



Parliamentary Justice And Legal Affairs Committee Engages MDA's On The 2024/2025 Budget Policy Statements

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Tharaka MP, George Gitonga Murugara yesterday begun receiving submissions from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) under its purview to consider the 2024 Budget Policy Statements (BPS). Page 18

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News>> Fish Farming, Diet Introduced To Primary Schools In Nyeri County

P. 8. A new trend is about to take root in primary schools across Nyeri County, following the introduction of a campaign that will see young learners embrace aquaculture



News>> National Assembly Extends Timelines For BPS AND MTDS

has extended the period for consideration of the 2024 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) by seven days from the 29th of February 2024.

Uphold Professionalism, Kalonzo Tells County Boards

Wiper Democratic Party Leader, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, has advised the County Public Boards (CPSBs), to exercise professionalism, transparency, and accountability in carrying out their noble duties, including the recruitment of staff.

Kalonzo reiterated the need to establish autonomy for County Public Service Boards, in order to entrench good governance and, at the same time, urge CPSBs, to arrest issues of corruption in the management of county employees.



Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka

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Police Officer Arrested For Selling And Distributing Liquor In Kirinyaga Despite Closure Of Bars

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes



Kirinyaga County Commissioner Hussein Allasow (left) with other security agents during on of the liquor dealers vetting process.

Worth Noting:

- Allasow said the officer had violated the bar closure order as contained in a public notice issued by the County Government on February 19, 2024 following the declaration of closure of all bars on Saturday by Governor Waiguru to pave way for fresh vetting of all alcoholic drinks outlets.
- “This bar identified as “The Exciting Palace Bar” is owned by a police officer, we have arrested him and this operation to ensure all bars adhere to the closure order until they are vetted and allowed to open is still going,” he said.

A police officer has been arrested in Kirinyaga County for selling and distributing liquor despite of an order for closure of all alcoholic drinks outlets by Governor Anne Waiguru.

The officer identified as Stanley Ithiru and attached to Gilgil Police Station was arrested at Ithare Trading Centre, in Kirinyaga East Sub-County where he operates a bar and a guest house.

Kirinyaga County Commissioner Hussein Allasow said the officer in the rank of a Corporal was booked at Kianyaga Police Station awaiting arraignment in court today.

Allasow said the officer had violated the bar closure order as contained in a public notice issued by the County Government

on February 19, 2024 following the declaration of closure of all bars on Saturday by Governor Waiguru to pave way for fresh vetting of all alcoholic drinks outlets.

“This bar identified as “The Exciting Palace Bar” is owned by a police officer, we have arrested him and this operation to ensure all bars adhere to the closure order until they are vetted and allowed to open is still going,” he said.

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

Allasow said the arrest was made after members of the public raised complaint that the bar was still open and owner was engaged in distributing locally made

brew.

“We want to ask residents to continue giving information on bars that are still open, those selling illicit alcohol. We must bring sanity in the alcoholic drinks sector in this county,” the County Commissioner.

The arrest brings to five, the number of police officers arrested in connection to violation of the bar closure orders.

Four other officers were arrested on Sunday in Ngurubani, Mwea West while taking alcohol at Mutitu Andei Bar.

County Executive Committee Member for Sports, Culture and Social Services Dennis Muciimi said the vetting exercise for bars which entered its thirs day yesterday was going on smoothly.

“The physical verification of all alcoholic outlets is going on well and we are hoping it will end in the shortest time possible. We want to determine whether an establishment meets the criteria of licenses as stipulated in Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2014,” he said.

Muciimi said only bars whose owners will be given a “clean bill” of record will be allowed to re-open.

“Only bars which have complied with the liquor licensing regulations are allowed to reopen. We urge all alcoholic outlets owners to cooperate with our officers,” he added.

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.

On Saturday, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said law enforcers among them Chief, police officers among others will not be allowed to operate liquor businesses.

Gachagua told the officers to make a choice on whether to resign to continue running their bar businesses or enforce the law.

“You either work as a police officer or run a bar. You cannot protect the law which you also flout. That is conflict of interest,” Gachagua said.

Same sentiments were also echoed by Governor wWaiguru who asked County Government staff operating liquor outlets to make a choice of venturing into business or retaining their employment.

She said some 11 staff from the County Government were operating bars and therefore were conflicted and a hindrance to the enforcement of the liquor licensing regulations.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kericho County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo has directed police officers to crack down on all illicit brewing dens in the county, including licensed pubs and bars selling unregulated liquor. Kitiyo stated that the consumption of illicit brew is detrimental to people's health and could lead to death, and he urged the youth to abstain from drugs and substance abuse. He also urged the police to confiscate and burn illegal gambling machines, as many families have been impoverished due to gambling. Kitiyo emphasised that these machines are not licenced, and those claiming to have licenses are fake. He called on residents to be vigilant and report criminal activities to the police for action to be taken against the culprits. The county commissioner's actions are in response to the tragic deaths caused by illicit brew consumption in Kirinyaga County.



Pamoja, a Kenyan-based company, is investing Sh1.2 billion to support 13,000 Macadamia farmers in East Africa. The investment is part of a partnership between French Asset Management Company, Mirova, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The partnership aims to promote sustainable and profitable exploitation of arable land, train producers in best agricultural practices, and strengthen industrial facilities. Pamoja's Athi-River processing plant provides access to extensive distribution networks, generating substantial additional income for producers. The Kenyan government's suspension of Section 43 of the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Act in November 2023 has led to a soaring macadamia price. The partnership is part of the Land Degradation Neutrality 1 (LDN) fund, aimed at financing projects that contribute to land degradation neutrality. Pamoja is also developing macadamia nut farms in Tanzania through Macjaro, which is operating with respect for agroforestry ecosystems. The investment is part of Mirova's ongoing commitment to sustainable land management in emerging countries, demonstrating their commitment to supporting sustainable transition in the agricultural and forestry sectors while generating long-term financial value for investors.

Garissa County is encouraging residents, particularly youth and women, to apply for investment financing from the County's Revolving Fund to establish income-generating ventures and improve their situation. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Investment, and Enterprise Development, Mohamed Suleiman, emphasised the importance of initial capital in enterprise initiatives and called on the public to take advantage of the County's initiative to establish a Revolving Fund. The Revolving Fund will help start or boost existing small-scale business enterprises, with beneficiaries simply applying, receiving funding for their projects, and repaying it after a specified period. The 15-day application window opens on February 26, and Suleiman assured transparency in the disbursement of the Fund. Chairman Atosh echoed Suleiman's sentiments, ensuring a free and fair process without discrimination in awarding funds to applicants. The Fund Act will guide the process, ensuring open and above-board procedures and regulations.



Busia Governor Dr. Paul Nyongesa Otuoma has introduced subsidised tractor services at Butula Constituency to help residents plough their farms ahead of the long rainy planting season. The subsidised fee of Sh2500 is payable through an official county Pay Bill account. The goal is to plough over 20,000 acres for over 150,000 farmers across 35 wards, achieving a production of 20-25 bags of maize per acre. Agriculture is the leading employer in Busia County, with about 42 per cent of its residents relying on it for survival and economic empowerment. The County Commissioner, Pamela Otieno, urged farmers to embrace mechanised agriculture and ensure the safety of the tractors. The Chief Officer for Agriculture, Timothy Odende, urged farmers to register in their respective wards and form groups of a maximum of 10 people for ploughing. Farmers using the tractors will be given free seeds with the help of the governor, in partnership with agricultural partners like YARA Millers. Farmers are encouraged to join cooperatives to access farm inputs.

Nakuru City Board plans to organise quarterly football tournaments during school holidays to nurture talents and promote the sport across the county. The inaugural event is scheduled for April 2024. The Chief Officer for Youth, Sports, Talent, and Resource Mobilisation, Alex Maina, endorsed the idea and pledged departmental support. He stressed the importance of involving stakeholders like the Federation of Kenya Football (FKF). Sports empower students to make decisions, gain skills, confidence, and self-esteem, and help them discover hidden talents. Participation in sports and games like chess, pool, and table tennis helps students learn cooperation, teamwork, patience, leadership, and time management. The Chief Officer also noted that the increased population has led to more children spending their holidays watching television, which is unhealthy for their growth.



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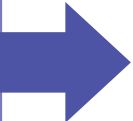
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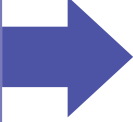
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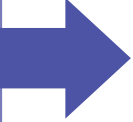


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KEMSA Initiates Search for Substantive Procurement Director



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr. Nyakera further elaborated on the circumstances surrounding the vacancy, citing the appointment of an acting director to temporarily oversee procurement activities. However, in light of ongoing audit queries, the acting director has been requested by the board to step aside temporarily. This decision aims to facilitate an independent and transparent resolution of the audit concerns raised.

- The board's decision to prioritize the appointment of a substantive procurement director underscores KEMSA's commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance and accountability. With the procurement function playing a pivotal role in KEMSA's operations, the selection process for the new director will be rigorous and meticulous.



Board Chairman Kenya Medical Supplies Authority Irungu Nyakera addresses the media during KEMSA turnaround status update for the last ten months at National Supply Chain Centre.

The Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) yesterday commenced its quest for a substantive procurement director, marking the end of a four-year vacancy in this pivotal position. The revelation emerged from the board, shedding light on the prolonged absence of a permanent procurement director within the organization.

During a recent announcement, KEMSA's Chairperson, Mr. Irungu Nyakera, disclosed the protracted vacancy, emphasizing the critical need to fill this leadership role. The absence of a substantive procurement director has posed operational challenges and organizational vulnerabilities for KEMSA over the past four years.

In response to this pressing issue, the board has initiated a comprehensive search process to identify a qualified

candidate capable of steering KEMSA's procurement functions with efficiency and integrity. The selection of a competent procurement director is deemed essential for enhancing transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in KEMSA's procurement operations.

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ment director underscores KEMSA's commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance and accountability. With the procurement function playing a pivotal role in KEMSA's operations, the selection process for the new director will be rigorous and meticulous.

In the wake of assuming leadership last year, the board has proactively initiated audits across various facets of KEMSA's operations. These audits serve as a mechanism to assess and address any existing gaps, enhance internal controls, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The decision to conduct audits reflects KEMSA's unwavering commitment to transparency, integrity, and effective management of healthcare supply chains.

The absence of a permanent procurement director for an extended period underscores the urgency and importance of expediting the recruitment process. As KEMSA navigates through dynamic healthcare landscapes and evolving procurement challenges, the appointment of a competent and experienced leader is paramount to its operational resilience and sustainability.

In addition to fulfilling the immediate operational needs, the new procurement director will be tasked with implementing robust procurement policies, fostering strategic partnerships, and optimizing procurement processes to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, the director will play a pivotal role in strengthening KEMSA's procurement capabilities, fostering innovation, and ensuring the timely delivery of quality medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to healthcare facilities across the country.

As KEMSA embarks on this pivotal journey to appoint a substantive procurement director, stakeholders across the healthcare spectrum remain optimistic about the organization's ability to overcome challenges and realize its mandate of ensuring access to quality healthcare for all Kenyans.

In conclusion, the initiation of the search for a substantive procurement director marks a significant milestone in KEMSA's quest for operational excellence and organizational resilience. The successful appointment of a visionary leader will not only address the longstanding vacancy but also reinforce KEMSA's commitment to transparency, accountability, and service delivery in the healthcare sector.

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Fish Farming, Diet Introduced To Primary Schools In Nyeri County

By: Wangari Mwangi and William Muchiri @themtkenyatimes

A new trend is about to take root in primary schools across Nyeri County, following the introduction of a campaign that will see young learners embrace aquaculture.

The campaign dubbed Eat More Fish, which is jointly funded by the County Department of Agriculture, the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is also aimed at introducing fish as part of the learner's diet through the school feeding programme.

According to ABDP programme Co-ordinator, Maureen Gathigia, the projects started mid-last year, when four primary schools in the County, were identified and subsequently supplied with fish pond liners, fingerlings, fish feed, and aquaculture support to start-off the project.

Besides Nyeri, ABDP had also started similar projects in 56 other primary schools in the Mount Kenya Region, where the schools are expected to engage the learners in the fish-rearing process, until they are ready for harvesting.

Additionally, they are now advocating for the learners to consume the fish raised and harvested in their schools.



Gitunduti Primary and Junior Secondary School in Mathira, team-up with County fisheries officers, to harvest Tilapia fish from the school's fish pond. A total of 300 fish were harvested by the learners. Photo by Wangari Mwangi.

"The importance of introducing fish farming in schools is that, once you instill these skills and knowledge in a child, they are more likely to practice fish farming as a commercial venture or as an alternative source of livelihood.

We are also advocating for the fish to be consumed in school, which is one way of inculcating a fish-eating culture, so that these children diversify their diet by getting the nutrients found in fish," she said.

The County Coordinator was speaking at Gitunduti Primary and Junior Secondary School in Mathira constituency, where seven Grade-Seven learners, harvested their first school of 300, Tilapia, after rearing the fish for 10 months.

The catch, most of which weighed between 250-300 grammes, was then prepared by the school's cooks with the help of the fisheries officers before it was served as lunch for the eager learners.

According to the Sub-county fisheries officer, Lazarus Mutiso, the Eat More Fish campaign, will go a long way in overwriting the labels associated with fish for the region that has for a long time steered clear of fish because it is not one of their traditional staple foods. Mutiso said it will also provide a solution for the marketing challenge by ensuring that most of the fish raised and harvested in Nyeri is consumed within the county.

"Besides inculcating the importance



A pupils with a meal of fish and sukuma wiki

of eating fish for young children by incorporating fish into their school feeding programme, we also want to propose that the schools sell the surplus harvest to the neighbouring community. This way, we will have more people eating fish, and the money raised can be used to support the fish farming project," said Mutiso.

Additionally, to ensure a constant supply of fish, Mutiso said that they are in the process of supporting the four schools to set up multiple fish ponds.

The School's Headmaster, James Mbatia, lauded the initiative. He said the campaign will be instrumental in implementing the Competence-Based Curriculum, by imparting some of the key competencies advocated for by the new curriculum.

Mbatia also noted that the project will help mold the next crop of fish-farming ambassadors.

"This fish farming project has been instrumental in skills and knowledge building of the learners who have been involved in the project since it was launched in May 2023.

The project has not only changed the perception about fish farming and the benefits of eating fish among our learners but it has also inspired them to share this information with their parents back at home.

We are hoping that through this project, we will produce the fish champions, who will take-up fish farming after leaving school," said Mbatia.

Organic Farmers In ASALs Appeal For Government Support

By: Muoki Charles @themtkenyatimes

Farmers who practice smallholder organic farming have urged the government to support them by offering them subsidised farm inputs to enable them to contribute to national food security.

The over 500 farmers, drawn from 14 Counties, mostly semi-arid, said organic farming has the potential to weed out hunger in dry regions if well supported with farm inputs and extension services.

Led by Ngugi Mutuura, the CEO of the Sustainability Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP), which supports organic farming, the farmers decried a lack of government support despite helping promote the cultivation of healthy foods.



Smallholder organic farmers showcase agricultural products during an exhibition at Sustainability Agriculture Community Development Program (SACDEP) training centre in Thika yesterday..

They said while farmers who practice conventional farming have benefited from fertiliser and other farm input subsidies, they remain neglected. "Organic farming is largely low-cost and can be practiced by all farmers,

and that the government should invest heavily in this area to achieve food security, especially in semi-arid areas," Mutuura said.

They were speaking during an agricultural exhibition at the SACDEP

training centre in Kilimambogo, Thika East, yesterday.

Triza Wakesho, an organic farmer from Taita Taveta, said the County has beaten hunger largely due to farming traditional crops.

She said farming tubers and cereals can reduce overdependence on relief foods and called for support from the area County government.

"We largely depend on maize, millet, sorghum, cassava, sweet potatoes, and other tubers due to the semiarid nature of our County. We ask the County government to consider distributing organic fertiliser and subsidised seeds before the rainy season so that we can effectively fight hunger in rural areas," said Wakesho.

Margret Wangechi said extension officers discourage organic farming, and on most occasions, those involved in the practice have been locked out of agriculture-related forums.

"To be able to actualize the agenda on agricultural production, the government should change its policy and boost organic farming because it's not only cheap but will bring on board more farmers. This is the case in other Countries," Wangechi said.

SACDEP commands over 150,000 farmers in 14 Counties and has been training, and equipping farmers with skills to increase food production as well as linking them to markets due to the huge demand for organic foods.

Herman Schut, an international SACDEP partner, said the global increase in demand for organic foods presents an opportunity for poor farming households to increase food and agricultural production and productivity using cheaper organic inputs originating from within the farms.

Uphold Professionalism, Kalonzo Tells County Boards

By: Mabel Keya
@themkenyatimes



Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka.

Worth Noting:

- “Widespread accusations of corruption, resource mismanagement, and discriminatory employment practices exposed in recent publications, cast a pall over the values of openness, responsibility, and justice that ought to guide our public institutions,” the wiper leader stated.
- Kalonzo was speaking, Tuesday, during the official opening of a Four-Day County governments governance convention in Naivasha.
- The convention, themed; “Professionalism and Good Governance in a Political Context,” has been organised by the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries (ICPS), to train CPSBs from the 47 counties, on various issues of governance and recruitment.
- Kalonzo noted with concern that the number of counties complying with the national recruitment standards, has decreased from 21 in 2016 to just 13 in 2022.

Wiper Democratic Party Leader, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, has advised the County Public Boards (CPSBs), to exercise professionalism, transparency, and accountability in carrying out their noble duties, including the recruitment of staff.

Kalonzo reiterated the need to establish autonomy for County Public Service Boards, in order to entrench good governance and, at the same time, urge CPSBs, to arrest issues of corruption in the management of county employees.

The Wiper Leader, who is also the Azimio – One Kenya Coalition Co-Principal, said although many achievements have been made since the inception of devolution and the subsequent CPSBs in 2013, there are still hitches that need to be resolved, to improve service delivery in both the National and County Administrations.

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Kalonzo noted with concern that the number of counties complying

with the national recruitment standards, has decreased from 21 in 2016 to just 13 in 2022.

“The Constitution’s values of inclusion and equality are undermined by the persistent disregard for the County Government Act’s provision, requiring the allocation of positions among varied communities,” he observed, suggesting that the Code of Governance for the County Government, be created by the Institute of Certified Secretaries, adding that this will help to entrench best practices and standards for governance.

Kalonzo noted that the county government officials, must be unwaveringly committed, to corporate governance principles and follow established procedures and standards, in order to maintain balance.

The Wiper Leader observed that the vital role that County governments, County Assemblies, and County Public Service Boards (CPSBs) play in the governance of the county governments, impacted on how our county public service develops, such as in human resource management, among others.

“Despite the challenges that our county governments face, let us all re-affirm our shared commitment, to preserving the highest ethical standards and advancing good governance practices. We must, therefore, guarantee that our officers have the appropriate tools, resources, and assistance to carry out their responsibilities successfully and transparently. Furthermore, the National government must ensure that counties have appropriate and timely resources, to carry out their tasks effectively and efficiently,” he added.

Kalonzo noted that earlier this month, the Public Service Commission (PSC) released a report on falsified academic credentials, to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and other investigative agencies, which revealed that there are some 2,000 public servants in critical government parastatals and ministries, who acquired their positions using fake certificates and want these investigations extended to the counties.

The alarming revelation had shown that most of the individuals are in the Ministry of Interior, the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), and the Geothermal and Development Corporation, a parastatal under the Ministry of Energy. “I encourage CPSBs to cascade this and conduct verification in their respective counties. I urge all CPSBs to conduct due diligence during hiring, appointments, and promotions, to prevent this from happening again, as they try to weed out personnel with fraudulent documents at the county level as well,” the Wiper leader said.

He added that although issues such as political interference and favouritism continue to contribute to non-compliance, the counties require honesty, and CPSBs should play a major role in instilling strong governance practices in the devolved units.

Kalonzo voiced concern about patterns of employment in the counties following a report by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission’s (NCIC) 2023 audit Report, that revealed patterns of employment diversity among Kenya’s 47

counties.

The Report, he noted, showed that only 10 tribes account for nearly 80 per cent of county employment, while 29 tribes account for just one per cent of county work prospects and urged the CPSBs to play a critical role in ensuring equitable hiring practices, across delegated activities.

He beseeched on the government to entrench good governance in its daily administration, while promoting meritocracy in public institutions and called on the National government to ensure timely disbursement of funds to Counties, to enable them run their activities timely and effectively.

Kalonzo castigated what he termed as ethnic bias in the recruitment of officers to the police service and defense forces, which he noted, was a threat to the security of the country and its missions in the continent, blaming it on increased corruption among some security service members, where Kenyans who are eligible are made to part with thousands of shillings, to secure a slot in the various formations.

The ICPS CEO, Jeremiah Karanja, said the training of County Public Service Boards is geared towards entrenching and promoting good governance in the running of counties.

Karanja welcomed the call for the autonomy of the Boards, to ensure they can lend decisions affecting counties, without interference from County Executive Arm, adding that giving the Boards financial autonomy, will ensure they run their activities smoothly during recruitment, disciplinary, and firing of county employees.

Former Chair of the National Transition Authority, Kinuthia Wa Mwangi, said the autonomy of County Public Service Boards, have been a major challenge that have bedevilled County governments since inception.

Wa Mwangi implored the Senate, to move a motion which will establish a constitutional framework, for the independence of county Boards, and enable them to withstand political interference, while making their decisions.

It emerged that key other challenges facing the Boards include, pressure to employ politically connected persons, poor co-ordination between County and National Service Boards and lack of harmonised databases for county employees.

The Overcoming Power In The Holy Spirit Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

I want to make it aware to you, before we delve into the topic of this sermon; There is a possibility to believe in Christ but lack to live a victorious life! There is a possibility to miss the full or all benefits of living as a Christian! For example the benefits of Christian life are eternal life, joyful and peaceful life, Christ became a curse for us, so that we are freed from every curse, Christ Jesus was poor, so that we may be rich/prosperous and so on.

If you don't receive a spiritual solution, you may not have a physical manifestation.

For you to live a victorious life as a Christian life the provision is made possible by the power of the Holy

Spirit. It is written, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel (Ev. Eric Musa/ you): 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel (Ev. Eric Musa) you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

God has planned your success at a particular, perfect time, believe so.

There are some things in life you may try in this life, but you do not manage! But these things are possible, not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit"; says the Lord of Hosts.

So, if you want to live a victorious life as a Christian you must know how, and fully depend on the HOLY SPIRIT.

Revelation 2:17 says" "He who has an ear, let him hear WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives



it." You can not separate the Church and the Holy Spirit, the key to inviting the world is to invite together with the Holy Spirit. OUR VICTORY IS IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

The victorious life is not only about us, but also inviting others to live a victorious life. The Spirit and the bride combine together to say to the world: " come and receive your heal-

ing: the water of life(Rev 22:17)." "NOT by might, nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT, declares the Lord of hosts."

HALELUJAH, AMEN& AMEN 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 Spir-

it: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.

Parliament Debates Bill Seeking To Cap Mandatory Retirement Age At 60 Years

By: PSCU

The National Assembly has debated the Public Service Commission (Amendment Bill) 2023.

The Bill which was at the Second Reading stage, seeks to amend the Public Service Commission Act of 2017 to prescribe the mandatory retirement age of civil servants at 60 years.

Embakasi Central MP Major Donkk Benjamin Mwangi, who has sponsored the Bill told the House that the amendments are meant to increase job vacancies available to Kenyan citizens aged below the age of 60 years on account that they possess rare knowledge, skills and competencies for the time required in service.

During the debate, MPs who contributed to the debate noted, that the Bill if enacted into Law, it would obligate the Public Service Commission (PSC) and other appointing authorities to be keen on succession planning and to take necessary steps to ensure that they train other persons in the organizations to take up these positions.



National Assembly in session.

House Majority Party Chief Whip Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County), said the Bill would cater for interests of persons with disabilities, as it gives them the benefit to retire at 65 years, and would also affirm the maximum period for public

servants to serve in acting capacity to a maximum of 12 months.

"It will give people opportunities by increasing vacancies for our young people to secure employment. Our young people are vibrant, innovative and active

and will bring in new synergy to public service," said Hon. Waqo.

On his part, Imenti North MP, Rahim Dawood noted that the Bill would cure a major crisis in Public Service, where persons in senior management positions

end up serving in acting capacity for an extremely long time.

"I suggest that in instances where we have persons in acting capacity, if the six months lapse, that after 12 months the person who is holding the position in acting capacity should be substantively employed for the job," said Dawood.

Alego Usonga MP, Samuel Atandi however suggested that the retirement age should not be fixed in law, and ought to exist in policy government policies to allow any administration that comes in force to set the age.

"I believe retirement age should be determined by such factors as demographic trends and gender dynamics of the country. If you have a trend like what we have now in Kenya where we have more younger people, retirement age should actually be lowered to address the demographic trends of our country," held Atandi.

Other MPs who contributed to the debate noted that there is need to be a progressive amendment to the retirement age that is tandem with the changing trends in unemployment, population and other domestic factors.

Debate on the Bill continues.

Ruto Walking The Talk On Austerity Measures



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- In the latter forum, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka was the chief guest. Why would the critics only single out the cabinet retreat? This shows they were only playing politics.

- Earlier, I had written an article when President Ruto unveiled a wide range of austerity measures. These were my observations. Dr William Ruto assumed office at a time when the country was facing five main challenges: Dilapidated economy, hefty foreign debts, drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russian-Ukraine war and in early stages of recovery from Covid-19 pandemic.

- Noting that he was now behind the steering wheel, Dr Ruto immediately started to pull up his socks as he did not want to let Kenyans down.



President William Ruto, flanked by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (left) and Treasury CS Njuguna Ndung'u, addresses the press during the 2nd National Executive Retreat in Naivasha, Nakuru County, yesterday. PHOTO/PCS.

The just concluded 3-day National Executive Retreat and Parliamentary group meeting of the ruling party had elicited mixed-reactions.

For the critics of President William Ruto, they would allege he was taking Kenyans for a ride.

He did not believe in the austerity measures he had earlier unveiled.

The retreat had gobbled up millions of shillings of taxpayers. They would not produce an iota of evidence to prove and substantiate their claims.

The National Executive retreat brought together the Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and other top government official.

It was Kenya Kwanza's second retreat. The first one was held in Nyanyuki and it was also chaired by President Ruto.

As the head of the Executive, the President had set the targets for each cabinet secretary. The latest retreat was meant to review and evaluate their performance. I assigned you some duties. We are here to present our scorecards. If you have not met the expectations of Kenyans, you will have to go home. The buck stops with me. If my administration fails to deliver, Kenyans will not blame you, they will blame me.

The critics would not see the importance of this retreat. They would instead capitalize on sideshows.

Besides National Executive and Parliamentary group, the Judiciary and Center for multiparty democracy, an NGO known to mainly front the cause of the opposition, was also having their retreats at Naivasha hotels.

In the latter forum, Wiper leader Ka-

lonzo Musyoka was the chief guest. Why would the critics only single out the cabinet retreat? This shows they were only playing politics.

Earlier, I had written an article when President Ruto unveiled a wide range of austerity measures. These were my observations. Dr William Ruto assumed office at a time when the country was facing five main challenges: Dilapidated economy, hefty foreign debts, drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russian-Ukraine war and in early stages of recovery from Covid-19 pandemic.

Noting that he was now behind the steering wheel, Dr Ruto immediately started to pull up his socks as he did not want to let Kenyans down.

He embarked on an ambitious process of laying out a strong foundation and to build on it.

His main goal was to ensure that his administration has made great and enormous progress in addressing these challenges within the shortest time possible.

But as it turned out, the going ahead was tough than he had anticipated.

The 'handshake' government led by President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner Raila Odinga had left the economy in a very bad shape.

The Uhuru regime had borrowed more than Sh9 trillion from the foreign lenders. Dr Ruto had no option but to start repaying the loans which started maturing immediately after he took over.

He knew the consequences of failing to abide by the terms of the repayment agreements were dire.

In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international devel-

opment partners and lenders.

This explains why President Ruto did not take the matter lightly.

He has so far lived up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.

This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign loans. President reiterated this recently when he attended a church service in Meru.

We are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for development and recurrent expenditures.

This is showed our economy is still not doing well.

But President Ruto has been leaving nothing to chance. He is working day and night in order to ensure our economy is back on track.

He took a drastic move a few days ago when he unveiled a raft of austerity measures.

In a circular released by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, the head of state banned the senior government officials from making unnecessary travels abroad.

The travels banned include those meant for benchmarking, training symposium and exhibitions.

The travels which are necessary will be approved by his office, he stated. He also reduced the number of the staff accompanying the officer on travel.

For cabinet secretary, one or two persons. For the others, one or travel alone.

The President issued this directive after it came to his attention that these travels

were consuming a huge chunk of tax payers' monies.

During his tenure, former President Uhuru Kenyatta had rolled out some austerity measures. I'm sure Dr Ruto, who at the time was the deputy President, learn some big lessons.

Unlike Kenyatta, we know Dr Ruto is a hand-on President.

Given this scenario, I have no reason to doubt Ruto's commitment to ensure a strict adherence to the austerity measures.

For the officers who will make luxurious travels, there will be no reimbursements and per diems. They will have to cater for all the expenses from their own pockets.

As for the necessary and approved travels, the officers will not enjoy the luxury and comfort as it used to be.

The budgets for air tickets, accommodations and allowances have been drastically cut.

They will no longer use the Aeroplane's First Class.

While in the host countries, they will stay in less expensive hotels.

President Ruto is setting a good example. He has been avoiding attending unnecessary foreign travels.

He would only make trips that he knew would bore the fruits for Kenya. Kenyans would reap big and become the biggest beneficiary. When Dr Ruto visited the US recently, he came back with goodies amounting to billions of shillings.

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

National Assembly Extends Timelines For BPS And MTDS

By: PSCU

The National Assembly has extended the period for consideration of the 2024 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) by seven days from the 29th of February 2024.

The House also resolved to extend the period for consideration of the 2024 Medium- Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) by 10 days from the 25th of February 2024.

Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Ndindi Nyoro told the House that the two extensions were necessary to give MPs adequate time to dispense with the two critical businesses.

BPS is a government policy document that sets out the broad strategic priorities and policy goals to guide the National Government and the County Governments in preparing their budgets for the subsequent financial year and over the medium term.

DMS on the other hand outlines how the government intends to borrow and manage its debt to achieve a portfolio that reflect its cost and risk

preferences, while meeting financing needs.

Nyoro further told the House that the two extensions would give Members ample time to comprehensively deal with the two Businesses which are critical to the Budget making process.

“All Members of this House participate in the Budget -making process, and I implore on the Chairpersons of the Departmental Committees to ensure they conclude their meetings with the accounting officers from the Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) by the end of this week”.

The 20 Departmental Committees are scheduled to meet the Accounting Officers of the MDAs under their oversight purview to defend their allocations under the BPS.

Subsequently, the Departmental Committees’ chairpersons are expected to appear before the Budget and Appropriations Committee to defend their reports on the final allocations to the MDAs.

The Nyoro-led committee is subsequently expected to table a report on the same for debate and approval in the House within the new timelines.



Committee chairman Ndindi Nyoro making his contribution in Parliament yesterday

Parents Asked To Monitor Children’s Online Activities

By: Trizerbel Mboyi and Stanley Odhiambo

@themtkenyatomes

The Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) has urged parents to monitor the kind of content their children watch on television and the internet.

KFCB Western Regional Manager Josephine Gitiri pointed out that it is a collective responsibility to ensure that children are not exposed to harmful film and broadcast content.

“I want to urge parents to be keen on what their children consume in the media as the mid-term break draws closer,” she said, while also urging parents of day school students to be alert and cautious as well.

Speaking yesterday at a Kakamega hotel during an outreach programme, Ms. Gitiri noted the importance of media content in character development.

She said that media consumption should also align with our cultural beliefs, giving an example of the in-

filtration of Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) issues in society, which she noted do not reflect African beliefs.

She said that whereas KFCB has the mandate to regulate the creation, broadcasting, distribution, and exhibition of film and broadcast content, parental controls on the kind of content children watch on television and mobile gadgets are important.

Boniface Mwaura, the KFCB Western Region Deputy Manager, said the board issues four classification categories that include GE (General Exhibition), PG- (Parental Guidance), 16 (Unsuitable for Persons Under the Age of 16), and 18 (Adults Only).

He urged film exhibitors to adhere to the regulations.

KFCB has the mandate to regulate the creation, broadcasting, distribution, exhibition, and possession of film and broadcast content by: Classifying TV and radio programmes as stipulated in the Programming Code for free-to-air Radio and TV Services in Kenya.



KFCB Western Regional Manager Josephine Gitiri

Concern Over Unsustainable Abstraction Of Underground Water In Cities

By: Erastus Gichohi
 @themkenyatimes

Water experts have raised a warning over the increased abstraction of underground water in major Kenyan cities arising from the pressure to quench demands by an ever-growing metropolitan population.

In recent years, Nairobi, Mombasa, and Nakuru have recorded a rise in the extraction of water from underground aquifers to meet domestic, industrial, and upcoming infrastructure, which continues to pose a threat if not addressed on time.

According to Agnes Mbugua, the CEO of the Regional Centre for Groundwater, increased and uncontrolled water abstraction poses a threat of building collapse in the future due to the exposed vacuum left underneath the surface.

Ms. Mbugua flagged Nairobi for its high urbanisation rates, which have led to the depletion of major aquifers due to over-absorption, equally affecting the quality of water due to high fluoride levels.

The CEO also sounded an alarm in Nakuru City, where 90 per cent of

water sources are groundwater, leading to high levels of fluoride in water for domestic use, while in Mombasa, freshwater aquifers are being replaced with saline sea water.

Mbugua, at the same time, called for more scientific research to inform policy decisions on future water abstraction. It needs to strike a balance between increased demand and the sustainable growth of infrastructure in towns and cities.

Speaking in Naivasha during a water stakeholders' workshop organised by UNESCO, Ms. Mbugua said the government has started to deploy artificial water recharge, which is geared towards refilling open spaces that have been left after underground water extraction.

In addition, she called for more funding from both the government and development partners for water resource management to ensure adequate protection of water sources and drive sustainability for future needs.

Ms. Mbugua reiterated her centre's commitment to undertake necessary scientific research, deploy the right technology and innovation, and have a harmonised database to ensure policies and interventions are adopted to address the concerns raised.



Agnes Mbugua, the CEO of the Regional Centre for Groundwater.

“Uncontrolled underground water extraction in our cities threatens the core foundations of buildings, risking future collapse,” said Mbugua.

Sustainable water abstraction, she said, will be achieved through the adoption and implementation of the UNESCO intergovernmental Hydro-

logical Programmes (IHP) strategy, including creating public awareness at a time when climate change continues to threaten the sustainable management of water resources.

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Secretary General Dr. James

Njogu said Kenya is a water-stressful country while calling for more research and data to ensure sustainable water use.

Dr. Njogu said more than 50 per cent of the country's population lacks access to quality water, adding that there's a need for more collaboration to control and manage future water abstraction.

Consequently, he said, as a commission, they are currently involved in tree planting exercises to increase the necessary tree cover and drive the conservation of the country's water resources.

According to the Executive Officer of the Kenya Water Users Association, Enock Kiminta, there's a need for more partnerships and an increase in funding for local water catchment areas, which are crucial to conserving water sources.

Kiminta at the same time called on the government to follow due diligence when undertaking high-infrastructure projects, including the construction of 100 mega dams in the next four years.

ICEA LION Unleashes Dynamic And Vibrant “What’s Your Plan?” Brand Campaign

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

ICEA LION Group has unveiled a brand thematic campaign, “What’s Your Plan?”. The campaign underscores the company’s dedication to expanding its market influence by driving growth in the insurance and investments sector through innovative solutions and a forward-thinking approach.

In a constantly evolving landscape, traditional industries like insurance and investment are navigating a dynamic marketplace fueled by a new generation of discerning and diverse consumers. The surge of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) has further diversified market needs,



ICEA LION Unleashes Dynamic And Vibrant ‘What’s Your Plan?’ Brand Campaign.

compelling companies such as ICEA LION to adapt and introduce novel products and services to meet the demands of emerging consumer seg-

ments, gaining a competitive edge. The “What’s Your Plan?” campaign introduces a fresh perspective with its inclusive, optimistic tone and

bold, vivid colors, resonating with the diverse aspirations of its target audience. Departing from the conventional conservatism of the insurance and investments sector, ICEA LION positions itself as a contemporary lifestyle brand, empowering individuals to realize their dreams and aspirations. The core theme revolves around the significance of planning for the future, framing insurance, and investments as integral components of everyday life.

Philip Lopokoiyit, CEO of ICEA LION Group, remarked, “Our campaign radiates optimism and vibrancy, reflecting the aspirations of our audience. By embracing bold colors, ICEA LION emerges as a modern brand, illustrating how life becomes more fulfilling with a plan. This sets us apart in the industry, empowering customers to choose insurance and

investment plans from ICEA LION that firmly place them in control of their future’.

Cynthia Kantai, Group Marketing Head, emphasized, “Despite the awareness of the need for it, many individuals fail to adequately safeguard their future or secure their assets with insurance and investment products and services. Our campaign aims to inspire action by addressing the hesitations that have kept people from taking the first step. ICEA LION is the go-to destination for those seeking a plan, alleviating feelings of anxiety, guilt, insecurity, and exposure.”

Consumers can engage with the new brand campaign through various media channels, including TV, Radio, Online, and Billboards, and follow the interactions on social media.

And When The Reader Reads



By: Tajalla Qureshi

AND WHEN THE READER READS

Seems like
she is sitting before the senses
But
it wasn't the one whom I knew in fancies

It was a scrambled soul
speaking through eyes,
But her visage was horrible
having millions of lies

She,
then moved her soft petals
and raised sensation,
Creepy and cursed clinches
the unseen infection

It was heart-wrenching affection
And helpless intention,
Sweet desire to role
the broken inventions

Locked the heavy breaths
She,
then Overfelt the hollowness
and her knees wrenched like death

When I looked into her eyes
Her lips try to hide the whacks

But,
The depth, the fear of pain invites

The innocence clips to mine
When she unable to find
Yeah!
I often unexpressed the binds
That lives within her mind

I reckoned the speaking eyebrows
That symbolizes the sensitive growth
She,
When Sensuously spoke to my sight

Vulnerable I am, sit on the other side
With a stitched tide,
Fainted I feel, I divide
And senselessly Quite

Ah! Butter paper before the cake
and the soulful mutters she makes
Then,
After the dazzling days of retakes

Under the blanket of shackles,
envelope the invisible quackles
And,
When she wondrously tackles

I have known her for centuries
she is the beat of my beats
beauty that I keep to meet
and
let it be with her at every seat

How beautifully
she endeavored to disguise
But,
The reader rides and revises.

We Bow To You, Dear Masters!



By: Xo'jamiyorova Gulmira

Who has taught you a letter on the path of truth
with pain,

It is an irreplaceable gift, and it is worth it.
(A. Navoi)

Teacher! This word has a universal meaning and high respect. A teacher means a gardener of the garden of enlightenment. And his disciples are like a tender sprout that has just sprouted in the spring. Just as a gardener protects his seedlings from various disasters, hails, rains, the teacher takes his students through difficult paths and various trials. A teacher is a person who leaves an eternal and indelible mark in the life of every person after him. In our nation, "Teacher is great like your father!" the word is not said for nothing. In fact, as much as we honor our fathers, so do our teachers. Our parents take care of us like the apple of an eye, wash us white and comb white, bring us to adulthood, and the teacher helps us to reach the heights of knowledge, to reach perfection and to become the owners of high knowledge. At this point, it is worth noting that our First President Islam Abduqaniyevich Karimov defines teachers and coaches as follows: "If the greatest school is among the world's buildings, then the most honorable of professions is teaching and mentoring. A teacher is truly a blessing and a blessing to the classroom". He is a respected person who brings in, but also gives goodness to thousands and thousands of young souls, who really gives his students a school of life.

Thanks to the tireless work of our advanced, passionate and hardworking teachers-coaches, our youth are achieving many successes and achievements. There are many teachers and coaches who have given their life, heart, knowledge, experience and skills to us, that is, to their students. One of such devotees is Kizlargul Normurodova. It is no exaggeration to say that this person, who is a passionate mother of 4 children, has brought a place in the hearts of her students for many years. Sister Kizlargul Normurodova, who raised her 4 children to be knowledgeable and enlightened, was born on February 9, 1960, on the same day as our great thinker grandfather Alisher Navoi was born, in Uzun district, one of the quiet corners of the beautiful Surkhan oasis. Thirsty for science and literature from a young age, this young girl, with a sharp mind and talent, dreamed of becoming a mature teacher in the future. And look at the impartiality of the intention, that after many searches and hardships, he achieved his dreams and goals. After that, he managed to work on himself and try himself in various aspects of the educational field. And these researches brought him to school activities. Sister Kizlargul Normurodova began her career at general secondary school No. 22 in neighborhood of Uzun district. And he taught many children during his career. This person, who was devoted to education, held the hands of the little children who first stepped on the threshold of the school, taught them lessons, introduced letters,

sowed the seeds of goodness in their hearts, and shared love with everyone. Of course, behind the achievements and successes we are achieving, the services of our teachers are incomparable.

At this point, it should be noted that the teacher is also a lamp that illuminates our life path. It lights up and radiates light around. Others enjoy this light. It is one of the most auspicious deeds to show the right path to those who have not yet understood the concepts of good and evil, good and bad. The teacher is a respected person. The path he chose is one of the most difficult and responsible professions. The teacher introduces us to the book and through this way finds the key to the lock of this book, leads us to the garden of knowledge.

In fact, since 1997, by the decree of our First President, October 1 has been celebrated as "Teachers and Coaches' Day" and this is a manifestation of respect and high regard for all our teachers and coaches. One day is not enough to honor our teachers, on the contrary, they are in our honor every minute and every second.

Teacher is the most honorable and great name. After all, every professional finds his way of life first of all in the hands of a teacher. No person has matured without the lessons of a mentor or teacher. Our wise nation honors the teachers and says: "The life of the teacher is eternal, because the life of the students is connected to him". In fact, the life and name of the teacher are eternal, indelible, alive. As we mentioned above, the teacher gives his students the light of his eyes, heart and whole life. And on this difficult path, the light of knowledge in him takes place in the hearts of his students. The honorable name "Teacher" has been glorified and respected not only today, but also since ancient times. As a proof of our opinion, we can tell the story of Alexander the Great. He was the first to transfer his teacher to the throne of the country he conquered and occupied. One day he asked her: "Why do you do that?" when asked, he answered: "My parents caused my birth and my teacher caused my rise". Yes, the teacher is a person who deserves such huge applause.

The teacher is the only one who rejoices in our achievements and successes, encourages us in our defeats, stands as a pillar, and places the light of knowledge in our hearts. The value of his one-hour knowledge cannot be exchanged for the world's jewels. When will the teacher be satisfied with his student? The teacher will be satisfied only when the student, using the lessons and knowledge given by the teacher, grows up to become a child who will benefit the society and people in the way of the peace of the country, the development of the Motherland and the well-being of the people. To please the Master is to please God. Our grandfather Navoi, a great thinker, says the

Following about this:
If the disciple is a judge
If the teacher agrees.
God is pleased.

In conclusion, it should be said that all students, young people, and all of us should value teachers, always respect them, show them respect in the true sense. Because it is impossible to imagine our life without mentors and teachers. They are great figures who give meaning to our every day and our future, lead us towards goodness and goodness, and encourage us to look around with deep eyes. At the end of our conversation, it is appropriate to say that in the Hadith Sharif, it is said about people who give goodness and knowledge to people, who teach their knowledge and skills to others: Angels, the people of heaven, even an ant in a poplar tree, a fish in the sea, all say blessings on the one who teaches people good things.

Firefly



By: Muhammad Adnan

We were sleeping in balmy nights
Blinds were awakening in sticky October
People were waiting and whispering
during flight
Mob was ecstatic and somber.
Sylph, beautiful nymph emerges from
nowhere

She rushes and lusher every where
She fused the folks around the globe
She know how to handle the mob!
Glowing with grace and dignity
She wears the mask of purity
She is the little princess of another
planet
People call and admire her rarity.
Sometime she seems like the butterfly
of wordsworth
Sometime she is the song of autumn of
Keats

Sometime she is lyric of Shelley's wind
And sometimes, she is the Muse of
Earth.
Her aura is majestic and ecstatic
She is the unheard poem of Romantics
People name her Tajallah
She is the oxygen in Universal law!

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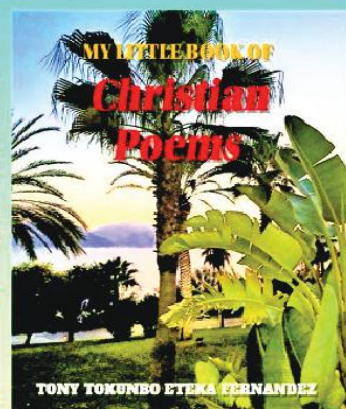
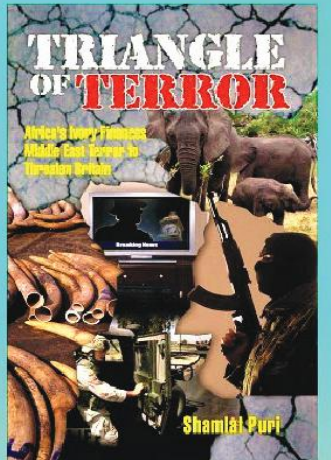
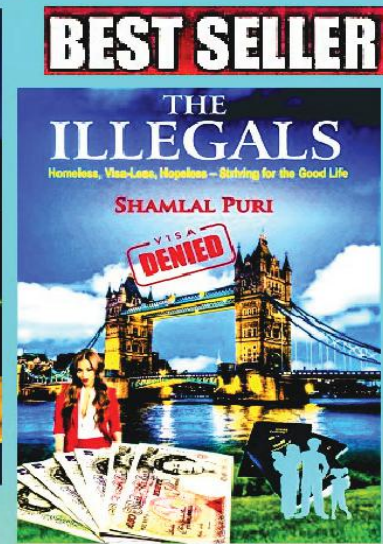
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DRUGS

Enforcement Officers Trained To Tackle Alcohol, Drug Abuse

By: Ekuwam Sylvester and
Luka Kiptanui
@themtkenyentimes



NACADA official Eunice Arubia addressing the media

Worth Noting:

• “We have come-up together with our partners to empower our enforcement officers together with NGAOs so that when we start this mission, we will be working from the point of information since everybody will be aware of their respective roles,” she noted.

• “We have sensitised the officers to ensure they conduct their duties in a proper manner, while cracking down on illicit alcohol and drugs and handling suspects in a lawful manner, from arrest up to the time they are prosecuted, especially for the alcohol and drug abuse offences, and to enable them to cope with other challenges on lawsuits on suspects of alcohol-related offences,” said the Regional Manager.

The National Government, through the National Authority for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA), in collaboration with the County of Uasin Gishu, has conducted a training exercise for County Enforcement Officers, together with the members of the National Police Service (NPS), on the fundamental strategies to crack down on illicit alcohol, drug trafficking, and abuse.

The exercise is a follow-up initiative to ensure effective implementation of the key strategies underscored in the County Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, unveiled on February 13 during a stakeholders’ engagement forum at Eldoret National Polytechnic.

This follows the President’s Directive through the Joint Communique for Rift Valley on May 29, 2023, which identified alcohol and drug abuse (ADA) as a major challenge to the country’s socioeconomic development.

There was heightened public concern across the counties about the devastating effects of ADA, which cut across all sectors, including health and security.

In an interview with the press during the enforcement officers training event at the Rift Valley Technical Training Institute (RVTTI), NACADA, North Rift Regional Manager Eunice Arubia said the training exer-

cise was one of the steps towards efficient implementation of the strategies underscored in the County Action Plan, in order to achieve the desired goals on the war against alcohol and drug abuse.

The training of the officers comes barely a week after similar sensitization of the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) took place.

She acknowledged the immense support from partners including REINVENT Kenya, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), and NEMA. “We have come-up together with our partners to empower our enforcement officers together with NGAOs so that when we start this mission, we will be working from the point of information since everybody will be aware of their respective roles,” she noted.

“We have sensitised the officers to ensure they conduct their duties in a proper manner, while cracking down on illicit alcohol and drugs and handling suspects in a lawful manner, from arrest up to the time they are prosecuted, especially for the alcohol and drug abuse offences, and to enable them to cope with other challenges on lawsuits on suspects of alcohol-related offences,” said the Regional Manager.

Arubia affirmed the Authority’s

commitment to playing its co-ordination role and walking together with the County government and partners to ensure the county achieves the desired goals in terms of eradicating the alcohol and drug abuse menace and ensuring people focus on development and nation-building.

She expressed concern over the saddening statistics of the survey findings, which revealed that the youngest who got involved in alcohol and drug abuse is a 5-year-old child.

“It is quite saddening that the youngest of our studies is a child as young as 5 years old getting involved. This is a child who is still under parental care. This tells us as an Agency that we need to put emphasis on programmes targeting parents on responsible parenthood, because such a child indulging in the use of alcohol and substance abuse is an indication of negligence and poor moral upbringing in our society,” explained Arubia.

The Regional Manager emphasised the need to sensitise and educate parents to enable them to bring-up the younger generation morally, to keep them in the right direction to ensure a better and healthier future.

“We have come-up with parenting programmes to sensitise and educate our parents. Even here today, we have given out parenting guides, and we will ensure we do this through all

public forums,” she added.

She alluded that the Authority currently runs a successful life skills programme in some of the primary schools, which has made huge contributions in terms of improving performance and discipline among students as compared to those schools, where it has not yet been rolled-out.

Arubia called for partners’ support to enable the programme to be rolled-out in all primary schools.

The programme is intended to help children of younger age to grow up as people with the ability to make informed decisions in their lives.

“We are also looking forward to bringing on board religious leaders to enable us to have programmes targeting parents in churches and all other faiths so as to achieve responsible parenting and the moral upbringing of children in our communities,” she noted.

Noting that some children have been left under the care of teachers and religious leaders, Arubia further said they discovered that the majority of parents do not fulfil their roles as parents in terms of raising up children, hence, the need to come up with programmes to educate and sensitise them on their responsibilities as parents.

County Ag. Director, Enforcement Cosmas Kerich, commended the County Administration and NACADA for organising the training to sensitise and equip them with skills. He said this would enable them to execute their tasks in a proper manner in accordance with the law and achieve the intended goals in the fight against illicit alcohol and drug abuse in the County.

Kerich said that they have been working closely with the national security team to eradicate alcohol and drug abuse, which has enabled them to achieve significant progress in containing the menace in the County.

“We have been equipped with skills to tackle the issue of drug abuse and alcohol in accordance with the laws of Kenya. We have an inspection team to ensure all operating outlets have valid licences, and if not, they are closed down and operators are arrested and prosecuted,” he said.

Special Funds Committee Investigates Financial Irregularities In KUCCPS Car Loan And Mortgage Scheme

By: PSCU

The National Assembly, Special Funds Account Committee, led by Fatuma Zainab (Migori) convened a crucial meeting with the management of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS).

The focus of the meeting was to address audit queries related to the organization's car loan and mortgage scheme.

The KUCCPS management led by Dr. Agnes Wahome engaged in deliberations regarding discrepancies identified in the financial statements of the scheme. Notably, these discrepancies extended to the delayed submission of financial reports to the Auditor-General, violating statutory requirements outlined in section 47(1) of the Public Audit Act 2015.

One of the primary concerns raised during the meeting pertained to the submission of financial statements

beyond the mandated deadline.

The Public Audit Act stipulates a three-month window for presenting financial statements, a requirement that KUCCPS failed to adhere to in subsequent years.

In addition, Legislators sought clarification from the KUCCPS CEO regarding discrepancies between reported bank accounts for the scheme.

While KUCCPS's financial statements indicated two accounts under Housing Finance Group, the bank itself reported four active accounts.

Notably, Treasury approval had only been granted for the opening of two accounts, raising questions about the legitimacy of the additional accounts.

The committee reiterated its unwavering dedication to safeguarding public funds and ensuring accountability.

A comprehensive report detailing the findings and recommendations resulting from the inquiry is set to be tabled in the House.



The committee in session yesterday.

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Each of the other **66** teams get

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Parliamentary Justice And Legal Affairs Committee Engages MDA's On The 2024/2025 Budget Policy Statements

By: PSCU

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Tharaka MP, George Gitonga Murugara yesterday begun receiving submissions from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) under its purview to consider the 2024 Budget Policy Statements (BPS).

The Budget Policy Statement (BPS) is a policy document that sets out the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that guide the government in preparing its budgets for the financial year and over the medium term.

The committee, which is mandated with approving budgets for state agencies under the Judicial System, welcomed officers from five institutions, namely the Judicial Service Commission, Office of the Chief Registrar, The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, and the State Law



Committee chairman George Gitonga Murugara making a point during yesterday's session.

Office.

Mr. Peter Ndemo, the Acting Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, while presenting a budget estimate of KSh48 billion, asked the committee to consider their requests, citing that

among their performance targets for the year was the acquisition of office space as well as the digitization of the court filing system.

The members, however, questioned the organisations' failure to



Some of the officials who graced yesterday's forum

complete several projects that had already been funded.

"Where do we get that money from? We are seeing an appetite to start new projects while old projects are still pending completion. We need to look at our priorities to save public funds," stated the committee chairman.

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee is expected to continue

meeting with State Departments and Agencies under its purview today. After the submissions, the committee will compile a report based on the presentations and discussions held during the meeting for submission to the Budget and Appropriation Committee for further review and consideration.

Fins To Swim Scholarships Benefit Needy Students

By: Moseti Julius and Linda Were
@themtkenyatimes

Homa Bay County Governor Gladys Wanga has termed the 'Fins to Swim' scholarship programme as a key Educational support initiative her government has put in place to help needy and vulnerable students continue staying in school.

Speaking during the Governor's Mentorship Camp held at Wang'apala Secondary School, Governor Wanga said, following the arising number of parents facing school fees and payment difficulties, the 'Fins to Swim' Scholarship initiated by her government has supported bright and needy students throughout their secondary education.

"This year's 'Fins to Swim' has benefited a total of 299 students, boys and girls. Now they can all study with the confidence that they



will be catered for throughout their secondary education," the Governor said.

She explained that her educational support initiative was put in place to bring hope to the students and the

community at large.

"This scholarship is a beckon of hope to all students, parents, guardians, and the communities they come from," the governor said.

She further noted that the county

government has offered other bursary programmes to the wards through the members of the county assembly to assist students in reducing the financial burden they might be facing in paying school fees.

Responding to student queries on the bursary, the governor said each ward in the county has been allocated Sh 4 million for the bursary kitty. "Additionally, we offer bursary programmes that ensure no deserving student is left behind due to financial constraints," she said.

The Governor said these programmes were a way of helping young minds willing to learn to unlock endless possibilities.

The governor told the students to recognise that they are part of a community because when they are in school, everyone is contributing to their wellbeing and success, including the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), the county bursary, and relatives.

Governor Wanga Becomes The First To Launch The Labor-Intensive Community Work Program Under Kisiptwo

By: Kennedy Omolo
 @themkenyatimes

Homa Bay County Governor Hon. Gladys Wanga today officially launched the Labor-Intensive Community Work (LICW) Program, which is expected to benefit Approximately 5000 individuals living across all the 8 Informal Settlements in Homa Bay County, becoming the first among 23 Counties participating in the Project, to roll it out.

The program is being implemented by the Socio-Economic Inclusion Component of the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP2), in collaboration with the County Government of Homa Bay, through the County Project Coordination Team (CPCT). Speaking during the launch, Governor Gladys Wanga revealed her excitement at rolling out the program saying that, "I am glad to officially

kick off the start of this vital program that is oriented towards maintaining pace with population growth, environmental and socioeconomic challenges including poverty levels, inadequate housing, low access to water and sanitation, rising insecurity, diminishing opportunities, poor drainage, inaccessibility and frequent power outages."

The Governor pledged to "transform all the Informal Settlements of Shauri Yako, Sofia, Makongeni, A Thousand Street, Kendu Bay Kijijini, Ndhiwa, Nyandiwa and Rusinga Old Town into Centers of Economic Growth by addressing the deplorable living conditions through matching population needs with utilities in line with vision 2030, the constitution of Kenya 2010, Millennium Development Goals 7 and international laws that mandate us to guarantee human dignity."

She added that her administration is committed to addressing housing shortages sustainable urban development as a critical aspect of socio-

economic development, saying that, "We must plan urban growth, secure land tenure, improve quality of life, create an enabling environment for business and enhance access to pivotal utilities."

Homa Bay County Deputy Governor Hon. Oyugi Magwanga on his part lauded the timely interventions of the program, coming in the run up to the soon to be held Homa Bay International Investments Conference (HOBIIIC), saying it will improve the overall cleanliness and hygiene within the town and its environs.

The representative of the National Government Principal Secretary in charge of Housing, Mr. Julius thanked the Governor for her efforts in ensuring the County becomes the first to roll out the program saying, "as a policy preference should be given to the people living in those settlements."

The program will see residents undertake various labor-intensive activities ranging from digging trenches to control flooding, unlogging of



blocked drainages, clearing bushes, collecting garbage, planting trees, art drawings, among others.

The exercise will run for 2 months and will engage 150 individuals per cohort working differently in 4 cohorts. Each casual laborer will receive Ksh. 700 per day while each supervisor will receive Ksh. 800 per day.

The County Government of Homa

Bay through the Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development has already procured Protective Personal Equipment and tools including wheelbarrows, spades and brooms to be distributed to the laborers in readiness for the work.

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Formulation Of The National Irrigation Sector Investment And Financing Plan

By: MoWSI

The Acting Irrigation Secretary Eng. Vincent Kabuti yesterday led two brainstorming sessions on formulation of the National Irrigation Sector Investment and Financing Plan (NISIP).

The objective of NISIP is to achieve coordinated approach to investment in the sector and a mindset change adoption of wholesome irrigation service provision to support sustainable food security and socio-economic development which is consistent with the BeTA plan of the current administration.

Also present were the Ministry's Department and Agencies (MDAs; State Department for Irrigation, State Department for Crop Development, National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority, National Irrigation Authority) Development Partners (Worldbank, KFW, IFAD), County Government Representa-

tives, Local Financial Institutions (Equity Bank, Family Bank, NCBA, Kingdom Bank and Sidian Bank) CEMCs responsible for Irrigation in the the select counties (Taita Taveta, Kirinyaga, Kitui, Kisumu and Busia), and Private Sector Players (Suppliers and Agro traders including Amiran, Sunculture, CLASP, ADAPTA.earth, Davis & Shirliff and Vegpro).

The key issues discussed centered on how get into commercial financing in the water sector, financing to support water investment, development of irrigation as a priority, tackling overdependence on rainfed agriculture, tackling Climate Change pressure, population growth, Low productivity and poor spacial and temporal distribution of water among others.

While focusing on the strategies employed to tackle the key issues, the delegates highlighted some of the commitments put in place such as raising productivity of key value food chain, for example increasing production of maize from 8 to 50



Eng. Vincent Kabuti addressing the session

bags per acre and dairy from 2.5kgs to 7.5kgs per cow and also reduce dependence on basic food imports by 30 per cent.

The retreat is expected to bring a way forward for the State Department for Irrigation through a select member committee to commence

drafting of the NISIP plan for further stakeholder engagement and validation.

Public Debt And Privatization Committee Meets Civil Society Groups, Discuss The 2024 MTDS

By:PSCU

Civil Society Groups have called on the government to reduce the fiscal deficit, to avoid spending more than available tax revenues, worsening the growth in our public debt burden.

These calls were made during a meeting with members of the Public Debt and Privatization Committee, that is Chaired by Abdi Shurie (Balambala), that is currently undertaking stakeholder meetings on the 2024 Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS).

The International Budget Partnership (IBP) Kenya, led by their Executive Director, Dr. Abraham Rugo Muriu, welcomed the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) 2024 proposal to decrease the fiscal deficit, excluding grants, from KSh761 billion, to KSh753 billion.

He however noted that historically, the achievement of this target has been affected by in-year increases in

expenditure, and under performance of revenue.

"Given the under performance in revenue in FY 2023/24, the size of deficit is likely to increase within the year, which is not encouraging for the fidelity of the National Government to the proposed deficit in FY 2024/25," said Dr. Muriu.

Dr. Muriu also asserted that Kenya's growing appetite for borrowing as a means to facilitate expenditure, has generated a vicious cycle, necessitating more expenditure on debt servicing and repayment each year, which continues to affect the State's ability to provide basic services over the medium term.

The Institute of Public Finance (IPF) CEO, Mr. James Muraguri, while appearing before the Committee, noted that market conditions have not been favourable in the recent years, while creditors preference has greatly shifted to short-term debt instruments.

Mr. Muraguri supported the MTDS strategy on minimizing refinancing risk by lengthening the total portfolio Average Time to Maturity,



Public Debt And Privatization Committee Meets Civil Society Groups.

through issuance of medium to long-term bonds and concessional loans, with longer maturities.

"IPF recommends that new debts contracted for FY 2024/25 and the Medium-Term, be pegged on a longer maturity period. The MTDS should strive to attain pre-covid re-

payment periods, which averaged 9 years for domestic and 10 years for external debts," said Mr. Muraguri.

On the MTDS recommendation on increased oversight on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), IPF recommended that to promote debt transparency and manage fiscal

risks, there needs to be a breakdown of all existing and proposed PPPs in the MTDS falling due in the strategy period, detailing the contingent liabilities posed by these PPPs.

Governor Kihika Outlines Comprehensive Approach To Healthcare Challenges

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

In a bid to address the various health challenges affecting the region, the County Government of Nakuru is investing heavily in the completion and operationalization of all ongoing and stalled projects initiated by previous administrations.

According to Governor Susan Kihika, the exchequer stands to lose billions of shillings if the projects were not completed, as well as compromised public health services due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure.

Top on the list is the Shs780 million modern outpatient wing at Nakuru Teaching and Referral Hospital, Shs331 million Naivasha outpatient complex, Langalanga, Gilgil, Molo, Mai Mahiu, and Elburgon Sub-County hospitals, and other health facilities across the County.

In her State of the County Address,

the Governor said her administration would also focus more on preventative and promotive health services to reduce communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child healthcare challenges.

“Although the health department continues to consume over 40% of the county budget, it is in everyone’s interest to have a robust and self-sustaining health sector, since our health is our wealth,” she noted, promising and incremental budgetary allocation.

Despite a huge influx of patients from neighboring counties and beyond, the Governor said the health facilities had made remarkable progress in the provision of accessible, efficient, affordable, and high-quality services.

The Governor attributed the successes to a number of deliberate efforts implemented by her administration, such as a motivated workforce that she said had been achieved through promotions, training, and

engagement of health workers.

“In December 2023, I launched the Community Health Promoters’ program with 3,190 health promoters on a monthly stipend. The number has now grown to 3,306 with an increased monthly stipend of Shs2500,” she reported.

The County, with development partners’ support, has offered varied training to healthcare workers. In addition to the training, Community health promoters will receive a monthly Shs5,000 stipend once the Ministry of Health contributes its share.

Regarding the other categories of health workers, the Governor said her administration had confirmed 187 contractual staff members to permanent and pensionable status. During the same period, the County promoted 662 health professionals to higher job positions.

To ensure an uninterrupted supply of drugs and other health products, the Governor highlighted that her



administration had developed a good working relationship with key suppliers like Kenya Medical Supplies Agency.

“I am happy to report that my government procured diverse health products amounting to Shs440.3 million in the FY 2022/23. Higher allocations should be prioritized in

the coming budget cycles,” she stated while underscoring the dangers of stock-outs.

To fully and efficiently address the health challenges, the Governor said her administration had reached out to 60 new development partners, other than the USAID and World Vision, to supplement the County’s efforts.

House Audit Committee Reprimands TUK, Kasarani Vocational Training College, Over Unsatisfactory Responses

By: PSCU

The Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education led by Jack Wamboka yesterday put the management of two tertiary institutions on the spot when they appeared before the committee unprepared to respond to audit queries contained in the reports of the Auditor-General.

The first to take the witness desk was the Vice Chancellor, Technical University of Kenya, Prof. Benedict Mutua.

He was however unable to satisfy the committee with his responses causing Wamboka to caution him that the Committee would invoke Standing Order 191 (a). The Standing Order stipulates that where a witness summoned does not appear, or appears but fails to satisfy the House or committee, the House or Committee may impose upon the witness a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings, having regard to the witness’ condition in life and all the circumstances of the case.

The committee had directed that the



Some of the committee members during yesterday’s session.

Technical

University of Kenya and the Kasarani Vocational Training College appear before them to conclusively respond to the audit query that required them to; provide all contractual documentation on the Tuition Block valued at KSh66,642,639.

The legislators required that the two institutions give reasons why the contactor through a company owned by the Technical University of Kenya did not hand over the building after completion, and any other information they may deem relevant.

The Vice Chancellor however failed to produce the required documents

before the Committee when he was put on the spot by officers from the Auditor-General’s office. The Office of the Auditor General had faulted the institution for its failure to provide contractual documents and other supportive documents for scrutiny before the committee.

This resulted in a unanimous resolution from members to have the Chair invoke SO 191 (a).

The committee also reviewed a report of the Auditor General on the books of accounts of the State Department for Higher Education and Research on funds disbursed to Private Universities from 2016/2017 to

2022/23 Financial Years.

In their finding, the committee established that while a total of KSh15,759,377,812 was budgeted for disbursement to private universities, KSh15,762,573,515 was disbursed, resulting in overall over disbursement of KSh3,195,703.

The Special Audit further established that the Universities Fund records had indicated that an amount of KSh15,743,556,129 had been approved for disbursement over a seven-year period.

However, the State Department had disbursed KSh15,762,573,515 to thirty-two private universities resulting to unapproved payment of KSh19,017,387.

Further, there were discrepancies between the State Department and Universities records on disbursements.

While the State Department’s financial statements indicated that KSh15,762,573,515 had been dispersed to the thirty-two private universities for the period under review, while the individual university’s records provided for audit, indicated that only KSh15,600,208,031 had been received, resulting to an unexplained variance of KSh162,365,484. A further review of the universities’

records revealed that four universities had received a total of 1,944 students more than their declared capacities in the universities.

The special audit noted that 22 universities had 62,267 students placed without being supported by declaration of capacities from the universities for the period under review.

The committee recommended the need to put in place a tracking mechanism to the program for follow-up on students placed, but not enrolled so as to establish the root causes for appropriate remedial action.

The committee also ruled that private universities should refund the KSh201,671,080 spent on students funded under GSS but not placed by KUCCPS. The legislators averred that the universities involved should refund the KSh17,774,388 spent on students whose names were duplicated in the payment schedules.

According to the lawmakers, the government should formulate policy to guide the implementation of capitation funds for government - sponsored student in private universities.

This policy is to include provisions for minimum and maximum funding levels based on a students needs and program durations, among other critical matters.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *African 100m record holder Ferdinard Omanyala feels he has made huge progress since he switched coaches last year, adding that he has developed 'a good attitude towards training'.

Omanyala Hails Coach Kimani For 'Massive' Training Strides



Commonwealth Games champion celebrates winning the men's 100m at the National Athletics Championships in Nairobi on Saturday, June 24 2023. (PHOTO/ Courtesy).

African 100m record holder Ferdinard Omanyala feels he has made huge progress since he switched coaches last year, adding that he has developed 'a good attitude towards training'.

The Commonwealth Games 100m champion chose to work with Geoffrey Kimani, a renowned sprints coach, whom he credits for tremendous strides in training.

"The last two seasons I have been going so high and too early in the season, and I could not maintain that towards the end of the season and that has been affecting me.

"I believe that I am not here for

a long time as far as my talent is concerned, so if I am not going to maximize on the time and opportunities that I have now then I will lose it at some point. That's why I had to change my training program heading into the busy season which also has the Olympic Games," said Omanyala in an interview with a local TV station.

Kimani, strength and conditioning coach, who reunited with the sprint sensation at the end of last season after the athlete spent several years under the watchful eye of Duncan Ayiemba, said the training program had borne fruits.

"I had to call his former coach

and inform him that the athlete had contacted me and shown interest in working with me. That is what ethics demand of me and so far I can say we have made big strides towards making Omanyala a world beater in the coming races."

Kimani, who is also a strength and conditioning consultant for the National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOCK), added that the current program would catapult Omanyala to reach his potential.

"First, he needed to lose some weight as he was running a bit heavy and we've gone from 90kgs to 86kgs. The program

that he was in was geared towards adding more muscle but you can still be strong without having those big muscles.

Omanyala is set to lead a Kenya contingent of 13 athletes to this year's World Indoor Athletics Championships set for March 1-3 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Last week, he smashed the national 60m indoor record after running 6.51 seconds at the Meeting de Paris in France and lowered his own record of 6.52 seconds he set only 10 days before in Miramas.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann is out injured after sustaining a "moderate" ankle sprain, the Spanish club said yesterday.

Atletico's Griezmann Suffers 'Moderate' Ankle Sprain



Atletico Madrid's French forward Antoine Griezmann controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League last 16 first leg football match Inter Milan vs Atletico Madrid at the San Siro stadium in Milan on February 20, 2024. (Photo by GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP).

Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann is out injured after sustaining a "moderate" ankle sprain, the Spanish club said yesterday.

The French forward was hurt during Atletico's 1-0 defeat by Inter Milan in the Champions

League last 16 first leg clash Tuesday and Diego Simeone replaced him after 78 minutes.

Spanish reports say the forward will miss Saturday's visit to Almeria in La Liga and is a doubt for the Copa del Rey semi-final sec-

ond leg against Athletic Bilbao on February 29.

Griezmann is expected to be fit for the second leg against Inter Milan on March 13.

The 32-year-old has been Atletico's key player this season and has

18 goals in 36 appearances across all competitions.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Dr. Ekrah's Thought On Boy Child

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- High rates of divorce and society's treatment of divorced fathers as second-class parent has created father deprivation for millions of children. However, having an absent father in the home has more negative effects on boys than it does on girls, and the negative effects are devastating on boys.
- The authors document a significant amount of research data that confirms fatherless boys are subject to a host of serious educational and social maladies and suffer the consequences of low achievement, failed relationships, poor health outcomes, criminal activity, mental illness, and suicide.



Dr Ekrah Ndung'u on boychild.

Dr. Ekrah Ndungu has taken a moment to share with us her insights about the status of the boy child. Here is what she has to share with us:

"I've woken up thinking about the boy crisis.

To all Parents raising boys, we have a boy crisis, what can we do about it? It's been a challenge as sometimes I get parents bringing me their sons to speak to them. But that's one or two that we've access to each other, but I believe they need male mentors and male figures more than women who're their masculine.

We need more men to be mentors in this generation for the sake of our future generation. We need to raise men who'll be their masculine leaders, providers, fathers, mentors, and whole men without childhood traumas to recover from. Men who'll not feel like too much is demanded of them when they're supposed to do what they ought to do. Men who'll not seek validation by trying out multiple women, Men who'll not be

looking for a missing piece of themselves by changing women, Men who'll not have anger issues or use violence as a reminder they're men, but they'll be whole & confident of themselves. Men who'll match the ever over-nurtured girlchild for decades now, Men who'll maximize their full potential...that's the generation that we should envision, that's the generation that we should nurture, that's the generation we pray into becoming!

BOY crisis is based on 2018 research by American Professors, the research identified a crisis of education, a crisis of physical health, a crisis of economic health, and a crisis of mental health. All these lead to a void of purpose in many young men's lives, and a consequent struggle to achieve a sense of self-worth. Professors Farrell and Gray do not suggest that schools caused the crisis; They believe schools contributed to the crisis early in its existence and remain complicit. In this country parents, especially single parents

can also agree with this research because some teachers tend to label kids from single set up households. However, these Professors, Instead place more of the blame for the crisis on today's men who father children and then disappear from their lives, through abandonment, incarceration, or divorce.

High rates of divorce and society's treatment of divorced fathers as second-class parent has created father deprivation for millions of children. However, having an absent father in the home has more negative effects on boys than it does on girls, and the negative effects are devastating on boys.

The authors document a significant amount of research data that confirms fatherless boys are subject to a host of serious educational and social maladies and suffer the consequences of low achievement, failed relationships, poor health outcomes, criminal activity, mental illness, and suicide.

These three books; The BOY Crisis by Professors Warren Farrell and John Gray, Be A Man My Son by Norman Nel and You have a brain by Ben Carson

I recommend those books to any parent bringing up a boy...whether you're doing it alone as a single, divorced widowed mom or in a complete family unit with a present father.

The best mentor is God's mentor but you can still top it up with some wisdom from books. So long as your son is 10 years and above....bring up a man, you're raising someone's husband, a father, and a societal icon, raise a good one for this generation & coming generations!! Obama's mom was able to do it, Ben Carson's mom was able to do it, plus many other local examples. Single moms, you can give it your best shot!

Let's change from the current generation's experiences and create a better world for future generations by raising great men. Those who're blessed with sons, I remind you, you're raising a generation according to our life manual read Psalms 127:3 sons are a heritage from the LORD (a generation) You're raising a generation! Be careful to raise a good one!

Immediately the post elicited some very positive comments starting with a comment from Optiven founder

& CEO Dr. George Wachiuri who noted: "Very great article. I require those three books. Well done

Another netizen Mr. Sammy Thuku observed: "I agree with your observations Daktari. The boy in our society indeed needs more than words, they need mentors who are deliberate in passing masculine value to our boys. Unfortunately, this is not happening and the few coming up are faced with the problem of drugs, alcoholism, and identity Crisis and they also end up in drains. This discussion about the boy must remain alive in every saccos, in church, schools, colleges, and universities, and even in our villages. We must not be silent otherwise we will lose a generation."

Yet another one Bishop Dr. Anabel Anagard Njiri Ph.D. Founder of Favored Warriors Gospel Ministry and President of LIBU; observed: "I concur with you, Doc. Our boys need real men mentors. There is always that feeling in a boy child that even their mothers, no matter how educated, how Professional they are, they are still women whom they feel obligated to protect and take care of.

A man is a man no matter the age! Let all men's mentors raise and help us mentor our boy child. My heart feels for this neglected generation."

Professor Mwendwa former CEO Commission for University Education noted,

"I would start by understanding that this seems to be a global phenomenon but locally in our context I would say one of the contributing factors is that we raise boys with 20th century values for a 21st century world. What we teach them to become and what we expect them to do often conflict with the way the current world is ordered and we have not equipped them well for it. You might also want to see this excellent book titled OF BOYS AND MEN by Richard Reeves, a Briton living in the US who, while using research from the US, says a lot of things that apply to many other cultures especially the fact that masculinity has a lot to do with biology that has often been ignored especially in our current context."