



**Ruto: I Am Creating Jobs For Kenyans, Courts Shouldn't Stand In The Way**

President William Ruto has reiterated his commitment to fulfil his promises to Kenyans during the 2022 general elections. He cited numerous programmes launched by his administration to transform the fortunes of all citizens, especially the young people of Kenya. Through investments in the Digital Economy  
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**News>> Royal Danish Ambassador To Kenya Pays Courtesy Call To CS Njeru**

P. 8. The Cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Zachariah Njeru flanked by Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir received the Danish Ambassador Mr. Stephan



**News>> The Church Is Sleeping While Our Children Are Being Destroyed - Pastor Dorcas**

P. 12. The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has accused the religious organizations in the church of keeping quiet while young men are destroyed by alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse.

# Kindiki To Unveil New Multi-Agency Strategy For Combating Serious Crimes



**A new strategy aimed at combating runaway serious criminal activities is in the offing.**

The criminals have taken advantage of rough terrain, poor infrastructure and social vulnerabilities to stage attacks against residents of some parts of Northern Rift Valley and Upper Eastern Regions, a culture that the Government is determined to suppress this year. In this regard, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki held a strategy meeting with Senior Security managers from the region at Shaba, Isiolo County.



Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# Kenya And South Africa Strengthen Trade Ties Under AfCFTA Framework

By: Capital Correspondent



Trade CS Rebecca Miano with South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa during the launch of the consignment/COURTESY.

**Worth Noting:**

- Rebecca Miano, the Trade Cabinet Secretary in attendance, commended the initiative, highlighting the tremendous opportunity it presents for enhanced trade between the two nations.
- “This action serves as a clear indication that South Africa is open for business within the AfCFTA framework,” she said.
- Cabinet Secretary Miano emphasized that the consignment from South Africa serves as a genuine testament to the nation’s readiness for strengthened trade ties.

Kenya and South Africa on Thursday intensified their efforts to strengthen the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) framework.

The two nations that share cordial bilateral relations, marked a significant moment by initiating the first shipment of products under the AfCFTA framework across the African continent.

South Africa led the way by sending a shipment containing refrigerators, paperboard, and steel products destined for the Kenyan market.

The launch occurred on the sidelines of the 13th AfCFTA Council of Ministers Meeting in Durban, with the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, presiding over the ceremony.

Rebecca Miano, the Trade Cabinet Secretary in attendance, commended the initiative, highlighting the tremendous opportunity it presents for enhanced trade between the two nations.

“This action serves as a clear indication that South Africa is open for business within the AfCFTA framework,” she said.

Cabinet Secretary Miano emphasized that the consignment from South Africa serves as a genuine testament to the nation’s readiness for strengthened trade ties.

“South Africa has confirmed its readiness to trade under the framework. It is also an indication that South Africa is ready to receive imports from the AfCFTA countries whose tariff offers have been finalized and adopted by the African Union Assembly,” she said.

Kenya embraced the AfCFTA initiative early on, initiating its first shipment of tea and later expanding its exports to various products in 2022.

The AfCFTA, with a collective population of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP exceeding USD 3.5 trillion, stands

as a crucial market that both nations are eager to explore and capitalize on for mutual gain.

Despite the relatively modest total trade figures of R9.7 billion between Kenya and South Africa in 2022, with South Africa holding a trade surplus, the implementation of the AfCFTA opens up avenues for substantial growth.

The AfCFTA establishes a framework for both countries to raise awareness among exporters, utilizing their respective national AfCFTA Implementation Strategies to maximize the benefits offered by the agreement.

Trade between Kenya and South Africa spans various sectors, encompassing tea, coffee, fruits, and vegetables from Kenya, while South Africa exports iron and steel, mineral fuels, machinery, wine, cars, fridges, TVs, and agricultural products.

Both nations have committed to facil-



itating the smooth entry of each other’s products into their markets and addressing non-tariff barriers to enhance intra-African trade.

In the upcoming weeks, Kenya is set to reciprocate South Africa’s initiative by sending its consignment of Kenyan products to the South African market under the AfCFTA framework.

This reciprocal exchange represents a crucial step in fostering economic collaboration and capitalizing on the vast opportunities presented by the AfCFTA.

As South Africa and Kenya take the lead, their proactive involvement under the AfCFTA establishes a positive example for other African nations, underscoring the significance of regional cooperation and trade integration in propelling economic growth across the continent.

Editor’s Desk

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

**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

**Our Contacts**  
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
**Editorial Desk:** editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Government Spokesman Dr Isaac Mwaura yesterday briefed the nation on various issues among them; the outbreak of Red Eye disease, Polio and Rift Valley Fever as well as the milestones in the agricultural sector in readiness of the long planting season. The government is actively addressing health emergencies and agricultural prosperity. He said the Ministry of Health was responding to polio outbreaks with extensive immunization programs, enhancing surveillance and cross-border disease control. Rift Valley Fever and Red Eye Disease outbreaks are being managed with public health advisories and prevention measures. In the agriculture sector, the government is supporting farmers with subsidized fertilizers and affordable loans, aiming to strengthen food security and economic growth. This integrated approach demonstrates the government's commitment to public health and agricultural development.



A report on the recently held Government Service Delivery Roadshow is being written at the Kenya School of Government in Lower Kabete area, Nairobi. Various senior government officials yesterday oversaw the commencement of the report writing. The report shall be presented to the National Executive retreat scheduled for later this month. It is expected to among other things help in tracking the status of the projects that Kenya Kwanza leaders promised Kenyans in the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda, BETA plan. Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Moses Kuria has for the last few weeks been involved in the Government Performance and Delivery Roadshows in 21 out of 23 ministries. Yesterday, CS Kuria, was joined by among others Secretary to the Cabinet, Ms. Mercy Wanjau and Government Spokesperson, Dr. Isaac Mwaura among other steering committee members.



Mombasa Cement Company has organized a medical camp for disabled individuals in South Africa, where over 350 individuals received artificial limbs and calipers. Over 500 people with different limb disabilities received various medical services from Indian doctors and specialists. The company plans to conduct these camps across the country, after every four months. Those needing the service can apply at the company's offices, where they will measure their leg or arm and contact them after three or four months. The camp has helped many disabled people, including Mubarak Kiptoo, who received a prosthetic leg after a 1992 road accident.



The Ministry of Energy has intercepted a consignment of copper weighing 11.8 tonnes, estimated to be worth Kshs.15 million at Industrial area in Nairobi. Principal Secretary in charge of State Department for Health said the multi agency team led by the Energy Police Unit (EPU), composed of officers from the DCI, and heads of security from REREC, KPLC and KETRACO verified that those materials were vandalized from the energy sector infrastructure. The PS who visited the site commended the officers for remaining vigilant and pro-active as the government cracked down on unscrupulous scrap metal dealers who drive this vice. Wachira at the same time also thanked the public for sharing information and intelligence with the relevant officers, adding that they shall not stop until they bring an end to this illegal and unlawful trade.



### Activist moves to JSC seeking CJ Martha Koome's ouster

By: Eric Biegon and Ruth Wamboi

A rights activist on Thursday filed a petition before the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) seeking the removal of Chief Justice Martha Koome.

In his petition, the activist, Michael Kojo Otieno, cited numerous issues that he claimed constituted sufficient grounds for the Lady Chief Justice to be relieved of her duties.

Among the issues he wants the JSC to consider is the appointment of members of the Tax Appeal Tribunal which he insists the CJ violated the law.

The petitioner holds that the law requires the Chief Justice to appoint 15 and not more than 20 members to the tribunal.

On this, he argues that Koome appointed 22 members to the tribunal against the provisions of the law. He says the move raises questions about Koome's leadership and integrity, which now must come under sharp scrutiny.

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# Ukrainian Delegation To Nairobi Marks New Era In Kenyan-Ukrainian Relations

By: Capital Correspondent



Lesia Vasylenko, a Ukrainian Parliamentarian.

## Worth Noting:

- Vasylenko is due to meet senior Kenyan parliamentarians, including Speaker Moses Wetangula, to discuss how the two parliaments can work more closely together.
- “Africa has always looked to Kenya for leadership, making Kenya a crucial partner for Ukraine as we look to strengthen our relationships on the continent. There are so many areas we can work together, from agriculture to technology and even space exploration. By opening up dialogue between our lawmakers, we can pave the way for cooperation across multiple fields, allowing us to prosper together,” Vasylenko said.

Ukraine and Kenya are set to take their relations to the next level as a Ukrainian delegation prepares to visit Nairobi next week, heralding a new era of cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation, representing Ukraine’s civil, academic, cultural and political communities will be led by Lesia Vasylenko, a Ukrainian Parliamentarian.

“Kenya and Ukraine share the same values of democracy and belief in the right to self-determination, as well as both being hustler nations with big futures ahead of

us. This makes us natural partners and I hope my visit to Kenya will open up a host of new opportunities,” Lesia Vasylenko, member of Ukraine’s parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, said.

Building on the success of previous

delegations to Kenya, Ukrainian parliamentary, academic, business and cultural leaders are now set to visit Nairobi to deepen relations and seek new opportunities for partnerships.

The delegation will be in Nairobi from 5th to 10th February 2024.

A particular focus for the delegation will be on building links between the Ukrainian and Kenyan parliaments.

Vasylenko is due to meet senior Kenyan parliamentarians, including Speaker Moses Wetangula, to discuss how the two parliaments can work more closely together.

“Africa has always looked to Kenya for leadership, making Kenya a crucial partner

for Ukraine as we look to strengthen our relationships on the continent. There are so many areas we can work together, from agriculture to technology and even space exploration. By opening up dialogue between our lawmakers, we can pave the way for cooperation across multiple fields, allowing us to prosper together,” Vasylenko said.

One potential growth area for Kenyan-Ukrainian cooperation is agricultural technology.

Ukraine is one of the biggest agricultural producers in the world – often called the “world’s breadbasket” for its huge output of grain.

Since Russia’s full-scale invasion, which has choked off Ukrainian grain supplies to

countries around the world, including Africa, Ukraine has developed exciting new drone technology which could help Kenyan farmers to boost agricultural production and help over-

come food shortages.

Delegate Oleksandr Khomiak, Executive Director of the No Labels NGO, is an expert in drone technology and he is due to meet Kenyan agri-tech specialists at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and Fred Nyamu, founder of agritech business Farm with Fred.

Khomiak said: “Russia has deliberately cut off vital food supplies to much of the world, particularly Africa, sending food prices spiralling and causing people to starve.

By sharing Ukrainian cutting edge agritech, we can help other countries, including Kenya, feed themselves.”

Oleh Bielokolos, Director of the Center for National Resilience Studies, and the former Chargé d’Affaires at the Ukrainian Embassy in Nairobi, will be meeting with academics, including from the University of Nairobi and the Prospect Peace Institute to discuss potential joint research projects.

“Kenya’s experience of colonisation has similarities with Ukraine’s own experience of aggression from Russia. This provides Ukrainians and Kenyans with a unique perspective and I think there’s an opportunity here to explore how the world’s smaller countries can work together to resist exploitation at the hands of larger powers,” Bielokolos said.

The delegation also aims to strengthen cultural relations between Ukraine and Kenya, exploring opportunities to showcase Ukrainian artists in Kenya and build partnerships with art, music and literature festivals, museums, and other cultural institutions.

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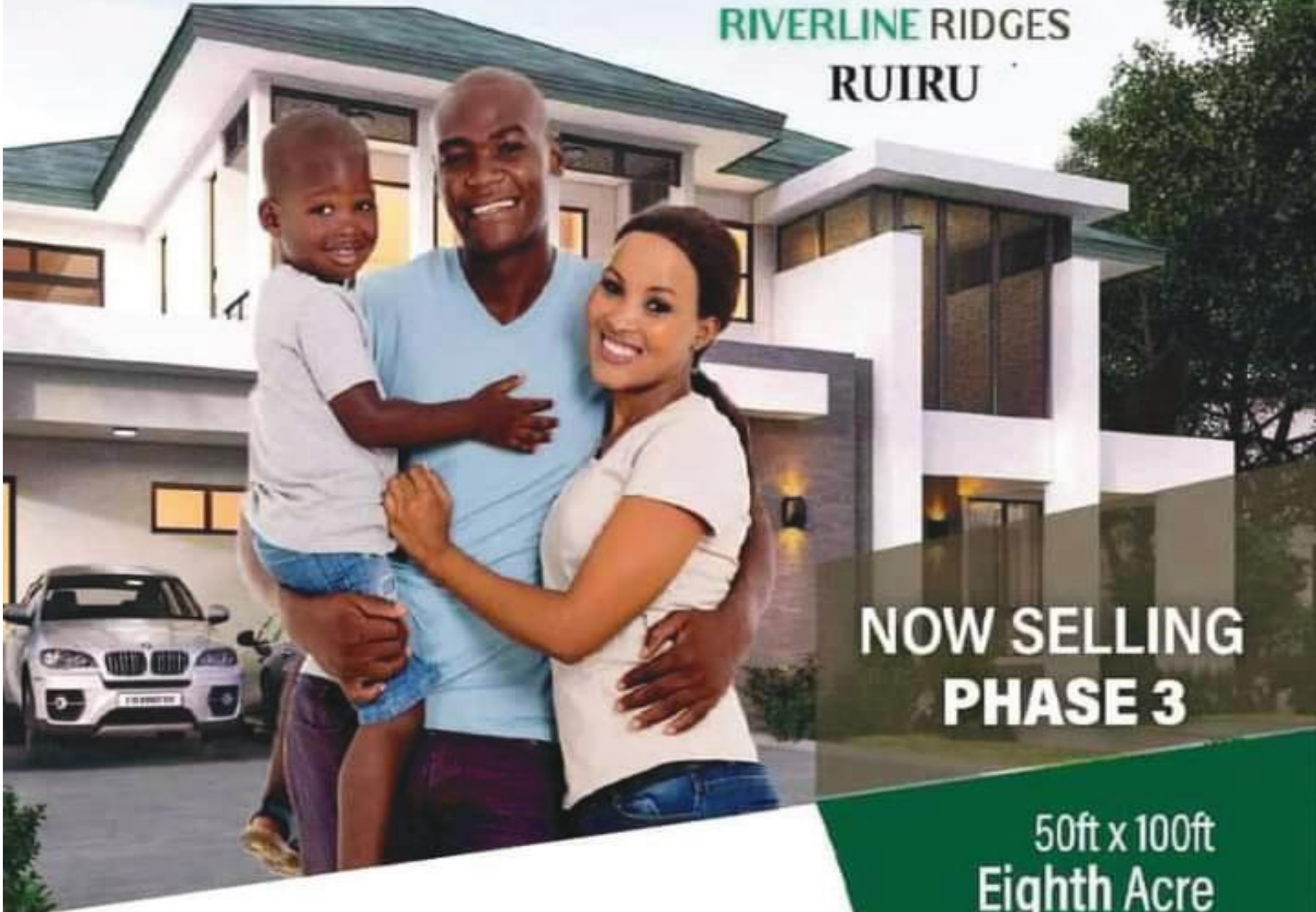
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# Royal Danish Ambassador To Kenya Pays Courtesy Call To CS Njeru

By: MoWSI

The Cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Zachariah Njeru EGH flanked by Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir received the Danish Ambassador Mr. Stephan at Maji House.

The meeting served as an introduction of the new Danish Ambassador to Kenya, where he briefed the Cabinet Secretary on the existing and planned Danish engagements and partnerships with the Kenya Water Sector and also discussed the upcoming visit by the Danish Minister for Environment Mr. Magnus Heunicke soon.

Both leaders' discussion centred on Royal Danish support to the Kenya water sector. Kenya has received close to Ksh 4.7 billion out of which Kenya contributed Ksh 1.9 billion for the program.

Danida has supported the Minis-

try through the Water Sector Trust Fund ( WSTF) in eight programs ranging from Kenya Water and Sanitation Program (KWSP) from 2005-2010, Medium Term Asal program ( MTAP) Phase 1 ( 2012-2014) that contributed to reduced poverty in the context of Kenya's Vision 2030 and safeguarding the State of environment and promoting sustainable management of natural resources to the tune of Ksh 469 million and increased access to water for 165, 582 people among other projects.

In attendance were Water Secretary Eng SAO Alima EBS, Secretary Administration Mr. Stephen Kihara and Willis Ombai CEO Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF).



Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru, his officers with the Danish team in his office yesterday..

# Proposed Isiolo Dam To Benefit Thousands Of Residents

By: MoWSI

A proposed mega dam in Isiolo county is set to benefit thousands of local residents.

Yesterday, the Principal Secretary in charge of State Department for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho visited the proposed dam site with Isiolo County Governor Abdi Ibrahim Hassan and Ag CEO National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority Eng John Muhia and other leaders.

The proposed Isiolo dam has a 214 million cubic meters storage capacity and will enhance multipurpose water supply for Isiolo town and the areas around the dam.

There are plans to put aside over 100,000 acres of Feedlots and Disease Control Zone and the dam will contribute greatly toward irrigating the feedlots.

The dam is a game changer in supporting food security with continuous cropping and livestock value chains in the wake of climate change.

The project will also improve climate resilience and improve the livelihoods of the people of Isiolo County.

The PS later addressed adjacent communities explaining the importance of the proposed dam and encouraged them to offer support at various stages of the project for their benefit and that of the surrounding counties.

The next critical steps of the project is the submission of the Privately Initiated Proposal under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework by a private party who have expressed interest and updating detailed technical studies, including the ESIA.

They were accompanied by a team from CRBC, Management of NWSA, and other Isiolo County leaders.



Principal Secretary in the State Department for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho with other leaders at a proposed site where a mega dam will be constructed.

# Kindiki To Unveil New Multi-Agency Strategy For Combating Serious Crimes

*Incessant Security Threats Posed By Livestock Rustlers, Highway Robbers, And Traffickers Of Humans And Narcotics Require A Comprehensive Multi-Agency Eradication Strategy*

By: Our Correspondents

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Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki with security officers in Isiolo yesterday.

## Worth Noting:

- The CS spoke yesterday saying repeated incidences of insecurity posed by livestock rustlers, highway robbers as well as human traffickers will require a comprehensive multi-agency eradication strategy.
- “The criminals have taken advantage of rough terrain, poor infrastructure, and social vulnerabilities to stage attacks against residents of some parts of Northern Rift Valley and Upper Eastern Regions, a culture that the Government is determined to suppress this year,” CS Kindiki said.
- Last month, Kindiki while on a tour of Mulango in Isiolo, expressed confidence in the progress made in the fight against banditry.
- A shipment of modern security equipment which is on its way will help the government combat bandits on land, sea, and air.

A new strategy aimed at combating runaway serious criminal activities is in the offing.

The criminals have taken advantage of rough terrain, poor infrastructure and social vulnerabilities to stage attacks against residents of some parts of Northern Rift Valley and Upper Eastern Regions, a culture that the Government is determined to suppress this year.

In this regard, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki held a strategy meeting with Senior Security managers from the region at Shaba, Isiolo County.

It was convened to lay the framework for the pacification of disturbed areas in Marsabit, Isiolo, Meru North, Baringo, Samburu and Turkana Counties

The CS is set to unveil a multi-agency strategy for combating the issues.

The CS spoke yesterday saying repeated incidences of insecurity posed by livestock rustlers, highway robbers as well as human traffickers will require a comprehensive multi-agency eradication strategy.

“The criminals have taken advantage of rough terrain, poor infrastructure, and social vulnerabilities to stage attacks against residents of some parts of Northern Rift Valley and Upper Eastern Regions, a culture that the Government is deter-

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Last month, Kindiki while on a tour of Mulango in Isiolo, expressed confidence in the progress made in the fight against banditry.

A shipment of modern security equipment which is on its way will help the government combat bandits on land, sea, and air.

“Soon, the first batch of modern equipment for our security officers will be in the country. We will pursue these crooks from the air, ground and sea,” he said.

“This year, there is no escape route for criminals. The fire we have lit on them is just a warm up. We must completely dismantle the entire infrastructure of banditry and livestock theft. Soon, the first batch of modern equipment for our security officers will be in the country.”

According to the CS, the government will soon release a list of disturbed and dangerous areas in Isiolo, Samburu, and Meru.

He stated that only specific regions would be included on the list, and that no one would be victimised as a result of the operations.

“I must clarify that it is not the

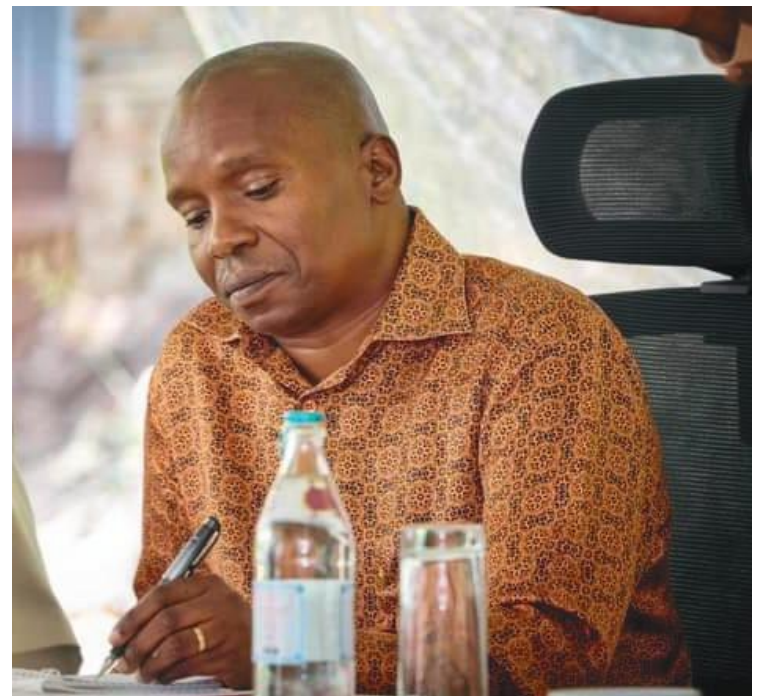
entire Isiolo, Marsabit and Meru Counties that will be declared disturbed and dangerous, he disclosed.

“We will gazette specific parts of these counties so that the operation is effective and achieve its desired results. No innocent person will be victimised or affected.”

To close the ‘loophole the bandits use,’ CS Kindiki stated that National

Police Reservists (NPRs) who began training on Wednesday will be deployed shortly after graduation.

“We will use these young men to help seal off all the loopholes that bandits have been using for years as escape routes after terrorising innocent people and getting away with their animals, therefore impoverishing economically,” he said.



Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki.

# CHOICES: Whether to serve the gods of worldliness or the LIVING GOD Pt 2



**By: Eric Musa**  
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Remember the story of the young rich man, who came to Jesus and asked how he would inherit eternal life? Jesus, filled with compassion and love told him that he was left with one thing to do: “ give out his possessions, take up the cross and follow him” The man went away saddened and grieved; He wanted Christ, but wanted his money more. The TV/ internet can also become an idol, we become fixated on that box or that internet, and it influences a lot in your life. It is “The cross before the crown”, some want the crown, before the cross! It ain’t possible. Some say, “I will follow my conscience” , but some are dead in their conscience!; controlled by evil spirits, and in their own wisdom and

mindset, tell themselves they are ok! Some say, I do good deeds, God will understand, I will do better, I will reform; BUT THE ONLY WAY IS TO COME TO THE CROSS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TAKE OVER. The Scriptures say “ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it( Matthew 7).”

All through out the Bible: Choices, choices, choices. You will also have to make the choice who is your father: Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees, a Scripture I relate to when you are serving God, in whichever place he has put you,: “.. “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. [43] Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! [44]For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because



there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies( John 8:42-44).”

Jesus Christ is the STAIRWAY AND GATEWAY TO HEAVEN. In my Father, there are many mansion, if it were not so, I will let you know”

Man is a social being, and enjoys good company, interacts where he can, but there is a inward, lonely arena, where he has to make choices on his own. Moses said, “

[19]“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, be-

tween blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness THE CHOICE YOU MAKE. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (Deuteronomy 30:19).”

The blood of Christ Jesus, cleanses us all our sins. He forgives us all sins; offers JUSTIFICATION( Just as if you never sinned), and God forgets all our sins. Christ Jesus is the RIGHT CHOICE, TODAY, any day, and do NOT postpone.

**Evangelist Eric Musa:**

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 ( Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

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# Ruto's Call On Contractors To Continue Building Affordable Houses Was Within The Law



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Affordable Houses

President William Ruto has once again strongly defended his affordable housing plan vowing to face those opposed to the project head-on.

I know that my critics, particularly those in Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition, have been burning midnight oil trying to sabotage and derail my development agenda.

I want to tell them that they will not succeed. Kenyans have come a long way. They know how to discern and separate wheat and chaff. They fully support this project.

The project is also enjoying the backing of the constitution as Shelter is a basic right.

Speaking in Western Kenya, the President therefore did not mince any word in calling on contractors to continue building affordable houses. This is until the matter in court is heard and determined. He said he was optimistic that the government will win the case.

The judges are Kenyans. They know the housing project have created almost 130,000 jobs for Kenyans. This resonates with our manifesto.

The Azimio leader Raila Odinga and his brigade would on the other hand resort to politicizing the President's remarks.

The Court of Appeal had stopped the collection of housing levy but they would not want Kenyans to know the same had allowed the government to continue collecting the levy.

So, by insisting the building of houses will continue, Azimio wanted Kenyans to believe that Dr Ruto had violated the law. This did not hold any water.

It is worth noting that the President only asked the contractors to continue doing thier job. He did not mention the housing levy because he knew this was main issue cited by those who had moved to court. This showed the President respected the constitution and other laws.

Notably, just like his predecessors, President William Ruto is leaving nothing to chance in building and unveiling his legacy projects.

There is no doubt that the affordable housing plan is his signature legacy project.

As the war between the two arms of government intensified, Dr Ruto always shifted the blame to his political detractors.

The 'corrupt' judicial officers were

helping them (his critics) to have thier way after 'bribing and compromising them'.

A few days later, the President held a meeting with Chief Justice Martha Koome and Speaker of national assembly Moses Wetangula. The Speaker joined them later.

Sources indicated that the President took unprecedented move when he declassified some intelligence reports which he shared with CJ. He disclosed that corrupt judges were working hand in hand with corrupt and rogue lawyers.

As the CJ, the buck stops with you. The people of Kenya expects you to tame members of your team. The corrupt riddled judges must be shown the door.

On his part, the President assured the CJ of his commitment to eradicate corruption in the executive.

The three-judge bench of Court of Appeal had earlier ruled in favor of an application filed by Treasury Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndungu.

The bench had upheld the High Court order allowing the government to continue collecting the housing levy until an appeal is heard and determined.

So, the change of heart by the bench was bound to raise queries. Was the decision based on law or it was an escalation of the ongoing war. What has changed?

It is worth noting that when the two bulls fight, it is the grass that suffers. So, in this case, it is the people of Kenya.

The earlier decision of the court of appeal was yet another setback to Senator Okiya Omtata and other activists who had moved to court seeking to stop the government from collecting the housing levy. This is until their case is heard and determined.

The petitioners' key prayers was. The court should declare the levy unconstitutional and illegal.

They would not however convince the judges that they had a strong and watertight case. This is because the case was not anchored on the provisions of

the constitution and other written laws of Kenya that were relevant and well grounded.

I had earlier listened to President William Ruto's interview when he hosted journalists from different media houses at State House Nairobi. The President minced no word in responding to all the issues and questions raised.

One of the journalist told him. You rode to power on a platform of promising to respect and uphold the constitution and other laws of the land but today you are doing the opposite.

He cited the housing levy. The court declared this law unconstitutional but we have been hearing you maintaining that the levy is there to stay.

The President told him. What you are saying is not true. I have been walking the talk in terms of respecting the constitution and decisions of the courts.

On housing levy, you the people of the media are to blame for misinterpreting that ruling. The problem of unconstitutional was indeed created by you.

That is not what the bench of the three judges stated. The bench only took issue with what they termed as discriminative aspects of the law.

This is because it is only employed people whose salaries were being subjected to a deduction of 1.5 percent.

The Judges heard our prayers and allowed the government to continue collecting the levy until January next year. This will give you an opportunity to review and align this law. You would not have expected the judges to do this if the housing levy is unconstitutional.

It is worth noting the housing levy is a key pillar of the Finance Act of 2023.

When the judges delivered the ruling, President William Ruto stated. We believe in the rule of law. So, my government will fully comply with the orders issued.

We will take the necessary steps to ensure this law is aligned. Dr Ruto reiterated this during interview. He said that the majority leader Kimani Ichungwah

have already drafted the bill and presented it to parliament.

The president further stated. The housing plan is a noble idea whose time has come. As I speak, It has created 120,000 jobs. The job opportunities are set to increase to 200,000 and 500,000 in coming days.

The mega project resonated very well with Ruto's concept of bottom up economic model. It is designed to address two main challenges: joblessness and lack of decent houses.

The President announced that 250,000 affordable housing units will be constructed in the first phase.

At one point during a visit to Busia county, he told the 'hustlers'.

The housing project is being opposed by those employed who received a payslip every month.

They do not want 1.5 per cent to be deducted from thier salaries.

The same case applies to the top leaders of the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Opposition coalition.

Each one pockets a pension of more than 1 million from the National Treasury every month.

These are the same personalities who say they love you and were ready to die for you. Really, do they?

When they oppose a deduction of 1.5 percent from thier payslips, what message are they sending?

They don't care. They want you to continue being poor and to live in a state of desperation and hopelessness.

The Affordable Housing Plan was one of the proposals contained in the controversial Finance Bill 2023.

The 'Hustlers' (those without a payslip) were excluded from paying the housing levy.

The real estate developers are contracted to build these houses. Once completed, the government will buy them.

When selling the units, the state will give priority to the hustlers.

President Ruto have been reiterating. This will be a key milestone. For the

first time in our history, the sons and daughters of the hustlers will own decent houses.

This will elevate them to the class of the wealthier and rich families.

Listen to the critics. President Ruto's position is that the deductions are compulsory. He is therefore pushing the levy down the throat of Kenyans.

I totally disagree. The president had no legal mandate to pass this proposal into law. This power is exercised by parliament.

The members will debate and thereafter each vote either in favor or against each of the clauses.

The process starts with the drafting of the Bill which is then presented to the house for the first reading. No debate at this stage.

First, the Bill has to be subjected to public participation. The relevant committees of house organize the forums, collect and collate the views of the people. This was done.

Yes, I agree that Parliament is dominated by members of the ruling Kenya Kwanza alliance.

But I want to ask the critics. Are you suggesting the members did not understand thier job?

This is tantamount to insulting the intelligence of Kenyans. You are telling them they did not use thier brains when they elected them.

For starters, the government is made up of three main arms: parliament, executive and Judiciary.

Though each is independent, the law requires them to always embrace the principle of interdependence and complementarity.

Majorly, the role of a member of Parliament is three pronged: Legislation, oversight and representation.

The President was in fore front of drumming support for Finance Bill 2023. Does this amount to overstepping his legal mandate? No, he is not.

I would have expected Raila to be the last person to oppose this proposal. Why? During the campaigns, the house plan proposal stood out as one of his main election pledges.

If elected President, I will rollout a massive affordable housing plan. Majority of our people, who migrated to urban centers, were living in poor and highly deplorable conditions in slums. 'My government' will build decent houses for them. This is a commitment I have given to you.

Raila would add: A huge chunk of money to build these houses will come from our pockets. He would single out those employed, civil servants, state officers and other workers. The Government will deduct 1.5 per cent from the payslip of each. President Ruto's administration is collecting the same amount.

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

# The Church Is Sleeping While Our Children Are Being Destroyed - Pastor Dorcas

By: OSDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has accused the religious organizations in the church of keeping quiet while young men are destroyed by alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse.

Speaking when she held a meeting with the members of the clergy in Karuri Kiambaa Sub-County Pastor Dorcas said many religious leaders know the people involved in the sale and distribution of drugs and substances in their areas but never speak out against them.

“As the church we keep quiet when we see things going wrong in our country. Some even say they will not speak against the evils because the government will close their churches. But what kind of a church is that? A church which cannot speak the

truth? Sin is sin and you must call it sin,” she said.

Pastor Dorcas called on those calling street families as chokora to be referring to them as her child.

She spoke ahead of her launch of a medical camp targeting the street families at the Karuri Grounds in Kiambaa.

Kiambaa DCC Geoffrey Taragon accused the county government of issuing licenses to bar owners to operate in areas of residences.



A Catholic priest leading clergy in prayers yesterday.

# Health Committee Continues To Probe Fraudulent Claims Of NHIF In Murang’a And Embu Counties

*The Probe Is Set To Be Undertaken To Other Counties Before A Report Is Made*

By: PSCU

A sub-committee of the National Assembly’s departmental committee on Health, led by Vice-chairperson Patrick Munene, commenced a fact-finding mission to investigate suspected financial malpractice in health facilities across Murang’a and Kirinyaga Counties.

Under the leadership of Munene, the Health committee scrutinized health facilities believed to have colluded with rogue officials to embezzle public funds from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

They began with the committee visiting the Murang’a High School Dispensary in Murang’a County, where they learned that the facility, officially registered with the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board, serves a student population of 2,400 and about 150 staff members. The committee addressed concerns regarding a significant increase in claims, attributing it to a fee revision from Kes 500 to Kes 1000, while the

school denied involvement in fraudulent claims.

In the afternoon, the committee visited two Afya Bora Hospitals in Mwea, Kirinyaga County.

Munene questioned the hospitals’ proprietor about the feasibility of conducting 22 surgeries in a single day and raised concerns about the swift acquisition of pre-authorizations. It was noted that the facilities did not meet all the requirements for a level four hospital, prompting questions about the licensing process by the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board.

The proprietor denied any collusion or illegitimate claims but mentioned having to lay off 98 employees due to unpaid money by the NHIF.

The vice-chairperson assured fairness and justice, emphasizing the committee’s commitment to representing the people’s interests.

The probe will continue in Embu and Meru Counties.

Other members present included; Mary Maingi (Mwea), Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County) and Cynthia Muge (Nandi County).



Patrick Munene addressing the media while flanked by his colleagues...

# Public Debt Ad Privatization Committee Engages Westminster Foundation For Democracy And Institute Of Public Finance On Public Debt Management Oversight

By: PSCU

The Public Debt and Privatization Committee led by Abdi Shurie concluded a two-day collaborative workshop with officials from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Institute of Public Finance (IPF).

The consultative forum sought to analyze Parliament's capacity for public debt management oversight.

The Head of Practice Accountability at WFD, Mr. Franklin De Vrieze, emphasized on the need to make the Debt Management Strategy public, noting that, the transparency will help the public to understand the goals and push the authorities to make a credible commitment to meet them, hold governments accountable, increase investors' confi-

dence and reduce the risk of future criticism by the public.

In addition to that, Mr. Vrieze also cited the need for Parliament to approve the Debt Management Strategy, citing that it will entrench accountability and transparency in borrowing decisions, enable refinement of the strategy, build consensus among all the parties involved, and enable Parliamentary scrutiny of regular reports on the implementation of the Debt Management Strategy.

The Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Public Finance, Mr. James Muraguri, highlighted three key roles that Parliament can inculcate to oversight debt which include establishing a broad legal framework for public debt management, ensuring that debt management is conducted in accordance with the established legal framework, and making full disclosure on all the debt acquired and their status.



Some of the leaders during the session

The chairperson of the committee thanked WFD and IPF for all the insights shared during the work-

shop, assuring them that they will continue to engage each other, in a bid to create effective debt oversight mechanisms.

# Ensuring Inclusivity And Fairness In Education Funding

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

In Kenya, the school capitation system serves a crucial role in facilitating access to secondary education for underprivileged students, aiming to enhance both enrollment and retention rates across the nation. The government allocates funds to each primary and secondary school student annually, with notable increases over the years.

Starting at Kshs10,265 per secondary student in its inception, the grant has progressively risen to Kshs 22,244 in 2018. For primary schools, the grant stands at Sh1,420 per learner. However, it's essential to revisit the inclusivity of this system, especially concerning Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (AP-BET) schools, ensuring that learners in hard-to-reach areas receive the support they need.

To truly promote equality, there should be a transparent mechanism for identifying and prioritizing students in need. Currently, it is disheart-

ening to witness well-off families benefitting from the same capitation as their less fortunate counterparts. The education system should implement a tool, similar to the new university funding model, to ascertain the genuine needs of each student, preventing situations where a minister's daughter receives the same support as a student from a marginalized background.

Moreover, addressing bureaucratic hurdles is crucial. Learners without birth certificates, often found in vulnerable communities, should be supported in obtaining the necessary documentation. This proactive approach ensures that bureaucratic obstacles do not hinder educational opportunities for those who need them most.

The timing and completeness of capitation disbursement are equally critical. Releasing funds in bits creates challenges for schools to adequately plan and execute educational activities. Timely and full disbursement would empower institutions to provide quality education without disruptions.

In conclusion, as the Director of Sharp Education Centre and Junior in Kayole, Nairobi, Dr. Paul Wanjohi advocates for a fair and inclusive ed-



Education Funding.

ucation system. Reinstating capitation for APBET schools, implementing a needs-based assessment tool, assisting students in obtaining vital documents, and ensuring timely and com-

plete fund disbursement are key steps towards a more equitable educational landscape in Kenya.

Dr. Paul K. Wanjohi UASA K National Treasurer, Director Sharp Education Centre.

## For My Students



In a classroom filled with gleaming minds,  
I find my students, a treasure to find.  
With intellect shining, they're oh so bright,  
Knowledge their armor, ready to ignite.

Each one a star, with brilliance they glow,  
The depths of their wisdom, forever they'll show.

Like beacons of light, they guide their way,  
Through the vast sea of knowledge, they'll never sway.

Their eyes, so curious, always seeking more,  
Their hunger for learning, an eternal roar.  
They soak up information with eager delight,  
Their thirst for knowledge, an endless flight.

In their presence, I feel humbled and proud,  
Their passion for learning, a symphony loud.  
They challenge the boundaries, break through the norm,

In their quest for knowledge, they'll surely transform.

With every question they ask, every answer they find,  
They unravel the mysteries, leaving no truth behind.  
Their minds, like sponges, absorb and retain,  
In this journey of learning, they will forever reign.

Oh, my students, you're a sight to behold,  
With minds so sharp, and hearts of gold.  
May your thirst for knowledge never cease,  
As you embark on this journey of eternal peace.

So, here's to my students, brilliant and wise,  
May your dreams soar high, reaching new skies.

With knowledge as your guide, and passion as your flame,  
You'll leave your mark, and forever etch your name.

Qurbonova Nasiba TEACHER OF THE  
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES OF  
JIZZAK STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY

## About The Child's Psychological Preparation For School



By: Karimova Sabina

The article is about the psychological aspects of preparing children for school education and the pedagogical psychological description of the peculiarities of the child's transition to the position of "student". methods of acquisition and active penetration are considered

Social and psychological preparation for school is a set of qualities that a child needs to start school successfully.

Psychologists who have surveyed preschool children note the difference in admission to school of children who are ready for psychological preparation and those who are not. Psychological criteria of readiness

- Motivational
- Mental knowledge
- Strong will
- Communicative.

First of all, the child's desire to learn and the dream of becoming a student, that is, to gain a new social status, there should be reasons for him to go to school. His attitude towards school should be positive.

The child should develop enough thinking, memory and other cognitive processes.

A child should voluntarily control his behavior in order to achieve the goals set at school. After all, at school, he should listen carefully to the student, do homework, work according to rules and models, and observe discipline.

The child should establish relations with one-year students, work together with group assignments. General procedure of psychological preparation for school Determining the child's psychological readiness for school in time is the task of parents of preschool children. Today, specialists offer specially designed programs for psychological readiness for

school. To teach children to understand the educational task while going to class.

- Development of graphic and mathematical skills.
- Improve the ability to generalize, classify and form concepts.
- It is necessary to develop logical thinking and verbal mechanical memories.
- A child who is ready for school should have a desire to communicate with peers. He should be able to build relationships with other children and adults.
- Is the child easily attracted to the company of playing children?
- Does he know how to listen without interrupting someone's thoughts.
- if necessary, observes the queue.
- can he participate in a conversation with several people and can he continue the conversation? If he can follow all these, the child will be ready for school.

Note that a child between the ages of six and seven needs to know the following concepts.

Place of residence, city of birth

The name of your qualification and its capital

Parents' full name, information about their place of work.

The sequence of periods, the characteristics of the months and all days of the week are necessary to know the differences between domestic animals and wild animals.

Mental readiness also includes simple mathematical ideas, the basic basics of literacy, sufficient knowledge of the mother tongue, knowledge and skills. Thus, mental readiness for reading at school includes the interconnected components of mental and speech development of children.

In short, pay attention to your child and be interested in his relationships with peers. Do not say bad things about the child's abilities and do not criticize him. It is necessary to strengthen his confidence in his own strength and encourage his success in any way possible. Teach the child to be independent, help him to form his personal opinion and spend more time with him.

Karimova Sabina 2th grade student of the Bachelor's degree in Primary Education at the Kimyo International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

## Korpasoy



By: Abdurasulov Nuriddinjon Sharofjon o'g'li  
In the land of Ko'rpasoy, where mountains stand tall,

A village so enchanting, capturing all.  
With ancient wisdom, it tells a tale,  
A place where beauty and history prevail.

Amidst the peaks, majestic and grand,  
Nature's wonders, a sight so grand.  
Mountains embrace, with their towering might,  
Guarding the village, day and night.

In the heart of Ko'rpasoy, a treasure so rare,  
An ancient tree, standing with pride and care.  
For 850 years, it has witnessed it all,  
Through seasons and changes, it stands tall.

The soft air whispers secrets untold,

A gentle breeze, soothing and bold,  
In Ko'rpasoy's embrace, it brings peace,  
A tranquil haven, where worries cease.

Wandering through the village, a traveler's delight,  
With paths that lead to adventures bright.  
A refuge for explorers, seekers of unknown,  
Ko'rpasoy welcomes, a place to call home.

The people of Ko'rpasoy, warm and kind,  
Their hospitality, a treasure to find.  
With open hearts, they share their land,  
Guiding visitors with a helping hand.

Oh, Ko'rpasoy, a haven of bliss,  
A village where memories are amiss.  
In your embrace, comfort is found,  
A sanctuary where peace abounds.

May your mountains always stand so strong,  
And your ancient tree sing its timeless song.  
In Ko'rpasoy, beauty and serenity unite,  
A village that fills our hearts with pure delight.

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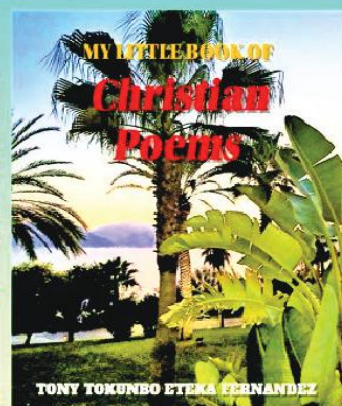
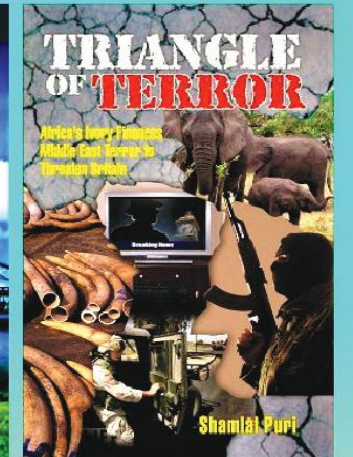
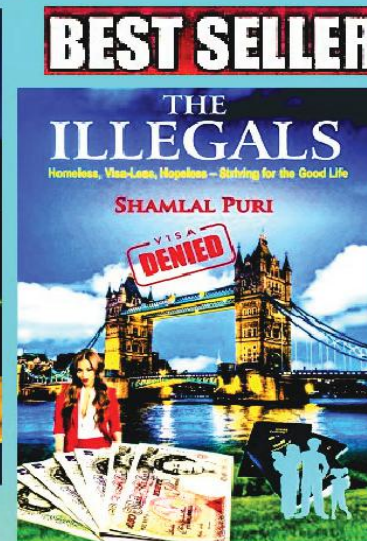
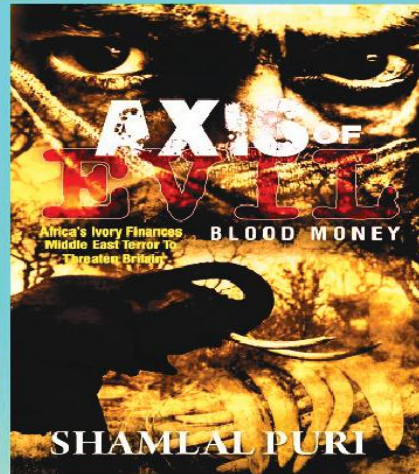
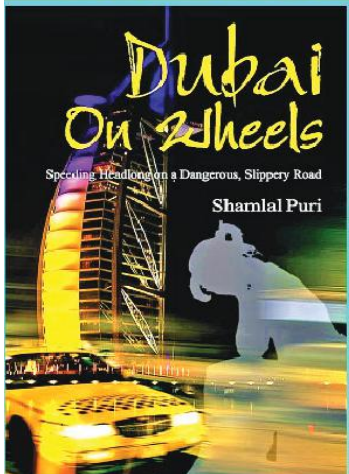
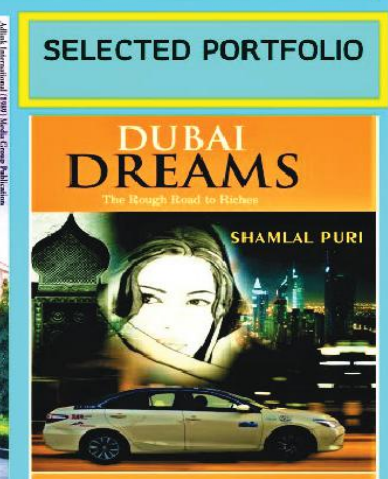
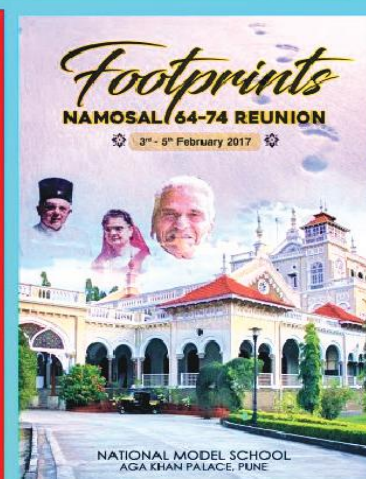
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# End Femicide

## Make Inclusivity An Act, End Femicide



By: Tonny O. Blair  
@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- The rate at which boys engage in drug abuse, suicidal ideations due to depression or stress, trafficking, robbery among other malicious practices is increasing immensely. Including both genders - girls and boys - would benefit society more than unidirectional empowerment initiatives that exclude one gender.
- By doing so we can achieve gender equality where individuals exist without discrimination against each other while nurturing progressive responsibilities leading to a safer generation free from unnecessary conflicts within societies. The population of men continues decreasing over time due partly because they lack proper empowerment opportunities alongside unemployment among other factors.



In recent days, there has been a disturbing surge in femicide in Kenya. Empowerment must adhere to the principle of inclusivity within society. Dating back centuries ago, gender inequality was prevalent with women occupying lower positions in the hierarchy of discipline and respect.

Girls were treated hostilely and expected to be submissive in society for centuries - a concerning issue that required swift intervention from organizations such as United Nations (UN).

Efforts have since been made towards empowering girls in all aspects including education, economic progress, sociocultural practices like leadership participation and inclusion of their rights into the country's constitution. However, this initiative is leaning on one side due to technological advancements and modernization. While numerous government-based bodies were formed with an objective to empower girl children which was commendable; it begs the question: what about boys? Are they well equipped enough to face life's

realities? Unfortunately not.

The rate at which boys engage in drug abuse, suicidal ideations due to depression or stress, trafficking, robbery among other malicious practices is increasing immensely. Including both genders - girls and boys - would benefit society more than unidirectional empowerment initiatives that exclude one gender.

By doing so we can achieve gender equality where individuals exist without discrimination against each other while nurturing progressive responsibilities leading to a safer generation free from unnecessary conflicts within societies. The population of men continues decreasing over time due partly because they lack proper empowerment opportunities alongside unemployment among other factors.

It's high time we re-evaluate this aspect keenly by embracing inclusivity through empowering both genders equally regardless of content differences but rather having 'two tents' covering both parties instead of just one-sided initiatives benefiting only girls.

This is relevant because one day in life this two people will live together or are living together. Recall, one is empowered and over protected by the laws of the land and the other one is (was) never empowered and also undermined by the law. How do we expect peace to exist amongst the two?

We can only achieve peace-driven creativity for societal development by considering inclusive empowerment programs where all are included "all for one" hence "one for all".

This can be achieved through various means such as promoting gender-sensitive education and training programs, creating equal job opportunities for both genders, and providing access to resources that will enable individuals to achieve their full potential.

Furthermore, it is crucial to address the root causes of gender inequality, such as harmful cultural practices and social norms that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls. This requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, and the

private sector.

In addition to promoting gender equality, it is also essential to address other forms of inequality that exist within society. This includes addressing issues related to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. By embracing diversity and inclusivity in all aspects of life, we can create a more just and equitable world for everyone.

In conclusion, inclusive empowerment is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for achieving sustainable development and peace. By empowering both genders equally and embracing diversity in all its forms, we can build a better future for ourselves and generations to come.

*Tonny O. Blair - Education Science Student, Rongo University.*



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# Ruto: I Am Creating Jobs For Kenyans, Courts Shouldn't Stand In The Way

*President says the Constitution of Kenya protects the rights of housing amongst other economic and social rights of the people of Kenya*

By: Eric Biegon

President William Ruto has reiterated his commitment to fulfil his promises to Kenyans during the 2022 general elections.

He cited numerous programmes launched by his administration to transform the fortunes of all citizens, especially the young people of Kenya. Through investments in the Digital Economy, for instance, the head of state says he will continue to create an enabling environment for everyone to thrive.

"Mimi nitajaza kompyuta ndani (ya ICT Hubs). Nitwaweka mtandao wa internet ndani, na hawa vijana waje wajipange, wajifunze, mwezi moja waanze kufanya kazi Marekani, Ujerumani waweke dola kwa mfuko ndio tuweze kumaliza mambo ya kukosekana kwa kazi Kenya hii," he said

The President who was in Bungoma County Laying the foundation

stone for the Affordable Housing Programme in Kanduyi, said no one, including the judiciary, should deny Kenyans an opportunity to benefit from programmes being rolled out by the government.

He said the Affordable Housing Programme which has been at the centre of dispute including in the courts, is aimed at allowing millions of young people to earn an income through jobs availed in the programme and did not understand why anyone would oppose it.

"Those in the Judiciary ought to know the position of the people of Kenya. The Constitution of Kenya Section 43 protects the rights of housing amongst other economic and social rights of the people of Kenya," he said

Leading the administration currently in place, Ruto says he needs to be allowed to execute his plans for the country.

"The people voted overwhelmingly for the housing plan in our manifesto in the last general election. Parliament voted overwhelmingly for laws



President William Ruto .

to establish the housing fund and all the attendant legal requirements. We have discharged our responsibility to

the people of Kenya, and we want to give an opportunity to millions of Kenyans through this programme,"

maintained the head of state

# Raila Asks Ruto To Convene Dialogue Over Affordable Housing Project

By: Eric Biegon

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition leader Raila Odinga has said there is a need for the country to adopt a common stand on how to proceed with the Affordable Housing Programme.

Amid divided opinion over the current rollout of the programme, the Former Prime Minister has asked President William Ruto to facilitate a national conversation about the matter by providing a platform where Kenyans can share their views about how such a project can be successfully executed

"Let us have a proper dialogue on how this affordable housing programme is going to be rolled out. Let people understand what you want to do and they will own it properly," said Raila

Odinga gave an example of what happened in government during President Mwai Kibaki's tenure. He

attributes the majority of the successes realized then to constant consultation and the existence of a team of experts that exclusively looked at government programmes.

"When we were making transformation with President Mwai Kibaki, we convened the "Kenya We Want" conference and people dialogued and agreed on what needed to be done in our country. We also set up the National Economic and Social Council a think tank which had local and international experts. This is how we came up with Vision 2030, SGR and other projects," he said

The opposition leader said President Ruto's administration was ill-advised to proceed with the project in the manner it has undertaken it, with a section of Kenyans especially voicing their opposition to the housing levy.

"Those who want houses apply. You won't lack beneficiaries who will agree to voluntarily pay the 10% or 15% deposit. But it's not that each and every person must pay whether they benefit from the programme or



Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition leader Raila Odinga

not,"

Raila who graced the 15th anniversary celebrations for the Party of National Unity, further claimed that President William Ruto's administration was facing backlash from the public because it was operating without a proper think tank to guide the state and its development agen-

da.

"Kenya Kwanza is operating without a Think Tank, they just say we will do this and this or We wrote this and this in our manifesto, but nobody is thinking. That's like walking like a blind person. It's unfortunate," charged Odinga

"The issue of affordable housing

that Kenya Kwanza is struggling with is not a new thing. It is in our Manifesto as Azimio. They (Kenya Kwanza) didn't have it in their Manifesto. They borrowed it but they don't know how to implement it. We knew how to implement it," he added

# Prof Verkooijen Vows To Improve Uon's Financial Capacity

By: Kamche Menza

University of Nairobi's new Chancellor Professor Patrick Verkooijen says the solution to the institution's financial problems is in partnerships.

Prof. Verkooijen who termed financial resources as a key element in propelling institutions of higher learning to internationally acclaimed standards, said he will bring on board his global north networks as well as the institution's alumni to spur the needed transformation.

The Chancellor welcomed skepticism about his appointment saying it is a reflection of how people deeply care about the institution.

Prof. Verkooijen spoke on Thursday during an engagement with students in a town hall meeting.

He appreciated the support he received from the university's council, senate, and the students despite skepticism surrounding his appointment.

The new Chancellor also vowed to employ new approaches to improve the financial capabilities of the institution which has largely depended on government's support.

He hailed the technological innovations at the university's faculties, even as he hinted on commercializing the projects.

Prof. Verkooijen who succeeded Dr. Vijoo Rattansi is the sixth chancellor at the University of Nairobi and the first from overseas to hold the position.

Prof. Verkooijen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from Utrecht University, a Master of Science degree in Social and Political Philosophy from the University of Amsterdam, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, and a PhD degree in Sustainable Development Diplomacy from Wageningen University.

After his studies, he worked for the Dutch Government as a Special Advisor for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (2000



University of Nairobi's new Chancellor Professor Patrick Verkooijen.

– 2004).

He then left the Netherlands in 2005 and went to work for the United Nations Peacekeeping mission in Sudan, and later for the World Bank, where he served as the Special Rep-

resentative on Climate Change from 2012.

He previously served as a Senior Partnership specialist and head of Agriculture and Climate Change at the World Bank, before his appoint-

ment in Washington DC, he acted as a key negotiator for the Department of International Affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation in the Netherlands.

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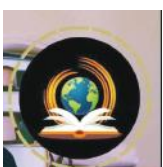
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### Group 4

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### Group 5

Kinangop, Naivasha, Ndia, Gichugu, Kirinyaga Central, Mwea, Molo, Njoro

### Group 6

Kuresoi South, Kuresoi North, Rongai, Nakuru West, Bahati, Subukia, Nakuru East, Gilgil

### Group 7

Mbeere South, Mbeere North, Chuka, Igamba Ngombe, Maara, Tharaka Imenti South, Imenti Central, Buuri

### Group 8

Imenti North, Tigania East, Tigania West, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Igembe South, Manyatta, Runyenjes



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Sports >> \*Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba says the upcoming prestigious Magical Kenya Open Golf Championship and Magical Kenya Ladies Open

# SPORTS NEWS

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## CS Ababu Tips Golf To Make A Splash In Kenya, Launches 2024 Kenya Open



Golfers walk on course during the Magical Kenya Open Day One of the event at the par 71 Muthaiga Golf Club course on March 10, 2023. (Photo/Sportpicha).

Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba says the upcoming prestigious Magical Kenya Open Golf Championship and Magical Kenya Ladies Open will continue to spur the growth of the sport in the country and position Kenya as a global brand.

Namwamba, who spoke on Wednesday during the twin launch of the two championships set to be held in Nairobi and Kilifi counties respectively this month, said it was a sign of confidence by the Magical Open organizers to give an opportunity for Kenya to host the event for the third year running.

The 2024 edition of the Magical Kenya Open which will run

from February 22-25 at the historic Muthaiga Golf Club while the Ladies Open is set to unfold at the 18-hole Baobab Course in Vipingo Ridge, from February 8-11 with the former set to be curtain raised by a special tournament for persons with disabilities as announced by the Kenya Open Golf Limited.

“We are very happy for these two tournaments because they add value to our sports ecosystem. This is an opportunity to welcome the world to Kenya”, said Namwamba.

“I call upon corporate friends and brands to invest not just in golf but sports in general,” he added while revealing that the

government will fully sponsor the tournament alongside Absa, Safaricom, Toyota Kenya and DP World Tour.

Magical Kenya Open tournament director Patrick Obath said this year’s prize money had gone up with winners of the Magical Kenya Open set to pocket Sh 347million while the Magical Kenya Ladies Open will be Sh52 million at the Park 73 Vipingo Course.

“What makes this tournament more special is the increase in prize money as well as the participants. Kenya will be represented by 14 golfers; 8 being professionals while the remaining six are amateurs.

“Additionally, for the first time two of the participants are persons with disabilities, something which speaks volumes about the sport’s diversity and inclusivity.”

So far a field of 120 players have confirmed participating at this year’s edition of the ladies event in Vipingo with five local lady golfers qualifying to take part in the event that will run between February 8 and 11.

*Citizen Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*This Africa Cup of Nations is far from over but it has already been a historic tournament for Guinea after they won a knockout tie for the first time, an achievement which left their coach Kaba Diawara in tears.

# Tears And Tragedy: Diawara Making AFCON History With Guinea

This Africa Cup of Nations is far from over but it has already been a historic tournament for Guinea after they won a knockout tie for the first time, an achievement which left their coach Kaba Diawara in tears.

“For my staff and I this is really exceptional. It goes beyond football,” the former Arsenal striker tells AFP in an interview at the team’s hotel in Abidjan ahead of Friday’s quarter-final against the Democratic Republic of Congo.

They have made it to this point after Mohamed Bayo’s last-gasp goal secured a 1-0 win over Equatorial Guinea.

“People might say why is he crying when it’s only the last 16, but it was really the moment of truth for us.

“So I couldn’t hold back the tears and my staff were the same. We were crying our eyes out.”

Guinea were runners-up in 1976, but that was an era when there were no knockout ties, and the final four played a round-robin format to decide the winner.

They had already got out of their group at six separate AFCON tournaments this century without going further, including in 2006 when Diawara scored in a 3-2 defeat by Senegal.

This time, however, there are several factors spurring on the Syli National.

For a start, this Cup of Nations is in Ivory Coast, a country bordering Guinea, and Diawara’s team were roared on by huge support against Equatorial Guinea.

“In Ivory Coast we are practically playing at home,” the 48-year-old Diawara says, sweat dripping from his head in the midday heat on a shady terrace overlooking Abidjan’s waterfront.

“There is a very big Guinean community. I even have a big brother who was born here, so in Ivory Coast we might as well be in Guinea. We speak the same language, and we have the same religion.”



Guinea’s head coach Kaba Diawara gestures as he answers journalists questions during an interview in Abidjan on January 31, 2024, ahead of their 2024 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) quarter final football match against DR Congo. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP).

**- ‘We are responsible’ -**

The last-16 win sparked frenzied celebrations in the stadium, but Diawara felt compelled to call for calm among supporters back home.

That was after six people were reportedly killed amid celebrations in the capital Conakry following the team’s 1-0 defeat of Gambia during the group stage.

Guinea is also reeling from another tragedy in December, when 24 people died and hundreds were injured in a huge blast and fire at a fuel depot in Conakry.

“We are responsible,” Diawara says of the most recent disaster.

“It was because of our victory. People are so happy when the team wins that the celebrations become a bit stupid.

“Of course there should be celebrations. Of course there was the disaster (in December), but that is exactly it, we want to avoid having to mourn more deaths.”

**- ‘Special’ Guirassy -**

Diawara, who was born in France

and played there for Bordeaux, Paris Saint-Germain, Marseille and Nice, took charge of the team before the last Cup of Nations in 2022, replacing Frenchman Didier Six.

He quickly made it his mission to tap into the large number of players with Guinean heritage born in Europe.

That means a squad which already contained midfielder Naby Keita, once of Liverpool, has since been strengthened by the likes of defender Mouctar Diakhaby and striker Serhou Guirassy, both former French youth internationals.

Guirassy has only started once so far here due to injury, but the 27-year-old is the big star, having scored 17 goals in 14 games in the Bundesliga this season for Stuttgart.

“I don’t like to single out one player. I prefer to talk about the squad, the team, the family even. But it is true that you can’t score 17 goals in the Bundesliga without being a special player,” the coach says.

“Beyond that, however, Africa has its own distinctive characteristics. It is completely different to Europe.

“There is the heat, the climate in general, the pitches. The Cup of Nations is an extraordinary competition and it is a really high level. So you need to adapt.

“He was injured but he has been working his way back gradually and now is 100 percent fit.”

It remains to be seen if he will dislodge Bayo against DR Congo, however.

Guinea, who finished third in their group behind Senegal and Cameroon, are now hoping to make more history.

“When you go into a competition it is with the aim of going all the way, even if we have never been lucky enough to get to the semi-finals before.

“This time we can see that the path is opening up for us.”

By AFP

# SPORTS NEWS



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BREAKING NEWS





## Engaging And Useful Activities For Kids



By: Inomjonova Dildora  
Rustam

@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- **Science Experiments:** Introduce children to simple science experiments that they can conduct at home or in the classroom. These experiments can be hands-on and interactive, allowing children to explore scientific concepts and develop critical thinking skills.
- **Cooking and Baking:** Involve children in age-appropriate cooking and baking activities. This not only teaches them valuable life skills but also enhances their math, reading, and fine motor skills. Cooking together can be a fun and bonding experience for the whole family.



Engaging And Useful Activities For Kids.

### Introduction:

Engaging children in activities that are both fun and educational is a great way to promote their development and learning. Here are some useful activities that can help children explore new concepts, enhance their skills, and have a great time in the process.

**Art and Craft Projects:** Encourage children to express their creativity through art and craft projects. Painting, drawing, collage-making, and sculpting can help develop fine motor skills, boost imagination, and foster self-expression.

**Outdoor Exploration:** Take children on nature walks, hikes, or visits to local parks. Let them observe and interact with the environment, encouraging curiosity and a love for nature. This activity promotes physical exercise, sensory exploration, and an understanding of the natural world.

**Reading and Storytelling:** Engage

children in reading books or telling stories. This activity enhances language skills, vocabulary, and imagination. It also fosters a love for reading and helps children develop a deeper understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

**Science Experiments:** Introduce children to simple science experiments that they can conduct at home or in the classroom. These experiments can be hands-on and interactive, allowing children to explore scientific concepts and develop critical thinking skills.

**Cooking and Baking:** Involve children in age-appropriate cooking and baking activities. This not only teaches them valuable life skills but also enhances their math, reading, and fine motor skills. Cooking together can be a fun and bonding experience for the whole family.

**Music and Dance:** Encourage children to explore music and dance.

Singing, playing musical instruments, and dancing help develop rhythm, coordination, and self-expression. It also boosts creativity and can be a great outlet for emotions.

**Educational Games and Puzzles:** Introduce children to educational games and puzzles that are both entertaining and educational. These activities can enhance problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and cognitive development.

**Role-Playing and Pretend Play:** Encourage children to engage in role-playing and pretend play. This allows them to explore different roles, develop social skills, and enhance their imagination. It also promotes empathy and understanding of others.

**Physical Activities and Sports:** Engage children in physical activities and sports that they enjoy. This promotes physical fitness, coordination, teamwork, and discipline. It also

helps children develop a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle.

**Learning through Technology:** Utilize educational apps, websites, and interactive learning platforms to engage children in educational activities. These resources can provide a fun and interactive way to learn and explore various subjects.

### Conclusion:

Engaging children in useful activities not only keeps them entertained but also promotes their overall development. By providing opportunities for creativity, exploration, and learning, we can help children grow into well-rounded individuals. Remember to tailor activities to suit the age and interests of the children, ensuring a fun and engaging experience for everyone involved.