



CS Urges Education Officials To Share Information
Education officials have been obliged to exercise the constitutional mandate to share information to publicize and seal the communication gap in its programmes.
Article 35 of the Constitution on access to information guarantees every citizen the right of access to information held by the State.

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News>>Kirinyaga County Government Appeal For Killer Brew Victims To Go For Check Up In Hospital

P. 8. County Government of Kirinyaga has appealed to people who could have taken the illicit brew that has killed about 10 people in Kangai area of Kirinyaga present themselves in hospital



News>>Say No To Lesbianism, Pastor Dorcas Tells Girls

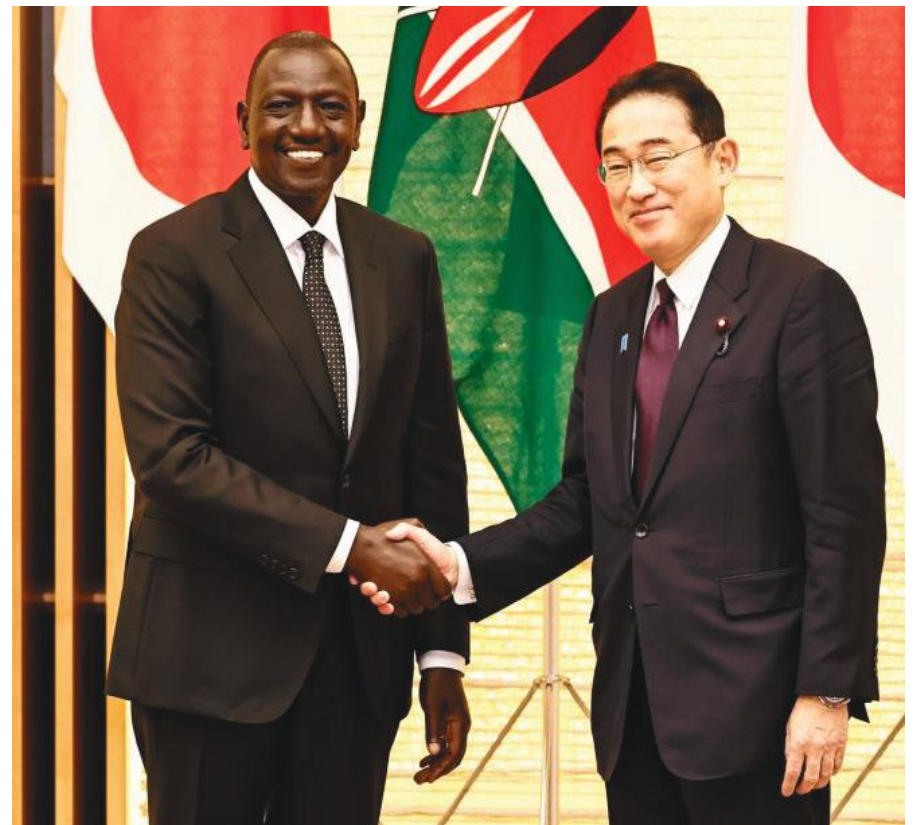
P. 12. The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has urged the students to avoid any company that can lead them to lesbianism.

Kenya Bags KSh350B To Finance Projects

 Financial agreements worth KSh350 billion have been signed during President William Ruto's visit to Japan.

These agreements will support projects and programmes in sectors that are aimed at turning around the economic fortunes of the country.

The largest projects to benefit are the Dongo Kundu Infrastructure Ecosystem and the Mombasa Gateway Bridge at the Coast at Ksh260 billion.



President William Ruto and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

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National Assembly Budget Committee Reviews Legislative Proposals, Towards Fiscal Alignment

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- If approved by the House, the Chiefs' (Amendment) Bill, 2023 by Samuel Arama (Nakuru Town West) will see the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs get deployed within their respective Counties.
- Martha Wangari (Gilgil) defended a proposal to amend specific provisions of Births and Deaths Registration Act Cap 149 (principal act) to ensure that the relevant Cabinet Secretary establishes at least one Births and Deaths registration office within each constituency in Kenya. In support of this Bill, Members of the Budget Committee averred that all school going children would get the Birth Certificates with ease.



Kirinyaga Central MP Joseph Gitari making his point during yesterday's deliberations.



The committee chairman and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee yesterday considered and recommended various legislative proposals, prioritizing their fiscal implications to the economy.

Chaired by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, the committee assessed each Bill's financial viability before making an endorsement for further consideration.

"Our mandate as a Committee is rooted on the money element of the Bills and not the content," stated Nyoro.

Having satisfactorily met the threshold of a nod from the committee, the legislators unanimously approved the Agricultural Professional Registration Bill, 2023, the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Bribery (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Chiefs' (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Medical Social Workers Bill, 2023, the Livestock Insurance Bill, 2023 and the Land (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Agricultural Professionals Registration and Licensing Bill, 2024 sponsored

by John Kanyuithia Mutunga (Tigania West) sought to make provision for the registration and licensing of agricultural professionals, to provide for the regulation of the standards and practice of the profession and functions of the Agricultural Professionals Registration and Licensing Board.

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Pastoralists will have a reason to smile should the Kenya Livestock Insurance

Bill, 2023 by Abdul Haro (Mandera South) sail through. The Bill seeks to provide for a regulation and provision of livestock insurance to pastoralists in arid and semiarid areas in Kenya.

Barongo Nolfason Obadiah (Bomachoge Borabu) sought to amend the Bribery Bill, 2023 by creating visual record of interactions between the law enforcement officers and the Public. This Bill will allow deployment of cameras on roads, intensifying policing and enhancing accountability.

The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 by Hon. Oyula Maero (Butula) proposed to provide for the establishment of the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board to allow the Board make decisions and enforce accounting standards without direct control from the National Treasury.

If enacted, the Medical Social Workers Bill, 2023 by Dr. Robert Pukose (Endebess) will see the establishment of the Medical Social Workers Council which will lead to improved healthcare delivery

at the community level and occasion generation of revenue for the council.

On his part, Joseph G. Gitari (Kirinyaga Central) sought to amend the Land Bill, 2023 to provide for a mechanism for registration and regulation of the operations of land dealing entities in Kenya which will protect Kenyans from exploitation by fraudulent land-buying and selling companies.

In addition to these approvals, the committee also deliberated and provided recommendations for the Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2023 by Samuel Arama and the Sustainable Development Bill, 2023 by Geoffrey Ruku (Mbeere North).

The endorsed legislative proposals will now advance to the House for further deliberations.

The accelerated scrutiny of proposed legislations by the committee marks a significant step toward enhancing fiscal alignment and legislative efficiency in Kenya.

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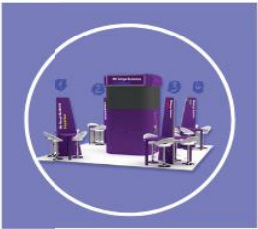
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Eliud Owalo, has been appointed as a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Global Digital Innovation Board. The board, consisting of 18 members, will focus on building local enablers and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in digital development. The appointment comes as Kenya recognises ICTs as the driving force behind its digital transformation and has identified key ICT priorities in various documents, including the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. The Digital Innovation Board is part of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development under ITU, aiming to bridge the digital innovation divide and support ITU members in their journey towards an equitable digital future. The board is expected to provide strategic guidance, expertise, and advocacy for the initiative's mission.



Uasin Gishu County has received oxygen-piping equipment donated by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) to improve health services for its residents. The equipment will enhance emergency services at county hospitals in Kipsigak, Sambut, Kiplombe, Elgeyo border, and Katuiyo Health Centers. Health centres in Kamalel and Chepyakwai have already been piped, and the process is ongoing in Ziwa and Burnt Forest. An oxygen plant is in the pipeline for Uasin Gishu, with plans to have one in the next few years. The county will ensure all facilities are oxygen-piped to save lives and provide oxygen directly from the wards. The county government has increased its order and supply of drugs budget from Sh 212 million to Sh 400 million for 2024–2025, aiming to reach every patient at the grassroots. To address inadequate human resources in the health sector and improve service delivery, the county government plans to hire and promote more health workers. Clinical Services Chief Officer, Dr. Joyce Sang, expressed gratitude to AMREF for their continued support to the County Clinical Services.

200 secondary school and university students in Isiolo County have received Sh1.2 million in education bursaries from the National Government Affirmative Action Funds (NGAAF). Seven students with disabilities—three from universities and four from private secondary schools—received the bursary. Additionally, 12 orphans in national schools and universities also received scholarships through the office of the Isiolo Women Representative, Mumina Bonaya. The Women's MP office reached out to the most needy cases from all 10 wards, benefiting orphans and persons with disabilities for the first time. Cheques worth Sh. 1.8 million were distributed to 10 women groups in Burat and Ngaremarara Wards, aiming to empower beneficiaries economically and improve their living standards. The chairman of the People with Disabilities in the County, Abdi Wako, praised the Women MP's transparency in involving disadvantaged people in the sharing of government grants.



Residents of four residential estates in Homa Bay town have received safe and clean water for drinking and domestic use after a decade without taps. The water supply to these areas was through taps connected to the county government's water supply reticulation, but due to dilapidated infrastructure, the residents were disconnected. The county, with the support of Dunea, a Netherlands Water Supply Company, repaired the infrastructure to ensure water flow back into taps. Governor Gladys Wanga launched the four water points, aiming for 100% water connectivity for all urban households. Homa Bay Water and Sanitation Company (HOMAWASCO) now has a production capacity of 10,530 cubic metres per day, targeting 2,500 people. However, the company faces challenges in the storage and rehabilitation of lines. Dr. Joash Aloo, the County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Water and Sanitation, urged residents to take charge of the water points and report any non-proper use or mishandling of the infrastructure to ensure efficiency and sustainable water supply.



Coffee farmers in Kisii County are requesting the government equip their factories with modern machines to increase production. Despite the high workload and low prices of coffee, farmers are struggling to produce their coffee due to long travel distances and high transportation costs. They have identified a parcel of land for a coffee factory in Ibeno Ward and are in the process of purchasing it. They are urging County Assembly Member Steve Arika and county leadership to assist them in purchasing the necessary machines to improve coffee production. Coffee farmer Samuel Ogosi emphasised the need to improve coffee quality due to the increasing number of farmers.



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Kenya Set To Host The UNEA-6 Assembly In Nairobi

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The CS said President William Ruto, who is the President and the Chairperson of the Committee of the African Union Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, will deliver UNEA-6 National and welcoming statement on 29th February 2024, at the high level segment.
- She said through the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agendas (BETA), the government is putting in place measures to address the environment challenges the country has been facing, citing the recent effects of drought, floods and other development activities.



Kenya is set to host the 6th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), scheduled for 26th February 2024 to 1st March 2024, at the United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi.

The event themed 'Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity, loss and pollution', will be attended by Heads of States and Government, ministers of environment and other high-ranking dignitaries.

UN official and multinationals will negotiate on plastic agreement, marine climate and other climate agreements.

Briefing the press on the Conference at a Nairobi hotel, Thursday, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Soipan Tuya, said currently Kenya is reviewing its regulations, laws, programmes and strategies, to reflect Africa's climate action priorities, as documented in the Nairobi declaration to back-up the country's environment.

The CS said President William Ruto, who is the President and the Chairperson of the Committee of the African Union Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, will deliver UNEA-6 National and welcoming statement on 29th February 2024, at the high level segment.

She said through the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agendas (BETA), the government is putting in place measures to address the environment challenges the country has been facing, citing the recent effects of drought, floods and other development activities.

"We have put in place carbon market registries, have set up demonstrations and are accelerating waste management," said Tuya, adding that Kenya is keen on embracing the circular economy and will pilot with five counties, to actualize the programme.

The CS at the same time stated that the government is working on a raft of regulations that will operationalize and deal with waste and pollution, not-

ing that the Ministry has put in place a number of associations that will create a robust process for waste collection.

"We welcome investors interested in investing in the carbon markets economy. We have active indigenous community groups who want to know the sharing, we will finalize the regulation when parliament resumes," she assured.

Tuya said during the UNEA-6 there will be various bilateral meetings and side events where the participants will pull together to enhance resolutions that are badly needed following the environment challenges being experienced globally.

She singled out mining, water, agriculture among others, as the key themes of Kenya, of which the country expects good resolutions.

The CS said that in the past one year, the government has put effort in dealing with forest crimes, which has been rampant, disclosing that crime has reduced significantly, assuring that the Ministry is working on restoring the

ecosystem and deforestation.

"We are helping communities affected by climate crisis by taking a number of actions to reduce pollution, as we ensure we have adaptive measures that communities have to take to shift from the traditional ways," she stated.

The Executive Director, UN Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, said the Assembly UNEA-6 has been organized around six thematic areas that were considered by members in developing the draft resolutions to compel more effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action.

Ms. Andersen said 22 resolution have been developed and are being negotiated by the Member States along five clusters.

"This will include two pollution action regulations, minerals, metals, hazardous pollution, water, ocean and seas, climate justice and sustainability," said Ms. Andersen.

She said countries attending the Assembly are expected to tackle the triple climate crisis, pollution and waste that is affecting the global south and the continent, which has led to deaths due to explosion and pollution.

The meeting was also addressed by Ms. Radhika Ochalik, Director, Governance Affairs, UN environment Programme.

The UNEA-6 will also be preceded by the sixth meeting of the open-ended committee of Permanent representative who will lay the groundwork for the Assembly from February 19th to 23rd, 2024.

UNEA is the world's highest level decision-making body for matters related to the environment.

It sets the global environment agenda, provides overarching policy guidance and defines policy responses, to address emerging environmental challenges.

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Kirinyaga County Government Appeal For Killer Brew Victims To Go For Check Up In Hospital

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

County Government of Kirinyaga has appealed to people who could have taken the illicit brew that has killed about 10 people in Kangai area of Kirinyaga present themselves in hospital for medical check-up.

This is after death of more people who had been brought to hospital while in critical condition on Wednesday, three days after consuming the illicit brew.

A statement read by Deputy Governor David Githanda said there could be more people who are still at home and asked residents to check on the wellbeing of relatives known to frequent California Bar.

“We call upon those who could have consumed the illicit brew at this particular outlet to visit our medical facilities for examination and treatment,” he said.

The brew is suspected to have been laced with ethanol.

Githanda said six people had died on

arrival or while being treated at the Kerugoya County Referral Hospital. He said two of the victims died on Monday while four others died on Tuesday.

The Deputy Governor said majority of the dead had been brought in by relatives while in critical condition after being picked from their homes.

He said that 20 cases were brought to the county health facilities out of which six have succumbed, while four others are still admitted in critical condition. Ten of the victims were stabilized and discharged.

The County asked liquor outlet owners to protect lives of their customers by selling them products that conform to standards set out by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS).

He said the County Liquor Licensing Committee had rejected an application for license by California Bar in December last year and therefore the outlet was operating illegally.

“The County Government of Kirinyaga is committed to weed out all unlicensed liquor outlets. We wish to remind bar owners that they have a responsibility to protect lives by ensuring they are selling products that



Kirinyaga County Governor David Githanda and other officials at the site where the infamous club stood

conform to standards set out by the Kenya Bureau of Standards,” Githanda said.

Further, the Deputy Governor said the county is in touch with the families of those affected the incident and was working together local leaders to assess the assistance needed.

He asked all state agencies to work hand-in-hand with the county government to eliminate illicit brews.

“We take cognizance of the fact that no single Government agency can eliminate illicit brew without working together with other law enforcement agencies. We therefore call upon all stakeholders to work hand-in-hand with the County Government,” he added.

Central Regional Commissioner Calls For Collaboration To End Alcoholism

By: David Wandeto and Mutai Kipngetch
@themkenyetimes

Central Regional Commissioner Fredrick Shisia has called for collaboration among government agencies to curb the alcoholism menace in the central region.

Mr Shisia was reacting to reports that a suspect connected to the poisonous liquor in Kirinyaga that has so far claimed 13 lives, has been arrested 15 times but is always released from custody under unclear circumstances.

Speaking after leading a multi-agency team to inspect the premises where the liquor is manufactured in Kangai, the RC confirmed that the suspect has been arrested and will be arraigned in court to face murder charges.

He regretted the unfortunate loss of life resulting from the incident warning that the multi-agency team would intensify the fight against illicit brews and deal ruthlessly with those behind



Central Regional Commissioner Fredrick Shisia addressing journalists in Kirinyaga County.

the illegal trade.

Shisia said Central Region has been at the forefront of the fight against alcoholism and drug abuse and called on officers in both levels of government tasked with the responsibility to work together for the benefit of the citizens.

“I call upon all government agencies to work together for the benefit of our employees who are Kenyan citizens, let’s not fight. They should not compete but reinforce each other, they are holding the offices in trust of the people”

The administrator tasked the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACA-

DA), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Anti-Counterfeit Authority, and KRA to unravel what happened at Kangai. He further called for collaboration between the government and residents to eradicate the poisonous liquor in the area.

Residents of Kangai area where the liquor den is situated set the pub on fire saying that they took the law into their own hands after the authorities failed to arrest and prosecute the culprit, who has been selling the illicit brew during the day and night.

Njamumo urged residents to maintain peace and give the government time saying even those operating bars and liquor outlets without licenses will face the full force of the law.

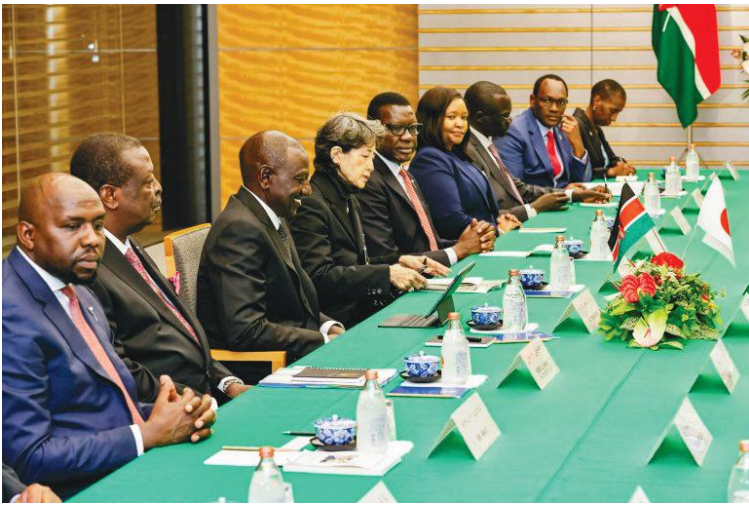
He said the Kirinyaga County Assembly is in the process of passing the Alcohol Bill and that will enhance enforcement of the current laws which are in place.

The leaders have pledged to lend a hand to affected families so they can bury their loved ones who succumbed to the lethal brew.

Kenya Bags Ksh 350B From Japan To Finance Key Projects

By: PCS

Financial agreements worth KSh350 billion have been signed during President William Ruto’s visit to Japan. These agreements will support projects and programmes in sectors that are aimed at turning around the economic fortunes of the country. The largest projects to benefit are the Dongo Kundu Infrastructure Eco-system and the Mombasa Gateway Bridge at the Coast at Ksh260 billion. President Ruto and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also agreed that Kenya will issue a Ksh40 billion Samurai bond in Japan to finance energy and infrastructure projects. A Samurai bond is a yen-denominated bond issued in Tokyo by a non-Japanese company. The bond is, however, subject to Japanese regulations. Kenya also secured Ksh30 billion from the Japan Bank for International



Kenyan delegation.



Japan delegation.

al Cooperation to purchase heavy machinery and mechanised assets. The Olkaria Geothermal Development Project will get KSh15 billion. Japan will also provide KSh1 billion for the production of medical oxygen for various hospitals. Through the United Nations, Kenya will receive Ksh320 million human-

itarian aid for those affected by the recent El Nino-related floods. Other agreements include MoUs on cooperation in the ICT, health, finance and security sectors. He said the MoU will include enhancing the capacity of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) to build on its pandemic management potential at a cost of Ksh3 billion. To strengthen the partnership between the two countries in defence, an agreement on Defence Cooperation was also signed. This makes Kenya the first African country to sign a defence pact with Japan. The President acknowledged Japan’s support for the completion of Phase

II of the Mwea Irrigation Scheme and the National Rice Masterplan. President Ruto witnessed the signing of the bilateral agreements on Thursday after holding talks with Prime Minister Kishida of Japan.

Ministry Set To Host Digital Transformation Public Sector Forum

By: Rachael Kilonzo
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Information Communications and the Digital Economy, in partnership with Greydale Africa, is set to host the Digital Transformation Public Sector (DTPS) Forum and Awards on February 22nd and 23rd this year, at the Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa. The forum, which will be graced by Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo, has been sponsored by Amazon Web Services, Computer Revolution Africa, and Intel, among other key development partners. Speaking during a press briefing held at the Ministry Headquarters at Telposta Towers, Nairobi, the ICT and the Digital Economy, Principal Secretary Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui, noted that the forum, which is the first of its kind, will showcase

successful digital achievements and solutions in government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA’s). “It will provide a convening platform for all tech experts in the public and private sectors, equipping public officers with skills and knowledge, promoting effective service delivery, and fast-tracking digital transformation. The event will recognise those who have made significant achievements in the digital transformation agenda,” added Eng.Tanui. He further underscored that the awards celebrate excellence in Public Sector Digital transformation and aim to recognise public sector organisations that are continuously leveraging on technology, to improve effectiveness, transparency, and service delivery. “Additionally, the forum will create a transparent environment for leaders to openly discuss challenges faced during the digitalization process, fostering a collaborative approach towards finding effective solutions,



ICT Principal Secretary (PS), Engineer John Tanui (right), shakes hand with Computer Revolution Africa Group, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Simon Kinuthia, during a media briefing on the forthcoming Digital Awareness Conference, to be held in Mombasa from 22nd to 23rd February 2024. The Conference will deliberate on digital Transformation. The PS said the government was committed to connect all parts of the country with fiber optic. Looking on (center) is the Marketing and Communications Managing Partner, Greddale Africa, Ms Lavinniah Mwongera. Thursday 8th February 2024 . Photo by Bonface Malinda.

“At this forum, we want to identify the different gaps in institutional capacity and explore various strategies to strengthen the digital capabilities of public institutions, ensuring they are well equipped for a fully digitalized government,” said Tanui. In attendance were Greydale Africa Managing Director, Ms. Lavinniah Muthoni Mwongera; Regional Lead (WWPS) West, East, and Central Africa; Amazon Web Services, Mr. Robin Njiru; and Revolution Africa CEO, Simon Kinuthia.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi To Mobilize For Tougher Laws To Deal With Illicit

By: WILLIAM MUCHIRI and OSDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has vowed to mobilize for tougher measures that will deal with those selling illicit brews which she termed as poisons.

While mourning the death of more than 10 people and others while others went blind in Kirinyaga County Pastor Dorcas said the law has been lenient on those arrested for selling or distributing illicit brews, drugs and substance abuse in the country.

Her sentiments comes after it emerged that the owner of the bar that sold the brew in Kangai Village John Muriithi Karaya alias ‘California’ has been arrested severally but released on cash bail every time he is arraigned in court.

“Even if it means legislating very serious laws that will be able to mitigate such cases, I am willing to mobilize and make sure that we are not losing our men,” she said,

She has decried that the Mt. Kenya region has lost far too many men due to illicit brews, something she says should not be tolerated.

“We have so many widows around and that means there are so many households without coverings (men). I think it is time we say no to this. Those who are making these poisons better be served notice they better look for other business, because we will not allow them to kill our children as we watch,” she added.

She was speaking in Ngorano Village, Mathira, Nyeri County in the company of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua where she is coming up with a Health Village.

The Health Village will be used to rehabilitate some of the addicts from across the country.

It will also include other facilities such as a health center, sporting academy, a TVET, Agribusiness space among others.

She was also accompanied by among others; area MP Eric Wamumbi, Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka.



Second Lady Pastor Dorcas Rigathi shaking hands with Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka who was among the leaders who welcomed her and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at Ngorano area where a Health Village is being set up..

Choices / Decisions Pt 2



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Remember the story of the young rich man, who came to Jesus and asked how he would inherit eternal life? Jesus, filled with compassion and love told him that he was was left with one thing to do: “ give out his possessions, take up the cross and follow him” The man went away saddened and grieved; He wanted Christ, but wanted his money more.

The TV/ internet can also become an idol, we become fixated on that box or that internet, and it influences a lot in your life. It is “The cross before the crown”, some want the crown, before the cross! It ain’t possible. Some say, “I will follow my conscience” , but some are dead in their conscience!; controlled by evil spirits, and in their own wisdom and mindset, tell themselves they are ok! Some say, I do good deeds, God will understand, I will do better, I will reform; BUT THE ONLY WAY IS TO

COME TO THE CROSS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TAKE OVER. The Scriptures say “ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it(Matthew 7: 13-14).”

All through out the Bible: Choices, choices, choices. You will also have to make the choice who is your father: Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees, a Scripture every person should ponder and relate to when living : “.. “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but HE sent me. [43] Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! [44]For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies(John 8:42-44).”

Jesus Christ is the STAIRWAY AND GATEWAY TO HEAVEN. In my Father, there are many mansion, if it



were not so, I will let you know” Man is a social being, and enjoys good company, interacts where he can, but there is a inward, lonely arena, where he has to make choices on his own. Moses said, “ [19]“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness THE CHOICE YOU MAKE. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

(Deuteronomy 30:19).” The blood of Christ Jesus, cleanses us all our sins. He forgives us all sins; offers JUSTIFICATION(Just as if you never sinned), and God forgets all our sins. Christ Jesus is the RIGHT CHOICE, TODAY, any day, and do NOT postpone.

Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as

your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

Ruto's State Visit To Japan, Kenya Reaps Big



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

President William Ruto is currently making a state visit in Japan. This visit was long overdue as it is meant to strengthen economic and social ties between the two countries.

Japan is Kenya's development partner and the history of partnership dates back to 60 years.

Kenya has once again reaped big from the head of state's trip to Japan.

He has so far signed deals worth Sh350 billion. A huge chunk of the monies will go towards to boosting Agriculture, Trade and Investment sectors.

This time, I have not heard the opposition leaders making usual political noises.

This is because of realization that Kenyans were no longer believing their narrative that the visits were of no benefit to them and amounted to wastage of their taxes.

President William Ruto would not drop the ball or get distracted by the noises.

The Japan's visit have once again proved that he was truly committed to walk the talk. This is in terms of strengthening ties and creating new linkages with community of the world.

He fully understands the importance of these engagements. As a developing country, Kenya cannot be able to raise and generate enough financial resources for the implementation of mega development projects and provision of other crucial and critical services to Kenyans.

As we recall, the Kenya Kwanza ascended to power on a platform of a raft of pre-election promises.

President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua have been reiterating they were committed to fulfill them. They have so far made great strides.

Sometimes back DP Gachagua stated that we are not able to raise enough resources and so these big projects we have been launching are funded by our foreign development partners and donors.

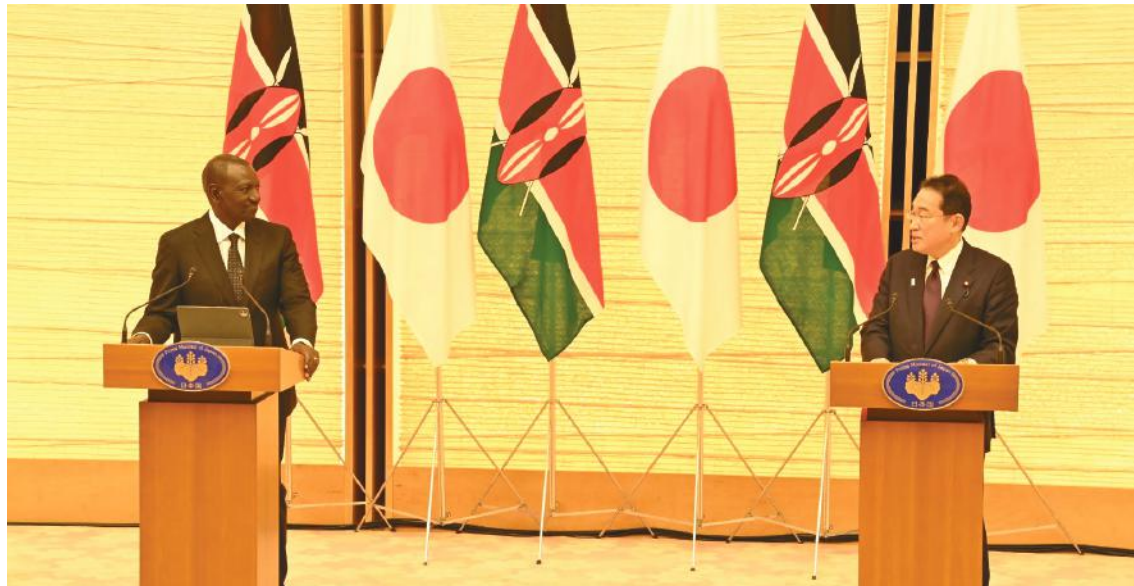
He spoke in the presence of the President in Coast during a launch of a Sh3 billion project. This is one of such projects.

The DP repeated the same sentiments during Kapsaita cross country marathon where he was a chief guest.

He had been invited by Farouk Kibet, President William Ruto's top aide, to this event in Uasin Gishu county.

Ignore those claiming that President Ruto was making too many foreign travels.

They were our political enemies. They want us to fail so that they can use this card to discredit our leadership. But we



President William Ruto and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

are clever than them.

We inherited a government that had been run down. For one year, we have made great progress. I'm sure you now agree with me that things are starting to get better.

The DP further stated: President Ruto is the father of our nation.

Given that this is the position held by the world leaders, the President was obligated to honor their respective invitations.

If he failed, Kenya would not have been considered for the loans and grants. The signing of the agreements are preceded by the bilateral, multilateral, commercial banks talks.

Besides, President Ruto's commitment to the course of Pan-African agenda and climate change has in the recent past thrust him into international limelight.

I recall when he first jetted out to Dubai, United Arab Emirate, to attend United Nations Conference of State Parties on Climate Change (COP28).

He ably presented the narrative and position of Africa. He had earlier convened the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi. Dubbed Nairobi declaration, the Africa heads of state government had chosen him to push for the adoption of blueprint at COP28.

Dr Ruto would not let them down. Most of the resolutions were adopted without any amendment.

On the sidelines of Dubai summit, Ruto signed agreements and deals worth Sh680 billions for Kenya. The lion share of the funds will go towards mitigating effects of climate change. With this, Kenya is set to become the pioneer in Africa Green Industrialization Initiative.

From Dubai, President Ruto flew to India for a two-day maiden state visit. He was accorded a warm reception. After being received and welcomed by his host Her Excellency and Prime Minister Nehru Modi, he inspected a guard of honor mounted by Indian military.

After this, they proceeded for bilateral talk. The talks bore the fruits. President Ruto managed to secure Sh38 billion for Kenya. The money will boost key

sectors of our economy including agriculture, health, education and digital economy.

Dr Ruto had a month earlier made a state visit to Germany and later France.

This came hot on the heels of bilateral talks he had held with the President of Germany here in Nairobi.

He had also met the President of France. Two of these meetings took place on the sidelines of Global Conference of Parties on Climate change and United Nation General Assembly (UNGA).

The problem of unemployment in Kenya featured prominently in all these meetings.

Dr Ruto would mince no word in drawing the attention of these leaders to this issue.

In response, the President of Germany assured him that his country will offer Kenya 200,000 jobs opportunities. I'm going to sit down with my government so that we draft the agreement.

Then Mr President William Ruto we will invite you for a state visit during which we will sign the final agreements which will pave the way for Kenyans to start working in Germany.

Before flying out, President Ruto informed Kenyans that this is one of issues taking him there.

Many people have no jobs. I promised to address this problem which i inherited from the previous administration. I'm committed to walk the talk.

President Ruto had a few days earlier visited Saudi Arabia where he managed to secure 350,000 job opportunities for Kenyans.

The noise being made by my critics that the visits are not bearing any fruits is hollow, totally misleading and being made in bad faith. I'm not a tourist. I mean business. The business is to return our economy back on track and consequently elevate your leaving standards.

You know these critics. They want me to fail and capitalize on this that i never kept my words during the campaigns for next General Election.

The other day Weega TV, a Kikuyu

station, hosted me for a political show. One of the questions that came up was whether Dr Ruto's frequent foreign travels were bearing fruits.

My response: Kenya is reaping big from these visits and they were within the mandate bestowed on the President by the constitution.

As the CEO of this nation, the President had no option but to honor the invitations from the heads of states of the developed and rich nations.

It is worth noting when President Uhuru Kenyatta ascended to power, he also made similar trips.

Those faulting Dr Ruto today did not raise a finger at the time. This is because Uhuru was thier buddy.

Recently, President Ruto made a high profile official visit to China where he stayed for three days. It was the first since he assumed office.

Just like his previous visits to European countries, he managed to secure lucrative deals worth Sh63 billion.

Under this arrangement, China will buy our avocados, tea, coffee and other farm produce.

He also convinced Chinese companies to rollout investments worth Sh644 billions in Kenya.

This trip came at a time when speculations were rife that he had shunned the East in favor of the West, a narrative peddled by those who cited his numerous visits to the Western capitals.

To me, it is too early to judge him. Dr Ruto is a democrat and a strong believer in the Kenyan constitution and the rule of law. So, he cannot make such a decision without seeking concurrence of the relevant arms of the Kenyan government.

It is worth noting that former President Mwai Kibaki laid the foundation that saw Kenya turning East and sought to strengthen ties with China.

As a result, China was awarded contracts worth billions of shillings.

Thika Superhighway, Lamu Port and Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) were among the major projects clinched by the Asian giant.

Kibaki's successor President Uhuru

Kenyatta followed the suit.

On SGR, he managed to negotiate for a whopping contractual loan totalling to Sh370 billion.

The monies were used to construct the new modern line from Mombasa to Nairobi and to buy the rolling stocks.

For President Ruto, my considered view is that his wish is to maintain cordial relationship with all development partners.

In this maiden visit, President Ruto joined more than 100 heads of state and government invited by the President of China to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

During his tenure, President Uhuru used to attend these forum.

In one of them, he was accompanied by ODM leader Raila Odinga. This was during the reign of the 'Handshake' government.

Dr Ruto had a busy schedule during this visit. On the sidelines, he held talks with chief executives of the big companies.

Other deals he witnessed being signed covered strategic areas of mutual interest including energy and technology.

One of the firms agreed to help Kenya generate more energy at a lower cost. With this, hustlers in Kenya have a reason to smile as this would lead to lowering of the cost of electricity.

On technology, Ruto's interventions were equally fruitful. The cost of the communication gadgets and internet services was bound to come down.

On SGR, I'm sure many recalls that this was a government-to- government deal. It follows that some of the key contents of agreement were not made the public.

The content become the top secret of Uhuru's administration.

We recall that during this period the relationship between Uhuru his deputy Ruto had began to worsen. It did not take long before the implosion preceded by the 'handshake' between the President Uhuru and his arch rival Raila Odinga occurred.

From then, Dr Ruto was kept in darkness. Uhuru would not share critical information about the SGR project

It is worth noting that during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi, the West stood as Kenya's key development partners.

I have been listening to the powerful speeches Dr Ruto had been making when the Presidents of Western countries invited him. He would boldly champion the course of Kenyans and that of Pan Africanism.

Given this scenerio, the President would not shy working with the partners who gave us better deals.

For the contracts, the government would always consider the firms that offer better terms. The cost of the project. But the quality of the work would surpass all the considerations.

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

Say No To Lesbianism, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Tells Girls

By: WILLIAM MUCHIRI and OSDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has urged the students to avoid any company that can lead them to lesbianism. Speaking when she addressed the students of Tumutumu Girls High School in Nyeri County yesterday, Pastor Dorcas noted that their decision in school will determine their future.

“As you are making the right decision and using your time properly, make sure you are in the right company and getting the right counsel. If you receive the wrong information and start those things I hear of girls with girls, that’s destroying your future. You must never get there “ she told the attentive girls.

Pastor Dorcas observed that when she looks at the girls in High schools, she sees the future of the nation and therefore they must remain focused.

“If you are going to represent the female kind you must maintain righteousness, morality and ethics, you cannot afford to go wayward. Many people will come with all manner of counsel and substance to use, but remain focused,” she told the 1,600 girls at the Mathira constituency based institution.

She also urged them to make the right decisions that will result in success.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi with some of the Tumutumu Girls Secondary School staff and management team

Nakuru Farmers Get Market Linkage

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themkenyatimes

Nakuru County in collaboration with World Vision has held a farmer market linkages exhibition, where farmers got an opportunity to meet various stakeholders in the agricultural sector in Visoi Ward, Rongai Sub-County.

The exhibition also provided one-stop extension services for farmers on environmental conservation, sustainable farming practices, emerging innovations, and technology.

The County Agriculture Chief Officer Newton Mwaura appreciated the collaboration with World Vision, noting that the administration is committed to fostering the relationship with stakeholders to improve farmers’ livelihoods across the County.

Mwaura said the County is committed to ensuring the reduced cost of production through the last mile delivery of fertilizer program in the

County, by ensuring that all farmers are registered, and encouraged to prepare their farms on time for planting.

He noted that strengthening market linkages was vital for reducing post-harvest losses, creating a more equitable distribution of power within the supply chain, encouraging investment, and advancing agricultural practices.

Additionally, he said strengthening market linkages was not only beneficial to all stakeholders across the food supply chain, but it ensures that farmers are aware of their customers’ needs, and plant what sells faster than the current presumptions.

Apart from that, the Chief Officer said over 75 percent of Kenyans rely on agriculture to make a living, and most of these are smallholder farmers, who cultivate small parcels of land, are unsupported in production, and are isolated from the markets. Hence, the a need to link them to markets and enable them to make profits.

The farmers’ leader at the Rongai



Buyers engaging traders in the market.

Sub County Mrs. Agnes Rono, decried the higher cost of inputs than the prices that the farmers receive from the sale of their produce, which often equals, or is less than their cost of production.

She urged all Counties to support farmers to get quick, and reliable markets, and if possible, agree on prices even before planting for the linked markets, otherwise, farmers might continuously stay in a trapped cycle of poverty due to a lack of fair markets.

Kisii Woman Rep Dorice Donya Expresses Concern Over Rising Insecurity as NGAFF Vehicle Stoned During Burial Event

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyetimes

A group of women in Kisii County has strongly condemned the recent attack on a National Government Affirmative Action Funds (NGAAF) vehicle. The incident occurred during the burial of Daniel Ondari in Machoge Chache, where various leaders were in attendance. Reportedly, the attack transpired while Kisii Woman Representative, Donya Toto, was addressing mourners and distributing contributions from South Mugirango MP, Sylvenus Osoro. Addressing the press, Kisii Woman Representative, Donya, lamented the insecurity prevalent in the county and urged immediate action from security officers. She emphasized that certain leaders are aware of the escalating insecurity but have failed to address it, instead



Kisii woman rep Dorice Donya addressing the press over the insecurity issues in the county after NGAFF vehicle was stoned. Photo | Elizabeth Angira

choosing to fuel division and incite the public. Donya highlighted recent incidents of thuggery and attacks on innocent civilians, attributing them to known instigators who have not faced consequences. She expressed concern that such occurrences tarnish Kisii County's reputation as a welcoming environment and called for heightened security measures. Expressing solidarity, Kisii nominated Member of the County Assembly,

Ednah Kwamboka, stressed the disproportionate impact of insecurity on women, labeling attacks on them as particularly egregious. She emphasized the pivotal role women play in maintaining peace and urged swift action to ensure their safety. "When women are attacked it is a sign or disrespect to them," she said. Joyce Kemunto, a local businessperson, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing Donya's support in empowering women. She warned that attacks on Donya could hinder grassroots efforts and called for urgent government intervention to safeguard women and children. "Our women have been so supportive to use, let's show respect to her," Kemunto said. In response to the incident, Donya disclosed that they have reported the matter to Ogembo police station and urged expedited investigations. She appealed for unity among leaders to prioritize the county's development and address pressing security concerns. Their sentiments were echoed by Hoffman Ondieki, the Coordinator of the Kisii County Contractors Association, emphasized the cultural values of the Abagusii community, stating that it is fundamentally wrong to attack women, emphasizing that women should be protected. He strongly condemned the recent attack on the woman representative and called for the perpetrators to be apprehended and brought to justice. Ondieki emphasized the unethical nature of such attacks, particularly during solemn occasions like burial ceremonies. He stressed the importance of respecting bereaved families and decried the behavior as unacceptable. Ondieki also urged the youth not to be manipulated by self-serving leaders for their own gain, emphasizing the need for responsible conduct and unity within the community.

Kenya Society For Deaf Children Calls On Government To Increase Capitation In Deaf Schools

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

On Friday last week Kenya Society for Deaf Children (KSDC) issued bursary disbursement for children coming from humble backgrounds. This momentum was enhanced to improve quality education to needy impaired hearing children. The Society for Deaf Children lead by its Director Rhoda Kabiti, urged government to increase capitation in deaf Schools to allow seamless transitions especially in junior secondary schools. The exceptional organization had one hundred and forty one schools country wide spread across forty six counties. Narok County is the only county without school of deaf. The society work with private donor in order to improve the quality

education, provide better living and protection of their rights in the country. The society is facing a big challenge in education sector, few teachers in deaf schools is one dispute that contribute to poor performance and increase in number of school drop outs. John Gachanja the Kenya Society for Deaf Children program coordinator calls on the government, to tightly support the deaf children high education by increasing technical schools. Kenya has few technical institutes for deaf which is a big challenge. Karen Technical Training Institute, KaagaTechnical and Vocational Training Center for Deaf, Sikri Technical and Vocational Training etc. Beth Kendi an employee at Kenya Society for Deaf Children in education health and social wellbeing call on government to strongly put measures on sexual offenders who impregnate young school girls. Schools for deaf in the country have more early pregnancies and school drop outs than regular schools.

Society for Deaf Children Director Rhoda Kabiti.



My Job Is A Teacher



In a world of knowledge, where minds are set free,
A noble profession, a teacher, that's me.
With passion and purpose, I step through the door,
To mold young minds, forevermore.

In classrooms filled with curiosity and glee,
I embark on a journey, to help them see,
The wonders of learning, the joy it brings,
Unleashing their potential, like soaring wings.

With patience and care, I guide their way,
Nurturing their growth, day by day.
I ignite their minds, like a flame ablaze,
Opening their hearts to endless ways.

Through words and stories, I paint a scene,
Inspiring their dreams, like a timeless dream.

I impart knowledge, like a cherished gift,
Planting seeds of wisdom, spirits to uplift.

In the realm of education, I hold the key,
To unlock their minds, and set them free.
I am a teacher, shaping futures bright,
Empowering young souls, with all my might.

Through trials and triumphs, I never cease,
To believe in their potential, their inner peace.

For in their success, my purpose is found,
A teacher's impact, forever profound.

So let us celebrate the noble role we bear,
As teachers, with hearts full of care.
For in shaping minds, we shape the world,
Guiding future generations, as they unfurl.

My job is a teacher, a calling so grand,
To lead, inspire, and lend a helping hand.
With passion and dedication, I'll always be,
A beacon of knowledge, for all to see.

Soibnazarov Navruz
Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, Faculty
of Foreign Languages, Teacher of the
Department of English Language Practical
Course

About My Name



By: Abdurasulov Nuriddinjon Sharofjon o'g'li

In the land of dreams, where passions ignite,
There stands a soul, shining so bright.
Abdurasulov, a name that carries pride,
A story of ambition, reaching far and wide.

Born on a November day, in Jizzakh's embrace,
A place where memories forever trace.
Son of Nuriddinjon Sharofjon, a heritage strong,
A legacy of resilience, that will forever belong.

From the 41st school, where knowledge did bloom,
To the Jizzakh Regional Law College, a step towards the moon.
With ambition and activeness, he stood tall,
In public affairs, he answered the call.

Graduating from Juridical College, with

determination in sight,
Admitted to Jizzakh State Pedagogical,
shining with light.
A 4th-year student, at the Faculty of
Foreign Languages,
Nuriddinjon's journey, filled with boundless
advantages.

A creative spirit, with a mind so keen,
Crossword puzzles and stories, his creative scene.

Published in newspapers, magazines, and
websites wide,
His words reaching hearts, far and wide.

Winner of "BEST CREATIVE STUDENT OF
THE YEAR",

A testament to his talent, so clear.
Active in public works, a voice for the youth,
Guiding others, revealing the truth.

As a member of UzLiDeP, his impact profound,
A beacon of change, forever renowned.
Coordinator of IQTIDOR 2023, a project so grand,

An example to many, lending a helping hand.

Abdurasulov, a name that echoes with pride,
A journey of passion, with no limits to hide.
May your dreams continue to soar and inspire,
Guided by your ambition, reaching higher and higher

Golden Pages Of Life. . .



By: Olimova Shahnoza Nazimjanovna

Each story begins with different adventures, but in the end absolutely, has a happy ending. There are different adventures in this story, but I can say for sure that my story also has a happy ending. Stories begin in different ways: once upon a time. . or they begin with artistic words.

I want to start my story with a simple word: "let's begin".

In January of Emerald Winter, Queen presented another princess to the king. It was the second queen of the palace, the first queen was a beautiful, world-class beauty named Sena.

The king named this princess Yuna, which means "Light of God."

After that, Yuna grew up to be a smart, perceptive, talented and intelligent girl who can show herself in all fields. He learned a lot from his family environment, his parents and of course his sister, as his parents were from a smart and intelligent royal family and his sister Sena was a businesslady.

After Yuna, Queen gave birth to two more daughters, Kinv named one daughter Lisa and the other Rose. The third daughter also grew up to be intelligent and very talented, according to her name, people called her "the queen of dancing", because Lisa was a talented girl who perfectly mastered the dances of the whole world.

The fourth daughter, Rose, was like a white flower and grew up to be an unprecedentedly intelligent doctor. At this moment, you must be thinking that because they live in the palace

without difficulty, they will definitely achieve such achievements.

No! of course not! don't think like that, Let's continue the story.

You don't know how many roads the princesses had to go through to get to this level, how many hardships they went through.

For example, the King and Queen faced many trials for their studies for so many years, even the King fell seriously ill for a year, but the Queen did not lose heart and did great things for the future of her children.

Moreover, Sena did not use the palace funds to maintain the kingdom; he tried to meet his own needs, even the needs of his sisters. At the same time, she studied and worked, and now she is the head of a large company and the best business lady. Yuna, who has no equal in intelligence, used her knowledge to help her people, opened a school and started teaching children. Now he is recognized as the best and dedicated teacher in more than a thousand countries.

Lisa opened a dance school for children's health from her foundation. Currently, more than a thousand students are studying here and more than 30 dance schools are operating.

Finally, Rose treated every sick person in his people for free. Now he is the most perfect doctor and owns more than 20 hospitals.

So, they became the happiest and most enviable family, their family is the best and perfect family in the world. . .

So you may be thinking that it's just money, but know that all doors open to a knowledgeable person, so I say to all people, let's look for opportunities, not excuses.

Some of this story is true, some of it is a dream, but it is not a lie, because a scientist said "a dream is your future self, a dream is a mirror of your future, just try a little and it will be" said. Let's not stop dreaming for this and just set a clear and good goal ahead, your dreams, future and knowledge will lead you in the right direction.

In this story, the King is my Father:
KOCHKAROV NAZIMJAN
Queen my mother: INAMOVA NARGIZA
Sena my sister: AZIZA
Lisa my sister : MADINA
Rose my sister: MASHXURA
And YUNA I was Olimova Shahnoza.

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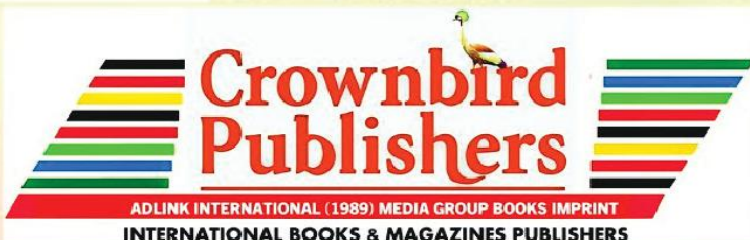
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BUSINESS

The Growing Importance Of Privacy Amongst Customers And How Businesses Should Cater To It

By: Veerakumar Natarajan
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Data Protection Act of 2019, enforced by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), regulates data protection in Kenya. The act expressly prohibits organisations from processing personal data if their consent has not been provided first. Each organisation must have a data controller and/or a data processor whose responsibility is to prove they've obtained consent before processing a person's data.
- Nigeria's Data Protection Act, meanwhile, was signed into law in 2023. The act governs both manual and automatic data processing. The act also established the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), which is an independent body that governs data protection and regulation in the country.

Privacy is a growing concern for technology consumers worldwide. While there was a time when that may not have been the case for countries like Nigeria and Kenya, that's no longer the reality. As connectivity becomes more affordable and ubiquitous, Kenyans and Nigerians have become increasingly tech-savvy and conscious regarding how much data they share with technology companies and what the latter are doing with it.

In the face of these growing concerns, companies operating in Africa need to be mindful of the increasing privacy mindset of their customers. Aside from regulatory compliance, companies should actively demonstrate that they care about their customers' privacy concerns in order to build and sustain trust and to show they're taking a proactive approach to protect their personal information.

The importance of regulatory compliance

The first step any company should take to safeguard their customers' privacy is ensuring they're compliant with all of the relevant laws and regulations. In countries like Kenya and Nigeria, data protection regulations are relatively new.

The Data Protection Act of 2019, enforced by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), regulates data protection in Kenya. The act expressly prohibits organisations from processing personal data if their consent has not been provided first. Each organisation must have a data controller and/or a data processor whose responsibility is to prove they've obtained consent before processing a person's data.

Nigeria's Data Protection Act, meanwhile, was signed into law in 2023. The act governs both manual and automatic data processing. The act also established the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), which is an independent body that governs data protection and regulation in the country. In addition to defining sensitive personal data as including an individual's genetic and biometric data as well as their race, ethnicity, and health status, among other things, the act also provides specific grounds for the processing of this sensitive personal data. According to the act, such data can be processed where consent is provided or where processing is necessary for social security or



Veerakumar Natarajan, Country Head - Kenya, Zoho Corp.

employment laws.

Both of these laws are in line with similar laws and regulations around the world, such as Europe's GDPR. That means they're not only a good place for Nigerian and Kenyan businesses to start for compliance, but they also help businesses gain good footing when it comes to protecting customer data should they start operating internationally.

Beyond compliance

Companies should, however, view regulatory compliance as the bare minimum when it comes to meeting their customers' privacy needs. Given the parlous state of privacy protection across many African countries, going above and beyond with customer privacy can be a positive differentiator for companies that get it right.

Among the initiatives they can undertake in this direction are investing in data center security to minimise the collection of data, requesting permission from customers while collecting sensitive information, and ultimately reducing their reliance on selling

user data for revenue gains. Another initiative that organisations can implement is implementing multi-factor authentication if they require customers to log in to an account to access their products and services.

Another aspect that businesses should pay close attention to is which technology vendor they work with to run their internal operations. Businesses should ensure the third-party tech tools they deploy within their IT infrastructure also come with strong data privacy and protection controls, and the corresponding vendors also practice transparent data collection practices. Should one of these vendors fall victim to a cybersecurity breach, the customer data of the organisations using it could easily fall into nefarious hands.

Businesses should, therefore, ensure they make use of software providers and vendors that are, themselves, compliant with all the relevant privacy laws and regulations, and offer a comprehensive set of security measures and procedures, including controlled user access, enterprise

mobility management (EMM) integration, IP restrictions, and secure integrations.

Riding the positives of proactive protection

While there are many negatives associated with data protection failures, including reputational damage and legal punishments, it's also important that organisations understand the positives associated with proactive data protection.

High up on the list of those positives is building trust. Customers who trust the companies they buy from are more likely to be loyal in the long term, make repeat purchases in the future, and act as evangelists to others. At a time when customers are increasingly concerned about data privacy, building that trust is more difficult, but also more rewarding than ever. It, in other words, is something worth investing in.



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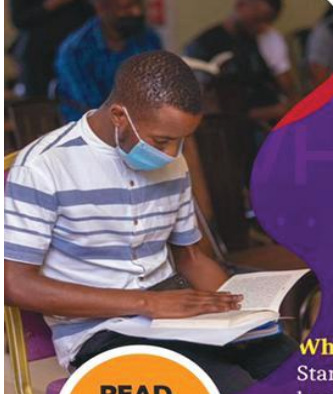


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- * Clearly indicate your full name and school

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

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CS Urges Education Officials To Share Information

By: Joseph Kamolo Mutua
@themkenyentimes



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu addressing stakeholders

Worth Noting:

- The Education minister noted that the Kenya Kwanza administration was determined to implement her pre-election pledges including ensuring even the funding that is supposed to come to each sector is available taking into consideration the very tight fiscal state and economic constraints in the country.
- The amount the government allocated in January alone was Sh67 Billion for the Ministry from Basic Education, Technical, and Vocational Education Training up to university.
- "Sometimes when I look at the media and around the regions people are quiet, Right from regional directors of education they don't publicize what the government is doing and even the disbursements of funds," lamented the CS.

Education officials have been obliged to exercise the constitutional mandate to share information to publicize and seal the communication gap in its programmes.

Article 35 of the Constitution on access to information guarantees every citizen the right of access to information held by the State.

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu urged education officials to share information to enlighten the public including education stakeholders on the work the ministry of education is doing.

"Every one of us including our Regional, County, and Sub County Directors of education, I want to sound a reminder because it is not only me and the PSs and even at the level of The Presidency to be able to inform the people of Kenya what is happening in the education sector," said CS Machogu

The Ministry of Education is committed to continue improving access and participation, equity and inclusivity, quality and relevance, transition, retention, and completion in all levels of education including dealing with cross-cutting, pertinent and, contemporary issues in the sector.

"What I am saying is let us share information. Anything we discuss it is not only for our own domain but should also share the public information to all levels in the country," Machogu reiterated.

The Education minister noted that the Kenya Kwanza administration was determined to implement her pre-election pledges including ensuring even the funding that is supposed to come to each sector is available taking into consideration the very tight fiscal state and economic constraints in the country.

The amount the government allocated in January alone was Sh67 Billion for the Ministry from Basic Education, Technical, and Vocational Education Training up to university.

"Sometimes when I look at the media and around the regions people are quiet, Right from regional directors of education they don't publicize what the government is doing and even the disbursements of funds," lamented the CS.

He urged his education officials spread across the country to make sure they share information to the lowest levels since it is by so doing that the people will be able to appreciate what the Kenya Government is doing.

Machogu warned that if propaganda is allowed to come in like a shortage of funding, leaving him and the PS to come out with information will create a vacuum saying when there is a vacuum in communication people will listen to just anything.

"As we get anything kindly share it out so that people including union officials come to know and appreciate

what the government can do." The CS was quoted.

He was surprised how allegedly some schools were going against the government directive through the circular issued by the PS on charging illegal levies are being escalated to the president yet it can be dealt with locally.

Machogu called on Regional and County directors of education to diligently deliver on their duties and furnish his office and members of the public with information on important matters affecting schools in their areas.

He tasked the education heads to make sure they give feedback from the circular issued by the PS to enable the office to hold everyone accountable to allow the National Education Sector Strategy Plan (NESSP) document to be useful.

The CS clarified that the e-Citizen plan for payment of fees will be reflected in all the schools leaving no gaps in management for accountability, transparency, and openness saying this is the best thing for the country.

Digital labs number 124 in TVET institutions to get to 238 before the end of the year calling on education officials to share such information.

The Education CS defended the president's flights to other countries as going to get opportunities for the young people because the online jobs in American and European compa-

nies are available and the young people with technological digital competence skills are now accessing these jobs.

The amount of training given so far is 390 youth while those earning are 120 with knowledge and confidence to start earning.

This is a game changer something that is revolutionary and transformative which is going to offer solutions to unemployment in this country but people do not know about it since the field officers did not share the information.

In Meru for example, one of the youths a girl who was unemployed for years since graduating from university in 2017 trained for the one-month digital training where she now earns over Sh120,000 monthly from online work.

This information needs to be escalated to the Universities such that they earn while learning since it does not interrupt one with a computer needs only two hours a day to enter into the league of earning while learning.

Opportunities such as The National Open University of Kenya expected 5000 plus enrolment by now, but only 1500 have enrolled because the people in the field are not giving information to the public that qualify for degrees in the university from the comfort of their homes.

No Withdrawal Code When Sending Money After CBK Customer Journey Alignment

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Airtel Money customers can now receive money directly into their mobile money wallet from any network without the withdrawal code that carried 7-day validity. This development effected on February 6, 2024 comes in response to the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and industry players' collaborative efforts to ensure seamless mobile money interoperability as outlined in the CBK National Payments Strategy 2022-2025.

The National Payments Strategy requires all mobile money providers to ensure a seamless customer journey across their different channels – Sim Menu, USSD Menu and App to allow on-network and off-network direct transactions. This will ensure secure, fast, efficient and collaborative payments system that supports financial inclusion and innovation that benefits Kenyans with these

changes, a customer registered on any mobile money platform can now send money directly to the recipients' wallet. This will apply to any amount as low as Kshs 1 and as high as Kshs 250,000 per transaction daily.

A customer sending money through the Sim Menu, USSD Menu *334# or the App will now simply select 'Send Money' to any Network, enter the number of the recipient to complete the transaction which will immediately reflect in the wallet of the recipient - without a withdrawal code.

Commenting on the new development, Airtel Money Managing Director, Anne Kinuthia-Otieno said, "The new streamlined process supported by the Central Bank is very welcome and a big benefit to Kenyans as customers will now enjoy seamless experience at affordable costs when sending money across networks - regardless of the channel they are using. Sending Money is the biggest use case in Kenya and having a seamless, direct wallet to wallet

transfer of money across networks is a big benefit to Kenyans. This is a sign of customer centricity, growth and innovation in the industry.

At Airtel Money, our focus is to provide the most affordable and customer centric services in the market including free to send money Airtel to Airtel, free transaction fees on KPLC payment, instant reimbursement of cashout fees as airtime among many other benefits for our valued customers".

On his part, Airtel Kenya Managing Director Ashish Malhotra added, "This is a major benefit for Kenyans as they can now enjoy the convenience of real-time transactions which has cut out limiting user intermediary steps. In addition, the mobile money market will expand by allowing easy movement of money and enhance financial inclusion for all. I would also like to thank the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on the steps taken to ensure a smooth transition on the new guidelines."

The power of interoperability



demonstrates how collaborative efforts among mobile money operators, regulators and the government can drive comprehensive, customer centric and reliable financial services for all.

UFAA Unveils Ambitious Five-Year Strategic Plan

By: Francis Ochieng
@themkenyatimes

The Unclaimed Financial Asset Authority (UFAA) has launched its Third Generation Strategic Plan 2023-2028 that will guide the operations of the organization for the next five years.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2028 is aligned to the fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV), Sustainable Development Goals, the Kenya Vision 2030 and Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Speaking during the official launch, the Principal Secretary, the National Treasury and Economic Planning Dr, Chris Kiptoo said the Unclaimed Financial Assets management has been recognized in the fourth Medium Term Plan as a key enabler of financial inclusion under the Financial Services Sector plan.

"A total of Kshs 62.34 billion of unclaimed financial assets have been received from holders - comprising of 1.7 billion units of shares and cash - out of which over 29,070 claimants have been reunified a total sum of Kshs 2.03 billion," he said during

the launch of the strategic plan at a Nairobi hotel.

The Principal Secretary said there was need to review the regulatory framework of unclaimed assets in the same manner in which many countries around the world who have enacted laws that govern the management of unclaimed assets have done.

"The government is addressing the gaps in the policy framework because supportive legal and policy framework is a key ingredient for the Authority to deliver on its mandate," he added.

Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority Chairman Dr CPA Francis Kigo Njenga said that the strategic plan seeks to achieve four key objectives namely to enhance holders' compliance in declaration and surrender of unclaimed financial assets, strengthen accountability and sustainability in safeguarding unclaimed financial assets and other financial resources, increase the reunification rate of unclaimed financial assets with the rightful owners as well as strengthen the Authority's institutional capacity.

"This commitment to the Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority and its mission lends credence to en-



UFAA Chairman Dr Hon Kigo Njenga

during hope that the Authority will secure a stable and prosperous future for its stakeholders over the next five years," he said.

He said the organization will scale-up its leverage on technology, partnerships, and innovation not only in making service delivery to our stakeholders effectively and efficiently, but also in benefiting society

by institutional conduct.

He said that Kshs 241 billion in unclaimed financial assets were still unreported to the Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority by public agencies and private firms.

Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority Chief Executive Officer & Managing Trustee FA John K. Mwangi said the Strategic Plan

2023-2028 will enable UFAA to take 14 days to process and pay fully supported claims by the original owner – down from 30 days. It will also take 50 days to process and pay fully supported beneficiary claims down from 90 days.

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Sports >> *The fourth edition of the Magical Kenya Ladies Open teed-off on Thursday at the par-73 PGA Baobab course, Vipingo Ridge in Kilifi where England's Eleanor Givens, South Africa's Cara Gorlei, and 23-year-old Lauren Walsh from Ireland carded 4-under par 69 to end the day in a three-way share of the lead.

Magical Kenya Ladies Open: Three-Way Share Of The Lead After Round One In Vipingo



England's Eleanor Givens in round one action during the 2024 Magical Kenya Ladies Open..

By Agencies

The fourth edition of the Magical Kenya Ladies Open teed-off on Thursday at the par-73 PGA Baobab course, Vipingo Ridge in Kilifi where England's Eleanor Givens, South Africa's Cara Gorlei, and 23-year-old Lauren Walsh from Ireland carded 4-under par 69 to end the day in a three-way share of the lead.

Eleanor, who teed off from the first in the morning, opened her round with six birdies on the first nine with her only blot coming in at the par-4 fifth, for a total of 32. She found the back nine slightly challenging but held steady for a total of 37 courtesy of a lone birdie at the par-5 11th and consecutive bogeys at the 15th and 16th.

Speaking after her round, Eleanor said; "Six birdies in the first eight holes is kind of a dream way to start my season [although the course] is just really challenging. The layout is tough, and you know you can get out of position and if you do, you just

have to be clever with it and that happened to me a couple of times today.

"It's windy, it's hot, its firm, it is tough, so I am so pleased with how I started and also how I battled towards the end on some of the holes I got a little bit of position on." she said

"I haven't been to Kenya for a while so, I just decided to come here. I couldn't believe it when I saw the zebras [today], I hadn't seen them before when I came here in 2019 and I'm really hoping to see the giraffe before I leave as well." she added.

On her part, Cara teed-off in the afternoon as conditions got windier and hotter, but that didn't seem to bother her as she went on to play a flawless round, carding 36 on the first nine courtesy of a birdie at the par-3 eighth; before carding 33 on the back nine courtesy of birdies at the 10th, 11th and 13th holes to end the round as joint leader.

Lauren matched Cara in playing a blemish-free round, carding 35 on the first nine courtesy of

birdies fourth and the seventh, to combine with a total of 34 on the back nine courtesy of birdies at the 11th and 18th holes.

The 2024 Magical Kenya Ladies Open is only the second Ladies European Tour event she will have taken part in, having made her Tour debut last year in September at the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open where she finished tied in 13th.

The trio sits a shot above another three-way tie for second featuring Northern Ireland's Olivia Mehaffey, Italy's 24-year-old Alessandra Fanali, and Denmark's 24-year-old Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen, who are tied on 3-under par, 70.

Seventh place features a two-way tie between Aunchisa Utama from Thailand and Diksha Dagar from India who are both on 2-under par, 71. Another seven-way tie on one-under-par, 72, closes a crowded top ten after the first round.

It was a challenging outing for the Kenyan amateurs taking part in the event, but Vipingo-based

Jacquelyne Walter emerged best of the lot, finishing the round in a tie for 40th place after carding a round of 2-over par 75 to leave her in contention for tomorrow's cut which will reduce the field to 60 and ties.

Playing in her first Magical Kenya Ladies Open, Kenyan amateur Kellie Gachaga carded a score of 8-over par 81, one behind Naomi Wafula who carded a round of 7-over par 80.

Speaking after her round, Kellie said; "This is my first time playing at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open and I feel very honoured and happy to be representing Kenya. I was a bit nervous going into this, but I am confident in the preparation that I had put in and I just went out there and enjoyed my time and I am happy with that."

"I think I started off well, I was just cruising, got more confident and I could see that in my golf shots as I was hitting better and better. At the end, I think I just thought about it a little bit too much, had a few hiccups but kept it under control. My dad is on my bag so, he keeps me very level-headed. Not the scores I wanted, but I was happy with my process. Tomorrow I am just going to try and keep the same mentality I had at the beginning and forget about how I have been playing and just finish how I start is – that is my main goal." she added.

Round two action tees off Friday at 7:45am, with the players out to avoid the cut and get into the prize money bracket.

Jacquelyne Walter will be the first Kenyan to tee off at 8:51am off the first tee. Chanelle Wangari will also get her round going from the first tee, at 12:32am, with Naomi Wafula, Mercy Nyanchama and Kellie Wahito Gachaga all teeing off between 1pm and 2 pm.

Sports >>> *English winger Jadon Sancho said he was “welcomed like family” after returning to Borussia Dortmund from Manchester United.

‘I’m Happiest When I’m Playing’, Says Sancho After Dortmund Return



Dortmund’s German forward Marco Reus and Dortmund’s English forward Jadon Sancho react after the German first division Bundesliga football match between SV Darmstadt 98 v Borussia Dortmund in Darmstadt, western Germany on January 13, 2024. (Photo by Kirill KUDRYAVTSEV / AFP).

By AFP

English winger Jadon Sancho said he was “welcomed like family” after returning to Borussia Dortmund from Manchester United.

Sancho joined Dortmund on loan until the end of the season in January and has since laid on two assists in three games.

He previously spent four seasons with the Bundesliga club before leaving in a big-money move to Old Trafford in 2021.

The 23-year-old was frozen out by United coach Erik Ten Hag in August for disciplinary reasons and had not played or trained with

their first team since.

“I’m just happy to be back playing football,” Sancho told the Bundesliga website.

“When I’m playing football, I’m at my happiest. I’m just grateful to be back.”

After a poor start to the season left Dortmund in fifth place heading into the winter break, three straight wins after Sancho’s return propelled Edin Terzic’s side into the Bundesliga top four.

Manchester City academy product Sancho scored 50 goals and provided 64 assists in 137 appearances during his first spell at Dortmund.

The winger paid tribute to his

street football beginnings, saying “that’s where my skills came from”.

“Cage football and academy football is different. Cage football is freedom,” he said.

“You can express yourself, whereas at an academy it’s like a system -- you have to do it by the rules.”

The Englishman picked up a muscle injury and missed last week’s 0-0 draw at Heidenheim, but could return to the squad for Friday’s meeting with Freiburg.

Dortmund coach Terzic said Thursday he hoped Sancho would be available.

“Jadon was still in individual

training this week, but the plan is for him to train with the complete team this afternoon and tomorrow, and then we’ll make a decision whether he’ll be ready for tomorrow evening.”

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Spirituality Is A Factor Illuminating Human Mind And Thinking



By: Jaloldinov Muhammadsayid Sardorbek

@themkenyaytimes

Abstract: This article talks about the origin, tasks and place of spirituality in human life. The richer the spirituality, the more prosperous the society and the nation. There is a great illuminator of the world - the lamp of spirituality. The difference between this lamp and others is that it illuminates a person's mind and thinking, awakens his heart and conscience, and strengthens the sense of self-sacrifice.

Key words: philosophical, spiritual, spirituality, emotion, tradition, foundation, value, universal.

Worth Noting:

- In the process of building a new society in Uzbekistan, spirituality, along with economy, is considered one of the leading directions. Islam Karimov said: "Strengthening and developing the moral spirit of the people is the most important task of the state and society in Uzbekistan." Continuing his opinion, the President said: "Spirituality is the strength of a person, people, society and the state."

- The scope of application of "spirituality" and the adjective "spiritual" made from its core has expanded dramatically, and their vocabulary and term content is getting richer, which makes it difficult to study spirituality as a scientific concept, its culture, consciousness, thinking, worldview, psyche, and artistic, political, moral values and other such concepts require determining their place in the system, analyzing their interaction with them.

Spirituality is a concept that represents the spiritual and mental world of a person. It includes people's philosophical, legal, scientific, artistic, moral, and religious ideas. At the root of the term spirituality is the word "meaning". It is known that there is an external and internal world of a person. The external world includes his appearance, appearance, clothes, behavior, etc. His inner world includes his life purpose, thoughts, dreams, aspirations, feelings. This inner world of man is spirituality. If food gives a person physical strength, spirituality gives him spiritual nourishment and strength. Spirituality is related to enlightenment and culture. Spirituality does not arise in people by chance. It can be achieved only through constant study, learning, and experience. The richer the spirituality, the more prosperous the society and the nation.

A spiritual person clearly knows the purpose of living, finds a way to spend his life meaningfully, acquires the culture of dealing, and approaches every issue from the point of view of honesty and justice. Conscience can distinguish between what is false and what is true, what is honor, what is halal and what is illegitimate.

In the process of building a new society in Uzbekistan, spirituality, along with economy, is considered one of the leading directions. Islam Karimov said: "Strengthening and developing the moral spirit of the people is the most important task of the state and society in Uzbekistan." Continuing his opinion, the President said: "Spirituality is the strength of a person, people, society



and the state." The scope of application of "spirituality" and the adjective "spiritual" made from its core has expanded dramatically, and their vocabulary and term content is getting richer, which makes it difficult to study spirituality as a scientific concept, its culture, consciousness, thinking, worldview, psyche, and artistic, political, moral values and other such concepts require determining their place in the system, analyzing their interaction with them.

As President Islam Karimov noted, "The spiritual foundations of our people - the foundations of our future state are very old and strong. No one can deny this. Our history goes back thousands of years." The scope of application of the adjective "spiritual" from Zagi has expanded dramatically, and their lexical and terminological content is becoming increasingly rich, which makes it necessary to study spirituality as a scientific concept, its culture, consciousness, thinking, worldview, spirituality. and it requires to determine its place in the system of artistic, political, moral values and other similar concepts, and to analyze its interaction with them.

The spirituality of the Uzbek people has been formed and matured in accordance with the path of economic, social, political, and cultural development, faith, worldview, will,

and the environment in the society. There were times when our spirituality flourished or declined.

As the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov noted, "Today, human qualities such as solidarity and tolerance, kindness, hospitality and generosity, characteristic of our people since the beginning of time, are more vividly manifested, and such spiritual the environment has a positive effect on people's psyche and mood." The main factor behind such positive indicators is the policy aimed at spiritual growth in our country. In turn, it should be noted that in the field of social and humanitarian sciences, when interpreting the concepts and principles of the book "High Spirituality - Invincible Power", correctly interpreting their content, conducting research in accordance with the spirit and philosophy of the work, preparation of scientific works and educational literature based on this manual is one of the important and responsible tasks. For this, first of all, it is necessary for each of us to study this book in depth, absorb its meaning in our hearts and minds, and fully follow the ideas and views, practical goals and tasks described in it in life and social activities. This is one of the important tasks before us young people to inculcate the ideas and conclusions of the book in the

minds of all layers of the population, to further increase the effectiveness of propaganda and campaigning in this field.

Jaloldinov Muhammadsayid son of Sardorbek was born on February 15, 2005 in Andijan district of Andijan region. His nationality is Uzbek, and he knows German and English languages. He finished from the 28th general secondary school with merit and medal. He graduated from school in 2023 and in Andijan region this year. He became a student of Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Romano-Germanic and Slavic Languages. He started writing articles at the age of 18, that is, from the first course in University. The first article is "Usage of accent in Uzbek and German". To date, several scientific and journalistic articles have participated in international scientific conferences. There are currently B1 National (Multi-Level) and international Onset B1 certificates in German. He was also awarded with the commemorative medal "For the best services" of the international scientific and practical examination competition organized on the scale of the Commonwealth of Independent States.