



President Ruto Must Stop Using Government Advertising To Manipulate, Capture And Control Independent Media

President William Ruto Administration is using government advertising as a weapon of mass destruction to control and shutdown independent media and freedom of expression.

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: news@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

For Adverts & Sponsorship

email us: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards Daily ePAPER

Friday, March 15, 2024

No. 01001 www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) themtkenyentimes



News >> Civil Society Groups Concerns Over Teenage Immorality

P. 8. Civil Society groups have raised an alarm over cases of promiscuity and drug abuse involving teenagers in Nairobi amid fears that the trend could spiral the rates of sexual infections.



News >> Collaborative Partnership Encouraged In Promoting Soil Health - PS Ronoh

P. 12. Agriculture Principal Secretary, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, has said that enhancing access to fertilizer and mitigating the deterioration of soil health, required concerted efforts by all industry players.



Business >> Nyeri County To Partner With Israel In Key Economic Sectors

P. 16 The Nyeri County Government intends to partner with Israel in various key sectors as one way of improving the livelihoods of the residents.

Gachagua To Broker A Truce Between Sakaja And Nairobi Leaders

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has undertaken to broker a truce between Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja and the county's leaders for faster implementation of development projects across the city. The DP said he had been approached by the governor asking him to intervene to avert an escalation of misunderstanding between him and the other elected leaders in the city.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja

STORY ON PAGE 9

Office Of Auditor General Is Steadfast In Promoting Accountability, Visiting Burudi Official Told

By: PSCU

The County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) has said the Office of the Auditor General has been steady

fast in promoting accountability and transparency in the utilisation of public funds.

However, the chair of the committee Moses Kajwang said Parliament has not been as steadfast in con-

sidering the reports of the Auditor General which will ensure increased funding to counties.

"This committee has worked very well with the Office of the Auditor

STORY ON PAGE 13

Auditor General
FCPA Nancy
Gathungu



"CONNECTING END-USER'S WITH SOURCE"

connect

For Advert Email: ads@mtkenyentimes.co.ke

+254 700 161 866
+254 705 215 262

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Shocked By The State of PWDs In Remote Laikipia County

By: OSDP



From left; County MP Jane Kagiri (in yellow), Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri arrive at the Ol'ngarua special school in Seria, Laikipia County on Wednesday for the event to empower those with disabilities in the school and the surrounding community. Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

In her speech, Pastor Dorcas expressed the need to have facilities that cater for the needs of those with disabilities in the county. She challenged the county leadership to consider having occupational therapy in the health facilities in the county.

“Those born with disabilities are gifts. And anyone is a candidate for disability following disease or an accident. So, let us respect those with disabilities, love and support them. In our hospitals, let us have occupational therapy for those with disabilities because many children and grownups are in need of this service. Sometimes, the therapy helps them regain use of their limbs and other body parts,” said Pastor Dorcas.

The visit by the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi to Ol'ngarua Special School located in the remote parts of Laikipia County in Seria area exposed the gaps in the care for those with disabilities in the country.

Access to mobility devices like white canes, wheelchairs, clutches, diapers and other consumables to both children and grown-ups to make life comfortable came into sharp focus even as Pastor Dorcas donated some of those assistive devices.

Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu said it was the first time someone in the Presidency had visited those with disabilities in the area.

The event was attended by 75 children from the special school, and 250 people with disabilities from the surrounding community.

In her speech, Pastor Dorcas expressed the need to have facilities that cater for the needs of those with disabilities in the county. She challenged the county leadership to consider having occupational therapy in the health facilities in the county.

“Those born with disabilities are gifts. And anyone is a candidate for disability following disease or an accident. So, let us respect those with disabilities, love and support them. In our hospitals, let us have occupational therapy for those

with disabilities because many children and grownups are in need of this service. Sometimes, the therapy helps them regain use of their limbs and other body parts,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She called on society to move from a state of making life difficult for those with disabilities. “Let us work in a structured manner and ensure the facilities and infrastructure in our schools and other public facilities are suitable for those with disabilities and stop disadvantaging those who are already disadvantaged. Like they do not go to the washroom like we do,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She added that Kenya had 2.5% of children with intellectual disabilities to 3%

who have physical disability and 3.1% visual impairment, and the numbers clearly demonstrated the need of early formative and specialized care as they grew into adulthood.

Gov Irungu said, “We appreciate your (Pastor Dorcas) visit to the county, and showing love to the vulnerable in our county, especially in this interior parts of Seria. You have touched the hearts of the people, and taught us critical lessons on love and care.”

The governor said the county would develop a working plan on how they would transform schools of those with disabilities, and those with disabilities including visiting them.

The County MP Jane Kagiri pledged to facilitate those with disabilities advance their skills and knowledge through admissions to TVETs and polytechnics. She also expressed concern on the dire need for clutches, white canes, diapers and wheelchairs, saying her office would work towards providing these.

Senator John Kinyua said, “Your compassion to the vulnerable is admirable.”

Headteacher Ol'ngarua Special School Anne Ruo received an assortment of donations on behalf of the pupils whom she said included 75 who come to the public primary school, and 20 others who are home-based.

The donations to the school and members of the community with disabilities included teaching aids, assistive devices, and foodstuffs - tricycles, white canes, diapers, sanitary towels, maize and wheat flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, flip charts, manilla papers, painting brushes, and powder paint, among others.

Present were partners for Care, Governor's spouse Grace Irungu, Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, PEFA Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba, and members of the Association of Pentecostal and Evangelical Clergy of Kenya, National Administration officers, parents and caregivers.

The people with disabilities are a pillar in the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP).

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyentimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyentimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyentimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

NEWS IN BRIEF



As calls for promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth gear up, Customized Aviation Solutions, a company using modern aerial survey drone technology, is coming in to offer smart agricultural solutions to farmers in Uasin Gishu to increase yields by ensuring rapid, safer, accurate and affordable delivery of geospatial data, to enable farmers to make informed decisions faster. In an interview with journalists, the company's Director Alex Mugane pointed out that they provide farmers with digital, informative, intelligent and precise field management for crops such as maize, wheat, sorghum, avocado, coffee, tea and even forest trees to enable them develop a proper inventory for their farms. He added that this empowers agricultural operators with more convenient and efficient options, reduces operation costs, improves crop quality and increases yield rate. "We are offering solutions in agriculture specifically for mapping and survey of farms to give farmers an efficient digital data which is key in making informed decisions during pre-planting, planting and post planting stages," he explained. He noted that during planting, they do scouting of the crops as the drone called the multi-spectra which is capable of conducting Geographic Information System (GIS) aerial mapping to millimetre accuracy, helping the farmers to get the overlay pictures of above ground photos which give the scope of the crops, which helps them know the specific areas to target in terms of fertilizer application, determine germination rate and decide whether replanting is required or not.



In a bid to intensify the fight against the sale and distribution of illicit and second-generation alcoholic drinks, The County Government of Nyandarua has established a committee that will spearhead the vetting of outlets that will be authorized to sell alcoholic drinks in the County. Nyandarua County Governor Dr. Kiarie Badilisha and County Commissioner Abdirisack Jaldesa have praised the move saying they will not relent on the war against the manufacture, sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks and especially second generation brews. Mr. Jaldesa noted that so far, the government has already closed down 134 bars and 62 wines and spirits outlets in Nyandarua. He added that they have also closed down 15 chemists that do not meet the necessary requirements as dictated by the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulatory Board. On his side, Governor Badilisha vowed to ensure that a generation today and in the future has been saved from the scourge of alcoholism.



Migori County has embarked on a journey to distribute mosquito nets to 869,283 households across the 40 wards to eradicate malaria in the county. Migori County Secretary Oscar Olima who represented Migori Governor Ochilo Ayacko in the launching of the Mass Net Distribution at the Migori Referral Hospital said that programme was a collaborative effort between the National Government and the Migori County Government to curb malaria transmission and enhance community health. He said that the health department will continue to educate the public on the importance of net usage through campaigns to help fight malaria in the county. Olima encouraged the County residents to collect their nets as notified via text message in their designated Wards by carrying their identification Cards for verification purposes. The official also pointed out that the County was committed to ensuring a healthier population that would be productive in safeguarding the social and economic development of the County.



People living with different disabilities benefitted from new wheelchairs donated by Walk about Foundation through Metropolitan Sanctuary which is located at Kamakwa area near Nyeri town. The more than 25 beneficiaries from around the county thanked the institution for the generosity saying they ease their mobilities.

Nominated MCA Lucy Wanyitu who graced the event as the Chief Guest urged politicians donating wheel chairs to Persons Aabled Differently to first ensure the beneficiaries undergo a medical assessment before using them.

In the course of operation, the organization realized that 90 per cent of the children attended to had disability. Therefore, the organization realigned to managing disability cases through the introduction of rehabilitation services.

Since 2007 when Metropolitan Sanctuary organization was established great steps have been made to positively impact on the lives of children living with disability around the county. The organization also has physiotherapy professionals who facilitate holistic health care.

By Paul Wanjiru

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Parliamentary Committee To Take Action Disobliging Witness

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- During the audit review sitting, Sabatia Technical and Vocational College faced scrutiny for discrepancies in its cash flow statement where the statement of cash flows indicates cash and cash equivalents balance of KSh30,729 as at January 1, 2019.
- However, the figure was not supported with documentary evidence to confirm its accuracy. In addition, the statement showed use of goods and services of KSh3,200,333 which did not agree with the KSh7,165,220 in the statement of financial performance resulting to unreconciled variance of KSh3,964,887.



Jack Wamboka

The Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education will henceforth take action on errant witnesses the Committee chairperson, Jack Wamboka has said.

Wamboka made the cautionary remark when his committee met several Technical and Vocational Colleges Heads and their Accounting Officers to review their audited financial records as per the Auditor-General's report.

Noting that the committee has been empowered by the Standing Orders to take such action against any witnesses who fail to cooperate, Wamboka noted that his team would stop at nothing in its quest to unearth details relating to audits reviews currently before them.

Standing order 191A(1) provides that "Where a witness summoned does not appear, or appears but fails to satisfy the House or Committee, the House or Committee may impose upon the witness a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings, having regard to the witness' condition in life and all the circumstances of the case."

During the audit review sitting, Sabatia Technical and Vocational College faced scrutiny for discrepancies in its cash flow statement where the statement of cash flows indicates cash and cash equivalents balance of KSh30,729 as at January 1, 2019.

However, the figure was not supported with documentary evidence to confirm its accuracy. In addition, the

statement showed use of goods and services of KSh3,200,333 which did not agree with the KSh7,165,220 in the statement of financial performance resulting to unreconciled variance of KSh3,964,887.

Consequently, the accuracy of the cash flow statement for the period ended 30th June, 2020 could not be confirmed. Further, the College failed to insure its assets during the period contrary to Public Finance Management National Government Regulation 139 of 2015.

There was also unsupported Capital Fund leading to the dismissal of the accountant Ms. Millford Afandi who was found to be incompetent, unqualified and not fit to hold that office due

to the many finance queries.

Meanwhile, the principal of Ebukan-ga Technical and Vocational College had a hard time before the committee when asked to explain the financial mismanagement flagged out by the Auditor-General including inaccuracies in cash flow, unresolved payables, and contract mismanagement, resulting in hefty financial losses.

Bungoma North Technical and Vocational College faced accusations of unsupported finances and operational deficiencies, including a lack of staff approval and risk management strategies. There was also an issue of unaccounted for tractors, which had escalated to the Ministry, highlighting systemic failures in the institution's asset management.

Similarly, Okame Technical & Vocational College faced criticism for financial irregularities and operational lapses, leading to an adverse opinion.

Further, the colleague failed to demonstrate to the committee that it had essential policies and oversight mechanisms, such as the code of conduct, risk management strategies, and audit committees.

At this juncture, the committee chairperson emphasized the urgency to enhance capacity for college administrators to ensure compliance with financial regulations, and enhance governance practices.

The members noted that it is imperative for the managers of these institutions to develop capacity build around audit matters so as to familiarize themselves with the processes in order to adhere to financial regulations and bolster governance structures. This they noted would help in safeguarding public resources and upholding integrity the management of the institutions.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri



NGA'RISHA JIJI (MERU EDITION 1)



6TH, APRIL 2024

MEETING POINT

Time:
8:00 am to 11:00am

* Greenwood Mall.

DONT BE AN APRIL FOOL PLANT A TREE AND MAKE IT COOL

THEME:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Encouraging individuals and communities to minimize waste by adopting practices such as reducing consumption, reusing materials, and recycling.

SPONSORS:



contacts: 0721386677 / 0719602698

Civil Society Groups Concerns Over Teenage Immorality

By: Erastus Gichohi
@themtkenyatimes

Civil Society groups have raised an alarm over cases of promiscuity and drug abuse involving teenagers in Nairobi amid fears that the trend could spiral the rates of sexual infections.

The new trend which gained notoriety after the government imposed lockdowns over the spread of Covid 19 infections risks negating the gains made in suppressing new sexual infections in the country.

According to Robert Aseda, the head of programmes at the Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa, sex orgies among young people have been identified as a major concern in the fight against infections such as HIV/AIDS.

Asaeda said, since Covid imposed lockdowns, young people have been lured into these orgies coupled with drug and substance abuse in return for 'fun' and money while exposing their health to risks.

Aseda said new trends and research have shown that young people are engaging in sexual activities quite early leading to a sharp increase in teenage abortions, early pregnancies and gen-

der-based violence.

To reverse the emerging concerns, Aseda said Nairobi will implement a three-year County Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health framework to address the gaps including roll out of youth-friendly centres that address their health needs.

He lauded Nairobi for investing in more than 120 youth-friendly health facilities to address the comprehensive needs of its adolescent population where more than one million live.

Aseda said the centre will provide a conducive environment where young people will feel free to seek counselling sessions, mental health advice, and HIV and sexually related infection testing towards a healthy population.

On his part, Dollarman Naste from the Centre for the Study of Adolescence decried increase in murder, suicides and femicide cases affecting young people calling for more awareness creation to reverse the worrying trend.

Naste said the rise in HIV infection has been a challenge among the youth which has been attributed to emerging sexual trends including unprotected early sexual contact.

"We are calling for more budget-



ary allocations from Nairobi County to drive and create more awareness campaigns among young people on gender-based violence, HIV, and femicide to curb increased incidences", said Naste.

Consequently, Naste said in partnership with Nairobi County and other partners have already deployed the use of social media platforms to reach and disseminate information

which addresses young people sexual and reproductive health concerns.

According to President of Nairobi Youth Advisory Council Mary Merci Niyibeshaho, statistics indicate that 74 per cent of men have prior knowledge about HIV as compared to 58 per cent of women.

Niyibeshaho said the implementation of the revamped strategy will address the knowledge gap disparities,

mental health concerns and the cause of rising femicide among the youth.

She noted that Nairobi County has established youth-friendly health centres which will cater for sexual health needs regardless of their cultural, religious, gender or sexual identification.

KALRO Launches Two New Maize Varieties

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) yesterday launched two maize varieties.

The two varieties, developed by KALRO are UKAMEZ 1 and HYBRID KH500 37E.

While announcing the breakthrough, the organization officials led by their chairman, Peter Weru Kinyua disclosed that the two new varieties are high yielding, drought resistant, and early maturing.

The launching ceremony took place during the inaugural Kilimo Biashara and Expo event at the KALRO Seeds, Thika.

The Expo brought together more than 80 exhibitors who showcased their smart technologies to farmers and other stakeholders.

Hundreds of interested groups and individuals received free agricultural advisory services to cater for their



KALRO chairman Peter Weru Kinyua addressing the media at the organization's Thika facility yesterday..

farming requirements.

Gatanga Constituency Member of Parliament Wakili Edward Muriu under whose jurisdiction, the facil-

ity falls presided over the inaugural ceremony that was also graced by top KALRO leadership.

Apart from the chairman, other offi-

cialists included KALRO Director General Dr. Eliud Kireger and Murang'a county CECM in charge of Agriculture Mr Kimani Mugo.

The chairman said that his organization was greatly contributing in the Kenya Kwanza administration's quest for the growth of the agricultural sector through coordinating research and regulations to develop weather sustainable seeds.

"KALRO is proud to announce today the newly launched seeds that is Ukame1 and Embu 537 which are sustainable in dry areas," Weru said.

He added, "the government of President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua is committed to the growth of Agricultural sector through coordinating Research and Regulation in applying Technology and innovation development, and utilisation of agricultural inputs like subsidised Fertiliser".

The core mandate of the organisation is to expedite equitable access to research of information, resources and technology and to promote the application of the research findings and technology in the agricultural fields.

Gachagua Undertakes To Broker A Truce Between Governor Sakaja And Nairobi Leaders

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua greeting former Starehe MP Charles Njagua on Wednesday evening.

Worth Noting:

- One of the mandates of the Deputy President is to coordinate Inter-Governmental relations between the National and County governments.
- The Deputy President also commended Governor Sakaja for accepting responsibility and called for talks to resolve any stalemate with the leaders.
- “The way to solve an issue is first to accept responsibility. I am happy that the Governor is positive on this. So, very soon, I am going to call the meeting so that we can iron out the differences,” he stated.
- Members of Parliament led by Gakuya pleaded with the DP to intervene and ensure a better working relationship with the county government.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has undertaken to broker a truce between Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja and the county’s leaders for faster implementation of development projects across the city.

The DP said he had been approached by the governor asking him to intervene to avert an escalation of misunderstanding between him and the other elected leaders in the city.

Speaking on Wednesday evening when he condoled with Embakasi North MP James Gakuya and his family following the demise of his brother David Gakuya, Gachagua said he is ready to have a sitting with the leaders to solve disagreements for the betterment of lives of Nairobi residents, who overwhelmingly voted for the Kenya Kwanza administration.

“I had a conversation with the Governor and he agreed that there was a need to bring together all the leaders in Nairobi. I am going to convene the meeting with the MCAs, MPs and the Governor. I will chair the meeting,” the DP said.

One of the mandates of the Deputy President is to coordinate Inter-Governmental relations between the National and County governments.

The Deputy President also com-

mended Governor Sakaja for accepting responsibility and called for talks to resolve any stalemate with the leaders.

“The way to solve an issue is first to accept responsibility. I am happy that the Governor is positive on this. So, very soon, I am going to call the meeting so that we can iron out the differences,” he stated.

Members of Parliament led by Gakuya pleaded with the DP to intervene and ensure a better working relationship with the county government.

He added that for development to be felt by the constituents, leaders are supposed to collaborate.

“We also want to feel a part of the leadership of the city. Kenya kwanza MCAs are saying they have been neglected. We want you to intervene and give a solution to this stalemate. You are the only person who can call all of us together and guide us on how we will work together,” Mr Gakuya said.

On development matters in the city, Mr Gachagua said the National Government will implement hundreds of projects to better the lives of city residents.

“In the last one year, the President has been working day and night to ensure that the economy of the



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja.

country stabilizes. We are now good to go, I will plan a schedule that in every two weeks I have a day to go around Nairobi County opening development projects and connecting with the people who overwhelmingly voted for us,” he said.

Mr Gachagua was accompanied by a host of leaders including Members of Parliament Augustine Mwafrika (Roysambu), John Kaguchia (Mukurweini), Alice Ng’ang’a (Thika Town), John Kiarie KJ (Dagoretti South), Benjamin Gathiru MeijaDonk (Embakasi Central),

Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North), Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri), Peter Kihungi (Kangema), Gitari Gachoki (Kirinyaga Central), George Gachagua (Ndaragwa) George Koimhuri, (Juja), Joyce Kasimbi (Machakos Town), James Githua (Kabete) and Irene Njoki (Bahati).

Other leaders present were former Starehe MP Charles Kanyi Jaguar, Members of County Assembly from Nairobi, among other leaders.

Justice And Legal Affairs Committee Receives Submissions On The Anti-Corruption And Economic Crimes Amendment Bill

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

The National Assembly’s Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Tharaka MP George Murugara yesterday conducted public hearings on the Anti-Corruption & Economic Crimes (amendment) Bill, 2023 sponsored by Mbeere North MP. Geoffrey Ruku.

The committee received submissions from the Attorney General’s office, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), Transparency International, and the Africa Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) caucus. All of whom were in opposition of the proposed amendments.

The office of the Director of Public Prosecution through the Deputy Director, Economic, International and Emerging Crimes Department Ms. Grace Murungi was first to oppose the amendments with specific focus being Ruku’s proposal to delete Section 45



Geoffrey Ruku

(2) b and c of the original Act.

Ms. Murungi noted that section 45 (2) b & c provide for the legal mechanisms of Articles 227 and 201 of the constitution which outlines guidelines on the use and management of public funds under the Public Finance Management Act.

“Deleting of the section in itself spells mischief. The principal objective of this amendment is to remove the inordinate and undue criminalisation of flaws in public procurement

laws,” stated Ms. Murungi

Kisumu East MP Shakeel Shabbir who serves as the chairperson of the African Parliamentarians against Corruption (APAC) - Kenyan Chapter also opposed the amendments noting that 90 per cent of corruption issues in the country are linked to public procurement.

“This proposal is an intentional and malicious attempt at weakening the rules governing the procurement process,” stated Shabbir.



George Murugara.

Ms. Renee Odaga, a legal officer from APAC argued that the act as it is, does not violate the constitutionality of the procurement process and therefore needed not to be amended.

Mr. David Too, the Director of Legal Services at the EACC also opposed the amendments highlighting that it negates Article 227 of the constitution which requires procurement to be planned and Fair.

“Corruption is collusive in nature,

especially in matters of procurement. The deletion of the rules that govern procurement opens the doors for procurement officers to do whatever they want. There will be impunity where tenders are awarded to a select few,” said Mr. Too.

The committee shall consider the submissions by the stakeholders before preparing a report that will guide the next step in the enacting of the Bill.

LAND
FOR
SALE

BEST
Offer

GOTYOU

**AGRICULTURAL
LAND FOR SALE**

GITHABAI AREA
SOUTH KINANGOP

- Next to a public school
- Convinient Rainfall pattern

Land Size:
6 ACRES

Call for Site Visit:

Hotline
+254 720 918 828 / +254 733 540 110

Email
ads@mountkenyetimes.co.ke

Address
South Kinangop

PRICE:
**KSHS. 1.8M
PER ACRE**
10.8M FOR SIX ACRES

Ndindi Nyoro Is Not A Project of Ruto



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

The widely held view in the Kikuyu nation is that Kikuyus are their own enemies.

This notion is lately gaining more weight following the decision by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro's to throw his hat in the ring in the race to become the kingpin of the Mount Kenya region.

The allies of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his main competitor, have since been peddling a false narrative that he is a project of President William Ruto.

These claims were politically motivated and that is why they were yet to produce an iota of truth to back them.

In line with nature of my work, I have been seeking the views of the people from Mount Kenya particularly those drawn Kikuyu land.

This is what majority of them would aver in regard to Ndindi Nyoro's game plan. It is wrong and a show of disrespect to drag the name of President Ruto in his bid.

The MP was his own man. Initially the DP and his allies did not expect him to emerge as a serious challenger.

It has now dawned on them he is a force to reckon with.

Their fight back strategy is two-pronged. Besides branding him as a project, they wanted Kikuyus to buy another false narrative that he is out to divide their vote.

Ndindi Nyoro is constitutionally entitled to vie any seat including the Mount Kenya Kingpin. How does this amount to splitting their votes?

If they were truly democratic, one would have expected DP allies to embrace the spirit of 'Let the People Decide'

In recent past, we have been seeing Nyoro's political star rising. The elected leaders from various parts of the country would host him during which he would commission a number of development projects.

He would also articulate the agenda of President William Ruto particularly his commitment to build a united and a peaceful nation as well as his socio-economic agenda of Kenya as a whole.

As Kenyans, we all pay taxes and so we are entitled to get a share of national cake.

Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria and National Assembly Majority leader Kimani Ichungwah are the among leaders from Mount Kenya region who shared the same sentiments.

Many would interpret this as faulting Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

who had earlier stated that Kenya is a shareholding company.

As such, it is only those who voted for President William Ruto who will be rewarded.

Recently, the DP was quoted alleging that young leaders from Mount Kenya were furthering the course of the outsiders opposed to the unity of our region.

While casting himself as the most experienced and senior-most politician from the region, he stated that they will not succeed.

We cannot allow them to take us back to the period between 1992 to 2002 when we stayed outside the government. This happened because we were divided and we were not speaking in one voice.

We recall that Gachagua was a key player in that government of President Daniel Arap Moi. Can he tell us the role he played? He never played the role of uniting the Kikuyus. He instead helped President Moi to divide our community and at no time did he ever fault Moi for abandoning the region.

Many believed that DP was being shunned by leaders from other parts of the country and so his political activities were being confined in Mount Kenya region.

This explains why he felt that Ndindi Nyoro posed a real threat to his leadership.

Ndindi Nyoro is a presidential material.

Some of the leaders would further aver he is poised to take the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin and later become the President of the Republic of Kenya.

He stands a high chance of succeeding President William Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second and final term.

Earlier, I had written an article in this column.

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

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

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

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

wrong his critics.

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

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

Earlier, Ndindi Nyoro's campaign took a new turn when Ndindi hosted more than 20 Kenya Kwanza members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country in his Kiharu constituency.

DP Gachagua later visited Muranga County. He was accompanied by 117 members of parliament (MPs) during a fundraiser in Kigumo. I heard people particularly Kikuyus claiming that he had 'hired' these MPs.

Back to Kiharu, the MPs attended the education event on their own volition. Speaker after speaker showered him with accolades. Ndindi's track record on matters of development, peace and unity speaks for itself.

Former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP Wilson Sossian set the ball rolling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With due respect to DP, I want to let him know this.

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

You heard him likening Kenya to Shareholding Company. This was a reckless statement. They would also fault him for picking a war with Nairobi

governor Johnson Sakaja. His statement was divisive, callous and designed to put the Kikuyus into a collision course with rest of the Kenyan communities.

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

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

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

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

Given this scenario, one would have expected Gachagua to immediately start healing the wounds after being sworn in as DP. He has failed to do this.

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

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

Besides, he has never been implicated in corruption or any other wrong-doing. Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

Ndindi steered clear of this topic.

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

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

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

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

Worth Noting:

- Their fight back strategy is two-pronged. Besides branding him as a project, they wanted Kikuyus to buy another false narrative that he is out to divide their vote.
- Ndindi Nyoro is constitutionally entitled to vie any seat including the Mount Kenya Kingpin. How does this amount to splitting their votes?
- If they were truly democratic, one would have expected DP allies to embrace the spirit of 'Let the People Decide'
- In recent past, we have been seeing Nyoro's political star rising. The elected leaders from various parts of the country would host him during which he would commission a number of development projects.

Collaborative Partnership Encouraged In Promoting Soil Health - PS Ronoh

By: Anita Omwenga
@themtkenyatimes



Some of the key speakers during the event.

Worth Noting:

- “By working together with partners to bridge the gap between research, smallholder farmers, and market systems, we strive to solve the greatest food security issues facing the world today,” said Ronoh, adding that IFDC has been at the forefront of developing solutions that contribute to food security and economic growth.
- The PS divulged that since the early 20th century, Africa, Kenya included, has experienced widespread decades-long decline in soil quality of farmland thus negatively affecting the agricultural production capacity and food security.
- He further said that in 2021, fertilizer consumption for Kenya stood at 60.7 kilograms per hectare or 25 kg per acre.

Agriculture Principal Secretary, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, has said that enhancing access to fertilizer and mitigating the deterioration of soil health, required concerted efforts by all industry players.

Ronoh said the deterioration of soil health impedes food security, agricultural productivity growth, and environmental sustainability in the country.

He said that fertilizer is a critical component of intensive and sustainable agricultural systems, allowing greater productivity from existing land under cultivation.

The PS made the remarks in a speech read on his behalf by the Ministry’s Director of Agribusiness, Gilbert Muthee yesterday during the International Fertilizer Development Center’s (IFDC), inaugural open door event in Nairobi. The event also marked the Organization’s 50th Anniversary of developing agriculture from the ground-up.

The ceremony brought together diverse stakeholders from the public and private fertilizer industry, donor communities and development organizations.

Ronoh said the role of fertilizer market players in both the public and commercial sector has evolved, in particular, with the growing understanding of the vital role of sustainable soil health management.

“By working together with partners to bridge the gap between research, smallholder farmers, and market sys-

tems, we strive to solve the greatest food security issues facing the world today,” said Ronoh, adding that IFDC has been at the forefront of developing solutions that contribute to food security and economic growth.

The PS divulged that since the early 20th century, Africa, Kenya included, has experienced widespread decades-long decline in soil quality of farmland thus negatively affecting the agricultural production capacity and food security.

He further said that in 2021, fertilizer consumption for Kenya stood at 60.7 kilograms per hectare or 25 kg per acre.

However, he noted there has been a positive upward trend in fertilizer use by African countries, contributing to the transformation of Africa’s agriculture and food security.

Ronoh said that the Ministry’s collaboration with other partners has enabled IFDC to advance food security, create job opportunities and improve incomes among smallholder farmers.

IFDC President and CEO, Henk van Duijn, while speaking about the Organization’s interventions, said IFDC aimed at offering innovative solutions to challenges in fertilizer and soil health for governments, implementing partners, the fertilizer industry, farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and technologies.

“Our vision is to research, develop, and transfer nutrient use efficiency and soil health technologies to nourish a world of nearly 10 billion peo-

ple by 2050,” he said.

He said IFDC continued to play a proactive role in advancing agricultural development in Kenya, directly and indirectly contributing to local economic growth by enhancing food and agricultural productivity through the application of effective and environmentally sustainable crop nutrient technologies and agri-business expertise.

IFDC Country Director, Kenya, Bridget Okumu, said since its inception in 2009, IFDC Office in Kenya has consistently played a vital role in advancing the national agricultural agenda by cultivating a strong connection with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and other key partners.

“The Office has actively contributed to the development and implementation of innovative tools for accessing fertilizer data, such as the Kenya Fertilizer Dashboard,” she noted.

She added that the Office offers information on fertilizers availability and statistics for soil and plant nutrition that benefit farmers, entrepreneurs, and the environment.

Okumu said in Kenya, IFDC interventions were focused on substantially increasing the production of high quality food by minimizing waste and losses in agricultural resources, such as water, land, seeds and fertilizer.

“IFDC advocates for climate smart and resilient farming systems and technologies among smallholder farmers to mitigate the adverse en-

vironmental impacts associated with agricultural productivity,” she said.

She said currently, IFDC implements several key projects and programmes in Kenya including, Potato Value Chain Capacity Building, project, Towards Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship (2SCALE), The Africa Fertilizer initiative and CGIAR Food System Accelerator program (Ukama Ustawi).

Former IFDC Board of Directors member Prof. Ruth Oniang’o while speaking at the same event said IFDC began in 1974 with a mission to improve soil health and fertility and crop nutrition in tropical regions.

Oniang’o said “since then, the organization has grown to encompass an array of agricultural solutions including fertilizer technology development, market development, project implementation in the field, policy development among others fostering collaborations and building strategic synergies across borders.

The open door event showcased IFDC innovative technologies from cutting edge fertilizers to sustainable farming practices that align with and support Kenya’s national agriculture agenda.

Office Of Auditor General Is Steadfast In Promoting Accountability, Visiting Burudi Official Told

By: PSCU

Contd from page 1

General and if we get similar partnerships with other agencies involved in accountability issues, we will help in giving effect to our work," said Senator Kajwang.

The law requires Office of the Auditor General to carry out the inspection of books of public entities and submit the reports to Parliament within six months after the end of the financial year.

Public entities have three months to prepare the books of account after the end of the financial year which is September 31st.

The Office of the Auditor General has three months to consider the books and submit the reports within three months, by December 31st.

The Auditor General has already tabled reports for the year ending June 2023 while Parliament has considered and approved audited accounts for the year ending June 2020.

This means that Parliament is three years behind the Office of the Auditor General.

The Senator was speaking on yester-



Parliamentary officials after the meeting

day when he led members of the committee in a meeting with Ms Generose Kiyago, the President of the Burundi Court of Audit who was in Kenya on a peer-to-peer exchange in public sector auditing.

Other members who attended the meeting were Senators Mwenda Gataya Mofire and Mariam Omar.

Senator Kajwang briefed the President on the mandate and operations of the committee while hailing the

Office of the Auditor General for having made the work of the committee easier.

"We have seen transformation in the Office of the Auditor General since the promulgation of the 2010 constitution. We have worked well. The Office has been excellent in complying with the legal provisions of preparation of audit reports," he said while challenging Ms Kiyago to copy from Kenya Audit office.

He cited the 2010 constitution and the Public Audit Act as some of the tools that have strengthened auditing work.

"The tools have empowered the human resource in the Office of the Auditor General. The Office has the best brains in auditing. I ask you to borrow a leaf and fight to have the right staff in your office. You need the right people around you who will make you successful," he said.

Ms Kiyego also took the committee through the auditing process in Burundi but revealed that she had been excited with the idea citizen accountability.

"It is a new innovation for me because in Burundi we don't audit with other people," she said, adding that she will engage with her colleagues to explore ways citizen accountability can be adopted in Burundi.

Like in Kenya, Audit reports in Burundi are forwarded to their parliament, but unlike Kenya, the consideration of the reports is exclusively conducted by the Committee and the officers of the auditor general are only called in for clarification.

In Kenya, the Officers of the Auditor General are attached to the committee and they are part and parcel of watchdog committee sittings.

Senator Kajwang said Kenya is ready to support Burundi in auditing process in the brotherhood of the East African Community and extended invitation to Committees of Burundi Parliament to visit Kenya Parliament for benchmarking.

Lands Committee Probes Apostle James Ng'ang'a Claims On Church Compound Ownership

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Lands has asked Apostle James Ng'ang'a of Neno Evangelism Centre to avail in seven days, documents to prove his claim of ownership of the parcel where the Church Stands, along Hailee Sellassie Avenue, Nairobi.

The Apostle is locked in a dispute on ownership of the land against the Kenya Railways.

Ng'ang'a had written to the National Assembly seeking for assistance over the raging dispute, prompting the committee to invite him.

Appearing before the committee chaired by Joash Nyamoko from North-Mugirango constituency, the Apostle said he bought the land

through a bank loan whose repayment he cleared in 2008.

The cleric had initially been scheduled to reappear before the Committee in 14 days, but the sitting was rescheduled to a date to be communicated later, after it emerged that the matter is already before Court where he and the Church are respondents in several suits.

Nyamoko noted the prominence the dispute had received and indicated that the committee would advise on the next meeting date upon perusal of the documents.

"Once you file, we will review the documents, and deliberate among ourselves and our technical staff and advise on the next course of action," said Nyamoko.

Ng'ang'a was represented before the Committee by Lawyers, Sylvanus Osoro and Susan Kemunto.



Apostle James Ng'ang'a (centre) with his lawyers Sylvanus Osoro and Susan Kemunto yesterday.

Gardeners Of Science And Knowledge



By: Baxtiyorova Gulshoda

The world is bright with the light of knowledge. Science is important for human development. It is the most virtuous action because it is the key to the happiness of both worlds. The contributions of our teachers are very important for us to get this key. Teachers are our second mother. No matter how much we try to pay their dues, we will never be able to repay our debt to them. Alisher Navoi, a great thinker, has an immortal verse in this regard:

Who taught you a letter on the path of truth,

It is worthless for him.

They take care of us like a sprout, grow, educate and nurture us. When we still don't know what a letter is, they teach us how to write it by holding our hands. They even give most of the love and attention they give to their children to their students, they can be a kind mother, a confidant friend in any situation. Not only science, but also the life lessons are taken to the hearts of the students. By the first teacher, we can understand not only a teacher who teaches science, but also people who taught a certain profession or certain unusual types of activities that are still our favorite. For example, my first teacher is my grandfather. They taught history and geography, but they were also very good at chemistry, physics, biology, mother tongue and literature. When I was a child, there were a lot of books in our house, when I was four or five years old, I was looking at the pictures of those books, I wanted to read, but I didn't know how to read. Even so, I used to write words written in books on the walls of a room, but even though I wrote on the walls at that time, no one in our family scolded me, they only told me to write on paper. When I was in kindergarten, I was very interested in Cyrillic letters on the back of my notebook, I knew Latin letters. And my grandfather taught me the Cyrillic alphabet, and together we read the words in that script. After that, my teachers were surprised when I read a text in one of the first Russian lessons at school.

However, my soft spot was mathematics. I had difficulty solving math problems and asked my grandfather for help. Then my grandfather would explain the procedure of the issue in detail. After explaining, they would check whether I understood the solution of the problem by saying, "Now, if your teacher asks how you worked on the problem, how would you answer?" I started writing poems when I was in class, although my poems did not conform to the rules of rhyme and rhythm. And my grandfather listened to them with interest, and later, when this skill began to be polished, we gave them to newspaper and magazine publishers together.

Sometimes we had a blackout, the whole family would gather in one room, and I would get very bored and ask my grandfather to ask questions about the subjects taught at school. My grandfather used to ask various questions about history, physics, geography, literature, chemistry, and biology, and I would answer them. When I achieved something, he would praise me with the words "Bless you, my daughter!" and I would be inspired to learn more. My interest in science was due to the efforts and support of my grandfather.

I am always proud of my first teacher, I always try to be a worthy child and follower of him.

In hadiths, knowledge is compared to falling rain. Yes, indeed, knowledge is like rain, that is, as the soil on which it rains is fertile and productive, so where there is knowledge, there will always be goodness and peace. People who are knowledgeable, practice their knowledge and teach others tirelessly are defined as true believers.

Our teachers are also among such people. They learn new sciences and teach hundreds of other students. The efforts of our teachers, who tirelessly provide us with knowledge in the way of raising us as perfect human beings, deserve great appreciation and respect. No matter how much we honor and respect them, it is still little. Whoever achieves success in his life, gets honor, his teacher has a big contribution in these achievements. It is not for nothing that our enlightened grandfather Abdulla Avloni said: "The happiness of every nation, the peace and happiness of the state depends on the good education of the youth." Only if young people are hardworking, educated and motivated, this country will prosper and take its place among the developed countries of the world. Self-sacrifice for the future of the nation, the Uzbek people, gives knowledge to the young generation. As he trains students throughout his career, his hair turns

silver. But his heart is as warm as the sun, and in this warmth he is the main reason for the seeds of goodness to germinate in the hearts of his students.

Honoring and appreciating teachers is the duty of every person. But what is the level of respect for them today? Some of our young people are forgetting their respect for their teachers, even on the Internet we see students arguing or fighting with their teachers. This is a tragic situation for us, but in the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the careers of teachers are honored, their status among the people is strengthened and their rights are strictly protected. The attention to our teachers was also included in our esteemed general dictionary. Even in ancient times, our people appreciated teachers who imparted knowledge, and entrusted their children to them for education, saying, "The flesh is yours, the bones are ours." That's why teachers carefully taught their students various knowledge.

There are many professions in the world, but teaching is the most honorable profession, because all professions: engineers, doctors, chauffeurs, tailors, architects, designers, judges, prosecutors, architects, filters and other teachers are educated and educated with love. Our great ancestors and scholars also had teachers, although they had high talents, thanks to their teachers, they conquered incredible milestones and climbed to the top of the mountain of knowledge. For example, Abu Rayhan Beruni, al-Khorazmi, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Abu Nasr Farabi, Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur were among the scholars of their time. To this day, the whole world uses and learns from their science and

works. They also did not leave their knowledge only in their works, but also raised students to continue their scientific activities after them, and thus created a foundation for their knowledge to become educated generations.

In conclusion, teachers are valuable and priceless wealth for the nation. Thanks to them, young people mature, achieve success, serve their people as owners of various professions, and help our country achieve progress and prosperity. If it were not for such selfless and enthusiastic, educated and sharp minds, the world would not have changed at all, and people would still be living in a primitive community system. As a result of teachers teaching others what they know and enriching and supplementing that knowledge with their own new information and experiences, the countries of the world are moving towards the peak of development. For this reason, unlimited respect has been shown to teachers throughout the history of mankind. The proverb "Your teacher is as great as your father" has become a national slogan. The knowledge they give us will only benefit us during our life, it will help us to lead a better way of life. When we receive good things from their knowledge, we always feel infinite gratitude to them. Throughout our lives, we will never forget their hard work, and their memory will never fade from our hearts and minds. We always respect and bow to them!

Teachers, be healthy for the happiness of the nation,

You are the guardians of knowledge.

If we call all knowledge one garden,

You are the gardeners of those gardens!

Bakhtiyorova Gulshoda, a student of UrSU

Butterfly

It flies in our garden,
Different colored butterfly.
There are too many of them.
Its wings are fluttering.

It bangs on my window,
It attracts itself.
Until I get out,
It flies and runs away.

Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's daughter from Uzbekistan. She was born on 22nd december of 2005 in Khorezm region, Khanka district. Presently, she studies at 41-school in Khanka.



DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

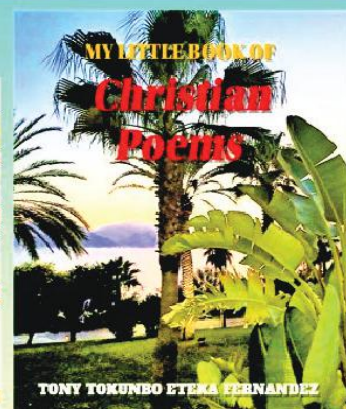
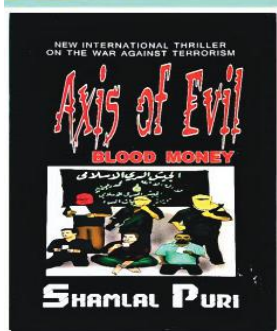
ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

BUSINESS

Nyeri County To Partner With Israel In Key Economic Sectors

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga with Israel Ambassador to Kenya Michael Lotem accompanied by officials from both sides pose for a photo after a consultative meeting in Nyeri town yesterday...

Worth Noting:

- “Israel is very strong on water retention, sewerage, irrigation and technology. These are some of the areas we want to collaborate on and learn best practices from Israel, as we share in the knowledge wealth. I would like to thank the Ambassador and wish to express interest in reinforcing a long-term working relationship,” he said.

- Lotem who was accompanied by a team of agronomists and economic officers from the Embassy of Israel in Nairobi, said he was delighted to form a working partnership with Nyeri County leadership.

- He said Israel was keen to undertake a collaborative partnership in health, agriculture and technology to boost the status of Nyeri as one of the most progressive counties in Kenya.

The Nyeri County Government intends to partner with Israel in various key sectors as one way of improving the livelihoods of the residents.

Governor Mutahi Kahiga, who yesterday hosted Israel Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Lotem said the county hopes to tap in the advanced technology of the Jewish State to boost agriculture, health and sanitation in the new deal.

Other areas of collaboration will include value addition, cottage industries, conservation agriculture technologies, agribusiness incubation for youth and trade partnership on value chain for avocados, macadamia and aquaculture.

“Israel is very strong on water retention, sewerage, irrigation and technology. These are some of the areas we want to collaborate on and learn best practices from Israel, as we share in the knowledge wealth. I would like

to thank the Ambassador and wish to express interest in reinforcing a long-term working relationship,” he said.

Lotem who was accompanied by a team of agronomists and economic officers from the Embassy of Israel in Nairobi, said he was delighted to form a working partnership with Nyeri County leadership.

He said Israel was keen to undertake a collaborative partnership in health, agriculture and technology to boost the status of Nyeri as one of the most progressive counties in Kenya.

“We are here because of different areas of collaboration, including water, agriculture, technology, health and livestock and are keen to work with Nyeri. I thank Governor Kahiga for warmly expressing interest in the joint collaborative efforts,” said Lotem.

Nyeri and Israel have a working partnership that dates back four years

ago.

On March 13 2019 Kahiga launched a similar working partnership with the Israel after he met the then Israel Ambassador, Noah Gendler and the two promised to collaborate in the areas of health, finance, education, water, ICT and environmental conservation.

The Israel government also promised to undertake training for county officials in selected fields to improve service delivery.

Israel is one of the most celebrated countries in the world, famed for undertaking extensive reclamation works on desert land for agricultural purposes, putting the Middle East nation on the lead in production of fruits, vegetables, sugar beets, flowers and dairy products.

Since she attained independence in 1948, Israel’s total area under cultivation has increased from 165,000

hectares to some 420,000 hectares and the number of agricultural communities has grown from 400 to 900.

The success of the country’s agriculture stems from the determination and ingenuity of farmers and scientists who have dedicated themselves to developing a flourishing agriculture culture in a country which is more than half desert wasteland.

Also present during the event included Deputy Governor, David Kinaniri, Etyan Hatzor, an Agriculture expert from Mashav (Israel Centre for International Cooperation), Yariv Kedar, (Kedar Gap Ltd) and Erez Raviv (Baran Group Israel).

Several senior County officials also accompanied the governor during the meeting.



OLDONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK



Ultimate Panoramic Experience

President Ruto Must Stop Using Government Advertising To Manipulate, Capture And Control Independent Media



By: Ndung'u Wainaina



President William Ruto.

move to centralize advertisement was part of an initiative to curb runaway government spending by lowering advert spend in mainstream media and directing all the money to one entity is feeble, foolhardy and hollow. President Ruto's own Economic Advisor admitted live in a national television thus, quote, "The government is very wasteful. There is no single day that I am not irritated by not just how wasteful it is, but also how deliberate and unbothered people [in the government] are in wasting the public funds."

Finally, why is President Ruto so frightened of independent media and freedom of expression? Does it mean he has lost Kenyan public support and legitimacy? Is he admitting that his policies are crumbling and rejected by wide segment of Kenyans who voted for him? Why is President Ruto desperately trying to erode of professionalism in the work of journalists and editorial independence of media houses? Is President Ruto troubled by assertive and questioning independent media? Why fear accountability and transparency?

Kenya media must stand its ground and protect media pluralism and freedom. It must demand for a government advertising mechanism that ensures transparent and fair allocation of economic resources in the media market by enhancing transparency and fairness in audience measurement and allocation of state advertising.

Kenyans must speak out and defend independent media which is enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. Attack on independent media is a direct assault on the Constitution and the sovereign will of the people of Kenya.

Ndung'u Wainaina, International Center for Policy and Conflict (ICPC) Executive Director

Worth Noting:

- The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, underscores the importance of media freedom in Article 34. The Constitution further provides that the State shall not interfere with the functioning of the media or penalize the media for opinions expressed.

- A free, objective and skilled independent media is the oxygen and essential to any open free democratic society.

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes freedom of expression as a fundamental human right. The decline in press freedom is a sign of and a factor in the disintegration of democratic institutions and principles.

- Media freedoms feed into the broader development objective of empowering people. It can only be achieved through access to accurate, fair and unbiased information.

President William Ruto Administration is using government advertising as a weapon of mass destruction to control and shutdown independent media and freedom of expression.

This act is both calamitous and pernicious. It is a direct assault on constitutional democracy.

This deplorable assault on media is not surprising. Already, within his short stint in power, President Ruto has captured, bullied and controlled Parliament. He has systematically be crippling devolution through claw back recentralization laws, policies and starving devolved units of their constitutionally set revenue share.

Judiciary has faced full blown brazen political attacks and threats. Independent Commissions and offices are under threat through denying them adequate funding and attempt to pass laws to claw back their constitutional mandate independence.

President Ruto has taxed Kenyans out of work, out of businesses and out of production.

He is now denying Kenyans right to information.

The signal is clear: President Ruto administration is increasingly becoming an existential threat to the Constitution, rule of law and democracy.

This is not only backsliding democracy but also authoritarian regime in making.

State advertising is emerging as one of the prime sources of risk for both fair competition and media independence.

It has to be stopped before it is too late.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010,

underscores the importance of media freedom in Article 34. The Constitution further provides that the State shall not interfere with the functioning of the media or penalize the media for opinions expressed.

A free, objective and skilled independent media is the oxygen and essential to any open free democratic society.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes freedom of expression as a fundamental human right. The decline in press freedom is a sign of and a factor in the disintegration of democratic institutions and principles.

Media freedoms feed into the broader development objective of empowering people. It can only be achieved through access to accurate, fair and unbiased information.

What President Ruto is doing to media today is repeat on what happened in 2017.

In a memo, reportedly sent to all government accounting officers, the directive was given that state departments and agencies would only advertise in My.Gov - a government newspaper and online portal.

Further, electronic advertising would only be aired on the state broadcaster — the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. This callous and punitive action against media can only confirm one thing: President Ruto was a key architect and author of the horrendous and destructive policies of the UhuRuto administration he accused his predecessor about.

President Ruto the message to independent media is very simple: Kne

ow or we shut you down. This can only be a revenge mission. It must be noted that efforts to withdraw government advertising from independent commercial media can be interpreted as a deeply worrying way to undermine the freedom of expression. Starving news media of revenue is a means of indirect state control. This is part of a much broader strategy for political control.

In attempt to control media, President Ruto wants to force the people of Kenya to accept and sing his song unequivocally. Dissenting views are being undermined through state-controlled media.

Kenya cannot go back to 'baba na mama era'. Kenya cannot revert to the dark days when government policy was singular and alternative viewpoints were silenced or delegitimized. Any media house that agrees to this heinous state scheme must be deemed scandalous.

The government assertions that the



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My Monthly Struggle: A Journey Through Dysmenorrhea



By Alex Masha

For many women, the monthly arrival of menstruation is an inevitable part of life.

However, for some, it brings not just discomfort but debilitating pain.

According to WHO, approximately 20-90% of women suffer from Dysmenorrhoea. Sharon Owino, 21 is not exempted.

Sharon's journey with dysmenorrhoea begins in high school and persists into university, where each month brings a familiar yet unwelcome visitor: excruciating pain. While her peers navigate adolescence with ease, Sharon grapples with the relentless agony that accompanies her menstrual cycle.

Throughout high school, Sharon's days are overshadowed by the throbbing ache in her abdomen. While classmates chatter about weekend plans and extracurricular activities, Sharon finds solace only in the comfort of her bed, clutching a heating pad to ease the pain. Despite seeking medical help, relief remains elusive, and Sharon learns to endure the discomfort with silent re-

solve.

At one point, Sharon narrates that she almost fails to sit for her History Paper examination during her Kenya Certificate Of Secondary Education (KCSE) for the pain has become unbearable. 'I have ever fainted and hospitalised for 5 days because of dsymenorrhea,' she adds.

Transitioning into university, Sharon hopes for a fresh start, but her condition follows her like a shadow. Amidst the hustle and bustle of campus life, she battles not only academic demands but also the physical torment of dysmenorrhoea. While her peers excel in their studies and social endeavors, Sharon struggles to maintain her composure amidst the turmoil within her own body.

In the quiet solitude of her dorm room, Sharon grapples with feelings of isolation and frustration. She yearns for a life free from the constraints of her condition, yet each month brings a cruel reminder of her body's betrayal. Despite the challenges she faces, Sharon refuses to surrender to despair.

Instead, she channels her pain into advocacy and awareness, determined to break the silence surrounding menstrual health issues.

Sharon suggests that it would be better if they form a community of support, offering empathy, understanding, and practical advice to those navigating similar challenges.

Through online forums, campus initiatives, and outreach programs, they can seek to educate others about the realities of living with dysmenorrhoea, dispelling myths and misconceptions along the way.

Sharon's journey is marked by setbacks, but with each hurdle she overcomes, she emerges stronger and more determined than ever. She refuses to allow her condition to define her, choosing instead to embrace her experiences as part of her journey towards empowerment and self-discovery.

While her journey with dysmenorrhoea has been marked by pain and hardship, it has also been a testament to her resilience and tenacity. Through her unwavering determination and unwavering spirit, she has transformed her suffering into a source of inspiration and hope for others. Sharon says that she has experienced several rejections and harsh words even from her fellow women and girls who tells her that she is not experiencing any pain she is only pretending.

As she prepares to embark on the next chapter of her life, Sharon carries with her the lessons she has learned and the connections she has forged along the way. Though her journey with dysmenorrhoea is far from over, she faces the future with courage and conviction, knowing that she is not alone in her fight.

She now understands that she is not the only one experiencing dsymenorrhea .With each step forward, she vows to continue breaking the silence and shining a light on the untold stories of those who, like her, live in the shadows of pain and adversity.

As a gynecologist, Dr. Benny Hinns has encountered countless women grappling with dysmenorrhea. "It's heartbreaking to see the impact it can have on their lives," he reflects. "Many suffer in silence, unaware that effective treat-

ments and support are available."

Dr. Benny is not just a physician; he is a compassionate advocate for his patients. Through personalized care and education, he empowers women to take control of their health and find relief from the monthly burden of dysmenorrhoea.

He adds that women and girls should seek medical attention when the pain becomes unbearable and if there is a change in the flow.

However, in the fight against Dysmenorrhoea, women are no longer alone; we meet Philip Ngotiek who works for Network for Adolescent and Youth of Africa (NAYA) which is committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy.

Ngotiek is passionate to provide care and other necessities to our young girls and women. As a male advocate, he is committed to raising awareness and fostering empathy for women's health issues. "It's about recognizing that this is not just a 'women's problem'," he emphasizes. "It's a societal issue that demands our attention and support."

Through his advocacy work, Philip challenges stereotypes and encourages open conversations about menstruation and menstrual health. By amplifying women's voices and experiences, he hopes to create a more inclusive and understanding society for all.

Raising The Banner Against Unchecked Cyberspace Enterprises A Call To Arms

In the ever-expanding realm of cyberspace, the proliferation of unregulated online enterprises stands as a looming specter, casting a dark shadow over the digital landscape and exacting a toll on the collective psyche.

Across the vast expanse of social media platforms, from the bustling thoroughfares of Telegram to the labyrinthine corridors of WhatsApp, the relentless drumbeat of online commerce reverberates ceaselessly. It is here, amidst the cacophony of virtual chatter, that unsuspecting denizens are enticed by the siren song of quick riches, lured by promises of untold wealth and boundless opportunity.

In the heart of the noonday sun, a chance encounter with Ashraf Nurr,

a stalwart student of Rongo University, unveils the harrowing odyssey of one ensnared in the tangled web of online speculation. A mere glimpse at a WhatsApp status sets the wheels of fate in motion, as Ashraf unwittingly tumbles headlong into the treacherous waters of digital commerce, where the currents of uncertainty churn relentlessly.

For Ashraf, the journey begins with a familiar ritual, as he navigates the labyrinthine pathways of login screens and authentication protocols. With a keystroke, he surrenders his meager possessions, the paltry remnants of rental fees and subsistence stipends earmarked for the rigors of academia, to the capricious whims of online speculation. Initially, the fruits of his labor yield

a modest bounty, a meager sum of 350 units extracted from the virtual ether. Yet, the allure of greater riches, the tantalizing promise of doubling his earnings, proves too irresistible to resist.

Alas, as the days turn into weeks, whispers of discontent begin to circulate, murmurs of malfeasance and misfortune echoing through the digital ether. Despite valiant efforts to reclaim his stake, Ashraf finds himself ensnared in a web of deceit, his hopes dashed against the rocks of shattered promises. In the wake of mounting losses, his once steadfast resolve wavers, the weight of financial ruin bearing down upon him with unrelenting force.

In the wake of Ashraf's lamentable plight lies a stark reminder of the



perils that lurk in the shadows of cyberspace. While some platforms offer legitimate avenues for online endeavor, others serve as breeding grounds for deception and deceit, preying upon the vulnerabilities of the unsuspecting.

In the face of such adversity, a clarion call rings out, a rallying cry for vigilance and resolve. It is incumbent upon us to stem the tide of

unchecked speculation, to safeguard the sanctity of our digital domain from the predations of unscrupulous actors. Let us unite in our pursuit of a brighter tomorrow, where the promise of prosperity is matched only by the steadfastness of our resolve.

Telewa Job is a Student at Rongo University.

Mount Kenya: A Sacred Journey Of Spiritual Reawakening And Cultural Celebration



By: Erick Kamau Kahura
@themtkenyatimes



Spiritual Reawakening And Cultural Celebration

Worth Noting:

- For centuries, Mount Kenya has been a place of pilgrimage and prayer, where the faithful come to seek solace, guidance, and blessings from Ngai. From solitary hermits seeking enlightenment to throngs of worshippers gathering for sacred ceremonies, the mountain welcomes all who come with an open heart and a humble spirit.
- As the sun sets behind Mount Kenya's peaks, casting a golden glow across the landscape, pilgrims gather at sacred groves and prayer circles to offer their supplications to Ngai. They sing hymns of praise, chant sacred mantras, and perform rituals handed down through generations, seeking to commune with the divine presence that resides within and around them.

The Spiritual Essence of Mount Kenya

Mount Kenya, standing majestically above the East African landscape, possesses a spiritual essence that transcends mere physicality. For generations, it has been revered by the indigenous peoples of Kenya as a sacred site where the earthly and divine converge in a symphony of profound significance.

Legend has it that Mount Kenya is the dwelling place of Ngai, the Supreme Creator according to Gikuyu beliefs. Ngai's presence permeates the mountain—felt in the rustle of the wind through the trees, the gentle flow of rivers, and the silent grandeur of the peaks. To stand in the shadow of Mount Kenya is to stand in the presence of the divine, feeling the unity of earth and heavens.

The spiritual significance of Mount Kenya extends beyond its folklore and legends. It serves as a beacon of spiritual awakening for pilgrims and seekers alike, drawing them to its slopes in search of transcendence and enlightenment. Each rock, each tree, and each blade of grass whispers the secrets of the universe, inviting those who dare to listen to partake in the divine dance of creation.

For centuries, Mount Kenya has been a place of pilgrimage and prayer, where the faithful come to seek solace, guidance, and blessings from Ngai. From solitary hermits seeking enlightenment to throngs of worshippers gathering for sacred ceremonies, the mountain welcomes all who come with an open heart and a humble spirit.

As the sun sets behind Mount Kenya's peaks, casting a golden glow across the landscape, pilgrims gather at sacred groves and prayer circles to offer their supplications to

Ngai. They sing hymns of praise, chant sacred mantras, and perform rituals handed down through generations, seeking to commune with the divine presence that resides within and around them.

In the embrace of Mount Kenya's spiritual energy, pilgrims find renewal and transformation, shedding the burdens of the world and reconnecting with their true selves. They emerge from their pilgrimage with a sense of peace, clarity, and purpose, ready to face the challenges of life with renewed vigor and determination.

Mount Kenya is more than just a mountain—it is a sanctuary for the soul, a sacred space where the earthly and the divine meet in perfect harmony. It is a place of wonder, mystery, and awe, where the spirit is uplifted, and the heart is filled with reverence and gratitude. As we stand in the presence of Mount Kenya, we are reminded of the infinite beauty and wisdom of the universe, and of our own place within it.

The Pilgrimage of the Soul

The journey to Mount Kenya is not merely a physical one—it is a pilgrimage of the soul. As travelers ascend its slopes, they leave behind the noise and distractions of the world below, entering into a sacred space where time seems to stand still, and the boundaries between the self and the divine blur.

Each step on the mountain's rugged terrain is a step closer to enlightenment, a step deeper into the mysteries of existence. With each breath of the crisp mountain air, pilgrims feel their spirits soar, liberated from the constraints of the mundane world and free to explore the boundless realms of the spirit.

For many pilgrims, reaching the

summit of Mount Kenya is the culmination of a lifelong spiritual quest, a moment of profound connection with the divine. As they stand on the highest peak, gazing out at the vast expanse of sky and earth stretching out before them, they feel a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and majesty of creation.

In that transcendent moment, they are one with the universe, united with all of creation in a sacred dance of cosmic harmony. It is a moment of pure bliss, a glimpse into the infinite possibilities that lie within the human spirit, a reminder of the eternal truth that we are all connected, and all part of something greater than ourselves.

But the journey to Mount Kenya is not without its challenges. The mountain is a harsh and unforgiving environment, where the elements can be fierce and the terrain treacherous. Yet, it is precisely these challenges that make the pilgrimage so rewarding, so transformative. It is through facing and overcoming adversity that we grow, that we learn, that we evolve.

And so, as pilgrims make their way up Mount Kenya's slopes, they are not just climbing a mountain—they are embarking on a spiritual odyssey, a quest for self-discovery and enlightenment. Along the way, they encounter fellow travelers, wise sages, and mystical beings, each offering guidance, wisdom, and inspiration to aid them on their journey.

And when they finally reach the summit, they are greeted not just by breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, but by a profound sense of peace, serenity, and oneness with the universe. It is a moment they will carry with them always, a memory to cherish and to hold in

their hearts as they continue on their journey through life.

Sacred Traditions and Ceremonies

Mount Kenya has long been a center of spiritual pilgrimage and cultural celebration. From ancient rituals to modern ceremonies, the mountain echoes with the songs and prayers of those who seek communion with the divine. Sunrise prayers, harvest festivals, and sacred dances are just a few of the ways in which the people of Kenya honor the sacredness of Mount Kenya and the blessings of Ngai.

One of the most beloved customs intertwined with Mount Kenya is the yearly observance of prayers marking the end of the year, known as Mahoya ma Ngatho cia Kuhinga Mwaka, which takes place every 30th to 31st of December. During this time, pilgrims from all walks of life come together to offer prayers and sacrifices to Ngai, seeking his guidance and blessings for the journey ahead. The pilgrimage is a time of reflection, purification, and spiritual renewal, as participants leave behind their worldly concerns and open themselves to the transformative power of the mountain.

As the sun sets behind Mount Kenya's peaks, casting a golden glow across the landscape, pilgrims gather at sacred groves and prayer circles to offer their supplications to Ngai. They sing hymns of praise, chant sacred mantras, and perform rituals handed down through generations, seeking to commune with the divine presence that resides within and around them.

In the embrace of Mount Kenya's spiritual energy, pilgrims find renewal and transformation, shedding the burdens of the world and reconnecting with their true selves. They emerge from their pilgrimage with a sense of peace, clarity, and purpose, ready to face the challenges of life with renewed vigor and determination.

Mount Kenya is more than just a mountain—it is a sanctuary for the soul, a sacred space where the earthly and the divine meet in perfect harmony. It is a place of wonder, mystery, and awe, where the spirit is uplifted, and the heart is filled with reverence and gratitude. As we stand in the presence of Mount Kenya, we are reminded of the infinite beauty and wisdom of the universe, and of our own place within it.

THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!

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

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?

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

**READ,
REVIEW &
WIN BIG**

Winners

Ugx.200,000,
+ Gift hamper

1st Runner-up

Ugx.150,000,
+ Gift hamper

2nd Runner-up

Ugx.100,000,
+ Gift hamper

**All participants
Certificates of participation
at each level.**

How to submit:

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

How to enter the contest:

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

ENTRY LEVELS

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

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

Judges :

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

ENHANCING CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT: TAKING CONTROL WITH IN-HOUSE PRINTING SOLUTIONS



By: Somesh Adukia -
Managing Director, Canon
Central & North Africa



print distinguishes itself by delivering a physical experience that lingers in the minds of consumers. This unique feature allows individuals greater control over when and how they engage with printed assets, fostering a more focused interaction.

Harnessing the In-House Advantage for Africa

While outsourcing has been a common practice globally, African organisations encounter specific challenges such as accessibility, reliability, costs, and logistical issues. An in-house printing solution not only addresses these challenges but also brings printing capabilities closer to home, providing not just cost-effectiveness but also adaptability to local trends and preferences. Advancements in in-house printing technology have made it more accessible and cost-effective. Unlike earlier practices where outsourcing was necessary to utilise sophisticated yet expensive printing equipment, organisations can now bring the speed, precision, and power of printing into their office environments.

Enhancing Customer Engagement: Taking Control with In-House Printing Solutions

In the long term, the upfront investment in printing hardware is outweighed by the financial benefits of decreased external printing costs, offering a more sustainable and cost-effective solution for businesses operating within the diverse economic regions of the African continent. By reducing reliance on external print providers, companies can minimise operational expenses associated with outsourcing, such as vendor selection, contract negotiations, and payment processing.

For instance, Canon's Creative Workspace Solutions enable companies to choose the combination of hardware, software and services that will support their business in standing out from the crowd with engaging print marketing materials and exceptional business communications, all printed within the office environment, giving them full control over every job.

This transition to in-house printing also enables them to stay at the forefront of the latest printing advancements. The increased accessibility of advanced printing technology offers organisations greater control over their processes, empowering them to manage schedules, designs, costs, and other critical aspects directly.

Moreover, in-house printing pro-

vides businesses with the agility and flexibility needed to respond to changing market trends and local preferences. Africa's dynamic and diverse markets demand the ability to customise and adapt printed materials swiftly to align with evolving customer expectations. This increased flexibility empowers companies to maintain relevance in competitive markets and enhance customer engagement through timely and tailored communication.

Customer engagement is further amplified by the ability of in-house printing to offer a personalised touch to printed materials. Tailoring content for specific audiences or demographics becomes more achievable, as businesses can easily customise documents without incurring additional expenses. This personalisation not only fosters stronger connections with customers but also contributes to improved brand loyalty, a critical factor in the competitive landscape of African markets where customer relationships play a pivotal role in business success.

Additionally, in-house printing enhances data security for businesses in Africa, a factor of increasing importance in an era marked by heightened concerns over privacy and sensitive information. By keeping the printing process within the confines of the company infrastructure, businesses can mitigate the risks associated with external parties having access to confidential material. This heightened level of security becomes particularly crucial for organisations involved in product launches or handling sensitive information, ensuring that proprietary information remains safeguarded.

Striking a Harmonious Balance

As businesses navigate the evolving landscape of customer engagement, the convergence of digital and print technologies emerges as a harmonious solution. Printing becomes an opportunity to increase engagement and reconnect with customers in a meaningful way. The in-house printing solution, tailored to the unique needs of African enterprises, not only offers internal benefits and control but elevates communication to the next level, providing a more creative and memorable experience that underscores the true value of customer relationships. It's not a choice between digital and print but a strategic combination of both that propels businesses into the future of customer engagement.

In an era dominated by digital channels, the challenge of meaningful customer engagement has become increasingly complex. In Africa, where digital connectivity has rapidly increased in recent years, consumers often face a barrage of information on various online platforms. The use of smartphones, social media, and other digital technologies has become pervasive, contributing to the proliferation of content and advertisements. In fact, the global adoption of ad blockers by 42.7% of internet users (according to a Hootsuite survey) emphasizes the inadequacy of relying solely on digital campaigns to effectively influence individuals. Interestingly, the MEA (Middle East and Africa) region lags behind other regions when it comes to ad blocking, with Morocco (15%), Ghana (21%) and Kenya (27%) seeing a much lower adoption rate, mainly due to the lower level of PC ownership in these markets, according to research conducted by global research market company GWI.

This discernible shift in consumer behaviour calls for a strategic response from businesses to reevaluate their communication strategies. Within the unique and varied dynamics of the African landscape, there is growing awareness of the necessity to extend beyond the limitations of the digital realm to actively engage with both existing customers and potential prospects. Amidst this strategic effort to diversify, and customise to suit African cultural nuances, the integration of high-quality, uniquely personalised printed materials emerges as a promising and impactful opportunity.

Rediscovering the Impact of Print in a Digital World

Incorporating print into the communication mix provides an avenue to reconnect with customers, offering a tangible and memorable alterna-

tive in a predominantly digital environment. This is where an in-house printing solution becomes a pivotal tool, allowing businesses to gain a competitive edge through the distinct impact that print brings.

The African printing market is expected to expand at a CAGR of 7.5% from 2021 to 2031, according to research conducted by leading market intelligence company Transparency Market Research. Valued at \$204.1 million in 2020, the market's value is expected to exceed \$235.3 million by the end of 2031. There has also been a significant surge in the transition from black and white to colour printing. It's estimated that there are around 2,000 commercial printing businesses in Africa, predominantly small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs).

More specifically, 12 African countries are actively leading the African digital print industry. These include the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The transition from monochrome printing to colour printing in Africa fuelled an increase in demand for laser and inkjet printers. This trend is expected to persist throughout 2024. As digitisation gains momentum across various industries, including education, healthcare, legal, financial services and logistics, a surge in sales of multifunction printers and scanners is expected, according to forecasts from market intelligence firm Infosource.

The Tangible Edge of Print in Customer Engagement

Print, in contrast to its digital counterparts, provides a concrete presence that enhances brand recall and information retention. With overflowing inboxes and fleeting digital content,

Worth Noting:

- In the long term, the upfront investment in printing hardware is outweighed by the financial benefits of decreased external printing costs, offering a more sustainable and cost-effective solution for businesses operating within the diverse economic regions of the African continent. By reducing reliance on external print providers, companies can minimise operational expenses associated with outsourcing, such as vendor selection, contract negotiations, and payment processing.
- For instance, Canon's Creative Workspace Solutions enable companies to choose the combination of hardware, software and services that will support their business in standing out from the crowd with engaging print marketing materials and exceptional business communications, all printed within the office environment, giving them full control over every job.

Watu Credit Kenya and Uganda Achieve Prestigious Client Protection Certification from MFR

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Watu Credit Kenya and Uganda have been awarded a Client Protection Certification in recognition of their long-standing commitment to client protection by the Microfinanza Rating (MFR) Certification Committee.

The two subsidiaries of Watu were awarded Bronze level Customer Protection Certification, marking a significant milestone as the first financial institution in Kenya and the third in Africa to achieve this accolade.

This recognition underscores Watu's commitment to upholding the most rigorous standards, ethical business practices, and 100% compliance with various client protection regulations and standards outlined in the Cerise+SPTF Methodology and the Universal Standards for Social and Environmental Performance Management. Andrii Volokha, General Manager for East Africa at Watu, expressed gratitude for the recognition, stating, "We are privileged to have been awarded



Erick Massawe, Watu Country Manager Kenya(left) and Andrii Volokha, Watu General Manger East Africa at the Watu Kenya HQ during the certification announcement.

this certification, which is a vote of confidence for our customers and investors. This recognition highlights our commitment to our customer's welfare and reinforces our reputation as a trusted asset financing provider. I want to reassure our investors that we have aligned our systems and practices to adhere to the globally accepted

client protection standards."

Watu was certified on key parameters of client protection services, including, Transparency, Appropriate Product Design and Delivery, Privacy of Client Data, Governance and Human Resources, Responsible Pricing, Prevention of Indebtedness, Fair and Respectful Treatment of Clients, and

Mechanisms for Complaint Resolution.

"With a compliance rate of 99% across indicators including transparency, fair and respectful treatment of clients, prevention of over-indebtedness, responsible pricing, appropriate product design, and privacy of customer data, we have solidified our

position as a model of integrity within the asset financing sector."

Since its inauguration in 2015, Watu has served over 500,000 clients in Kenya and Uganda, enabling them to acquire various innovative assets, including motorbikes, tuk tuks, smartphones, and cars. The company remains the foremost asset financing provider on the continent.

The MFR Certification Committee is approved to conduct Client Protection Certifications under the Cerise+SPTF framework. The MFR, a leading Certifier, seeks to improve practices in the finance inclusion industry. The Client Protection Pathway is the global home for all stakeholders committed to ensuring that financial products and services do not harm clients.

The certification framework includes three levels: gold, silver, and bronze, with certifications valid for three years. To achieve a Bronze level certification, financial service providers must meet specific criteria outlined in the Client Protection Pathway, such as compliance with entry-level indicators and scoring at least 65% on total indicators.

PS Elijah Mwangi Tops Again

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

An InfoTrak poll released on Wednesday revealed how Principal secretaries are performing in the Kenya Kwanza Government. This comes as the Principal Accounting Officers in the Ministry strive to align their goals to the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Under the ranking, Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi (Mining) is top with a 68% mean rating, followed by his Counterpart in the Internal security department, Raymond Omollo with a 63% approval rating. Coming a close third is Infrastructure PS Joseph Mbugua at 54% followed by Belio Kipsang and Susan Mang'eni, both tying at 53%.

The survey covered all the 47 counties and 8 regions of Kenya. To ensure national representativeness, the distribution of the survey sample across the regions was pro-

portionately allocated. Quantitative interviews were conducted through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Infotrak Research and Consulting is a professional research company that was founded and incorporated under the Laws of Kenya in 2004 following the vision of the founder to provide the Pan African Market with suitable information solutions required to sustain the needs of the ever-growing economies. • Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, Infotrak also has affiliate offices in Lagos, Nigeria and field contacts in more than 20 other countries in Sub Saharan Africa. • Providing support to various organisations in the private and public over the last 16 years, we attribute our continuous growth not only innovation, high level of professionalism and dynamism, but also to the intricate attention given to providing clients with relevant and user friendly reports.



PS Mining Elijah Mwangi.

Teenage Pregnancies A Concern For Boy Child Champion, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

By: OSDP



From left: Spouse of the Laikipia Governor, Grace Irungu, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, the spouse of the DP Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, Association of Pentecostal and Evangelical Clergy of Kenya (APECK) Laikipia Chair George Munene, and PEFA Church Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba at the two-day medical camp against alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse was conducted that included screening against addictions among other medical checkups yesterday at Rumuruti Stadium in Laikipia County. Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

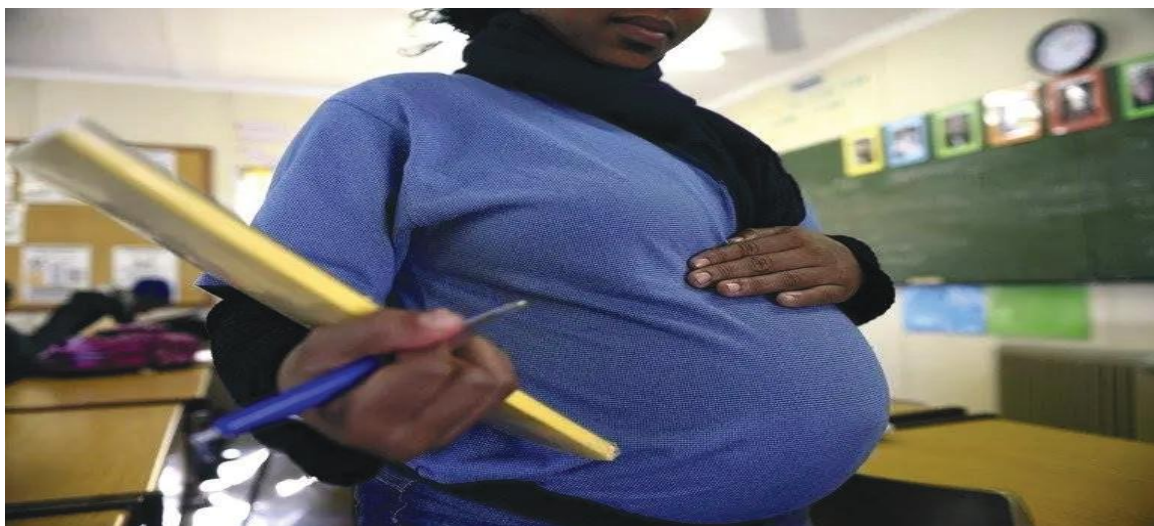
- Governor Joshua Irungu asked the men to say no to alcohol, drugs and substance abuse to raise families and grow the economy of the country.
- He said the county had invested in a maternity in Rumuruti but the men in the area were not making use of it as anticipated.
- “I built a maternity in Rumuruti, and it is not full today. What is wrong boy child? Let us say not to alcohol, and drugs and do the work we are supposed to do as the youth,” said Gov Irungu.
- He also condemned the high rates of teenage pregnancies in the county.

Men could play a leading role against teenage pregnancies in Laikipia County, and the country. Pastor Dorcas Rigathi yesterday posed a challenge to the men of Laikipia following reports of high teen pregnancies in the county. In her speech, she said that the matter of teenage pregnancy in the county was high at 9 per cent for girls aged between 15-19 years, which indicated it was a matter that needed to be addressed. “Teenage pregnancy is getting out of hand. The maternity is not for the children, where children give birth to children. Allow the children to study,” she told the hundreds of men attending the medical camp.

Pastor Dorcas advocates for the raising of male champions against gender based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation (FGM), and other social matters affecting women in the society. Governor Joshua Irungu asked the men to say no to alcohol, drugs and substance abuse to raise families and grow the economy of the country. He said the county had invested in a maternity in Rumuruti but the men in the area were not making use of it as anticipated. “I built a maternity in Rumuruti, and it is not full today. What is wrong boy child? Let us say not to alcohol, and drugs and do the work we are supposed to do as the youth,” said Gov

Irungu. He also condemned the high rates of teenage pregnancies in the county. “Teen pregnancies in this county is very shameful. We have 13 and 14 year olds pregnant. Let us avoid relating with children below the age of 18 years because you shall be arrested, imprisoned and rot in jail,” he warned the men. The launch of the two-day medical camp was attended by among others Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, and Woman Representative Jane Kagiri. Youth Representative John Gicheru assured the leaders of the support of the youth against alcohol and drugs. DCC Riungu Laikera said that gov-

ernment officers were in full support of the government initiative against alcoholism. “We have agreed with the people of Laikipia that we shall remain sober. We shall take tea and porridge, said the DCC. Woman Representative Jane Kagiri encouraged the youth to join TVETs, polytechnics, become skilled and benefit from the construction of government projects that include construction of markets and affordable housing. Pastor Dorcas repeated her clarion call to the nation of an alcohol free, and drug free nation. “We want to see the life of our children changed. There is no time a community advances without the boy child. The boy child is in prison. hangi, alcohol, and drugs are killing our children. Alcohol will cut short your life. We have buried so many of our children while a child is supposed to bury their parent,” she warned. It was also a concern to Pastor Dorcas about the rise of tobacco use in Laikipia. With one per cent of women using tobacco in Kenya, in Laikipia, 2 per cent of our women were using tobacco, and for 13 per cent of men in Kenya using tobacco, in Laikipia 17 per cent of men were using the psychoactive substance.



CBK Defends Plans For Digital Credit Providers

By: Sharon Atieno and Abundance Mutave

@themkenyaintimes

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has come out to explain the measures and mechanisms the government has put in place to regulate the activities of Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) providers in the country.

The regulator further revealed plans the government has in place to develop alternative financing models that are fair and also to genuinely empower Boda-Boda operators.

CBK Governor Dr. Kamau Thugge in his response said that the business of BNPL companies falls within the definition of Digital Credit Business under the Central Bank of Kenya (Digital Credit Providers) regulations, 2022 adding that the institutions are required to be licensed and regulated by CBK.

Thugge stated that CBK's mandate to license and supervise unregulated Digital Credit Providers (DCPs) was amended in December 2021.

He noted that CBK has received over 500 applications which are at different stages of review and licensing whose focus is to ensure the adequacy of corporate governance structures, viability of capitalization and business models, adequacy of infrastructure, to process human resources and systems, and, consumer protection and data protection mechanisms

According to the Governor, the provisions and measures ensure adherence to the relevant laws, and the interests of customers are safeguarded to prevent rogue lending institutions from violating consumer rights.

He added that the review provides specific administrative and enforcement actions that will be taken against entities that fail to comply

with any provision of the law, and where CBK has noted non-compliance of DCPs, it will engage specific licensed DCPs including onsite inspections following the law.

"Any affected boda boda operator is at liberty to lodge a complaint with CBK against a BNPL provider who has violated the law," declared Thugge.

Further, in regards to the government's plan of developing financial models that are fair, and genuinely empower boda boda operators Thugge said that the purpose of licensing DCPs is to ensure consumers are protected from malpractices such as excessive pricing of their products.

He disclosed that CBK engages with all the DCP licenses to ensure that pricing models are customer-centric and risk-based, and also expects the latter to submit pricing models that are aligned to the provisions of the regulations.



Dr Kamau Thugge..

Thugge maintained that all product features and prices must be reviewed and approved accordingly by CBK to ensure that the pricing models are fair, transparent, and empowering

for consumers accessing the digital credit product to the ongoing licensed DCPs and all applicants.

Kenya Loses 5% Of Its GDP To Climate Change Annually – PS

By: Judith Akolo

Kenya is losing 5% of its gross domestic product to the impacts of climate change including cyclic droughts and floods annually. The Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Eng. Festus Ng'eno says the loss to GDP is a clear indication that climate change is manifesting itself in all sectors of the economy.

Speaking at the opening of a training workshop for Climate Change Units drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) held in Naivasha, Eng. Ng'eno said that Kenya is experiencing cyclic droughts and floods that are impacting the country's economic agenda.

The Principal Secretary noted that already the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings show that the globe is becoming warmer than usual, an indication of global warming hence the need to put in place measures that increase the coping ability and reduce vulnerability.

"The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s 'The State of the Global Climate 2021', seven of the

warmest years have all been since 2015 and Global average temperature rise has reached 1.1 degrees Celsius, since pre industrial times with WMO declaring 2023 the warmest year beating all previous records," said the Principal Secretary and added that, "We are seeing similar trends unfolding this year with the month of February 2024 being the hottest ever so far."

The Principal Secretary noted that the situation is further compounded by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report released last year which shows continued increase in greenhouse gasses concentrations in the atmosphere and a projected increase in global average temperatures "with dire consequences especially to the most vulnerable communities."

Eng. Ng'eno said that all sectors have been adversely impacted by the effects of climate change and hampering effective delivery of the mandates of all State Departments in government, adding that floods have cut off schools and displaced pupils, the destruction of roads and other critical infrastructures by floods have rendered roads impassable, "the escalation of insecurity due to competition for scarce resources like water and pasture during droughts, the emergence of vector

borne diseases where they never used to exist as a result of warmer temperatures and excess precipitation, the flooding of hotels by rising lake levels, as well as mass deaths of wildlife during droughts are some of the impacts."

The Principal Secretary further explained that owing to the cross-cutting nature of climate change impacts, the Ministry of Environment, climate Change and Forestry has adopted an all inclusive approach to ensure that climate risks are "adequately integrated into our planning, strategies, policies, decisions, and implementation," he said and added that, "in order to effectively address climate change, you need basic understanding of climate change and how it affects your sectors," he told the representatives from MDAs.

The drafters of the Climate Change Act, 2016, underscored the importance of all Ministries, Counties, Departments and Agencies of government having CCUs in order to help mainstream climate change across the government sectors, he said noting that Kenya has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with an increased ambition of 32% from 30% emission reduction target, "and has finalized its Long Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy up to 2050 outlining



Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Eng. Festus Ng'eno .

long term ambition towards net zero target."

Eng. Ng'eno further disclosed that the amended Climate Change Act, 2023 now includes carbon markets which is one of the innovative mechanism for enhancing green climate finance.

Among programs, Kenya has initiated in tackling climate change impacts is the development of low carbon climate resilient development which include; restoration of 5.1 Million Hectares of degraded landscapes under the AFR100 and achieving Land Degradation Neu-

trality by 2030 under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

"Kenya has committed to an ambitious goal to restore and conserve 10.6 million hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems with the target of planting and nurturing 15 billion trees by 2032," said Eng. Ng'eno during the training of the first cohort of officers drawn from the various MDAs.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann on Thursday announced a much changed 26-man squad for their upcoming March friendlies, saying he wanted to bring a "fresh breeze" to the team three months out from the country hosting Euro 2024.

Nagelsmann Names Heavily Changed Squad For Euro Hosts Germany



(FILES) France's midfielder #08 Aurelien Tchouameni (L) and Germany's midfielder #09 Florian Wirtz vie for the ball during the friendly football match between Germany and France the Signal Iduna Park stadium in Dortmund, western Germany, on September 12, 2023. The coach of the French team Didier Deschamps has drawn up a very classic list of 23 players with the returns on March 14, of Ibrahima Konate, Benjamin Pavard, Aurelien Tchouameni and Moussa Diaby to face Germany (on March 23 in Lyon) and Chile (on March 26 in Marseille) in preparation matches for Euro-2024. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP).

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann on Thursday announced a much changed 26-man squad for their upcoming March friendlies, saying he wanted to bring a "fresh breeze" to the team three months out from the country hosting Euro 2024.

The 36-year-old brought back 2014 World Cup winners Manuel Neuer and Toni Kroos, leaving out 11 of the players he selected in his previous squad last November.

"It's not that we are selecting the best players, but those who fit the best," Nagelsmann told reporters.

Nagelsmann said he was focused on picking players with "momentum" and to bring a "fresh breeze" into the squad, insisting "the door is not closed for anyone".

Nagelsmann's side face France in Lyon on March 23 and the Netherlands in Frankfurt three days later.

Germany open the Euros on June 14 against Scotland in Munich.

Germany have struggled in the lead-up to the tournament.

The three-time European champions won just three of 11 games in 2023 on the back of a group-stage exit at the 2022 Qatar World Cup, a run which saw Hansi Flick become the first coach in Germany history to be sacked.

Several established players have been left out, including Leon Goretzka, Serge Gnabry, Mats Hummels and Niklas Sule, while Leroy Sane has not been named due to suspension.

Opting for form rather than reputation, Nagelsmann named six newcomers including three from this season's big improvers Stuttgart -- Deniz Undav, Maximilian Mittelstaedt and Waldemar Anton.

"They are going very, very, very well, are extremely stable and are playing with joy and self-confidence. I could have invited a couple more," Nagelsmann said.

Chris Fuehrich, who was called up for the first time earlier this season, has also been selected

from Stuttgart, who narrowly avoided relegation last campaign but sit comfortably in third this season.

Jan-Niklas Beste from promoted Heidenheim, Bayern teenager Aleksandar Pavlovic and Hoffenheim forward Maximilian Beier have also been included for the first time.

Munich-born Pavlovic, included at the expense of teammate Goretzka, was also eligible for Serbia through his father.

Kroos is one of three 2014 World Cup winners to be included in the squad alongside Neuer and Thomas Mueller.

"(Kroos is) by far the player who played past the most opponents in Europe," said Nagelsmann. "Anyone who says he just passes the ball around has no idea about football."

Neuer returns to the squad for the first time in 15 months, having last played for Germany in Qatar before missing close to a year with a broken leg.

Nagelsmann welcomed Neuer back but said Barcelona's

Marc-Andre ter Stegen could be the number one 'keeper ahead of the Bayern captain.

Barcelona midfielder Ilkay Gundogan will retain the captain's armband despite the 37-year-old Neuer's return.

"Ilkay is proud to wear the armband, but Neuer's word will continue to have weight," Nagelsmann said.

Kroos last played for Germany in July 2021. In February, the Real Madrid star announced he would come out of international retirement ahead of the Euros.

The squad included just one Borussia Dortmund player, striker Niclas Füllkrug, with Hummels, Sule, Julian Brandt, Karim Adeyemi and Nico Schlotterbeck missing out.

Five Bayern players have been selected, alongside three from Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen.

Germany squad

Goalkeepers: Oliver Baumann (Hoffenheim), Bernd Leno (Fulham/ENG), Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (Barcelona/ESP)

Defenders: Waldemar Anton (Stuttgart), Benjamin Henrichs (RB Leipzig), Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich), Robin Koch (Eintracht Frankfurt), Maximilian Mittelstaedt (Stuttgart), David Raum (RB Leipzig), Antonio Rudiger (Real Madrid/ESP), Jonathan Tah (Bayer Leverkusen)

Midfielders: Robert Andrich (Bayer Leverkusen), Chris Fuehrich (Stuttgart), Jan Niklas-Beste (Heidenheim), Pascal Gross (Brighton and Hove Albion/ENG), Ilkay Gundogan (Barcelona/ESP), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid/ESP), Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich), Aleksandar Pavlovic (Bayern Munich), Florian Wirtz (Bayer Leverkusen)

Forwards: Maximilian Beier (Hoffenheim), Niclas Füllkrug (Borussia Dortmund), Kai Havertz (Arsenal/ENG), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Deniz Undav (Stuttgart)

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) has launched its Sprinters Program, signaling a significant step forward in Team Kenya's journey toward the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Paris 2024: NOC-K Launches Sprinters Program To Propel Kenya's Medal Ambitions



The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) has launched its Sprinters Program, signaling a significant step forward in Team Kenya's journey toward the Paris 2024 Olympics.

With full determination, NOC-K has taken charge of the entire relay team, comprising the 4x100m men, 4x400m men, 4x400m women, and the mixed relay. The program is designed to ensure meticulous training and preparation to position the team for success on the global stage.

"We are fully committed to ensuring the team's qualification and an ultimate podium finish in Paris" stated Chief Executive Officer to Paris 2024, Wanjiru Karani.

All athletes have commenced their training regimen at Nyayo Stadium, where they will benefit from a structured environment aimed at sharpening their skills

and fostering teamwork. The program, led by Head Coach Mwani-ki Mlamba is crafted to refine their abilities and strategize for success. Furthermore, NOC-K has provided the 17 athletes with the necessary equipment and full kits.

During the launch event, NOC-K President Dr. Paul Tergat underscored the importance of hard work and qualification, emphasizing NOC-K's commitment to providing proper care and support to the athletes.

"We're enlisting sponsors to bolster this program. As a former athlete, I understand its significance. So, I implore you: stay focused,"

NOC-K Secretary General Francis Mutuku revealed plans for the team's participation in the ASA Grand Prix continental tour challenge in Johannesburg, South Africa, followed by a camp in Miramas.

The team will then proceed to the Penny Relays and culminate their preparation at the World Athletics Relays in the Bahamas on the 4th and 5th of May.

Additionally, NOC-K expressed gratitude to Tusker for its generous sponsorship, providing significant financial support towards the program. "Just as you saw, Tusker has given us 30 million for Team Kenya's preparation, but on top of that, 5 million will be going to sprinters. A separate program just for you, so you will also be activating for KBL, and this is a boost for your morale when sponsors believe in you," affirmed Francis Mutuku, Secretary General of NOC-K.

Barnaba Korir, Athletics Kenya Youth Development Chairman, and Deputy Chef de Mission to Paris 2024 emphasized the importance of discipline and focus

among the athletes.

Captain of the team and 2x Olympian Mike Mokamba expressed gratitude to NOC-K for its support and highlighted the historical significance of past achievements. "As Captain of the team, I want to thank NOC-K for coming on board to support the sprinters and launching this program. We reported to camp on Monday, and so far, we are comfortable. We desire to bring back memories of the 1972 Olympics," stated Mokamba.

Five athletes, including 800M World Champion Mary Moraa, are absent from this camp as they prepare in Kasarani to depart for Accra, Ghana, they will subsequently fly directly to South Africa and join the team for their next phase of training.

Citizen Digital

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Backpage



Four Youth Gathered Authors And Poets Across Africa On The 8th Of March 2024



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

Chedu Chonga Hall in Francistown was the cradle of entertainment this past Friday with literature enthusiasts from four various African countries under the same roof in Francistown, Botswana.

Honorable councillor of the ward, Hon Jojo Lucas was in attendance and the CEO of COSBOTS, as well as the crew and workers.

The event happened at Chedu Chonga community hall in Francistown because the initial place or venue was under renovation which was the civic center and it was book festival and award celebration of books and poetry.

Courtesy of Mulher Forte African literature by Dr Paula O.M.Otukile.

Authors who were honored were Best novelist from Botswana Mrs Winnie Mpala and Best indigenous Book New comer Lerato Moalosi from Botswana. Best Poetry Book Author katlego Molebatsi from Botswana, Gaolatlhe Setso Setsile from Botswana.

Best Opera Literary Singer Jamakazi Bazana from South Africa. Best Community literacy Mobiliser from South Africa. Best international Poet Macdonald Pagywa from Zimbabwe, Keamogetsi Molapong, Best International Poetry Book from Namibia.

Best Indigenous Book Author One Pearl Matlapeng from Botswana, Best Lusophone Literature Author, Beni Dya Mbaxi in absentia.



Hon Jojo Lucas, Councillor of the ward.

