



Kinoru Stadium To Hold Maiden Boxing Championship On March 16

Kinoru Stadium in Meru County is set to host a maiden professional boxing championship on March 16 this year featuring Kenya's star boxer and former Africa Champion Daniel Wanyonyi, and Charity 'Scary' Mukami.

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News>> Farmers Welcome Kenya-Colombia Partnership To Boost Coffee Reforms

P. 8. Coffee farmers have welcomed the government's move to scale up reforms and development in the sub-sector through a knowledge-sharing programme with their colleagues from Colombia

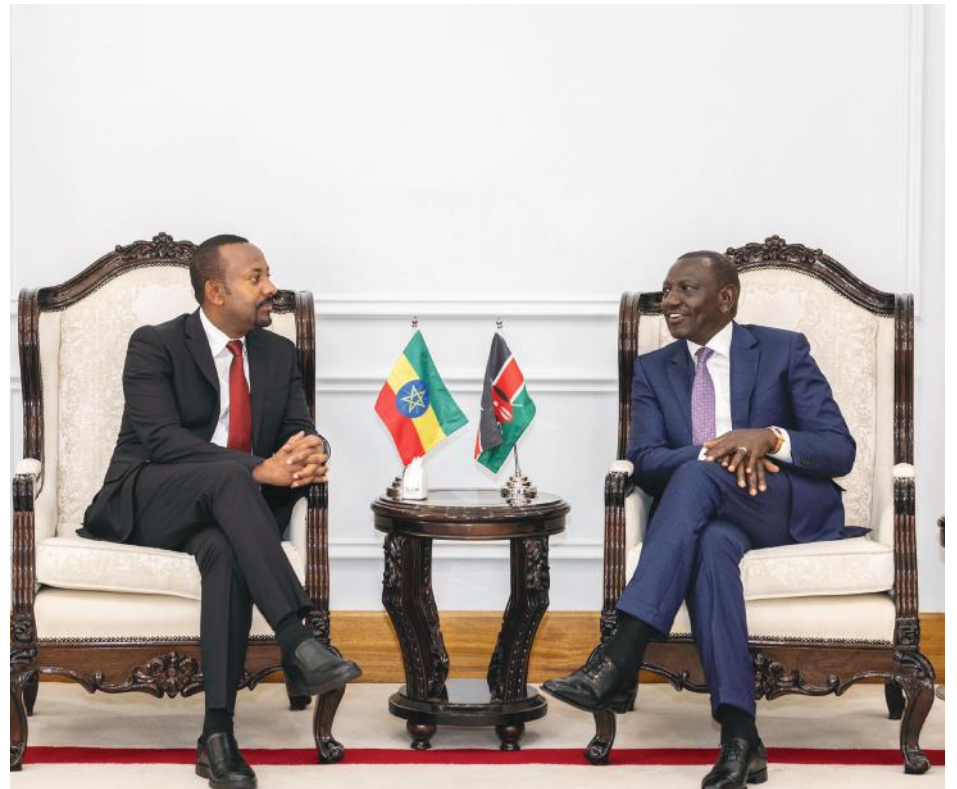


News>> Case Against 22 Kikuyu Elders Arrested At Mukurwe Wa Nyagathanga Withdrawn

P. 12. The Case against 22 persons who had been arrested at Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga shrine on December 31, on suspicion that they were members of the outlawed Mungiki sect has been withdrawn as entreated by the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP).

Gov't Maintaining An Intentional Investment Plan To Turn Kenya Into A Skills-Based Economy - Ruto

Speaking when he toured and officially opened data annotation solutions provider Sama Kenya EPZ Delivery Centre in Nairobi, President William Ruto, accompanied by visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, said the government's strategy is part of an effort to accelerate entrenchment of a skills-based economy. Sama is a global leader in data annotation solutions for computer vision that power artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) models serving leading global corporations from Nairobi.



President William Ruto and Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Widows Receives A Trailer Load Of Dry Foodstuffs, As Mangrove Restoration Listed Economic Activity They Will Engage In

By: OSDP



The spouse of the DP Pastor Dorcas Rigathi hands a widow with disability from Gede in Kilifi County dry foodstuffs during the Widows and Orphans program in Kilifi County on Tuesday. Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

- In her speech, Pastor Dorcas said the widows from Kilifi would be involved in mangrove restoration and make an income through carbon credit funding, and also work with an investor to establish an institution to inform about carbon credit in the area.
- “We shall have mangrove restoration and involve the widows and boy child from Kilifi. They can benefit from the carbon credit, and we shall also involve an investor who shall establish a carbon credit institute. We can create a value chain that benefits the government, investors, community, widows and the boy child. This shall not be charity work, but an activity that benefits the widows to make an income,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi held her first meeting with thousands of widows from Kilifi County, marking the launch of a working partnership with widows from the Coastal region.

The widows of all age groups received a trailer load of foodstuffs at the Gede Primary School Grounds, Kilifi County on Tuesday evening. The more than 2,000 widows received rice, beans, sugar, and cooking oil.

The food was distributed after the official address by Pastor Dorcas Rigathi to the widows to encourage them in their journey as widows (Safari ya Ujane), taking care of their children, other dependents and homes.

The widows from the area would also be involved in greening the environment and climate actions by undertaking mangrove restoration that thrives in the coastal area climatic conditions.

In her speech, Pastor Dorcas said the widows from Kilifi would be involved in mangrove restoration and make an income through carbon credit funding, and also work with an investor to establish an institution to inform about carbon credit in the area.

“We shall have mangrove restoration and involve the widows and boy child from Kilifi. They can benefit from the carbon credit, and we shall also involve an investor who shall establish a carbon

credit institute. We can create a value chain that benefits the government, investors, community, widows and the boy child. This shall not be charity work, but an activity that benefits the widows to make an income,” said Pastor Dorcas.

The widows in the historical Gede area, presented unique characteristics that shed light on the poverty levels in the area, and lack of education.

More than 90 per cent of the widows had no education background, with most leaving the column on education background blank. Others had not studied until class eight.

Some of the widows could not sustain a conversation in Swahili or English, and

spoke in the local dialect of the Mijikenda and Oromo.

Most of the families have a polygamous background, where the man died leaving behind three or five co-wives and tens of children. On their faces, the widows presented a resigned look from the hardships life has cast on them raising families’ singlehandedly.

Sidi Wanyahe, 71, said that with her four co-wives, they lost their husband exposing them to hardships together with their children. She said that over the years, three of her co-wives have died, leaving her with one co-wife and the many dependents.

Ms Wanyahe said farming was not generating income for families. “We have mangoes in the shamba, but nowhere to take them. They just rot. We used to grow cotton, but this also stopped. We also have korosho, but the market is not good. Our children collect the korosho and sell on the road even before we can harvest and make proper sales,” she said.

The spouse of the Kilifi Governor, Susan Mungaro also shared her personal story of the lengths her mother went to bring up her brother and herself as a widow.

“Widowhood affected my mother. Our family was in great darkness after losing our breadwinner. I am encouraged when I remember how hard my mother worked to bring my brother and me up. As women leaders, we should support and empower women,” said Ms Mungaro.

Kilifi Deputy Governor Flora Mbetsa encouraged the widows telling them, “You matter, I matter, and we all matter. This high office has remembered the widow. You have been recognized,” said DG Mbetsa.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

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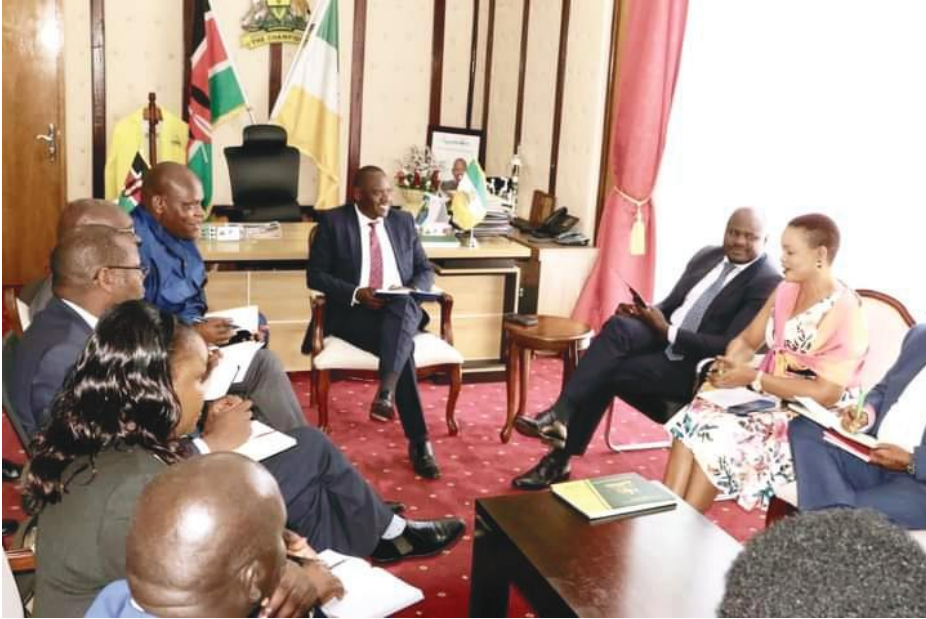


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NEWS IN BRIEF



Uasin Gishu county government in collaboration with the British High Commission has made significant efforts to attract investment and stimulate economic growth in the region. The county has successfully secured a Sh 302 million substantial investment with the British High Commission and Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) program to establish a packing house for avocado, passion fruit, and edible oil production exports. Governor Dr. Jonathan Bii Chelilim hosted Dr. Dominic Biwott, the North Rift Advisor Program of the British High Commissioner, and representatives from Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) during their visit to discuss a significant investment opportunity. Speaking yesterday during the visit, Dr. Bii expressed his excitement about the new investment venture, noting that it marks a significant milestone for the avocado farmers. He further pledged his administration's support to ensure they receive seedlings to support this initiative. "We now have an investor committed to establishing a packing house for the export of avocados and passion fruit, as well as edible oil production," he said. He added that Fresh Product, a company identified through a rigorous process after the market sourcing exercise by PWC, will begin operations in Eldoret in the next 6 months.



The National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) convened for a crucial session to strategize against corruption, enhance accountability, and ensure efficient service delivery in Kenya.

Speaking during the Consultative meeting, the Chief Justice, Martha Koome said that Corruption has been persisting as a complex national challenge and a sustainability threat that requires joint effort to fight.

"Corruption continues to compromise public institutions and adversely impact service delivery and economic growth of the country because it also undermines and erodes public trust," the chief justice said.

She acknowledged that work has been fully done, including policy, legal, and administrative reforms in the fight against corruption and enhanced accountability while appreciating that the justice sector plays a crucial role in preventing, investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating corruption cases.

Koome reiterated the justice sector's determination and ongoing dedication to intensifying efforts to address corruption and mitigate its negative effects on society. The Chief Justice noted that despite a series of critical interventions undertaken to combat corruption over time, the vice is evolving, hence the need for new approaches to address it.



The Matatu that killed nine people in a road accident near Katangi was overloaded, according to David Kiarie, Chairperson of the Road Safety Association of Kenya. A vehicle overloaded with 30 bags of charcoal caused an accident on Monday, killing eight passengers and injuring the ninth during treatment at Machakos Level Five Hospital. The Chairperson of the Road Safety Association also said the vehicle's speed governor had been tampered with leading to the accident. "The speed governor had been removed since February 2, something that the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA) should have been aware," he said. Kiarie criticized the police for allowing Matatu to continue their journey from Kitui-Machakos while overloaded. "We would not have lost the nine lives if the relevant authorities played their part," added the chairperson.



Kajiado County Governor Joseph Ole Lenku has promised to improve access to assistive devices for Persons with Disability (PWDs) in Kajiado. The County's Disability Mainstreaming Board is set to create a proposal for the acquisition of assistive devices for all persons with disabilities. Speaking during the Disability Mainstreaming event at Kajiado Ildamat stadium, Governor Lenku said that, as a County, they have made milestones to assist the PWDs through the implementation of The Disability Mainstreaming Act 2023 and now they want to put more focus on the assistive devices that will ease the lives of PWDs and he will ensure the act of acquiring assistive devices is implemented in the County. The county government is collaborating with a disability board to develop strategies to provide assistive devices to persons with disabilities. The goal is to improve their living conditions and make their lives more bearable, aiming to ensure as many people as possible receive these devices.

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Four African Enterprises Triumph In Sankalp Africa Awards 2024

By: Cynthia Masibo and Wendy Keziah @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Founded upon the principles of inclusivity and empowerment, Toothpick Company has emerged as a trailblazer in addressing pressing social challenges through innovative solutions. Its victory underscores the transformative potential of enterprises that harness the power of entrepreneurship to effect positive change and drive meaningful impact in communities across Africa.

- The recognition bestowed upon Toothpick Company is emblematic of the broader ethos of the Sankalp Africa Awards, which seeks to honor enterprises that embody the principles of sustainability, scalability, and social relevance. As the recipient of this esteemed accolade, Toothpick Company serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs and changemakers across the continent.



Four African Enterprises win Sankalp Africa Awards 2024.

In a celebration of innovation, impact, and transformative change, the 11th edition of the Sankalp Africa Awards has crowned four remarkable enterprises from the continent, with the prestigious top honor bestowed upon Toothpick Company. The event, which underscores the power of decisive action in tackling intricate social issues, marks a pivotal moment in the trajectory of African entrepreneurship and social innovation.

The overarching theme of the awards resonates with the essence of Sankalp, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of social challenges and the imperative for collaborative solutions. With chapters now flourishing in both East

and West Africa, Sankalp serves as a beacon for changemakers, fostering dialogues, catalyzing discussions, and nurturing collaborations that drive tangible impact and sustainable change across the region.

The crowning achievement of Toothpick Company as the winner of the 11th Sankalp Africa Awards stands as a testament to the ingenuity and resilience of African enterprises. With an unwavering commitment to excellence and social impact, Toothpick Company exemplifies the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that lies at the heart of the Sankalp movement.

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Company has emerged as a trailblazer in addressing pressing social challenges through innovative solutions. Its victory underscores the transformative potential of enterprises that harness the power of entrepreneurship to effect positive change and drive meaningful impact in communities across Africa.

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makers across the continent.

Beyond individual triumphs, the Sankalp Africa Awards epitomize the collective spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines the African entrepreneurship ecosystem. By bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders, including investors, policymakers, and thought leaders, Sankalp fosters an environment conducive to dialogue, partnership, and collective action.

Through its pioneering platform, Sankalp catalyzes the exchange of ideas, facilitates access to capital, and nurtures ecosystems that enable enterprises to thrive and flourish. By championing a holistic approach to social innovation, Sankalp empowers entrepreneurs to confront complex challenges with creativity, resilience, and determination.

Looking ahead, the legacy of the 11th Sankalp Africa Awards serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations of African entrepreneurs and changemakers. As the continent continues to navigate a rapidly evolving landscape marked by unprecedented challenges and opportunities, the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and social impact embodied by Sankalp remains more vital than ever.

In conclusion, the triumph of Toothpick Company and its fellow awardees underscores the transformative power of entrepreneurship in driving positive change and advancing the collective prosperity of Africa and its people. As Sankalp continues to chart new frontiers and inspire a new generation of changemakers, the legacy of the 11th Sankalp Africa Awards will endure as a testament to the boundless potential of African innovation and ingenuity.

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Farmers Welcome Kenya-Colombia Partnership To Boost Coffee Reforms

By: DPCS

Coffee farmers have welcomed the government's move to scale up reforms and development in the sub-sector through a knowledge-sharing programme with their colleagues from Colombia, one of the leading top producers of coffee globally.

The farmers, together with members of the visiting Colombia National Federation of Coffee Growers, yesterday toured the Coffee Research Institute (CRI) in Ruiru, Kiambu county, for a day-long familiarisation visit on farming practices for the crop.

"The joint training will benefit local farmers in their work. We urge the government to sustain the reforms because, soon, production will increase and farmers will get money in their pockets fostering the rural economy. In the one year the reforms have been ongoing, the sub-sector has changed positively. We are supporting the government in that exercise to restore coffee as a source of livelihood for rural families," said Mr Francis Ngone, the chairperson of the National Coffee Cooperative Federation of Kenya.

During the tour at KALRO-CRI, the teams were trained on the research process, coffee propagation, selection for coffee berry disease resistance varieties, varietal conversion, coffee establishment (land preparation and field planting), management of coffee canopy and soil fertility management.

They were also taught about identification and management of coffee diseases, pests and the insects' management practices.

On the Kenya-Colombia partnership in the coffee value chain, Mr Ngone said: "Colombia has a coffee growing model which we should adopt. Kenyan farmers visited Colombia last year and learnt from them."

Commending Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over his leadership in the coffee sub-sector reforms agenda, he urged farmers to be patient since the government wants to restore the agricultural sector as a major source of livelihood.

The farmers called for closer collaboration between coffee researchers in Kenya and Colombia.



Members of Colombia National Federation of Coffee Growers and Kenya coffee growers having a peer-to-peer session at a farm in Gikanda, Nyeri county on February 27, 2024 during a trip dubbed "Kenya-Colombia Technical Cooperation on the Coffee Sub-sector reforms and Value Chain". Image: DPCS.

"Farmers' aspiration is that the Coffee Research Institute (CRI) is revived fully and funded to execute its duty in research," Mr John Mutwiri said.

The peer-to-peer learning is a follow-up of the Deputy President's visit to Colombia last September, where he pushed for advanced cooperation between the two nations to boost yields and income for Kenyan coffee farmers.

Mr Hector Santos Galvis, a board member of Colombia National Federation of Coffee Growers and director of the organisation's affairs, said Kenya and Colombia farmers share various farming practices and collaboration can lead to increased production of coffee beans.

"To scientists and researchers at the Coffee Research Institute and farmers, we can do much together to address coffee diseases, climate change, use new technologies and genetic trapping. We share a lot. Like you, in Colombia we have three harvesting seasons depending on the rain pat-

terns," said Mr Galvis.

"We came here to learn from you and share knowledge," he stated.

Citing similarities between farmers of the two nations, he said "coffee is a crop of smallholder farmers and middle families".

"We need to be diligent in separating the high and optimum quality from the low grade. We also need quality machines for grading, milling and processing. We need to reduce harvest losses, control pests and diseases. Most of the varieties in Colombia are disease resistant. We should build quality together," he added.

Director-General of Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KARLO), Prof Dr Eliud Kiplimo Kireger, said Kenya Coffee industry is faced by a number of challenges, such as climate change, price volatility and high cost of production, among others.

"We are addressing these challenges through research by developing appropriate technologies and recommendations to mitigate. This forum

enables us to review and cross-match our activities to those of a peer country - Colombia. Indeed, Kenya and Colombia share a lot in the coffee industry including approach to research, which makes collaboration between the two countries desirable," said Dr Kireger.

In a speech read on his behalf by Dr Zachary Kinyua, a director at KALRO, Dr Kireger said that to combat coffee diseases in Kenya, researchers at KARLO have developed and released two disease-resistant varieties, namely Ruiru 11 and Batian, as a way of reducing the costs of production.

He added KALRO is promoting coffee growing in new areas for coffee farming including refocusing on Robusta Coffee, which has a large potential in the Lake Victoria basin and the coastal region.

"Some of the upcoming coffee expansion zones are steep areas such as the escarpments of the Rift Valley; coffee production systems practised in Colombia may be adopted as we explore new areas for coffee production," said Dr Kireger.

Further, Dr Kireger called for continued support of research in order to continuously improve the coffee varieties coupled with improvement of the best agricultural and manufacturing practices.

This, he stated, will enable the industry to get better results in terms of increased production and quality.



Worth Noting:

- During the tour at KALRO-CRI, the teams were trained on the research process, coffee propagation, selection for coffee berry disease resistance varieties, varietal conversion, coffee establishment (land preparation and field planting), management of coffee canopy and soil fertility management.
- They were also taught about identification and management of coffee diseases, pests and the insects' management practices.
- On the Kenya-Colombia partnership in the coffee value chain, Mr Ngone said: "Colombia has a coffee growing model which we should adopt. Kenyan farmers visited Colombia last year and learnt from them."
- Commending Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over his leadership in the coffee sub-sector reforms agenda, he urged farmers to be patient since the government wants to restore the agricultural sector as a major source of livelihood.

Gov't Maintaining An Intentional Investment Plan To Turn Kenya Into A Skills-Based Economy - Ruto

...As He Officially Opens Sama's Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Machine Learning (ML) Models Delivery Centre In Nairobi

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The government has reiterated plans to enhance its investment plans in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector further for accelerated national development.

As part of the plans, the government is pursuing strategic plans to set up more than 1,400 ICT hubs at Constituency and ward levels countrywide, among other projects.

Speaking when he toured and officially opened data annotation solutions provider Sama Kenya EPZ Delivery Centre in Nairobi, President William Ruto, accompanied by visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, said the government's strategy is part of an effort to accelerate entrenchment of a skills-based economy. Sama is a global leader in data annotation solutions for computer vision that power artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) models serving leading global corporations from Nairobi.

"Our intentional investment in ICT infrastructure will ensure that we turn Kenya into a skills-based economy," Ruto added, "With the Government's bias on new and specialised domains, the youth will stay current with

emerging industry demands, guaranteeing them income."

With a state-of-the-art delivery centre in Nairobi's Sameer Industrial Park and employing more than 3,000 staffers, Sama is a global leader in data annotation solutions for computer vision that power Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) models.

On her part, Sama Chief Executive Officer Ms Wendy Gonzalez confirmed plans to enhance its Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) investments in the East and Horn of Africa region to further position the region as an Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain investment destination.

"Kenya has the potential to become a major player in the global BPO and AI Value chain market, and we are excited to be a part of this growth. For over a decade, we have provided individuals who are most likely to be excluded from formal sector jobs with quality work and skills transfer opportunities," Gonzalez said.

Over 25% of Fortune 50 companies, including Google, NVIDIA, General Motors, Walmart, Ford, Microsoft, eBay, Ford, and Glassdoor, trust Sama to help them deliver industry-leading machine learning models. Sama is a global leader in data annotation solutions for computer vision that power Artificial Intelligence (AI)



President William Ruto and Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at Sama BPO on Tuesday evening

and Machine Learning (ML) models. With a fully-fledged global service delivery centre in Nairobi, Kenya, Sama provides quality solutions and is one of the world's leading AI value chain players. By far, Sama is the single-largest Safaricom broadband data

consumer connecting to client virtual and physical data centres worldwide. Its solutions minimize the risk of model failure and lower the total cost of ownership through an enterprise-ready ML-powered platform and SamaIQ™, actionable data in-

sights uncovered by proprietary algorithms and a highly skilled on-staff team of over 5,000 data experts. 25 per cent of Fortune 50 companies, including GM, Ford, Microsoft, and Google, trust Sama to help deliver industry-leading ML models.

Kenya Wins Bid To Host The 2024 Transform Africa Summit

By: Michael Omondi
@themtkenyatimes

SMART AFRICA, the coordinating secretariat for ICT programmes and activities for the African Continent has announced that Kenya has successfully won the bid to host the prestigious 2024 Transform Africa Summit (TAS-24).

The momentous announcement was made on Tuesday during the annual Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain in the presence of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eliud Owalo.

In his acceptance speech, the CS noted that the victory underscores Kenya's standing as an Information and Communication Technology

(ICT) powerhouse and a regional leader in driving the transformative impact of ICTs on socio-economic development; augmented by the transformational leadership espoused by Kenya's President William Ruto.

Expressing his delight at the announcement, Owalo reiterated that this win is a testament to the confidence that the Smart Africa Alliance places in Kenya and its leadership.

"It solidifies our Nation's tradition as a home for high-profile international conferences, an ICT investment destination of choice and highlights Kenya's commitment to advancing the Digital Agenda in Africa," he added.

The Transform Africa Summit, organised annually by the Smart Africa Alliance, is the foremost continental forum uniting global and regional ICT leaders from government, busi-

ness and international organisations. This collaboration aims to explore innovative approaches to shaping, accelerating and sustaining Africa's ongoing digital revolution.

The bidding process, initiated in November last year, through the Communication Authority, reflected Kenya's determination to secure the hosting rights and showcase the Nation's capabilities on a global stage.

The Transform Africa Summit is scheduled to take place in Nairobi from August 28 – 30 this year.

Present at the event were ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin; Commissioner Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization African Union, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid; Director-General Smart Africa, Lacina Kone; ICT Ministers from several African countries, including Zimbabwe's Dr. T.A. Mavetera; Rwanda's Paula Ingabire;



Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eliud Owalo (Second Right) poses for a photo with other dignitaries during the annual Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain on Tuesday.

Madagascar's Tahina Razafindramallo; Ghana's Ursula Owusu-Ekuful; Gabon's Laurence Ndong; Burundi's Leocadie Ndayayisaba; Communication's Authority Chairperson

Mary Wambui and Communications Authority Director General David Mugonyi.

Fervently Relentless In Prayers



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Prayer, some think, is a good idea in theory, if only it actually did anything or made a difference. But here's the deal. Despite what we may or may not understand about prayer, God has deliberately chosen this particular vehicle as the one that drives His activity in people's lives. It's what He allows us to use to cooperate and partner with Him in the fulfilling of His will. He's created prayer as a primary way of putting us into personal contact with Him and with His eternal realities, any hour of the day or night.

So as we begin to grasp its significance, and as we practice implementing this incredible power tool He's placed in our hands, He divinely

positions us—even a little life like ours—in His grand purposes for the ages. Through the connective tissue of prayer, He cracks open the door that makes us at least a small part of how these massive plans of His are translated into the lives of people we know.

Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against you. God's plan for you is to move you into a position of impact by infusing you with truth and employing you in prayer. You don't need to be a genius to do it. You don't need to learn ten-dollar words and be able to spout them with theological ease. You just need to bring your honest, transparent, available—and, let's just say it—your fed-up, over-it, stepped-on-your-last-nerve self, and be ready to become fervently relentless. All in His name.

At the end of the day, the enemy is going to be sorry he ever messed with you. You're about to become his worst nightmare a million times over. He thought he could wear you down, sure that after a while you'd give up



without much of a fight. Well, just wait till he encounters the fight of God's Spirit in you.

BECAUSE . . .
THIS.
MEANS.
WAR.

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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Those Opposing Ndindi Nyoro's Bid On Account Of His Age, Experience Are Doomed To Fail



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Though Ndindi always steered clear of the debate and instead focussed on development agenda for his Kiharu constituency, DP allies were following and monitoring his activities very closely.
- The pronouncements in the second meeting rattled them to a point of launching a fierce fightback.
- The first strategy saw Gachagua allies dragging the name of President Ruto by claiming he had a hand in Ndindi's heightened development activities in Kiharu.
- They would not mention the President by his name. They would only talk about a hidden powerful hand being behind Ndindi. The widely held view was that they were referring to the President.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

I have been following with keen interest the debate surrounding the succession politics in the Mount Kenya. The Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, who is also the chairman of the Budget and Appropriation Committee in Parliament, are the leading contenders in the race to succeed former President Uhuru Kenyatta as the region's kingpin.

The debate took a new turn recently when Ndindi hosted twice dozens of members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country.

This was during the launch of Kiharu Masomo Bora Initiatives.

The first meeting was attended by 15 MPs and the number rose to more than 20 MPs in the second one.

The MPs were reading from the same script. God loves you the people of Murang'a because He has given you a great leader in Ndindi Nyoro. He bears the qualities of person poised to become the President of Kenya.

Apart from being youthful and well-educated on matters of good governance and civil rights, he is a development conscious and has never been implicated in corruption.

He also believes in building a united and cohesive nation of Kenya.

In light of this, we want to reiterate he is the best suited to succeed President William Ruto in 2032.

Meanwhile, we fully support Ndindi's bid to become the kingpin of the Moun-

tain.

Though Ndindi always steered clear of the debate and instead focussed on development agenda for his Kiharu constituency, DP allies were following and monitoring his activities very closely.

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The first strategy saw Gachagua allies dragging the name of President Ruto by claiming he had a hand in Ndindi's heightened development activities in Kiharu.

They would not mention the President by his name. They would only talk about a hidden powerful hand being behind Ndindi. The widely held view was that they were referring to the President.

For Gachagua team, the second strategy was to escalate the matter to State House.

A few days later, DP Gachagua toured Kigumo in Muranga County where he presided over a fundraiser.

He was accompanied by 117 members of parliament. I heard a group of Kikuyu claiming he had 'hired' these MPs. This is unlike those attending Ndindi Nyoro's events who were doing this on their volition.

For starters, Muranga is the home turf of Ndindi.

During the fundraiser, Gachagua minced no word in showcasing himself as the anointed king of the Mountain.

This left no doubt his team felt the heat

ignited by Ndindi's candidature. This is despite the fact Kiharu MP had not openly declared his bid.

Many believed that this is what prompted the President to wade into this matter.

First, he set the record straight that he has not taken any side. We all know both Gachagua and Ndindi were his close allies. He also took this opportunity to caution the leaders against engaging in early, premature succession politics.

Yes, we promised to mentor young leaders and we have not changed our position. I however want to urge youthful leaders not to go overboard and instead play their politics in a respectful manner.

This time, our focus is to deliver on what we promised Kenyans during the campaigns.

We cannot succeed if we engage in activities meant to divide and polarize our country.

In 2027, Kenyans will judge each one of us based on the work we have done.

Earlier on, during a working tour of Western Kenya, the President gave a similar advise.

Senator Bonny Khalwale had introduced the debate of Ruto succession. He had told Gachagua to forget ever becoming the President of Kenya. You are unfit to lead this nation. President Ruto will pass the baton to ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi in 2032.

So, Dr Ruto was responding to these

claims. He told Khalwale. We have no time for sideshows. We are here to do development.

At this juncture, allow me to focus on the two grounds cited by those opposed to Ndindi Nyoro's bid to take the mantle of the Mount Kenya kingpin.

One, that he is too young. Two, he has no experience. In my view, the two arguments do not make any sense.

If you are able to meet the expectations of the electorate, it means you have experience. The age also does not matter. A young person can do better than an old man. Ndindi is in this category.

The opinion polls conducted in recent past rated him as best performer in the country.

He has so far done a lot for the people of Kiharu.

We have been seeing him hosting leaders who travel to Kiharu for benchmarking.

He has also been honoring invitations from elected leaders drawn from different parts of the country. He would join them as a chief guest to launch the projects similar to those he had pioneered in Kiharu.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Boon For Laikipia Farmers Adapting Modern Farming Technologies

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Following perennial drought in Laikipia County that has resulted in food shortage, farmers in Matanya have devised innovative ways to tap runoff water for farming.

The innovation which involves constructing shallow farm ponds of about a meter deep to harvest both runoff and rain water can hold water in the ground for about four months which boost soil moisture and hence ensure farm produce thrive even during dry periods.

The farming technology which is in pilot phase, introduced and supported by Akina foundation, an Indian based organisation that seeks to address climate change challenges, has since seen about 25 farmers in Matanya, Laikipia central embrace the innovation aimed at increasing their productivity.

The organisation is working in collaboration with Egerton University which supplies farmers with drought resistant crops like maize, sorghum,



millet, sweet potatoes and Napier grass.

Patrick Ndumia, a farmer and one of the beneficiaries of the technology says that in the past three years, he had not harvested any crops due to drought but after embracing use of farm ponds, he was able to get sufficient harvest last year.

“I am happy with this new farming method, there are some changes compared with previous years when we had no farm ponds. It was very

dry unlike now where I have plenty of food, thanks to these ponds,” says Ndumia.

He reveals that farm ponds retain water that drips underground to be utilised by the crops during dry weather.

Muriithi Kihuria, another beneficiary noted that with the farm ponds, he has been able to support his family and urged residents to embrace the technology in a bid to address food insecurity in the county.

“After benefiting from this farm pond, I have harvested sufficient food and I applaud the donors for promoting modern farming. My call is to residents to embrace the technology in alleviating hunger,” notes Kihuria.

Another farmer Julia Nyeri also lauded the modern farming method by noting it had helped to alleviate hunger in the community and at the same time appreciated the drought resistant crops they had received

from Egerton University.

Akina foundation director Avijit Malik said that the farming technology was ideal in dry areas since it was cheap and affordable to implement in addressing food shortage.

“The challenge farmers experience here is that they don’t get sufficient rainfall and to address that especially during drought season, they only need about 200 cubic meters of water,” reveals Malik.

He points out that, after engaging with the farmers in Matanya, they noticed that due to adverse climate change they experienced crop failure which resulted in Akina coming up with the farm ponds system to address the effects of drought.

Malik said that they piloted pond farming in July 2023 and now about 31 ponds have been constructed across Matanya to conserve moisture and boost crop production.

He noted that with sufficient resources, they will be able to support all the farmers in the county and hence appealed to agricultural stakeholders for partnership and funding.

Case Against 22 Kikuyu Elders Arrested At Mukurwe Wa Nyagathanga Withdrawn

By: Purity Mugo
 @themtkenyatimes

The Case against 22 persons who had been arrested at Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga shrine on December 31, on suspicion that they were members of the outlawed Mungiki sect has been withdrawn as entreated by the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP).

In a ruling made by the Senior Principal Magistrate Edwin Nyaga at Murang’a Law Courts yesterday, the case has been withdrawn under section 81(a) of the criminal procedure code.

However, the lawyers of the accused, led by senior counsel Martha Karua, have expressed dissatisfaction at the withdrawal saying they will consider other legal avenues to ensure the accused get justice for the violation of their rights as enshrined in the constitution.



Leaders celebrate with the women whose case was withdrawn yesterday.

Karua argued that withdrawing the case under section 81(a) sets precedent that other people can be arrested and arraigned in court under similar circumstances.

The 22 were arrested while they were supposedly performing end of year prayers and part of the evidence against them was Muratina, a traditional ritual stick and a fly whisk.

“Although the case has been withdrawn the Kikuyu people will be living in fear of being arrested when they practice their freedom of worship,” Karua said,

“No community should be profiled for practicing the rights protected by the constitution and we are going to fight the criminalisation of the Kikuyu culture and any other culture,” she said,

The prosecution, on its part, said the ODPP was withdrawing the case because there was no prospect of conviction as the evidence against the accused is insufficient.

“These charges were preferred on the basis of the threshold test, whereby the prosecution expected additional evidence to be furnished by the investigating agency. This evidence has not been furnished, and therefore, we do not intend to pursue the prosecution of the accused persons,” the prosecution said.

They also wanted to withdraw the case on public interest grounds and particularly the ages of the accused as a majority of them are elderly citizens.

Giving Medical Students A Boost To Make Their Dreams A Reality

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Various stakeholders have called for the inclusion of mental health in the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) which is a successor of the NHIF.

Dr. Frank Njenga noted that in this time and era, the issue of mental health cannot be ignored

He made the remarks on Wednesday during the induction of 5 UON medical students at Chiromo Hospital Group whom they sponsored 4 years ago together with the co-founder of Karen Hospital Dr. Betty Gikonyo who noted:

“Today is a very special day because we the class of 1970 decided four years ago that we would like to participate in the education, of students who needed a bit of a push in terms of a financial boost, especially medical students at the University of Nairobi and we have today five medical students who are very special to us because we the class of 1970 we have

sponsored part of their education, now they are in their fourth-year medical students, we are celebrating them and we believe together we can make a difference.”

On his part Dr. Frank Njenga noted, “To avoid the situation of serikali Saidia all the time, if each and every one of us did something small, I think we would be behaving like responsible Kenyans who I believe we all are.

Any Kenyan who pretends they have not heard the loud and clear message that there’s no health without mental health is telling lies. If you’re transitioning from NHIF to SHIF and you’ve not incorporated mental health into that program, you belong to the past and you are a stranger to the future.

Karen Hospital Co-Founder Dr. Betty Gikonyo with Dr. Frank Njenga of the Chiromo Hospital Group.



KNUT Chair: Reforms Should Be Gradual

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

The National Chairman of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) Mr. Patrick Karinga Munuhe has taken a moment to share with us some of his insights on the proposed changes in the education system. Mr. Karinga, who from the onset declared his full support for the reforms, suggested that their implementation should be gradual whilst taking into account the views and opinions of all the stakeholders.

“The union has learned of the employer’s announcement with shock to the effect of calling for the discrediting of the P1 Certificate. The teachers who are yet to be employed are a worried lot after the Teachers Service Commission announced the annulment of the P1 certificate. To dump someone’s certificate and say it’s useless, is very demeaning to that person, more so bearing in mind that he or she struggled to get it.

This should be given time and to be implemented gradually. Most of the teachers haven’t had a chance to further their education to acquire a diploma certificate. For that particular teacher to be able to further his education, let him/her be considered with a bursary so that he has a chance to go back to school.

The teacher should also be empowered so that he or she can advance in her career. Let us get the reason behind why the teacher did not get a chance to further the education and yet we are saying that we don’t have enough teachers.

We are calling upon the Teachers Service Commission to rethink that directive e-citizen on this particular item/thought, not all people are IT compliant or even have access to electronic gadgets. Firewood is equitable to one-term fees. Let all the parents be sensitized. Even the journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step most grandmothers have been the ones taking care of grandchildren on JSS – shortage of teachers as well as infrastructure



Mr. Patrick Karinga Munuhe is the National Chairman KNUT

challenges – laboratories, libraries. TSC announced that it will inject 20,000 new teachers

CBC is the way to go – an all-round/ 3-pathway to give the child direction. (8-4-4) had accustomed to white-collar jobs).

The Day The Letter Was Written To Santa



On New Year's Eve, all the animals in the forest: fox, giraffe, lion, rabbit, hedgehog and only one bird, crow, gathered at the house of their friend the bear. They sent a letter to Santa Claus with their wishes for this holiday. All of them expressed their noble goals, dreams that have not been achieved for a long time, and what kind of gift they want for the holiday. A giraffe sent a letter asking for a new shirt, a rabbit for a bag of carrots, a bear for a new bed for the winter, and a crow for a new friend. After everyone's letters were ready, a crow collected them and threw them into the mailbox. Everyone began

to wait for the holiday with anticipation. On New Year's Day, they again gathered at the bear's house. In the middle of the night there was a knock on the door. Everyone left happy. The rabbit jumped for joy when he opened the door. All animals' dreams come true. Whatever they asked for in their letters, Santa brought them all.

My teacher
Your wisdom is fire,
My love world.
He showed me the way
I have unlimited possibilities.

Put a pen in my hand
Sunning argued.
I go every day
Having reached maturity.

Marjonakhan SAYDULLAYEVA,
4th grade student of the 5th general
education school in Namangan region

My Profession Is My Happiness My Profession Is My Future



I love children very much, that's why I chose elementary education. It is the duty of teachers like us to provide quality education to children. Children are like a blank sheet of paper.

We, the teachers, guide the children and give them knowledge. Sometimes like a mother, sometimes like a teacher. "Child education is the work of the greatest people. It educates not the student, but the whole society. The whole atmosphere of our culture and life lives in everyday life without any small details. Children see or hear: every movement is the intonation with which every word is pronounced. Drops come into play, we call it the life of a child, the formation of his personality. VP Kashchenko.

According to the Russian teacher VASukhomlinsky, a teacher is not only a person who gives knowledge to children or educates a person, but also becomes a part of the life of an educated person by being near the student, who understands his heart. , rejoices and grieves with him at his successes and failures. The main thing in the teacher's profession is his love for children, the ability to understand the movements of the child's heart, trust and the ability to be impartial and fair. The ability to accept and understand a child is probably born in this person, then he will become a teacher.

A teacher should be able to understand these students, and a psychologist, because he cannot understand students with different temperaments, must know the inner world of each of them. What is in it, what does it dislike, why can't it get along with others? So that they do not get bored during the lesson, we use interesting ways to attract their attention by playing interesting games. We do various exercises with the students, they will also improve their mood and exercise. We play not only exercise, but also other games. Are you wondering what kind of game this is? This game is a game of saying words. Of course, students who have just entered elementary school are very curious, they are more interested in playing games, why

suddenly if we give them education through games in order to make them interested in reading, they will naturally become interested in reading. Having a fun lesson with young students is also very different.

Do you know how the students should accept the teacher, if he accepts him like his mother, then his knowledge will spread and he will be kind and loving to his teacher. Pupils are very kind, and the hearts of such children are filled with kindness. A teacher also gives his love and knowledge without sparing. A teacher does not only give knowledge, but also acts as a mother for the student. I am very proud of my chosen profession, I consider it a very proud profession. We teach great lessons together with children. I am sure that I have never made a mistake in choosing this profession.

Teacher! A whole world of meaning and respect is embodied in this one word. The teacher is an honest, humble, spiritually rich, morally pure person. It is worthwhile to spread bouquets at their feet, to always pay their respects and honor them. Because teachers are hardworking people who give all their strength, intelligence, knowledge and intelligence, heart and magic to their students. They are the great beings who introduced us to black and white, good and bad and taught us to write words such as "Father", "Mother", "Motherland", "Virtue", "Happiness", "Happiness" for the first time.

The wise say that enlightenment protects the nation. He makes the country progress and brings his good intentions and hopes. Therefore, teachers have a great task to deliver perfect, all-around perfect, spiritually and morally pure, patriotic, hardworking people for the future of the great country. The teacher is entrusted with the responsible task of raising people who meet the demands of life and are worthy of their time. Just as the sun enlivens the whole nature and existence with the light of the sun, a teacher and coach is a great profession who has decided to fill the hearts of students with knowledge with all his skills and knowledge. When teachers and teachers are recognized and respected in this way, we are even more proud of our chosen profession.

Orinbayeva Lalezar was born 2003, 8th on April in Tortkol district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Tashkent city. She is studying at Tashkent University "Applied Sciences" Faculty of Primary Education grade 3

How To Teach Kids



have.

From my every day experience and observation in the following paragraph I want to give information about types of learning.

The first type is visual learners who learn through pictures, images and spatial understanding. You can help your visual learner grasp concepts faster, educate them through pictures , icons , chart diagram's , colored and illustrated pictures ...

Nowadays, the government of Uzbekistan pays great attention to teaching English from the early age. It is already known that our young have all opportunities and surroundings to study. It is fact that, language learners learn through their entire lives, always tries to break limits and be perfect.

While teaching pupils, teachers have different ideas about this process. For some of them thought that teaching is pleasure and rewarded. Others said that it is stressful and hard work. In order to make easy this work we mustn't forget one important thing: the more early we identify learning style of our pupils more creative and effective lessons we shall

Makhmudova Dilrabo Turgunpulatovna was born on 16th October in 1988. Currently, she lives in Chortoq district, Namangan region of the Republic Uzbekistan. She studied in NamDU University from 2006 to 2010 . She has been teaching English language for 14 years. During her activity, her articles were published in "Murabbiy" and "Ma'rifat" newspapers, and also published in magazine called "Maktab va hayot" . She loves her profession so much. She is married, nowadays, she has got two sons and a daughter. She spends her time with her children's a lot.

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LISTICLE

Starry Skies: Egyptian Astro Photographer Wael Omar's Top Canon Gear Picks For Capturing Celestial Wonders

In the world of astrophotography, where the canvas is the boundless expanse of the night sky, the choice of equipment becomes paramount. It's in this celestial realm that Astro photographers like Wael Omar's mastery truly shines. (Wael was the first Egyptian photographer to capture a lunar analemma, and the first on the African continent as well.)

In this guide, Wael Omar shares his recommendations of Canon gear, featuring a diverse range of cameras and lenses. Through these suggestions Wael, aims to assist astrophotography professionals and enthusiasts, to make informed decisions regarding their equipment choices.

with its 24.2-megapixel APS-C sensor, delivering sharp and detailed images of celestial objects. Its portability makes it an ideal choice for astrophotographers on the move, enabling you to shoot with a bright optical viewfinder for an authentic view of the world or utilize a Vari-Angle screen that rotates, aiding in capturing unusual perspectives. The Canon 200D's user-friendly interface and intuitive touchscreen also make it easy to navigate settings, even in the dark.

Click here to know more about the features: <https://en.canon-cna.com/cameras/eos-200d/>

Canon RF 100-400MM F5.6-8 IS USM

With its extensive focal length range, Canon's

frame CMOS sensor, with a modified infrared filter that enhances sensitivity to H-alpha wavelengths, crucial for capturing deep-sky objects. With its impressive low-light performance, 4K video capabilities, and user-friendly interface, this camera is a versatile tool for capturing stunning images and time-lapse sequences of the cosmos.

Click here to know more about the features: <https://en.canon-cna.com/cameras/eos-ra/>

Canon EF 400mm f/2.8L IS III USM Lens

The Canon EF 400mm f/2.8L IS III USM lens offers significant advantages for Astro photographers seeking to capture the splendors of the night sky. Its fast f/2.8 aperture allows for the gathering of more light, making it ideal for photographing even the most distant of celestial objects. The lens's exceptional image stabilization technology ensures that long-exposure shots remain steady, reducing the impact of vibrations and enabling sharp images of faint cosmic phenomena. Additionally, its precise and silent ultrasonic motor (USM) autofocus system is valuable for accurately focusing on distant objects.

Click here to know more about the features: <https://en.canon-cna.com/lenses/ef-400mm-f-2-8l-is-iii-usm/>

Egyptian Astro Photographer Wael Omar is the first to capture a lunar analemma, and the first on the African continent as well. Read more about him here- <https://en.canon-cna.com/blog/exploring-the-cosmos-through-canon-lens/>

Worth Noting:

- This lightweight DSLR camera packs a punch, with its 24.2-megapixel APS-C sensor, delivering sharp and detailed images of celestial objects. Its portability makes it an ideal choice for astrophotographers on the move, enabling you to shoot with a bright optical viewfinder for an authentic view of the world or utilize a Vari-Angle screen that rotates, aiding in capturing unusual perspectives. The Canon 200D's user-friendly interface and intuitive touchscreen also make it easy to navigate settings, even in the dark.

- With its extensive focal length range, Canon's 100-400mm lens allows Astro photographers to zoom in on distant stars, galaxies, and nebulae, bringing these cosmic objects closer for detailed imaging.



Canon EOS 5D Mark IV

The Canon 5D Mark IV is an excellent choice for Astro photographers looking to capture the beauty of the night sky. Equipped with a 30.4-megapixel full-frame sensor, this DSLR camera excels at producing high-resolution images of celestial objects and landscapes. Its exceptional low-light performance, thanks to its advanced Astro tracking features and high ISO sensitivity range, allows for crisp and noise-free shots of stars, galaxies, and nebulae. Additionally, its articulating LCD screen and user-friendly interface make it convenient for framing and focusing in the dark.

Click here to know more about the features: <https://en.canon-cna.com/cameras/eos-5d-mark-iv/specifications/>



100-400mm lens allows Astro photographers to zoom in on distant stars, galaxies, and nebulae, bringing these cosmic objects closer for detailed imaging. Equipped with image stabilization technology, this lens effectively reduces the impact of vibrations and allows for longer exposure times, vital for capturing faint celestial phenomena without streaks or blurriness. Its optical quality ensures sharpness and minimal distortion, crucial for astrophotography precision.

Click here to know more about the features: <https://en.canon-cna.com/lenses/rf-100-400-f5-6-8-is-usm/>



Canon EOS 200D

This lightweight DSLR camera packs a punch,



Canon EOS Ra

Canon's EOS Ra is a specialized full-frame mirrorless camera, designed specifically for Astro photographers. It boasts a 30.3-megapixel full-



Ganze Medical Camp Attracts More Women, Raising A Question On The Health And Engagement Of Men

By: OSDP

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi yesterday launched a two-day medical camp at Mbudzi Health Centre in Jaribuni Ward, Ganze Constituency in Kilifi County.

The medical camp that mainly targeted the men in the region attracted hundreds of women and their children for medical checkups, and screening for addictions.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi expressed concern of the low number of men in the region, and even asked those who are widows to raise their hands. She was shocked by the high number of widows, depicting the high rate of death of men in comparison to the women.

“Normally widows are 62 years and above, but looking at you, widows are 20, 30, and 40 years old. This pattern needs serious intervention including prayers,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Pastor Dorcas noted that men were

mostly dying from alcohol, drug, and substance abuse, others were in prison following cases of defilement, others hospitalized following broken bones after being involved in accidents, and others died because of different reasons.

“I beg you to stop consuming these addictive substances because they result to increased cases of rape, defilement, early pregnancies, imprisonment, and unproductive populations,” she said.

Also in the Coast region, families are highly polygamous noting that most are the Muslim faithful who are allowed by their religion to marry four wives.

Pastor Dorcas was accompanied by Kilifi First Lady Susan Mung’aro, Ganze MP Kenneth Charo, DCC Pamela Kiama, and Jaribuni Ward MCA Peter Shehe among other leaders from the faith-based organisations, and national administration.

First Lady, Ms Mung’aro said they would join hands with Pastor Dorcas in bringing health closer to the people.

“Health checkups are important for the health of the people, and early



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and First Lady Kilifi County Susan Mung’aro visit the free medical camp tents and greet the residents who had attended at Mbudzi health centre in Ganze constituency, Kilifi County, during the first day when Pastor Dorcas Rigathi launched the two-day medical camp. The female population was quite high raising concern of the lack of the presence of men from the region yesterday. Photo/OSDP.

detection can assist in getting treatment. Do not go to witchdoctors, because by the time you seek modern medicine treatment, it is sometimes too late,” said FL Mungaro.

Area MP Kenneth Charo appreciated the government’s initiatives towards uplifting the lives of the

people.

He, however, decried the lack of a facility to take care of those with disability, saying that Ganze did not have a physical structure for those with special needs, that was equipped with the needed equipment and human resource.

DCC Pamela Kiama said the men in the region were fond of chewing miraa and drinking mnazi. She added that mnazi was not classified as an alcoholic drink but men were taking advantage of this gap and taking the drink too early in the day.

THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!

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

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?

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

How to enter the contest:

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

ENTRY LEVELS

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

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

Judges :

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


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Ugx.150,000,
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2nd Runner-up
Ugx.100,000,
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OLDONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK



Ultimate Panoramic Experience

Kinoru Stadium To Hold Maiden Boxing Championship

On March 16

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Kinoru Stadium in Meru County is set to host a maiden professional boxing championship on March 16 this year featuring Kenya's star boxer and former Africa Champion Daniel Wanyonyi, and Charity 'Scary' Mukami.

The show dubbed 'Shujaa wa Mashujaa' is promoted by Lion Heart Boxing Promotions, Alpha Charlie Solutions, and Office Inn Bar and Grill and will also include other professional boxers from the United States of America (USA), Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania, England, Uganda and Nigeria.

According to Edward Mendy of the Lion Heart Boxing Promotions, the Afrifite two event and the second of the Eastern African series will also be seeking to create awareness about teenage pregnancy prevalence in Meru County as well as support the Greenland school for girls and teenage mothers in Kajiado.

His sentiments were echoed by Alpha Charlie Solutions' Caroline Gikunda who also added that hosting the event for the first time in the country and Meru County will also grow boxing as a sport and lead to positive nametags of boxers from Meru as opposed to negative stories of teenage pregnancies.

Meru County Youth Affairs, Gender and Social Development Executive Benjamin Mungania said they were privileged to host the international event as a county which is also one



of its kind in Kenya.

"We are grateful to the organisers and the partnerships that we have here that will promote the awareness on teenage pregnancy prevalence in the County," said Mungania.

"The theme of this event will be, 'Creating awareness for teenage pregnancy prevalence in Meru County and advocating for second chances for education for teenage mothers,'" added Mr Mungania.

Meru Municipality MCA Caleb Mutethia said they were proud as a ward and as a county that they were hosting one of the biggest events in the region, however, he regretted that they were trending in the wrong direction in matters of teenage pregnancies.

"This event alone is an awareness platform to our people about what is happening in our community and this is the reason I am taking this

opportunity to thank both the organisers and those who birthed the idea of bringing the event to Meru so that we can voice the challenge we are having with our young generation, especially the young girls," said Mr Mutethia.

He added: "I encourage our people to show up, the corporates and others because as the people of Meru, we have a responsibility to protect our young generation and we can't do it any better rather than bringing awareness in such an event."

Boxers thanked the organisers for including them in the event, adding that it would be great to stage their competition in Meru County for the first time.

"I started my boxing career in 2007 but all along I have never participated in any tournament in Meru. This therefore will be a great chance for me to show my people that I am

up to the task and encourage other young ladies to come out and join the sport," said Ms Mukami.

She added that it was also a great privilege to be involved in the teenage pregnancy campaigns adding that there was a need to save the young girls from early pregnancies to safeguard their future.

"I want to welcome you all to Kinoru stadium on March 16 so that you can experience the full boxing entertainment of your lifetime," said Ms Mukami.

Wanyonyi on the other hand encouraged young people to join sporting activities adding that this will prevent them from engaging in wasteful endeavours.

"Sports is tiring but it builds up discipline. I was born in Majengo Nairobi where there was so much drug abuse and crime. Most of my mates were killed long ago and others are

serving long sentences in jails," said Mr Wanyonyi.

He observed that boxing gives one discipline since during training one's mind focuses on the sport with a dream to grow the talent. Moreover, after training, one will have gotten tired and seek to relax therefore he will have no time to indulge in drugs or criminal activities.

He called upon fans to turn up in large numbers to witness his prowess in boxing.

"Come all and witness a ghetto boy outsmarting an American boxer with many awards under his name. I promise you that history will be written right from Kinoru Stadium," said Mr Wanyonyi.

The preliminary card indicates that Mukami who has five wins, four losses, and a draw (5-4-1) will take on Leilah Yusuph Macho (2-0) in a middleweight bout that will last eight rounds while Wanyonyi (29-15) will take on American Kamron Humphrey (3-2) in a super middleweight bout scheduled for eight rounds.

But the main event will see Scottish Lee McAllister (48-3), a two-time Commonwealth and five-class world champion face off against Tanzanian Amos Mwamakula (15-9) in a middleweight bout that will take 10 rounds.

Mr Mendy said that for the first time in many years, there will be a national fight in welterweight pitting John Juma Oloo (4-0-0) versus Martin Achebi (4-0-0) in a battle that is scheduled to last ten rounds.

Nyeri County Assembly Approves Alcoholic Drinks Bill

By: MTK Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The County Assembly of Nyeri has approved the Nyeri County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2023; a Bill seeking to provide for the management, control, licensing and regulation of the production, sale, distribution and consumption of alcoholic drinks and for connected purposes.

While moving the motion for third reading of the Bill on behalf of the Chairperson Committee on Legal Affairs, County Public Service and Administration, nominated MCA Kelvin Kariithi said the Committee

held public participation for a on diverse dates in all the eight Sub counties of Nyeri County for the purpose of collecting views from the members of the public. He stated that the Committee further held a consultative meeting with all Members of the County Assembly and also received memoranda from 10 stakeholders.

Kariithi added that the views and memoranda received from the various stakeholders and members of the public were considered in accordance with Article 196 of the Constitution of Kenya and Standing Order 123 of the County Assembly of Nyeri Standing Orders.

In seconding the third reading of the Bill, the Vice Chairperson of the

Committee Julius Kamiri (Konyu Ward) termed the Bill as timely and emphasized on the need to have the Bill enacted urgently considering the alcohol menace in the County has affected productivity of consumers adding that the control and regulation of alcohol use will help curb the vice.

In a sitting chaired by the Speaker James Gichuhi, the Members Committed to be at the forefront in the fight against illegal brews reiterating that they are ready to protect the people of Nyeri against dangerous alcoholic drinks.



Nominated MCA Kelvin Kariithi at the Assembly during the motion yesterday.

Photo/PAUL WANJIRU



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Under Five Global Mortality Rate

By: Yvonne wanyonyi and Winnie Joy

The most sensitive stage of a child during growth that requires a lot of care and attention is exactly at birth upto five years. Is essential since it enables a child to stay healthier in early years of growth. And that calls for proper handling by medics all through the growing period.

According to the recent United Na-

tions Children Fund(UNICEF) show that children have better survival chances in 2000s where one in eleven children dies before reaching age five compared to 1990s where one in eleven children died. With annual rate of reduction in the global under-five mortality rate increasing from 1.9 percent in 1990s to 3.6 per cent in 2000s.

The global under-five mortality rate

declined by sixty one per cent from ninety three deaths per a thousand live births in 1990 to thirty seven in 2020. Despite this considerable progress, improving child survival remains a matter of urgent concern. In 2020 alone roughly 13800 under-five deaths occurred everyday, an intolerably high number of largely preventable child's death.

The under-five usually die due to

globally infectious diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia. Many child's death can be overcomes through exclusive breastfeeding, proper nutrition, prompt and appropriate treatment of childhood diseases, reduction in air pollution and greater access to basic hygiene thus improving a child's survival chances.

You can write Letter to the Editor on any subject through:

news@mountkenyatiimes.co.ke

Government Funding University Projects

By: Fiona Peres

During the 2022 Kenya Kwanza launch of their blue print they promised Kenyans: The greatest enabler education, having in consideration that education is responsible for shaping and sharpening our human capital. President Ruto said during the launch of the Kenya Kwanza Education charter. He indicated that the plan was to have an affordable, accessible, relevant and the right quality of education. This has just been a nightmare to many educationist and

their students as their plight to get education has been reduced due to lack of sufficient infrastructure and technology. Many Kenyan universities are in the dark shackle to accommodate their students during lectures as many universities lack sufficient and spacious lecture rooms for educational purposes.

Many technical courses lack modernised laboratories for proper research and other qualitative and quantitative analysis. This has blocked many students ability to

innovate and be creative in the course they take. Many students in the universities now focus on theoretical aspects their courses leaving the practical parts. This has led to missing links in the educational aspects in grasping both technical and theoretical skills needed in the job market.

Though the ultimate aspects in universities education are to promote innovation, self-sustenance and self-actualization most students leave these places unchanged due to

lack of educational transformation. Many universities students struggle to get space during lectures due to lack of enough spaces. The lecture halls are always full to the brim, hot due to overcrowding.

With the new admissions in September that seems to increase the population in the universities that will worsen the situation in the area it's a humble request that the government should take into account to save the nature of the university education.

Embu Authorities Seize 1,500 Crates Of Suspected Counterfeit Liquor

By: Samuel Waititu @themkenyatiimes

Authorities in Embu County seized 1,500 crates of suspected counterfeit beer from a store disguised as an agrovet in Kianjokoma Township, Runyenjes Constituency.

A suspect was arrested during a raid at 10 pm, as security agencies intensify their war on illegal liquor and drugs. The development followed a tip-off from members of the public who got suspicious of the activities taking place within the "agrovet" that was ever closed.

County Commissioner Jack Obuo said the haul will be subjected to verification by relevant government bodies to prove the quality. "All in-

dications are that the liquor is counterfeit given that the storeroom had not been approved and no one has claimed ownership of the beers," he said.

He reported that since the crackdown that commenced early this month, they had netted 8,220, bottles of suspected illegal alcoholic drinks and 12 kilos of bhang. Obuo said some had been subjected to examination and presented as exhibits in court to facilitate prosecution of the owners while others were awaiting results.

He also reported that they had also arrested one of the notorious counterfeiters in Siakago Town in Mbeere North Constituency. "We are winning this war courtesy of support from members of the public and dedication from our security agencies," he said.



Embu Authorities Seize 1,500 Crates Of Suspected Counterfeit Liquor .

He said the crackdown will go on until the County is rid of the menace that had left many people with life-

long health complications and others dead. The CC warned those engaging in the illegal trade that their

days are numbered and soon the law will catch up with them.

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The Ministry Has Prepared And Submitted To African Development Bank A Proposal For Detailed Design For Expansion Of Kerugoya-Kutus Water Supply Project

By: PSCU

Cabinet Secretary for Water, sanitation and irrigation Zachariah Mwangi Njeru, yesterday appeared before the Senate plenary to respond to various questions from Senator for Kirinyaga James Murango on the water projects budgeted by the National Government in Kirinyaga County in the financial year 2023/2024.

The cabinet Secretary was asked to provide details of all water projects earmarked for funding by the National Government in Kirinyaga County in the financial year 2023-2024.

Responding to the question, the CS stated that the National Government has allocated a budget of KShs 135,000,000 for the construction of Ngariama Njukiini Water Supply.

The project is being implemented by Tana Water Works Development Agency (TWWDA).

The scope of works includes Construction of Intake Works, Laying of 7km Raw Water Gravity Main Construction of 4,200m³/day Water Treatment Works, laying of 15km Treated Water Gravity Main, laying of 5km Mbirri, Gichonjo Distribution Line Laying of 4km Kiangoro Distribution Line and also rehabilitation

of 3 Existing Storage Tanks.

The Project is located in Ngariama and Njukiini Wards of Gichugu constituency and upon completion, it will benefit the same wards with clean and potable water.

The targeted beneficiaries are approximately 14,000 households including major learning institutions in the supply area.

The Project commenced on 22nd March, 2023 with a contract duration of 18 months and will be completed on 22nd September, 2024.

However, the Project has experienced challenges contributing to slow progress of works.

The overall progress achieved to date is 10 per cent. The challenges experienced include: Delay in obtaining the Special Use License for Kenya Forest Services (KFS).

The license was eventually granted on 29 September 2023.

Although TWWDA received the Special Use License as aforesaid, the works could not commence because the license required TWWDA to make payments to KFS. TWWDA was unable to make these payments due to delay in disbursement of exchequer funds. To forestall further delay, TWWDA requested KFS to allow the construction of two gates at Kathandeni Forest which would open up access to the intake works and water treatment works while

awaiting the disbursements. TWWDA has given KFS its undertaking to make the payments once the disbursement is received.

Despite the said challenges, the following has been achieved: Obtaining of the Special Use License from Kenya Forest Service on 29th September 2023, mobilization of plant, equipment and personnel by the Contractor, Excavation, laying and backfilling of 2km of clear

On whether there plans to supply water to residents of Muratiri area in Gichugu Constituency through the Kerugoya-Kutus water supply project, the CS clarified that African Development Bank (AfDB) a proposal for detailed design for expansion of Kerugoya-Kutus Water Supply Project to benefit residents of Muratiri area.

This will be done through laying of water supply distribution lines from an off-take point along water transmission mains of the Kerugoya-Kutus Water Supply Project.

This proposal is currently being assessed by the Africa Development Bank. It is estimated that the cost for the proposed Project is KShs 198,000,000. This amount is to be financed by the African Development Bank, while the Government of Kenya is expected to provide KShs. 40,000,000 counterpart funding for wayleave and land acquisition costs.



Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru with his PS and Water Secretary while entering the Parliament building yesterday.

The actual scope of works will be determined after approval and detailed design is undertaken. However, the scope of works outlined in the Concept Brief submitted to the Bank is Construction of offtake chamber and associated works, Excavation, pipe laying and backfilling for 28.4km pipeline, Construction of road and river crossings, Construction of valve chambers, Installation of pipeline appurtenances.

The project will commence by July 2024 and is expected to be completed before the conclusion of the

Africa Development Bank (AfDB) Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Program in December, 2025.

Upon completion, the Project is projected to benefit approximately 50,000 people in Raimu, Rwambiti, Kariru, Kirerema, Guama, Kiaruri, Ndunduni, Gatu, Gachigi, Ngiroche, Kutus, Mikarara,

Rukenya, Nuku East, Njuku West sub-locations of Kirinyaga East Sub-County.

Kiambu County To Formulate Policy On Quarrying

By: Xavier Brian
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu County administration has appointed a technical committee to devise a policy to govern mining activities that will regulate quarrying activities within the County's jurisdiction.

The committee to be led by Director of Natural Resources and Forestry, Mr Samuel Wakangu will be responsible for developing, and implementing policies and laws by adopting applicable constitutional principles, and best industry practices that will emphasise responsible land resource management.

Wakangu said the need for a policy framework has been informed by a desire to provide clear guidance for

sustainable mineral resources development.

"This exercise underscores the department's commitment to preserving the environment while fostering responsible economic development," Wakangu said.

The director noted that while there exist diatomite deposits in Ndeiya and Karai, more investment is needed to determine other diatomite deposits that are unexploited.

"Exploration for other mineral deposits also needs to be enhanced to determine whether other deposits are available, especially in the arid areas of Limuru and Kabete constituencies," said Wakangu.

He further called on the County Government to improve its investment in the sector to boost the monetary output from the sector.

The committee also seeks to cover



various quarrying issues including, mining rights, disputes relating to licenses and permits, structures for negotiating quarrying agreements, terms and conditions for mining activity and work programmes.

Other matters to be looked include

are structure for payments and the implementation of policies for small-scale mining operations such as the extraction of ballast, gravel, murrum, sand, and building stones in Juja.

This exercise, he said, underscores

the department's commitment to preserving the environment while fostering responsible economic development. "Together, we can ensure that our natural heritage is protected for generations to come," he concluded.

Sports >> *Construction work has already started at the Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega, one of the venues protracted to host this year's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) in September

CHAN 2024, AFCON 2027: Bukhungu To Be Ready In Three Months, CS Ababu Visits Jamhuri



Sports CS Ababu Namwamba during the ground breaking at the Bukhungu Stadium. PHOTO/Moyasa/X

Construction work has already started at the Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega, one of the venues protracted to host this year's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) in September.

Last week, Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba alongside Kakamega governor Fernandez Baraza did the ground breaking of the stadium, and now, the contractor has already landed and works started, with the playing surface all hauled up. "At Bukhungu Stadium, we are constructing the right C-section and installing specialized features such as floodlights for night matches. We are also equipping the playing pitch with an advanced drainage and irrigation system in line with international standards," a statement from Governor Fernandes, posted on X, said.

He added that these works are

expected to be done in the next three months, meaning it should be ready by the end of June.

The closure of the stadium means that home side, Kakamega Homeboyz, will have to look for an alternative home ground for the rest of the season, and they are expected to temporarily use the Mumias Sports Complex. Addressing the National Assembly Committee on Sports two weeks ago, Sports CS Ababu said that the government has pumped in Sh800mn towards the renovation of Bukhungu, which is expected to mirror international standards once completed.

The stadium had a complete main stand, but the ordinary terraces were not completed. This phase of construction will see all the stands completed.

Meanwhile, Ababu on Tuesday visited the Jamhuri Grounds, one of the venues proposed for the

new, football-only Talanta City Stadium.

Ababu had told Capital Sports a fortnight ago that they were weighing on whether to have the stadium at Jamhuri or in Shanzu, Mombasa.

However, all latest indications are that the facility is swinging towards Jamhuri, with CS Ababu having walked the contractors through the plan for the stadium on ground.

At the same time, Ababu has had a meeting with his Defense counterpart Aden Duale, where discussions around the construction of various facilities were done.

The Kenya Defense Forces was handed responsibility to oversee the construction of the facilities earmarked to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Present at the meeting was Sports PS Peter Tum as well as

Sports Kenya Director General Pius Metto.

The Moi Sports Centre Kasarani has already been closed and renovation works have started, while the Nyayo National Stadium is also expected to undergo renovations. The Kipchoge Keino Stadium in Eldoret is the other facility earmarked as a probably host venue of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Last week, on the sidelines of the CECAFA General Assembly, Sports CS Ababu had a meeting with CAF Secretary General Veron Mosengo-Omba to update him on the level of Kenya's preparedness for the 2027 Cup of Nations.

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Sports >> *Max Strus drilled a 59-footer as time expired, his fifth made 3-pointer in the final four minutes, to give the Cleveland Cavaliers a wild 121-119 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night

Max Strus' 59-Footer At The Buzzer Lifts Cavaliers Over Mavericks



Max Strus then took a dribble before launching his shot from well beyond midcourt, officially listed at 59 feet.

Max Strus drilled a 59-footer as time expired, his fifth made 3-pointer in the final four minutes, to give the Cleveland Cavaliers a wild 121-119 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

After the Mavericks took the lead on P.J. Washington's dunk with 2.9 seconds left, the Cavaliers quickly inbounded the ball to Evan Mobley, who passed back to Strus — who made four 3s in a span of 67 seconds down the stretch to keep Cleveland close.

Strus then took a dribble before launching his shot from well beyond midcourt, officially listed at 59 feet. As it swished through the net, Strus was tackled to the floor by teammates as the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse crowd erupted.

"At the end of the day, we have a guy like Max Strus," Cavaliers center Jarrett Allen said. "Anything is possible."

According to ESPN Stats & Information research, Strus is the fourth player in the past 25 seasons to make five 3s in the final

four minutes of game. "He was the guy," Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff said of Strus. "That's one of the things, that we're fortunate with this group, is on any given night, we've got a guy who can step up and make huge plays."

The memorable shot was the second-longest game-winning buzzer-beater in the 3-point era, according to Basketball Reference. Only Devonte' Graham has hit a longer one — 61 feet — in that span in the New Orleans Pelicans' victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Dec. 15, 2021.

Truth be told, Strus wasn't all that impressed by his heave. He made an even longer game-winning shot in college, at Lewis University in Illinois.

"Yeah, at my Division II school I made a three-quarter-court shot to win the game," he said.

When asked further about how he pulled it off, though, he was modest.

"I don't know. Donovan [Mitch-

ell] was out of the game, so somebody else had to step up," Strus said, laughing, in his on-court postgame interview on Bally Sports. "I got lucky."

Mitchell scored 31 points, Strus added 21 and Allen 19 for the Cavaliers, who improved to 12-3 since Jan 26.

"I didn't feel like it was going to be that far off. I had a feeling it was going to be close," Mitchell said in describing Strus' winner. "Just to see it go through, especially with what he did for us in the fourth ... it had to be him. You dream of a shot like that."

Mavericks guard Luka Doncic had 45 points and 14 assists a day before turning 25. Kyrie Irving added 30 for Dallas, which lost for just the second time in 10 games.

"Incredible shot. That was just an incredible shot," Doncic said. "It was my fault, I should have pressed forward [on Strus]. I thought we played a good game, but that was rough, obviously."

Doncic added nine rebounds,

finishing one shy of his 11th triple-double.

With Doncic making a 3-pointer, Dallas reeled off 10 straight points to take a 108-98 lead with 4:38 left.

"We should've closed that game out in a better way," Washington said. "We felt like we should have won that game. To lose like that, it definitely hurts."

"That two-minute span was intense for us," he said. "This is the first time I've lost on a half-court shot. You don't flush it out of your system, you feel it. This one has got to sting a little bit."

The Mavericks were still up by double digits when Strus got hot, making four 3-pointers in just over a minute to pull the Cavs within 113-112.

"Max never quits," Bickerstaff said. "He just kept making play after play after play on both ends."

-By ESPN

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Backpage



Weatherman Cautions Farmers Against Rushing To Plant In The Wake Of Ongoing Rains

By: Samuel Maina
@themkenyatimes

The ongoing rains does not signal the onset of the long rains, Nyeri County Director of Meteorological Services John Muiruri has said.

The clarification comes in the wake of heavy rains that have been pounding several parts of the country for the last two weeks.

Anxious farmers have been left stranded following the heavy down-pour that seems to have come earlier than expected.

While the March-May long rainy season is just days away, the current showers appear to have come much earlier than normally anticipated.

But Muiruri says the rains are short-lived and are expected to cease within four days from today and farmers should therefore desist from putting their lands under crops until after the commencement of the main rainy season.

“What we have been experiencing following the heavy rains that have been pounding Nyeri and other parts of the country will be short-lived. We expect these rains to stop within three to four days from now after which we shall continue to experience sunny and hot weather



conditions. We thus wish to advise our farmers to refrain from going ahead with planting until the onset of the long rains expected from mid-March,” he told journalists.

In its weekly weather forecast report covering the period between February 27 to March 4, the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) notified the public that rainfall is expected over several parts of the country including the South Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Southeastern lowlands and North-western Kenya.

In addition, day time temperatures of more than 30 degrees centigrade will be experienced in a number of

counties including Turkana, Samburu, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Makueni, Kitui, Laikipia, Baringo, West Pokot, Bungoma, Kakamega and Busia.

In the meantime, parts of Nyeri, Laikipia and Murang’a counties are expected to continue experiencing low average nighttime temperatures of less than 10 degrees centigrade.

Day time temperatures in Nyeri county are expected to average between 22 degrees centigrade and 30 degrees centigrade.

Muiruri explained that the high temperatures being experienced during the day will continue un-

til the onset of the long rains next month.

“We are yet to release the seasonal focus for the long rains but we expect the long rain around March. Of note is the high temperatures that have been recorded during this month which is a result of the dry weather condition since the beginning of the year. The high temperatures are however expected to subside as we approach the March –May long rain season,” he added.

In its latest report released this month, The Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) predicts that the long rains will be above-aver-

age. With the forecast’s probability rating between 55 and 65 per cent, IGAD says countries that will benefit from the rains include Kenya, Somalia, southern Ethiopia, southern Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and north-western Tanzania.

The highest probabilities are expected in Central and Western Kenya and in the border areas between Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

“The predicted above-average rainfall is a significant turnaround from the recent dry spells that have caused immense hardship,” said ICPAC Director Dr Guleid Artan.

“While the food security situation may improve with wetter than usual conditions, it is important to remember the multiple challenges facing the region, including the historic drought in 2020-2022, conflicts in various parts of the region such as Sudan, and El Nino-induced floods at the end of 2023. This has weakened the coping capacity of communities, leaving them highly vulnerable to food insecurity. The likelihood of flooding during the 2024 May to March season in parts of the region could therefore lead to a deterioration of food security in localised areas,” he added.

Prime Suspect In Sh2.85b Gold Scam Arrested, Arraigned

By: The DCI

Kelvin Mwaura Ngotho, the main suspect in a KSh2.85 billion gold scam investigation involving two Malaysian nationals, and who was arrested yesterday by the Operations Support Unit detectives has been arraigned at the Milimani Law Courts. Mwaura was arrested at the same court premises when he appeared for the hearing of yet another gold scam case in which he is out on bond.

Operations Support detectives have been pursuing Mwaura since Decem-

ber 27, 2023, being the mastermind of the near-success \$19,000,000 gold scam deal orchestrated by a 8-member gang.

In the investigations, it was established that Mwaura was the tenant of the Lavington-based premises in which the gang operated from, having entered a tenancy agreement with the landlord to use the property as a residential house.

On the day when the deal involving 50kg in fake gold was to be sealed, detectives stormed the house where Mwaura’s seven accomplices were rounded up but he managed to escape. They have since been arraigned.

Yesterday, Mwaura was arraigned

before. R.K Ondieki charged with conspiracy to commit a felony and Attempt to commit a felony.

He pleaded not guilty to both charges and was admitted to a bond of Sh3 million or alternative cash bail of Sh1 million. The matter will be mentioned on 13th March at the same time.

Kelvin Mwaura Ngotho.

