



Vetting Of Bars Commences In Kirinyaga As Crackdown On Illicit Brews Continue
 County Government of Kirinyaga has kicked off vetting of all liquor outlets even as crackdown on sale and manufacture of illicit brews continue. The exercise kicked off with physical inspection of bars by a multi-agency team drawn from National and County government in all the 20 wards.

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News >> Nakuru County Cautions Locals Against Weather-related Hazards


P. 8. The County Government of Nakuru has cautioned residents against the ongoing extreme temperature levels and other weather-related hazards in the region.



News >> Youths, Farmers In Laikipia Asked To Embrace Rural ICT Hubs

P. 12. Laikipia County Government has launched a rural ICT hub at Kiamariga Village in Laikipia West to bring computer and internet services closer to the people.

Ruto Committed To Strengthening Devolution

 The Government is committed to strengthening devolution to enhance service delivery to the people, President William Ruto has said. He said the Kenya Kwanza administration is working with all governors, irrespective of their political affiliation, to spur inclusive growth and development. The Head of State acknowledged devolved units as invaluable assets in the implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.



President William Ruto

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Audit Committee Inspects Controversial NHIF Projects In Karen And Head Office

By: PSCU



Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina (centre) explaining a point as the committee chairman Emmanuel Wangwe (left) and other legislators and NHIF officials.

Worth Noting:

- Committee members also had the opportunity of meeting a number of parties claiming ownership of the said piece of land. They included a few members of the Maasai Community, a private individual who claims it's his ancestral land and two registered companies. However despite the court allowing NHIF management to fence the land in 2016, this has not been done.
- "Chair, everybody here has a Title Deed, however the DCI confirmed NHIF has a genuine title. When it comes to fencing this land in accordance with the court order, a budget of 4 million has not been approved, we are still waiting," said Wachira.

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture yesterday conducted two inspection visits of public projects done by the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in Karen and the Fund's headquarters located in Community area of Nairobi.

The committee started by inspecting the 22.5 acres piece of land in Karen whose ownership is in dispute.

While on the mission, the Emanuel Wangwe-led Committee learnt that despite the release of KSh1.4 Billion by NHIF to initiate a resource centre project on the land, the contractor only delivered architectural designs now kept with the Funds offices.

NHIF Chief Executive Officer Elijah Wachira who is barely four months at helm of the institution found it difficult to explain the project.

"Chair, because of some reasons, the project has not kicked off, only architectural designs were done and are in our custody. According to records the designs only account for KSh1.4 Billion that was paid," he stated.

Committee members also had the opportunity of meeting a number of parties claiming ownership of the said piece of land. They included a few members of the Maasai Community, a private individual who claims it's his ancestral land and two registered companies. However despite the court allowing NHIF management to fence the land in 2016, this has not been done.

"Chair, everybody here has a Title Deed, however the DCI confirmed NHIF has a genuine title. When it comes to fencing this land in accordance with the court order, a budget of 4 million has not been approved, we are still waiting," said Wa-

chira.

The committee later visited NHIF headquarters where they inspected the controversial KSh3.9 Billion Multi storey car park project that initially had a budget of KSh900 Million.

There the committee concluded that there was no value for public money. The project was started but never completed since the floor had not been done and the car lifts have never worked as planned.

Committee members Caleb Amisi (Saboti), and Mary Wamaua (Maragua) questioned why there was change of design as witnessed and escalation of the original cost by 333 per cent from KSh900 million to KSh3.9 Billion. The number of floors was also increased without clear explanation.

Wangwe also sought to know why the management had indicated in their submissions to the committee that the project


was completed in 2018 which is not the correct position on site. Subsequently, he asked why a further KSh700 million was withdrawn after the project was said to be complete.

The committee observed that the parking has now been turned to dead offices. "This is theft of public funds and those who did this must be brought to book, nothing was completed here," said Wangwe.

NHIF Chief Executive Officer Mr. Elijah Wachira assured the committee that he will be providing all information needed.

Through the committee chairman, it was agreed that NHIF management appears before the committee on 13th March this year to respond to issues raised during this visit.

Editor's Desk




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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nakuru County Government is upgrading all Youth Polytechnics and Technical Vocational Education Training Institutes (TVETs) to bridge the skills gap among TVET graduates. Governor Susan Kihika said the county is partnering with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and several private companies to ensure students receive hands-on skills (quality, relevant, and market-driven skills) by spending at least 50% of their training time working in relevant industries. Kihika assured that her government was prepared to pay Sh30,000 as part of one-year school fees for all students enrolled in public polytechnics within the devolved unit. The county is also pushing for exchange programmes between village and national polytechnics to spur industrialisation. The skills gap has rendered many college leavers jobless due to lack of hands-on job skills, forcing companies to introduce in-house training before absorbing them. The county secretary, Dr. Samuel Mwaura, emphasised the need for an effective Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) system, which includes the development of occupational standards, training programmes, facilitation of training, and assessment, which will play a key role in the achievement of the Big Four Government agenda and Vision 2030.



A 22-year-old man from Kapsoiyo Village in Bomet Central was found dead after being swept away by flash floods. The deceased was said to have been aboard a tractor carrying wood when he accidentally fell off into a seasonal Ngeny stream at Kiptilingit, Motigo, Bomet East. According to area Assistant Chief Jackline Maritim, the man was found on Tuesday morning trapped at the banks of the stream. Bomet County Commissioner Dr. Ahmed Omar has raised concerns over rising drowning fatalities, citing drunkenness and drug abuse as contributing factors. He urged residents to use bridges and educate children on water safety.



The Coast Development Authority (CDA) is focusing on improving socio-economic wellbeing in the coastal counties of Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, Taita Taveta, and Tana River.

The Authority is aligning its socio-economic activities with the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) plan, which focuses on Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, Digital Superhighway, and the Creative Industry.

CDA Managing Director (MD), Dr. Mohamed Keinan, says the Authority is investing in economic programmes and boosting transformational agricultural, water, and maritime activities.

Dr. Keinan says the Mwache Dam project, part of the Second Phase of the Water Security and Climate Resilience programme, aims to tackle persistent water shortages in Kwale, Mombasa, and Kilifi counties.

CDA is also focusing on climate- and nutrition-Smart Crops, livestock feedlots, and the blue economy sector, which includes fisheries, maritime biotechnology, aquaculture, tourism, and marine transport and logistics.



The management of the Maragua Dam has been transferred to Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company (Muwasco) following President William Ruto's directive.

The transfer of management will take place within two weeks, with Muwasco aiming to increase water coverage in the drier Maragua Sub County. Muwasco has the capacity to distribute water from the dam to over 20,000 households in the Maragua area. The CECM stated that water coverage at Maragua Sub County is below 30%, and Muwasco will have to increase connections to local homes. The transfer process is expected to be smooth and allow Muwasco to distribute water to local residents. Muwasco Managing Director Eng. Daniel Ng'ang'a plans to increase water coverage in Maragua subcounty with the help of the county administration. Nginda MCA John Mwangi believes that the entire Nginda ward needs to be put under Muwasco, as Muswasco has been unable to offer effective services to residents.

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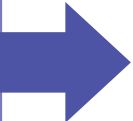
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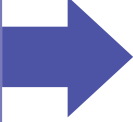
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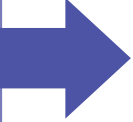


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EALA MPs Push For Food Security Interventions

By: Chris Mahandara

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Uwumukiza who led committee members on an oversight mission of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) in Kisumu said a regional approach to addressing climate change was paramount to ensure steady production of food that is secure, sustainable, and safe.
- LVBC which is a specialised agency of the EAC charged with the responsibility of overseeing sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin, she said has done a commendable job in addressing food security concerns and climate change.



The East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources has called for collaborative efforts among East Africa Community (EAC) partner states to end hunger and boost food security.

Committee Chairperson Francoise Uwumukiza said the region was racing against time to end hunger by the year 2025 calling on partner states and agencies to scale up efforts to achieve the target.

“This is a tough goal to achieve in less than two years. That is why we are adding more fuel to our zeal to make sure we achieve something within that short period,” she said.

Climate change, she said, was the biggest impediment to the realization of the goal calling for concerted regional efforts to mitigate the adverse

effects of the phenomenon.

Uwumukiza who led committee members on an oversight mission of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) in Kisumu said a regional approach to addressing climate change was paramount to ensure steady production of food that is secure, sustainable, and safe.

LVBC which is a specialised agency of the EAC charged with the responsibility of overseeing sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin, she said has done a commendable job in addressing food security concerns and climate change.

The committee, she said, would support LVBC’s programmes and projects to ensure that the EAC region becomes food-sufficient.

Francois Ngate EALA MP representing DRC Congo said the region was

endowed with large agricultural land which if properly utilised the 2025 target of ending hunger in the region could be attained early.

Agriculture, he said, was the mainstay for communities in the region but continues to be through to the periphery with a lot of focus laid on harnessing natural resources.

This, he added, was the leading contributor to strife in the EAC region urging member states to prioritize agriculture for food security and regional integration.

Zipporah Kering, EALA MP representing Kenya said the region must adopt climate-smart agricultural practices to build resilience and bolster food security.

Measures, she said, must be put in place to scale up production and ensure that the food produced satisfies

the needs of the population before being sold to other parts of the world.

“Before we take food outside the East Africa Community, we must ensure that our people are well fed,” she said.

Dr. Abdula Makame, EALA MP representing Tanzania said the region has made great strides in boosting food security.

He lauded LVBC for reviving the research vessel RV Jumuiya which broke down 13 years ago saying through research, the agency would be able to address gaps in food production in the region.

On his part, Hon. Gideon Thoar Gapta EALA MP representing South Sudan said the assembly has passed a policy on the management of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to come up with resolutions.

The oversight, he said was very critical since the committee would retreat to write a report which the Sectoral Council of Ministers would use.

“This is going to help us see what we can offer as a region to boost food security,” he said.

LVBC Executive Secretary (ES) Dr. Masinde Bwire said the agency has implemented various projects and programs to help meet the target of ending hunger in the region by the year 2025.

The agency, he said would continue to promote sustainable agriculture through best practices and technology to help boost food security.

The oversight activities are in line with the EAC treaty on cooperation in agriculture and rural development which targets to achieve food security and rationalize food production across the region.

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Nakuru County Cautions Locals Against Weather-related Hazards

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

The County Government of Nakuru has cautioned residents against the ongoing extreme temperature levels and other weather-related hazards in the region.

With temperatures soaring over 30 degrees and strong winds on the rise, authorities are urging locals to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety.

Chief Officer for Public Health, Ms Joyce Ncence said people must be vigilant and take proactive measures to safeguard themselves and their property against the phenomena.

“Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during peak sunlight hours, and use appropriate protective measures such as hats and sunscreen,” she noted in an address to journalists.

She said the County was keenly monitoring the situation and imple-

menting necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing weather challenges.

At the same time, the Chief Officer highlighted the risk of wildfires during heatwaves, bringing attention to the potential dangers that can arise in such conditions.

“I urge you to avoid open fires, properly dispose of cigarette butts and exercise extreme caution to avoid inadvertently triggering wildfires,” she warned while fostering a sense of responsibility.

The County strongly encourages locals to adhere to safety guidelines and cooperate with authorities to ensure a collective and effective response to the challenges at hand.

In 2022, a fire razed down over 100 acres of the indigenous Menengai Forest where authorities said it was sparked by a cigarette butt and spread fast due to a dry spell at the time.



Nakuru county governor Susan Kihika during a past function.

Plans To Redesign The Jinxed Nithi Bridge Starts

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Nithi bridge is set to be redesigned in a bid to drastically reduce the number of accidents.

To kick start the process, the Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) officers yesterday held a consultative meeting with Tharaka Nithi County government officials over the issue.

Area Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael met the officers led by KeNHA’s Senior Land Valuer Njiru Njue and also visited the bridge which has over the years been blamed for killing and maiming hundreds of travellers.

The 50-meter-long bridge, along Meru-Embu highway which was constructed in 1985 will now be redesigned with the hope that the move will provide a lasting solution.

Addressing journalists after the meeting and visit, the KeNHA officials revealed that due to the nature of the mountainous terrain and the presence of the sharp horizontal curves, the road is unfavorable for the design speed and has limited sight distances making the section prone to accidents.

Several interventional proposals at play. One of them is redesigning the bridge and constructing a new one road to eliminate the sharp horizontal curves at the site as well as the steep gradients span-



Tharaka-Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael (right) county's Road Executive, Mr Giti Kijiru (second right) with officials from Kenya National Highways Authority at the 'killer' Nithi Bridge along Meru-Embu highway in Tharaka Nithi County yesterday.

ning three kilometers between Marima and Mitheru markets.

The second option is the improvement of the old road locally known as Old Marima Road which is currently in murum condition and which diverts just before the current Nithi Bridge from the Embu direction.

“The government is determined to offer a permanent solution and the authority is now looking for the best solution and that is why we are here for a public participation session with the county government officials,” said Mr Njue.

During the 2022 General Election campaign, President William Ruto promised to change the design of the bridge within his 100 days in office following a July 24, 2022 grisly accident involving a bus belonging to Modern Coast Company which plunged into the river killing 36 passengers and critically injuring nine others.

In August 2000, 45 people died and 27 were injured when a passenger bus crashed into the river and in 1998, 56 people on board a Stage Coach bus also perished at the bridge while as early as

on Monday, a driver of a lorry lost control and the vehicle veered off the road into the valley.

Mr Muisrael said a lot of properties of big monetary value have been lost at the bridge through accidents and asked the national government to quickly offer a solution.

The Deputy Governor noted that the accidents have also caused trauma to the residents of the area who always respond to cries of people after they occur. Further, the blood and other materials that are swept downstream after such ac-

cidents have also continued to contaminate the water that is depended on by thousands of residents.

“Those downstream sometimes learn of an accident at the bridge after noticing that water is turning red or seeing some floating debris of vehicle or other items. Sometimes back a fuel tanker crashed into the river and the fuel spilled into the river,” said Mr Muisrael.

He added that most of the people who die at the bridge are those who are not familiar with the scene because, from Nairobi’s direction, the road connects Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Isiolo and several other northern counties.

Tharaka Nithi County Roads Executive, Giti Kijiru asked KeNHA to collaborate in the installation of footbridges at risk spots along the road including Kangoro bus stop where very many people have been killed by speeding vehicles.

He added that though many speed bumps are discouraged on the highways, there is a need for the erection of a number of them between Kangoro and Chuka town where three family members were killed by a speeding vehicle last week.

“As the government works on solving the Nithi Bridge problem, there is a need for stakeholders to launch a widespread road safety sensitisation exercise,” said Mr Kijiru.

Locals residents have welcomed the move saying it was long overdue.

State Committed To Strengthening Devolution - Ruto

By: Muraya Kamunde

The Government is committed to strengthening devolution to enhance service delivery to the people, President William Ruto said.

He said the Kenya Kwanza administration is working with all governors, irrespective of their political affiliation, to spur inclusive growth and development.

The Head of State acknowledged devolved units as invaluable assets in the implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

He cited the Affordable Housing Programme as one of the programmes that the two levels of government are working together to deliver.

“We view county governments as assets and partners in the delivery of The Plan and the transformation of our country,” he said.

He made the remarks on Tuesday during the Second National Executive Retreat attended by the lead-

ership of the Council of Governors, led by Chairperson Ann Waiguru in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

The President said he had invited the leadership of the Council of Governors to the National Executive Retreat to strengthen the partnership between the two levels of government.

He asked members of the Executive to work closely with county governments in the execution of their mandate, saying it would be counterproductive to sideline them.

“We must converge our thoughts and plans so that together we can change our country,” he added.

He commended Governors as team players.

On her part, Governor Waiguru said the partnership between the National and County Governments have had a significant impact on the delivery of services to the people.

“Look at the things we have achieved in health when we worked collaboratively and met half way. If we do the same with the other devolved functions, we will achieve much more,” she added.



The Head of State commended Governors as team players.

Treasury Urged To Release Funds To Counties As Calls To Fund Devolution To 35 Per Cent Intensify

By: KBC Digital

Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti has asked the National Treasury to release money to counties in good time in order to enable counties deliver services to the people.

Governor Ndeti said counties continued to experience difficulties in delivery of services due to the delays.

She said her County received disbursement for November from the exchequer just last week but had continued to pay salaries and deliver services without fail due to prudent financial management.

Speaking at Ekalakala in Masinga and later at Ikombe in Yatta yesterday during public participation forums on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024 and Budget Estimates 2024/2025 Governor Wavinya Ndeti noted that the County government had exceeded expectation in delivery of development projects listed by Wananchi during the last public participation including upgrading of key



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti

roads in the area.

Governor Ndeti said she did not wish to accumulate huge pending bills that hurt local contractors adding that ev-

erything will be done according to the budget.

Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi called on the National Govern-

ment to increase the share of revenue to counties to at least 40 per cent as they had promised during the campaigns.

Ekalakala resident Dormitilla Wanza 84, said the governor had delivered a lot within one year.

“We have drugs in Ekalakala hospital. If you visit me and find that I have cooked beans instead of your favorite cowpeas, will you say I haven’t cooked?” posed Wanza amidst cheer from the crowd.

A resident gifted Governor Ndeti with a he-goat for refurbishing Ekalakala market.

Ekalakala MCA Stephen Mwanthi listed a number of projects including a new 19.5 Kilometer Isyukoni to Munandani road which the residents confirmed had been done.

He said Ekalakala hospital attended to more patients than Masinga level 4 hospital and requested for the refurbishing of the hospital.

Construction of public toilets, drilling of boreholes, murraming and grading of rural access roads, construction of maternity wing and construction of ECDE classes were among the common development needs listed by the residents for the next financial year.

Always Dwelling In Beulah Land



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Satan agenda is clear and known, be alert and be on your guard. He hates every child of God. I have said it before and I will say it again. Satan kills, steals, and destroys. But Jesus said, "I am come that they might have Again, I emphasize. Don't quote me as saying we can use some magic word or incantation and we will be magically transformed to a utopia. We are still living in a world of sin and iniquity. Satan is still the prince of the powers of the air and the god of this world. There is misery and heartache around us.

The Word tells us not to think it strange concerning the trials and fiery darts that are thrown at us by the wicked one. But the point to be

emphasized is this: In many cases where Satan runs over us, we can have victory if we will use the authority God has given us. In many problems plaguing our nation, if only the children of Almighty God would band together in unity and agree, tremendous things could happen. World events could be changed. Victory is ours—in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The promises of God are YES AND AMEN: It is written: "You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and YOUR LAND BEULAH; FOR THE LORD DELIGHTS IN YOU."

Meditate on this song:
"Far away the noise of strife upon my ear is falling,

Then I know the sins of earth beset on every hand;

Doubt and fear and things of earth in vain to me are calling,

None of these shall move me from Beulah Land."

Chorus
"I am living on the mountain, under-



neath a cloudless sky,
I am drinking at the fountain that never shall run dry,
O yes, I am feasting on the manna, from a bountiful supply,
For I am dwelling in Beulah Land."
AMEN, AMEN, HALELUJAH.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are received Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the

day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, or to support the ministry contact Evangelist Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and forever.

Nakuru County Initiates A Sensitization Programme For Herbalists

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County government has in collaboration with the private sector initiated a sensitization programme for all players in herbal medicine promoters on matters of policy and resource mobilization.

Culture officer Mrs. Leticia Wanyonyi said this would be achieved through a collection of data that would inform the amendment of culture hereto aged policy as well as resource mobilization. It will also support the players in the sector as well as the residents of the County.

The private sector includes the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Egerton University, Kabarak University, and MIDRIFT Human Rights Network (MIDRIFT HURINET).

The officer noted that the World

Health Organization estimates 70-90 percent of Africa's rural population relies on traditional medicines to meet their health needs partly due to a low ratio of conventional doctors and affordability.

However, the local chairperson of Green World supplements in Nakuru city Ms. Lucy Kimani said the advent of supplements has significantly reduced the usage of herbal medicine, mainly because they aren't properly regulated or packaged and their efficacy wasn't documented.

She claimed that many residents nowadays preferred supplements because they are natural and properly sealed, and the symptoms they claimed to heal encouraged patients who got cured after using them.

Unlike in the past when herbalists were noticeable on every corner, Nakuru city is awash with various companies selling supplements mostly from the USA and China, using multi-level marketing systems to reach customers.



Culture officer Mrs. Leticia Wanyonyi.

It Is Hard To Believe That Ruto was Sponsoring Ndindi's Candidature



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Worth Noting:

- The MPs showered him with accolades. Ndindi's track record on matters of development, peace and unity speaks for itself.
- Former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP Wilson Sosian set the ball rolling. He noted that Ndindi was a presidential material.
- I want to assure you the people of Muranga that Ndindi was poised to succeed President Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second term in office. You can take this to the bank.
- Soon after this event, a section of the politicians started peddling unfounded rumors that President William Ruto was sponsoring Ndindi's campaigns. They would not produce an iota of evidence to support their claims.

A few days ago, President William Ruto made a three-day working tour of the Mount Kenya region.

He steered clear of local politics and concentrated on development matters.

In so doing, he once again demonstrated his commitment to walk the walk. This is by focusing on fulfilling the promises he had made during the campaigns.

He knew it was hard to accomplish this without peace and unity.

So, during the visit, he repeatedly cautioned the local leaders against engaging in early and premature succession politics.

The visit came hot on the heel of heightened supremacy battle for Mount Kenya kingpin.

It pitted Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua against Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Earlier, the campaign had taken a new turn when Ndindi hosted more than 20 Kenya Kwanza members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country in his Kiharu constituency.

The MPs showered him with accolades. Ndindi's track record on matters of development, peace and unity speaks for itself.

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Soon after this event, a section of the politicians started peddling unfounded rumors that President William Ruto was sponsoring Ndindi's campaigns. They would not produce an iota of evidence to support their claims.

This is not the first time that the name

of the head of state would dragged into premature 2032 succession politics.

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

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

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

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

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

Though Gachagua is arguably the senior-most leader, the recent developments have shown that his popularity was dwindling.

Ndindi's political star was on the other hand rising.

I have been listening to the views of the Kikuyus living in Githurai and in my rural area.

Well, DP Gachagua curves a niche of being a truthful and a God-fearing man. So, with due respect, I want to let him know this.

Majority of them do not believe in him. To drive the point home, they would revisit his previous utterances and history.

You heard him likening Kenya to Shareholding Company. This was a

reckless statement. They would also fault him for picking a war with Nairobi governor Johnson Sakaja. His statement was divisive, callous and designed to put the Kikuyus into a collision course with rest of the Kenyan communities.

Nairobi is the home to all the 45 communities of Kenya.

Others would allege that Gachagua was only considering his home county of Nyeri for state appointments.

Some would recall the alleged 'ills' associated with him when he served as a 'special' District Officer (DO) during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi.

It is also worth noting that Gachagua was not the preferred choice of the majority of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) leaders from the Mountain for the position of the running mate. The final decision however lied with presidential candidate William Ruto. He settled on him.

Given this scenario, one would have expected Gachagua to immediately start healing the wounds after being sworn in as DP. It is widely believed that one year down the line he has failed to do this.

The Kikuyus rooting for Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to lead the Mountain would further cite the following reasons.

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

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

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

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

Matters of education are close to his heart. Ndindi have done a lot in terms

of building new state-of-art classrooms and renovating the old ones.

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

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

He moved a step further when he initiated a school feeding programme for the students in all day secondary schools in Kiharu constituency.

Dozens of MPs from across the country who attended this event showered him with praises.

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

This places him as the best-suited to take up the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin. We are definitely going to drum up support for him so that he can clinch the seat, most of the speakers stated.

Ndindi steered clear of this topic.

He did this a few days ago when he hosted a similar event. This time Ndindi, who was being flanked by 15 members of parliament, commissioned a new programme.

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

Again, speaker after speaker, showered him with accolades.

Those who had attended the earlier events stated: We told you that Honorable Ndindi Nyoro is a good, caring and down to earth leader.

As a pioneer, we have been inviting him to come to our regions to help us rollout similar projects. He is still ahead of us.

What lesson do we learn here? He is larger than life. Besides steering Mount Kenya to success and prosperity, he has the qualities of a national leader. You never know, he may succeed President William Ruto when he completes his two terms of 10 years in 2032.

At this juncture, allow me to say this. The opinion of the Mount Kenya residents particularly the Kikuyus is divided.

There are those who believe that former President Uhuru Kenyatta is still holding the mantle of kingpin.

For others, Uhuru is no longer a king. His tenure came to an end when he retired as the President.

They would also aver that he failed to champion their interest when he was at the helm. So, he cannot turn around and cast the image of holier-than-thou.

So, if he fall prey to those misleading him, we will once again shame him.

But supporters of Uhuru would argue that Ndindi and Gachagua will not go anywhere without his backing. They should look for Uhuru. The one who gets his nod will become the kingpin. But majority of them would prefer Ndindi to take up the mantle.

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

Youths, Farmers In Laikipia Asked To Embrace Rural ICT Hubs

By: Antony Mwangi
 @themtkenyatimes

Laikipia County Government has launched a rural ICT hub at Kiamariga Village in Laikipia West to bring computer and internet services closer to the people.

It is a joint venture that has been facilitated by the American Tower Corporation (ATC-K) and Safaricom to enhance wireless infrastructure and data connectivity in rural areas.

ATC Kenya is supporting the networks to a wide range of customers and helping them increase their network coverage and capacity.

Speaking during the launch of the ICT Hub centre at Kiamariga, Governor Joshua Irungu, ATC Kenya CEO George Odeny and Safaricom's Officer in Charge of networks implementation James Langat, said the centre will offer to transform the lives of local people by bringing crucial services to them through internet and data connectivity.

Through the project, they will be able to access all government services, digital learning, and other on-line jobs.

They observed that the ICT rural hubs will be local computer libraries established in rural and underserved areas as learning centers to provide ICT skills.

The ICT Centre will be a learning center, and training facility for both the students and the local community in the general use of ICT.

Leaders called on the youth to make good use of their innovation, creativity, and the available technology to communicate to curb the challenges and at the same time appreciate the opportunities that come with regional integration.

"I want to encourage our farmers to take advantage of the emerging digital agribusiness solutions to double their yield and make a meaningful living.

"The various digital agribusiness platforms consist of applications and solutions built to solve challenges facing players within the agricultur-



Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu receiving one of the laptops.

al sector and hence enable them to maximize their profits," said ATC Kenya CEO George Odeny.

Governor Irungu noted that the digital agribusiness platforms are to help establish linkages between farmers and potential buyers, farm input or

output market services, hence the need for smallholder farmers in the region to embrace them.

"This hub can be used as a training centre for computer studies and online work by our youths and start earning a living. They don't have

to travel to far-flung areas to access TVET centres for computer classes. They can learn here for free," said Governor Irungu.

UN Celebrates The Remarkable Contributions Of Kenyan Women Towards Achieving The 17 SDGs

By: Michael Omondi
 @themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations in Geneva (UNOG) and the United Nations in Nairobi (UNON) has organized a national exhibition to celebrate the 17 Faces of Action by Kenyan women toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Principal Secretary (PS) of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abraham Korir stated that the exhibition serves as a reminder of the important role that women played not only in achieving the SDGs but in every aspect of life.

"Showcasing their outstanding contribution shows our beliefs in the work they do, not only at the national level but also regionally and globally. This exhibition serves as a call to action inspiring us to reflect on our individual and collective roles in advancing the global agenda for sustainable development," said Korir.



Some of the participants

In a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Director General Political and Diplomatic Affairs Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, Korir disclosed that gender inequality was a major barrier to alleviating poverty as it discriminates against women, denying them access to education, power, and decision-making opportunities in many societies.

Despite global challenges, the PS noted that society is working to alleviate gender inequity by increasing the representation of women in science, politics, and industry to help speed up progress towards the SDGs attainment.

He maintained that Kenya, as the only host of the United Nations Headquarters in the Global South, reaffirms its unwavering commit-

ment to the purpose of the United Nations especially in strengthening the functions of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).

Additionally, Korir encouraged further collaboration among the UN hubs in working towards maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, and promoting sustainable development.

He stressed that the high-level po-

litical forum-SGD summit was a negotiated political declaration that reaffirmed that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls would make a crucial contribution to progress across all the SDGs and Targets.

Speaking at the event, Secretary of Gender in the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Dr. Josephine Obonyo added that the strategy also provided a programmatic guide for all development stakeholders.

She said the Ministry has also developed and was implementing the strategy on SDG 5 to monitor the implementation of gender priorities.

"To the 17 champions, congratulations, and just to echo the great words of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Sustainable Development is 'Not Possible Without Equality for All Women and Girls'. I therefore call on other like-minded women of Kenya and all over the world to emulate the great job done by these champions for the sustainable development of our great nation," expressed Obonyo.

County, KNCCI, To Empower Youth Through Mushroom Farming

By: Ekuwam Sylvester
@themtkenyatimes

Uasin Gishu County Administration in collaboration with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Mushroom Growers Association of Kenya (MGAK) have come up with deliberate plans to empower farmers particularly the youth in Uasin Gishu to diversify and venture into mushroom farming as a way of creating employment to boost their livelihoods standards.

Speaking during a stakeholder engagement with the KNCCI Uasin Gishu chapter team together with a delegation of experts from the MGAK in Eldoret, Governor Dr. Jonathan Chelilim commended the initiative by the stakeholders on exploring the potential of mushroom farming as a sustainable and lucrative venture for the farmers.

He noted that the county, as a vital agricultural hub, has long relied on single crops like maize and wheat for sustenance yet there is a recognized need for diversification.

“The experts highlighted mushrooms as a high-value crop, medicinal, requiring minimal space and boasting a short one-month growth cycle. This quick turnover will allow for speedy harvests, presenting our farmers with the opportunity for a consistent and more resilient income stream, thus a good initiative we need to adopt,” he said.

“We want to encourage the youth to capitalize on this venture as it requires a very small piece of land like



Uasin Gishu County Administration in collaboration with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Mushroom Growers Association of Kenya (MGAK)

in the backyard of your room (singira) and you can get money because prices are very good and the market is ready,” added Dr. Chelilim.

In his remarks, Deputy Governor Eng. John Barorot expressed concern that the only key challenge would be availability of seeds.

“As a county, we want to look at how we can make the seeds for mushrooms available such that we can enhance the uptake of mushroom growing in Uasin Gishu,” noted Eng. Barorot.

KNCCI Uasin Gishu Chapter Chairman Mr Willy Kenei pointed out that the engagement between the chamber, county and the MGAK is looking at the potential of mushroom production and its viability in terms of large-scale industrial pro-

duction in Uasin Gishu.

“Mushroom farming is a venture that we can really encourage our youth to do as a form of employment. It is possible since its farming needs a very small space and capital to start up,” he said.

Kenei noted that the market for mushrooms is huge as he affirmed the Chamber’s commitment to provide market linkages for both local and international markets for the mushrooms, adding that the stakeholders team had recently returned from China where they trained and benchmarked on mushroom farming.

He lauded the county government for its commitment to fully support the programme in order to support the youth to take up the venture.

On his part, Agri Africa Expo Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tito Mutai who is also one of the people taking centre stage in terms of improving the mushroom value chain in Kenya, indicated that the mushroom market in Kenya is really huge since there is still a huge deficit in terms of what is consumed and what is produced locally.

“We want to produce more mushrooms so that we are able to satisfy the local deficit and then look at the export market because there is great potential of us conquering the export market and becoming a leading exporter of mushroom and mushroom products,” he said.

He explained that the implementation cost of mushroom farming among the youth is affordable, as

it requires a very small space of about 6 by 5 square metres which is enough to produce 50 kilos every week which translates to about Sh780,000 per year.

“This is something the youth can really tap into. The only thing that it requires is their time but very minimal investment. The county government, the Chamber of Commerce, Mushroom Growers Association of Kenya will be available to help them get a guarantee of market,” added Mutai.

Paul Kisiang’ani, an expert in mushroom production, alluded that mushrooms were a source of nutritious food that has high medicinal value, particularly for improving heart health.

“When we talk about universal health care and primary health care interventions, we bring in mushrooms as its production would help improve the health of our communities and the entire county,” he said.

He emphasized the need to encourage farmers to indulge in mushroom growing as its production, besides nutritional benefits, would also go a long way into developing a vibrant industry for the production of medicinal products that will help generate income, create employment and also boost foreign exchange coming in through export of mushroom medicinal products.

“This is a great initiative that is going to transform lives and is also associated with the health of nerves,” added Kisiang’ani.

Mackenzie And Co-Accused Arrive In Mombasa Court Hungry, Weak

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Controversial preacher Paul Mackenzie and his co-accused persons in the Shakahola massacre case arrived at the High Court in Mombasa to know the fate of their bond applications.

Some of the followers of Mackenzie’s Good News International Ministries however appeared weak

and emaciated.

Some seemed unable to stand in the dock and it was alleged that they were on a hunger strike and had not eaten for the last three days.

High Court Judge Alex Ithuku instructed them to stay in the court’s holding area and be represented in the proceedings by their lawyer.

During last week’s court appearance, Mackenzie and 38 of his co-accused persons were charged with

17 counts among them subjecting children to torture, assault, cruelty, and infringing a child’s right to education.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions said it was seeking to have the court deny the suspects bond on grounds that they are flight risks.



Some of the people accused alongside controversial preacher Paul Mackenzie in the Shakahola massacre case lie on the floor at the Mombasa High Court yesterday

When You Leave Me Alone



When you leave me alone,
In the lonely, deserted time.
I feel dejected, cornered and heartbroken.
As if the thorns of a cactus pricking my heart.
Loud squeals never barge into your ears,
To realise my miserable state.

A camouflage with a subtle, sneaky pang engulf
my loneliness,
I'm pierced by the honks of those jagged,
squeamish untoward, umbrageous scratches.

Your unconcern or maybe just taking me easy,
Has benighted my urge to live.
Everywhere I see a melancholy fencing me,
My cravings does not let me suspire.
I mirror myself in the dark, solitary night.
I am always encountered by a wraith,
Who is influencing my senses with an
affrontery.

I hide myself in a web which is poisonous,
The web cob is perhaps the fear inside me that
vociferate.

Hey! The den where I'm living is a sulk of a

leviathan,
One who is groaning for years to gulp me leaving
my skeleton.

Ah! The light insighted a percussion,
You are finally here captivating my emotions.
I'm being everted into an everlasting insomnia.
With your arms over me,
I sincerely seek the plethora of bliss.
Diving and floating into the sea of happiness,
Your attention finally sensitised my hidden, ever
desirous amour.

You are my inamorata, the solemn companion of
my life,
With you I voyage in the sensual pleasure and
sentiment.

Where the angels of Cupid act as waits,
Warping and whistling the sounds of true
passionate love.

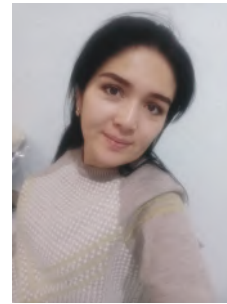
Their presence enralls my suppressed
catharsis,
As I wallow in an embrace to procure the lost
moments over your head.

That vacuum which tore me apart,
Must be healed by your paramount love for a
rampart.

You must realise how painful it is to live in such
loneliness,
Where the desolation obfuscate to perceive
your concern and care.

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Homeland Is One



Homeland is the place where a person was
born and grew up, it is defined by his hearth,
neighborhood and village, which he has loved
since childhood. The word "Watan" in Arabic
means the place of birth and motherland.
Motherland is unique and dear like mother,
that's why it is called motherland, love for
motherland is a high human virtue. In this
regard, it is enough to remember the wisdom:
"To love the motherland is from faith." The
motherland is the greatest word for which
our navel blood has been spilled, dear to the
soul, confidant to the heart. Homeland is a
holy place, with its wonderful abodes, it is
dear to the hearts, every inch of the land, the
soil is like a palm, is a jewel for the eyes. The
Motherland is as precious as the precious
Kohinur diamond for the children living in the
Motherland.

The homeland has been considered sacred
since ancient times. Protected from prying
eyes. Therefore, every child should sacrifice
his life for this country and live in a way

that will be useful for his future. It is not for
nothing that it is said, "Don't be a branch in
a foreign country, but be a good man in your
own country." Words cannot describe the
Motherland, nor can a pen be written. Today's
breath was dreamed by our ancestors. This is
our beautiful homeland - Uzbekistan. I reflect
on the fact that some of my peers are
greedy, chase after an easy life, and go astray
by choosing crooked paths. After all, isn't
it happiness to live in a beautiful and unique
country like Uzbekistan? There are people in
many countries who dream of peace even for
a minute

Children living in some countries cannot even
imagine the opportunities that are being
created for young people growing up today,
and the practical efforts that are being made
for them to get a thorough education. In some
countries, studying at school is a big dream of
children. Uzbekistan is the only country in the
world that does not have a language barrier
with such a high tariff. I consider it a great
happiness and pride that I was born and raised
in this country. May our leader be safe.

Normuradova Gozal Uzogboyevna was born
on December 7, 1997 in Urgut district of
Samarkand region.

Head of Floristics and Fauna Club of
BARKAMOL AVLOD Children's School,
Zharkurgan District, Surkhondaryo Region

Longing



My heart yearns for you
Like a baby in a mother's arms,
when the wind blows my hair
It reminds you, for a moment, for a
moment.

A dagger with a sharp blade, it also has
poison.
Every day it shakes and scatters a dust.
It's amazing how Shirinlar endured
Or did I make it public?

The darkness in my heart is more than

the night.
The cry in my throat is a strong cry,
Let me take it out for a second
Then I couldn't get it, maybe I
remembered it.

I am like the sea, apparently calm,
It's a storm inside, but
Let me tell you my heartache
Then, I would leave the world slowly.

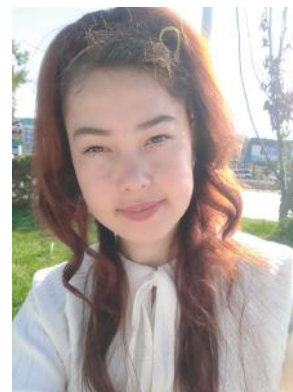
Elmurodova Muattar was born on April
25, 2004 in Samarkand region.

Later, he moved with his family to
Kashkadar'ya region, where he graduated
from the 134th school with excellent
grades.

Currently, he is a 2nd-year student of
the Faculty of Philology of Karshi State
University.

He is a member of the People's
Democratic Party and participated in
many anthologies

Father



Today, I'm getting compliments.
I am leaving without receiving your prayers.
How heavy are these pains.
I miss you today.

You are watching from the sky.
You wish me happiness.
You say that the white shirt suits you.
My white blessing is for you.

I am leaving the threshold crying,
I'm swallowing pain and suffering
My autumns are wet because I miss you.
I am leaving my father at the threshold of my
house.

My God, they took you away from us.
They took a piece of my heart.
They took away our mountain.
They took away my loving father.

Sometimes I miss your love and I bring your
face to me.
Sometimes being alone.
I miss you so much.

O children, appreciate your father.
Don't look for your tracks when the load gets
dirty.
Take care of yourself.
Take Duasin and live wide in your bosom.

It's too late for us.
You have time.
It was helpful to you.
Be worthy of your father.

I was born on November 6, 2002 in Choriyeva-
Khurshi. In Qamashi district of Kashkadar'ya
region. Currently, I am a student of the
Faculty of Medical Sciences of Termez State
Pedagogical Institute.

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BUSINESS

Vetting Of Bars Commences In Kirinyaga As Crackdown On Illicit Brews Continue

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Kirinyaga County Commissioner Hussein Allasow addressing the media on Monday..

Worth Noting:

- County Executive Committee Member for Sports, Culture and Social Services Dennis Muciimi said the verification process will be done within shortest time possible so as to allow legitimate traders to resume business.

- “These committees will conduct physical verification of all alcoholic outlets to determine whether an establishment meets the criteria of licenses as stipulated in Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2014,” he said.

- Muciimi assured bar owners that the exercise will be done in an open and transparent manner to ensure those who have complied with liquor licensing regulations are allowed to reopen.

- “We urge all alcoholic outlets owners to be physically present in their respective premises to pave way for verification exercise,” he added.

County Government of Kirinyaga has kicked off vetting of all liquor outlets even as crackdown on sale and manufacture of illicit brews continue.

The exercise kicked off with physical inspection of bars by a multi-agency team drawn from National and County government in all the 20 wards.

During the vetting process, owners of liquor outlets are required to produce licenses for 2023 and approved application for 2024.

Other stringent conditions set out by the multi-agency team for re-opening of bars include compliance with the public health regulations, bars should not be near schools and places of worship. The outlets should also not have previous cases of non-compliance with liquor licensing regulations.

Apart from the National Government Administration, County Government officials and the police, the multi-agency team also includes Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya Bureau of Standard (KEBS) Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) officials among other.

County Executive Committee Member for Sports, Culture and Social Services Dennis Muciimi said the verification process will be done within shortest time possible so as to allow legitimate traders to resume business.

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Muciimi assured bar owners that the exercise will be done in an open and

transparent manner to ensure those who have complied with liquor licensing regulations are allowed to reopen.

“We urge all alcoholic outlets owners to be physically present in their respective premises to pave way for verification exercise,” he added.

The CEC said the vetting team will visit all alcoholic drinks outlets in their respective wards to undertake the exercise.

He said bar owners who fail to show up for the exercise will be deemed to have exited the business.

On Saturday, Governor Anne Waiguru also said bars with previous cases of selling illicit alcohol and operating without licenses will not be allowed to re-open.

“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.

She said her administration will tighten regulatory check on manufacturers, distributors and sellers of alcoholic beverages to avert 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,” Waiguru added.

Meanwhile, about 50 people among them police officers have been arrested in the ongoing crackdown in Kirinyaga.

The multi-agency team has also seized over 1000 liters of illicit liquor

during the arrests and close to Ksh.1 million in cash, money suspected to be proceeded of crime.

The money was recovered hidden in a manhole under the bed at Holiday Inn Pub in Kutus town. The outlet belongs to Josephine Karioko Muchira who is also in police custody.

Karioko was found in possession of over 100 liters of illicit brew with fake Kenya Bureau of Standard (KEBS) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) stamps.

Kirinyaga County Commissioner Hussein Allasow said the bar closure order issued Governor Waiguru on Saturday has been enforced to allow for the vetting exercise.

Allasow asked bar owners and other stakeholders to cooperate with the government so as wipe out sale of poisonous alcoholic drinks in the county.

“We have done an operation and I want to confirm that all bars are closed except for a few who want to play cat and mouse games. Because of fear that there still could be poisonous drinks out there, the bars will remain closed until when vetting is complete,” he said.


He said all civil servant who operate liquor outlets have been identified and would not get licenses for their facilities.

The County Commissioner also put on notice all illegal brewers that the law will catch up with them soon

“Ours is to make sure our people remain safe; we are also rolling out a process where we are going to look for illegal manufacturers. We have arrested many and our officers are doing everything possible to make sure they are brought to book,” he said.



Officials doing the vetting in one of the bars



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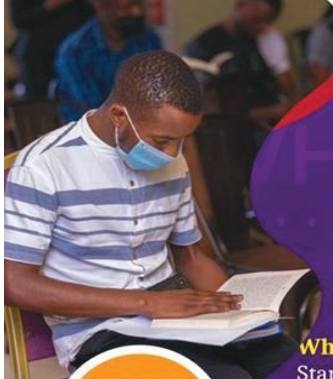


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Public Health March: Unite, Advocate, Transform
on
13th Feb 2024

Venue :Green Park terminus
Time:8am

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THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

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

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

How to enter the contest:

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

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

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

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

Winners
Ugx.200,000,
+ Gift hamper



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

2nd Runner-up
Ugx.100,000,
+ Gift hamper


All participants
Certificates of participation at each level.

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

READ, REVIEW & WIN BIG

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Firearm Recovered As Police Pursue Woman Over Its Possession

By: The DCI

A woman who sprinted from Nyumba Kumi members at Kabachi in Meru after dropping a shopping bag containing an illegal firearm is being sought by the police.

Kawira Kanyaru was being pursued by the wazee led by the area assistant chief after getting wind that she could have information on a murder suspect on the run.

Prior to the recovery of the pistol make Retay Falcon, police believed it was in the hands of a wanted suspect Robert Meeme, who, jointly with Kawira's father (William Kanyaru) and a third suspect Japhet Johana are suspects in a February 17, 2024 murder case over a historical land dispute.

In the shocking murder incident that occurred at a farm in Luthaya village of Kabachi, the three suspects are reported to have ambushed the deceased's son while armed with a pistol, a panga and a knife.

William Kanyaru is said to have fired one round that missed the targeted son of the deceased, before his late father sped to his rescue. The three are said to have shifted

their attention to him where they brutally attacked him to death.

When police started hunting them down, Kanyaru and Johana surrendered at Mutuati Police Station, but not with the pistol which Kanyaru had been using. He (Kanyaru) made the police to believe that the third suspect (Meeme) who is still at large was the one possessing it, until last night.

At around 11pm last night, the area assistant chief got wind that William Kanyaru's daughter Kawira had something related to the murder being investigated, who went ahead to mobilize Nyumba Kumi members to join him in the visit to her house.

But somehow she managed to spot the uninvited guests at that hour of the night and, unwilling to hear them out, scampered away. While at it, she dropped a green shopping bag which upon inspection was found to contain her father's pistol loaded with six rounds of ammunition.

The firearm was surrendered at Mutuati Police Station as Kawira joins the list of wanted suspects in the 70-year-old's murder.



Investors To Construct A Modern Abattoir In Narok

By: John Kaleke @themkenyatimes

Visiting Angola-based livestock experts have struck a Sh2 Billion deal for a modern abattoir to be constructed at Limanet's 90-acre piece of land in Narok County.

Confirming the deal after the site inspection, Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu and the investors, in a media brief at the old slaughterhouse in the area, were upbeat about the project's kick-off in months.

Governor Ntutu expressed optimism that once completed, the project shall serve as a feed lock targeting 40,000 sheep and goats naturally bred in the 30 County sale yards.

Ntutu revealed that a fiscal meeting with World Bank officials is scheduled for end of this week to review the take-off of the eagerly awaited project.

Mario Mancini, an experienced in-

vestor in abattoir construction for over 35 years, was upbeat about the green light pledging the best output that would also provide hides to nearby Ewaso Nyiro Leather production.

One of the visiting livestock experts Marcello Pronto said he was impressed by the project which he opined would be a game changer in the area adding that the tannery was up to the game but advised on the need for animal skin care during slaughtering for value addition.

On her part, the County Executive Committee in charge of Lands Sereti Mpeti assured of full support from the locals in addition to improved accessibility of roads, water, electricity, and available land.

In addition to a recently launched industrial park by the National Government, the abattoir project, which will be a facelift of the current slaughterhouse, is predicted to turn around the economy of Narok County.



Narok County governor Patrick Ole Ntutu with investors



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let Us All Become Corrupt And Be Happy Together



By: Ishmael Nyanoti
@themtkenyatimes

In a startling twist within socio-political discourse, a new movement has emerged under the provocative banner "Let Us All Become Corrupt and Be Happy Together." This controversial philosophy has rapidly gained attention across various social media platforms and incited a maelstrom of public reaction.

The group, self-identified as "The Corrupt Conclave," argues that

corruption is a deeply entrenched part of human society and efforts to eradicate it are not only futile but also unnecessarily stigmatizing. In their manifesto, they suggest that by embracing corruption universally, society can level the playing field and eliminate the stress and dissatisfaction associated with the perpetual fight against unethical practices.

The manifesto's preamble reads: "For too long, we've been shackled by the chains of idealism, believing in a world of fairness and meritocracy. The reality is starkly different. Corruption is the great equalizer, and in acceptance, we find true freedom and happiness."

This group's radical philosophy flies in the face of centuries of ethical thought and policy-making aimed at promoting transparency and accountability. Critics of the movement have been swift to respond, denouncing the statements as a dangerous and cynical attempt to

undermine progress in governance and corporate responsibility.

Ethics professors, policymakers, and anti-corruption activists have lined up to rebut the movement's stance. Dr. Maria Gomez, a professor of ethics at the University of Integrity, states, "This movement is a slap in the face to all who have struggled to create fair and just systems. Corruption breeds inequality and suffering; it is not a foundation upon which happiness can be built."

The debate has surged into the political arena as well. Representatives from various government bodies have vehemently condemned "The Corrupt Conclave," with some legislators calling for investigations into the group's activities, concerned that it may be a front for more sinister operations or a satirical stunt gone too far.

Meanwhile, the apparent leader of the movement, who goes by the pseudonym "Dionysus," argues that

their message is misunderstood. "We are not advocating for illegal activities or harm. We are simply highlighting a reality that, if embraced, could lead to a more relaxed social environment where the pressure to be 'ethical' does not cause undue distress."

As the story unfolds, psychologists warn of the potential impact such a philosophy could have on public mental health, with fears that normalizing corrupt behavior could lead to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and societal mistrust.

This development leaves many questions hanging about the future of societal norms, the definition of happiness, and the role of ethics in public life. As more individuals join the debate, one thing remains certain: the conversation about corruption and happiness is more animated than ever, prompting a deeper examination of our values and how we wish to shape the fabric of society.

You can write Relationship matters to the Love Editor on any subject through:
news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Email Us:

news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Religion, Benefactor Of Man



By: Irfan Khan Tareen
@themtkenyatimes

The religion is the benefactor of a man, is an English maxim that displays the bare reality of life. A imagined and motivating force that appears to be the benefactor of every

and each man is undeniably religion. This is a worthy source that brings peace as well as enlightenment to an individual's mind. Truly, a man who manifests deeply connected with his religion will always emerge in a great pleasure mode of living. Contrary to this point of view, a man who keeps a fragile connection with religion will always come up in extreme anxiety and agony. Thus, religion is considered the benefactor of a man, and one assuredly needs to hold a deep relation with this part of life.

Undeniably, religion enlightens man's worldly life by embellishing it with prosperity as well as mental peace. In fact, it helps in providing guidance in every aspect of life. Similarly, it enjoins its followers to spread love, unity, brotherhood

and truth among yourselves with the purity of heart. For instance, we are created as Muslims and blessed with beautiful and loving religion, Islam and high gratefulness to Almighty-Allah for this worthy gift. Absolutely, it enjoins its its believers to abstain from each that act, that may sadden and vex an innocent one. It similarly dictates to keep unity, love, truth, honesty, brotherhood and respect among yourselves. We as Muslims are fortunately saved from exorbitant miseries of life due to its blessings.

Moreover, it is clearly said that ' a man without religion is like a horse without bridle. Yes, a horse can't be controlled in the absence of latter. Likewise, a man will never have enough capability to get rid off boundless sins in the rupture of deep

relation with religion, and this is a true fact.

However, people having great access to material wealth, will indeed not be capable to enjoy the hidden taste of life when there exists the dearth of religious values and principles in their life. Sadly, they will be the victim of hypertension, agony and anxiety which undeniably a man to undesirable vices like suicide. The lack of worship of God (Almighty-Allah) will steer the prosperity, enlightenment and peace of mind. That's why saints and Sufis seem extremely happy as they always keep struggle and determination to earn the real pleasure of Allah through His frequent remembrance in every walk of life.

Therefore, it is assuredly a clear truth of philosophers that religion

serves as the benefactor of a man. We can definitely gain mind's cheerfulness and enlightenment by means of holding a strengthened connection with our religion (Islam). Particularly, people who see prosperity and beauty in riches are undoubtedly on wrong direction as real happiness of life lies in the worship of God, and in providing financial assistance to downtrodden section of society.

Let us play our own role by putting undying love in the hearts of our children as well as teenagers, regarding Islam and its basic principles as it is the fundamental and indispensable duty of Muslims.

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66 Teams



Constituency Trials Sunday **11th February 2024**
8 Group Matches Kick Off **Sunday 18th February**



233 Group Matches
8 Round of **16** Matches
4 Quarter Final Matches
2 Semi Final Matches



1 3rd Place Play off Match
1 Final
Total **249** Matches



Overall Winner gets **Ksh 5 Million**
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Third Place **Ksh 1 Million**



Each of the other **66** teams get

- 10** Balls
- 18** Shorts
- 18** Jerseys
- 18** Pairs of Socks
- 18** Pairs of Playing Boots
- Ksh 100,000** Participation Fees
- Match Day **Allowances** for Teams
- Officials, Referees and Ball boys and Girls



LET US JOIN HANDS TO SAVE OUR YOUTH

SPORTS NEWS

- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
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- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *The funeral for Kenyan world marathon record-holder Kelvin Kiptum, who was killed in a car crash this month, has been brought forward to Friday, the country's athletics federation said.

Kenya Marathon Star Kiptum's Funeral Brought Forward To Friday



(FILES) Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum runs to the line to win the Men's race at the finish of the 2023 London Marathon in central London on April 23, 2023. World marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptum and his coach Gervais Hakizimana have died in a car crash in western Kenya that left a third passenger also injured, police said on February 11, 2024. (Photo by JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP).

The funeral for Kenyan world marathon record-holder Kelvin Kiptum, who was killed in a car crash this month, has been brought forward to Friday, the country's athletics federation said.

Kiptum's death, just a few months after he smashed the world marathon record and before the Paris Olympics, shocked his home country and the world of athletics.

"Kelvin will be laid to rest on Friday, 23rd February, 2024 at his home in Chepkorio Village, Elgeyo Marakwet," Athletics Kenya said in a statement yesterday.

Last week, officials had said he would be buried on February 24, with the government promising a "heroic farewell" to the young marathon star.

A Kenyan athletics official told AFP on Tuesday that the funeral would be a "state function" with President William Ruto attendance and was brought forward by a day because of his schedule.

Kiptum, a 24-year-old father of two, was killed in a late-night car accident on February 11 near his home in Eldoret, the high-altitude training hub in the Rift Valley in western Kenya.

His Rwandan coach Gervais Hakizimana also died in the ac-

cident while a woman passenger was injured.

The young athlete had competed in only three marathons, and recorded three of the all-time fastest seven times for the event.

Kiptum ran the Chicago marathon in October in two hours and 35 seconds, shattering the previous record set by his Kenyan rival Eliud Kipchoge by 34 seconds.

He was the favourite to take gold at the Paris Olympics, where he was expected to go head to head with Kipchoge for the first time.

"The only way to honour my brother Kiptum is by winning the 2024 Olympic marathon and

bringing the victory home," Kipchoge posted on X last week.

Kiptum was the latest in a number of Kenyan athletes to have lost their lives in recent years, and lawmakers have called for better support and protection for the country's sporting talent.

AFP

Sports >> *Kanana Muthomi showcased an impressive performance, carding a remarkable level par 72 to clinch victory in the girls 11-12 years old category at the US Kids NCBA Nairobi Fall Local Tour's second tournament held at the Limuru Country Club.

Kanana Muthomi Shines In Second JGF Tournament In Limuru



By Agencies

Kanana Muthomi showcased an impressive performance, carding a remarkable level par 72 to clinch victory in the girls 11-12 years old category at the US Kids NCBA Nairobi Fall Local Tour's second tournament held at the Limuru Country Club.

Displaying signs of a stellar day, Kanana secured two birdies in the front nine alongside four level pars and only three bogies. The second nine proved even better as she added two birdies, one eagle, and two-level pars to her tally. Despite encountering three bogies, she finished with a level par 72. Simaloi Mbeya secured the sec-

ond position in the category with a score of 85, while Ashley Muyela claimed third place with a score of 86.

"I started badly but went on to recover well to finish in second place. I played better today compared to the first tournament at Vet Lab. I've realized I perform better without a practice round; I've learned that you can always recover," Simaloi said as she reflected on her performance.

The category boasted a substantial number of entries, with 20 players competing. Lael Mwangale, who finished 15th, expressed satisfaction with the competitive experience.

"It was fun, I'd say. There were

times when my putting wasn't great, but that's what I'm here for – to become a better me and a better golfer," Lael stated.

In the boys' 11-year category, Adam Nesbitt and Palash Tank engaged in a playoff after both scoring 80. Nesbitt emerged victorious in the first playoff hole, with Joven Reel securing third place in the category.

Sophia Nesbitt dominated the girls' 13-14 years category, claiming victory with a comfortable score of 78. Amelia Sheikh was her closest competitor with a score of 88, followed by Yolanda Yu with a score of 89. April Ochola, despite finishing with a score of 119, expressed contentment with

her progress.

"Compared to the last tournament, I played better today because I have just transitioned to the girls' 13-14 years category. Vet Lab was my first time playing from T4," Ochola stated.

Yuvraj Rajput emerged victorious in the boys' 13-14 category with a score of 78, followed by Tristan Ndegwa with 82, and Aidan Gachora and Tsorav Soni tied with 84.

Garcia Maina claimed the top spot in the boys' 15-18 category with a score of 83, followed by Jason Mwai with 89 and Jabari Ongwae with a score of 100.

SPORTS NEWS



- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
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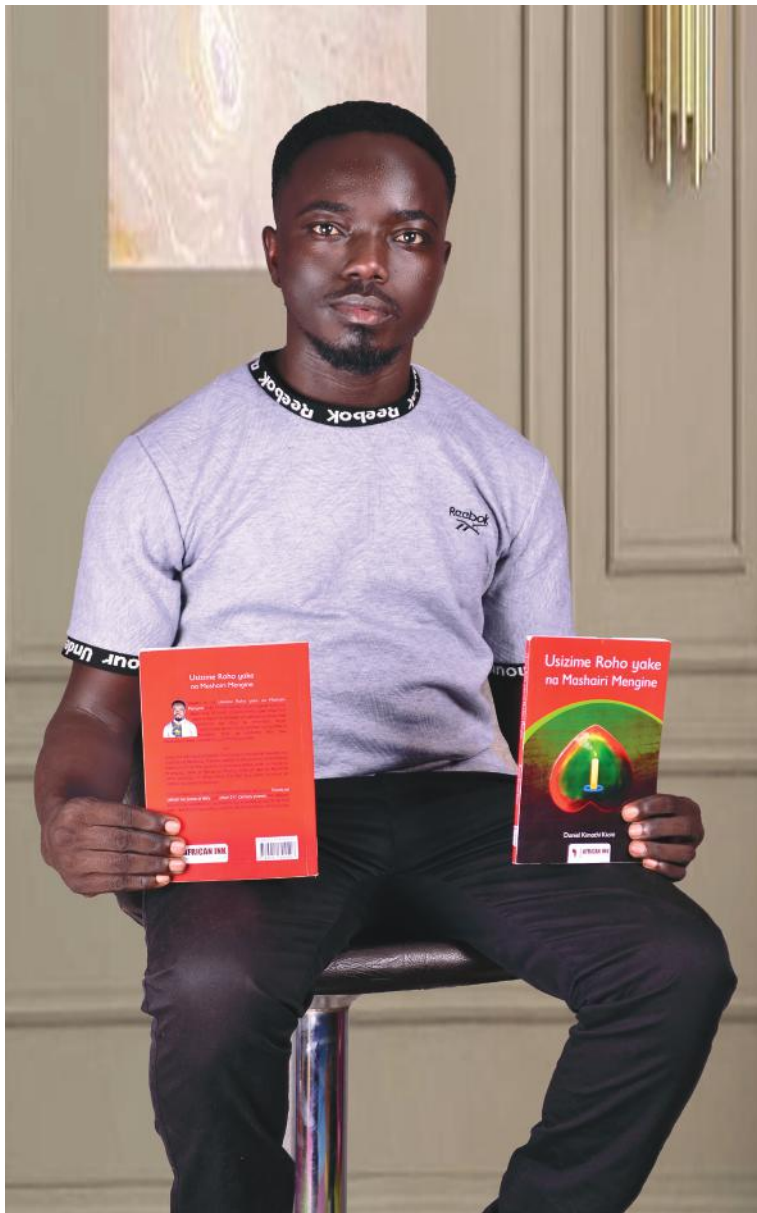


Daniel Kioiti's Authorship, Views On Millennial Poetry & Tech Influence On Gen Z Reading Culture

By: Hosea Namachanja
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The book was written at a time when murder had become a norm of the day during the Corona period where a man would cut short the lives of his family without remorse and a woman set her house on fire when her children were asleep.
- Generation Z is deep in the pit of modernization therefore ignoring literature work which is bound by laws. The old and millennial generations share several characteristics which include an inner love for reading especially hard copies and also loving literature work which is bound to the laws of writing.
- Literature is a catharsis in my whole which I live on and breathe. Thus; I chose self-publication to store the brain for the future and act as a painkiller to societal challenges.



Daniel Kioiti Author.

He dreamed of becoming a creme de la creme intelligentsia but how his dream nearly got shattered, is a living epistle he'll live to tell and retale to his future generation.

In a Q&A moment with The Mount Kenya Times political and literature columnist Hosea Namachanja; the teacher of Mathematics and Business shared his authorship journey, views on Gen Z reading culture and how to re-awaken the spirit of reading literature in the 5th Industrial Revolution in Tech.

1. Why Usizime Roho Yake?

The book was written at a time when murder had become a norm of the day during the Corona period where a man would cut short the lives of his family without remorse and a woman set her house on fire when her children were asleep.

2. As a millennial published author, how different is the old generation, millennials and generation Z in terms of literature consumption? According to you; how can the void be aced?

Generation Z is deep in the pit of modernization therefore ignoring literature work which is bound by laws. The old and millennial generations share several characteristics which include an inner love for reading especially hard copies and also loving literature work which is bound to the laws of writing.

3. Self-publishing seems an easy leeway for contemporary writers to make fast money. How about you concerning this?

Literature is a catharsis in my whole which I live on and breathe. Thus; I chose self-publication to store the brain for the future and act as a painkiller to societal challenges.

4. Tracing Tanzania's Sheikh Shaaban Roberts' writings and Kenya's Prof. Kithaka Wa Mberia, how mighty is millennial ink in a political revolution where greed for power is the main theme?

Millennial writings motivate the youths to devote themselves to the fight for democracy and justice. Their writings contain characters who have brought tyrants to bitter ends.

5. Briefly, describe the future of poetry in a revolving world of tech.

The future is very promising as the current Kenyan education(CBC) is going to create a market for poetry books. There is also accessibility of soft copies of work written by renowned authors, hence we can borrow a leaf through the internet.

6. Congratulations on your debut in the publishing industry. Assert several freak-outs encountered on the journey of Usizime Roho Yake anthology.

Thank you. The freak-outs include; a lack of enough funds for instant publication, self-doubt before publishing, lack of marketing strategies within my financial constraints and unfulfilled promises of getting a copy.

7. If Daniel Kioiti were not a teacher, who could he be in the field of profession, a pastor?

He would be a renowned lawyer. I still keep hoping to become chief justice when the surface runoff of money will be directed to me.

8. Seduce Usizime Roho Yake in front of a reader.

Usizime Roho Yake is a Swahili poetry book written by Daniel Kimathi Kioiti aka Prof Cocoa for you. It's diversified to take care of all ages, social status and professions. It contains what you need to hear at your current age, social status and position. The appreciation fee for owning a copy is Kshs 350 since literature is only appreciated for being priceless.

9. From a nonentity to a literal emblem of ink noisemakers, who is Prof Cocoa?

Prof Cocoa is the poetic voice behind a teacher of Mathematics and Business studies known as Daniel Kimathi Kioiti son of Grace Kamami and Peter Kioiti. He was born in a village known as Mporoko, Igembe Central (under the able honorable Dan Kiili Karitho) and acquired his education in the neighboring schools; (Ncunguru Primary School, Thuuru Primary School and Buerieruri Boys) before being awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Moi University.

10. Where can people reach you for the anthology?

People can reach me on 0712245754, Daniel Kioiti on Facebook and @Cocoa Prof on Twitter for the anthology. Those who can access the tea room in Nairobi, Moi University, Main Campus and the three Igembe Sub-Counties, will not pay for posting fee as copies are available at those points.