to a dozen new degree programmes in fields ranging from data science to teacher education; enhancing research capacity in mental health, climate change and other disciplines; expanding the AKU health system; deepening the University’s partnerships with public and private institutions at home and abroad; and continuing to earn new forms of academic and health care accreditation from leading international organizations.

“That AKU has been able to achieve so much across its four decades is

above all thanks to its founder, Chancellor and chief benefactor, His Highness the Aga Khan,” President Shahabuddin said. “His Highness’s vision continues to guide us and continually inspire us with the strength to make bold decisions that keep AKU at the forefront of innovation, quality and impact.”

The School of Nursing and Midwifery conferred its Award of Excellence on Beatrice Njeri Kabura, from the Post-RN Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Teresiah Ngendo Gachimu, from the Post-RN Bachelor of Science in Midwifery.

Leaders Call For Synergy In Fighting Illicit Alcohol

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Legislators drawn from Kirinyaga County have unanimously called for concerted efforts in a bid to nip the menace of alcoholism in the bud. Speaking in solidarity on Saturday during a funeral service of 17 people who died after consuming toxic alcohol, the leader after another expressed their commitment to fighting the menace, regardless of whatever it takes.

The MP’s (Mary Maingi – Mwea), Gachoki Gitari – Kirinyaga Central, Njeri Maina (County MP), Kamau Murango (Senator) pledged to throw their weight and full support towards the efforts of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua who announced



Njeri Maina (Woman Rep.), Kamau Murango (Senator) and Mary Maingi (Mwea MP) in the burial service of 17 people who died after consuming illicit alcohol in Kirinyaga.

that the Government is hawk-eyed to flush out the perpetrators.

“This cannot continue. We won’t sit and watch another life being lost as a result of consumption of the killer brew. It cannot be business as usual. These senseless deaths in the entire country must

stop. It is our resolve to do whatever it takes to end this menace. It is a responsibility that we must fulfill - no matter the consequence. I’m calling upon the clergy to play their role of entrenching values to win this fight,” the MPs noted.

Faith Hopeful of Revolutionizing LSK

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Faith Odhiambo, the current vice president of the law society of Kenya, is seeking the position of President of the professional body. She takes a moment to share with us her third campaign pillar:

“I am excited to share with you the third pillar of my campaign agenda which focuses on the progress of the bar, practice and welfare.

During my tenure as your vice president, we successfully reengaged key stakeholders and partners who had previously distanced themselves during tumultuous previous regime. Notably, these partners generously supported our legal awareness week in 2023, showcasing the potential for further collaboration



Faith Odhiambo current vice president of LSK

in training initiatives that will create enhanced opportunities for advocates across all levels. This collaboration will undoubtedly lead to an upliftment in practice and welfare standards. Such achievements have been made possible due to the stability we have diligently cultivated over the past 2 years.

I extend an invitation to each of you to join me on this journey towards progress. I offer myself as a reliable and capable leader—a safe pair of hands committed to long-term overhaul rather than merely pursuing short-term, election-driven agendas.”

World



This is how the world is written,
Someone is rich, someone is poor.
An arrogant who earned five soums,
Take it from the poor.

Tell me where you saw

Five-handed equality,
There is only one fault in the world,
This is very difficult to bear.

Live, be rich,
Don't be a slave to lust
Look at people
World is narrow to evil.

The World is the over world
Don't laugh at the helpless,
If rim returns to you
Regrets seem to be useless.

Kholturaeva Ugilov was born on 29th August in 2008. Currently she lives in Oltinsoy district, Surkhondaryo region of the Republic Uzbekistan. She is a member of Kazakhstan "Qushqanot" poet and writers' union. And she is holder IELTS 6 certificate and CEFR B2.

When A Woman Reads, The Nation Reads!



By: Anorboyeva Yulduz Jamoliddin

Education of the girl child is one of the most pressing issues today. There are parents who say, "I will definitely educate my daughter. She is also my child. It will not be difficult when she arrives at someone's doorstep tomorrow." And on the contrary, there are families who say: "What would my daughter do with me after studying? She will go to someone else's house anyway," or "The most important thing for a girl child is a family, raising children, there is no need to educate a girl child." So which one is correct?

For a woman, family and children should be the first priority, of course. But this does not mean that women should not study. In one family there is a man who is perfect in knowledge, and in another family there is a woman who is knowledgeable. Which family's children do you think will be knowledgeable? Of course, if the mother is knowledgeable, the child will also be knowledgeable. Children learn more from their mothers. Edison, who invented the light bulb, was expelled from school because of his bad grades. Then his mother makes her great contribution in acquiring all the knowledge. In his memoirs, Edison wrote: "Edison was a stubborn child. But thanks to the beautiful service of his mother, he became the owner of a unique talent."

Artist Pablo Picasso was inspired by his mother's poems and became a skilled artist. It was actually his mother who made Napoleon Bonaparte great. D. I. Mendeleev also received elementary education from his mother. His mother is also the reason for his greatness. Our grandfather, Imam al-Bukhari, was not born in love with our Prophet Muhammad, may God bless him and grant him peace, or was not simply interested in the science of hadith. His mother instilled such love in his heart. As for myself, I have seen a hoe in my mother's hand since I can remember.

For this reason, I also really wanted a hoe. My father gave me a small hoe since I was a hoe. I used to stand next to my mother, who didn't like to work, had a hoe in her hands early and late, and repeated her movements. Now I'm a teacher, but I still want to take a hoe and run wherever I see grass. Because seeing a hoe in

my mother's hand, I fell in love with this work from my youth.

But I wanted my children to love books, not hoe. That's why I try to read a lot of books in front of my children. As I said, they also repeat my actions. When I pray, my son and daughter join me in praying. Even if he doesn't know the words, he does the actions together. When I read the Qur'an, he comes to me and listens and memorizes it. When I read newspapers or fiction books, he comes and asks me what I am reading, what kind of book it is, what is written in it. Children, I will try to explain briefly.

If the mother has even a little information about the field of her child's interest, if the mother explains it to her child, if the child sees that the mother is also engaged in what she is interested in, the child's interest in that field will increase even more. He gets strength and energy along with information from his mother. A child understands the knowledge he received from his mother better than the knowledge given by a great scientist in this field. Because the child listens to his mother with special affection. For a child, not the people on the street, but the book his mother is reading, the words she says and the actions she performs are more interesting. Because children think that their mother is perfect, or "super" in the language of children, and they are interested in everything that their mother does. He returns what his mother said, he tries to do what he did. In short, the knowledge acquired by the father belongs to the street, and the knowledge acquired by the mother belongs to the child.

Dear men who are the pillars of the family, who do you want your child to be? A world chess champion? First of all, let your wife learn chess. Do you want your child to become a scientist in some field? Let your wife master this knowledge thoroughly. Do you want your child to memorize the Quran? Treat your wife.

Parents who say, "I don't have to teach my daughter," you are actually teaching your grandchildren, not your daughter! You educate the nation! You educate the Ummah! You teach the future of the country! So the future is in your hands.

Anorboyeva, daughter of Yulduz Jamoliddin, Faculty of Oriental Philology, World Languages University of Uzbekistan. I am a 2nd year student of the Arabic language. I was born on June 29, 1991 in Boka district of Tashkent region. Currently I live in Ohangaron district of Tashkent region. In 2012-2016 I graduated from Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute.

In 2023, I entered JGU for the second specialization. Currently, I have sweet children named Nargiza Khan and Muhammadjon.

School



School... There is a soul who has heard this word and remembers every moment spent in this corner with sweet fondness. When the name of this holy school was mentioned, the teacher of the mehrirdarya who held a pen in someone's hand for the first time, Someone involuntarily remembers the idiosyncratic, boisterous, rowdy classmates of this period, and someone's first love with sincere feelings. Ex! How do you accumulate so many memories? After all these years, how do you bring your former students back to their memories as soon as they step on your doorstep? Say! How do you encourage them to go back to the sweet moments of childhood, to the days of their teenage years, with every step, every breath? Either you are a chest of strange memories or golden pages of a golden book!

Schoolboy

I remember the first step I took was
on you
I remember, you have my wife in your
arms,
I remember the first lesson I learned
from you
Why did you leave me, schoolboy?

You have sweet memories.
You have my flawless friends,
You have unique moments left,
Why did you leave me, schoolboy?

You raised my capriciousness, my
masculinity,
You would raise my cheerfulness,
Why, why did you take away my
childhood?!
Why did you leave me, school?

When you remember, the heart is still
happy,
I remember you, you are in my heart
every moment, every moment
When did you take me from your wide
arms?!

Why did you leave me, school?

Ilasheva Guljahan was born in 2005. Currently, she is a 1st-year student of English language philology at the Faculty of Foreign Philology of UzMu.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

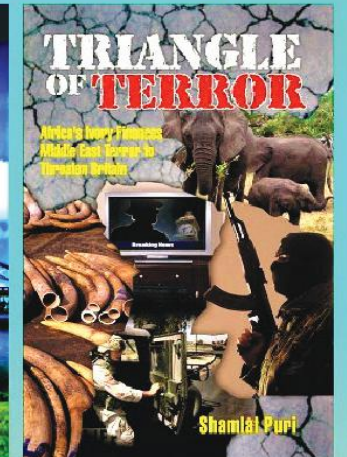
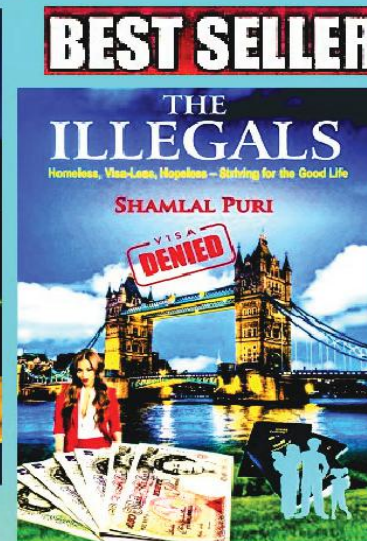
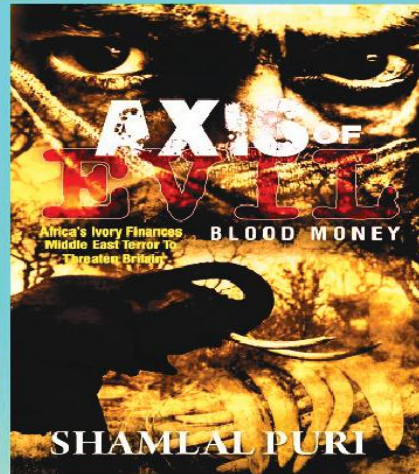
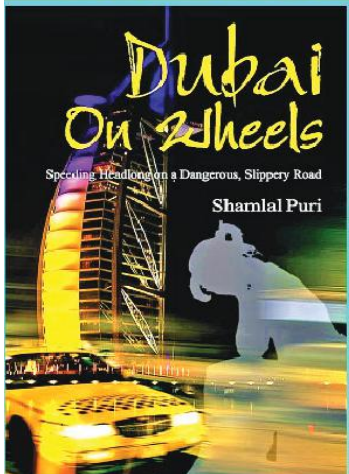
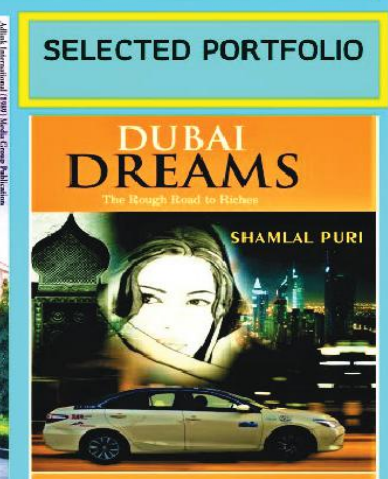
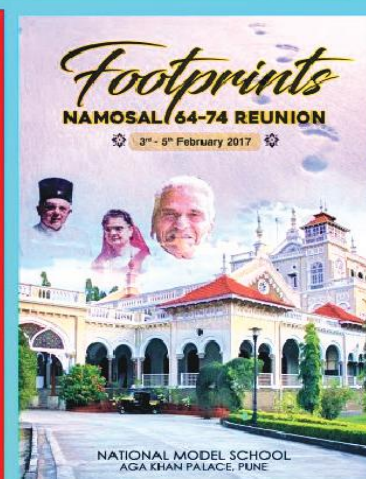
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Trans Nzoia County Governor George Natembeya Makes An Impromptu Visit To Kitale Referral Hospital



By: Sefu Sabila
@themkenyatimes

In checking of service delivery to residents of Trans Nzoia County, Governor George Natembeya is known for his an unannounced visit to public offices in the county.

On Friday, the county boss was at the Kitale Referral Hospital, where he inspected various departments in the hospital. Among the departments that governor Natembeya visited included; maternity, immunization, pharmacy store and wards.

The governor's visit comes after numerous outcries from residents over lack of medicine at the county's referral hospital. Residents taking their frustrations on social media outcries of the facility sending them outside to buy drugs after checks and tests,



Governor George Natembeya.

where the drugs sold are expensive and only offered in the hospital pain-killers.

During his round check at the facility's pharmacy store, the governor Natembeya inquired over the acquisition of medicine, and why the store. The governor urged the incharge to ensure they have enough stock, as well as fo requisitions for drugs early, to avoid the miseries and

agony experienced by patients, who are forced to buy medicine outside, despite being admitted at a government facility.

"Let us always be ahead of the game, we should know what we have in store and missing for as to place an order. This facility has money. This money should be used to buy medicines for the facility. Where does the money go?" Governor Na-

tembeya questioned.

Interacting with the patients, the county boss said his visit is meant to ensure that they receive quality services, which they are entitled to too. "We are here to check on how our people are being served. This is to ensure they get quality services." Governor Natembeya confirming.

On Sunday, the county boss told the CS for health Susan Nakhumicha, over his thwarted efforts to get medicine from Kenya Medical Supplies Authority KEMSA, over arrears from the previous regime. The governor was speaking in a fundraiser attended by the DP Rigathi Gachagua.

Among his agenda for the people of Trans Nzoia, is quality healthcare, accessible and affordable to all. In this quest, the governor has since introduced the 90Kg for healthcare care, under the county government national health Insurance fund, which was launched in December last year. According to the governor the program is meant to bridge the gap between the rich and vulnerable in accessing quality medical services at public hospitals across the county.

Among County officials accompanying governor Natembeya were chief officer Samson Ojwang among other county government officials from the department of health. The governor giving an aid to Grace Khaemba, Violet Wachie and Gilbert Chepchumba to be discharged.

Speaking in Trans Nzoia last Sunday, the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua defended the government's new Social Health Insurance Fund SHIF, saying it will end the cartels and rampant corruption that has malled the current National Insurance Health Insurance Fund NHIF.

The DP while addressing the delegates at the National launch of government stipend payment for community health promoters on Friday, expressed the government's commitment and efforts in further advancing universal health coverage UHC, saying the community health promoters have helped in achieving of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda BETA, in the health sector.

State Launches Tractors To Boost Agricultural Productivity

By: Capital Correspondent

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting farmers access machinery services to bolster production and enhance food security in the country.

Agriculture Principal Secretary Paul Ronoh emphasized the pivotal role of mechanization services in boosting agricultural productivity during the launch of Mahindra Tractors in partnership with Simba Colt Aspire Ltd.

This, he noted, helps in transforming farming practices while improving efficiency in agricultural processes.

"As government, we are ready to provide the necessary support to farmers to ensure they have access to modern machinery, ultimately

contributing to increased productivity and food security," Ronoh said.

The event, held in Nairobi, was attended by various dignitaries, including Industry Juma Mukhwana, Busia Governor Paul Otuoma, Indian High Commissioner Namgya C. Khampa, and representatives from SimbaCorp Group.

Busia Governor Paul Otuoma, present at the event, shared insights into the county's participation in the initiative.

His administration has already rolled out the service, aiming to utilize tractors to till 20,000 acres of land, benefiting close to 150,000 registered farming households.

Otuoma emphasized the importance of proper mechanized tilling, complemented by agricultural extension services and subsidized farm inputs, aligning with the ward-based economic revitalization program.



"For the efforts to monetize rural communities through the Ward-Based Economic Revitalization program, proper mechanized tilling, agricultural extension services, and subsidized farm inputs are crucial," said Otuoma.

The initiative seeks to enhance rural livelihoods and agricultural practices, fostering sustainable develop-


ment.

Farmers seeking the mechanization service in the county are required to prepare their farms and register at the ward agricultural offices by paying Sh2,500 for each acre.

This cost covers the use of the tractor for ploughing, and the program aims to achieve a production target of 20-25 bags of maize per acre, con-

tributing significantly to increased agricultural yields and the overall well-being of farming communities.

The launch signifies a collaborative effort between the government, private sector, and local authorities to revolutionize agricultural practices and promote food security in the country.



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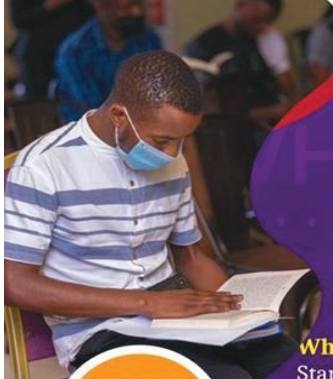


Join us for the
Public Health March: Unite, Advocate, Transform
on
13th Feb 2024

Venue :Green Park terminus
Time:8am

“ UNITING FOR A STRONGER FUTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH!”

#Nothing4us without us
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THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

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

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

How to enter the contest:

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

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

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

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

Winners
Ugx.200,000,
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1st Runner-up
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How to submit:
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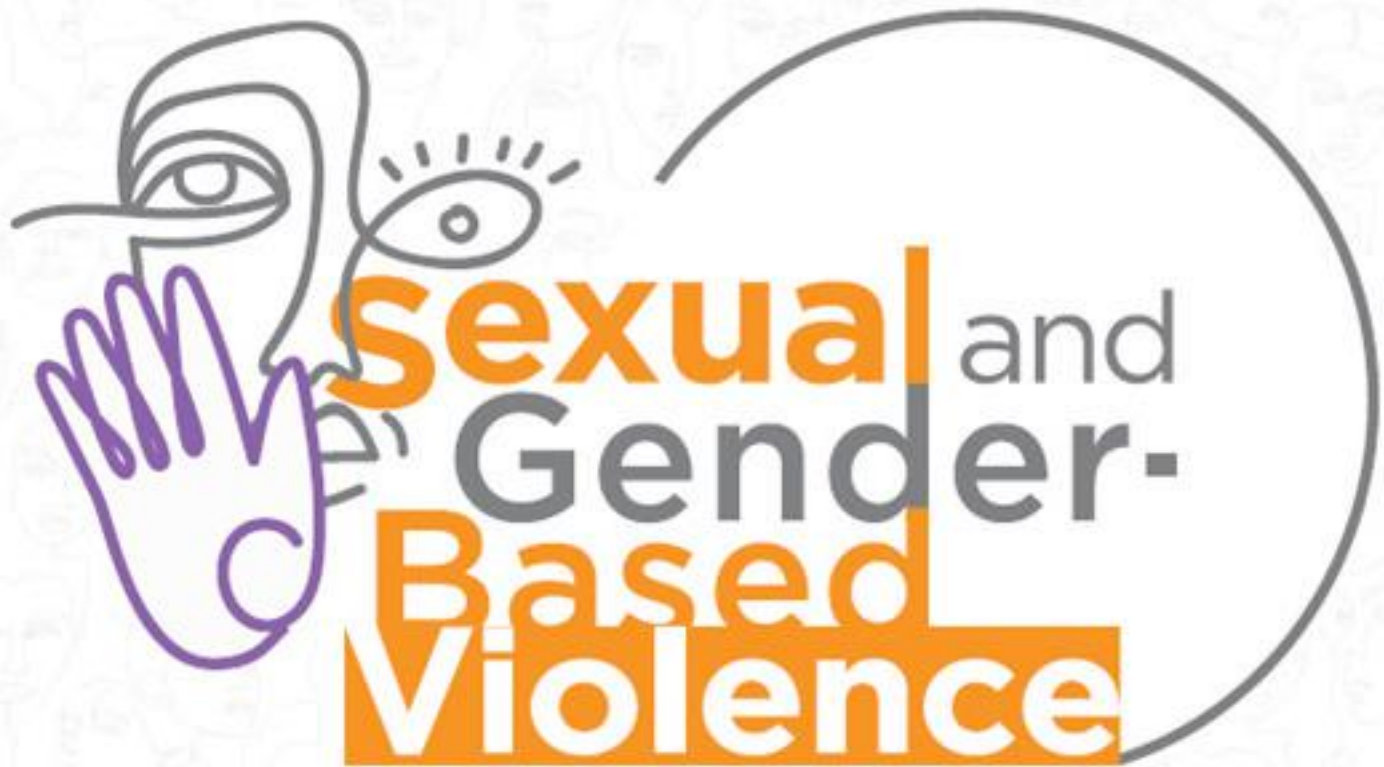


Ultimate Panoramic Experience

SGBV Remains Persistent Barrier To Gender Equality



By: Danstan Akwiri
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- A total of 110,821 pregnancies were recorded among adolescents aged between the ages of 10 to 19 in the first five months of 2023. Data from the Kenya Health Information Systems shows a total of 6,110 were among adolescents aged between 10 to 14 years while another 104,711 were between the ages of 15 and 19. This is almost half of what was recorded in 2022 which stood at 260,734. The pregnancies were 316,187 in 2021 and 331,549 in 2020. The trend remains worrisome.

- SGBV is regulated by several international and national laws, policies, guidelines and treaties including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights but it remains minimally discussed with ease at country, county levels or among communities.

Sexual and gender-based violence is an omnipresent human rights violation and continues to be interminable and injurious to the majority globally. It remains one of the most persistent barriers to gender equality and sustainable development. SGBV is largely unreported due to impunity, corruption, silence and stigma.

At the moment Kenya is experiencing an increase in the number of killings and abuses meted on women. A few of the highlighted cases are traumatic, with women being beaten, stabbed, raped and murdered in short term rental houses popularly referred to as Airbnb. This is a reflection of the growing moral decadence in the society and the government needs to review its strategy in addressing the vice.

It remains a weighty human rights and public health issue and it is salient to identify the factors that lead to gender inequality, unequal power relations, gender discrimination, cultural norms as well as the evolving technology that contribute to SGBV. A national survey carried out in 2022 indicated about a third of Kenyan females having experienced some form of physical violence. SGBV includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and denial of economic or

educational rights, whether occurring in public or private life.

Various reports and findings provide evidence from the grassroots on the link between GBV, teenage pregnancies and the high HIV prevalence among adolescents and young women aged 15-24 years.

A total of 110,821 pregnancies were recorded among adolescents aged between the ages of 10 to 19 in the first five months of 2023. Data from the Kenya Health Information Systems shows a total of 6,110 were among adolescents aged between 10 to 14 years while another 104,711 were between the ages of 15 and 19. This is almost half of what was recorded in 2022 which stood at 260,734. The pregnancies were 316,187 in 2021 and 331,549 in 2020. The trend remains worrisome.

SGBV is regulated by several international and national laws, policies, guidelines and treaties including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights but it remains minimally discussed with ease at country, county levels or among communities. The government's strategy in addressing SGBV appears to be scarcely effective. There is a need to strengthen

the justice system to effectively prosecute the perpetrators for justice to all SGBV survivors and tame corruption that continues to cause gaps in the implementation of the existing laws.

The 2024 report released in January this year by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) anchored on advocating equality through progressive policies for a fairer future for all highlighted the 2023 inequality diagnosis affecting the country and provided a national inclusive development framework for the marginalized communities. The report further provided the status of gender equality and inclusion in the public sector as well as a prototype model on gender mainstreaming policy for TVET's. This is commendable, such reports ought to be analyzed and implemented to curb the fight against GBV.

The NGEC report shared policy solutions needed to promote and improve research and statistical data, and the need to invest in medium and long-term prevention efforts to reduce and end violence against women and girls. It is imperative for the state and non-state actors and collaborators to heed the call and fully support ministries, commissions, partners, media and civil societies that are championing the warfare against

SGBV. The resources towards NGEC should be doubled for it to establish its structures and presence across the 47 counties.

Addressing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality are fundamental for environmental work that meaningfully contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Government's effort to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions C190 and C189 that focuses at ending all forms of violence and harassment in the world of work is paramount. There is an urgent need for government-sponsored national campaigns to address SGBV and its consequences. Let us review the policies and laws around Cyber GBV that are on spiral.

As a country, we need to holistically buttress the campaign against GBV, right from household units, learning institutions, places of social gathering; churches, mosques and entertainment joints among many other areas.

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Africa Renaissance A Matter Of Perspective



By: William Waithaka
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Africa is a continent caught in chokeholds of powerful negative influences over positive influences. On the global scale, Africa is first catching up and can be listed as amongst the leading adoptees and consumer of globalization. The music from Africa now is competing with productions from traditional sources that is America and Europe. Both in quality and commercial viability, this is one thing Africa is progressively walking the globalization talk. Professional brain drain is evidence of good international standard career professionals. Global brands and leading global media houses now

feature more African faces working for them. Hospitals, Doctors, Nurses, this sector has seen Africans get opportunities abroad to work as professionals. All the above factors at the end of it all mean Forex earning through diaspora remittances in the economies back home

WHERE WE GO WRONG

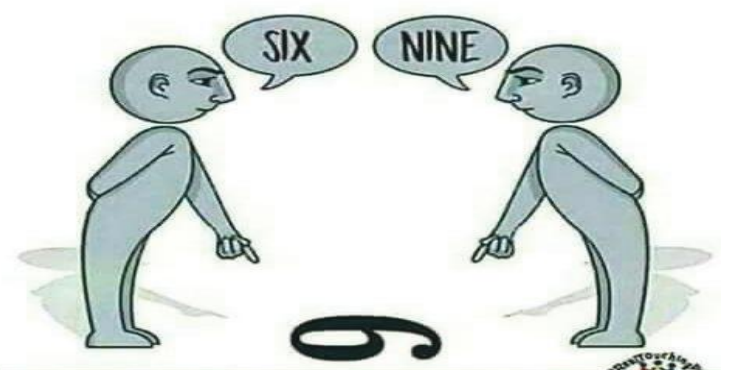
However Africa has the very most unique political class and perspectives. The African Politico is the most snobbish, well remunerated, most flattered, pampered, protected, endowed -anatomically and financially etc. But no one is aping Africa in its political ways or borrowing influence from its seemingly lopsided political systems. Everyone (read globally) is borrowing from Africa, be it on earth resources, Human Resources, entertainment resource but not the political resource. Mark you the world's youngest democracies are in Africa.

PERSPECTIVE:

Was Africa to decide that it's no longer going to accept the previous labels of the Dark Continent, war-torn and what have you, Africa must be very ready to dramatically shift from its current seemingly lopsided paradigm?

Build, Africa, Buy Africa must be the continental clarion call and mantra. Africa has demonstrated capacity to find union of purpose anytime global adversities seem take offence. The wars have demonstrated that only African solutions are capable of offering sustenance to peace are eradication of conflict.

The most favourable binding opportunity that Africa had however was presented during the Covid global pandemic. This was a redefining moment had Africa accelerated on the intra support mechanisms that this global calamity, Food value chains were rewired, politics got reduced to conscientious discussions, money transfers transformed and affirmed mobile transactions etc



Just because you are right, does not mean, I am wrong. You just haven't seen life from my side.

Apart from Covid-19, Africa now has the Immoral Politics that have to be done away with.

Africans must agree to perceive things right, whether this will call for redefining right vs Wrong.

CLOSER HOME:

The Kenyan fetish for everything foreign must be decelerated. Music, confectionary, gossip, controversy and accelerate uptake of our own,

music, industrialization, Farm Produce and interests as a continent.

The politics of the continent must shy away from infusion of lies, division, deception, manipulation and especially towards the Africans.

The African perspective must free itself from masquerading influences either by Africa's leadership or the imposers of consumerist global leaders.

How The War On Gaza Could Be A Turning Point For The International System!



By: Ambrose Ngobi
@themkenyatimes

You don't have to read the South African case on genocidal Benjamin Netanyahu to understand the full scope of an epochal mishap that is currently undergoing in the globe. It is right, open to the human instinct of morality that a statesman or a nation-state to that effect, should not be allowed to do whatever Prime Minister Bibi and the Jerusalem state is doing in Gaza and the West Bank!

Sickly enough, most of the Global South nation-states can realize with the state of Palestine the whipping machinery of an imperial state, the international system West over is backing with all its institutions. Maybe

there is a case in trying to self-defend against a terror group? Without instituting a full trial whether HAMAS is a terror group or not, self-defense though, does not amount to ethnic cleansing.

Pity the poor South African lawyers that know these facts, they may fly all way from Pretoria to go and argue at the so-called Peace Palace in Netherlands that while Article 51 of the 1945 United Nations treaty permit self-defense, what Israel is doing is setting a precedence for a "legal genocide" in customary international law. They may now want to quote the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, instituting a sheet of numerous articles that charge Prime Minister Bibi of crimes against humanity and blah blah...

Boys and girls should have saved their calories! President Cyril Ramaphosa might as well have called them back to Pretoria and put the cash that President Xi Jinping has given to his government for this case to other important duties. If he can't find important duties, he might like investing this

cash in winning his second term this year.

A US led International System should be castrated, American policy makers thrown into a boxing ring to battle the Chinese Communist Party. That would be a situation that leaves the Global South winning. In fact, it may sound pathological, but at this moment, South Africa would do better to withdraw from the Genocide Convention and cease association with the United Nations.

The danger in that is the isolation of Pretoria, and perhaps the full-scale CIA operation to overthrow President Ramaphosa and his ANC. The advantage though, is that a more realistic stand against hypocrisy would have been taken, this step perhaps inspiring more than a state in the Global South to follow suit. This might be called state-demonstration, where the tired regimes of a squeezed region starve the mechanism by which hypocrisy stands fat in the international sphere.

And, of course, President Xi Jinping would take the burden, funneling Chinese yuans to all economies parting from hypocritical West. This is a time



Israel-Gaza war

to let go of the 1945 Washington order, or perhaps to even question the very idea of Republican institutions – claiming to epitomize the principles of human rights and democracy when the wording and pronunciation of these principles are forgotten the moment national interests settle in.

This therefore could be a chance not just to throw away an International System that demolishes every effort from the Global South to move forward, but one that allows the Global

South to question the very essence of Republicanism, calling into view a consideration that replaces faded notions of a free liberal world with the Chinese "tianxia" ideology – an ideology that presents more truth, a respect for people's lives and culture, than the hypocritical liberal diatribe.

Ambrose Ngobi (A Tired Global Citizen, Based In Kampala).

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1 3rd Place Play off Match
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Each of the other **66** teams get

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- 18** Shorts
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- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots
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- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls



LET US JOIN HANDS TO SAVE OUR YOUTH

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Sports >> *Businessman Amos Butit led his team of Jackson Kiprono, Wesley Kiprono, and Mike Rotich to victory returning a combined score of 116 points to clinch the second leg of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour at the par 71 Eldoret Golf Club

Butit Leads Team To Glory At KCB Golf Series In Eldoret



KCB Group CEO Paul Russo in action during the 17th leg of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour at the Nandi Bears Club on November 18, 2023. Photo courtesy of KCB Media.

By Agencies

Businessman Amos Butit led his team of Jackson Kiprono, Wesley Kiprono, and Mike Rotich to victory returning a combined score of 116 points to clinch the second leg of the KCB East Africa Golf Tour at the par 71 Eldoret Golf Club on Saturday.

They beat their closest challengers Kipchirchir Kiprop, Nelson Orgut, Patrick Kiprop and Geoffrey Kitiwa who came in second after returning 106 points at the tourney that was graced by over 200 golfers from Eldoret and its environs.

The two teams secured their spots at the tour's grand finale scheduled for December 6.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Amos Butit said: "We were strategic in our approach to this tournament. Having won the previous competition last year, we knew that we needed to train together to clinch victory again and that is exactly what happened. I'm looking forward to the grand finale in December. Hopefully, we will fly the Eldoret Club high."

Junior golfer Ryan Tolgos who plays off handicap 36 carded 30 stableford points in the first nine and 19 points in the second nine to emerge as the overall winner with 49 points beating a huge field.

Seasoned handicap 19 golfer Wesley Kiprono returned 42

points to clinch the men's winner award after recording an excellent 23 points in the first nine and 19 points in the back nine.

On the other hand, handicap 14 golfer Faith Mburu carded 40 points to be named the lady winner of the day.

Bob Kennedy Odhiambo who plays off handicap 22 scooped the guest winner award after carding 32 points to beat golfers from Kitale, Kakamega, Nandi Bears and other clubs who headlined the event.

In the staff category, Nicholas Okello cruised past his colleagues to claim the award after returning 39 points while handicap 22 Allan Kirui finished second with 30 points.

Kennedy Serem won the longest driver award in the men's category while Gracemary Kamura bagged it in the ladies' category.

On Sunday, KCB hosted a juniors' and ladies' golf clinic at the same venue in a bid to further enhance the sport to give budding golfers an opportunity to hone their skills.

Also, a tree planting exercise was conducted to ensure that sustainability sits at the heart of the golf series.

The tour will be back in action on April 13 when Kakamega Golf Club hosts the third leg of the KCB Golf series that aims to reach twenty Counties in Kenya and four countries in the East African region.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Mohamed Salah returned in style with a goal in Liverpool's 4-1 rout of Brentford as the Premier League leaders survived a rash of injuries to step up their title charge on Saturday.

Salah Scores On Return As Leaders Liverpool Rout Brentford



Mohamed Salah.

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Mohamed Salah returned in style with a goal in Liverpool's 4-1 rout of Brentford as the Premier League leaders survived a rash of injuries to step up their title charge on Saturday.

Salah came off the bench to replace the injured Diogo Jota in his first Liverpool appearance since their win over Newcastle on New Year's Day.

Having returned from the hamstring injury he sustained on Egypt duty at the Africa Cup of Nations, Salah made up for lost time with his first goal for the Reds since the Newcastle game.

The 31-year-old's 19th goal in all competitions this term put Liverpool on course for a sixth win in their last seven league games.

The much-maligned Darwin Nunez had given Jurgen Klopp's side the lead with a sublime chip late in the first half at the Gtech Community Stadium.

Alexis Mac Allister doubled Liverpool's advantage after the interval with just his second goal this season.

Ivan Toney got one back for Brentford, but Cody Gakpo netted in the closing stages as Liverpool

moved five points clear at the top. Second placed Manchester City and third placed Arsenal, who play later on Saturday against Chelsea and Burnley respectively, can reduce the gap to Liverpool, who are chasing a first title since 2020.

While the victory was valuable for Klopp, it came with a downside as first half injuries to Jota and Curtis Jones added to Liverpool's increasingly packed treatment room.

Nunez didn't come back out for the second half either, although whether that was tactical or due to injury was unclear.

With the League Cup final against Chelsea looming on February 25 and Liverpool also competing in the FA Cup and Europa League, the injuries could derail Klopp's hopes of a trophy-filled farewell season.

Conor Bradley, back from compassionate leave after his father's death, started at right-back for Liverpool in place of the injured Trent Alexander-Arnold.

- Back in the groove - Bradley had impressed prior to his absence and the youngster

nearly gave Liverpool an early lead when he burst into the area for a shot that Mark Flekken pushed away for a corner.

Brentford boss Thomas Frank this week labelled Liverpool "the best offensive team in the league". Klopp would have appreciated the compliment and Liverpool underlined why Frank rates them so highly in the 35th minute.

Virgil van Dijk's high clearance from deep inside his own half looped towards Jota, who rose tenaciously above Sergio Reguilon to nod a header into the path of the unmarked Nunez.

The Uruguay striker accelerated into the area and deftly chipped a fine finish over Flekken for his 13th goal this season.

Nunez's goal was marred by the injury to Jota that led the Portugal forward to be stretchered off after he collided with Mac Allister and landed awkwardly.

That brought Salah into the fray and missed a chance immediately, letting Luis Diaz's cross bounce off his leg with the goal at his mercy.

Salah misfired again with a woe-ful finish after he took Van Dijk's

header and sprinted clean through on goal.

The Egyptian made amends for his miscues with a superb pass that picked out Mac Allister's run into the area.

Taking a clever touch to elude Brentford defender Ben Mee, Mac Allister snapped up the chance with a clinical finish to double Liverpool's lead after 55 minutes.

Salah was back in the groove and he killed off Brentford in the 68th minute.

Gakpo flicked on Caoimhin Kelleher's long clearance and Salah showed poise and power as he worked just enough space to guide a composed strike into the far corner.

Toney fired home from close-range after Reguilon's shot was saved by Kelleher in the 75th minute.

But Liverpool landed one last blow in the 86th minute when Nathan Collins' comical miscued clearance allowed Gakpo to score with a precise low finish.

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The End Of The Road For Mwikali At MWYO Is Eminent

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



Rahab Mwikali embattled Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation chair.

Worth Noting:

- MYWO is practically on its death bed, a pale shadow of its glorious vibrant giant organisation of yesteryears. For the ten years Rahab Mwikali has been at the helm of MYWO, she has no substantive project to show.
- She has reduced MYWO into a family rent collecting business. She has perfected the art of brown envelopes to sustain herself in office. Her greed is insatiable. What MYWO has in properties is able to help the poor vulnerable women of MYWO.
- Rahab Mwikali must leave MYWO immediately if MYWO must be salvaged. The money meant for women is diverted to the likes of Mr. Mutuma Nkanata at the expense of women.

Mr. Mutuma Nkanata the executive Director of NGO Board and Rahab Mwikali are people on the war path. From the 14th of February upto 16th February Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation (MYWO) has been a beehive of activity. Ziporah Kitony in Trans Nzoia was up in arms in the KTN air waves calling on the CS Gender Shangazi Aisha Jumwa not to touch Rahab Mwikali and the leadership of MYWO, that instead they called on the CS to work with Rahab Mwikali and that the CS should visit her in Cheregany. Apparently the reason for all the press releases citizen weekly newspaper learnt that the NGO Board had received a letter from the CS Aisha issuing matching orders for the removal of Rahab Mwikali. The NGO Board is the regulator of MYWO.

A tale is told of the frog that gladly jumped into water in a pot, unknown to him the owner of the pot lit a fire and the water began getting hot, when the frog began to feel the heat below. It jumped into the fire and died. The daring move of spoiling for war against the CS gender

Aisha Jumwa is openly defying the CS, Mwikali has miscalculated her moves thinking the centre will hold this time. Ms Mwikali is counting on the protection of Mr. Mutuma Nkanata and the brown envelopes she has been giving him. Mr. Mutuma is confident that being the Executive Director of NGO BOARD he is untouchable.

MYWO is practically on its death bed, a pale shadow of its glorious vibrant giant organisation of yesteryears. For the ten years Rahab Mwikali has been at the helm of MYWO, she has no substantive project to show. She has reduced MYWO into a family rent collecting business. She has perfected the art of brown envelopes to sustain herself in office. Her greed is insatiable. What MYWO has in properties is able to help the poor vulnerable women of MYWO. Rahab Mwikali must leave MYWO immediately if MYWO must be salvaged. The money meant for women is diverted to the likes of Mr. Mutuma Nkanata at the expense of women.

It is a fact the current Chairperson

of MYWO, Ms Rahab Mwikali has been taking advantage of the organization for personal gain and this behavior has far reaching consequences. The disadvantages of fleeing a women's organization are vast and multifaceted, the repercussions serve not only to jeopardize the immediate wellbeing of the organization timely, it is the vulnerable individuals who suffer due to lack of basic needs caused by greed.

Mr Mutuma Nkanata hurriedly received fake signatures from Rahab Mwikali, this signatures are an attempt to change the constitution to suit the extension of Mwikali's stay at MYWO. Mwikali on her part gave reasons for her endorsement for a third term. "She said in broad day light that MYWO elections were postponed to 2028 because of Corona". One wonders if the Corona in MYWO is different from the other parts in Kenya because in the same Kenya National elections were held.

Mwikali and her cohorts had the audacity to publicly attack CS Shangazi Aisha Jumwa and by extension the government of the day. That one is gross miscalculation because the CS Aisha is a political dynamo that you cross at your own peril.

The mobilized press conferences across the country were spearheaded by Zipporah Kittony a pro Gideon Moi. Hon. Gideon Moi in the last election was competing with President William Ruto for the stake of the Rift Valley vast voters. Zipporah Kittony more than anybody else know politics is about interest. It has not escaped the keen eye of political observers that by poking holes at CS Aisha, Zipporah Kittony must be suffering from post-election trauma. The pain of being out of government is what is the real underlying reason for venting on Aisha Jumwa and one she is quoted for wondering why Aisha Jumwa is not visiting her in Chengany.

The other miscalculation is by Mr. Mutuma the Executive Director NGO Board. Mr. Mutuma Nkanata's contract of service at the NGO Board expires by the end of 2024. When you live in a glass house you don't throw stone challenging the CS and spoiling for war with her he is putting his own fulstop at the helm of NGO Board. No one is indispens-

able

It is Mr. Mutuma Nkanata who advised Ms Mwikali to attack the gender CS. Aisha Jumwa. It is Mr. Mutuma Nkanata who instructed the staff at NGO Board to receive the fake signature at an attempt to change the constitution, this mutilation of the constitution cannot hold. It is a different government Mwikali's godmother Hon Charity Ngilu is no longer in government and her influence is gone.

The gods must truly be against them, they say "whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad." Ms Rahab Mwikali, the chairperson of MYWO has taken organizational fraud and mismanagement a notch higher. MYWO is an organization whose core business is improving the living standard for the disadvantaged persons, the vulnerable people and especially women. Instead of assisting women the funds meant for setting up programs to assist women is diverted to Mr. Mutuma.

On 9th December 2023 Mwikali endorsed herself for a third term without an election. She has intimidated women at the grassroots and silenced their voices. Mr. Mutuma and Mwikali collected fake signature in an attempt to change the constitution to validate her stay at MYWO. The court orders restraining her and her agents from MYWO have been ignored. Those who know her say she swore that only death will make her live MWYO. All this are sign of someone determined to stick to power and in that position by all means and by all means she should be removed!!!

The false belief by Mr. Mutuma Nkanata that they can get away with signatures, they must truly suffer from mental dilution. Rahab it must be noted has exhausted the constitutional mandated two terms and should go home or she will completely kill MYWO which is on its death bed. The damage on MYWO IS MASSIVE, she deserves to be in jail for economic crimes. She has neither filed Annual returns at the NGO Board nor submitted audited accounts. The signatures to the NGO Board will not alter this fact.

Mwikali is cornered and "ana jik-aranga na mafuta yake" like the late President Moi liked to say.