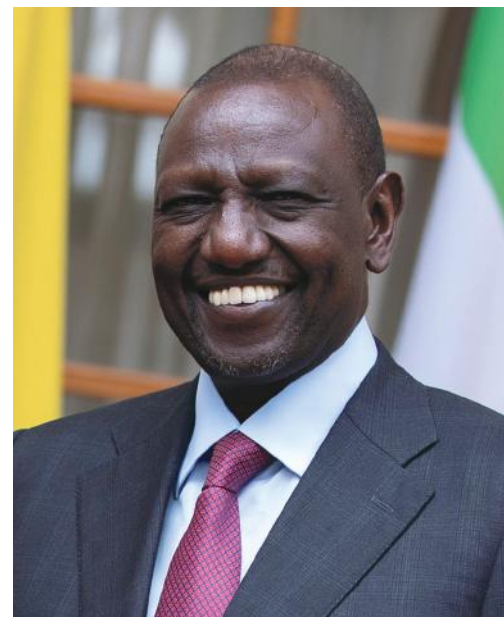


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News: Alcohol Recovery Centre With A Rich History Touching Mama Ngina, Her Niece Nyokabi And Now Pastor Dorcas Rigathi **P.13**

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Council Of Governors And Private Sector In Plan To Boost Inter-County Trade Efficiencies

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Waiguru said counties are developing a database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs, this being one of the key resolutions of Devolution Conference 2023 key resolutions
- “The Council of Governors is also collating the calendar dates for County Investment forums to be shared with KNCCI for joint planning,” she said.



Council of Governors (COG) Chair Anne Waiguru and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Dr. Erick Rutto

The Council of Governors (COG) has affirmed its commitment to harmonization of levies affecting the ease and cost of doing business in the counties.

Council chairperson Anne Waiguru says counties will partner with the national government and the private sector to come up with standard charges, levies, fees and taxes to encourage inter-county trade.

Speaking in Nairobi during a courtesy call by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Dr. Erick Rutto, Waiguru called on the private sector to partner with counties in developing policies that will help remove trade barriers.

She emphasized that governors are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive adding

that some of the barriers can be well addressed through policy interventions.

Waiguru said counties are developing a database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs, this being one of the key resolutions of Devolution Conference 2023 key resolutions

“The Council of Governors is also collating the calendar dates for County Investment forums to be shared with KNCCI for joint planning,” she said.

The Kirinyaga Governor said the devolved units are in the process of establishing the County Aggregation Centers and Industrial Parks and asked the private sector to take advantage of the opportunities available.

In addressing skill gaps, Waiguru asked

the private sector to help counties conduct skill gap assessments to identify the specific skills that are in demand among industries and collaborate with TVET institutions to address these gaps through targeted training programs.

On his part, the KNCCI President said “double taxation and multiplicity of licenses and permits in the counties are still an impediment that is making doing of business across the devolved units a painstaking job.”

Rutto said a policy intervention is needed to promote the ease of doing business in counties adding that the current situation where traders have to pay for multiple licenses and permits to operate in a single county is unsustainable and deters investors.

“A single county license that encom-

passes all permits and is acknowledged by other county governments will spur economic activities across counties and in turn increase revenue collection,” he said.

The KNCCI President applauded the leadership of county governments that have digitized their business-related services such as license applications saying, “to attract foreign direct investments (FDI) into the devolved units, investors should be able to interact with county services from wherever they are”.

He said counties need to digitize all their services so as to lessen bureaucracy and eradicate opportunities for corruption.

“Manual processes add to inter-county trade barriers and take away from our business competitiveness as a country,” Rutto added.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua visited victims of the tragic and unfortunate incident of the Liquified Petroleum Gas explosion last night at Mradi Embakasi, Nairobi which he noted had caused deep agony and great pain to many families. The DP, alongside other government officials who included Government Spokesman Dr Isaac Mwaura visited the site of the incident in which lives and property were lost. The team also visited survivors at the Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital and Kenyatta National Hospital. Gachagua revealed that the government will support the affected families as they come to terms with the tragedy and rise to rebuild their lives.



c to discuss methods for finding certified seeds and providing extension services to boost cotton production. The Textile Sector is a key driver for industrialization in Kenya's Vision 2030, and the government has invested Sh5 billion in revamping Rivatex to enhance its capacity in East and Central Africa. The benefits of revitalizing the value chain include reactivating the rural economy, creating jobs, and increasing cotton production.



Education stakeholders in Jomvu Sub-County are working to address the issue of high absenteeism in secondary schools, which is affecting performance. The Sub-County Director of Education, Maimuna Omar, raised concerns during an assessment of three secondary schools, revealing that over 100 students are not in school. Omar appealed to parents to encourage their children to attend school and to invest in school infrastructure. MP Badi Twalib, who issued Sh3 million in scholarships to 75 students, urged the Jomvu security apparatus to apprehend and charge parents whose children are at home to act as a deterrent. He also urged all stakeholders to collaborate in creating a conducive environment for students and to produce quality grades. Twalib promised to extend the scholarships to benefit more students and urged parents to know that this is a collective responsibility.



As International Wetlands Day approaches, Kenya's government is working to conserve wetlands, which are major water sources. Many wetlands have been destroyed by human activities like farming, disrupting water sources and ecosystems. The Kenyan government, through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), partners with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Water Resources Authority to restore and conserve these areas. Murang'a County NEMA Director Sarah Waruo stated that human encroachment has caused the loss of 14 acres of land and threatened the wetlands, which serve as a source of water for Kiamereka Spring. NEMA, in collaboration with the National Environmental Complaints Committee (NECC) and Kenya Forest Service, has launched the 'Adopt a Wetland initiative' to enhance wetlands restoration and conservation. The county has several wetlands, rivers, and springs, and is working to conserve these resources to ensure their well-being.



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has described the latest tour of President William Ruto to Western Kenya as hugely successful.

Wetangula who had accompanied the head of state specifically noted that Bungoma County, his political backyard, ended with plenty of development programmes geared towards uplifting the living standards of residents.

He said the president delivered on a number of his commitments, such as the transformation of the sugar sector in Western Kenya, for the benefit of economic growth.

"The President used the tour to give a new lease of life to farmers and staff of the struggling Nzoia Sugar Factory after he issued a cheque for payment of their outstanding dues, cane delivery and fertiliser subsidy programme," said the Speaker

Wetangula further lauded the President for his assurance to farmers in the region that the Nzoia Sugar Factory was not up for sale or privatisation as has been reported and claimed by a section of leaders.

"The factory has been issued with a certificate from the National Treasury confirming the write-off of debts amounting to Ksh.53 billion," said Wetangula



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Murang'a Senator Calls For Solutions In County's Health Sector

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyaintimes



Murang'a County Senator Joe Nyutu.

Worth Noting:

- Nyutu on Thursday said Governor Irungu Kang'ata's administration should streamline operations in all local public health facilities and ensure effective supervision of health workers to ensure those absenting themselves from work are acted upon.
- "Following the recent numerous complaints from members of the public, I reached out to Governor Kang'ata who promised to ensure the challenges are dealt with and service delivery will be improved.

Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu has called upon the local devolved administration to improve service delivery in the health sector and spare patients from suffering as they seek medical care.

Nyutu, while reacting to recent increased complaints from the locals concerning poor service delivery in major public hospitals, said it's high time for the county government to ensure that there is a steady supply of drugs and health workers who are sabotaging operations in the facilities face disciplinary actions.

For the past few days, patients seeking treatment, especially from Murang'a Level- 5 hospital have moved to various social media platforms to air the challenges they faced at the public hospitals.

The patients complained over the lack of drugs and shortage of medical of-

ficers decrying the many hours they spent in the hospital before they get served.

They also decried a malfunctioning imaging unit and the absence of medicals on the night and weekend shifts.

Nyutu on Thursday said Governor Irungu Kang'ata's administration should streamline operations in all local public health facilities and ensure effective supervision of health workers to ensure those absenting themselves from work are acted upon.

"Following the recent numerous complaints from members of the public, I reached out to Governor Kang'ata who promised to ensure the challenges are dealt with and service delivery will be improved.

"We hope this will happen without much delay since locals are suffering.

For instance, directing patients to acquire drugs from private chemists is

painful, especially for those who have no money," noted the senator.

Nyutu further asked for the provision of alternative methods of registering and keeping patients' records apart from the recently installed digital system saying when the network fails, patients were kept on waiting benches for many hours.

"We appreciate the move to automate some operations in the public hospitals but once the network fails, patients spend many hours waiting for rectification. A manual system should serve as an alternative to ensure the services are not interrupted should the digital platform fail," he added.

The new system installed last year has made it possible for patients to walk into hospitals without documents as their biometrics are already captured in the digital system.

"The digitization of operations is

a major step but it needs to be well maintained for efficiency. The CT scan machines should also be serviced regularly so that patients are not sent elsewhere to access the service," he stated.

In a rejoinder, the County Health CEC Dr. Fredrick Mbugua pointed out that various measures have been employed to ensure patients access services without wasting most of their time at waiting benches.

"A lot has been done to streamline operations in the major hospitals including the Level-5 facility for the interest of the patients. The Governor is committed to the improvement of services in the health sector." Mbugua told KNA via phone.

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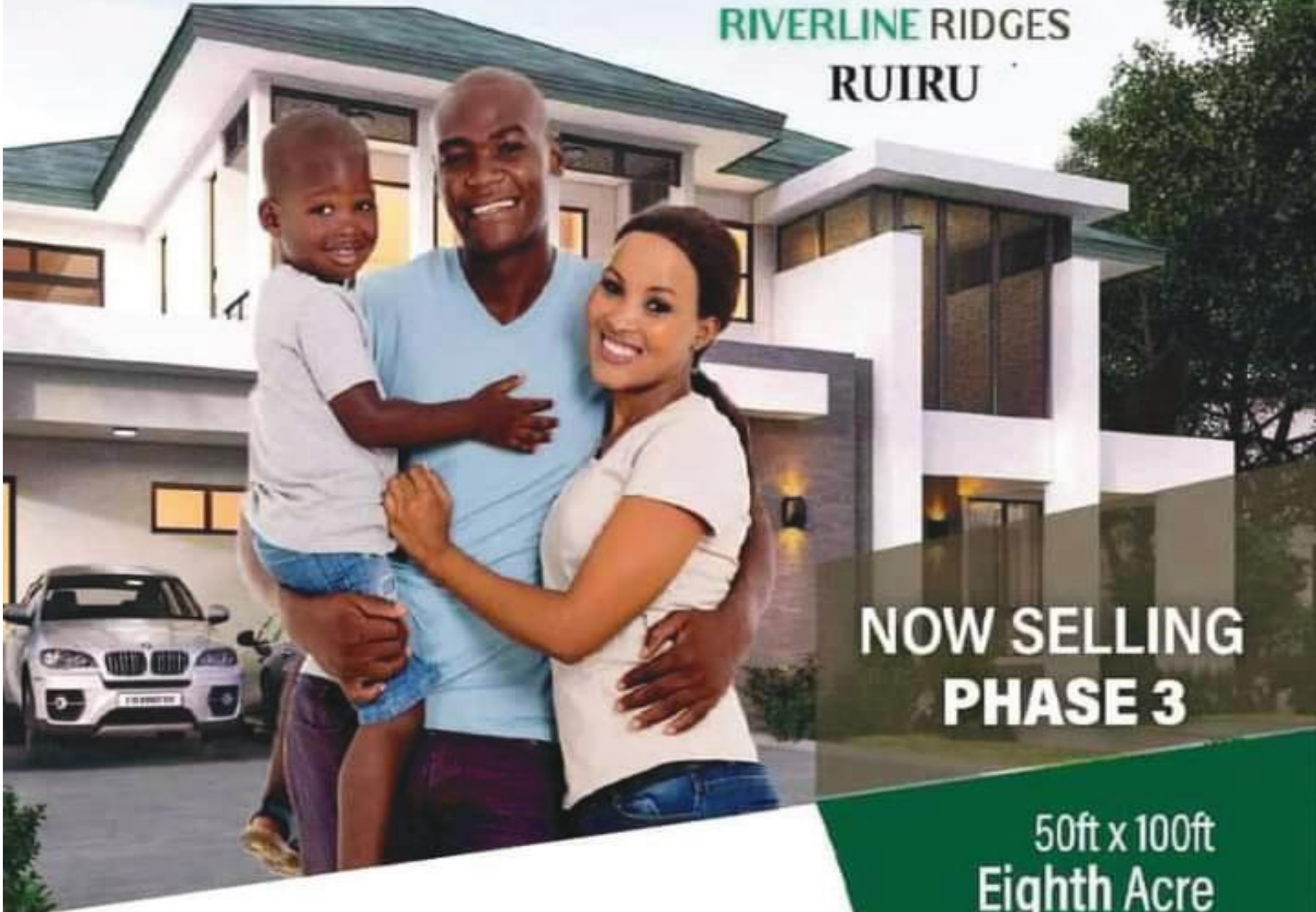


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Sh15.6 Million Water Project Commissioned In Mukogodo, Laikipia

By: Muturi Mwangi
 @themtkenyatomes

More than 1,000 Mukogodo East residents in Laikipia North Sub County will access water from a Sh15 million water project that was commissioned by Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA).

The Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA) project will ease the burden of women who have been trekking for more than 10 kilometers to search for water.

Laikipia North Member of Parliament Sarah Korere speaking after the Luruk water project launch in Mukogodo said that the project would deter human-wild conflict that has been witnessed during drought.

The lawmaker said, "Women can now engage in other activities including kitchen garden farming since the search for water burden has been addressed and at the same time children will have sufficient time to learn," added the MP.

ENNDA project manager Josiah Mulwa said that they had constructed a 350 meters borehole, installed a solar system for water pumping and at the same time promoted green energy in the pastoral area.

"This is a water scarce area. Women, livestock and children could walk for long distances to access water commodities, which has been a major challenge. With this, many households will benefit," said Mulwa.

He acknowledged that, Luruk borehole project, which cost Sh15.6 million, was expected to serve over 15,000 livestock and wild animals.

ENNDA Board of Director Jane Puntuni reiterated that the project had created a major impact on the pastoral community.

Francisca Kirwa, a resident lauded the water project noting that it would alleviate their long-term challenge of accessing clean water for domestic use which they had experienced during prolonged dry spells.

"As women, we are the most affected when there is water scarcity. We could spend entire day fetching water since we could carry 20-liters jerrican



Livestock quenching their thirst in Mukogondo, Laikipia North Constituency

per trip which is barely enough for domestic use. We are very thankful for this project. Women are happy," Ms Kirwa said.

Dickson Mbui, also a resident, said that movement of residents from one place to another in search of water and pasture would be a thing of the past.

EPRA Reveals Gas Station In Embakasi Explosion Was Operating Illegally

By: Eugene Otieno
 @themtkenyatomes

The Energy Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has confirmed that the gas filling station in Embakasi, Nairobi where an explosion occurred on Thursday night was operating illegally.

EPRA said it had rejected all applications for construction permits for a Liquefied Petroleum Gas storage and filling plant at Mradi area in Embakasi, Nairobi County for several reasons among them the high population density in the area.

In a statement issued on Friday, the organisation noted that it received applications on 19th March 2023, 20th June 2023, and 31st July 2023.

The Authority however said that it rejected all applications as they did not meet the set criteria for an LPG storage and filling plant in that area.

EPRA noted that the main reason for the rejection was failure of the designs to meet the safety distances stipulated in the Kenya Standard.

EPRA noted that the applicant was requested to submit a Qualitative Risk Assessment (QRA) clearly indicating the radiation blast profiles in the unfortunate case of an explosion, given the high population density around the proposed site.

"The blast profiles are simulated by use of computer software and indicate the effect of a typical blast in terms of heat radiation and tremor/vibration and are useful in reviewing the safety of the surrounding areas," said EPRA.

According to EPRA, the applicant never provided the requested QRA resulting in the rejection of the applications.

"As the regulator, we have formulated short and medium-term measures to ensure safety of all LPG plants in the country is guaranteed. This is



The explosion scene

through actions such as undertaking detailed technical audits of all licensed LPG plants in the country with the objective of ensuring high safety integrity status in terms of Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE)," reads the statement. EPRA further noted that adminis-

trative actions are always taken to ensure that operating licenses for all plants rated below the high safety integrity status are revoked. "In addition, surveillance and enforcement actions are taken including demolishing illegal plants operating across the country and curbing

malpractice in the sector," said the authority. Three people have since been confirmed dead with nearly 300 others sustaining injuries following the explosion.

Energy PS Alex Wachira Launches LPG Cooking Facility At A Nyeri School

The PS Also Flagged Off The Distribution Of Clean Cookstoves To Vulnerable Communities In Laikipia County Under The Accelerating Clean Cooking Access Project Which Is Supported By The Embassy Of Japan and UNDP

By: William Muchiri and Rodgers Wagura

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Principal Secretary in charge of Energy Alex Wachira has launched an ultra-modern cooking facility at a school in Nyeri County.

Wachira was on Friday at NaroMoru Girls Secondary School in Kieni constituency where he launched the LPG Cooking Facility and renovated Kitchen under the Accelerating Clean Cooking Access (ACCA) programme.

The activity took place a few days after the commemoration of the International Day for clean energy on Friday last week.

During the colourful ceremony, the PS was accompanied by among others; Japanese Ambassador to Kenya representative Nishimura Masaya, Second Secretary at the Embassy, Nyeri County Governor Mutahi Kahiga, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative Madelena Monoja and Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina.

“The 2,000 kgs of gas under the LPG project installed as the first consignment in Nyeri County is enough to sustain the entire school, which has a population of 915 students,” the PS revealed

Wachira pointed out that the ministry has installed similar facilities in four other schools in Nairobi, Kajiado, Tana River and Machakos Counties and was looking forward to incorporating more schools to using the modern and clean energy.

He disclosed that the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum brought forward the goal for Universal access to clean cooking from 2030 to 2028, which he noted reflected the urgent need for action to contribute to the NDC target of reducing the emission



Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri handing over a cooking stove to one of the beneficiaries as Energy PS Alex Wachira and other guests looks on. Photo/Courtesy

of greenhouse gases by 32 per cent, which will in effect assist in contributing to the restoration of 10 billion tree cover as guided by the President, thereby improving health and creating jobs for the youth.

“We are grateful to the Government of Japan and UNDP for putting hands together to pursue this accelerator programme which will provide a benchmark for transforming the cooking practices in Kenyan institutions through improved efficiency, economy, health and surroundings. We appreciate Community for Road Empowerment for the effort exercised to ensure the installation

is ready for the launch,” he said.

On his part, the Japanese representative pointed out that Japan is contributing to Kenya’s climate change countermeasures by reducing emissions through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) technical cooperation project and contributing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

“The project aims to install modern clean cooking technologies in more public institutions in Kenya thus stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and preventing global warming which is the common challenge for all humankind,” Nishimura said.

He added that his country will steadily promote climate change countermeasures and with a view to achieving carbon neutrality in 2050 and will support developing countries mitigation and adaptation measures.

Nyeri Governor applauded the commendable work of the State Department for Energy, the Embassy of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Community Road Empowerment (CORE), and other stakeholders for the state-of-the-art project that promotes the use of clean energy and climate change mitigation.

Kahiga added that his administration has been installing bio-gas in homes through a bio-gas project that

was introduced in Aguthi – Gaathi ward, Tetu Constituency and by embracing clean cooking technology choices that align with their needs, many have reaped the immense benefits of the project.

Later, the PS and his team travelled to the neighbouring Laikipia County where he flagged off the distribution of clean cookstoves to vulnerable communities.

The programme is being implemented under the Accelerating Clean Cooking Access Project supported by the Embassy of Japan and UNDP.

“We will conduct distribution in four other counties of Nairobi, Kajiado, Tana River and Machakos following a study conducted on carbon emissions by households.

“This project is significant as we shall leverage on the devolved system of Government to champion clean cooking and empower communities especially women, the vulnerable and youth to adopt clean cooking,” he noted as he appreciated the Laikipia government’s commitment to the process which has positive implications to personal health, the environment and social development.

During the event, the PS was also joined by among others Laikipia County government officials led by Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri.



Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira addressing journalists at NaroMoru Girls Secondary School in Kieni constituency after launching a LPG cooking facility. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU

Worth Noting:

- Wachira pointed out that the ministry has installed similar facilities in four other schools in Nairobi, Kajiado, Tana River and Machakos Counties and was looking forward to incorporating more schools to using the modern and clean energy.

- He disclosed that the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum brought forward the goal for Universal access to clean cooking from 2030 to 2028, which he noted reflected the urgent need for action to contribute to the NDC target of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases by 32 per cent, which will in effect assist in contributing to the restoration of 10 billion tree cover as guided by the President, thereby improving health and creating jobs for the youth.

Kisii High Court Acquits 80-Year-Old Rael Nyakerario For Gouging Baby Sagini's Eyes

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Baby Sagini's grandmother, Rael Nyakerario, 80 years, has been acquitted of charges related to causing grievous harm to the three-year-old by gouging his eyes at Kisii High Court. Nyakerario was granted acquittal after she appealed for the case.

The presiding judge, Justice Waweru Kiarie, stated that the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt, leading to the decision to release Nyakerario.

Nyakerario's lawyer, Okerosi Ondieki, filed a notice of appeal in the Kisii Law Court, seeking a review of the case.

Justice Kiarie emphasized that the prosecution did not present sufficient evidence to support the charges against Nyakerario, and the court found inconsistencies among the witnesses.

"No evidence to show that the convict committed the offence as she had been charged," said Justice.

During the judgment, Justice Kiarie noted that one witness faced mental challenges, affecting the credibility of

her testimony.

Additionally, the court highlighted that the provided evidence did not align with the testimonies of other witnesses.

The absence of a sign language interpreter for a prosecution witness and inadequacies in the investigators' work further weakened the case.

In response to the verdict, Ondieki expressed satisfaction, stating that justice had been served, and Nyakerario could now return home to care for her grandchildren.

He urged the public to welcome Nyakerario back into the community, emphasizing her innocence as proven by the court.

Nyakerario, visibly relieved, credited her release to the power of prayer and expressed gratitude to God.

She called on the public to accept and embrace rehabilitated individuals who have served their sentences, advocating for their integration into society.

However, during the ruling Senior Resident Magistrate, Christine Ogwenyo stated that prosecution had proved the trio caused grievous bodily harm contrary to section 234 of the penal code.

Alex Ochogo Maina, Pacificah Nyakerario, and Rael Nyakerario were sentenced to 40, 10, and 5 years in prison, respectively, after were found guilty of gouging out Baby Sagini's eyes.

The accused individuals, identified as Sagini's cousin, aunt, and grandmother, committed the offense on December 13 and 14th, 2022, leading to their conviction under section 234 of the penal code for unlawfully causing grievous harm.

The court considered detailed pre-sentencing and social inquiry reports before handing down the sentences.

Rael Nyakerario



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Ruto's Plan To Reform The Judiciary A Move In The Right Direction



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



President William Ruto .

Worth Noting:

- Contrary to impression created, he had not changed his position. He was very clear in his mind while calling on the three arms of the government-Executive, Parliament and Judiciary-to live up to their constitutional oath of office. Each arm have a role to play in furthering the common good of the Kenyan public. Let us put the people of Kenya first. Let us work together.
- Since war between the two arms started, Ruto's resorted to distorting and misinterpreting his statement.
- I want to say this. At no time did the President say he will not obey court orders. He always reiterated that he remains true to the course of respecting the independence of judiciary and honoring its decisions.

President William Ruto has in the recent past demonstrated that his plan to reform the judiciary was unstoppable. This was a bold move. The President had taken the first step of spilling the 'blood' by stating: It has come to our attention that some of the judges were working at the behest of the well-known critics of my administration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As a President, I also took the oath of office to protect, defend and uphold the Constitution of Kenya. So, I want to tell them. We will no longer obey their orders.

A few days later, the Chief Justice Martha Koome announced that the Judicial Service commission was willing

to meet the President so that we can iron out our differences.

In his response, Dr Ruto welcomed the move and stated that he was ready to meet the JSC members.

During this meeting, the President reportedly revealed the names of corrupt riddled judges.

Contrary to impression created, he had not changed his position. He was very clear in his mind while calling on the three arms of the government-Executive, Parliament and Judiciary-to live up to their constitutional oath of office. Each arm have a role to play in furthering the common good of the Kenyan public. Let us put the people of Kenya first. Let us work together.

Since war between the two arms started, Ruto's resorted to distorting and misinterpreting his statement.

I want to say this. At no time did the President say he will not obey court orders. He always reiterated that he remains true to the course of respecting the independence of judiciary and honoring its decisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Back to Uhuru, he had earlier shocked Kenyans when he hosted the heads of anti-graft bodies at State House Nairobi.

Though one would have expected him to take on them for frustrating his administration's efforts to fight mega corruption scandals, he instead appeared helpless as he threw his hands in air. He posed: What do you want me to do? Kenyans interpreted this to mean they were on their own.

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

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

He also called for the prosecution of the culprits.

At Athi Water Works Development Agency, Koskei announced the cancellation of the contract of the Chief Executive Officer and anti graft bodies to commence investigations against him.

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

The claims by Azimio leader Raila Odinga and his brigade were mainly politically motivated and geared towards settling political scores. Raila never believed that he can lose elections to Dr Ruto.

This is because he was enjoying the support 'Handshake' partner President Uhuru Kenyatta. This is the first time he enjoyed the backing of the outgoing President.

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

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

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

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

Today, he could have been in forefront of exposing the so called corruption scandals if they ever existed.

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

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

He has been desperately looking for an opportunity to have one-on-one meeting with President Ruto.

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

DP Gachagua Asks NGAOs To End FGM, Early Marriages For Girls To Study

Gachagua pointed out female genital mutilation and child “marriages” as retrogressive saying the vices must be eliminated.

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked National Administration Officers (NGAOs) to work with counties and the community in ending harmful practices that are denying girls access to education.

Speaking at Isiolo Girls High School, when he presided over a fundsdrive for infrastructural development of the institution, the Deputy President said among other issues, female genital mutilation and child “marriages” are retrogressive and they must be eliminated adding that women are key to development.

“We cannot allow the dreams of our girls to be subjected to practices that snatch them the passport to a bright future. The Kenya of today and the future is for all- Girls and Boys, Men

and Women. On this note, I ask the National Government Administration Officers to work with the County Government of Isiolo and indeed across the country, to end these retrogressive practices,” Gachagua said. “FGM is a false transition that denies girls the opportunity to enjoy childhood as they start a prolonged miserable adult life, which they are not ready for. They are ready for school, not marriage. Girls are children, not mothers. They must be in school,” he added.

DP Gachagua conveyed the contributions of the Government, President William Ruto, and his own commitment to the cause.

He was accompanied by Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, Principal Secretaries Mohamed Liban (Petroleum) and Kello Harsama (ASALs and Regional Development),

Isiolo Governor Abdi Hassan, Woman Representatives Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo), Faith Gitau (Nyandarua),



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Liz Chelule (Nakuru), Jane Kagiri (Laikipia), Monicah Marabu (Lamu) and Pauline Lengoris (Samburu). Senator Chute Mohamed (Marsabit)

and MPs Joseph Samal (Isiolo North), Prof Guyo Waqo (Moyale), Geoffrey Ruku (Mbeere North), Abraham Kirwa (Mosop), Mburu Kahangara

(Lari), Ali Laso (Saku), MCAs, the School Management, among others, were present.

Firm In Deadly Embakasi Blast Operated LPG Site Illegally – EPRA

By: ORonald Owili

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) says the company involved in last night’s deadly explosion that left two people dead and more than 300 injured was operating without its approval.

The regulator says the firm had submitted construction permits for the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage and refilling plant in Mradi area, Embakasi East Constituency in Nairobi County on three occasions, on March 19, June 20, and July 31 last year, all of which were rejected.

“The main reason for the rejection was failure of the designs to meet the safety distances stipulated in the Kenya Standard. EPRA noted the high population density around the proposed site and the applicant was requested to submit a Qualitative Risk Assessment (QRA) clearly indicating the radiation blast profiles in

the unfortunate case of an explosion like the one that happened yesterday,” EPRA said in a statement Friday.

According to EPRA, the firm failed to submit QRA which indicate blast profile such as the one which occurred at around 11:30PM on February 1, 2023.

EPRA says the blast profiles are simulated by use of computer software and indicate the effect of a typical blast in terms of heat radiation and tremor/vibration and are useful in reviewing the safety of the surrounding areas.

“The applicant never provided the requested QRA resulting in the rejection of the applications. Email correspondences providing reasons for the rejection were sent to the applicant,” said the authority.

The question which will be asked is how the firm bypassed all the laws and escaped the eyes of law enforcement agencies to set up the illegal facility despite EPRA’s intense administrative actions to rein in illegal plants operating in the country.



Area residents report hearing loud blasts that echoed through the area, prompting widespread concern and fear.

Alcohol Recovery Centre With A Rich History Touching Mama Ngina, Her Niece Nyokabi And Now Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

By: OSDP



Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas also encourages churches to open their places of worship and reach out to those living in the streets and in addictions for their rehabilitation. This involves community-based rehabilitation that encourages easier reintegration back to society.
- At the medical camp, Pastor Dorcas encouraged the youth to change their ways and stop taking illicit brews.
- “After this medical camp, those who need to go for rehabilitation will go, voluntarily. We have a rehabilitated cohort in Nyandarua undergoing skilling, and we shall connect them to jobs. You must change, because, even if I show you love in your state of addiction, who will accept to give you employment in this state.”



Bishop Dr. Margaret Wangari leads prayers outside the Alcohol Recovery Centre in Wangunyu, Kiambaa Constituency, Kiambu County. On her right is Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, and on her left is Evangelist Lucy Wangunjiri, and Kiambu Deputy Governor Rosemary Kirika. Photo/OSDP.

The story of Githeri Man captured the nation during the 2017 elections.

This was Martin Kamotho who queued for hours to participate in the highly contested national elections carrying a polythene bag with the delicacy, githeri, a mix of beans and maize.

On Thursday, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, the spouse of the Deputy President, visited the Alcohol Recovery Centre in Wangunyu, Kiambaa Constituency where Githeri Man was once admitted reawakening those memories and the rich history of the facility.

She was taken on the tour of the centre by the incharge Christine Waitherero.

The centre has a huge hall, and also boarding facilities that include mattresses and offices.

The facility, termed as the NGAAF Multipurpose Centre, was officially commissioned on July 31, 2017 by the Founding Mother of the Nation, Mama Ngina Kenyatta, reads a plaque at the facility.

The centre was initiated by Mama Ngina's niece, and President Uhuru Kenyatta's cousin, Anna Nyokabi Gatheca in 2017 when she served Kiambu County as the first Kiambu Woman Representative.

During her visit, Pastor Dorcas was weighing options of where young men from the area, willing to undergo rehabilitation would receive the critical services.

She took a tour of the facility, soon after attending the Kiambaa medical camp at the Karuri High School Grounds, where hundreds were screened in readiness for rehabilitation.

Pastor Dorcas was accompanied by Kiambu Woman Rep Anne Wamuratha, renowned Bishop Dr Margaret Wangari (WaBanana), and Evangelist Lucy Wangunjiri,

Githeri Man was brought to the rehabilitation centre by the Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba during her term as Kiambu Woman Representative.

Pastor Dorcas also encourages churches to open their places of worship and reach out to those living in the streets and in addictions for their rehabilitation. This involves community-based rehabilitation that encourages easier reintegration back to society.

At the medical camp, Pastor Dorcas encouraged the youth to change their ways and stop taking illicit brews.

“After this medical camp, those who need to go for rehabilitation will go, voluntarily. We have a rehabilitated cohort in Nyandarua undergoing skilling, and we shall connect them to jobs. You must change, because, even if I show you love in your state of addiction, who will accept to give you employment in this state.”

“We also have the ongoing affordable housing project, and people are

needed for the construction work,” said Pastor Dorcas, answering to the question about jobs to those who change their lives.

She decried the high numbers of the male gender behind prison walls, in hospital wards following road accidents caused by drunk driving that includes bodaboda.

“You cannot die, you must live. If you die, will we connect you to jobs? And what benefit is your death to our nation? Please, so no to these substances,” she appealed to hundreds at the medical camp.

She said the problem of alcohol, and

drug use was systemic affecting families, the economy and social life of the people.

“This is a very big problem in our nation. Our future is under serious threat. The people selling these poison to you, do they give their children? You work the whole day, and those brewing illicit brews, and hard drugs are waiting for your money, instead of you taking the money to your family, you enrich them, and then you die. This must stop,” she added.

She confessed that speaking to the consumers was easier than the suppliers, in her quest to breaking the destructive chain of addictions.

Kiambu Deputy Governor Rosemary Kirika, “This is the generation we are working on because of our tomorrow. We have this problem in our society, and while others just watch the problem, you have decided to do something about it.”

DG Kirika also advised the youth to agree to undergo healing, and then look inwardly as sober people and ask what next. “Even as we wait for the government to give us jobs, we must be healed, strong, go to TVETs, and even start exploiting our talents and abilities for a productive life through business or other entrepreneurship activities,” said DG Kirika.

“Those in addictions are hated in the society, and showing them love is part of the healing process. If we are able to restore the future of the people of Kiambu, our youth, then we shall have done a great job. Working together as a team, we shall have fulfilled our mission,” said MP Wamuratha.



Live In The Worlds Laughing



Casting sorrow aside
Knowing himself little by little,
Take as much money as you want
Live in the worlds laughing.

It's enough to read, throw it away!
Live happily in the worlds.
The brain doesn't work anyway, does it?
Live without suffering your young head!

Put the roller down now,
Live with food.
A student is also a person, after all.
Live life to the fullest.

If the tenant does not come,
Without taking your money,
Take the knot in your hand,
Go to the village today.
Live by drinking cow's milk,
Live in the vast field.

Hoshimjanov Ibrahimjon. He was born in the city of Namangan, Namangan region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He is participates in many contests with his creative works and is the owner of many Certificates and Diplomas. In addition, the creative works of the creator have been published in international anthologies, including the UK and Republic anthologies, and the German Raven Cage magazine, and many similar international sites, magazines and anthologies. He is the author of several anthology collections, including those published by the Just-Fiction edition of Great Britain and Moldova. Some of the other achievements of the artist are Golden WJing Volunteer and All India Council For Technical Skill Development, Global Friends Club-GFC, Global Education Ambassador-GEA, Iqra Foundation and a member and Ambassador of several international organizations. He is also a member of Juntos Por Las Letras, the science and literature writers' association of Argentina. And awarded with Certificates by this organization

The Development Of The Country Is In The Hands Of Entrepreneurial Young People!



Young people are the decisive force of the state and society, the owners of the future. The greatest wealth of Uzbekistan is its priceless treasure.

Today, unprecedented opportunities are being created for young people. In particular, all efforts and opportunities are being used for the perfect mastery of science and technology. In recent years, the door of opportunities for young people has been opened so wide that it can be noted that such privileges and opportunities do not exist in other countries.

It is no exaggeration to say that the organization of Republican contests, in particular, "Future Scientist" contest, is one of the great opportunities given to show the talents of the foundations of our future, especially among our youth, especially among schoolchildren and university students.

The fact that great changes have been taking place in the field of education in recent years not only pleases everyone, but also increases the thirst of our youth for more knowledge and

education.

It is safe to say that the establishment of 98 specialized schools in the past years in order to ensure the deep education of young people serves to educate talented and well-rounded young people.

You were thirsty, you got water.
My people, you are my desert and river in my heart.

I got rich loving you
You are my world, my people.
I still have an unfulfilled duty.
Otayman is still alive in my eyes.
For all the seasons of my life,
Take care, my people, thank you!

In these verses of Zulfiya Khanim, feelings of true love for the country, Motherland shine, every time you read these verses, your love for the land of your beloved country will increase and you will be proud. Today, there are many people who envy young people who are on the threshold of such opportunities. Therefore, let's join hands and become an example for the youth on the way to the development of our country, and instill in them the feeling of love for the place where they were born and raised. Because the development of the Motherland is in the hands of loving, enthusiastic and enterprising young people!

Bafoqeva Fazila Zarinovna,
Jondor district, Bukhara region

In the sky of my dreams...



I have a lot of dreams ahead of me,
How many untrodden paths.
Help me, O Allah,
As long as I step towards my goals.

How many poems I have not written yet,
How many places I haven't been to yet,
How much work I still have to do,
My words come from my father and mother.

My dreams are as endless as the sky,
It has no head and no base.
never ending sweet wish,
Just listen to my heart's words.

One day I will wander, as if in the sea,

Then everything will be answered.
One day the most beautiful intercity,
There will be my poems as well.

Better days are coming,
My eyes are shining with joy.
Towards such beautiful dreams,
My good days are passing.

My name is Jorayeva Marjona. I was born on October 18, 2003 in Termiz District, Surkhandarya Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I am the 2nd child in the family, I have a sister before me and then 2 brothers. In 2010, I was admitted to the 1st grade at school No. 6 in Termiz district. In the year I graduated, the name of our school was changed and it became a school with advanced subjects in some subjects.

From the 5th to the 11th grade, I actively participated in the "Knowledge Competition" and "Science Olympiads" in the subject of mother tongue and literature. I won the proud 1st place in the district level from 7th to 11th grade. I graduated from school in 2021 with a certificate of allows level and a medal. In 2022, I was accepted to study Uzbek language and literature at the Faculty of Philology of the Termiz State Pedagogical Institute on the basis of a state grant. Now I am a 2nd year student. I thank God for everything..

Loyal Friends



Abu Ali ib Sina said, "A good friend is a mirror in which all the good and bad aspects of a person are reflected." It is necessary to come. A person may fall into many precarious situations during his life and face various trials. In such circumstances, it is better to stay away from those who think only of their own interests and leave you alone or who love other people. About loyalty to a friend Hazrat Alisher Navoi They also say the following opinion: "A friend is a person who does not trust his friend what he does not trust himself. Even if he is ready to die for his friend, he does not allow his friend to be a partner in this." In fact, I understood how a true friend should be through the friends who were close to my father. Why? - they also had their most loyal friends with them. When my father was going through difficult situations and trying days, he was with me: Zafar Boychorayev, Tilqin Shomirzayev and

Abdurauf Haydarov, Ibrahim, Chin, and his loyal friends. The most interesting thing is that he learned from my father: I asked about her friends who found money, "Dad, why do you treat them well and speak well to them now? After all, they left you?" However, a Muslim deserves to be treated well. Also, one day, when we leave behind such things as money, prestige, position, we will appreciate them." He replied. In fact, what I am most happy and proud of are my father's loyal friends. If a human child is sincere, honest, brave, resourceful and diligent, no evil force can stop him. He will spend his life in peace and tranquility, doing good to others. The greatest and inexhaustible reward for human labor and hardships, isn't it?

It should be noted that one day, my father and his friends who are faithful to my father will achieve the greatest success and achievements. At that time, the people who left them will look at my father with envy, they know the value of everything, but they don't know the value!!

She is the daughter of Saidullaeva Shahlo Alisher, a student of the Academic Lyceum of Tashkent State Uzbek Language and Literature University.

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BUSINESS

Embu Businessman Gifts Boda Boda Riders With A High-Tech Shed Complete With WiFi, Television Sets And Leather Couches

By: Citizen Reporter

Worth Noting:

• “Today, I handed over a fully Cabro-Paved Boda Boda and Shoe Shiners’ Station in Embu Town- the first of its kind. In addition, it’s equipped with Wifi, Televisions, a proper drainage system, 20 state-of-the-art shoe shiner couches and comfortable resting benches,” Wakagoto wrote in his Facebook page.

• “This town played a role in who I am today and as a Christian, I will continue giving back to the community by empowering all sectors in this town.”

• The hand-over ceremony was religiously presided over by Rev. Martin Muthamia of GGV, Embu.



Wakagoto (in Blue jacket) receiving greetings from Embu town residents..

Embu town came to a standstill after a local businessman handed over state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure meant to alleviate the poor conditions faced by the boda boda and shoe-shiner community in the town.

While roaring in town accompanied by hundreds of ecstatic Embu residents, business magnate Kenjava Mwaniki, popularly known as ‘Wakagoto’ unveiled a spectacular transformation of the particular area of Embu town by handing over a fully cabro-paved Boda Boda and shoe-shiner’s shed which also featured several luxurious trappings which left residents and the beneficiaries in awe.

Breaking from tradition, the youthful businessman sought to amplify the area’s infrastructure by adding several items normally not associated with a Boda Boda and shoe-shiner den.

On top of cabro-paving the station, Kenjava also equipped the section with WiFi, HD television sets, a proper drainage system, 20 ultra-modern shoe-shiner couches and cosy benches, too.

Wakagoto said that Embu town played a huge role in his formative development, also adding that he would continue giving back to the community which made him.

“Today, I handed over a fully Cabro-Paved Boda Boda and Shoe Shiners’ Station in Embu Town- the first of its kind. In addition, it’s equipped with Wifi, Televisions, a proper drainage system, 20 state-of-the-art shoe shiner couches and comfortable resting benches,” Wakagoto wrote in his Facebook page.

“This town played a role in who I am today and as a Christian, I will continue giving back to the community by empowering all sectors in this town.”

The hand-over ceremony was religiously presided over by Rev. Martin Muthamia of GGV, Embu.

Also present at the function were

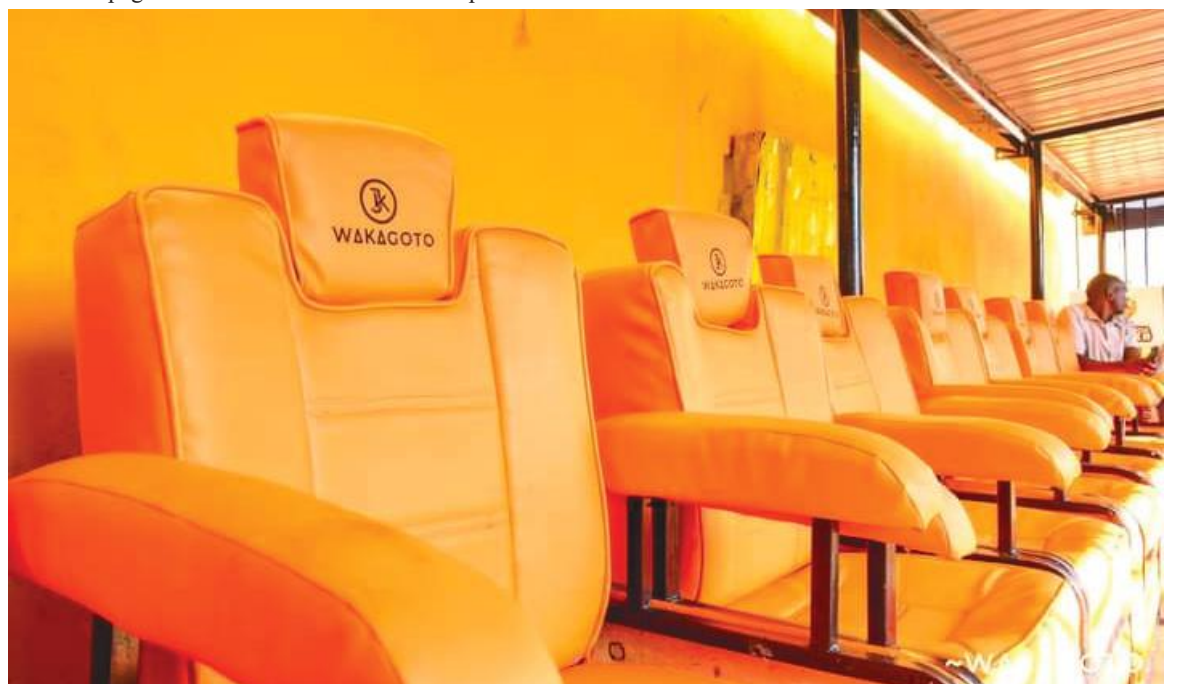
numerous political leaders, businessmen and women, the clergy and various Embu town celebrities.

“I’ve been a shoe-shiner for the last 12 years in this town. I have always used this den as my working station and I have never seen anything like this before. We knew something good was coming but we did not expect something this unusual. Now, we get to only watch TV while waiting for customers but can also browse the internet with the free WiFi installed just for us. This has definitely changed our lives!” Robert Muraguri, an Embu shoe-shiner, commented on Facebook.


In December, the business guru organised an extended Christmas party that saw Embu residents enjoy nyama choma, chapati, rice, and more culinary items at the Moi stadium.

Besides the feasting, over 2000 women drawn from the gathering also carried home a 2KG packet of unga each, wheat flour and a 2 litre jar of cooking oil too.

After cutting his teeth in the streets of Embu, initially selling music CDs before branching into tomato growing, Wakagoto has seen exponential growth, rising up the business ranks to the point where he now employs over 500 locals at his stone crusher in Embu town and Ishiara areas.



Part of the area that Wakagoto handed over



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Group 4 Kiini, Laikipia East, Laikipia West, Laikipia North, Ndaragwa, Ol Joro Orok, Ol Kalou, Kipipiri	Group 5 Kinangop, Naivasha, Ndia, Gichugu, Kirinyaga Central, Mwea, Molo, Njoro	Group 6 Kuresoi South, Kuresoi North, Rongai, Nakuru West, Bahati, Subukia, Nakuru East, Gilgil
Group 7 Mbeere South, Mbeere North, Chuka, Igamba Ngombe, Maara, Tharaka Imenti South, Imenti Central, Buuri	Group 8 Imenti North, Tigania East, Tigania West, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Igembe South, Manyatta, Runyenjes	

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Government To Support Embakasi Fire Tragedy Victims, Mwaura Says

Mwaura said investigations are underway to determine the cause of the explosion at the company's parking yard

By: Prudence Wanza

The government has pledged to provide extensive support to victims of Embakasi fire incident which occurred on Thursday night.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura who visited the area on Friday, announced that the government in collaboration with Kenya Red Cross and Nairobi County Government will providing essential support, including food and non-food items to those affected.

Mwaura confirmed that three Kenyans lost their lives while being attended to at a Nairobi hospital while 280 other Kenyans were injured by the fire.

The incident which occurred at around 11:30 pm on Thursday in the Mradi area of Embakasi also damaged several vehicles and commercial properties, including small businesses and residential houses.

“Yesterday Thursday 1st February 2024, at around 11:30 pm, there was a huge explosion at Mradi area, in Embakasi, Nairobi County. One Lorry of an unknown registration number that was loaded with gas cylinders exploded, igniting a huge ball of fire that spread widely, with one of the cylinders hitting garment and textile Oriental Godown, burning down,” Mwaura stated.

Mwaura said investigations are underway to determine the cause of the explosion at the company's parking yard.

“Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of the departed, and we wish a swift recovery to the injured,” he said.

Meanwhile the Nairobi County Government has waved all medical fees at the County facilities attending to those injured and bereaved in the tragedy.

“All County Health and medical teams are managing the situation and working hand in hand with the County Disaster and Risk Management teams who continue to provide the necessary support to the victims of the fire incident,” said Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja.



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura (centre).

Schools Directed To Cease Charging Unauthorized Levies

PS Belio Kipsang noted that Primary and Junior Schools are predominantly day schools and the Ministry of Education caters for the requisite tuition requirements through Capitation.

By: Prudence Wanza

The Ministry of Education has warned public schools against charging parents unauthorized levies.

In a circular issued on Friday, Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang directed all schools to cease from directing parents to pay any charges outside the authorized fees guidelines for secondary schools.

The PS noted that Primary and Junior Schools are predominantly day schools and the Ministry of Education caters for the requisite tuition requirements through Capitation.

“For avoidance of doubt no fees will be charged by Public Primary and Junior Schools,” said Kipsang.

The PS stated that all schools are required to fill fees declaration form,



PS Belio Kipsang.

countersigned by Sub-County Directors of Education in the format provided by the Ministry.

“Every Sub- County Director and

County Director of Education will be held liable for any breach within their area of jurisdiction. All completed forms be submitted to the

Ministry Headquarters by 9th February, 2024 in both hard and soft copies. Soft copies should be submitted via director.secondary@education.go.ke. The sample format has been emailed to you.” Kipsang instructed

The PS noted that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 mandates the Education Cabinet Secretary to implement free and compulsory Basic Education for all Kenya Children of school going age.

However, the PS regretted that public schools, including primary schools, junior schools, and secondary schools, have reportedly been imposing unauthorized levies on parents, despite the Ministry having previously addressed the issue through circulars.

“All Secondary schools must adhere and comply with authorized fees structure under Kenya Gazette Notice No. 1555 of March, 2015 payable in the spread ratio of 50%

30% and 20% in 1st term 2nd term and 3rd term respectively,” stated Kipsang.

The Ministry further directed schools to comply with a circular dated dated 30th May, 2023 which banned schools from selling or stocking uniforms and boarding items.

Additionally, the PS clarified that lunch programme for day secondary schools is optional and no child should be denied schooling for failure to pay the same.

“Regional Directors, County Directors and Sub County Directors of Education should bring to the attention of the Principal Secretary any School Principal, Board of Management and Head Teachers charging unauthorized Levies.”



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The President's Plan To Introduce The Building Of Affordable Houses In Kenya

Many people have been astonished after the president announced that within 5 months to 8 months there will be affordable housing which people will be able to live in them without paying any dept.

Approximately 30 percent of Kenyans are in support of this while the remaining percentage condemns this because this will lead to the contribution of paying taxes.

The affordable housing effort is not the solution to unemployment in Kenya even though through it, my youths have got the means to make ends meet, say Rose Awino.

"The decision by the court of laws on the housing levy should not make her be aggressive. She should understand that not every Kenyan is comfortable with the payment on taxes. She should instead set up industries that can give the youth the much needed jobs and again she



should not agree with every issue that presidents want because some of the problems like increasing of petro that has brought a lot of problems to our people, because a lot of things

are made from petro."

By Ouma Rose Awino.
Rongo university student.

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

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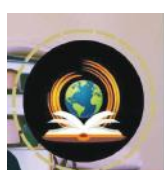
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Gov't To Export NYS Officers Aboard - CS Kuria

The NYS recruitment exercise is set to begin on Monday, February 5 to Friday, February 9 across the country.

By: Prudence Wanza

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria has revealed that the government plans to export National Youth Service (NYS) officers abroad.

The CS said the move is part of government's Labour Export Programme aimed at leveraging the skills and capabilities of NYS recruits on the international stage.

"We plan to export NYS servicemen and women overseas. The Labour Export process is underway as we have already begun facilitating the issuing of passports at NYS Headquarters in Ruaraka," Kuria stated.

Kuria spoke on Friday when he met with NYS Recruiting Officers ahead of the national recruitment exercise set to begin on Monday February 5 to Friday, February 9 across the

country.

The CS noted that the recruitment exercise has previously had flaws urging for a transparent and verifiable selection process to ensure equal opportunities for all candidates.

"In the past, the recruitment process has had flaws and we are determined to fix that this time round to ensure every candidate has an equal opportunity," he said.

The recruitment process will be ward-based with a certain number of recruits allocated per ward taking into account the population of each ward.

Kuria said the approach aims to address regional imbalances and provide a fair chance for candidates from every part of the country.

In 2023, President William Ruto directed the National Police Service, Kenya Defence Forces, Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forestry Service to recruit 80% of their per-



Public Service CS Moses Kuria during a briefing with the National Youth Service Recruiting Officers.

sonnel from NYS.

CS Kuria asserted that a majority of the recruits will stand a chance to be absorbed into the police force following the completion of their training.

"Kenya is a youthful country. 70% of the population consists of the youth. We need the youth to drive our economic transformation agenda. The Kenya Kwanza Administration is committed to ensure that

every young person has an equal opportunity," he affirmed.

Peace, Regional Conflicts And Economic Cooperation Dominate Mudavadi-Blinken Talks In Washington

By: Eric Biegen

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi on Thursday held talks with his United States counterpart Antony Blinken at the State Department in Washington DC.

Mudavadi's meeting with the US Secretary of State centered on peace and security issues, including regional conflicts in East Africa and disruption of global logistics by the Middle East crisis.

"Our engagement in Washington DC focused on Kenya and US mediation efforts to mitigate the disruptive impact of these crises on the people and economies of the region," Mudavadi noted in a statement after the meeting

"We appreciated our long-standing

support for global climate issues, the fight against terrorism, and the need for global development finance architecture reforms," he added

At the same time, Mudavadi who has been on a three-day official tour of the US disclosed that the issue of the deployment of Kenyan police to Haiti formed part of the agenda of his meeting with Blinken.

"We further agreed to continue plans to better the lives of the Haitian people," he said

At the same time, Mudavadi said Blinken responded positively to the request to expedite negotiations of the Kenya-US Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP) and for the US to consider extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) beyond its expiry next year.

"These initiatives will facilitate expanded duty and quota-free access for Kenya's and Africa's exports to the US market," he said



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi on Thursday held talks with his United States counterpart Antony Blinken at the State Department in Washington DC.

Sports >> *Mikel Arteta believes Arsenal can claw their way back into the Premier League title race when leaders Liverpool visit the Emirates on Sunday.

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Arteta Urges Arsenal To Seize 'Big Chance' Against Liverpool



Soccer Football - Premier League - Southampton v Arsenal - St Mary's Stadium, Southampton, Britain - October 23, 2022 Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta REUTERS/Dylan Martinez.

Mikel Arteta believes Arsenal can claw their way back into the Premier League title race when leaders Liverpool visit the Emirates on Sunday.

The Gunners trail Jurgen Klopp's men by five points at the top of the table as they aim to win the league title for the first time in 20 years.

Arsenal were top when the sides drew 1-1 at Anfield in December, but went on to lose three consecutive games to West Ham and Fulham in the Premier League and Liverpool in the FA Cup around the turn of the year.

But Arteta's men have bounced back since a winter break with

victories over Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest.

"We play at home, and what I sense is a real sense of positivity and enthusiasm around the place," said Arteta, who is hoping his side can match their 1-0 win over Manchester City at the Emirates in October.

"This season, we have beaten big teams already and it's another opportunity to beat Liverpool now and be in a much better place.

"We talk about momentum; we've won the last two games and want to win the third one, especially at home with our people.

"It's going to be an incredible

atmosphere, and we're going to need that. So I encourage everybody to do that, to play every single ball with us, and if we do that, we're going to have a big chance to win the game."

Arsenal looked on course for a routine win at Forest on Tuesday until Taiwo Awoniyi's late strike left the visitors holding on for a 2-1 victory.

After full-time, defenders Ben White and Oleksandr Zinchenko were involved in a heated row over the Forest's goal, but Arteta claimed that passion was something he "loves" to see.

"They are living together now, they are best mates! You don't

argue with someone you don't have a great relationship with. That happens because you have the trust and chemistry to react the way you did," added Arteta.

"Do like it? I love it. As long as it's in a respectful way and only with the intention to be more demanding and better as a team, and it stays there, I'm very happy with that."

"I want my players to have desire always to be better. In order to do that we have to be demanding of each other, otherwise it's Disneyland."

AFP

Sports >> *Mauricio Pochettino said Chelsea's lack of experience was exposed in a 4-1 humbling by Liverpool that showed how far the Blues have to go to compete again at the top of the Premier League.

Youthful Chelsea Suffering Growing Pains, Says Pochettino



Chelsea's Brazilian defender #06 Thiago Silva (C) headers the ball to defend during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Fulham at Stamford Bridge in London on January 13, 2024. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP).

Mauricio Pochettino said Chelsea's lack of experience was exposed in a 4-1 humbling by Liverpool that showed how far the Blues have to go to compete again at the top of the Premier League.

Defeat at Anfield on Wednesday left Chelsea 20 points adrift of the Premier League leaders, down in 10th in the table, despite spending over £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) on new players since Todd Boehly's consortium took charge of the club in 2022.

Much of that investment has been ploughed into young players and Pochettino believes it will take time for them to deliver on their potential.

"We need to improve as a team. During the game I think we showed a lack of experience as a team," said the Argentine on Friday.

"It wasn't a reality check. But it was the difference between a team who is solid and consistently play together in the last four or five years and a team who want to reach that same level."

Pochettino faces the daunting task of raising his players to try and stop Liverpool when the sides meet again in the League Cup final on February 25.

Chelsea appeared to get one up on the Reds last summer when they won the race to sign Moises Caicedo from Brighton for a British transfer record £115 million.

However, the Ecuador international has failed to live up to that price tag and was substituted midway through the second half at Anfield in midweek.

Caicedo's signing overtook Enzo Fernandez's record as the most expensive Premier League player

of all-time after the Argentine's move from Benfica to Stamford Bridge 12 months ago.

Pochettino, though, said it was not just on his near £200 million-plus midfield pair to turn Chelsea's season around.

"I think collectively we all need to improve," added the former Tottenham boss.

"It's not just him (Caicedo) or it's not just him and Enzo. I think we all need to improve as a team."

One positive from a poor night for Chelsea was Christopher Nkunku's impact as a second half substitute.

The Frenchman's first season in England has been decimated by injury, but he has now scored two Premier League goals in less than 180 minutes on the pitch and could start against Wolves on Sunday.

"I think he's started to show that he's an option. He had one chance and was able to score a great goal and able to show his quality," said Pochettino.

"We need to take care of his situation and to build his confidence and fitness. We are happy in the way he's helping the team but we need to be careful."

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Time In My Eyes



By: Zarnigor Yangiboyeva
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In 1926-1929, in various groups such as "Group of 18", "In-oghomovchilik", "Kasimovchilik", some "invisible problems" in view of the pain, concern and interest of their nation raised and asked for help from above to solve them. Later, the honor of the members of this group was severely tarnished and they were subjected to various punishments.
- False information was collected that the counter-revolutionary structures created in 1937-1939 were formed and operating. More than 41,000 people were imprisoned and more than 37,000 were punished for this crime. About 7,000 people were shot. There were many poets, writers, professors and scientists among these people.



Abstract: the repression of Uzbek figures by the USSR government in the 30-80s of the 20th century and the Soviet literature formed by the Soviet government during this period.

Key words: Soviet literature, socialist realism, new man, repressed people, love independent nation.

In 1924, the Uzbek SSR was established, and all social, economic, political, cultural, educational and similar affairs in Uzbekistan were transferred to Russia. In particular, all land and earthly wealth in our land will be handed over to the government of the SSR. In the second half of the 1920s and the beginning of the 1930s, not only in Uzbekistan, but in all the colonial countries of the SSR, various political affairs took place, and most of the national intellectuals and devotees led by Munavvarqori were executed or exiled.

If we look at the works up to the first half of the 1930s, that is, the works of artists such as Abdulla Qadiri, Cho'lpon, Behbudi, Abdulla Avloni reflect old ideas and love for the homeland. However, by the second half of the 1930s, "New Literature" was born. All slogans and writers were instructed to create in the method of "socialist realism".

In this method, only the support of the ideology of the time before it, the praise of the Soviet system, the continuous struggle between the "good" poor worker-peasant and the "bad" rich, full of the feelings of the people who "achieved happiness" due to the October Revolution of 1917 showing kis, a "new man" (a peasant with a black background, who had to "rise" as a Russian worker later) - to portray him as an active person building a communist society, in particular, someone who can stand up to the "backward" land she had to create on topics such as creating a woman.

If the given task is not fully fulfilled, or if the past, religious traditions, national liberation, historical heroes of the Uzbek people are written or quoted in his work, that literary critic will be declared an "enemy of the people". , exiled. However, there were several "exceptions". That is, even though Navoi is a rich and educated person, it is allowed to show him as a positive character who helped the poor.

If we divide by years, our country has shed the innocent blood of our ancestors 3 times with false accusations.

• In 1926-1929, in various groups such as "Group of 18", "In-oghomovchilik", "Kasimovchilik", some "invisible problems" in view

of the pain, concern and interest of their nation raised and asked for help from above to solve them. Later, the honor of the members of this group was severely tarnished and they were subjected to various punishments.

• False information was collected that the counter-revolutionary structures created in 1937-1939 were formed and operating. More than 41,000 people were imprisoned and more than 37,000 were punished for this crime. About 7,000 people were shot. There were many poets, writers, professors and scientists among these people.

• The repressions of the late 40s and early 50s of the 20th century were mainly directed against the figures of culture and science. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, relying on the guidelines of the center, launched an attack against representatives of creative intellectuals whose worldview and creativity differ from the ideology of the party.

In 1930-1960, a number of writers created according to the method created by the USSR government. They artificially added Russian people to their works to give them the spirit of "socialist realism". In the 1960s, new writers entered the literature. Writers such as E. Vahidov, A. Oripov, R. Parfi put forward the ideas of freedom in their poems. Despite the

task given by the USSR, many artists created artistically and aesthetically mature works. The works of S. Zunnunova, Oybek, M. Shaikhzoda, Mirtemir, G. Gulom, S. Ahmad are among them. In addition, writers such as O. Yaqubov, O. Hoshimov, and A. Mukhtar revealed in their works the real problems of the time, such as bribery, hypocrisy, and betrayal.

In conclusion, the decisions taken at the 16th plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, which was established in 1984 by order of Moscow, began to baselessly slander the people of the Uzbek SSR. A special investigative group of 12 people ("desanchilars" who came from the center to the republic) under the Prosecutor General of the SSR carried out another crackdown in Uzbekistan.

At the request of the Gdlyan and Ivanov group, which investigates "adding writing", "theft", "eye makeup", "bribery", etc. in the processes related to cotton production and processing in the Uzbek SSR, senior workers, secretaries and managers of agricultural works in the republic party, soviet and economic leaders were removed from their positions and criminal proceedings were initiated against them.

In 1983-1990, a total of 40,000 people were investigated in connection with the "cotton case" in the Uzbek SSR, and 5,000 people were prosecuted on false charges. During the investigation, their rights were violated, and the prisoners were subjected to physical and mental pressure. Their family members and relatives were also imprisoned.

Zarnigor Yangiboyeva is the daughter of Bakhodir. She was born on September 22, 2006, in Yangibozor district of Khorezm region. Currently, she is a student of the 11th grade at the Ogahi Creativity School in Khiva. In May 2023, she achieved a good result in the national certificate exam in mother tongue and literature. She is preparing for the English language and in the future he wants to get good results by passing Cefr and IELTS exams these days . Her dream is entering the university based on a grant.