



Federation of Kenya Employers Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline Mugo
The government has been challenged to address all the bottlenecks in the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) system of education. The Federation of Kenya Employers Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline Mugo said the job market was rapidly evolving and thus requires a responsive education system.

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News>> Budget Cuts Remain A Key Challenge For Development Agenda, Says State Departments As They Present Budget Policy Statements

P. 8. 2024/2025 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) before the Alice Ng'ang'a-led Committee yesterday



News>> DP Gachagua's Speech at AIPCA Church Centenary Celebration and Archbishop Installation

P. 12. Deputy President Gachagua expressed his profound appreciation for the unity achieved within the AIPCA Church

Kenya And Colombia In Advanced Talks On Coffee Cooperation

Kenya is hosting a high-profile delegation from Colombia for advanced talks on cooperation in Coffee farming and trade as the two nations look to strengthen ties to boost the local sub-sector.

The Colombian delegation is in the country for five days and in addition to the talks, will visit factories and farms to familiarise with the Kenyan coffee industry.



Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui

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Nyeri County Leads In Uptake Of Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund

By: Wangari Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The official disbursement of the fund started in January this year after the government announced a Sh 60 increase in the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund from the previous Sh 20. This meant that farmers would be paid Sh 80 for every kilogram of cherry delivered to the factories.
- According to Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, the increment followed a decision by the cabinet to approve an additional Sh 4 billion to the kitty bringing the total amount to be advanced to coffee farmers to Sh 6.7 billion.



Coffee stakeholders during the forum.

Coffee farmers from Nyeri are the biggest beneficiaries of the first tranche of the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund.

According to a report released by the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (KPCU), out of the KSh3.24 billion paid out to farmers by mid-February, KSh595 million was taken up by coffee farmers from the county.

Similarly, the county recorded the highest number of beneficiaries with each of 66,415 farmers taking home an average of Sh 8,900 from the revolving fund.

The report also shows that coffee farmers from Kirinyaga are the second biggest beneficiaries of the fund where 44,314 of the farmers had benefited from KSh473 million (Sh10,689 per farmer) by February 16.

"The fund is targeting over 700,000 smallholder coffee farmers in the country.

A total of 259,040 coffee farmers from 24 coffee growing counties have so far received the funds," says the report.

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According to Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, the increment followed a decision by the cabinet to approve an additional Sh 4 billion to the kitty bringing the total amount to be advanced to coffee farmers to Sh 6.7 billion.

"The cabinet has approved a further KSh4 billion to increase the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund from Sh20 per kilogram to Sh80 per kilo-

gram of cherry delivered to the factories. The fund will be managed by the New KPCU," said Chelugui.

Speaking in Nyeri during a farmers' sensitization forum, the Co-operatives CS said that the funds were aimed at cushioning farmers from poor market prices. He said that the release of the money is part of the many reforms that the government is instituting in bid to revitalize the coffee sub-sector and spur economic growth.

"The money is supposed to sustain the farmer as he/she await the proceeds from the sale of the cherry. Within a month of harvesting, you should get your Sh 80 but you will receive it in the following manner. Once you deliver your cherry to the pulping unit you should be given a receipt of your coffee and you are entitled to Sh 40," Chelugui told the more than 3,000 Nyeri coffee.

"Secondly, once the coffee is processed

and dried by the factory and delivered to the miller within three weeks and once that process is complete you receive the remaining Sh 40," he added.

Other big beneficiaries of the funds include Kiambu (Sh 344 million), Kericho (Sh 316 million), Murang'a (Sh 280 million), Embu (Sh 246, 325million) and Machakos County (242million). So far, 16,285 coffee farmers from Bungoma county have each taken home Sh 13,986 each, translating to a Sh 227million uptake by the county while in Meru county, 7,302 farmers have accessed Sh 149 million from the fund.

Conversely the report says that, "Out of the 24 coffee growing counties, Nakuru (Sh56,410), Homa Bay (Sh100,000) and West Pokot (Sh 750,000) had recorded the least uptake of the funds."

The Mt. Kenya Times



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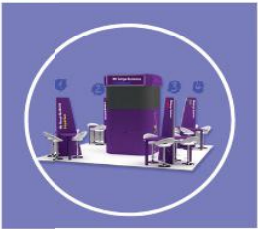
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NEWS IN BRIEF



The government plans to build a Mijikenda Cultural Centre in Kilifi County to preserve and promote Mijikenda culture and revive tourism.

Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa, responsible for Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage, stated that the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and the National Products Industry (NPI) have documented the indigenous knowledge and instruments of the Mijikenda in Kilifi County.

She will personally hand over the report to Governor Gideon Mung'aro to use the information to grow the economy of Kilifi through tourism.

Jumwa urged the governor to ensure that documented knowledge and instruments, such as drums, traditional attire, and foods, are recognised and respected like those in other cultures.

She urged the Mijikenda to take pride in their culture and that the international communities respect them, as many traditional artefacts, such as the vigango, were stolen and taken to Europe.

The Kilifi County Executive Committee is urged to draft a Bill on the proposal to have a cultural centre in Kilifi and submit it to the County Assembly of Kilifi for enactment.

The plan is expected to be completed in the coming financial year, with the late Masha Iha among the people to be celebrated daily.

Governor Mung'aro's main agenda is to expand the Malindi International Airport, which would boost tourism by allowing large planes to land.

He has started consultations with key stakeholders to revive the sector and create employment for local youths.



Farmers in Nyandarua North have been urged to venture into poultry and pomegranate farming to combat climate change challenges while simultaneously improving nutrition.

Speaking during a demonstration farm tour in Nyandarua North Sub County, CARE-USA Vice President, Food and Water System Unit, Juan Echanove, said that to boost farmers' livelihoods and promote commercial farming, they should engage in drought-resistant farming.

Dayton Ventures co-founder Daniel Wambugu inspects a pomegranate fruit at his farm in Nyandarua North Sub County.

Poultry farming and pomegranate farming has been identified as the ideal farming venture in the area that experiences frequent droughts.

Nakuru county government is rehabilitating Malewa Road to improve transportation for farmers and students attending Kenyatta Primary, Afraha, and Langalanga high schools during heavy rains. Engineer in-charge Michael Kamau stated that the department aims to upgrade as many roads as possible to improve access and connectivity, enabling farmers to move their produce to markets even during the rainy season. Other access roads have undergone upgrades, including the heavy grading of the Ndeffo-Mtarakwa Primary School Road in Kihingo Ward, the Mar-ram-Kaboch Road in Solai Ward, and the 3.7km grading of Gathengera Access Road in Malewa West. New roads have been opened in Kabazi Ward, Kimugul-AIC Road in Amalo Ward, and Kagumo Primary-Catholic Church Road in Waseges Ward. The rehabilitation efforts extend to Subukia Ward, with the grading of Kanu Street access roads and the Ol-doinyo Eburru Village Road in Elementaita Ward.



Dr MBS Margaret Karungaru, a Commissioner with the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) yesterday paid a courtesy call to Nyeri County Governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, where she presented the commission's Policy Report. The governor said his administration is committed to enhancing collaborations with Commission, through the department of Gender, Youth and Social Services. On her part, Dr Karungaru noted that the Commission has been collaborating with the County government through various partnerships. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU



The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has commended the Government of Kenya for its continued support in the education of refugees in the country. Speaking in Kakuma Refugee Camp, UNHCR Associate Education Officer Mr Ali Duale said the UN agency for refugees recognizes the government's efforts through the Ministry of Education in ensuring refugee children get the right to education same as their Kenyan counterparts. UNHCR is aware of the support the refugee community is getting from the government of Kenya to implement the Kenyan curriculum and take professional examinations including both primary and secondary education.

The agency was grateful to the government of Kenya for allowing the refugee children to go through the Kenyan education system and sit for national examinations.

NEWS PAPER

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Roundtable Chaired By PS Omollo Reflects On Key Achievements



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Border Control measures were also under scrutiny, with emphasis placed on bolstering border security infrastructure, implementing advanced technology solutions, and fostering cross-border cooperation to mitigate transnational threats such as terrorism, trafficking, and illegal migration. The Roundtable recognized the strides made in enhancing border surveillance capabilities and streamlining customs procedures to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while safeguarding national borders. Disaster Preparedness and Response mechanisms were evaluated in light of increasing climate-related disasters and humanitarian crises.



PS Raymond Omollo addressing the media

In a comprehensive review session chaired by PS Omollo, the Roundtable convened to assess the progress made in critical areas such as Security Sector Reform, Border Control, Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Refugee Support. The meeting served as a platform to acknowledge the concerted efforts of various stakeholders, with Development Partners emerging as key contributors in addressing diverse security, humanitarian, and development challenges.

Security Sector Reform remains a cornerstone in ensuring stability and peace within the region. The Roundtable highlighted advancements in

enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of security forces, fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, and strengthening institutional frameworks to combat emerging threats. PS Omollo emphasized the importance of ongoing reforms in adapting to evolving security landscapes and maintaining public trust and confidence.

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ism, trafficking, and illegal migration. The Roundtable recognized the strides made in enhancing border surveillance capabilities and streamlining customs procedures to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while safeguarding national borders.

Disaster Preparedness and Response mechanisms were evaluated in light of increasing climate-related disasters and humanitarian crises. Participants commended efforts to improve early warning systems, enhance disaster risk reduction strategies, and strengthen coordination mechanisms among government agencies, civil society organizations, and international part-

ners. PS Omollo underscored the need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact of disasters and ensure swift and effective response efforts to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Refugee Support initiatives were also spotlighted as crucial components of the region's humanitarian response efforts. The Roundtable recognized the generosity of host communities and the invaluable contributions of humanitarian organizations in providing essential services, protection, and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons. PS Omollo reaffirmed the government's commitment to upholding international humanitarian principles and supporting refugees' rights while pursuing durable solutions to displacement.

Throughout the discussions, Development Partners were lauded for their unwavering support and collaboration in addressing complex security, humanitarian, and development challenges. Their financial assistance, technical expertise, and capacity-building efforts have played a pivotal role in strengthening institutional capacities, fostering resilience, and promoting sustainable development across the region.

As the Roundtable concluded, PS Omollo reiterated the government's steadfast commitment to advancing the shared goals of peace, security, and prosperity. The collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including Development Partners, will continue to be instrumental in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the region and building a more resilient and inclusive future for all.

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Police Officer Attempted To Convince Colleague To Quit Abusive Marriage, Court Informed

By: Kiptanui Cheroni @themt-kenyentimes

A state witness in a case where a female police officer is accused of killing her husband recounted before the Eldoret High Court how she had frantically tried to convince her colleague to quit her abusive marriage.

Police Constable Noela Cheruiyot testifying before Eldoret High Court judge Justice Reuben Nyakundi said she had attempted to convince her colleague, Lilian Biwott, who she said was her close friend, to terminate the relationship with her abusive husband a few days before she (accused) was linked to his killing.

She informed the court that the accused had confided in her about the tribulations she was going through in her marriage.

Biwott 32, and a mother of four, is said to have shot her late husband Edwin Kipchumba 12 times in their Kumumu estate rental house following family differences.

She narrated how the accused would come to her police line house to change into her official attire before reporting for night shift duties at the Kenya Bureau of Standards Eldoret branch.

Ms. Cheruiyot said that although Biwott was secretive in matters related to her private life, she opened up to her about her toxic relationship and how she had tried to seek help from family members and church elders to no avail.

She said it was at that point that she advised the accused to seek separation from her abusive husband, instead of persevering in the marriage characterized by frequent quarrels and fights.

She said she had even promised to surrender her police line house to her colleague so that she could occupy it with her four school-going children.

"My colleague and close friend told me her husband was abusing her to the extent of accusing her of infidelity and threatening to kill her although she was faithful to him," narrated Cheruiyot.

Biwott is charged with killing her



spouse on October 14, 2023, at Kimumu estate, along the Eldoret-Iten road in Uasin Gishu County.

The accused, who denied the murder charges is currently held at Eldoret Women GK remand prison after being denied bond on security grounds.

Another Police Officer, Bernard

Ouma attached to Turbo police station narrated how the accused surrendered to the police after killing her husband without the killer weapon.

"When we interrogated her about the whereabouts of the rifle, she had signed for the night duty, she accepted to take us to where she had hidden

it in a bush, some few metres from the police station," said Ouma, who was the officer in charge of the armoury.

Justice Nyakundi adjourned the case until March 10th and 11th for further hearing.

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Budget Cuts Remain A Key Challenge For Development Agenda, Says State Departments As They Present Budget Policy Statements

By: PSCU

The State Department for Public Service and their counterparts from the State Departments for Gender and Affirmative Action and the one for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy today pleaded with the National Assembly’s Social Protection Committee to assist realise and retain budgets that will enable them implement their proposed projects.

Speaking while presenting their 2024/2025 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) before the Alice Ng’ang’a-led Committee yesterday, the PS in the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy Mr. Ismail M. Madey pointed out a number of projects under his docket that have faced budget cuts during the implementation of the first half of the financial year 2023/24.

Mr. Maalim called on the Committee to consider an additional allocation

tion of Ksh 4.6 billion in the context of financial year 2024/2025 to enable them address what he termed as critically underfunded areas to facilitate execution of their mandate effectively.

He narrated that resource requirement for the current gross allocation for the financial year 2024/2025 is Ksh 13.36 billion, however only Ksh 3.57 billion was allocated.

“Hon. Chair, the recurrent expenditure resource requirement is Ksh 6.6 billion, out of the proposed allocation of Ksh 2.21 billion in the 2024 budget policy statement, 85.3% is earmarked for SAGAs under us while the balance is for operations and maintenance, the decline comes as a result of the Executive order No. 2 of 2023 that transferred some of our functions to other entities” he added.

PS in the State Department for Public Service Amos Gathecha in company of Director General of the National Youth Service (NYS), while presenting their Budget Policy Statement (2024), pointed out that the re-



Thika Town MP Alice Ng’ang’a (in White top) chairing yesterday’s meeting.

source requirement for the financial year 2024/2025 was Ksh 25.76 billion, this is against an allocation of Ksh 13.07 billion leaving a deficit of Ksh 12.6 billion.

“Hon. Chair, overall, the budgetary allocation of the National Youth Service for the financial year 2024/2025 Budget Policy Statement is largely inadequate to achieve its policies

and programmes. There is need for this Committee to support the Service to obtain additional budgetary allocation to undertake the planned initiatives”, he added.

The PS in the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action MS. Anne Wang’ombe was the last to appear, in her Budget Policy Statement, she pointed out the gross expenditure

ceiling for the financial 2024/2025 as Ksh 5.78 billion against a requirement of Ksh 6.76 billion.

PS Wang’ombe will be making further submissions to the Committee to be considered in the Committee’s report. The report is expected to be presented next week.

Nakuru Majority Leader Partners With UK Friends To Improve Health Facilities

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themtkenyetimes

The Nakuru County Assembly Majority leader Alex Lang’at has mobilized his friends from the United Kingdom to support and expand the health facilities in Rongai sub-county.

Speaking yesterday at the Sumeek Dispensary in his Mosop ward, the MCA said the health facility has been a steadfast provider of outpatient services for decades, serving the community with dedication and care.

He commended the county government for the significant boost with the construction of a modern maternity wing, which has reduced the long-distance mothers have to travel to access health facilities.

While at the dispensary accompanied by his friends from the UK, Lang’at said he was making a personal initiative to further improve the facility and bring all the healthcare services closer to his people.

The County Executive Member for Health, Ms Roselyn Mungai lauded the collaborative efforts between the executive and legislative branches of the local government.

She said the department of health continues to prioritize engagement with healthcare professionals in order to address challenges faced by the frontline workers. And, efforts are underway to identify scalable best practices and devise solutions to common hurdles that impact service delivery.

She said since the beginning of the year they have embarked on visits to various health centres to create a platform for healthcare workers to share their perspectives and highlight areas in need of improvement.

“By soliciting feedback directly from those on the frontline, the department of health can better identify obstacles and implement targeted strategies to overcome them,” she said.

Ms Mungai said by fostering a culture of open communication and partnership, the county was working towards a healthcare system that is



During the deliberations

responsive, resilient, and focused on meeting the needs of the residents.

The Assembly Majority leader confirmed that the department of health has been the best performing in the county, and they have attracted a

number of stakeholders who are willing to support them to greater heights.

Lang’at added that a number of counties have benchmarked their progress, and wananchi are excited

by the devolution of health services, since they are no longer carrying patients on wheelbarrows as was the case in the past.

Kenya And Colombia In Advanced Talks On Coffee Cooperation

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “The Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) envisions a productive coffee sub-sector hence committed to increase coffee production from the current annual production from 51,000 metric tonnes to 200,000 metric tons by year 2027,” said Mr Chelugui.
- He reminisced that in the 1980s, coffee was the leading foreign exchange earner for Kenya. The production, he said, deteriorated from a peak of 130,000 tonnes in 1983/1984 to a low of 34,000 tonnes in 2020.
- “Over 70 percent of coffee production in our country is carried out by the smallholders, who are organised into cooperatives,” said CS Chelugui.
- Ambassador Leon Rui explained that the members of Colombia National Federation of Coffee Growers, are on a five-day visit and they will have a peer-to-peer session with Kenyan farmers.



Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, other government officials pose for a photo with Colombia delegation yesterday.

Kenya is hosting a high-profile delegation from Colombia for advanced talks on cooperation in Coffee farming and trade as the two nations look to strengthen ties to boost the local subsector.

The Colombian delegation is in the country for five days and in addition to the talks, will visit factories and farms to familiarise with the Kenyan coffee industry.

The meeting is a follow-up to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua’s visit to Colombia last September where he pushed for advanced cooperation between the two nations to realise better yields for Kenyan coffee farmers.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, Simon Chelugui and Colombian Ambassador to Kenya Mr Pedro Leon Rui, welcomed the discussions saying they would boost the ties already nurtured by the two

nations.

Addressing the delegation yesterday at Emara Ole Sereni Hotel Nairobi, Mr Chelugui said the government is focused on empowering smallholder coffee farmers since the crop plays a key role in enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya.

“The Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) envisions a productive coffee subsector hence committed to increase coffee production from the current annual production from 51,000 metric tonnes to 200,000 metric tons by year 2027,” said Mr Chelugui.

He reminisced that in the 1980s, coffee was the leading foreign exchange earner for Kenya. The production, he said, deteriorated from a peak of 130,000 tonnes in 1983/1984 to a low of 34,000 tonnes in 2020.

“Over 70 percent of coffee production in our country is carried out by the smallholders, who are organised

into cooperatives,” said CS Chelugui.

Ambassador Leon Rui explained that the members of Colombia National Federation of Coffee Growers, are on a five-day visit and they will have a peer-to-peer session with Kenyan farmers.

“This is an important milestone in cementing the relationship between Kenya and Colombia. We have been working together and our ties with Africa is a priority. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Enterprise Simon Chelugui visited Colombia last year,” he said.

“Connection with Colombia is because we have a lot of potential to work together and learn. Coffee is our treasure; the collaboration is part of other common goals we are building in Kenya”.

Yesterday afternoon, the delegation toured the New Kenya Planters Coffee Union, Dandora Branch, where they were taken through the process of milling, coffee cupping and cataloguing.

They will also visit coffee cooperative factories, farms, Coffee Research Institute and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO).

Mr Carlos Armando Uribe, Director Asuntos Gremiales company based in Colombia, said one channel to increase production in Kenya is for the local farmers to increase the

number of trees per hectare.

“Commitment is also needed and transparency and Government support. Look for new markets like China, India and UAE,” he advised.

The businessman added, “enhance participation of growers in changing the subsector through public elections of the sectoral leaders and Coffee democracy.

“We are a coffee producing family. For our colleagues in Kenya, we can move together. The intention is for all of us to get better, and our families get better economically,” he stated.

The trader added that the two countries are looking to partner, collaborate and share ideas to boost the global trade of coffee.

The Chief of Staff at the Office of the Deputy President, Ms Wanjiku Wakogi, welcomed the advancement of the talks between the two countries, saying the coffee sub-sector is a strong cornerstone of Kenya’s economic development.

“We are embarking on this wonderful chapter of cooperation between Kenya and Colombia, focused on our coffee value chains. This collaboration is not just a diplomatic gesture; it signifies a strategic partnership aimed at leveraging each other’s strengths for the mutual benefit of our coffee industries,” said Ms Wakogi.



Prayers Is The Secret Weapon



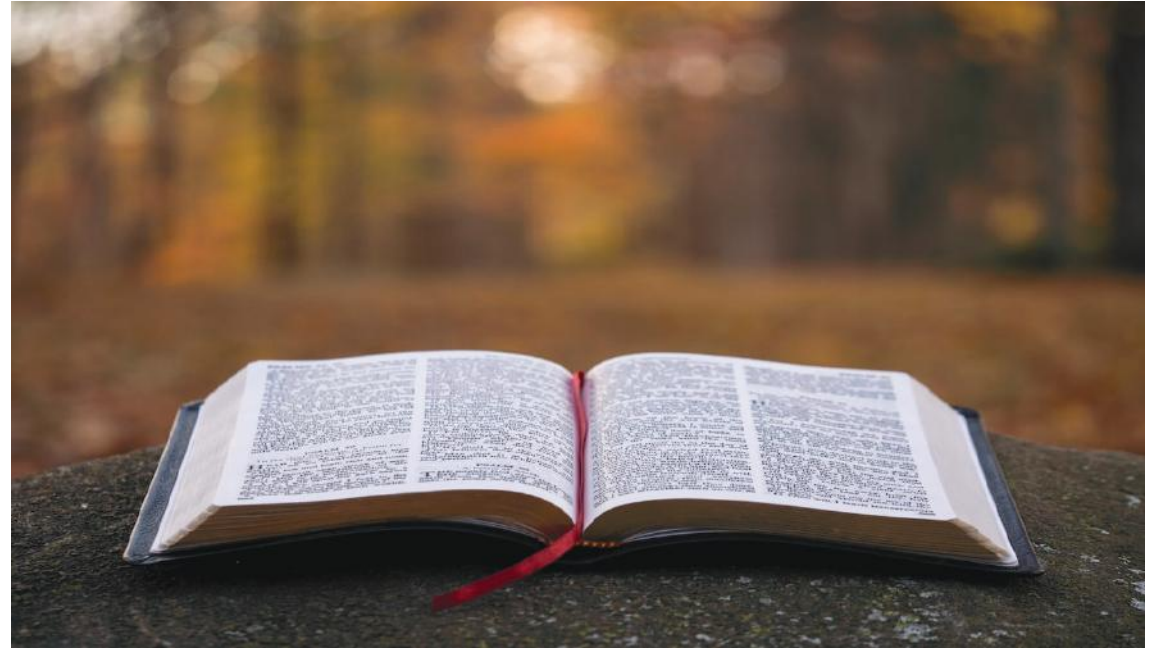
By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

There is a real war happen in your life, even as we speak now, especially if you have chose the path ordained for you by God. The fight of your life. A very real enemy has been strategizing and scheming against you, assaulting you, coming after your emotions, your mind, your family, your child, your future. In fact, he's doing it right this second. Right where you're sitting. Right where you are. But I say his reign of terror stops here. Stops now. He might keep coming, but he won't have victory anymore.

Because it all starts failing when we START PRAYING and ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING; it is written "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, in everything GIVE THANKS; for this is THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST

JESUS for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)." Because life is just too impossible without prayers—yours, mine, everybody's. We simply don't have the luxury of playing nice with prayer. Not if we want things to change. Not if we want to be free—from whatever's keeping us held down and held back. Not if we want our hearts whole and thriving and deep and grounded . . . different. Not if we want to reach our destinies and experience God's promises. Not if we want our families living out what God has called them to do and be and become. Not if we want a fence of God's protection around us. Not if we want to bear the unmistakable mark of His favor upon us. Not if we want the devil and his plans to go back to the hell where they came from.

But none of that is going to happen—no matter how badly we may want it—as long as prayer remains an afterthought, a formality, a mindless mix of duty and manipulation, something we do but usually don't do, and rarely if ever do with any meaning and vitality, with confidence and clarity. As a result, we waste a whole lot of years, doing a whole lot of



other things. Things that thoroughly exhaust us but ultimately don't work. We end up, for all our trying, missing the point, missing out on what God intended, missing the whole heart of what really matters. So now we're going to pray specifically and strategically.

SELAH! GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.

References:

The Living Bible

Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan by Priscilla Shirer

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and

be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.

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Contrary To His Critics, Ruto Have No Hand In Ndindi's Candidature



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua against Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro are perceived to be the leading contenders in the race to succeed former President Uhuru Kenyatta.
- Earlier, the campaign took a new turn when Ndindi hosted more than 20 Kenya Kwanza members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country in his Kiharu constituency.
- DP Gachagua later visited Muranga County. He was accompanied by 117 members of parliament (MPs) during a fundraiser in Kigumo. I heard people particularly Kikuyus claiming that he had 'hired' these MPs.
- Back to Kiharu, the MPs attended the education event on their own volition. Speaker after speaker showered him with accolades. Ndindi's track record on matters of development, peace and unity speaks for itself.



Kiharu MP and the chairman of the National Assembly's Budget Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro

Kiharu MP and the chairman of the National Assembly's Budget Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro is yet to openly declare his bid for the kingpin of the Mount Kenya region.

But as it turns out, his opponents had already started panicking. Ndindi was indeed sending cold shivers down their spines. To tame him, we have seen them escalating this war to State House.

This brings me to the question. Did President William Ruto have a hand in Ndindi's bid? The answer is a big No. There was no evidence to support these claims.

I'm a writer and a political analyst/commentator.

As such, the nature of my work is to listen and gather the views of the people. Most of these views came from the Kikuyu nation.

During his recent three-day of the Kikuyu land, President Ruto once proved wrong his critics.

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

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

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

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

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

The Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua against Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro are perceived to be the leading contenders in the race to succeed former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

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members of parliament (MPs) during a fundraiser in Kigumo. I heard people particularly Kikuyus claiming that he had 'hired' these MPs.

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Former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP Wilson Sossian set the ball rolling. He noted that Ndindi was a presidential material.

I want to assure you the people of Muranga that Ndindi was poised to succeed President Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second term in office. You can take this to the bank.

Soon after this event, a section of the politicians started peddling unfounded rumors that President William Ruto was sponsoring Ndindi's campaign.

This is not the first time that the name of the head of state would dragged into premature 2032 succession politics.

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

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

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

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

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

Kenya region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Besides, he has never been implicated

in corruption or any other wrong-doing. Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

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

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

Matters of education are close to his heart. Ndindi have done a lot in terms of building new state-of-art classrooms and renovating the old ones.

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

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

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

Again, dozens of MPs from across the country attended this event.

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

Ndindi steered clear of this topic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DP Gachagua’s Speech at AIPCA Church Centenary Celebration and Archbishop Installation

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Gachagua expressed his profound appreciation for the unity achieved within the AIPCA Church and commended Archbishops Samson Muthuri, Fredrick Wang’ombe, and David Njuguna for their leadership in reconciling rival factions. He highlighted the significance of the church’s centenary celebration as a testament to their unity and collective voice.

Gachagua acknowledged President Ruto’s commitment to the AIPCA Church’s unity, noting the President’s role in initiating efforts to unite the denomination. He emphasized the President’s desire for a united church and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead reconciliation efforts following the 2022 elections.

The Deputy President praised Archbishop Wang’ombe for accepting the election results and pledging to serve

under Archbishop Muthuri, which contributed to the church’s cohesion. He underscored the importance of a unified church for the nation’s stability and urged leaders to prioritize unity and peace.

Gachagua highlighted the historical significance of the AIPCA Church, noting its role as the spiritual wing of the Mau Mau liberation movement. He lamented its neglect by successive governments post-independence but expressed optimism for its restoration under the Kenya Kwanza administration.

He stressed the need for the AIPCA Church to remain united, emphasizing that a divided church would hinder the President’s engagement with its leaders, as he symbolizes national unity. Gachagua called upon worshippers to unite to garner the President’s support for their collective endeavors.

Furthermore, the Deputy President urged the Agikuyu community and all Kenyans to rally behind President Ruto in realizing his transformation agenda. He urged support, respect,



R-L: President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua at the AIPCA Church centenary celebration and Archbishop installation.

and prayers for the President’s success, emphasizing the importance of national unity and collaboration.

In summary, Deputy President Gachagua’s speech at the AIPCA Church centenary celebration and Archbishop installation underscored the significance of unity, reconciliation, and collective action for the advancement of the church and the nation as a whole.

Drone Space To Host Regional AI Conference In March

By: Stacie Ang’aya and Kelvin Waribu
@themtkenyatimes

Drone Space Kenya, a leading innovator in the drone technology industry, has organised a Drone Technology and Data Analytics Conference slated for March 26 to 27 this year at Sarit Expo Centre in Westlands, Nairobi.

The two-day conference that is expected to bring together innovators, professionals, industry leaders and experts from the region is aimed at shaping the future of the dynamic industries of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Drone Technology and Data Analytics.

In a press statement sent to newsrooms, Drone Space Director Tony Mwangi expressed confidence that the objectives of the conference which have been aligned with the governments Bottom-Up Economic Empowerment Agenda, will help to unlock

enormous potential of the youth.

“I am confident that this conference will enhance the youth participation in developing home-grown technological solutions to common problems in our economy,” he stated.

Director Mwangi said the event which will showcase the latest technologies comes at a time when many sectors of the economy are increasingly adopting and integrating artificial intelligence to their operations to bolster efficiency and to maximise their performance.

“This has already demonstrated AI’s potential with transformative outcomes in sectors such as business operations, healthcare, education, agriculture, financial services and e-commerce among others,” said Mwangi.

According to the statement, Oxford Insights Government AI readiness index report of 2022, Kenya was ranked fifth in Africa for its readiness to adopt Artificial Intelligence in delivery of public services, not only ahead



of her East African peers, but also setting the pace for the region.

During the conference renowned experts in AI, drone technology and data analytics will provide insights into the latest trends and future directions.

There will be a dedicated space for startups to pitch and demonstrate their groundbreaking solutions while participants will also be given practical session to enable them gain hands-on experience with the latest tools, platforms and technologies.

The upcoming conference will be the first to be held in Nairobi.

Kenyan Social Health Insurance Fund Contributions To Begin In July 2024

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyetimes

In a recent announcement made today, Terry Rotich, the acting corporation secretary at the Social Health Authority (SHA), revealed that Kenyans will start contributing to the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) starting July 2024. The decision to postpone the commencement of contributions and access to healthcare under the scheme from March to July was confirmed by Rotich yesterday. The delay in implementation aims to provide ample time for citizens to prepare for their participation in the scheme effectively. Rotich emphasized that the payment of contributions and access to healthcare services under SHIF will officially begin on July 1, 2024, aligning with the revised timeline. Under the new scheme, every Kenyan will be required to apply to the authority for registration as a SHIF member by June 30, 2024. This registration process signifies a crucial step in ensuring comprehensive coverage and effective management of the social health insurance program.

It allows authorities to streamline the enrollment process and accurately determine the number of beneficiaries eligible for SHIF benefits. The implementation of SHIF marks a significant milestone in Kenya's healthcare system, aiming to enhance accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare services across the nation. By pooling financial resources through contributions, SHIF endeavors to mitigate the financial burden on individuals seeking medical treatment while promoting equity and inclusivity in healthcare access. The decision to postpone the initiation of contributions underscores the government's commitment to facilitating a smooth transition and fostering public awareness and understanding of the SHIF framework. It provides stakeholders with additional time to disseminate information, address inquiries, and clarify any misconceptions regarding the enrollment and operational aspects of the program. Furthermore, the delay allows relevant authorities to finalize logistical arrangements, establish robust administrative mechanisms, and strengthen partnerships with healthcare providers to ensure seamless delivery of services under the SHIF umbrella.



Mrs. Terry Rotich Katisya the acting corporation secretary at the social health authority

As Kenya gears up for the commencement of SHIF contributions in July 2024, citizens are encouraged to proactively engage with the registration process, familiarize themselves with the benefits and obligations associated with SHIF membership, and contribute towards building a sustainable and inclusive healthcare system for present and future generations. In summary, the revised timeline for SHIF implementation reflects a strategic approach towards enhancing healthcare access and affordability while emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts between government agencies, healthcare providers, and the general populace in realizing the vision of universal health coverage in Kenya.

Addressing The Challenges Of Implementing CBC In Kenya's Junior Secondary Schools: A Call To Action



By: Dr. Paul Wanjohi
@themtkenyetimes

In the realm of education, every challenge presents an opportunity for growth and innovation. As we navigate the landscape of Kenya's Junior Secondary Schools, it's imperative to address the pressing issues hindering the effective implementation of the Competency-Based

Curriculum (CBC). At the heart of this endeavor lies the pivotal role of adequate resources and strategic planning. The cornerstone of CBC is its competency-based approach, designed to cultivate holistic development and practical skills among students. However, the reality on the ground reveals a stark disparity between the curriculum's vision and the resources available in both public and private schools. Insufficient infrastructure poses a significant hurdle, impeding the seamless execution of CBC across all learning areas. While teachers exhibit commendable creativity in adapting to these challenges, it's evident that such ingenuity has its limitations. The recent harmonization of learning areas, although a step towards streamlining the curriculum, introduces a fresh set of complexities. Teachers,

who meticulously crafted their schematics, now find themselves compelled to realign their strategies—a process fraught with logistical and academic implications. Moreover, the transition from 14 subjects to nine may seem straightforward in theory, yet its practical implications reverberate throughout the educational ecosystem. Parents, already burdened by uncertainties, now face the prospect of additional demands as textbooks and resources undergo reassessment. Publishers, hesitant to proceed without clarity, further compound this dilemma, leaving stakeholders in a state of flux. Amidst these challenges looms the crucial question of teacher preparedness. While our educators excel in pedagogy, specialization is paramount for navigating the intricacies of the revised learning areas. Are we

adequately equipped to ensure that every teacher possesses the requisite expertise to deliver the CBC curriculum effectively? Furthermore, the logistical aspect cannot be overlooked. The anticipated influx of Grade 9 learners necessitates a comprehensive evaluation of infrastructure, particularly in public primary schools. Without clarity on timelines and requirements, private institutions face uncertainty in their investment decisions, potentially exacerbating the divide between public and private education. However, amidst these challenges, hope remains. Through meticulous planning and inclusive consultation, we can chart a course towards redemption for our junior schools. It's imperative that stakeholders collaborate closely, leveraging collective expertise to address existing gaps and forge a path forward.

In conclusion, while the road ahead may be fraught with obstacles, failure is not inevitable. By embracing proactive measures and fostering a culture of collaboration, we can transform challenges into opportunities, ensuring that every child receives the quality education they deserve. Let us not merely aspire for change, but actively work towards its realization. After all, in education, as in life, proper planning is the cornerstone of success. Dr. Paul Wanjohi is Education Expert and Founder of Sharp Education Centre

Brother



Sometimes there are sad days and
sometimes happy days
Don't the pains crush your heart?
I wish you one day to stay Brother,
won't you check your sister?
Mud houses were left in childhood
Have you noticed the difference in our
house?
We are happy to take a note
Brother, won't you check your sister?
You won't finish the work of the world,
if you eat a thousand times
Are you as tired of worries as I am?

Don't you mind, come once
Brother, won't you check your sister?
Youth has passed...
There is no war and conflict
Did you remember at least once?
If you are a stranger, you are safe
Brother, won't you check your sister?
Is arrogance so bad?
Is it customary to meet once a year?
You don't know that I miss you, the
world knows
Brother, won't you check your sister?

Halima Vahobjonovna

Ibrahimova Halima Vahobjonovna was born on February 11, 2007 in the Bukhara region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, he is a 10th grade student of the 7th SSSDTM located in Uchkuduq District, Navoi Region. Author of the book "Lines in my heart". His poems have been published in several newspapers and magazines.

Orinbayeva Lalezar



Our parents are our happiness, our support, the ones we can trust. My father is my qibla, my mother is my paradise, and they crown me. If they ask me if I'm rich, I'll say I'm very rich, if they say what's your wealth, I'll say "My father and my mother" love is flowing, they only wish for luck, don't forget that others can't be like them. Father and mother live only as my child, my child, I wish that child would also live as "My father and my mother". If there was always harmony in the world, if these hearts did not feel any pain. It's been a while, there's no respect left for the father. Illustrious children do not despise their father. His work is going well, he is pushing it, Hey friends, what is this situation? He doesn't say that I got it because of my father. Why is there no humanity left? A mother waits for her child morning and night, she can't keep her eyes on the road, she walks and enjoys it, What happened to this end, you get upset, What happened? He will regret it in the end. Seeing such situations, in my eyes, young

people, let's be educated, young people, peers. Let's appreciate the sweet words. Let's say "I love you, my father" once every day. Let's never forget the words of our kind words. Let's never forget our mother.

Don't think that happiness is money, people will increase if you have money, fake kind people. Happiness is the family "Father and Mother". A bird needs two wings to fly, a child needs "Parents and Mothers" to lean on. If you give a secret to a friend, one day he will sell it. Even if you love your soulmate, he will betray you. Don't forget that you are a good parent, your mother is your true friend. They don't know how to sell you, they don't know how to betray you, they only have love. Let's be loving to our parents, let's appreciate them, they are the only ones who deserve our love. The happiest person in the world is only me because I have "FATHER AND MOTHER". Don't forget that, young people, let your peers be an example to you. Open your eyes now and never forget who a true friend is. No one will be like your parents, I will say this again and again.

Orinbayeva Lalezar was born 2003 year's of 8st on April in Tortkal district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Tashkent city. She is studying at Tashkent University "Applied Sciences" Faculty of Primary Education grade 3

Kamron And Butterflies



I am very interested in butterflies. They are so colorful that your eyes will be happy to see them. The most interesting thing is, do they really live a day? I feel sorry for them, I won't tell you why, it's a secret...Grandma, we both live alone. I remember my parents vividly. But they left far away when I was 5 years old, that's what my grandmother tells me. We now have a large garden, we plant carrots, turnips and cabbage. I stay home alone when my grandmother goes to the market to buy them. I take a long, big stick in my hand and sit on an old bench in the middle of the yard. I think that if a thief comes in my dream, I will beat him with this stick. One day, when I was sitting in the flower garden remembering my parents and missing them, one black butterfly came, turned around and flew away. It flew very slowly. I got up and followed him. I followed him for 2 hours. I couldn't take my eyes off its elegant black wings, because it was the first time I saw such a butterfly. At one point, when I looked around, I followed the trail of a butterfly, and I did not know where I got lost. I was afraid, "Grandma!" I shouted. It is an unfamiliar place, surrounded by trees, but the color of the

leaves are also black. There is a wall in front of me. From somewhere I could hear the voice of my grandmother saying "Kamron, Kamron". At one point, a hissing sound began to come from around, this sound was that of a snake. Yes, yes, the snake's. There is a 2 meter long snake under my feet. I am very afraid of snakes, because my grandfather was bitten by a snake when he went to the mountains, and he died because he couldn't stand its poison. I didn't know where to run because I was afraid of the snake. I started to climb the wall in front of me. Fortunately, the wall was lower, I went over it without difficulty. Passing to the other side, I see with my own eyes that my parents are standing in front of me. Colorful butterflies are flying around. I was so happy to see them and ran to hug them. At that moment, the voice of my grandmother was heard saying "Kamron, wake up my child". I woke up, everything that I have been through is coming back. My grandmother came to me and said: "Are you up? My child, we have a lot of work to do today. I will buy cabbages at the market and you will stay at home."

I didn't tell my grandmother about my dream because ...

Khalturayeva Ugiloy was born on 29th August in 2008. Currently she lives in Oltinsoy district, Surkhondaryo region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She is a member of Kazakhstan "Qushqanot" poet and writers' union. And she is holder IELTS 6 certificate and CEFR B2.

February Evening



I had never seen such snowfall in my life. It was the middle of February this year. I was coming back from school as usual. I was walking home as usual. Rain mixed with snow began to fall. At first it was raining slowly and then it suddenly reached such a level that it was impossible to see the road. Traffic on the street increased. Accidents increased because people could not see the roads. Three cars crashed in the middle of the road. There were also people inside the car. But no one is paying attention to him. Everyone

wanted to go to their warm home and sit in the arms of their families. My eyes fell on the people lying unconscious in the car and suddenly my body froze. A small baby was also inside the car that crashed. I called an ambulance. It took 1 hour for the express quilt to arrive due to traffic congestion. When the ambulance arrived, the people inside the car were dead. I felt very sorry for them. I went home and thought only about them for 1 week. Maybe if people had paid a little more attention to the car accident and called 911 earlier, they would be alive now.....

Keldibekova Laziza daughter of Ilhom was born on November 6, 2006 in Jizzakh region. My nationality uzbek, and she knows english, russian, and turkish languages. I studied lycem. I started writing articles and stories at the age of 16.

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SECURITY

Government Collaborates With Development Partners To Enhance Security

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Dr Omollo was speaking at a Nairobi hotel during the 2nd Development Partners Roundtable meeting where the ministry hosted development partners to review their collective achievements, challenges and to chart a path for the year 2024.
- In 2023, the ministry collaborated with development partners where they embarked on a consultative and collaborative journey to strengthen the foundations of security, resilience and progress within the country.
- "In 2023 our vision was to utilize the multi-sectoral approach and promote inter-agency coordination not only in the management of security but also in planning, budgeting, monitoring and delivery of security related programmes," he stated.

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration yesterday met with development partners to chart a way forward on how they can collaborate in initiatives that enhance citizen participation, peace building and conflict resolution.

Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo said the challenges the country faces from evolving security threats demands continuous vigilance and unwavering resolve, a need he noted requires greater collaboration and support from development partners.

"Due to the intrinsic link between security and development, we seek support for the investment in our National Government Administrative Officers, who are pivotal in coordinating government policies and programmes at the grassroot level," said the PS.

He said the ministry has already laid the groundwork by reviewing the National Government Coordination Act, Chiefs Act and Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture to improve government service delivery and called upon partners to help strengthen the vital local governance structure.

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"In 2023 our vision was to utilize the multi-sectoral approach and promote inter-agency coordination not only in the management of security but also in planning, budgeting, monitoring and delivery of security related programmes," he stated.

Dr Omollo acknowledged that with the support of development partners the ministry has made strides in security sector reform by enhancing the capacity of the country's security agencies.

The PS at the same time announced that police reforms are still on top of the government's agenda, while stressing the need for all to embrace technology and innovation in the proposed programmes.

"We need to partner on investments



The Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration Dr. Raymond Omollo with his colleague in the State Department for Correctional Services Dr. Salome Muhia during the 2nd Development Partners Roundtable meeting at Serena Hotel, Nairobi..

in surveillance systems at our border points, data analytics for disaster response and cybersecurity for our vital statistics to safeguard our nation and stay ahead of ever evolving challenges," he added.

Dr Omollo said the development partners have supported Kenya in strengthening the border control mechanisms with the aim of preventing irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of illicit and counterfeit goods.

The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Interior to review their collective achievement, challenges and to chart a path for the year 2024.

The PS singled out the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, the German Development Agency and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as partners who funded numerous programmes to enhance Kenya's border security management and capacity building for border officials, modernization of border infrastructure and technological support for passport and visa management.

The PS also thanked World Bank,

World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme for supporting the ministry's disaster preparedness and response efforts which he said, has significantly mitigated the impact of disasters amongst communities.

He added that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Monetary Fund along with other development partners and donor countries, have been working closely with the ministry to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to the refugees who are a vulnerable population.

The PS said there is need to prioritize and make follow ups on bilateral and multilateral conversations in order to craft new agreements and finalize existing program documents with clear monitoring mechanisms.

"As we move forward, let us explore ways to scale up financial support for this impactful work that is going on," urged the PS.

The Principal Secretary in the State Department for Correctional Services Dr Salome Muhia in her address said the prisons department is looking

forward to the improvement of correctional services as per the Report of the National Taskforce on Police Reforms.

"We urge more development partners to work with the government so that we can improve prisons and correctional institutions and implement the Taskforce report on police reforms holistically," said the PS.

In his remarks, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Dr Stephen Jackson said UN will support Kenya in the migration management of borders to enable the country have a well-managed flow of migrants who are entering and leaving the country.

"We will assist in enhancing security in the border for peace, as well as countering terrorism and disaster risk management mitigation response and to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, said Dr Jackson, pointing out that there is no sustainable development without peace.

Road Contractors Asked To Consult With Water Companies During Road Design

By: Purity Mugo
@themtkenyetimes

Murang’a West Water and Sanitation Company (MWEWASCO) has asked road contractors to consult with the water companies when designing roads to minimize interruption of water supply due to damaged pipes.

MWEWASCO Managing Director, Eng. Ephantus Kamau, speaking at a public participation forum on water tariffs in Kangema noted that interruption of water supply caused by pipes damaged in road construction is a major challenge for the company in the region.

“The contractors sometimes destroy water pipes and the compensation and reconnection is a challenge as they should be responsible for relocating the pipes.”

Kamau urged contractors to consult with the water company so as to be informed on where the major water pipes are in order to minimize the damage where possible.

The director further explained to the water consumers and other stakeholders from across Kangema and Kahuro how improving connectivity is an important agenda for the company.

“The current connectivity rate for

MWEWASCO is at 64 per cent which we hope to increase to 71 per cent by 2027,” Kamau said.

The public participation also discussed the revised water tariffs for the region as prescribed by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) in the water act of 2016 that requires public participation when effecting changes in prices.

Kamau noted that the new tariff the user will be paying for the water as per consumption as opposed to the current flat rate of Sh. 200 for consumers who use 0-6 cubic meters of water.

“The new tariffs are a win-win for all of us, especially the domestic consumers who will now pay for the water units (M3) they use and not a flat rate even when they have not consumed any water,” he said.

“In the current tariff the user of 0-6 units has been paying Sh. 200 for the water and an additional Sh. 50 for the meter, however in the proposed tariff the user will pay Sh. 90 for each unit for the first 1-6 units of water,” he explained.

Other proposed changes in pricing are that the user who has been paying Sh. 55 for the 7th to 20th unit consumed will now part with Sh. 95 for each unit.

Commercial/ industrial users as well as other institutions will part



with Sh. 100 for each of the first 50 units which is an increment from the current average of Sh. 75 per unit.

George Mwangi, the newly elected chairman of MWEWASCO, noted that it was good that the residents present at the meeting unanimously approved the tariffs so that they can be implemented.

He also asked road contractors to work closely with the water companies so that interruptions in water supply do not proceed longer than necessary.

Frashia Wanjiku, former chair explained that the new tariffs once implemented will make the water

company run effectively and also improve connectivity.

“The big water consumers will also be able to pay fair price for the water and therefore the water company will become sustainable,” she said, Johnson Maina representing water consumers from Murarandia explained that the public participation forum was very beneficial and lauded the water and sewerage company on the new payment model where users will only pay for the water they have used.

“We have had challenges and complaints because of the flat rate payments and consumers have had to

pay even when water supply has been interrupted by road works,” Maina said,

He noted that new rates are friendlier to the domestic consumers who spend just a few cubic meters of water.

“For example now if you only use two units you will pay Sh. 180 and not 250 as before,” he said.

He called upon the county government to allocate more funds towards connecting water to the homesteads that are not yet connected so that all residents can have access to safe water for domestic use.

Budget Committee Engages The Office Of The Auditor General On Its Expenditure Ceilings

By: PSCU

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) appeared before the National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee with regard to its expenditure ceilings as proposed in the 2024 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) as well presenting their views on the general government policies as contained in the BPS.

Speaking during the meeting, the Auditor General, FCPA Nancy Gathungu highlighted significant budgetary challenges, particularly focusing on the shortfall in Personnel Emoluments.

“In adequacy in Personnel Emoluments Budget allocation implies that my office will not be able to meet its

obligations towards payment of staff salaries and allowances in the FY 2024/25,” said FCPA Gathungu.

The legislators expressed concerns over the escalating pending bills within Ministries, Departments & State Agencies (MDA’s). They urged the Auditor General to provide actionable recommendations to the government on how to effectively address this issue.

Additionally, the Budget Committee Members sought clarity on the interpretation of Article 223 concerning Budget execution.

In response, FCPA Gathungu urged the members of Budget Committee to have a comprehensive review of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, emphasizing the need to establish criteria for the National Treasury and Economic Planning Cabinet Secretary’s powers to pre-



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu and her team when they appeared before the parliamentary committee

vent fund diversion, which contributes to the accumulation of pending bills.

In her closing remarks, Mary

Emaase, the Committee Vice chairperson and Teso MP lauded the OAG for surpassing targets in the previous financial year, highlighting the importance of effective fiscal

management in achieving government objectives.

Government Urged To Streamline CBC System

By: Davis Langat
@themkenyatomes

The government has been challenged to address all the bottlenecks in the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) system of education.

The Federation of Kenya Employers Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline Mugo said the job market was rapidly evolving and thus requires a responsive education system.

Speaking Sunday at Omuga Primary School in Homa Bay County, Mugo urged the government to put in place measures to improve the schools' infrastructure.

The CEO said there was a need for all the stakeholders to dedicate sufficient resources to the education sector.

Mugo asked the government to ensure the curriculum equips students with practical skills rather than just theoretical knowledge that meet the dynamic of the job market.

“As a federation, we commend the government for its commitment to implement the CBC. However, there is need for a comprehensive strategy to ensure our education system produces students who are not only academically successful but also possess practical skills that can meet the demand of employers,” Mugo said.

The CEO told the government to prioritize equipping schools, especially those in rural areas, with the necessary infrastructure to enhance the implementation of CBC.

She noted that poor infrastructure impedes the implementation of the CBC in underprivileged schools.

Mugo said putting proper infrastructure and adequate facilities will enable the smooth implementation of the curriculum. She said this would bridge the gap between children from poor and rich backgrounds.

“Schools need to be equipped with infrastructure and facilities to ensure seamless implementation of the CBC. Doing so will ensure equality in providing education and children



Jacqueline Mugo in Homa Bay over the weekend

acquire the quality of education they deserve regardless of whether they hail from rich or poor families,” Mugo said.

The Federation urged the government to invest in technology in the early years of education, especially

grades 6-7 instead of waiting until senior secondary schools.

“Technology is key and makes graduates more relevant in the job market. The government should invest in equipping students with technological skills from their early

stages of learning,” Mugo said.

“FKE remains committed to collaborating with the government, education stakeholders, and employers to ensure CBC succeeds,” Mugo said.

Situation In South Sudan Is Dire

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatomes

The current situation in South Sudan has continued to raise concern with various stakeholders calling for an end to various atrocities that continue to claim innocent lives and destruction of property.

Dr. Sunday De John is the Chairman of the South Sudan United Front Progressive – SSUF-P) in exile here in Kenya. Sunday is a Graduate of the University of Nairobi (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). He is undertaking a Master of Business Administration.

He took time to share his insights with this writer and this is what he had to say:

First and foremost, to thank the Government of Kenya for the peace process and for heralding a war-free South Sudan. Ever since the time of the late President Daniel Arap Moi, followed by his successors Mwai Kibaki, Uhuru Kenyatta, and now William Ruto, all these leaders have unanimously declared their commitment to ending anarchy and civil unrest.

“Our country, South Sudan is blessed with lots of natural endowment, but these remain a pipedream owing to the civil war and unrest in our

country.”

Kenya took over the mediation role in talks between the government of South Sudan and the holdout groups that did not sign the 2018 peace agreement.

President Salva Kiir late last year requested Kenya to take over the Rome process, which has been initiated by the Community of Sant’ Egidio, a lay Catholic association.

“All we want is a return to our democracy and more so respect for the rule of law. We have several professionals in South Sudan and we are calling upon leaders to be on the frontline in preaching peace and unity in our Nation. It’s only this way that we can move forward and realize a lot of development that has lagged due to civil war. We are also calling upon the leaders to be on the frontline in preaching peace. Leaders should not be egocentric but instead should be striving to address everyday challenges that affect the people,” he concluded.”

Since independence, South Sudan has struggled to form a viable governing system and has been plagued by widespread corruption, political conflict, and communal violence. In December 2013, conflict erupted between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, a Dinka, and forces loyal to Vice President Riek Machar, a Nuer. The conflict quickly spread through-

out the country and unfolded along ethnic lines, killing tens of thousands and creating a dire humanitarian crisis, with millions of South Sudanese displaced and food insecure. Kiir and MACHAR signed a peace agreement in August 2015 that created a Transitional Government of National Unity in April 2016. However, in July 2016, renewed fighting broke out in Juba between Kiir and MACHAR’s forces, plunging the country back into conflict and drawing in additional armed opposition groups, including those in the southern Equatoria region that had largely stayed out of the first round of civil war. A “revitalized” peace agreement was signed in September 2018, which mostly ended the fighting. The government and most armed opposition groups agreed that they would form a unified national army, create a transitional government by May 2019, and prepare for elections in December 2022. Subsequent extensions pushed elections to late 2023, and the transitional government was formed in February 2020, when MACHAR returned to Juba as first vice president. Since 2020, implementation of the peace agreement has been stalled as the parties wrangle over power-sharing arrangements, contributing to an uptick in communal violence and the country’s worst food security crisis



Consultative meeting with Dr. Abraham Korir Sing’Oei the Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the team assembled by Dr. William Samoei Ruto headed by Eketela as Kenya charts the way for peace in the interest of downtrodden citizens of South Sudan.

since independence, with 7 of 11 million South Sudanese citizens in need of humanitarian assistance.

African Leaders Should Prioritize Addressing Non-Economic Loss And Damage



By: Twongirwe Ireen
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CEO - WoGEM Uganda

Worth Noting:

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



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

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

Its clear that most of these activities are caused by communities and others are from developed countries are greed for our resources such as Oil, gas, gold among others. Furthermore, these activities increase the climate change impacts leading to economic Loss and Damage (ELD) and Non-economic Loss and damage (NELD). The difference between the two is that ELD can be quantified and easily compensated while NELD can't be quantified, and there are invisible. Such include, loss of lives, indigenous knowledge, culture and psychological torture among others.

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

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

Noteworthy, there is limited or no integration in national policies while addressing NELD. Measures nor policies and considerations are not consistently integrated into national climate change policies, development plans, and disaster risk reduction strategies and this has forced marginalized communities into depression.

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

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

In a nutshell, there is need to establish the NELD Framework to be approved by the members of the Warsaw International Mechanism Committee and by the UNFCCC. More so, establishing Prevention and Preparedness Framework for Loss and Damage will help to show an urgent need to address NELD. Additionally, evaluating current plans to address loss and damage, recognizing that evaluation is the stage at which the significance of non-economic losses is defined. Adaptation options can be assessed in relation to their impacts on non-economic losses.

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

For God and my country
Ireen Twongirwe
Executive Director
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda.

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Sports >> *Kenya on Sunday topped the medal charts at the sixth edition of the African Cross Country Championships after clinching four gold, three silver and two bronze in Hammamet, Tunisia.

Kenya Reigns Supreme With Four Gold Medals At African X-Country



Kenya on Sunday topped the medal charts at the sixth edition of the African Cross Country Championships after clinching four gold, three silver and two bronze in Hammamet, Tunisia.

The one-day event saw Team Kenya reign supreme in the senior men's 10km, senior women's 10km and men's under-20 categories, and only faltered in the women's under-20 category where the country's best performer was Judy Chepkoech, who placed sixth.

18-year-old Vincent Kibet clocked 28:31.28 to lead Naibei Kiplimo to a 1-2 finish for Ken-

ya in the senior men's 10km race with Ethiopia's Gemechu Dida Diriba crossing the finish line in 28:57.23 to take bronze.

Africa under 20 5000m bronze medalist Vincent Kimaiyo, Brian Kiptoo, Fredrick Domongole and Robert Kiprop Koech finished in fifth, seventh, ninth and thirteenth respectively.

In the senior women's category, Birell 10km silver medallist, Cintia Chepngeno led a 1-2 Kenyan podium as she cut the tape first in 32:31.04 ahead of the 2010 Youth Olympic Games champion Virginia Nyambura (32:33.45) with Ethiopia's Azi-

meraw Asires degitu finishing in third in 33:03.95.

Other Kenyans Gladys Kwamboka, Caren Chebet, Beatrice Nyamboga Begi and Sandrafelis Chebet Tuei finished in fourth, sixth and tenth respectively.

Kenya also left its competitors in the dust with a clean podium sweep in the men's under 20 category.

Gideon Kipngetich clocked 23:17 in the 8km race to clinch gold, ahead of Joash Kiprotich Ruto (23:18) and Titus Kiprotich (23:19) who came home second and third respectively.

In the mixed relay category, the

Kenyan quartet of Edwin Kiprono, 2019 World Cross Country bronze medallist Winfred Mbithe Victor Mutai and Miriam Cherop clocked 23:30 to clinch the country's fourth gold, ahead of Ethiopia (23:47) and Morocco (23:50).

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Sports >>> *The National Olympic Committee of Kenya has expressed its concern over increased cases of forgery by athletes and Team Kenya officials

NOC-K Raises Red Flag Over Upsurge Of Forgeries, False Representation In Athletics



The National Olympic Committee of Kenya has expressed its concern over increased cases of forgery by athletes and Team Kenya officials.

In a press release to the media, NOC-K acknowledged there have been individuals who have forged documents to access services and other favors from various government offices as well as international embassies.

“We bring to your attention a matter of concern regarding a surge in the number of forgeries involving individuals presenting themselves as athletes and officials associated

with Team Kenya. Recent incidents reveal that certain individuals have falsely presented themselves as athletes or even officials particularly in embassies’ Consular section, creating a significant threat to the processing of travel documents for genuine athletes and officials heading for training in the affected regions.”

NOC-K further says they’re working hand in hand with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to smoke out the said individuals and take legal action against them.

“In response to this issue, the

National Olympic Committee of Kenya has acted by collaborating closely with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to curb and hopefully stop these activities. We are committed to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy on any forgery as these not only jeopardize our integrity and credibility.

“Such incidents dent the image and the integrity of the committee and the athletics community as well as hinder athletes from travelling abroad for their various assignments.”

NOC-K said that through collab-

oration with the DCI, their efforts have yielded positive results with the culpable individuals awaiting their day in court, warning that they will go to extreme lengths to protect the integrity of the athletics community in Kenya.

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Methods Of Overcoming Professional Deformations Arising In The Activity Of A Teacher



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Abstract: This article presents the causes of the professional deformation of pedagogues and various psychological disturbances in this process, and the factors for its elimination.

Keywords: pedagogue, professional deformity, psychological health, burnout syndrome, emotional factors, psychoprophylactic measures.

The problem of forming the personality of a teacher as one of the main central figures of the educational process is one of the topical topics of modern psychological science. After all, the quality and effectiveness of training depends on the comprehensive training and professional deformation of personnel acting in the pedagogical process.

The teaching profession is one of the professions from the category of "Human-human", which, in turn, leads to the emergence of emotional factors as a result of interpersonal relationships. Naturally, under the influence of psychoemotional factors, cases of professional maladjustment and professional unfitness arise. The type of activity from the main categories of psychological science into work, skills acquired as a result of gaming and educational activities are transferred into practice. When put into practice, the occurrence of specific problems is systematically observed.

The formulation of the problem in general and its connection with important scientific and practical tasks. Recent studies (Yu.V. Kon'yakhina [1], N.V. Prokoptseva [2], A.M. Samurganova [3], etc.) convincingly prove that all teachers of any level to one degree or another, at any stage of professional devel-

opment (professional adaptation, professionalization or professional skill) are subject to professional deformation. On the one hand, this is due to the fact that global changes are taking place in education, which require the teacher made great efforts to change pedagogical thinking. This is reflected in an increase in the amount of work that teachers can hardly cope with, sometimes to the detriment of their health. On the other hand, many of its resource capabilities remain unclaimed, since the performance of specific types of work does not require the development of diverse qualities and abilities of the individual. Therefore, certain professionally significant personality qualities transform over the years into professionally undesirable ones. As a result, the teacher manifests pedagogical deformations of a behavioral, personal and personal-behavioral nature.

Professional deformation of a teacher's personality at the present stage is understood as a condition that occurs in healthy teachers in an emotionally tense atmosphere of professional communication and is characterized by a set of symptoms of an emotional, cognitive, behavioral and psychophysical nature [4]. Analysis of recent studies and publications that examined aspects of this problem and on which the author is based; highlighting previously unresolved parts of the general problem. Currently, the problem of professional deformation of a teacher's personality is interdisciplinary and is considered in pedagogical, psychological, sociological and related sciences. Professional deformations that arise in the process of performing professional activities and changing the profile of a personality are highlighted in the works of S.P. Beznosova [5], R.M. Granovskaya [6], E.F. Zeer [7], A.K. Markova [8], E.I. Rogova [9] et al.

Such pedagogical scientists as I.F. Isaev [10], V.A. Slastenin [11] and others made a significant contribution to the development of the problem, who described the patterns of formation of the teacher's personality and his pedagogical culture.

Presentation of the main research material with full justification of the obtained scientific results. The experimental work consisted of three interrelated stages: ascertaining, forming and control. At the stage of the ascertaining experiment, the

level of professional deformation of preschool teachers was revealed. During the formative stage, a model for the prevention of occupational deformities was tested for teachers participating in the experiment. The purpose of the control experiment was to determine the level of effectiveness of the conducted correctional and developmental work. Let's reveal the methodology of conducting the ascertaining stage of the study. Its purpose is to identify the signs and levels of professional deformation among teachers of a preschool educational organization. The work was carried out by us in accordance with previously defined criteria and indicators: motivation component (stability of conscious professional motivation, satisfaction with the work of the educator, desire to engage in their professional activities); cognitive component (awareness of the desire for self-development, the desire to achieve high professional results, understanding the need to prevent professional deformations); behavioral component (mastery of self-regulation skills, absence of symptoms of emotional burnout, lack of authoritarianism, rigidity, uncriticism in behavior as the main prerequisites for the formation of professional deformation). As diagnostic tools, the following methods were used: "Motivation of professional activity" (K. Zamfir, modified by A. Reana), the methodology "Assessment of the teacher's readiness for development" (V.I. Zvereva, N.V. Nemova), the methodology "Professional deformations and self" (S.P. Andreev), the methodology "Teachers' awareness of the need to possess self-regulation skills. Self-assessment of self-regulation skills" (T.F. Belousova, E.V. Bondarevskaya), the method of "Diagnosis of emotional burnout of personality" (V.V. Boyko), the method of diagnosis of professional deformation of the teacher's personality (V.E. Orel, S.P. Andreev). In addition, the method of studying and analyzing pedagogical documentation was used.

Occupational deformation (adaptation to work, habituation) is a social process of assimilation by an individual of a new work situation, in which the individual and the working environment actively influence each other and are adaptive systems. That is, on the first hand, a person actively introduces himself into the system of professional and

socio-psychological relations of a particular labor collective, learns new social tasks, values and norms for him, coordinates his special path with the goals and objectives of the organization (labor collective), thereby subordinating his behavior to the official instructions of this educational institution. On the other hand, a person will have certain goals that he has previously decided in himself, a value direction of treatment, according to which he formulates his requirements for the enterprise. A person and an educational institution, realizing their requirements, interact with each other, adapt to each other, as a result of which the process of adaptation to work takes place.

The concept of deformation is usually interpreted as a change affecting the body and forming an important character trait in it. Many researchers have noted the emergence and formation of professional deformation in professions such as "human-human". The adaptation of a person to a particular working environment is manifested in his daily treatment, specific indicators of work activity, labor efficiency, social information and its practical implementation, activity. Adaptation to work can be primary (when an employee enters the work environment) and secondary (when changing jobs with or without a change of profession, or with a significant change in the environment). They have a complex structure and consist of the following devices:

Professional adaptation is expressed in a certain level of acquisition of professional skills and abilities by a person, in the formation of certain professionally necessary feelings in him, in the development of a stable positive attitude of an employee towards his profession. It manifests itself in familiarization with work in the professional sphere, mastering professional skills, high-quality performance of functional duties, creativity in the field of work.

Socio-psychological adaptation finds its expression in the assimilation of the socio-psychological characteristics of an educational institution, in entering into the system of established relationships in it, in positive interaction with its members.

Socio - organizational adaptation refers to the assimilation of the organizational structure of an

educational institution, the management system and the production process, the service system, the work and rest regime.

Cultural and household adaptation is the assimilation of the peculiarities of everyday life and leisure traditions in the organization of work. This adaptive character is determined by the level of production culture, the general development of the organization's members, and the peculiarities of using free time.

The presence in these adaptation processes of various manifestations of individual typological personality traits, motivation, orientation, emotional and volitional aspects, needs creates conditions for the emergence of a "burnout syndrome" in the personality of a teacher, i.e. a complex psychophysiological phenomenon, including emotional, physical and mental saturation associated with constant emotional stress. This syndrome manifests itself as a depressive state, a feeling of fatigue and apathy, a lack of motivation and enthusiasm, an inability to see the positive sides of their activities in negative attitudes towards work and life in general. In this process, it is necessary to list the following factors that pose a danger to the psychological health of teachers:

- o tension and conflicts in the teaching staff, lack of support from the staff;
- o lack of conditions for teachers to work on themselves and the atmosphere of introducing educational innovations, monotony in activities;
- o insufficient attention and recognition from the teaching staff;
- o stress due to lack of educational tools;
- o the presence of differences among teachers in the real state of the model of pedagogical activity and its ideal state;
- o lack of professional career and prospects;
- o inability to see the future as a result of the lack of motivation of students;
- o personal conflicts of the teacher and a sense of inferiority.

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