



### CS Owale Applauds The Digitization Of Government Services

The National Government's radical move to digitize and onboard thousands of its services has enhanced efficiency and boosted its revenue collections from a daily collection of Sh60 million to Sh1 billion in the last year

Page 18

**THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US**

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: [news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

**For Adverts & Sponsorship**

email us: [ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

# The MT. KENYA TIMES

Creative Rewards

## Daily ePAPER

Friday, February 23, 2024

No. 00986 [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themkenyatimes) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/themkenyatimes) [tw](https://www.twitter.com/themkenyatimes) themkenyatimes



### News>>Parliament Urged To Fast-Track The Enactment Of A Cooperative Bill

P. 8. The National Assembly has been urged to expedite the passing of the Cooperative Bill, 2023 which seeks to enhance the governance of cooperatives



### News>>NGO Partners With Communities To Provide Community-Based Health Insurance

P. 12. The health sector in the country is one of the most crucial aspects that the government has been trying to address to ensure its people access better health services.

## Crisis Rocks National And County Gov'ts Over Health Matters

There seems to be no end in sight in the ongoing squabbles between the National Government and County Governments, especially on the roles each party is supposed to play, with the Council of Governors now loudly voicing their displeasure in their non-inclusion in the Social Health Authority transition committee. The CoG says that despite their numerous calls on the Ministry of Health to include their representative, now that health is largely devolved, the National Government has opted to ignore their calls and focus.



CoG chairperson Ann Waiguru

STORY ON PAGE 9

2024 MARCH: 1-3 ➔  
WORLD CONVERGES AT THIKA

For the inaugural

MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

REGISTER NOW ➔

+254 720 918 828  
+254 733 540 110

ANANAS MALL - THIKA

8:00AM-5:00PM

[business@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:business@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

[businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)



# DP Urges Church to be Involved in Fight against Illicit Alcohol, Hard Drugs

By: OSDP

Worth Noting:

- The DP compared the alcohol and drug menace to the time when HIV/AIDs was a global crisis, saying that conversation against the disease was elevated, raising awareness across communities, and giving the disease the right perspective.
- “We are requesting that for the next six months you dedicate some time in your sermon to speak about drug abuse and illicit alcohol as part of creating a network of information for our people. We need the church to come in and support us in this campaign because it is serious,” he added.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi shakes hands with Bishop Dr. Stanley Michuki, as Archbishop Gerry Kibarabara (in green), and Archbishop Dr. Arthur Kitonga (stripped) look on at the official residence of the DP where a meeting on mapping mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism for the church was held, and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua had a conversation with the church leaders on their involvement in the fight against illicit alcohol and hard drugs on Thursday 22nd February 2024. Photo/OSDP.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday urged the church to be more involved in the fight against the sale, distribution and consumption of illicit brews and hard drugs in the country.

Speaking to clergy who had been convened at the official residence of the DP in Karen by his spouse, Pastor Dorcas, for a discussion on mapping out mediation for the Church in Kenya, the DP took the opportunity to expound on the government’s agenda in fighting illicit brews and drugs.

He spoke on the vantage position the church holds in society as a voice of influence, noting the clergy’s daily interaction with Kenyans from the pulpit and

other meetings at the grassroots.

“You must talk about this thing (illicit alcohol and drugs) every Sunday because those consuming are not doing it at home. Much as we blame the merchants of death, police and chiefs, our people also need a lot of guidance and counseling from your team (the church),” said the DP.

The DP compared the alcohol and drug menace to the time when HIV/AIDs was a global crisis, saying that conversation against the disease was elevated, raising awareness across communities, and giving the disease the right perspective.

“We are requesting that for the next six months you dedicate some time in your

sermon to speak about drug abuse and illicit alcohol as part of creating a network of information for our people. We need the church to come in and support us in this campaign because it is serious,” he added.

Among those present included Archbishop Arthur Kitonga, Archbishop Gerry Kibarabara, Bishop Dr. Margaret Wangari, Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba, Bishop Dr. Pius Muiru and Rev. Dr. Lucy Muiru, Bishop Paul Wanjohi, and Bishop Dr. Stanley Michuki among others.

Pastor Dorcas also called on the clergy to open up their places of worship, and rescue the boys and men lost in addictions.

He urged the congregation to donate food and clothes for those who were vulnerable in society, saying it was wrong for the church to sit securely inside the four walls as many suffered outside in the streets.

“It is time we guide our children in the right way,” she said.

Pastor Dorcas has advocated for the boy child across the country, and taken hundreds of men through inpatient, outpatient, and community-based rehabilitation in different parts of the country.

Editor's Desk

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

**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

**Our Contacts**  
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
**Editorial Desk:** editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,  
**News Desk:** news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

**Facebook:** facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/ , **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes  
**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

# MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT! RATE CARD

## PLATINUM PACKAGE (MAIN SPONSORS)

- Brand Appear On All Strategic Conference Materials
- Brand Appear On Main Entrance
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- Brand Appear On Main Gala Dinner Dias
- Mention On All Media Adverts
- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Two Keynote Speeches
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food & Accommodation
- Local Travel: Airport ↔ Hotel ↔ Exhibition Site
- Gala Dinner
- One Day Local Tourism

**KENYA SHILLINGS 1,000,000/- + VAT**



Gala Dinner Venue Co-Branding



Exhibition Entrance Co-Branding



## INTERNATIONAL PREMIER PACKAGE:

- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- Brand Appear On Main Gala Dinner Dias
- Frequent Mention On Media Adverts
- One Keynote Speech
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food & Accommodation
- Local Travel: Airport ↔ Hotel ↔ Exhibition Site
- Gala Dinner
- One Day Local Tourism

**\$ 3,000/- US DOLLARS + VAT**



## INTERNATIONAL STARTUPS:

- Two Sharing Branded Tent
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- Frequent Mention On Media Adverts
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food & Accommodation
- Local Travel: Airport ↔ Hotel ↔ Exhibition Site
- Gala Dinner
- One Day Local Tourism

**\$ 1,000/- US DOLLARS + VAT**



## KENYAN PREMIER PACKAGE:

- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- Brand Appear On Main Gala Dinner Dias
- Frequent Mention On Media Adverts
- Two Keynote Speeches
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food & Accommodation
- Local Travel: Hotel ↔ Exhibition Site
- Gala Dinner
- One Day Local Tourism

**KES 450,000 (KES 150,000 Per Day) + VAT**



## GOLD PARTNERSHIP:

- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- Mention On Media Adverts
- One Keynote Speech
- Exhibitors Directory
- Gala Dinner
- Food & Accommodation

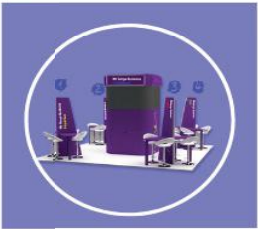
**KES 300,000 (KES 100,000 Per Day) + VAT**



## SILVER PARTNERSHIP:

- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food & Accommodation
- Gala Dinner

**KES 150,000 (KES 50,000 Per Day) + VAT**



## BRONZE PARTNERSHIP:

- Shared Tent by Four Exhibitors
- One Table
- Exhibitors Directory
- Food
- Gala Dinner

**KES 45,000 (KES 15,000 Per Day) + VAT**

**CALL, TEXT, WHATSAPP OR EMAIL:**

**Rita C. Kotut:**

+254 724 439 949  
rita@mountkenyentimes.co.ke | ritzkotut@gmail.com

## NEWS IN BRIEF



The Nandi County government and the Children's Speech and Hearing Loss Organisation (CHISHLO) have launched an Audiology Centre at Kapsabet County referral hospital. Nandi Governor Stephen Sang said, "We want to eliminate hearing impairment in Nandi County by ensuring we have early detection, accurate diagnosis, and treatment for individuals with hearing difficulties."

The centre will provide comprehensive hearing-loss screening and testing services to children with hearing loss as young as one-day old, aiming to eliminate hearing impairment in Nandi County.

The centre will use modern equipment, including a Tympanometer, Audiometer, Visual Reinforcement Audiometer, and ABR machine, to improve the quality of life for all affected children.

Parents of children affected by hearing loss are encouraged to embrace the centre and provide a safe space for their parents.

The centre will also offer support services, including speech therapy and educational resources, to help children thrive academically and socially.



Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu has commissioned a Sh6 million administration block at Olashapani Secondary School in Narok South Sub County to boost learning.

He also gave Sh1.3 million to sponsor needy but bright children, most of whom are rescued from early marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Ntutu commended the institution's management for accommodating girls rescued from retrogressive

cultural practices.

He committed to continuing to sponsor vulnerable children to complete their studies, saying, "I commit to continue supporting the education of the needy and vulnerable girls so that they can complete the education system." Ntutu promised to buy a Sh8 million bus for the school and commissioned a new classroom at the Ololulunga Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centre.

The school's principal, Gloria Nkatha, thanked the county government for the support and promised to achieve an average of C+ grade this year.



Chief Justice (CJ) and President of the Supreme Court Justice Martha Karambu (centre), flanked by her Deputy Philomena Mwilu (left) and Court of Appeal President Justice Daniel Masinga, speaking to the press on the sidelines of the first Annual Judiciary Executive meeting held in Naivasha on Wednesday.

Koome said that they were planning to establish an efficient case and judgement management system for public interest matters, enhance pro-

active actions to ensure integrity and accountability in justice administration, and incorporate technology to streamline service delivery.

She added that the Judiciary is planning to harness inter-governmental collaboration and leverage technology for excellence in service delivery, fighting corruption, and upholding the judiciary's independence through the 'Mahakama Popote' model, which will be used for expeditious dispute disposal.

The CJ further said the Judiciary and Judicial Service Commission will continue to use evidence-based approaches to combat corruption and streamline court processes.



Livestock farmers in Garissa County are being encouraged to adopt irrigation farming through the government's subsidised fertiliser programme.

Director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), Jillo Gababi, emphasised that climate change has made livestock farming unsustainable, and the government is now focusing on the agricultural sector through subsidised fertiliser distribution.

Over 7,500 majority irrigation farmers along the river Tana registered for the programme between January and February last year in Garissa County.

The government is committed to ensuring farmers continue to access subsidised fertiliser to cushion them against the high cost of production. Garissa Woman Representative Udgoon Siyad called on the pastoralist community to embrace farming alongside animal rearing, stating that it is beneficial for both livestock and the pastoralist community.

Garissa County Commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo emphasised the responsibility of national government administrators to communicate policies and programmes, including the ongoing subsidised fertiliser programme, to the public.

Breast cancer survivors have been encouraged to undergo breast reconstruction procedures to regain confidence and a sense of normalcy.

Speaking at Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital (KUTRRH), Hospital Board Chairperson Prof. Olive Mugenda announced that at least ten women will undergo the procedure at the KUTRRH.

Adding, "At least ten women will undergo the procedure at our facility this week. We recognise that the reconstruction process is costly, but it is necessary as it will help the survivors overcome the stigma that comes with living without the organ(s), which ultimately affects the quality of their lives."

The procedure is not as cosmetic as some would believe, but it is a key recovery factor for most remission breast cancer patients. KUTRRH has brought in medical experts from Harvard Medical School in America, the Canadian Plastic Surgery Association, and their Argentinian counterparts to team up with local doctors to conduct the surgeries.

Dr. Frederico Flaherty from Argentina praised the initiative, stating that it would go a long way in giving breast cancer survivors a second chance at life.

Key stakeholders from the African region, including government, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and finance institutions, have gathered for a three-day conference on climate and clean air, focusing on addressing climate change.

The conference will discuss the latest science and policies in key emitting sectors, such as heavy-duty vehicles, waste, cooling, fossil fuels, and household energy.

The conference will move the climate dialogue forward, highlighting ways to scale up implementation of the Global Methane Pledge, Clean Air Flagship, and Kigali Amendment.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition is a global partnership reducing short-lived climate pollutants to fight climate change and air pollution.

The conference is an annual meeting of the CCAC, allowing partners to learn, share best practices, and drive forward the agenda to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP).



# MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

A conference with a creative design that is perfect for you and your business, now comes at an affordable price

**BOOK NOW!**



An Exclusive Branded Tent



Brand on Main Dias



One Keynote Speech



Exhibitors Directory



FOOD & ACCOMMODATION



LOCAL TRAVEL



ONE DAY LOCAL TOURISM

## PREMIER PARTNERSHIP:

- An Exclusive Branded Tent
- Brand Appear On Main Dias
- One Keynote Speech
- Exhibitors Directory

## HOSPITALITY:

- Food & Accommodation
- Local Travel: Airport ↔ Hotel ↔ Exhibition Site

## RETREAT: 4TH MARCH, 2024

- One Day Local Tourism

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITORS PACKAGE: (PREMIER PARTNERSHIP | HOSPITALITY | RETREAT)

**\$ 3,000 USD**



Danson



+254 720 918 828 / +254 733 540 110



dan@mountkenyatimes.co.ke



MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

The Mt. Kenya Times

**GOTYOU**  
GOT YOUR BACK

*ei*  
Exponential International  
Information Augmenting Reality



Ananas Mall - Thika



1-3 March 2024  
8.00am-5.00pm



<https://businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

# Negative sentiments Trigger 30 Years Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Low For China

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- In a previous report by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce the fresh foreign direct investment into China was at its lowest in last three years in 2023. The ministry's statistics are devoid of any earnings based on existing foreign firms and are in comparison lesser volatile than the SAFE figures.
- Economists feel that the trend of foreign companies pulling their money out China is the result of ongoing geopolitical tensions, with Taiwan, the US and India majorly, and also because there are other competitive nations that are offering higher interest rates to lure top-notch companies out of Beijing.



China is in a soup and its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has hit rock bottom for the last 30 years.

There are multiple reasons that lead to this FDI slump, prominent being Beijing's constant tussle with countries such as the US, Japan, Taiwan, and India, and its deplorable post-Covid situation. Moreover, China has been accused of spying resulting in strict sanctions from the US and some other factors such as failure in addressing issues like rising labour cost, internal property crisis, and toughened internal sanctions on major global players operating from China.

The foreign businesses investing in China collaboratively sank to its lowest in 2023 since the early 1990s, this happened at a time when Beijing is struggling hard to revive its economy. According to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) report released recently the numbers represent a sorry state of affairs with China's direct investment liabilities in

its balance of payments rose by \$33 billion last year, a further low of 82% compared to 2022.

This, on records, is the lowest level of calculated fresh FDI rolling into the country, since the year 1993.

SAFE's numbers emphasizes the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns and weak recovery attempts made by Beijing in last year. The FDI in third quarter of 2023 was at its lowest for the first time since 1998. Although, there was a slight recovery in the final quarter of 2023 thanks to the inflow of \$17.5 billion in new money but it still could not match the inflow coming in at the same period in 2022.

SAFE's report forms the basis of economists who predicted weakening profits for overseas companies doing business in China and reduction in their scale of operations, most importantly, triggering a small exodus of these companies who are looking to move their manufacturing units in some other countries. The National

Bureau of Statistics data has claimed that profits of foreign industrial firms in China has dropped to 6.7 percent in 2023 compared to the year 2022.

In a previous report by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce the fresh foreign direct investment into China was at its lowest in last three years in 2023. The ministry's statistics are devoid of any earnings based on existing foreign firms and are in comparison lesser volatile than the SAFE figures.

Economists feel that the trend of foreign companies pulling their money out China is the result of ongoing geopolitical tensions, with Taiwan, the US and India majorly, and also because there are other competitive nations that are offering higher interest rates to lure top-notch companies out of Beijing.

After the United States declared heightened sanctions on China most of the multinational companies are looking to keep their cash outside China. While the advanced economies

are raising their interest rates, Beijing has been cutting them to stimulate the economy. A survey done on the Japanese firms in China showed that most of those companies had reduced investment or literally stopped it last year and are focused on keeping a low profile this year amid negative outlook Beijing has garnered globally.

To add to the woes, the Chinese regime is not doing much to keep the outgoing companies interested after the pandemic, and experts feel there is a strong need to redraft FDI policies.

According to a German Economic Institute report based on data from the Bundesbank, there are few bright spots, such direct investment into China by German companies had reached a record of nearly €12 billion (US\$13 billion) last year.

While the European Union is scrutinising China for security concerns the Chinese direct investment has shown signs of revival. Germany's investment in China has expanded to 10.3 percent last year, an anomaly since 2014.

Foreign investment in China is important to stabilize the economy and establish a decorum of sorts within Chinese firms. This will help promote best practices in business trade at international level and enhance governance within the country.

Finally, higher investment will help create jobs internally and boost productive growth.

*This article was first reported in the Hong Kong Post. <https://thehongkongpost.com/2024/02/21/negative-sentiments-trigger-30years-fdi-low-for-china/>*

The

# MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP**  
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF  
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)  
 Email: [media@adlinkinternational.com](mailto:media@adlinkinternational.com)  
[www.adlinkinternational.com](http://www.adlinkinternational.com)  
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

# 6 Days To

The Mt. Kenya Business  
Conference

Venue: Ananas Mall Thika, Kenya

# Parliament Urged To Fast-Track The Enactment Of A Cooperative Bill

By: Sadik Hassan  
@themtkenyatomes

The National Assembly has been urged to expedite the passing of the Cooperative Bill, 2023 which seeks to enhance the governance of cooperatives and the protection of members' savings, through enhanced supervision and regulation.

Last year, in October, the Cabinet approved the Cooperatives Bill, 2023 meant to guide the way cooperatives are registered and managed, and forwarded it to the National Assembly.

Speaking yesterday on the sidelines of the 9th SACCO Leaders Convention in Mombasa CEO of the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) Daniel Marube said the Bill would eliminate pyramids and shylocks disguised as SACCOs and cooperatives.

"I want to urge legislators to fast-track it. They should give the Cooperative Bill priority like the Housing Bill, so that we can have this Bill enacted as soon as possible. The Bill will bring good governance, ensure the savings are secured and enhance supervision to build trust," said Marube.

The Bill seeks to establish the Office of the Commissioner for Cooperative Development at the National level of government and the Office of the County Director for Cooperatives in the 47 counties.

The Office of the Commissioner for Cooperative Development will be tasked with the promotion, registration, and regulation of cooperatives. It will also be a focal point for inter-governmental cooperative relations.

Meanwhile, Marube encouraged Women to take-up the leadership of co-operatives and SACCOs, as they are the biggest savers. The youth were advised to form workers' cooperatives to offer services to the National and County governments.

"We want to assure them that at the moment, cooperatives are transforming, they are going digital. We are digitizing, we are moving the modern way where life is going. Cooperatives are now a place for the youth to access affordable financial services to develop themselves," he said.

Marube lauded the government for being pro-SACCOs and cooperatives. He noted that the number of Kenyans joining cooperatives is growing amid the tough economic times.



CEO of the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) Daniel Marube addressing journalists.

"The environment we are in also hurts our members' savings because you can save when you have a surplus. The pay slips of Teachers, Police Officers and other Civil Servants have remained the same, but taxation has continued to grow," elucidated Marube.

However, he said, Kenyans are resilient and hardworking and savings

have continued to grow despite the hard economic times.

Members of co-operative societies were also urged to attend Annual General Meetings (AGMs) to take stock of their leaders' performance and the financial health of the cooperatives.

"It's very important that the members are there to question the leaders to see if their cooperatives are per-

forming well and if not, they need to get the audited books of accounts to interrogate and get the information about their cooperatives," said Marube.

"That is where they have invested their money as savings. Members must take charge of those meetings, because the supreme authority is vested in the hands of the members," he noted.

# Farmers Advised To Register To Enjoy Government Subsidized Services

By: John Kaleke  
@themtkenyatomes

Narok County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Agriculture, Ms. Joyce Keshe has asked area farmers to register to enjoy government-subsidized services.

While speaking during the launch of phase two farmers' registration exercise in Narok, the CEC asked farmers who were not registered during the first registration exercise to register during phase two.

"The second phase of farmers' registration has kicked off country-wide, and farmers need to come out in large numbers to be registered," said Ms. Keshe.

Ms. Keshe said the farmers who have registered in the first phase of the registration, their details exist in the database and need to be registered as well because there is an adjust-

ment that might occur.

"If a farmer has increased the land for production such as from 20 Ha to 50 Ha of land, he/she is required to be adjusted in the system, while those who have shifted to different fields such as from Maize to wheat, are also required to be adjusted in the system," Ms. Keshe said.

Ms. Keshe said the registration will help the ministry in planning exercises for the farmers' needs.

Ms. Keshe said the registration will give farmers a chance to benefit from government services such as subsidized fertilizers and training.

Ms. Keshe assured farmers that the information collected will not harm them in any way but will be of great importance because they will enjoy government services.

The CEC said phase two of farmer's registration will be conducted by the same officers, who are well-known from their respective wards and villages.



Narok County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Agriculture, Ms. Joyce Keshe addressing journalists.

# Crisis Rocks National And County Gov'ts Over Health Matters

*The ongoing sibling rivalry between the National Government and County Governments seems to be spilling over the boardroom with governors now demanding answers over their exclusion from the new Social Health Authority transition committee*

By: Our Reporter  
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The governor who spoke during a meeting with AMREF where the CoG is seeking specialized training for medical staff in counties, insisted on the involvement of counties, accusing the ministry of health of cherry picking whom they wanted to sit in the committee.
- The CoG is not represented in the transition committee
- On 25th January 2024, Cabinet Secretary for Health Susan Nakhumicha Wafula appointed nine members to the Social Health Authority transition despite the CoG voicing their non – inclusion.
- Mores so, there are fears that recommendations from the counties will take a back seat, considering that County Executive Committee Members of health were not consulted on the way forward.



Tharaka Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki who is also the CoG Health Committee chairperson making a point as governor Ann Waiguru looks on.

There seems to be no end in sight in the ongoing squabbles between the National Government and County Governments, especially on the roles each party is supposed to play, with the Council of Governors now loudly voicing their displeasure in their non-inclusion in the Social Health Authority transition committee.

The CoG says that despite their numerous calls on the Ministry of Health to include their representative, now that health is largely devolved, the National Government has opted to ignore their calls and focus.

Consequently, governors want a framework on how monies owed to counties by the now defunct NHIF will be paid as it emerges that only nine counties have received a paltry 10 per cent of what they are owed.

Council of Governors Health Committee chairperson Muthomi Njuki, who is also Tharaka Nithi governor, said the council is completely in the dark over the ongoing conversation to move from NHIF to SHA despite counties being the stakeholders of the health docket.

The governor who spoke during a meeting with AMREF where the CoG is seeking specialized training for medical staff in counties, insisted on the involvement of counties, accusing the ministry of health of

cherry picking whom they wanted to sit in the committee.

The CoG is not represented in the transition committee

On 25th January 2024, Cabinet Secretary for Health Susan Nakhumicha Wafula appointed nine members to the Social Health Authority transition despite the CoG voicing their non – inclusion.

Mores so, there are fears that recommendations from the counties will take a back seat, considering that County Executive Committee Members of health were not consulted on the way forward.

The ongoing tussle between the two levels of government has seen the National Government bypass the CoG pay Community Health Promoters directly, despite there being an agreement that the monies should be forwarded to counties as a conditional grant.



From Left to Right; Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga and Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB) Chief Executive Officer Ndirangu Gachunia during yesterday's meeting..

On Wednesday, in Naivasha, governors rejected a proposal by Treasury allocating counties KSh391 billion yet they had asked for KSh425 billion.

The ongoing reforms at the National Health Insurance Fund have also stalled service delivery with patients now being turned away as the transition kicks in, an issue which the CoG is thoroughly concerned.

The governors also want donors to engage the CoG directly, and abandon the National Government route. Currently, donor programmes are domiciled in the office of the Deputy President.

The CoG averred that the ministry is bureaucratic and sometimes money is late or comes when the project is done.

AMREF through its Chief Executive Officer Dr Githinji Gitahi also called for a close collaboration in the implementation of universal health coverage adding that his organisation will support primary health.

Others who attended the event were governors Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri), Ann Waiguru (Kirinyaga) Cecily Mbarire (Embu), Kiarie Badilisha (Nyandarua) and Deputy governors Reuben Kamuri (Laikipia) and Stephen Munania (Murang'a) as well as the CEREB Chief Executive Officer Ndirangu Gachunia.

# The Overcoming Power In The Holy Spirit Pt 2



By: Eric Musa  
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Moving from one level to another level can only be possible through the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says “ BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE,...ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.”. I declare you shall move to the next levels of business, ministry, calling, career. Let every stagnation be broken by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the mighty name of Jesus.

The will of God is to be able to keep your momentum towards your destiny. “ “And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another helper, that HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOREVER ( John 14:16).” And in Verse 26 the same Chapter says “ but the HELPER, THE HOLY SPIRIT,

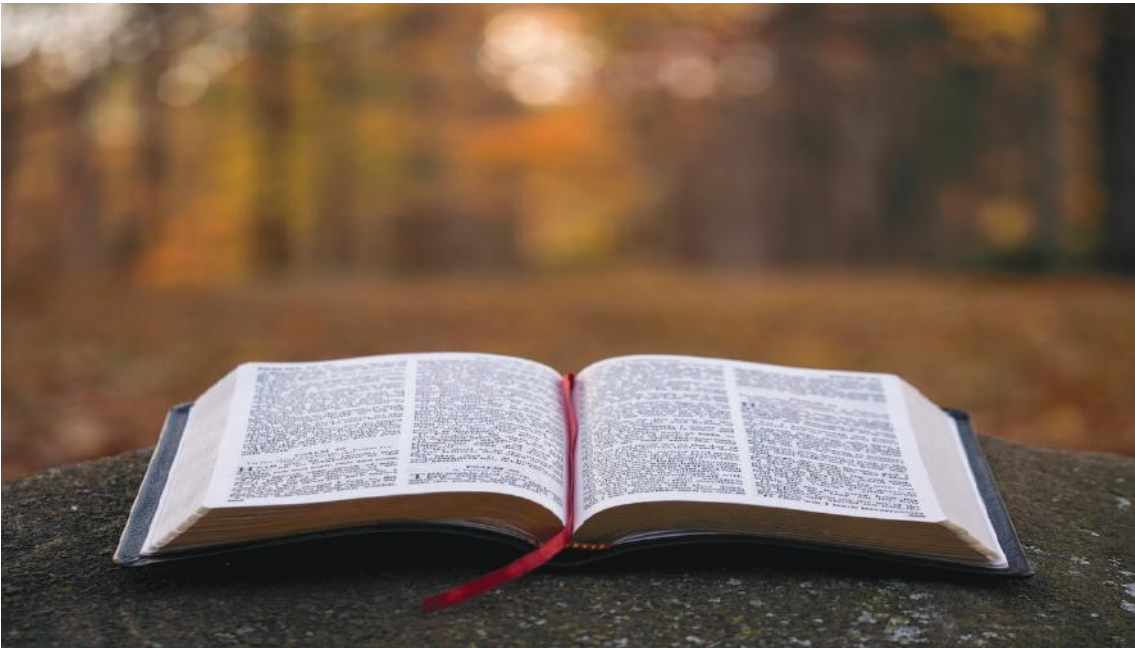
WHOM THE FATHER will send in My Name. He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

Did you know that the Holy Spirit is your advocate/ legal counsel. In prayers there are legalities and illegalities. It is not a free zone, “ kuna sheria huwa zinafuatwa, hata Mungu ana zake, hata shetani ako nazo; satan uses legalities to attack,...” Ukiomba kwa Roho/ in tongues, Roho Mtakatifu anakua mtetezi, anashinda zile sheria/legalities zimewekwa.

The extent of success in your life, depends on two things:

- 1.)Kiwango cha kubadilishwa; level of transformation, as we have read in 2 Cor 3:18, and
- 2.) This is the work of the Holy Spirit. You must allow this to be done, not from outside, but within, and it is not instant, but gradual( METAMORPHOSIS).

Say “I will do the extra ordinary in my generation by the Spirit of God.” There is a power that is propelling my destiny, and it is UNSTOPPABLE. “The Lord is my strength, he makes my legs like that of a deer, to rise to my high places.” “ As a man thinketh, so he is.” “Badilishwa



mawazo yako, uweze kuona kufanikiwa.” When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you become a dynamite. The power of the Holy Spirit, breaks every barrier. You shall break every opposition, you shall receive all the resources, because of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will give you new ideas, He will reveal solutions. Do NOT ever get familiar with the Holy Spirit.

“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 Chist 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.

# Court Review Bail Terms For Kirinyaga Illicit Brew Queen

By: Our Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

A Kerugoya law court has reviewed bail terms for a woman charged with six counts relating to the manufacture and sale alcohol without license.

Josephine Karioko Muchira had her bail reviewed to KSh300,000 up from KSh30,000 after Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) made an application for review.

The review of the bail terms follows a public outcry and protest from the County Government of Kirinyaga.

The woman was arrested on Monday at Ngomongo area in Kutus while in possession of KSh959,740 cash money allegedly hidden in a manhole that was also being used to store suspected illicit alcohol.

The suspect, together with her alleged husband Victor Muriithi Njeru had been charged before Chief Magistrate Grace Kirugumi on Tuesday.

They were charged with manufacturing and selling alcohol without a valid license, selling liquor before the permitted hours, operating bar without license, being in possession of counterfeit goods and being in possession of proceeds of crime.

Assistant Director of Public Prosecution Jane Maari who filed the application for review under section 21 of the Constitution (Bail Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) Practice Directions 2022, had asked the court to review the bail terms saying they were too lenient.

The Assistant ODDP emphasized on the seriousness of the charges and the need for appropriate measures to ensure accountability and deterrence in cases related to alcohol licensing violations.



Josephine Karioko Muchira bring interrogated by security officers after she was arrested on Monday.

# The Passage Of New Affordable Housing Bill Was Expected



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Affordable Housing .

## Worth Noting:

- This is the work of my political opponents. They are hellbent on sabotaging and derailing my development agenda.
- The corrupt judicial officers were helping them to have their way after bribing and compromising them.
- Their machinations are bound to fail.
- A few days later, the President held a meeting with Chief Justice Martha Koome and Speaker of national assembly Moses Wetangula. The Speaker joined them later.
- Sources indicated that the President took unprecedented move when he declassified some intelligence reports which he shared with CJ. He disclosed that corrupt judges were working hand in hand with corrupt and rogue lawyers.

A few days ago, President William Ruto's led government once again demonstrated that its fidelity to the constitution was beyond reproach.

We recall that soon after a three-judge bench of the High Court faulted the Affordable Housing Act, President William Ruto stated: Kenya is a country governed by rule of law and the constitution. So, we are going to fully comply with the orders of the court.

As law making body, parliament immediately commenced the process of enacting a new affordable housing bill.

It all started with public participation. After collecting and collating the views of the public, the relevant house committees drafted the bill. The bill later sailed through. Of 199 members present, 141 voted in support of the bill while 66 rejected it.

As required by the law, the bill have since been forwarded to the Senate for concurrence.

I had earlier written an opinion piece in this column. These were my observations.

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

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

He suffered a blow a few days ago when the Court of Appeal suspended the collection of the housing levy until appeal is heard and determined. In so doing, the appellate court upheld the orders issued earlier by the High Court.

The president did not take this matter lightly.

This is the work of my political opponents. They are hellbent on sabotaging and derailing my development agenda.

The corrupt judicial officers were helping them to have their way after bribing and compromising them.

Their machinations are bound to fail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They would not however convince the judges that they had a strong and watertight case. This is because the case was not anchored on the provisions of the constitution and other written laws of Kenya that were relevant and well grounded.

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

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

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

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

On housing levy, you the people of the

media are to blame for misinterpreting that ruling. The problem of unconstitutionality was indeed created by you.

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

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

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

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

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

We will take the necessary steps to ensure this law is aligned. Dr Ruto reiterated this during interview. He said that the majority leader Kimani Ichungwah have already drafted the bill and presented it to parliament.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the time, the Affordable Housing Plan was one of the proposals contained in the controversial Finance Bill 2023.

The 'Hustlers' (those without a payslip) had been excluded. The judges now say this is discriminatory.

President Ruto has been reiterating the affordable housing plan is a game-changer. For the first time in our history, the sons and daughters of the hustlers will own decent houses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The President was in fore front of drumming support for Finance Bill 2023. Does this amount to overstepping his legal mandate? No.

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

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

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

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

# NGO Partners With Communities To Provide Community-Based Health Insurance

By: Geoffrey Makokha  
@themkenyatimes

The health sector in the country is one of the most crucial aspects that the government has been trying to address to ensure its people access better health services.

The recently launched Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) scheme aims to provide affordable health care services to secure publicly funded primary health care, universal health insurance, and equitable access to quality health services for all Kenyans regardless of their status in society.

Nevertheless, communities living in West Kanyamkago and Kakrao wards in Uriri and Suna East Sub counties have come up with a community-based health finance insurance scheme to supplement Social Health Insurance for the betterment of their community health.

The community has organised itself into groups of 100 and partnered with Ripple Effect Kenya Non-Governmental Organisation in identifying the most diseases that frequently affect their community members.

According to the Director of Ripple Effect Kenya Titus Sagala, the NGO has been helping the community by formulating a memorandum of understanding between the communities and the healthcare facilities to provide for the community health insurance scheme.

Sagala said that the community has hugely benefited from the scheme because it saves money and cushions the members from selling their property to seek medical attention.

The majority of the group members are farmers who live in rural areas with no basic monthly income and the community-based health finance insurance scheme will be a huge benefit in uplifting the health status of the community without incurring extra costs in seeking medical attention.

Sagala says that the introduction of the insurance scheme aimed to encourage people to live a healthier life in their villages through proper nutrition, encourage health-seeking behaviours of the rural dweller, and educate the residents that they do not need to have money always to seek health services.

“In the past, some members of the community have been subjected to abject poverty as a result of selling their properties to cater for the medical interventions of their loved ones. The pool scheme aims to safeguard the wealth generated by the locals to improve their livelihood as opposed to utilising it for health intervention purposes,” said Sagala

The Community-Based Health Finance Insurance Scheme works through organised groups of 100 where each member contributes Sh2,000.

The public health facility in the area is then identified with only the most common disease ailing the community being able to be treated.



Director of Ripple Effect Kenya Titus Sagala addressing the media

Vivian Indagala, some health information personnel from Migori Referral Hospital, acknowledged that the scheme, which started last year in August in the Suna East and Uriri Sub Counties, has become a cost-effective scheme for the community members.

Indagala acknowledged that the scheme provides coverage to the most common diseases affecting the community as proposed through the memorandum of understanding.

She pointed out that the advantage of the community-based scheme was its ability to cover patients beyond biological dependents.

Indagala has also been encouraging the local natives in the scheme to join the government health scheme affirming that insurance remained the greatest tool that could protect them from high costs arising out of an illness.

Meanwhile, Hardson Kufafa, a beneficiary of the scheme and a trained farmer by Ripple Effect said that the community-based health finance insurance has become a beneficial and friendly scheme for the community and that it has enabled them to save money while seeking health services.

He thanked the organisation for partnering with the community on issues of health and nutrition as a security key in societal development in the county.

The Ripple Effect NGO which is currently working in six countries in Africa has been engaging the communities through enterprise development, sustainable agricultural-based programmes, and health schemes to uplift five million people from poverty before 2030.

# Elgeyo Marakwet To Name A Road After Kiptum

By: Alice Wanjiru  
@themkenyatimes

Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wisley Rotich has said that the county will name a road in the county after the fallen athlete and World Record Holder Kelvin Kiptum.

The governor said in doing so, Kiptum’s name, history and legacy would be remembered by generations to come even those who never knew him.

Speaking at Iten Sportsground when he led hundreds of residents in viewing the late athlete’s body, the governor said Kiptum’s record would not be easy to break.

Residents thanked the family for

allowing them to pay their last respects to him saying many may not make it to his burial service which would be held tomorrow at his home in Chepsamo village in Keiyo South Sub County before his burial at his farm in Uasin Gishu County.

The body was later taken to his village where it will lay overnight with his burial expected to be attended by senior government officials led by President William Ruto.

The athlete died on Sunday alongside his coach Rwandese Gervais Hakizimana after they were involved in a road accident along the Eldoret Ravine road.

Investigations have concluded his death to be as a result of blood loss.



The Late World Record Holder Kelvin Kiptum..

# More Leaders Should Speak Up And Confront Femicide



By: Harriet Afandi  
@themtkenyetimes

In a nation where only a fraction of our politicians, less than 35%, actively confront the pervasive issue of violence, it's crucial to remind those in power that their duty extends beyond election campaigns. The recent heckling of Nairobi Senator Esther Passaris during the #TotalShutDownKE movement shed light on the reluctance of many politicians to address violence unless prompted by public outcry. Change Organiza-

tion campaigns led by activists and advocate groups have called upon decision-makers, comprising 90% of our political leaders in the Senate and Parliament, yet their appeals often fall on deaf ears. The disturbing reality is that activists, the very individuals advocating for change, are paying the ultimate price, with some losing their lives in the pursuit of addressing human rights violations perpetrated by elected leaders. For a nation to progress, it is imperative that those in power proactively address the challenges faced by the public. The sacrifice of countless protestors, particularly the youth in regions like Nyanza and Rift Valley during past Post Election Violence incidents (2007/13/17), should not be in vain. The silence surrounding these issues is not solely the responsibility of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Hu-

man Rights Defenders (HRDs), or individual activists. Our elected leaders must step forward and take immediate action within their respective legislative bodies when violence occurs in their constituencies. They need to be at the forefront, championing the cause to eliminate any form of human rights violations. The time has come for our leaders, be they Members of Parliament, Senators, MCAs, or Governors, to prioritize addressing violence in their communities. By doing so, they not only fulfill their duty to the citizens who entrusted them with power but also contribute to the eradication of human rights violations, ensuring a safer and more just society for all. Harriet Afandi is a Nguvu Change Leader, currently championing two online advocacy campaigns titled Justice for Judy Wambui and The Women of Kiambu County and Accelerate OBV Legislation in Kenya.



Thousands, mostly women protestors march against the runaway cases of femicide, in downtown Nairobi, Kenya Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. Thousands of people marched in cities and towns in Kenya during protests Saturday over the recent slayings of more than a dozen women. The anti-femicide demonstration was the largest event ever held in the country against sexual and gender-based violence. (AP Photo/Brian Inganga)

# MELTA Condemns Axing Of Bars

By: John Kariuki  
@themtkenyetimes

Medium Liquor Traders Association (MELTA) has expressed concerns and condemnation of the closure of law-abiding Bars and Clubs. Francis Mbogo, the MELTA Chairman noted, "We at MELTA extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who tragically lost their lives due to the consumption of illicit brews in Kirinyaga County. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. We further express our condemnation of the decision by the county government of Kirinyaga under the leadership of its Governor to close licensed and complied bars and clubs instantly rendering over 5000 citizens jobless. While we understand the importance of public health and safety, we believe that this blanket closure has a devastating impact on the employment sector, particularly during these tough economic times. The closure of law-abiding bars and clubs will result in significant job losses across

the board, affecting bartenders, servers, security personnel, and other staff members who rely on these establishments for their livelihoods. These individuals, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet, will now face even greater financial hardship due to the sudden loss of employment. Furthermore, the closure of complied bars and clubs will have a ripple effect on the entire supply chain, impacting liquor distributors, manufacturers, mama mbogas, bodaboda riders, and suppliers who rely on these establishments as their primary customers. This will ultimately lead to further job losses and economic instability in our communities. We urge the county government to reconsider its approach and work with stakeholders in the alcohol industry to find alternative solutions that prioritize public health while also supporting the livelihoods of those affected. We are committed to working together with the government of the day to address the underlying issues while fostering a thriving and responsible liquor industry promoting professionalism, ethical business practices and sustainable growth and ensure a safe environment for all members of our community."



Frank Mbogo is the Chairman of Medium Liquor Traders Association (MELTA)

# When Snows Fall... To Success...



They were children – two guys. One of them was a little girl with long braided hairs. Another one was a boy with curly hair. The boy handed the little girl a snowflake. The girl was surprised as if she saw a precious treasure. She was going to take the snowflake in her hand but it melted for a moment. So that the girl would not be sad, the boy said: "I will hand you another snowflake."

They were children. They made a friendship at that time. At that time, the first snowflake melted in the boy's hand...

They grew up. But they were still as a child. The girl asked the boy: "When will you return the book you took?" The young man smiled: "When the first snow falls..."

After a week, the boy returned the a book with a blue cover to the girl.

Time has passed. The boy said to the girl: "Shall I hand you a snowflake?" "What will I do it" said the girl. "It's still early." "At that time, I will join

the snowflake my kind and give you my heart and love." The rose on the ground turned red... There were dark clouds in the sky. There was a riot. He took all the boys from all homes.

With tears in her eyes, the girl said: "When will you come back?" "Whenever the first snow fall. Will you wait?" said. "Until the last snowflake of my life falls to the ground..."

How many snows fell, how many flowers withered, how many trees dried up.

The girl wrote a letter to the boy: "When will you come, how many times it snowed. "I will pave your way every time it snows, not the first time it snows." In response to the letter, the young man said: "I will return when the first snow falls on the lips of the little boy"...

The girl waited. One day, when it was snowing, the stork went outside, started kicking the snow, squeezed it with his hands, hit the ground, and slowly, ice-cold tears fell from his eyes.

Years passed. Many years, challenging years.

The girl became a woman, and the woman became old woman. She was standing in the garden. The bells were softly ringing inside.

At that moment, the first snow fell into her white hair. She wanted to catch and hand the snowflake, but her dimmed eyes and barely moving hands did not allow her to do so. A snowflake landed on a leaf of a tree that had just sprouted and melted...

Her heart beated quickly, and with trembling lips she said: "He has come"...

Author: Bakhramova Shakhnoza Erkinovna  
She was born on 07 August, 2007 y in the city of Bukhara.



By: Bolisheva Rozikhan Odiljon

You and I, that is, why we came into the world, why we keep on doing everything, what is the reason why we don't live our lives peacefully.

As long as a person continues to study, success is with him! If he thought that he had learned, he condemned himself to failure. If we don't keep learning new things, our mind and thinking can't keep up with the times, then time has stopped for us!

What can we understand from this?

Parents, teachers and, of course, society play a major role in the development and maturation of every young generation.

A teenager who wants to study is told by his parents that he will become a scientist if he studies, if he grows up, he will leave the country, if he works, he will have more income than those who studied, or if he has a self-sufficient family, he will open a supermarket.

It is clear that he is starting to think that I don't need to study hard because he is a child. To put it in their language, living on his father's money is a good thing. In some sense, parents think that their children will not suffer, but some teachers and some members of the society are not paying attention to this situation. Where are they looking?

If we look at the details of history, in the time of our ancestors there was no idea of going to an educational center to study. They prepared a lesson, albeit using candles. Teachers had the right to punish if they did not attend class.

If a pupil or student made a mistake, he was not allowed to attend the class, and this student would listen to the lesson even if he was standing in front of the door. If the assignment was given, he would not sleep in the evening, feeling his duty to his parents and country, he would

sleep after finishing the lesson. If he fell asleep, that day's sleep was forbidden for them.

If we compare it with the current situation, if a student made a mistake, does he have the right to punish the teacher, yes, of course. Because that one student is abusing the time of thousands of other black people. After all, time is equal to gold. We can feel that it has lost its value. When we overcome daily tasks and daily hardships, we can reach the peak of success.

A person who does not set a goal for himself, or does not act towards his goal, can be compared to a person who is running on a railway relay.

The reason is that after being a member of such a developed society, after seeing our compatriots achieving such high goals, after our president is creating conditions for our youth in every way, we must and must be able to say, "I am ready, I am your shield, Uzbekistan."

If we hit a tree while riding a bicycle, it's not the tree's fault, it's us who didn't steer properly. Achieving success is a similar example. If we go to bed early when it gets late, get up late in the morning, don't complete tasks, don't take the phone off our hands day and night, fall asleep after reading 3 or 4 pages of a book, don't have a clear goal in front of us, and if we don't achieve success, it's because of our hands playing with the phone, too much sleep. it is our longing eyes.

Everyone is a genius

If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will think itself stupid all its life. So why do so many of us want to climb that tree? Maybe it's better to dive in and stay where we are?

- Albert Einstein

Bolisheva, daughter of Rozikhan Odiljon, was born in 2003 in the village of Yorkisloq, Jalakuduq district, Andijan region. Studied at the 10th general secondary school of Jalakuduq district and graduated from this school with a silver medal. Currently, he is a student of the 3rd stage of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature of the Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages.

## Different Behavior Of People In Public Places



Society consists of people with different behaviors. People's behavior reveals what kind of person they are. For instance, someone is shy, someone is upset with life, someone is enterprising and someone is rude and so on.

Today courses based on various fields and directions, group webinars and training sessions are operating. Aslo, many people are member of different groups or trainings, and they encounter people with different personalities in these training sessions and social groups. At the same time, several people may or may not change their character under the influence of the humans around them

Some individuals may feel more excited when they meet new people or go to a group event, party or similar gathering. They may also feel embarrassed or shy. They may become slurred when talking

to strangers or unable to speak freely due to excessive excitement. However, there are people who try and exaggerate their behavior in public to pretend they have characteristics they don't have. That is, in collective groups they try to live their behavior by imitating humans who are highly intelligent and have good behavior.

There are also representatives of such behavior that they behave freely and without worries in any situation. Such individual can easily find a way out of difficult circumstances in any case. They accept themselves as they are and respect their behavior. Probably such people are very approachable and certainly very good ones to talk to and build an easy relationship with. They even respect other people as much as possible and recommend them to respect their own behavior.

To summarize people should feel free in collective places and it's useful and beneficial for them to communicate openly with humans. Individuals should introduce her/himself and say that he/she is proud of her/himself in any condition when he/she joins a stranger or a new social groups. Humans who show their character differently will face big and difficult obstacles in life. A person should always love her/himself, respect and be proud of her/himself. People who are proud of themselves stand in the highest ranks of society

Write by: Ilhomova Madina Yusupovna.

My name is Madina Ilhomova. Today I study in the 11th grade of school 24, Olot district, Bukhara region. I want to be sport journalist in future

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

## ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

**London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.**

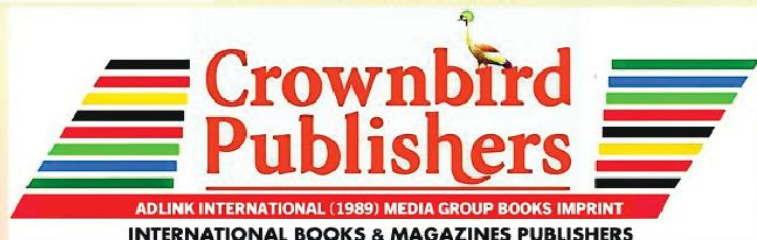
**We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.**

**SELECTED PORTFOLIO**

**BEST SELLER NOVELS**

**The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London**

**Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books**



**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP**

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

# Livestock Farmers In Kajiado Embrace Fodder Production And Conservation

By: Diana Meneto  
@themtkenyatimes

Livestock farmers in Kajiado East Constituency, have embraced fodder production as a way of ensuring their livestock have pasture, even during periods of drought.

The farmers, whose livestock were adversely affected by the recent drought, say they have learned an important lesson and are now doing all they can to mitigate the effects of drought, to ensure their livestock, which is their sole source of livelihood survives.

A spot check by journalists, revealed that most farmers in Kajiado East Constituency, are now practicing various methods of fodder production and preservation, unlike before when they relied totally on rain-fed pasture.

In Oloorsirkon-Sholinke Ward, Ezekiel Leshan, took advantage of the recent rains and has planted lucerne, nappier grass, and sugar graze fodder varieties on his farm, to ensure that his animals are well-fed once the dry season sets in.

“Out of a herd of 150 cows, I lost 63 to the recent drought, despite moving from one area to another in search of pasture and buying hay

for the animals. This major loss has made me think of ways to boost and conserve pasture for my animals, now that they are in plenty, so that I do not incur heavy losses once the drought sets in,” Leshan said.

He reveals that out of the recent rains, the sugar graze he planted has already matured and added he has already harvested it and used it to prepare silage for later use by his animals.

“I was able to plant one acre of both Lucerne and Sugar Graze, during the December rains and though the Lucerne variety did not do well, the sugar graze variety flourished and I now have 10 bags of silage to feed my cows later on,” he narrates.

Apart from planting fodder, other farmers are also paddocking their farms to ensure rotational grazing by their animals, which will not only maintain pasture, but it will also allow the natural regeneration of the fields.

Benson Silei, a farmer in Poka Kenyawa Ward, has fenced all his land and subdivided it into paddocks.

“With the paddocks, my animals will not wander through all the land destroying pasture. I intend to put cattle in the first paddock, then when they clear it, I move the sheep there and the rotation continues and I believe by the time all the paddocks



have been utilized, the rains we be here with us again,” said Silei.

Those who have not fenced their land have cut the grass and compacted it into bales of hay for later use.

Paul ole Nchake from Emboloi, has been rearing Friesian cows and Dorper sheep and says that he has been practicing fodder production and preservation for years.

“I did not lose any cows in the recent drought as I had conserved hay and silage for my animals. I also controlled my stock by reducing the numbers to manageable levels. I urge fellow pastoralists to produce and conserve fodder as it is much cheaper and convenient unlike moving the animals from one place to

another in search of pasture,” said Ole Nchake.

Dennis Kubasu, a research scientist at KALRO, Kiboko, In-Charge of fodder production says that given the recent challenges of drought and climate change, Kajiado farmers are now embracing pasture production either by naturally improving what they already have on their land or by establishing new fodder crops that have been developed.

He remarks that they have witnessed a high demand for fodder seeds from livestock farmers in Kajiado unlike before.

“We usually get a demand of about 20 tonnes per year and it is still rising as compared to five years ago. Based

on the challenges and the exposure that the farmers are now getting, they are now looking for high-value fodder variety that they can also plant under irrigation because they provide more biomass and more feeds than when they plant the normal range grass,” said Kubasu.

Through the De-risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement (DRIVE) project, the government is keen on uplifting the pastoralists’ economic welfare in 21 ASAL counties including Kajiado.

The project component entails pasture and fodder production and conservation, livestock breeding covering Sahiwal, Dorper, Boran and Galla goats among others.

# Relief To Farmers As County Government Delivers Affordable Tractor Ploughing Services

By: Jackson Msanzu and Kassim Hamisi  
@themtkenyatimes

Efforts to boost food production have been intensified after the County Government of Kilifi rolled out affordable tractor-ploughing services for farmers in the region as they prepare their farms for the next planting season.

The subsidized tractor ploughing programme is a collaborative effort between the Kilifi County Government and the Ministry of Agriculture to enhance Global Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) standards to bolster food production.

Speaking during a visit to farmers at Lutsangani Village, County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture Peter Mwagona



A tractor being used to plough a piece of land.

announced that nine tractors have been dispatched to various areas in Chonyi Sub County to deliver the services.

Mwagona said that the programme targets farmers facing financial constraints, ensuring equitable access

to mechanized farming tools adding that farmers will access ploughing services at a minimal fee of Sh1,750 per acre, which is significantly lower than the cost charged by private tractor services.

“To alleviate the burden of plough-

ing, we are introducing the subsidized tractors programme for Kilifi County farmers. These tractors will be available at a reasonable fee, enabling farmers to prepare their land efficiently for planting,” he said.

Registration for the programme has been opened to all farmers, with each farmer eligible for ploughing services up to two acres of land.

This inclusive approach aims to ensure equitable distribution of services across the farming community, without favoring any particular farm over another.

Kilifi County Agriculture Chief Officer Teddy Yawa highlighted plans to plough approximately 70 acres in Mtwapa for maize cultivation to ensure a steady supply of food during the dry season.

Lutsangani farmers led by Thoya Chikumbo expressed their gratitude

to the County government saying the ploughing programme will boost their efforts to increase food production for subsistence and commercial purposes.

“We appreciate the Kilifi County Government for coming up with this programme. We are now getting our farms ready for the upcoming planting season,” he said.

As Kilifi farmers gear up for the planting season, the commencement of the affordable tractor ploughing programme marks a significant step towards modernizing agricultural practices, enhancing productivity, and ensuring food security for the region.

With the support of the County government, farmers are poised to embark on a journey towards sustainable farming and economic empowerment.

# Coffee And Tea Factories In Kiambu On A Crackdown Due To Manipulated Weighing Machines

By: Grace Naishoo  
@themtkenyatimes

Both the National and Kiambu County governments have launched a crackdown on public and private coffee and tea companies that allegedly manipulate weighing machines to defraud farmers

This comes after an outcry from farmers who raised complaints about the use of faulty machines being used to weigh their produce.

Speaking during a press briefing at his county's headquarters office, Governor Kimani Wamatangi said the investigations on the matter were being carried out by officials from the weights and measures unit under the Department of Trade in the county government.

The probe has also included officers from the national government whose aim is to seize manual and digital scales that had been calibrated to facilitate the fraud.

"We are committed to restoring integrity in the agricultural sector.

Farmers deserve their rightful share of profits from their hard work, not a select few profiting at their expense," said Wamatangi.

The governor further cited that the crackdown is already a success, as several employees from three factories in the Githunguri and Lari areas were already in custody awaiting trial for the scam estimated to have cost farmers millions of shillings in lost income.

"This is a grave case of fraud... the investigations have availed that farmers have been losing three kilogrammes out of every 20 kilogrammes delivered. This means that if a farmer is delivering 200 kilogrammes of green tea, they have been losing about 30 kilogrammes," Wamatangi said.

Wamatangi also announced a widening of investigations into the coffee sector where farmers have registered fraudulent concerns as well.

"The county Weights and Measures unit which is mandated to ensure fair trade practices and consumer protection is working tirelessly to safe-

guard farmers' interests by cracking down on illicit practices. Our next focus will be the coffee sector, which faces similar challenges," he added.

James Wainaina, a tea farmer in Githunguri, said they were happy that the government is investigating the issue as the scam has been going on for a long time

"For a long time now, factory clerks have been colluding with some corrupt farmers to tamper with the scales and secretly transferring the stolen number of kilogrammes to them to be paid in return," reported Wainaina.

County governments are mandated to undertake verification of weighing and measuring equipment in trade and also inspect weighing and measuring instruments and pre-packed goods to ensure compliance with the Weights and Measures Act.

Further, the devolved units are required to conduct investigations of complaints as well as prosecutions of offenses arising from the Weights and Measures Act Cap 513 and Trade Descriptions Act Cap 505.



Tea farm.

## THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

**Attention, High School Students!**

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

**What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?**

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

**How to enter the contest:**

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

**Winners**  
Ugx.200,000,  
+ Gift hamper

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

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

**All participants**  
Certificates of participation  
at each level.

**ENTRY LEVELS**

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

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

**How to submit:**

Send your typed review and photo to [theelblazannualreadingcontest@gmail.com](mailto:theelblazannualreadingcontest@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +256 772 674 093.

**LE**  
LIT & ENG FORUM

**THE EL-TABLAZ BOOKS**  
A Uniquely Portable Magic

**READ-US AFRICA**  
READ, DREAM & LEAD

**KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

# OLDONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK

Ultimate Panoramic Experience

# CS Owalo Applauds The Digitization Of Government Services

By: Mabel Keya Shikuku and Erastus Gichohi  
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The summit whose this year's theme is, "Synergies in digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI)" brings together various players and experts in Information Technology (IT) from both the private and public sectors.
- Mr. Owalo said Kenya is doing everything to be counted as an influential participant at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) table and this strategy is spurred by the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) 2022-2027.
- He explained that through the BETA agenda, there is an ongoing sectoral reform process whereby a team of diverse Kenyan professionals has been tasked with evaluating the operational framework of every structure under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MoICDE).

The National Government's radical move to digitize and onboard thousands of its services has enhanced efficiency and boosted its revenue collections from a daily collection of Sh60 million to Sh1 billion in the last year, the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy, Mr Eliud Owalo has revealed.

Owalo said the government's deliberate decision to digitize its services has borne fruit which has resulted in enhanced efficiency in service delivery, transparency, and increased revenue collections.

The CS said the government is committed to bridging the digital divide through the automation of services, creating digital jobs through the creation of digital hubs, and enhancing access through the laying of 100 kilometres of fiber, thanks to the digital superhighway initiative. Mr. Owalo was in July last year quoted saying 5,084 government services had fully been digitised.

Owalo noted that the Government is on course in establishing 25,000 WiFi hotspots across the country as well as 1,450 digital hubs spread across all constituencies adding that the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) will allocate three percent of its monies towards infrastructural upgrades on this digital hubs initiative in the constituencies.

He was giving a keynote address during the 4th edition of the Nation Digital Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Naivasha yesterday.

The summit whose this year's theme is, "Synergies in digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI)" brings together various players and experts in Information Technology (IT) from both the private and public sectors.

Mr. Owalo said Kenya is doing everything to be counted as an influential participant at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) table and this strategy is spurred by the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) 2022-2027.

He explained that through the BETA agenda, there is an ongoing sectoral reform process whereby a team of diverse Kenyan professionals has been tasked with evaluating the operational framework of every structure under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MoICDE).

Stressing the necessity of regulatory systems to govern AI technology, the CS also underscored the importance of collaborative efforts on a global



Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo

scale, noting that meaningful collaboration among world leaders is essential to effectively address the risks associated with frontier AI and capitalize on its significant opportunities across various domains.

In addition, Owalo said his ministry had a plan to place the country on a path of global competitiveness, and all the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks have to be realigned with current global standards.

"The Ministry recognises the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving service delivery across diverse sectors of the economy and revolutionise existing systems by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility, promising to transform service delivery methods, improve outcomes, and optimise resource allocation," the CS remarked.

He further stated that it was imperative that as a country we harness the power of collaboration and synergy to unlock new opportunities for growth, innovation, and inclusive development and added that artificial intelligence holds the key to addressing some of our most pressing challenges and realising our collective aspirations.

"AI stands as a formidable catalyst for innovation, offering unparalleled opportunities to address complex challenges and drive economic growth and our commitment is to foster an environment that nurtures AI research, development, and application".

To this end, Owalo highlighted three key pillars that will guide Kenya's efforts in fostering synergies in digital transformation and AI. They include Inclusive Digitisation where the government will ensure that the benefits of digital transformation reach every corner of our society. It includes bridging the digital divide, empowering marginalised communities, and providing equal access to digital resources and opportunities.

"To this end, my ministry has adopted a countrywide digital skills training for capacity development that will benefit Kenyans from all walks of life," the CS explained.

Owalo stated that the other pillar involves Collaborative Innovation where the Government is encouraging public-private partnerships, academia-industry collaborations, and cross-sector engagements to drive innovation in digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

On the third pillar of Ethical AI and Data Governance, the CS said it is crucial to prioritise ethical considerations and establish robust data governance frameworks to safeguard cyberspace and strike a balance between innovation and responsibility, while at the same time ensuring that AI technologies are developed and deployed with transparency, fairness, and accountability. This, he said will build trust among citizens and stakeholders, laying the foundation for sustainable digital growth.

"The government is actively engaging in an open, interdisciplinary conversation to assess risks stemming from frontier AI, delineate the roles of different actors in responding to these risks, and explore the considerable opportunities that AI presents and international collaboration is crucial for managing these risks and fostering opportunities arising from frontier AI,"

Noting that AI developments necessitate investments in cyber security, Owalo revealed that his ministry has devised a strategy to raise awareness among technical staff through training programs. The initiative aims to ensure that staff members stay informed about relevant AI developments, especially concerning security threats and failure modes, enabling them to make informed decisions.

The CS reiterated that the government's commitment to actively participate in global discussions on AI and the challenges posed by this digital transformation should not be obstacles but opportunities for progress.

"By working together, we can shape a future where technology serves as a force for good, uplifting the lives of our people and contributing to the overall development of our nation," Owalo advised the participants of the summit.

# African Leaders Should Prioritize Addressing Non-Economic Loss And Damage



By: Twongirwe Ireen  
ireentwongirwe64@gmail.com  
CEO - WoGEM Uganda

Worth Noting:

- While in Addis during the Africa Union Summit, the minister for Agriculture Hon Tumwebaze emphasizes on the importance of fulfilling commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement, including the reduction of emissions and collaborative efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. However, as a Ugandan I wonder whether we are doing what the Paris agreement requires with the increased level of deforestation and extraction of fossil fuels in our country.
- Noteworthy, there is limited or no integration in national policies while addressing NELD. Measures nor policies and considerations are not consistently integrated into national climate change policies, development plans, and disaster risk reduction strategies and this has forced marginalized communities into depression.



The theme of the Summit and the year 2024 is: “Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, lifelong, quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

Last week, African leaders just finished Africa union Summit that happened in Addis Abba Ethiopia. The summit was to discuss the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 28 on climate finance and green growth in Africa.

Its important note that African countries are prone to climate change catastrophes such as flooding, cyclones, raise in temperature levels, drought , increase in sea levels among others. This is due to the extraction of fossil fuels, human activities such as poor methods of farming, deforestation, poor waste management among others.

Its clear that most of these activities are caused by communities and others are from developed countries are greed for our resources such as Oil, gas, gold among others. Furthermore, these activities increase the climate change impacts leading to economic Loss and Damage (ELD) and Non-economic Loss and damage (NELD). The difference between the two is that ELD can be quantified and easily compensated

while NELD can’t be quantified, and there are invisible. Such include, loss of lives, indigenous knowledge, culture and psychological torture among others.

Furthermore, the NELD most of the times are not prioritized and addressed, most efforts are put in addressing ELD and yet it affects communities greatly.

While in Addis during the Africa Union Summit, the minister for Agriculture Hon Tumwebaze emphasizes on the importance of fulfilling commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement, including the reduction of emissions and collaborative efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. However, as a Ugandan I wonder whether we are doing what the Paris agreement requires with the increased level of deforestation and extraction of fossil fuels in our country.

Noteworthy, there is limited or no integration in national policies while addressing NELD. Measures nor policies and considerations are not consistently integrated into national climate change policies, develop-

ment plans, and disaster risk reduction strategies and this has forced marginalized communities into depression.

Further, Lack of adaptation and resilience strategies while considering the inequitable distribution of impacts and resources: While there may be efforts to address economic losses, the incorporation of non-economic aspects may be inadequate. Policies should ensure equity and justice in the allocation of resources and support.

As African countries there is need for us to put in place measures and policies on how we can address the Non-Economic Loss and Damage that leave marginalized communities especially women living in trauma, depression, stress and poor standards of living. We need to mobilize a pool of resources to tackle the wellbeing of the marginalized countries that are greatly impacted by climate change impacts.

In a nutshell, there is need to establish the NELD Framework to be approved by the members of the Warsaw International Mechanism

Committee and by the UNFCCC. More so, establishing Prevention and Preparedness Framework for Loss and Damage will help to show an urgent need to address NELD.

Additionally, evaluating current plans to address loss and damage, recognizing that evaluation is the stage at which the significance of non-economic losses is defined. Adaptation options can be assessed in relation to their impacts on non-economic losses.

Lastly, Supporting and empowering local leaders by enabling them to take charge and executing initiatives that revolve around the needs and aspirations of their community members will help in implementing work plans and objectives that are driven by local input so as to create an environment where resilience thrives at the grassroots level.

For God and my country

Ireen Twongirwe  
Executive Director  
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda.

# Governors Maintain Demand For Ksh.450B Allocation

By: Our Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

Governors are now sounding an alarm over alleged attempts to claw back on the gains made on devolution by starving counties of funds. In a spirited effort to ensure they get more funds in the next financial year, the Council of Governors (CoG) wants the Senate to ensure they receive at least Ksh.450 billion in their efforts to protect devolution. Speaking when they appeared before the Senate Finance and Budget Committee, Governors led by CoG Chair Anne Waiguru, they pleaded with the Upper House to protect devolution by making sure they get resources. “What we’re saying is that the Senate needs to safeguard devolution and be the protector of devolution, because if you don’t do that we will find ourselves in very serious trouble and we’re not asking for any addi-



From Left to Right; Governors Ann Waiguru, Johnson Sakaja, Mutahi Kahiga and Anyang Nyong'o during their appearance in the Senate yesterday.

tional resources because that is the narrative...we’re just asking for our fair share,” charged Waiguru, who is also the Kirinyaga Governor. In one accord, several Governors that attended the meeting read from the same script, asking the Senate to perform their role and ensure coun- ties are not starved of resources and fail to execute their role. Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki wondered why the national government was going back on its promise of giving 35 per cent of shareable revenue to counties and asked the Senate not to relent in try-

ing to make sure the promise is kept. “When my Kenya Kwanza coalition was campaigning they promised that the minimum they will give devolved functions of the shareable revenue is 35%, so we’re asking of the Senate please don’t be a party to tainting by coalition, please help them realize that they need to honor their promise of 35%,” he said. According to the CoG, the proposed KSh391 billion by the National Treasury will be against the Constitution as it will be only 13 per cent of the proposed budget. According to Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, resources are remaining at the national government despite functions being devolved. “If you compare the entire allocation to all the 47 counties, it is much less than what is going to a department that is only dealing with policy and dealing with less than 10 health facilities... there is something wrong with that,” he said. “We are not here to demand for more money, we are here to demand for our fair share of our national revenue, and fair share means that any devolved function should be followed by resources,” Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire added. The Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) has promised counties Ksh.398 billion, which has been flatly rejected by the Governors.

# Social Protection Committee Receives Submissions From MDA’s For Consideration Of Budget Policy Statements Of 2024/2025

By: PSCU

Members of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection yesterday played host to the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and the National Gender and Equality Commission to consider their 2024 Budget Policy Statements. The committee chaired by Thika Town MP Alice Ng’ang’a started by receiving the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action Joseph Montari who was accompanied by his departmental heads and the managers of all the SAGA’s under his docket. Montari and his team presented a recurrent budget cumulative expenditure analysis of KSh34.3 Billion as approved estimates for the year ending June 2024 with an actual expenditure of KSh17.8 Billion as at 31st December 2023. The PS told the committee that the current budget allocation was way below their expectations as they look into the 2024/2025 budget estimates.



Committee members during yesterday's meeting.

“We are having a serious deficit chair, we requested for a gross budget of KSh65 Billion but only received KSh34 Billion, this will negatively affect service delivery of the State Department, through the National Assembly, we request that the Committee helps in raising this budget”, said the PS. The PS pointed out the National Council for Persons with Disabilities as one of the SAGA’s receiving low funding. Committee members advised that the management of the Presidential Bursary Fund, National Council for Children Services, Street Family Rehabilitation Trust Fund and Cash Transfer to Older Persons, find time to engage the committee to help work on the challenges they currently face. “If you don’t reach out and only wait for a sitting where the PS is giving budget estimates, then it becomes difficult for this committee to handle some of these issues,” said the committee chairperson. The PS for the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Ann Wang’ombe and her team were the second group to appear before the committee but were advised to present their Budget Policy Statement today after it turned out that they could not satisfactory explain the documents presented to the committee.



One of the committee's members and Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina making his contribution during yesterday's session..

Committee session chairperson who is the Kipkelion MP Hillary Kosgey agreed with members that PS Wang’ombe re-organises her document and appear again. The National Gender and Equality Commission Chairperson Dr. Mwika Mutinda and the Chief Executive officer to the Commission Ms. Betty Sungura were the last to present their Budget Policy Statement for the year 2024. The CEO Ms. Sungura pleaded with the committee to help raise their Budget ceiling which is currently at KSh497.5 million. “Hon. Chair, during the 2024/25 Resource Sector Group sessions, the Commission requested for KSh 1 Billion but was allocated only LSh 498 million thus a deficit of Ksh 502 million,” she explained. Committee members were impressed with the Commission’s presentation promising to help them reach out to many disadvantaged Kenyans. The committee will hold more sittings today.



MOSES KURIA FOUNDATION - PRESENTS

# MOSES KURIA CUP TOURNAMENT



**11** Counties from Nakuru to Isiolo  
**66** Constituencies from Kuresoi to Isiolo  
**66** Teams



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



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



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



Overall Winner gets **Ksh 5 Million**  
Runners Up Gets **Ksh 3 Million**  
Third Place **Ksh 1 Million**



Each of the other **66** teams get

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



**LET US JOIN HANDS TO SAVE OUR YOUTH**

SPORTS  
NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> \*A Spanish court yesterday sentenced former Brazil international Dani Alves to four and a half years in prison after finding him guilty of raping a young woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022.

Ex-Brazil Star Dani Alves Sentenced To 4.5 Years In Jail For Rape



(FILES) Brazil and FC Barcelona defender Dani Alves poses on the red carpet as he arrives for the 2015 FIFA Ballon d’Or award ceremony at the Kongresshaus in Zurich on January 11, 2016. A Spanish court on February 22, 2024 sentenced former Brazil international Dani Alves to four and a half years in prison after finding him guilty of raping a young woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022. (Photo by MICHAEL BUHOLZER / AFP).

A Spanish court yesterday sentenced former Brazil international Dani Alves to four and a half years in prison after finding him guilty of raping a young woman at a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022.

It also ordered the three-time Champions League winner to five years probation after he serves his jail term, and demanded he pay 150,000 euros (\$162,000) in compensation to the victim.

“The victim did not consent and there is evidence that, beyond the complainant’s testimony, permits the rape to be considered proven,” the Barcelona court wrote in a statement.

“The court considers as proven the fact that the defendant abruptly grabbed the complainant, threw her to the ground

and penetrated her vaginally, preventing her from moving, while the complainant said no and wanted to leave.”

Prosecutors had called for a nine-year jail sentence for the 40-year-old followed by 10 years of probation.

Alves, who testified at his trial that the sex with the woman was consensual, can appeal.

One of the world’s most decorated footballers who played for Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain during a storied career, Alves went on trial earlier this month on charges of raping a woman at the Sutton nightclub in the early hours of December 31, 2022.

His accuser -- who testified behind a screen to protect her identity -- said Alves had violently forced her to have sex in a pri-

vate bathroom of the nightclub despite her begging him to let her go, causing her “anguish and terror”, according to prosecutors.

A friend who was with her broke down in tears as she told the court how the victim was “crying uncontrollably” after leaving the bathroom, saying Alves had “really hurt” her.

**Could have left**

Police officers who attended the woman told the court about the victim’s state of agitation and “shock” when they arrived at the nightclub, as well as her anxiety that “nobody would believe her” if she filed a complaint.

Alves, who was present in court throughout his three-day trial, testified that his sexual encounter with the woman was consensual and denied hitting her and grab-

bing her hair.

“I am not that type of man, I am not violent,” he told the court after his defence lawyer asked if he had forced her to have sex.

“If she wanted to leave, she could have left, she was not obligated to be there,” he added.

Alves’ friend who was with him that night testified the football player drank wine and whisky before going to the nightclub.

His 31-year-old wife Joana Sanz told the court on Tuesday that he appeared very drunk when he got back to their Barcelona home that night and she had not wanted to talk to him because of “the state he was in”.

**Changed story**

Alves, who comes from a poor family in Juazeiro in Brazil’s Bahia State, initially denied knowing the woman in a TV interview but later acknowledged having sex with her, saying it was consensual. He told La Vanguardia newspaper in June that he had lied because he was afraid his wife would leave him.

The player has been in detention since he was arrested in Barcelona in January 2023. His requests to be released on bail have been repeatedly denied by the courts which considered him a flight risk because of his wealth.

Brazil does not extradite its own citizens when they are sentenced in other countries.

Alves is widely considered as one of the greatest defenders of all time, winning 42 trophies during a highly successful career.

The peak of his career was with Barcelona between 2008 and 2016 when he won 23 trophies. At the time of his arrest, he was contracted to Mexican club Pumas UNAM. He was sacked soon after being detained.

AFP

**Sports >>** \*Manchester United left-back Luke Shaw’s season could be over after he suffered a significant hamstring injury.

# Man Utd’s Shaw Could Miss Rest Of Season



Manchester United left-back Luke Shaw’s season could be over after he suffered a significant hamstring injury. The England international hobbled off just before half-time in Sunday’s 2-1 Premier League victory at Luton. The 28-year-old now faces a race

against time to prove his fitness to make the England squad for Euro 2024. “Luke Shaw has sustained a muscle injury and will be out for an extended period,” United said in a statement on Wednesday. “Further assessment is still required to determine the severity

but we expect him to be absent for a few months.” Shaw, who has made just 15 appearances in all competitions in an injury-interrupted season, had only returned to action in January after a month out. United are short on cover at left-back as Tyrell Malacia has been

sidelined all season and the club opted to cut short Sergio Reguilón’s loan from Tottenham in January.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





## Backpage



## Parliamentary Committee On Labour Meets With Officials From State Departments On The 2024 Budget Policy Statement

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Committee on Labour chaired by Runyenjes MP. Eric Karemba yesterday received submissions on the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) FY 2024/25.

Appearing before the committee were the State Department for Public Service, the Public Service Commission and the Salaries and Remuneration commission.

Karemba in his opening remarks noted that it was important to engage in the process for members to be appraised on implementation of different projects by MDAs and identify funding gaps for effective service delivery.

Principal Secretary for Public Service Amos Gathecha asked members of the Labour Committee to consider allocating more resources to the department to enable it to facilitate the establishment of Huduma Centers across the country to

bring government services closer to the people.

"Hon. Chairman, the State Department for Public Service is cognizant of the fiscal pressure facing the Government at this time, however, we have critical services that we wish to be considered for additional funding especially the Huduma Kenya Service Delivery Programme and finalization of Human Resource policies," he Said.

The committee also met with the Public Service Commission led by its chairman, Anthony Muchiri. In his presentation, Muchiri told the committee that the commission will continue to offer the Public Service Internship Programme giving opportunities to many graduates as a way of developing and shaping their skills.

In the current financial year, the commission took in a total of 8,650 interns who were appointed and deployed to various Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The issue of employing people with fake papers in public Service was one of the concerns raised by

legislators.

Kagesi Ernest (Vihiga) tasked the commission to inform the committee of measures being undertaken to curb this vice that has tinted the image of the public service sector.

Muchiri told the committee that the commission has been scrutinizing all papers presented by employees to clean up the service.

He confirmed that several people have been found to have submitted fake credentials and subsequently they have been struck off from payroll.

"The public service was in dire need of extensive audit. It is unfair that one can present a fake certificate for employment at the expense of other genuinely qualified Kenyans," said Muchiri.

Further, he told the committee that they have concluded the first phase of the audit process and handed over the draft report to relevant institutions such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) for further action which may include prosecution and recovery of all accrued benefits from public



The committee during yesterday's session

funds.

Mrs. Lyn Mengich appearing on behalf of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission told the committee that the commission is committed to advice on how to manage the country's wage bill.

She however informed the legislators that the commission has faced funding challenges to enable the commission to undertake adequate

payroll audits in all public sectors.

"The Commission will strive to maintain and achieve a fiscally sustainable and affordable wage bill by continuously setting and issuing advice on remuneration and benefits including Collective Bargaining Negotiations," said Mengich.

## How Digital Transformation Has Revolutionized Land Management in Nakuru County

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyaytimes

Nakuru County's land management ecosystem is now just a click away with the development and implementation of a digital platform that manages land-related data by enhancing collaboration, transparency, and data accuracy.

The Land Management System and an Electronic Development Application System (EDAMS) is expected to fast-track the land management and development approval processes previously undertaken manually.

According to Governor Susan Kihika, the platform will efficiently handle tasks such as land registration, property valuation, land use planning, and other aspects of land governance and development application process electronically.



Nakuru county governor Susan Kihika.

"These systems are also designed to increase county revenue and reduce human interface in the approval process. With these systems, our revenue collection is expected to grow significantly," she stated in her State of the County Address.

To fast-track land ownership and

development processes, the administration, in collaboration with the National Government, has also rolled out title deeds issuance programs as well as lifting of caveats, along the Mau Forest blocs.

The administration has also developed a Spatial Plan that outline's

county's socio-economic development vision and program, including the distribution of people and activities for sustainable use of land and other county spaces.

The governor said the GIS-based tool would provide a structured framework for the allocation of land for various uses such as residential, commercial, and recreational in 29 trading centers targeted for elevation within a region.

To bring services closer to the people, the Governor installed the Molo and Naivasha municipal boards and promised to transfer some of the County functions to Municipalities. This will enhance proper management of urban centers for growth and development.

On the national housing agenda, the County has prioritized Bahati and Elburgon Townships whose combine allocation stand at 440 units. Already, some 605 units at Bonde-

ni in Nakuru Town East have been completed and occupied.

"To address skilled labor force challenges, my government has rolled out training of artisans on alternative building technologies. This has been undertaken in our Alternative Building Technologies Centers across the county," she stated.

Last week, the Governor launched the first phase of informal settlements upgrade program that will cost over half billion shillings in London area of Nakuru Town West, Kwa Murogi and Lake View in Nakuru Town East and Karagita in Naivasha.

In the current financial year and beyond, the governor said the County would develop a housing policy to regulate the housing market, a valuation law that will inform land value and taxation and expand the housing program in other parts of the county.