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News>>Gachagua Urges Artists To Promote Good Cultural Practices, Traditions

P. 8. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked artists and musicians to promote preservation of good cultural practices and traditions through art



News>>Mathioya MP Flags Off Rehabilitation Of Roads In The Constituency

P. 12. Residents of Chuui and Mbari ya Kio in Mathioya, Murang'a, have expressed relief following the start of construction works to upgrade rural roads that have been impassable in the area.

Tougher Measures Against Illicit Alcoholic Drinks To Take Effect This Week - Gachagua

 **Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said stringent measures will be rolled out to wipe out illicit brews and drugs destroying the lives of hundreds of Kenyans from next week. The Deputy President said it would not be business as usual as destructive drinks kill people and maim others, promising tougher response to effectively deal with the vice.**



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing gathering in Mosop, Nandi County

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Waiguru Flags Off Subsidized Animal Feeds As Demand Rise

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Waiguru said through the Wezesha Kirinyaga programme, the county government has been manufacturing and supplying farmers with subsidized animal feeds to help lower cost of production so that farmers can earn more.
- “This programme is helping farmers access affordable and quality animal meals. It has helped in lowering the cost of production thus allowing farmers to earn more money,” Waiguru said.



Kirinyaga County governor Anne Waiguru flagging off the subsidized fertilizer.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru says number of farmers accessing subsidized animal feeds from the county production factory has risen to 10,000 up from 1200.

Waiguru said the demand for subsidized animal feeds from the county production unit at Kiaga was being driven by affordability and quality of the feeds.

Speaking when she flagged off one of the consignment of bulk subsidized animal feeds for farmers through cooperative societies, Waiguru said subsidized feeds has helped lower cost of milk production.

The 360 bags of dairy feeds for members of the Kirima Dairy Cooperative Society will be distributed to livestock farmers at a price of Ksh.2300 per 70kg bag against the current market price of between Ksh.2900 – Ksh.3500.

Waiguru said through the Wezesha Kirinyaga programme, the county govern-

ment has been manufacturing and supplying farmers with subsidized animal feeds to help lower cost of production so that farmers can earn more.

“This programme is helping farmers access affordable and quality animal meals. It has helped in lowering the cost of production thus allowing farmers to earn more money,” Waiguru said.

This effort has led to increased milk production from 2.5 liters to 7.8 liters. Our aim is achieving at least 12 liters per cow daily,” he Governor added.

To cope with the demand for the subsidized feeds, Waiguru said the county has added two manual and two semi-automatic duo processing lines to increase the capacity of the factory to 310 bags per day.

“When we started this programme, this production factory had only one line with a capacity of producing 110 bags of 70

kg animal feeds per day. Today the factory has grown big and we are now able to supply to many farmers cheap but quality animal feeds,” she said.

She said so as to enable farmers earn more from dairy farming the cost of animal feeds production must come down.

So as to guarantee sustainability of the subsidized animal feeds programme, the governor said the county has partnered with cooperatives among them Kirima, Rukingo and Pondago for the distribution of the subsidized feeds to dairy farmers.

“As we flag off this consignment of 360 bags of dairy feeds to Kirima Dairy Cooperative Society, allow me to say that our county has a great potential in dairy production and investing in affordable and quality animal feeds, Artificial Insemination and value addition projects can turn around the fortunes of thousands of dairy farmers,” the governor pointed

out.

She said the county has cumulatively distributed 3358 bags of dairy feeds through the programme.

Waiguru said the county has also helped cooperatives deal with increased milk production, by providing them with milk coolers, standby generators and yoghurt processing machines for value addition. Kirima, Rukingo, Pondago and Rung’eto cooperatives have benefited from this initiative.

“To finalise with other efforts to promote dairy farming, we have given 60 farmers groups equipment for on-farm feed formulation. We have also supported 27 farmers groups with pulverizer machines and given out grass cutters to 32 groups to support fodder making.

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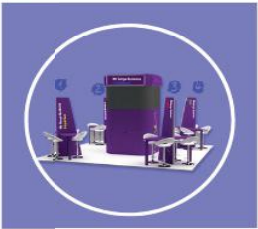
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Anisa Abdullahi Muhumed, a Somali-born Kenyan refugee girl, is a beacon of hope and inspiration for many children in Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps.

She is the best Kenyan refugee female student in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) 2023, scoring a remarkable B+ (plus) of 70 points.

Anisa has taken up voluntary work at her former school, teaching English in form one classes of 65 students, form two classes of 45, and assisting in administrative work. She is also the executive secretary to the Principal Ms. Josephine Nguta.

Anisa, the beneficiary of the Jesuit Refugee Council Scholarship working under the umbrella body of UNHCR, went against all odds to emerge not only at the top of her school but also the best girl in Turkana West Constituency, beating over 300,000 KCSE candidates in 2023, except one.

Life as a learner in a refugee camp came with its fair share of challenges, but she was up for the challenge to overcome the barriers to make her life and that of her family and community better. Societal norms that prioritise boy children over girls were based on misleading information peddled by community members that girls don't need education but should just prepare for marriage.

Anisa is up for the challenge of pursuing education, despite family financial constraints and academic stress.

She advises scholarship recipients to make good use of the opportunity, as they are lucky to be in school with everything essential for them to learn.



Head of Public Service and Chief of Staff Felix Koskei has urged parents to prioritise their children's education, stating that it is the best investment a parent can offer.

Koskei highlighted that education is the only equaliser between the rich and the poor, and that when children are educated, they can significantly contribute to their families and society.

He urged parents to team up with teachers to ensure their children excel in academics and to report suspected cases of illegal drugs to the relevant authorities.

Koskei also praised the security team in the region for their efforts in dealing with illegal brew and drug abuse, calling on residents to work with them to provide information on such drugs.

Nandi Hills constituency Member of Parliament Benard Kitur announced that his office, through the National Government Constituency Development Fund, will sponsor 1000 form four leavers to Technical Training Institutes (TTI) and 500 youths to driving schools, funded by NG-CDF.

Retired Bishop Maurice Anthony Crowley urged the privileged in the community to support education by funding students from poor backgrounds, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.



Malnutrition and stunted growth are prevalent in Nakuru County, a region with abundant agricultural resources.

The lack of diversification of crops has led to malnutrition and stunted growth among children, with 18 in every 100 children suffering from malnutrition and stunted growth, according to the recent Kenya Demographic and Health Survey.

The Hope Women group in Elburgon Ward,



Information, Communication, and the Digital Economy (MICDE) Cabinet Secretary, Eliud Owalo, has urged both the public and private sectors to prioritise digitising their services.

He emphasised the benefits of embracing digital technologies, driving innovation, fueling job opportunities, and fostering economic growth.

Owalo highlighted the importance of digitizing the Kenyan Economy, citing examples of establishing 1250 digital hubs in villages, training 119,000 individuals, and enabling 135,471 youth access digital jobs.

The Ministry of ICDE hosted the inaugural Digital Transformation Public Sector (DTPS) Forum and Awards in collaboration with Greyscale Africa, Amazon Web Services, Intel Africa, and Computer Revolution Africa.

The CS emphasised the intersection of technology and governance, highlighting how both public and private sectors are adopting digital solutions to improve service delivery.

The Ministry set up a Sector Working Group three months ago to analyze emerging issues and technological advancements, and to provide recommendations on policy, legal, and regulatory aspects.

Owalo urged participants to focus on digitising all aspects of their companies, emphasising its pivotal role in achieving success.

The event enriched conversations on leveraging technology and digital infrastructure to achieve digital transformation in the Public Sector, with the County Government of Nyandarua winning the 'Overall Winner, Digital Transformation Public Sector Awards 2024' Category and the Nairobi County Government winning the 'Leader, Digital Innovation County Governments 2024' Category.

Bar owners in Nakuru County have thrown their weight behind the government's efforts to eradicate the sale of illicit liquor, saying that besides claiming the lives of Kenyans, the vice was subjecting genuine businessmen to losses running into billions of shillings.

The Nakuru Bar Owners

Association (NBOA) has called for comprehensive measures to curb the consumption of killer brews in Kenya.

NBOA Chairman Dr. Abdul Noor urged law enforcement agencies and licensing teams to ensure strict compliance with alcohol laws.

He accused gluttonous cartels of working with unscrupulous state agents to fuel the trade in lethal alcoholic beverages.

Dr. Noor also called on the Kenya Revenue Authority and law enforcement agents to probe the source of toxic ingredients used to manufacture lethal brews and claimed that some substances were being sneaked into the country from a neighbouring state.

He also petitioned the Court system to issue stringent bail terms and deterrent fines to offenders contravening the provisions of these laws to completely eradicate and discourage illicit brew consumption.

The association urged members of the public to exercise vigilance and caution while purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks and to refrain from excessive consumption of alcohol.

Dr. Noor expressed plans to reduce the number of pubs in towns but instead called for the closure of illegal or unlicensed alcohol-selling outlets.



Nakuru County, has been working to diversify their vegetable production and capitalise on economies of scale for value addition. The group has leased plots to bring on board experts to teach them how to grow these vegetables and reach markets and processors for value addition.

The Cascade programme under Care Kenya has pooled experts and resources to help farmers learn best farming practices and

manage their soils to sustain crops even in dry seasons.

The project also targets African leafy vegetables as drought-resistant, which could earn the group money while providing food year-round.

The county is providing extension services to ensure food production is safe for nutrition values and working with farmer groups to show them how to grow the various crops.

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Joy For Residents Of Karumandi Ward As Waiguru Opens 12th Medical Facility

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “We have come back as part of fulfilling our pledge to improve health service delivery in Karumandi. This dispensary is a valuable resource for the area residents and I look forward to seeing the positive impact that it will have on their lives,” she said.
- The Governor said the ward has had only one public health facility which is Karumandi Health Center and opening of Mucagara dispensary will save residents time and cost incurred while travelling long distance to access healthcare services.



Kirinyaga County governor opening the new medical facility.

Over 4000 residents of Karumandi ward in Kirinyaga County can now access affordable and quality healthcare following the opening of a dispensary by the County Government.

Mucagara dispensary which was officially opened by Governor Anne Waiguru last Friday will serve residents of 10 villages within Kirerema and Kariru Sub-Locations.

Governor Waiguru said residents will access outpatient services, maternal and child welfare services, laboratory and pharmaceutical services at the facility.

She said the dispensary represents a very significant investment in her healthcare goals as it will provide the much-needed access to affordable

primary healthcare which is a critical component of Universal Health Coverage.

“We have come back as part of fulfilling our pledge to improve health service delivery in Karumandi. This dispensary is a valuable resource for the area residents and I look forward to seeing the positive impact that it will have on their lives,” she said.

The Governor said the ward has had only one public health facility which is Karumandi Health Center and opening of Mucagara dispensary will save residents time and cost incurred while travelling long distance to access healthcare services.

Some of the villages that will be served by the facility include; Muca-

gara, Gitie, Kariru A and B, Kathugu, Thumaita, Kamagambo, Gikumbo, Karerema and Kibone.

The dispensary is the 12th medical facility to be opened by the governor in the last two years and is among the 20 dispensary projects that have been constructed by Waiguru. Others which have already been operationalized are; Kerugoya County Referral Hospital, South Ngariama maternity, Matandara, Riakithiga laboratory, Kamwana, Kiamwathi, Kianjiru, Umoja, Kiaumbui, Joshua Mbai laboratory and Kerugoya Cancer Centre.

Others lined up for operationalization include Kavote, Kiandai, Ndaba, Kiandieri, Kandongu dispensary laboratory, Kiamuruga, Njega's female

ward. Upgrading of Kimbimbi and Ki- anyaga from level three to level four facilities is also nearing completion.

“We will continue strengthening our primary healthcare systems in order to address various health challenges in the community before they escalate to levels that need to be managed at our higher-level hospitals,” the Governor added.

She said the county has already deployed 1,205 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) across the county and equipped them to be able to offer basic health services and referrals to residents.

“Some of the services that you should expect from the CHPs include: public health education, basic tests such blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, body temperature, child growth monitoring, deworming and First Aid,” the Governor added.

The CHPs will also help in following up on expectant mothers to ensure that they attend antenatal clinics, deliver in a health facility and attend child welfare clinics after delivery.

“We are asking for your support as we promote preventive health since that will help us reduce the disease burden in our county,” Waiguru said.

To enhance seamless delivery of outpatient and in-patient services, the Governor said the County Government has installed a Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) in Kerugoya County Referral Hospital and will be rolling out the system in all the health facilities.

Area Member of County Assembly (MCA) Caroline Wanjiku Muriithi and residents said the facility offer a big relief as it will save them the agony of walking long distances seeking medical services

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Gachagua Urges Artists To Promote Good Cultural Practices, Traditions

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “Cultural events will no longer be disrupted by security agencies. But the elders should make sure their events are not hijacked by people harbouring bad intentions and those who would propagate the wrong things, support practices overtaken by time, or misguide people into cultic practices,” said Gachagua.
- He spoke on Saturday night at Honi Resort, Kieni, Nyeri County during the fifth edition of Ngogoyo Ya Rware music extravaganza.
- The event, attended by thousands of people and entrepreneurs, brought together fans and top legends of the Kikuyu music industry led by Musaimo wa Njeri, Kariuki Kiarutara, Lady Wanja, Timona Mburu, Kigia wa Esther, Wahome Maingi, CDM Kiratu among others.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua adjusting the shirt button of businessman Dr Thuo Mathenge as Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge looks on. This was after the DP arrived at Honi Resort where he was the Chief Guest during the 5th Nyeri Ngogoyo edition..

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked artists and musicians to promote preservation of good cultural practices and traditions through art, adding that the government is committed to spur growth of creative economy.

At the same time, the Deputy President said security agencies will no longer disrupt cultural events as he called upon elders and those in charge of traditional cultural processes to develop structures to prevent distortion and misunderstanding of history and culture.

“Cultural events will no longer be disrupted by security agencies. But the elders should make sure their events are not hijacked by people harbouring bad intentions and those who would propagate the wrong things, support practices overtaken by time, or misguide people into cultic practices,” said Gachagua.

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The event, attended by thousands of people and entrepreneurs, brought together fans and top legends of the Kikuyu music industry led by Musaimo wa Njeri, Kariuki Kiarutara, Lady Wanja, Timona Mburu, Kigia wa Esther, Wahome Maingi, CDM Kiratu among others.

The event was organized by fans of the Kikuyu old music, which is known for promoting the Agikuyu culture, beliefs, tradition and values led by John Maina alias Maina Planner. The songs are also rich in history.

In his remarks, the Deputy President challenged the event organizers to put up similar activities in the other counties around the Mt region to promote culture of the community.

“It is important to own and nurture our culture and traditions and protect our history. They are our heritage. It is important to protect and safe guard our values and customs. We should love each other as a community no matter where we are,” said the Deputy President.

He also emphasized on the unity of the communities in Mount Kenya

region and support each other, as he urged residents to reject divisive politics.

Stating that Kenya is known for its ethnic and cultural diversity, the Deputy President championed for protection of the country’s rich and diverse traditions.

“Understanding our history; both before and after independence; teaches us the danger of internal divisions and the power of internal unity. Like it was the case during anti-colonial war, we still have betrayers,” he stated.

The Deputy President said the gov-

ernment will not back down in the ongoing crackdown on sale of illicit and illegal brews. He said legitimate and legal alcohol will not be targeted in the exercise.

“The government distinguishes between legal and illicit alcohol. We have a series of interventions that will see complete eradication of the poisonous alcoholic drinks once and for all. We have a duty to protect our youth from destruction by illicit and illegal brews. Recently, we lost 23 people in Kirinyaga to poisonous alcoholic drinks,” said the Deputy President.

Observing greatness of strong family institutions in the country, the Deputy President urged parents and elders to nurture good morals among children.

“Let us build strong families and take care of our children. I am grateful families are coming back again, resulting from government’s decision to eradicate the illicit brews,” he said.

Leaders that accompanied the Deputy President at the function include Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Senators Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri), Veronica Maina (Nominated), MPs Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Mejja Donk Gathiru (Embakasi Central), Joseph Wainaina (Nominated), Kanini Kega (EALA) and Women Representatives Rahab Mukami (Nyeri), Jane Njeri (Kirinyaga) and Betty Maina (Murang’a).

Principal Secretary Gender and Affirmative Action Anne Wang’ombe, former Nyeri Town Mp Ngunjiri Wambugu, politician Dr Thuo Mathenge and businessman Daniel Wamahiu, MCA’s were also present.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other guests taking the floor at Honi Resort during the 5th edition of Nyeri Ngogoyo on Saturday night..

Tougher Measures Against Illicit Alcoholic Drinks To Take Effect This Week - DP

By: DPCS



Worth Noting:

Today, the Deputy President will hold an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Conference in Mombasa to intensify the war against the menace in the coastal region. The DP has already held similar meetings in Nyeri, Chuka and Nakuru. With implementation of the Coffee Reforms in top gear, the DP, said farmers are already reaping big saying they will remain focused and determined in the streamlining of the sub-sector for more benefits to the farmers.

“Last week, for the first time in 10 years, 50kgs of coffee from one factory was bought at 600 US dollars. We will continue to straighten this sector for more earnings,” assured the DP.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing gathering in Mosop, Nandi County.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said stringent measures will be rolled out to wipe out illicit brews and drugs destroying the lives of hundreds of Kenyans from next week.

The Deputy President said it would not be business as usual as destructive drinks kill people and maim others, promising tougher response to effectively deal with the vice.

Speaking on Saturday at Kapserton SDA Church in Mosop Constituency, Nandi County, Mr Gachagua said the Ruto Administration is working on tougher interventions that will wholly be implemented collectively by respective Government agencies from next week.

The Deputy President who also presided over a fundraiser at Kurgung Boys High School in the Constituency said;

“I held a meeting this week with top Government officials and senior security officers and we have agreed on these measures which will be rolled out from next week.”

He said the measures will be far-reaching, adding that the government will end the menace of illicit alcoholic drinks soon.

“We are determined to make our country safe from these killer drinks. We will make sure the manufacturers of these drinks will leave this country for good. We cannot allow Kenyans to be sold poison in the guise of alcoholic drinks,” asserted the DP.

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“Last week, for the first time in 10 years, 50kgs of coffee from one factory was bought at 600 US dollars. We will continue to straighten this sector for more earnings,” assured the DP.

The DP was accompanied by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Education

Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, Basic Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang, Governors Stephen Sang (Nandi), Wisley Rotich (Elgeyo-Marakwet), Jonathan Bii (Uasin Gishu), National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwah, Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei, Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago, host MP Abraham Kirwa, Nandi County MP Cynthia Muge a host of MPs, MCAs among other leaders.

Mr Koskei said the President and Deputy President have established a strong foundation for the implementation of government programmes.

“This is a steady, well-founded government. The programmes have taken off after a difficult first year because of unavailability of resources. We must double the achievements of last year, this year. We will work hard to deliver the promises to the people because this is a truthful government as you are truthful,” said Mr Koskei.

Other leaders who accompanied the Deputy President thanked him for not focusing on his detractors but implementation of projects being rolled out by President William Ru-

to’s administration.

“There are a number of projects going on in Nandi including roads and other infrastructure projects. We know these will be completed soon for the benefit of our people,” said Emgwen MP Josses Lemengit.

They said the reforms in the Coffee subsector have seen farmers receive better earnings, requesting the DP to press on with its streamlining.

“We are grateful for the Coffee Reforms. Our farmers are happy. They are now reaping what they deserve. We are requesting for more seedlings because the demand is now higher,” said Elgeyo-Marakwet Governor Wisley Rotich.

The leaders said the DP is hard-working and interested in the better lives of the people.

“The Deputy President has stood with us all the time. He is indeed a true friend of the people of Nandi,” said Governor Sang.

“We are grateful for the love you have for us. You have not shied away from coming to Nandi several times on development matters. We will not tire to express our gratitude for being close to our people,” Mosop MP Abraham Kirwa.

Wetangula Calls On Security Agencies To Collaborate

By: Dickson Mwiti
@themkenyetimes

The National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has called on the administrators from Meru County to liaise with the national offices in Nairobi in order to end the prevailing cattle rustling in the region.

Speaking over the weekend at Mikinguri in Tigania Central during a fundraiser to support Tigania Women Sacco, the Speaker said it was sad that the outdated practice was going on in the county and the local administrators were not doing much to eradicate it.

“I want to call on the local administrators and all the security officers to ensure they stay in touch with the higher offices in order to ensure challenges hindering the fight against cattle rustling are addressed,” said Wetangula.

He added that it was not pleasing to hear the locals and especially elected leaders lamenting in public as a result of the continued vice as this was lowering their dignity.

“We have a son from this region Prof. Kithure Kindiki who since he got into the Interior Ministry has put off these practices in many parts of this coun-

try. I will talk to him so that he can also focus more on this region,” said Mr Wetangula.

He asked the chiefs and the residents to be vigilant adding that the agents of the cattle rustlers were living in their midst and sometimes slept within the targeted areas during the eves of the attacks.

“These things can hardly take place if there are no agents amongst you. It is therefore your responsibility to question the intentions of all the visitors you find in your areas as this is your right. As you know, the government which you contributed a lot to form means well for you and the security being enjoyed in Nairobi must be here and every other part of the country so that you can also enjoy being a Kenyan,” the Speaker said.

He added, “Every Kenyan should enjoy the fruits of their sweat without being disturbed by any other person”. Tigania East MP Mpuru Aburi said some communities had taken Meru County to be an area of unlimited access where they could get cattle whenever they felt like.

“If they feel like drinking alcohol or something else, they get to our area and take away a good number of our cows which they later sell to satisfy their financial needs,” said Aburi adding that surprisingly, the rustling usu-



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula.

ally takes place during the daytime.

He blamed security personnel in the area of laxity in their work adding that they concentrated on security meetings rather than following up the stolen cattle.

Tigania West MP Dr. John Mutunga said last week on Wednesday, cattle rustlers invaded an area in his constituency and stole 517 heads of cattle before getting back to the same area the following day where they stole some more 300 animals.

This, he added, was a great mockery to his people and the security apparatus in the region and should not be taken lightly. So far, he added, none of these animals has been recovered.

“What we are demanding for as the people of Tigania is an operation in the neighbouring counties where all the animals will be taken to a neutral field so that we can identify ours since they have conspicuous marks,” said Dr Mutunga.

Igembe South MP John Paul Mwiri-

gi also supported the idea of carrying out an operation so that owners could recover their animals and use them for the intended purpose.

“We keep animals so that we can benefit from them and therefore it is not right when we allow others to steal them and get away with it,” said Mwirigi adding that they were in support of Kindiki’s work but wanted him to put more effort into the Northern grazing zone.

Three Pupils Perish In A Road Accident After Attending Scouts Founder’s Day

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyetimes

Three pupils lost their lives on Saturday evening as scores others were admitted in hospital after the bus they were traveling in was involved in an accident along Gitugi – Murang’a road.

One of pupils perished on the spot while two others died at Murang’a Level 5 hospital where they were rushed for treatment.

In the 6.20 pm accident, a bus belonging to Maadili School of Juja in Kiambu County was ferrying 38 pupils, three teachers and two drivers from Nyeri county where they had gone to participate in celebrations to mark Scouts Founder’s Day.

The bus driver who is currently admitted to Murang’a Hospital lost control at Ruiru area near Mathioya bridge plunging the bus into a ditch.

Members of Murang’a County Disaster

and Emergency team rushed to the scene and helped in rescuing the pupils some of whom were taken to Maragua rural hospital.

Governor Irungu Kang’ata who sent his condolences to the affected parents, lauded the medical officers at the level 5 facility who responded to the emergency promptly.

He said among those injured, five learners were admitted at the intensive care unit as some parents who arrived at the hospital requested their children to be transferred to hospitals of their choice.

“Medical team at Murang’a county hospital was able to attend to those who were injured. Some of the pupils were taken to Maragua as some as others were transferred to their parents hospitals of choice.

“It was sad to see young pupils with big dreams perish in the accident and as County Government of Murang’a, we send our condolences to the parents and relatives of the deceased,” lamented Kang’ata.



Ruto's Bid To Reform The Judiciary, Will He Succeed Where Kibaki And Uhuru Failed?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- A few days later, the President revisited this matter. The mainstream media interpreted this to mean caving in from his hardline stance.
- I'm not holding brief for him but my considered view is that he never changed his position. He was very clear in his mind while calling on the three arms of the government-Executive, Parliament and Judiciary-to live up to their constitutional oath of office. Each arm has a role to play in furthering the common good of the Kenyan people. Let us put the people of Kenya first. Let us work together.
- Contrary to Ruto's critics, at no time did he say he will not obey court orders. My government remains true to the course of respecting the independence of judiciary and honoring its decisions.

President William Ruto is a hands-on leader. One can understand where he's coming from.

Having served in the three successive governments of Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta, he knows that the buck will stop with him if he fail to deliver on pre-election pledges.

It is worth to note that his campaign was pegged on a raft of lofty promises. Topping the list was the fight against corruption.

This is what many Kenyans would tell him. The vice was rampant within the three arms of the government with many singling out the judiciary.

We are going to elect you as our President. After being sworn-in, we want you to give priority to eradication of the vice.

Going by recent developments, one thing is clear. The President is walking the talk.

As a hands-on President, he has since escalated the war pitting him with the Judiciary, activists and opposition leaders.

He stirred hornet's nest when he stated that some of the judges were working at the behest of the well-known critics of my administration.

After receiving hefty bribes, they would deliver skewed, biased and unfair court orders and rulings.

Those defending the judges have been challenging Dr Ruto to prove his claims. As we know, the President receives undiluted intelligence briefings on daily basis.

It is also worthy to note this. Today, Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga have curved a niche of being the leader of anti-Ruto brigade.

During the second term of Uhuru Kenyatta presidency, he served as a co-principal of the 'Handshake' government.

I never heard him asking President Uhuru Kenyatta to prove his claims whenever he had run-ins with the judiciary.

Back to President Ruto, he further stated. As the custodian of the constitution and other written laws, the core mandate of the Judiciary is to interpret the law.

However, it is unfortunate to note that some of the 'corrupt' judges rendered decisions that flew in the face of this imperative.

The Judges' endgame was to derail and sabotage my government's efforts to implement the pre-election promises.

As a President, I also took the oath of office to protect, defend and uphold the Constitution of Kenya.

I want to tell them that I will not succumb to their blackmail and intimidation.

A few days later, the President revisited this matter. The mainstream media interpreted this to mean caving in from his hardline stance.

I'm not holding brief for him but my considered view is that he never changed his position. He was very clear in his mind while calling on the three

arms of the government-Executive, Parliament and Judiciary-to live up to their constitutional oath of office. Each arm has a role to play in furthering the common good of the Kenyan people. Let us put the people of Kenya first. Let us work together.

Contrary to Ruto's critics, at no time did he say he will not obey court orders. My government remains true to the course of respecting the independence of judiciary and honoring its decisions.

The judges have had a bone to pick with me because I have kept my word that we will never bribe any of them.

During the era of President Mwai Kibaki and predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta, the story was the same.

In numerous occasions, the two leaders used to come out gun blazing. They would accuse the corrupt judges of pushing the agenda of opposition leaders with the ultimate goal of derailing and sabotaging development plan of their respective government.

However, their efforts to clean the rot of judiciary did not bore the fruits.

This brings me to the question. Will President Ruto succeed? Let us pray for him. If he succeed to clean the rot, this will be for the good of all of us as Kenyans.

Late last year, as he led the nation in marking 60th Mashujaa day celebrations, Dr Ruto reiterated.

The days of public servants and state officers who were contemplating stealing and looting the taxpayers' money were numbered.

He noted that billions of shillings had been allocated to run Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

A huge chunk of the money comes from your pockets, your monthly contributions.

The national and county governments will also allocate more funds to power this noble initiative.

Some of the officers entrusted to manage these funds might think this would be an opportune time of stealing and lining up their pockets.

My fellow Kenyans, take this from me, I will be hard very on them.

The president had earlier reiterated the place of state officials stealing hard earned public taxes is in jail.

During Devolution Conference held in Eldoret, he had fired a similar warning. He told governors of 47 counties. The national government has been allocating a huge chunk of taxpayer money.

Kenyans want to see the value of their money. What most of you have done so far is below their expectations.

He spoke as some 8 current and former governors were battling charges of corruption, economic sabotage and abuse of office in court.

This reminded me of what happened in Nigeria when the devolution was introduced. The pioneer county bosses thought that it is time to eat.

Little did they know that then President was a non-nonsense man. He was committed to walk the talk in slaying the dragon of corruption. He left half of



President William Ruto .

them in prison when he retired.

Since he assumed office, President Ruto has remained consistent and focused in these endeavours. He always escalated the matters by calling on the heads of the anti-graft bodies to live up to their oath of office. There are no sacred cows in my government. You have my full support.

Turning to elected leaders, he always reminded them that they were not above the law. You must be accountable to the electorates. If not, you are not worth to be called leaders. They did not elect you to steal their resources.

The President's interventions have been resonating very well with the masses because this signaled a radical departure from Uhuru Kenyatta's presidency.

Uhuru was known for talking tough but without taking any tangible action.

There was a time he said that Sh2 billion was being stolen every day in Kenya but this matter ended there.

Recently, the head of public service Felix Koskei announced that Ruto administration is in the process of setting an inquiry to look at this matter.

As of now, we cannot tell whether what the former President said is true or not. Koskei further stated that a donor have agreed to fund the inquiry.

Having said this, I want to assure Kenyans that President Ruto is committed to win the war against graft. You can take this to the bank. Koskei, the head of public service spoke at the Bomas of Kenya where he was hosted by the civil society organizations involved in the fight against the vice.

Back to President Uhuru, he at one time he appeared helpless when he asked the leaders of anti-graft bodies. What do you want me to do? Kenyans interpreted this to mean they were on their own.

President Ruto again took a bold move when he thwarted a plot to steal Sh3.7 billion from the Global Fund earmarked for purchasing and supplying mosquito nets to tens of thousands of downtrodden Kenyans.

He fired the senior officials at the Ministry of Health and Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) who had been adversely mentioned.

He also called for the prosecution of the culprits.

The other day we saw Koskei unveil-

ing a raft of measures aimed at streamlining the water works sector.

At Athi Water Works Development Agency, he announced the cancellation of the contract of the Chief Executive Officer as anti-graft bodies commenced investigations against him.

At KFS, President Ruto endorsed the decision of the board to sack and send 29 managers and forest rangers packing. Those culpable should face the law.

In yester years, Azimio leader Raila Odinga had curved a niche of being a whistleblower. He had indeed become a household during the reign of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

He had unearthed and exposed a number of mega corruption scandals.

But one thing remained clear. He would play this role when he was fighting and pushing these governments to succumb to his demands.

Once he had fought his way and occupied his seat at the high table where the national cake is being shared, he always become contented.

We know today he is harboring a major grudge with President Ruto.

So, one would have expected to be on forefront of exposing the so called corruption scandals if they ever existed.

He would not dare to do this. Reason? He knew he would end up being embarrassed and ashamed because of peddling outright lies.

It has dawned on Raila that Dr Ruto is a hard nut to crack. He cannot succumb to these tricks designed to blackmail and intimidate him.

It is worth noting. Raila lost the election to Dr Ruto. After being declared the winner by the IEBC chairman, Raila filed a petition at the Supreme Court of Kenya to challenge his victory. He lost the case and the court upheld the Dr Ruto's victory.

Also, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka reaffirmed this in Machakos during the Saba Saba demonstrations. He stated. Our leader Raila Odinga lost but Ruto won with a slight margin of 60,000 votes. This explains why the country is divided in the middle. We therefore call upon Ruto to respond to our calls for dialogue.

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

Mathioya MP Flags Off Rehabilitation Of Roads In The Constituency

By: Purity Mugo
 @themtkenyatimes

Residents of Chuui and Mbari ya Kio in Mathioya, Murang’a, have expressed relief following the start of construction works to upgrade rural roads that have been impassable in the area.

Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) in collaboration with the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) will upgrade the roads that have been in a deplorable state, especially during the rainy season, and have been disadvantageous to the residents of the mainly agricultural region to murrum.

Speaking during the flagging off ceremony, area Member of Parliament Edwin Mugo said he has set aside funds amounting to 250 million that will be used to upgrade rural roads in various parts of the constituency so that the residents can easily transport their farm produce to the markets.

“We are starting with the seven-kilometer stretch between Mugumoini- Chuui and Kanjahi,” Mugo said.

“We will also be doing another 30 kilometers in the Gitugi area and in the area of Mbari ya Kio, Gachuuha, Koora, and Gatitu,” he added.

The MP further explained that the roads will be upgraded to murrum so that they are more durable, saying that they will ease the movement of people and goods from the region to the markets.

One of the residents, Cecilia Wambui, noted that they have contended with transport challenges for a long time and the planned upgrade comes as a relief to them.

“There are no public transport vehicles to this area and even using motorcycles has been a challenge as they are prone to accidents due to the poor state of roads,” Wambui said adding that farmers have incurred huge losses because of the condition of those roads.

Another resident, Johnson Maina, who is a farmer said the stretch of road between Kanjahi and Chuui has been in a bad state and farmers and traders are finally hopeful that the new contractor will deliver because the road has been given to other contractors before.

“The roads here are so bad that we cannot sell food in the markets or even villages especially when it rains and we are now hopeful for better days,” Maina said.

Kagumoini chief, Joseph Macharia, observed that the roads have been in a deplorable state for a long time and the improved roads will greatly



Mathioya MP Edwin Mugo flagging off roads rehabilitation in the area.

benefit the residents who will use the roads to transport their farm produce.

“This is a greatly agricultural area with a lot of avocados, coffee, pumpkin, and bananas as well as dairy farming and the roads will greatly reduce the time it takes for the products to reach the market,” he observed.

The chief urged farmers to utilize the roads once constructed to improve their livelihoods by producing more food as well as diversifying their agricultural produce now that they will easily reach markets.

The MP asked the contractors to give the menial jobs throughout the construction of the roads to the locals and he cautioned them against constructing substandard roads.

“The contractors should give the jobs to the local youth so that they can benefit from the construction before they consider outsourcing labour,” he said adding that that way the upgrading of the roads will start improving the lives of the residents immediately.

NTSA Not Meeting The Purpose It Was Meant For

By: Waithaka Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) was established through an Act of Parliament; Act Number 33 on 26th October 2012. The objective of forming the Authority was to harmonize the operations of the key road transport departments and help in effectively managing the road transport sub-sector and minimizing loss of lives through road crashes.

Its main vision was to ensure we have an Efficient, Reliable, and Safe Road Transport in Kenya with a Mission to continuously improve Road Safety for All Users through Planning, Managing, and Regulating

the road transport system.

The Road Safety Association of Kenya through the Chairman Mr. David Kiarie believes that NTSA ought to do more to fight the ever-rising cases of road carnage of our roads.

“In the two years of 2020 and 2021, Covid 19 killed only about 5,000 people in Kenya. But road carnage claims more than 6,000 people annually – and this figure is higher because only those people who die on the spot are documented. Many others who die later in hospital remain unaccounted for, not to mention others who are incapacitated due to road accidents.

I’m of the advisory that NTSA ought to ensure that every vehicle that is on our roads is properly inspected. Most accidents nowadays

involve lorries that do not have a proper inspection certificate. We would like NTSA to ensure they pull up their socks to ensure safety on our roads,” Kiarie advised.

He at the same time called upon all Kenyans to remain very careful on the road – whether one is a pedestrian, a bodaboda rider, or even a motorist.

“At one time or another, all of us are pedestrians, so let us make it collective responsibility of observing and ensuring road safety,” he concluded.



Safaricom Investment Co-Operative Society Approves KES 142.4 Million Rebate Payout For Members

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Safaricom Investment Co-operative shareholders have approved a KES 142.4 million rebate payout during the 15th Annual General Meeting.

The payout comes after the Society reported a KES. 203.4 million in net profit for the year that ended 31st December 2023 against KES 266 million reported in the same period under review in 2022. The net profit represents an 8.1 per cent return on the members' capital of KES 2.5 billion.

The total revenue from land and housing for the society over the period stood at KES.1.5 billion, a decline from KES.1.8 billion recorded in 2022. Land business continues to be Safaricom Investment Co-operative's biggest contributor to total revenue as it returned 90 per cent of the total revenue delivering a gross revenue of KES 1.4 billion, with a net profit of KES 428.7 million in the same period. The housing unit on the other hand contributed KES 51.6 million to the total revenue.

"2023 was a year of great strides anchored on our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan with our success in automation,



Safaricom Investment Co-operative outgoing CEO Sarah Wahogo, Board Chairperson Judy Runo and Acting CEO Stephen Mbugua during the Society's 15th Annual General Meeting where shareholders approved a KES 142.4 million rebate payout..

customer experience, expansion of diaspora markets from the USA to Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Oman, and the United Kingdom as well as set up of new business lines through our e-commerce and value-added services while driving internal efficiencies," said Safaricom Investment Co-operative Chairperson Judy Runo.

The Society's core theme for 2024 will be building a sustainable operating model which will include rebranding the organisation to position it for

growth.

"Looking ahead, we remain cautiously optimistic about the future. We are committed to regaining our momentum and getting back on track with profitability through prudent financial management, operational efficiency, and strategic investments in areas with growth potential. By rebranding, we seek to align with emerging market trends in a move to ensure that the company's image resonates with the values and expectations of the target audience, giving



Safaricom Investment Co-operative outgoing CEO Sarah Wahogo, Nairobi County Chief Officer of Co-operatives Godfrey Akumali, and Safaricom Investment Co-operative Chairperson Judy Runo share a light moment during the Society's 15th Annual General Meeting where shareholders approved a KES 142.4 million rebate payout.

the brand a cutting edge. The rebranding exercise is a strategic move that will redefine our brand narrative, thus positioning us for future success. We have put together a roadmap with key focus areas lined up that will see the execution of a successful rebrand," said Safaricom Investment Co-operative Chairperson Judy Runo.

The Chairperson also announced the exit of Safaricom Investment Co-operative CEO Sarah Wahogo who will be leaving to pursue her personal interests. During her tenure, Ms. Wahogo has been at the forefront in the

automation of services, positioned the Society through strategic partnerships and brand-building efforts, re-energized member engagements and solidified Diaspora engagements as a key business focus, led the recruitment of a highly skilled management team and drove cost efficiencies across the business lines. The Finance Manager Stephen Mbugua will be the acting CEO as the Society undertakes the process of finding the next CEO to take up the Society's mantle.

LSK Campaigns Reach Homestretch

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

With only three days left for The Law Society of Kenya to conduct its elections, the campaigns have reached the homestretch. Professor Michael Wabwile, is one of the four contestants vying for the position of LSK Male Representative in the Judicial Service Commission. The elections will.

Professor Wabwile possesses 27 years of experience in the legal profession and is a Professor at Egerton University Law School. Previously he was a professor at the Moi University Law School for over 16 years. In documents seen by Mt Kenya Times, he has structured his JSC election manifesto in the form of two sworn, signed and commissioned statutory declarations which he has filed at the Law Society of Kenya and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

He explains that this approach enables the LSK members and the public to refer to a legally binding covenant to hold him accountable for fulfilling election manifesto pledges within the stipulated timelines.

He argues that every genuine candidate for elective public office should have the honesty, commitment and focus to sign their manifesto pledges in a legally binding covenant with the people. "Candidates for elective offices have misled the voters to believe in non-binding promises contained in campaign posters which do not bear any signature or other expression of legally binding commitment. These unsigned campaign posters are like unsigned cheques and do not have the force of law," he says.

He has formulated 8 innovative policy interventions, which, upon implementation will deliver to Kenyans a judiciary that works better. All these policies are to be introduced within specific timelines ranging from 90 days to 2 years.

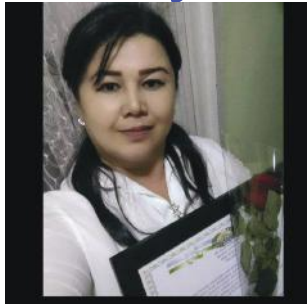
One of the key pledges is to formulate and implement a new judiciary recruitment policy that would enable the JSC to attract and bring on board a rich mix of expertise, technical knowledge, experience and talent from diverse legal professional pathways including private practitioners, academics, public sector lawyers and civil society through a policy-based quota system.

His other distinctive campaign message is that his Nakuru-based law firm will not be engaging in any form of litigation work in Kenyan tribunals and courts of Law. He explains that this is necessary to avoid conflicts of interest and refrain completely from disrupting the LSK Members' litigation food chains.



Nyongesa Michael Wabwile PhD, Professor and Founding Dean, Faculty of Law, Egerton University.

Primary School Is The Beginning Of Child Future



Initially I would like to describe why elementary school is important for child. Primary school is the first step for a bright future. First of all, it should be noted that teaching primary classes requires great skill and patience. Because of the fact that children's brain is very young and delicate. Youngster is like an unread book. Immediately, teachers must study child psychology together with they should prepare children for future life. It is a bit difficult to raise a child due to children are used to their mother's arms. Children who grow up under the care of their mothers show envy, jealousy, separation from their friends, indifference to lessons, self-doubt, being very capricious and stubborn. In order

to educate them in the spirit of love for life, they need the support of their relatives and most importantly, their teachers. It is necessary to approach such children individually and allocate more time. However, the student should not feel this. The teacher should find a way to the child's heart as much as possible, explain it to the child, and speak sweetly without being shy. One of the necessary things, teachers ought to not punish their pupil in the classroom. This situation causes the child to be ashamed of his classmates and hate the teacher.

Listening and understanding pupils is most essential. In conclusion, I can say from my years of experience that primary education plays the biggest role in a child's education and upbringing.

Aliyeva Nargiza Talibjonovna is a 1st category, trainer, facilitator elementary school teacher of the 15th general secondary school in Boyovut district, Syrdarya region. 44 years old

Mother



Mother...Who is she? Is she kind or is she a guard? Mother is the best person who helps everyone. She is the first teacher for all children in the world. She helps to learn speaking and I think all children's first word was "mum". Mother is the kind of person who is happier about your achievements than you and more upset about your failure than you.

Being a mother is not easy because a mother must please each of her children and she has to manage her livelihood

because she is a woman. And also all of us should adore our lovely mothers.

No matter where we go or what country we go to, mothers are honored and respected here because mothers are voices of the hearts. Mothers should be protected and given as much love as they give. They taught us life, how to speak, how to be kind and polite.

If your mother is with you right now, then hug her and cheer her up by saying that you love her that your dreams will not come true without her and you are healthy with her prayers. Just be such a learned and intelligent child that your mother will be proud of you. And also hurting mothers is the biggest thing. Therefore, we should protect and appreciate our kind ones ♥

Boysarova Gulniso
Juma city, Samarkand region
School 28 is a student of class 8-A

When Snows Fall...



They were children - two guys. One of them was a little girl with long braided hair. 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 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 beat quickly, and with trembling lips she said: "He has come..."

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

Now she is 10th grade student of the 1st general education school of Bukhara city.



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. Also, 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

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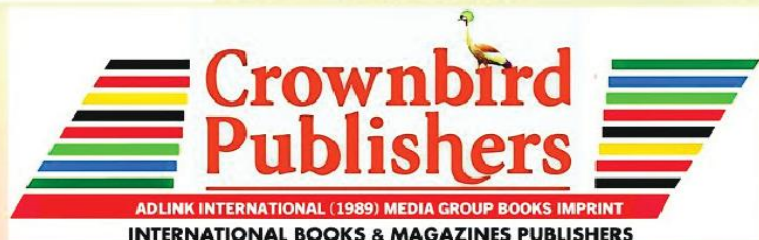
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NCKK Urges Leaders From The Central Region To Prioritize Service Delivery

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

The clergy allied to the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCKK) central region committee have called upon local elected leaders to shun political competition.

During a press briefing on Friday, the clergy argued that political competition that has been witnessed among elected leaders will be a great disservice to the people in the region.

The members of the clergy led by NCKK central region chairman Rev. Bishop Timothy Gichere said it is wrong for leaders to engage in divisive political wrangles while service delivery is wanting in most of the counties.

“We call on the leaders in our region to minimize political competition and maneuvers and instead focus on service delivery,” said Gichere.

The members of the clergy further observed that despite the people from the region having harvested farm produce due to the recently experienced rains, a large number of residents are still reeling from difficulties relating to educating their children.



NCKK officials addressing the media.

“As we appreciate that God gave us rains and thus improved harvest, we recognize that some people are facing numerous challenges as they strive to educate and seek medical care for their children.

“As church members, we call upon the government to put in strategies that will continue to lower the cost of living of the people of this great country. Access to subsidized fertilizers and lowering of the costs of

inputs must be prioritized,” stated Gichere.

The Bishop also observed that the delay in disbursement of funds to devolved units is hurting service delivery in county governments.

“Differences being experienced relating to the division of revenue between the national and county governments need to be addressed. Service delivery has been greatly affected in the counties and this adds

over-burdened by some of the government’s policies.

“The government promised, it should listen more and speak less. A Large number of residents feel they are being overburdened by some policies, and this can be solved through proper public participation.” He added.

The church, the bishop noted, will continue to point out areas that need to be improved by the government and give the right counsel to leaders to ensure the needs of citizens are prioritized.

On her part, Susan Wangari, who is a woman representative in the NCKK regional committee, asked the government to accelerate the health reforms.

She observed with the proposed reforms in the sector, some hospitals have stopped treating people covered by the NHIF.

“The reforms being implemented in the health sector should be hastened to save the sick from being imposed with hefty bills and forced to pay from their pockets. The government should fast-track the health agenda and end the current confusion,” she stated.

Youth And Women To Benefit From Agriculture Training

By: Patrick Nyakundi
@themkenyetimes

Makueni County Government has in partnership with Anglican Development Services (ADS) Eastern Region invested KSh11 million to sponsor 480 trainees to equip them with agricultural skills at the Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) Kwa Kathoka.

Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Executive Committee Member (ECM) Joyce Mutua said the training targets the youth and women to equip them with horticulture, dairy and poultry skills to enable them contribute to the food security in the county besides fending for themselves.

Mutua said this on Friday at Kwa Kathoka where she released 60 trainees to undergo 3 months industrial attachment to help them apply and sharpen their skills on the farms.

“The monies will cater for tuition fees, meals and exam fees for the last three months course work. The total cost will be KSh11 million whereby the county government contributed 40 percent and ADS 60 percent,” said Mutua.

“First cohort trainees comprises of 60 youths and 420 women farmers who have undergone comprehensive training on horticulture, dairy and poultry farming since November 2023,” said the ECM.

She disclosed that women farmers have had extensive training through farmer field schools from 16 tutors involved in the programme while adding that both groups would graduate in May 2024 after undergoing the three months industrial attachment.

“The 420 farmers have benefitted from field school programme that has enabled them acquire agricultural education after ATC tutors visited them at their homes,” she posed.

Mutua revealed that after the train-



Some of the would be beneficiaries

ing, the trainees would write proposals in a bid to enable them benefit from the capital seed from the county government.

“We expect the trainees to write proposals in order to benefit from the capital seed to enable them jump start their business,” the ECM added.

Speaking at the same event, Agriculture Chief Officer (CO) Dr. Victoria Kyalo said that in future, trainees joining the programme would share the cost with the county government and partners to ensure sustainability of the programme for posterity.



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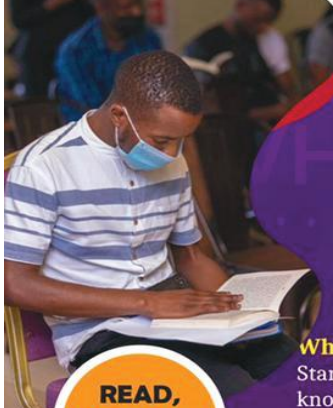


Join us for the
Public Health March: Unite, Advocate, Transform
on
13th Feb 2024

Venue :Green Park terminus
Time:8am

“ UNITING FOR A STRONGER FUTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH!”

#Nothing 4us without us
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THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

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

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

How to enter the contest:

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

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

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

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

Winners
Ugx.200,000,
+ Gift hamper

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

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

All participants
Certificates of participation at each level.

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

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Ultimate Panoramic Experience

Community- Oriented Policing Vital In Taming, Terrorism And Violent Extremism



By: Dennis Wendo
Email:dambehi@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- The current approach by the ministry of interior and national coordination to actualize transformative reforms in the private security industry, nyumba kumi initiatives and community policing, by and large deserves support. Distinctively, let us align the roles of the private security guards with those of state security agencies to effectively boost service delivery in terms of complementing each other.
- Terrorists and extremists are increasingly adopting new technology including artificial intelligence to recruit new members and plan criminal activities. It is crucial for state and private security agencies and technology firms to be ahead of the criminals in deterring technology aided crimes. Professionalizing the private security sector through standardized training programs that capture emerging and technological security threats is critical.



Terrorism And Violent Extremism

Terrorism and Violent Extremism (VE) remain an existential international security threat and keep mutating. It threatens security within nations and transcends borders with little or no respect for existing laws. Kenya has been a victim and continues to suffer terrorist attacks primarily along the Kenyan Somali border. Indiscriminate IED attacks and ambushes grailing at the Kenyan security forces, civilians and salient infrastructure are the target. According to an African Union (AU) report, terrorism coupled with VE ranks highest as a worrying insecurity threat in Africa. Countering terrorism and VE is a daunting task locally, regionally and globally due to the terrain associated with resisting the irrationality that comes with terrorism on one hand and the task of preserving life, liberty as well as survival by governments. The fight against insecurity, terrorism and VE requires a whole society approach where individuals, communities, civil societies and local security operators collaborate and coordinate in detecting, preventing and sharing information. Cumulatively, there is a need to shift from regime policing to democratic or evidence based policing model that harbors citizenry participation with accountability, adherence to the rule of law and behavioral change among the actors . It remains important to utilize nyumba kumi, private secu-

rity guards and community policing in managing security and taming the likelihood of terror attacks and VE. These cadres provide the first line of defense and are crucial in intelligence gathering. For instance private security guards have a potential of about 500,000 personnel. This is triple the number of uniformed state police officers in Kenya. The visibility of guards is more dominant as they are always found or seen safeguarding both public and private assignments such as hotels, entertainment joints, shopping malls , hospitals , places of worship, learning institutions, banks, residential and non- residential buildings. Utilizing this guard force in taming insecurity, terrorism and violent extremism is bound to yield significant progress. The current approach by the ministry of interior and national coordination to actualize transformative reforms in the private security industry, nyumba kumi initiatives and community policing, by and large deserves support. Distinctively, let us align the roles of the private security guards with those of state security agencies to effectively boost service delivery in terms of complementing each other. Terrorists and extremists are increasingly adopting new technology including artificial intelligence to recruit new members and plan criminal activities. It is crucial for state and

private security agencies and technology firms to be ahead of the criminals in deterring technology aided crimes. Professionalizing the private security sector through standardized training programs that capture emerging and technological security threats is critical. The Government’s multi- agency approach in addressing terrorism and VE is positive in design. The refreshed strategy by the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) in taming the vice is compound. It is advocating for a holistic and citizen driven perspective rather than a one-sided state engagement. It has further adopted action plans for preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE’s) in all the 47 counties established a platform that will be an observatory as well as a conduit for continuous public dialogue for looping back, sharing data, changing stories, threats and stakeholders mapping. This is an egress from National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism (NSCVE) pillars and dilates the focus areas for an encompassed participation. The new strategy allows for increased innovation and inter-sectional engagement, making it more resonant and contextual at the grassroots. The approach is largely targeting youths and women that are more vulnerable. This move is exemplary and deserves brimful support

from state and non- state actors and social partners alike. The resilient support fund towards NCTC programs is insufficient. There is a need for the Government and social partners to increase their budgetary allocation towards this umbrella agency for optimal execution of its mandate, locally and within the region. Kenya’s counter terrorism strategy employs both soft and hard power approaches largely aimed at preventing terror activities. The NCTC approach emphasizes on the inclusivity of public participation for a seamless and soft approach to ensure access to justice, adherence to human rights procedures and social-security to actors. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism is too important to be left to the government alone. Let us unite as a country and region by supporting the ongoing efforts by the government to prevent and counter terrorism. Community policing is bound to supplement government efforts by ensuring timely and prompt sharing of information on terrorism activities as well as deter or fire-fight terrorism propaganda in print or on-line contents.

Dennis Wendo
Founder- Integrated Development Network
Email: dambehi@gmail.com

Genocide In Gaza



By: Irfan Khan Tareen
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- It is disheartening to see that inhabitants throughout Gaza are under severe chronic and inhumane situation. The missiles fallen on the former, have undoubtedly caused the disruption of peace, the devastation of hospitals, destruction of mosques and violation of humans' rights in this region.
- They are deprived of their fundamental rights that are enshrined in the charter of December 10, 1948, passed by the members of UNO. There the canons of morality exhibit as brushed off. Moreover, blockade put on the carrying of food, water and medical assistance to Palestine was bare injustice against humanity. Such sort of cruelty transgresses humanity, and hampers international progress.



Genocide in Gaza

Since last three months, the hostilities rendered to innocent Palestinians by the defence forces of inhumane state, seem looking up with each passing day. The unprecedented war unleashed by Israel against the inhabitants of Palestine is not commendable, as the former is going to commit genocide, cruel act. More than 26000 people have been martyred including 8000 children due to ongoing horrific war in Gaza. All and sundry in Palestine are under miserable and harsh situation. In fact, there appears a blatant violation of human rights, which is crucial to be highlighted in the nick of time by means of international collaboration.

Surely, "Might is right" is such principle that is disliked by all as it brings destruction to world on large scale. Hitler may be exemplified in this context whose overcraziness of widening Germany's territory caused world war 2. The latter brought irreparable devastation to entire world, and obstructed international progress.

Netanyahu appears acting upon

the above cited blameworthy principle. His objective of extending Israel's land through frightening Palestinians with bombardments, will never turn into reality, as it is against humanity.

It is disheartening to see that inhabitants throughout Gaza are under severe chronic and inhumane situation. The missiles fallen on the former, have undoubtedly caused the disruption of peace, the devastation of hospitals, destruction of mosques and violation of humans' rights in this region. They are deprived of their fundamental rights that are enshrined in the charter of December 10, 1948, passed by the members of UNO. There the canons of morality exhibit as brushed off. Moreover, blockade put on the carrying of food, water and medical assistance to Palestine was bare injustice against humanity. Such sort of cruelty transgresses humanity, and hampers international progress.

In addition, the most disheartening fact is to see recurrence apathy shown by Muslim world. The latter has yet not displayed enough unity to take strict stand against Israel's

aggression. OIC (Organisation of Islamic Co-operation) has not been successful to draw the attention of International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the Israel's Genocide. Similarly, it is bitter truth that Islamic countries started providing basic life requirements to Palestinians when these were hindered by US and its right-wingers.

South Africa became the pride of world for its courageous act to accuse Israel of committing genocide against Gaza. Certainly, this takes down an important lesson for Muslim world. What can be more shameful than this before stated fact for Muslim Leaders.

Likewise, we learn from history that we do not learn from history. War is yet considered the most detestable thing in human history. Unfortunately, a man never thinks to give up this unfavourable thing in order that he may gain his petty interests. UNO, ICJ and other international forums were formed with an aim to alleviate international conflicts and to work for the security of human rights. These duties have not been paid honestly. It is more

saddening, why they remain under pressure?

In short, it is a complex conflict which can be prevented through international collaboration in the form of removing cruel leaders like Netanyahu. ICJ, UNO and human rights organisations assuredly need to perform their due duties for which they were established. ICJ without any doubt, has recriminated Israel for genocide, but it has not supported ceasefire in Gaza. In the same way, Muslim countries should take tangible steps to approach ICJ's attention against ongoing Genocide. "Actions should be taken rather than delivering words in these international councils as actions speak louder than words". The countries that consider 'might is right' should be collectively condemned. This is the way to create enlightenment, develop peace and serve humanity.

The Writer is the Student of BRC Zhob.

Government Gazettes Marsabit's Illo Area As An Artisanal Mining Area

By: Kenya News Agency



Stakeholders during the forum.

Worth Noting:

- Noting that 80 per cent of the about 70,000 plus population gravitating around the fast growing Illo shanty mining town was comprised of illegal migrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Southern Sudan and as far as Nigeria, the government has restricted mining to only miners with permits and licenses.
- He added that the department has brought on board other agencies like the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Immigration, the county government, the community, and the National Police Service in creating an enabling environment for artisanal mining.
- Eng. Osamba said mining was a key component in the Vision 2030 development plan as it was envisaged as a major contributor to the economic growth adding that mapping out mineral resources in Marsabit County has been concluded.

The efforts to streamline the community oriented activity ranged from gazettement of Illo as an artisanal mining area to formation of locally driven cooperative societies to undertake the lucrative venture.

The mines which are endowed with gold, chromite, mica, beryllium and a range of gemstones have previously been extracted without regulation leading to challenges that included security, loss of wealth, degradation of the environment and poor sanitation.

The Regional Mining Officer Peterlis Osamba said the potential in the mining belt that straddles the Ethiopian-Kenya border is enormous with the government declaring chromite ore as a strategic mineral reserve.

Speaking during a one day training workshop for law enforcement officers from Marsabit county on mining related issues, Eng. Osamba disclosed that the mining and processing of chromite ore has been banned for an indefinite period.

The officer said the government was keen at harnessing the mineral potential in Marsabit County by enforcing the Mining Act of 2016 in order to create employment and generate revenue.

This, he said, would only be possible through a framework which the State Department of Mining has created by bringing on board all actors in the sector for legal mining business that also mitigates against climate change.

Noting that 80 per cent of the about 70,000 plus population gravitating around the fast growing Illo shanty mining town was comprised of illegal migrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Southern Sudan and as far as Nigeria, the government has restricted mining to only miners with permits and licenses.

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During the training, it emerged that environmental responsibility by actors at the mining fields was at zero level with wanton clearing of land to pave way for mines, getting construction materials for the makeshift shelter structures and charcoal burning taking toll on the fragile environment.

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is also concerned that the thousands of migrants to Illo were now hunting down small game as their source of food.

The Community Warden in-charge of Moyale Sub-County Abdi Adan said that diki-diki and antelopes were the main target by the informal inhabitants who have settled in the area in the past one year.

Adan also noted that environmental degradation was alarming as there were no toilets while hundreds of open mine holes left uncovered by the artisanal miners posing a danger to both humans and animals.

The Warden however said measures which included creating awareness on the importance of protecting wildlife were being taken to stem the menace. "We are collaborating with other stakeholders to educate these people on the need to protect this national heritage and the dangers involved in poaching," he said adding that surveillance was being enhanced to prevent the practice.

The county security team is concerned that the migrant miners who work either in groups or as individuals were not only a security threat but continued to occasion losses to the country in terms of mineral wealth and revenue.

Marsabit County Police Commander Patrick Mwakio noted that people who were strangers to the authorities continued to find their way to the mining sites which were about 60 kilometers from the porous Kenya-Ethiopia border.

Mwakio expressed concern that bad elements could be among the thousands of migrants who have found their way to Dabel division said to be abuzz with mineral extraction activities and other unlicensed businesses.

"We are not taking chances as the mining sites could be hiding places for dangerous criminals," he said, adding that investigations into the whole mineral mining affair was in progress to ascertain what other kinds of crime is associated with it.

The Police Commander underlined the urgency to regulate the mining activities in the area and lauded the State Department for Mining for organizing a workshop to enlighten law enforcement agencies on the laws and regulations governing extraction of minerals.

To this effect, the State Department for Mining has conducted awareness forums and trainings for members of local communities with mining interests at Illo and other parts of Marsabit County.

The Regional Mining Officer said that the residents engaging in mining activities for gold or other minerals have been educated on the need to operate as registered groups and consequently empowered into forming cooperative societies.

Through financial grants from the department, seven cooperatives have been initiated across the county out of which five have secured registration certificates.

The formation of the cooperative societies is aimed at enabling the locals to secure mining permits and marketing licenses with ease and to engage in the minerals business within the set up legal framework.

Besides, the government would be able to seal loopholes through which

revenue and foreign exchange estimated to run into millions of shillings has previously been lost while miners and traders would be protected from cartels who currently run the show.

Some of the cooperative entities which have secured certificates with the support of the government are Illo Artisanary Cooperative Society Limited, Haldagon Mineral Marketing Cooperative Society Limited and Dabel Artisanal Miners' Cooperative Society Limited.

Others include Gold and Gemstone Mining Cooperative Society Limited and Laisamis Artisanary Cooperative Society.

Additionally, a County Artisanal Mining Committee comprising of eight members to be chaired by a representative of the governor with the representative of the Director of Mines as the secretary has been formed that would together with the Marsabit Artisanal Mining Association oversee the harnessing of the mineral potential in a sustainable manner.

"The committee will have an active role on matters related to the issuance or revocation of artisanal mining permits," said Eng. Osamba adding that collaboration with the police would ensure effective enforcement of mining regulations and the protection of mining interests.

According to the County Commissioner Nobert Komora, the poor sanitation and degradation of the environment in the extensive mining location is worrying.

While appreciating the measures being taken by the concerned Ministry of Mining and the Blue Economy to clean up the mess, Komora pointed out that large tracks of grazing land were being lost as hundreds of acres that were hitherto covered with pasture were now dots of mine holes and piles of contaminated waste soil.

While calling on the law enforcement officers on the ground to be more patriotic, the County Commissioner said time had come for the police to widen their scope by embracing focus on other areas like mining which required enforcement.

He asked the County Police Commander to do whatever it would take to ensure that the country is not robbed off its wealth by illegal alien miners and other unlicensed dealers by enforcing the Mining Act which classifies mineral smuggling as an economic crime.

He noted that the venture could be of great value to the country if the operations were streamlined as it would officer jobs, generate revenue and accelerate development.

"The happenings at Illo mining shanty town are of great concern to the government as it involves raping of state resources and poses a security risk," the County Commissioner remarked, warning that the government could consider closing it down.

Leaders Raise Sh31 Million Towards School Facility Improvement

By: Linet Wafula
@themtkenyatimes

Education standards at Kurgung Boys High School in Mosop Sub County are set to improve after leaders raised KSh31 million towards the facility’s improvement.

The fundraiser was led by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, and Nandi County Governor Stephen Sang among other leaders.

Speaking during the event, Koskei stressed on the importance of quality education insisting that the management should work round the clock to ensure the grades of the institution improves.

He wondered why giant schools in the region were performing poorly yet they have resources adding that poor results were embarrassing him as Head of Public Service.

“Next month, I will call for a meeting to get to the root of this matter.



Farouk Kibet.

We must find out why students especially in this sub county are not performing well. If the leadership is the problem, we will find a way out,” he said.

Koskei called on parents to prioritize their children’s education saying it was the best investment and most powerful weapon that equalized the rich and the poor.

He further urged parents to team up with teachers and work hand in hand to ensure children excel in their academics.

Governor Sang said uplifting education standards through infrastructure is vital for fostering a conducive learning environment.

“Improved infrastructure not only enhances the learning experience but also contributes to student motivation and engagement,” he said.

Nandi County Women representative Cynthia Muge advised students to work hard for the betterment of their future saying education is the key.

She called upon education stakeholders to go back to the drawing board and find out why schools which used to perform better in the past are now sleeping giants.

The Women Rep encouraged girls to avoid early marriages and focus on their education.

President William Ruto’s aide Farouk Kibet who is the patron of the school condemned leaders from the area for failing to support the institution adding that a law must be enforced to make it mandatory for Governors to oversee the construction and development of high schools.

Residents Call On The County Government To Ensure Water Connectivity

By: Florence Kinyua
@themtkenyatimes

Residents of Mugira, Makuyu in Maragua constituency have called on the county government to help them get connected to water after a well-wisher sunk a borehole in the area.

The area which is part of the arid lands has never been connected to the basic commodity occasioning the residents to travel long distances in search of it.

Conversely, the only water they get from the only river several kilometres away is often laden with impurities as farming and other unrelated activities take place upstream.

The residents who spoke at Makuyu during the launch of the Mountain View Spring Water on Saturday expressed relief at having a clean water source in their area.

“We are happy that for the first time we will get water in our homes and we will get rest from travelling long



distances in search of water,” observed Jecinta Wambui, one of the residents.

“Even our homes will be peaceful because we have had numerous quarrels with our husbands who demand for water after a day’s work yet there is no water,” she added.

She urged the government to recognise the gesture and help them get the commodity in their homes by assisting in piping.

On his part, the proprietor of Mountain View Spring Water Ltd Stephen Maina Mburu noted that he sunk the 300m deep borehole after seeing how his community has continued to grapple with lack of clean water since his childhood.

“In 2020 when I found my father fetching water far away from the house despite his age, I made a resolve to drill a borehole for him,” he said.

“Luckily, the borehole sprang forth with alot of fresh water that was beyond his consumption and that prompted me to resolve to ensure that the rest of the community gets water too,” added Maina

He approached the Water Resources Authority (Warma) and the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) and got the prerequisites approvals that allowed him to connect water to households.

“It has not been an easy task, but seeing my community access clean drinking water surpasses all the challenges and financial implications therein,” he said

He urges the young people who have travelled for work in far off places and urban areas to always look back and help uplift their societies.

“If the county government can assist us with pipes, all the residents will be able to have access to the water and this will make our area even more productive. They will be able to rear animals and grow vegetables with we ease,” he stated.

The project, whose infrastructure cost Sh30m including water tank and piping installation, an office and a water kiosk is set to benefit over 10,000 across Makuyu ward.

CS Njeru Attends The Extra Ordinary Nile Council Of Ministers In Burundi

By: MoWSI



Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru while in Burundi last Friday

Worth Noting:

- Later, the Ministers from Kenya Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Egypt and host country Burundi, held a strategic dialogue meeting between the Nile Basin Initiative management led by the Executive Director, Dr Sylvester Matemu, representatives of development partners, Nile Basin Discourse, and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa as observers.
- The Nile Basin Initiative Strategic Dialogue is an annual event that brings together representatives of NBI Partner States and of Development Partners to discuss the Nile cooperation, share briefs and lessons on the institutional and program progress. The dialogue seeks to strengthen the Nile cooperation through exploring options of institutional sustainability.

Cabinet Secretary Water Sanitation and Irrigation Zachariah Njeru last Friday in Burundi joined his counterparts from the Nile Basin countries for the the Extra Ordinary Nile Council of Ministers Nile-COM at a meeting in the capital Bujumbura.

The Extra Ordinary Nile-COM Meeting is aimed at updating the Nile-COM on the planning of the second Heads of State and Government Summit. Nile-COM Members will also review the health of the institution and provide strategic guidance. During the Nile Day, the public stakeholders will be provided with information about benefits of cooperation through NBI.

The Nile-COM convenes Ministers of Water Affairs and their representatives from the Nile Basin Initiative Member States, diplomats, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, development partners, government officials, media and the general public.

The Nile Basin Council of Ministers (COM), traditionally convenes at the beginning of every fiscal year coincided with 25th Nile Day Celebrations held yesterday in Burundi. The Nile COM is the the top decision-making organ of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and is responsible for

setting the strategic direction over the use of the shared resources of the Nile River basin. The Council of Ministers also approves the institution's work plans and budgets for the subsequent financial year.

Later, the Ministers from Kenya Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Egypt and host country Burundi, held a strategic dialogue meeting between the Nile Basin Initiative management led by the Executive Director, Dr Sylvester Matemu, representatives of development partners, Nile Basin Discourse, and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa as observers.

The Nile Basin Initiative Strategic Dialogue is an annual event that brings together representatives of NBI Partner States and of Development Partners to discuss the Nile cooperation, share briefs and lessons on the institutional and program progress. The dialogue seeks to strengthen the Nile cooperation through exploring options of institutional sustainability.

The discussions reflected on the evolving context of enabling environment, emerging issues, challenges, opportunities to map prospects for institutional growth and sustainability.

The Strategic Dialogue has been es-

tablished as an instrumental forum in generating ideas on institutional, technical as well as financial sustainability for the Nile cooperation.

The forum, however is not a decision-making body but a platform for analyzing issues and the outcomes informing decisions of NBI governance as well as the Development Partners of NBI.

From the onset, the Nile cooperation process has been a collaborative undertaking between the riparian countries of the Nile Basin and NBI Development Partners (DPs), whom in unprecedented way pulled resources – technical and financial - to support the cooperation process. The past 25 years since the establishment of the NBI in February 1999 have been years of demonstrable achievements. In all these years, Development Partners have played a critical role to support the riparian – led cooperation process.

Over the years, NBI Member States have worked together to prepare and implement investment projects with shared regional benefits. More than 84 investment projects have been prepared by NBI, (estimated to be worth more than USD 6.5 billion)

The sectors covered include water resources development, integrated

sub-basin/catchment/watershed management; irrigation and drainage; hydropower development; power transmission interconnection and trade; lake environment management; fisheries; flood protection and early warning; multi-sector investment opportunity studies; and inland waterway transport. NBI countries are responsible for implementation of prepared projects.

In the Nile Equatorial region, several multipurpose projects were prepared; among them, the flagship 80 MW Rusumo H.E.P facility, this is in final stages of construction and is planned to be commissioned this year.

Angololo multipurpose water project between Kenya and Uganda – the two countries, through NELSAP, are in the process of mobilizing resources for implementation.

The Strategic Dialogue 2024 will be an opportunity for the countries, NBI and Development Partners to jointly discuss the causes of the relatively low levels of implementation of projects and to explore possible solutions for unlocking the potential of trans-boundary investments.

Maisha Bora Sacco Celebrates Exponential Growth

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The strength, resilience, and footprint of the Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (Saccos) in Kenya cannot be underestimated. Saccos have brought a positive socio-economic transformation to millions of Kenyans by ensuring access to credit at reasonable interest rates.

One such Sacco is Maisha Bora Sacco under the chairmanship of Mr. Michael Muhanda who, on the occasion of the Sacco's Annual General Meeting Sunday, he noted:

"We will also not lose sight of our strategic plan that is geared towards us having an Asset base of 16Bn by the end of 2026, in the process guaranteeing a worthwhile return on your investment. Our treasurer will highlight more on this mantra we are driving. 2024 will be the year that our institution turns 50 years. As part of the celebrations, we will recognize the many milestones we have made and honor the incredible contributions of each member of our

Sacco. It will also be a period we reflect and choose to redefine Maisha Bora as an institutional powerhouse. This occasion will likewise allow us to express our gratitude to one another and to celebrate the remarkable journey we have shared since together we have achieved greatness beyond measure."

Currently, Maisha Bora Sacco has an asset base of Kes. 5.7B buoyed by its loan book that registered a 17% growth which in turn has resulted in a 15% growth in our revenues translating to about Ksh.58M/Month with 95% of that being interest income. This growth has translated to better payouts this year, being 10% in rebates a 33% increase compared to 2023 and a 15%, dividend on share capital.

However, our success is not solely measured by financial metrics but our approaches to sound financial management. On this I want to urge all members to plough back their earned dividends & capitalize on the cushioning the Sacco is offering you against the high-interest rates currently in the market, through our reduced charges on borrowing to aid you towards future borrowings



Michael Muhanda, Chairman Maisha Bora Sacco.

on the investment opportunities that you or your trade desires for business continuity. Again, our success should also speak to the positive impact we have on the lives of our members and by extension the communities we serve through our various loan products.

Willstone Homes Supports The Govenment Agenda on Affordable Housing

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Government is keen on implementing the affordable housing project in a bid to address the wide gap for housing in Kenya. The affordable housing project has created job opportunities to thousands of young people across the country.

The private sector players have not been left behind in this. Willstone Homes, a real estate developer has been endeavoring to provide low cost housing to Kenyans.

On Saturday 24th February 2024, Willstone Homes enabled 65 people to be home owners along Kenyatta Road.

Ejidio Kinyanjui, the Managing Director of Willstone Homes noted:

"The affordable housing project is indeed a game changer when it comes to making sure that Kenyans

have access to affordable housing. Even in our site here, a thousand youth eke a living from here. This has addressed the quagmire of youth unemployment in our country. We are calling upon the National Government and County Governments to continue enabling ease of doing business through the improvement of infrastructure. This way, the dream of affordable housing will be realized," he noted.

Ejidio Kinyanjui, the Managing Director of Willstone Homes



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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 ✓



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SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Arsenal's free-scoring Premier League form continued as Newcastle were blown away 4-1 at the Emirates on Saturday to move back within two points of leaders Liverpool.

Free-Scoring Arsenal Hammer Newcastle To Keep Title Pressure On Liverpool, Man City



Arsenal's Brazilian defender #06 Gabriel Magalhaes (C) celebrates the first Arsenal goal, later given as an own-goal from Newcastle United's Dutch defender #04 Sven Botman during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Newcastle United at the Emirates Stadium in London on February 24, 2024. (Photo by JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP).

Arsenal's free-scoring Premier League form continued as Newcastle were blown away 4-1 at the Emirates on Saturday to move back within two points of leaders Liverpool.

Mikel Arteta's men stumbled to a 1-0 Champions League defeat at Porto in midweek, but were quickly back on the horse domestically to take their tally to 25 goals in six consecutive Premier League wins.

Arsenal's prowess from set-pieces forced an own goal from Sven Botman before Kai Havertz, Bukayo Saka and Jakub Kiwior from another corner killed off Newcastle.

The Gunners are aiming to win a first league title in 20 years and keen to make amends for faltering down the final straight last season as Manchester City stormed clear on their way to win the treble.

Arsenal are the side in red hot form but remain in third, one point behind second-placed City, with the title race fascinatingly poised 12 games from the end of the season.

Defeat is another blow to Newcastle's aspiration of European football next season.

Eddie Howe's men were out-classed to remain down in eighth, 15 points adrift of the top four, and have now conceded 23 goals in their last eight league games.

Howe was forced into handing goalkeeper Loris Karius just his second appearance since joining Newcastle in 2022.

Karius was unfortunate for the opening goal as he parried Gabriel Magalhaes' powerful header, but the ball ricocheted back off Botman and crept over the line.

Arsenal have now scored 19 times from set-pieces in the Pre-

mier League this season.

If there was a hint of fortune about the opener, the hosts' second was a thing of beauty.

Jorginho's ball over the top picked out the run of Gabriel Martinelli, who turned the ball perfectly into the path of Havertz for his eighth goal of the season.

Saka has now scored seven times in the last five Premier League games and only a fine save from Karius at his near post delayed the England international continuing his scoring streak before half-time.

Havertz should have sealed the three points within two minutes of the second half when he dragged a shot wide after Martinelli's pass played him clean through on goal.

But the German international was involved for the third goal as from his pass, Saka jinked inside and fired into the far corner for

his 16th goal of the season.

Set-piece coach Nicolas Jover has been credited with Arsenal's lethal threat from dead balls.

The Frenchman had more cause to celebrate 21 minutes from time when Kiwior's header from Declan Rice's corner deflected in off Lewis Miley.

Newcastle did at least muster a consolation five minutes from time when former Arsenal midfielder Joe Willock looped in a header off the post.

But that did little to spoil Arsenal's Saturday night party as they made another statement to Liverpool and City that they will not crumble under the pressure of a title race like they did 12 months ago.

Citizen Sport

Sports >>> *Darius van Driel claimed his maiden DP World Tour title in wire-to-wire fashion with a closing 67 at the Magical Kenya Open presented by Absa.

Dutchman Darius Van Driel Wins The 2024 Magical Kenya Open



Dutchman Darius van Driel poses for a photo after winning the Magical Kenya Open 2024 edition at the Muthaiga Golf Club, on February 25, 2026. Photo courtesy of Magical Kenya Open Media..

By Agencies

Darius van Driel claimed his maiden DP World Tour title in wire-to-wire fashion with a closing 67 at the Magical Kenya Open presented by Absa.

An opening 66 set the tone and the Dutchman made just four bogeys all week in a 14 under total, finishing two ahead of England's Joe Dean and Spaniard Nacho Elvira.

Qualifying School graduate Dean - who just last week was working as a delivery driver - had 12 feet for eagle on the last to pile the pressure on Van Driel but had to settle for a birdie and a beautiful chip on the last from the leader set up a closing gain and an ultimately comfortable win.

It was a nip-and-tuck afternoon at Muthaiga Golf Club, with a four-way tie for the lead around the turn before Van Driel eagled the tenth to take control.

The 34-year-old's golfing journey has been a remarkable one, with him giving up the game for a

number of years after breaking his hand in a banana boat accident, but he decided to turn professional after finishing second at the 2015 Alps Tour Q-School.

He won the Order of Merit in his maiden season and then graduated from the European Challenge Tour in 2019. The same season he lost in the final of the Belgian Knockout to Guido Migliozzi on the DP World Tour.

Another runner-up finish came at the 2021 Porsche European Open and while he lost his card last season, he regained it at the Qualifying School and is now a winner in his 112th appearance.

The win - the first in 2,198 days for a Dutch player on the DP World Tour - moves Van Driel up to sixth on the Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex and eighth on the International Swing.

Nacho Elvira's younger brother Manuel Manuel made the first move of the day from the leaders as he got lucky to avoid hitting the trees on the third and left himself 15 feet to take the lead.

Van Driel followed him in from ten feet and while Manuel Elvira bogeyed the fifth after hitting an ugly shank from the bunker, he hit back by making the most of the par-five seventh.

There was soon a four-way tie, with Spaniard Adrian Otaegui setting the target at 11 under after a 65 but Van Driel burst clear with his eagle at the tenth courtesy of a brilliant 40-foot right-to-lefter.

He dropped a shot at the par-three next after missing the green but had the putter going and a 25-foot effort on the 12th restored his cushion.

England's Matthew Jordan had reduced the deficit to one after he took on the par-four 17th and got up and down for a sixth birdie of the day but he bogeyed the last after going out of bounds off the tee and a 66 left him in the clubhouse at 11 under alongside Otaegui.

A Manuel Elvira bogey on the 14th meant the nearest challengers on course were three back but the pack were not giving up the chase.

Dean had bogeyed the seventh

but he picked up shots on the ninth, tenth, 13th and 15th to get to 11 under, where he was joined by Nacho Elvira, who left himself a tap-in at the 17th after birdies on the second, seventh, tenth and 14th and a dropped shot on the ninth.

An up-and-down on the last for a 66 from Nacho Elvira meant Van Driel's lead was just one stood on the 18th tee and Dean also moved to 12 under with his two-putt birdie on the last in a 67.

Van Driel was nerveless, however, coming up just short of the green in two and getting up and down, with Manuel Elvira also making a birdie in a closing 70 to finish in a three-way tie for fourth 11 under.

Scottish pair Ewen Ferguson and Connor Syme finished at ten under, one clear of South African Deon Germishuys and Frenchman Jeong weon Ko, whose closing 64 was the lowest round of the week.

Report by DP World Tour Media

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Backpage

Patriotic Education Of Young People On The Base Of
Axiological Approach Is A Challenging Problem

By: Saidakhmatova Mohtobakhan

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Worth Noting:

- In the new Uzbekistan, there is a sharp struggle and competition, and the conflict of interests is increasing. Globalization processes are creating new opportunities for humanity as well as unexpected problems.
- Threats and dangers against national identity and moral values are increasing. People, especially young people, are masterfully instilled in the minds of people, especially young people, in various ways, thinking only about themselves, looking lightly at work, family, and consumerism.
- Threats such as terrorism, extremism, transnational and cyber-crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking are increasing. In some regions, instability is deliberately created and the mood of protest is growing. This is a clear example of how necessary an axiological approach is for young people.

Annotation: In this article, it is mentioned about inculcating the spirit of patriotism in young people based on national values, forming the cooperation of parents, neighborhood school, pedagogues as a whole. The decrees of the Honorable President aimed at this urgent problem and the measures for its implementation have been widely explained.

Keywords: decree, youth, axiology, patriotism, society, modern development, nation, mass culture.

Introduction: Today, the progress of any country, its bright future and destiny are in the hands of today's youth, so it is appropriate that their education and training should be in the main place. Forming a sense of patriotism in young people will help them to know their history in depth, to preserve the material and spiritual heritage created by our great ancestors and to pass it on to the next generation, to deeply study the customs and traditions left by our ancestors, and to learn the part of it that has become values, continuity and retention are key issues.

In the decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PF-27 (28.02.2023) "Starting from the 2023/2024 academic year, students in general secondary educational institutions will be gradually educated in the spirit of universal and national values, patriotism, as well as communicative skills in them. educational programs aimed at forming skills such as "skills, critical and creative thinking, team work, and research" should be put into practice. who also paid special attention to their events.

In the new Uzbekistan, there is a sharp struggle and competition, and the conflict of interests is increasing. Globalization processes are creating new opportunities for humanity as well as unexpected problems. Threats and dangers against national identity and moral values are increasing. People, especially young people, are masterfully instilled in the minds of people, especially young people, in various ways, thinking only about themselves, looking lightly at work, family, and consumerism. Threats such as terrorism, extremism, transnational and cyber-crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking are increasing. In some regions, instability is deliberately created and the mood of protest is growing. This is a clear example of how necessary an axiological ap-

proach is for young people.

Literature analysis and methodology (literature and methodology /Methods). Axiology (from the Greek axio-value, logos-science, education) is a theory of values and a branch of philosophy, which deals with the nature of values, their place in human life, and the interaction of different values, that is, with social, cultural factors and the structure of the individual. learns the connection.

Patriotism means love and loyalty to the country, service for the country, sacrificing your whole life and potential, if necessary, your life. Patriotism is one of the universal feelings and spiritual values characteristic of all peoples, nations and peoples, and has been refined over the centuries. It is no exaggeration to say that instilling a sense of patriotism in young people based on the formation of our national values and traditions is one of the most urgent problems of the present time. At the moment, not only in our country, but also in the whole world, the use of mass media and the Internet is on the rise. As a result, mass culture enters the country and it develops despite the fact that it contradicts the national values of this country. As a result, along with the loss of values among young people, the feeling of patriotism is also decreasing.

Results (Results). In our country, a great deal of attention is being paid to educating young people in the spirit of patriotism based on the axiological approach. For this, it is appropriate to inculcate our values and traditions in the youth, starting with the family. After all, there is a popular saying "A bird does what it sees in its nest" and it is not in vain. The responsibility of every parent for the development of the society is to bring up their child in the right way, and in this way they should be a school of example for their children. As society develops, its customs and values change or disappear, that is, new values that are useful for that period appear in society, and those that are not important in this period slowly disappearing. Therefore, as we live in the age of changes and developments, preserving some of our values is one of the most necessary tasks for the present and bright future of this nation. Taking pride in the past and present of the country, caring about its future, and protecting its interests, it is one of the most necessary goals to instill in the hearts of every growing young gen-

eration the feeling of patriotism.

For a broader understanding of the concept of patriotism, it is necessary to get acquainted with and study the works and works of our great scholars and patriotic compatriots. Examples of them are Fitrat, Abdulla Kadiri, Cholpon, Abdulla Avloni, Usman Nasir, Hamid Olimjon, Gafur Ghulam, Erkin Vahidov, Abdulla Oripov. When we look at their works, a sense of patriotism and values are formed in our hearts. In order to be a patriot, it means that a person has a strong love for the country in his heart, does something worthy of his people, and honors his country in any situation. The reason is that the Motherland is the past, present and future of every person. Realizing the duty to the motherland and the nation should be the highest goal of every person.

Discussion (Obsujdenie/Discussion). After all, he should be proud of his country and not forget that he was born and raised on this land, and he should not forget his responsibility to contribute to the country. Only then can a person achieve happiness. It is necessary to educate the owners of tomorrow, true patriots in the spirit of devotion to independence, using the opportunities of young people widely, not only in schools or kindergartens, but also in extracurricular activities. For this purpose, not only parents or school teachers, but also everyone around and in the society contributes. Therefore, every person is responsible for the development of the society and the development of the country, and it is the role model of the youth, who are the future of the country. Realizing this, the teachers in educational institutions also teach students to be loyal to their nation, motherland, and country, to form in them healthy energy, thinking, faith, and a clear conscience. to live for the benefit of the nation, to educate the responsibility to the Motherland, to inculcate in one's mind, every should be taught to form a healthy lifestyle. For this purpose, every pedagogue should contribute to the development of the country, increase the reputation of the nation, bring benefits, work with selflessness and honesty, think about the honor and interests of the people, and encourage them in different ways. and only when they try to find the means, will ample opportunities be created for the formation of a sense of patriotism in the pupils.

Conclusion (Zakluchenie/Conclu-

sion). In conclusion, in order to form a sense of patriotism in students, it is necessary to use all forms of new pedagogical technology, to find and create new forms of it, and first of all, to teach students to think independently, to respect and appreciate the Motherland. After all, when they see the beauty of the country's scenery, nature, cities, in a word, the love of the country is formed in the hearts of young students, and gradually they realize that the country is a great blessing, and put its interests above their own. prioritizes and later becomes a perfect person who is loyal to his country and homeland and contributes to its development.

Saidakhmatova Mohtobakhan was born in 1999 in Sokh district of Fergana city. Currently, Fergana State University is a master's student of Pedagogical Theory and History (by type of activity)

Since her youth, she has been active in various fields due to her curiosity and thirst for knowledge. After graduating from school with excellent grades, he learned the secrets of tailoring at the Vocational College of Sokh district. My college graduated with a red diploma and entered the Kokan State Pedagogical Institute on the basis of a grant in the field of foreign language and literature. Currently, the English teacher is a master's student in pedagogy. Married mother of 2 children.

Achievements: her collection of poems called "The heart of the homeland" was printed in 800 copies. He took pride of place at the regional stage of the English science Olympiads several times, a member of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, a winner of the B2 certificate in English, a member of the creative group of poets and writers of Argentina "Juntos por las letras". Several scientific articles and theses have been published in international newspapers and magazines. Participant of international anthologies. Founder of several courses, especially English language, tailoring, business courses.

Hobbies: reading, cooking, writing poetry, making gold tiaras and knick-knacks, making antique flowers from soap and other papers.

Her future dreams are to become a Zulfiya State Prize winner and to open her own private universities and schools.