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Waiguru Says Counties Committed To Ending Women Poverty And Advance Gender Equality

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “Several counties have integrated gender considerations into their development plans and budgets. By mainstreaming gender, these counties aim to ensure that resources and opportunities are equitably distributed among men and women, promoting equality and inclusivity,” she said.
- Giving an example of Wezesha Kirinyaga empowerment programme, Waiguru said counties have established women’s funds or economic empowerment programs to provide financial support, training, and mentorship to women entrepreneurs.



Governor Anne Waiguru addressing the forum

Council of Governors (COG) chairperson Anne Waiguru has said that County governments have invested heavily in programmes to end women’s poverty and advance gender equality. Waiguru said the programmes which includes economic empowerment, healthcare, education and leadership, aim at ending poverty among women to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development for all. Waiguru who spoke during the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), side event in New York, United States, said the devolved units have adopted a multifaceted approach to ensure women have equal opportunities to access education, healthcare, finance and decent employment.

The annual CSW is the UN’s largest annual gathering on gender equality and women’s empowerment. She said some of the solutions adopted by counties to end women’s poverty include providing equal employment opportunities, increasing access to resources and financial assets, mentorship for entrepreneurship and leadership. Others include trainings to end deep-rooted stereotypes that limit women’s participation in education, skills enhancement to increase their access to decent employment, and decision-making among others. “Several counties have integrated gender considerations into their development plans and budgets. By mainstreaming gender, these counties aim to ensure that

resources and opportunities are equitably distributed among men and women, promoting equality and inclusivity,” she said. Giving an example of Wezesha Kirinyaga empowerment programme, Waiguru said counties have established women’s funds or economic empowerment programs to provide financial support, training, and mentorship to women entrepreneurs. “These programs have helped women start or expand their businesses, thereby contributing to local economic growth,” she said. The Chairperson said counties have implemented initiatives to support women in agribusiness by providing access to markets, training in modern farming

techniques, and promoting value addition activities like food processing and agro-processing. She said adherence to the two-third gender rule in county appointments has enabled women occupy positions of authority where they influence policy and laws that are responsive to women and girls. The governor said counties have also prioritized healthcare initiatives targeting women and mothers through establishment of maternal and child health clinics, providing prenatal and postnatal care services, and promoting family planning and reproductive health education. Noting that more women than men are living in poverty, Waiguru said by ensuring equal access to opportunities and decision-making for all, societies can create healthier and just economies. She said county governments have also implemented robust social protection policies, which have provided a framework for implementing social protection initiatives such as Inua Jamii programme for older person and PWD while ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to basic services and social safety nets. “Evidence from around the world has shown that a strong social protection system can help break the devastating cycle of poverty. The effective implementation of social protection measures are crucial to ensure comprehensive development across all sectors. The well-being of citizens, particularly those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged, hinges on the availability of robust social protection mechanisms,” Waiguru added. The Kirinyaga Governor said Kenya has made significant strides in getting more women into political offices and in order to secure this achievement, the seven female Governors have launched a G7 strategy aimed at guaranteeing the re-election of the current female governors and increasing the number in the upcoming election.

Editor's Desk

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Senate Upholds Impeachment Of Kisii County Deputy Governor

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

In a decisive move, the Senate has voted to remove Kisii Deputy Governor Dr Robert Monda from office over a series of grave misconduct allegations. The impeachment followed voting by Senators, who upheld all four charges levelled against Monda: gross violation of the Constitution or law, abuse of office, gross misconduct and crimes under national law.

“The Senate has upheld the removal from office, by way of impeachment, of Honourable (Dr) Robert Monda, the Deputy Governor of Kisii County, and therefore Dr Robert Monda ceases to hold office forthwith,” Speaker Amason Kingi announced while delivering the pivotal verdict.

Central to the charges was the accusation that Monda solicited and received a bribe of KSh800,000 from Dennis Misati and his family under the pretence of securing Misati a job at the Gusii Water and Sanitation



Senate during the impeachment session.

Company (GWASCO). It was further alleged that Monda sent KSh100,000 to GWASCO’s Managing Director in an attempt to influence Mokaya’s employment, though this request was ultimately rejected.

Beyond the employment dispute, Monda stood accused of misusing county resources by deploying enforcement officers to arrest his brother

er over a personal matter involving felled trees.

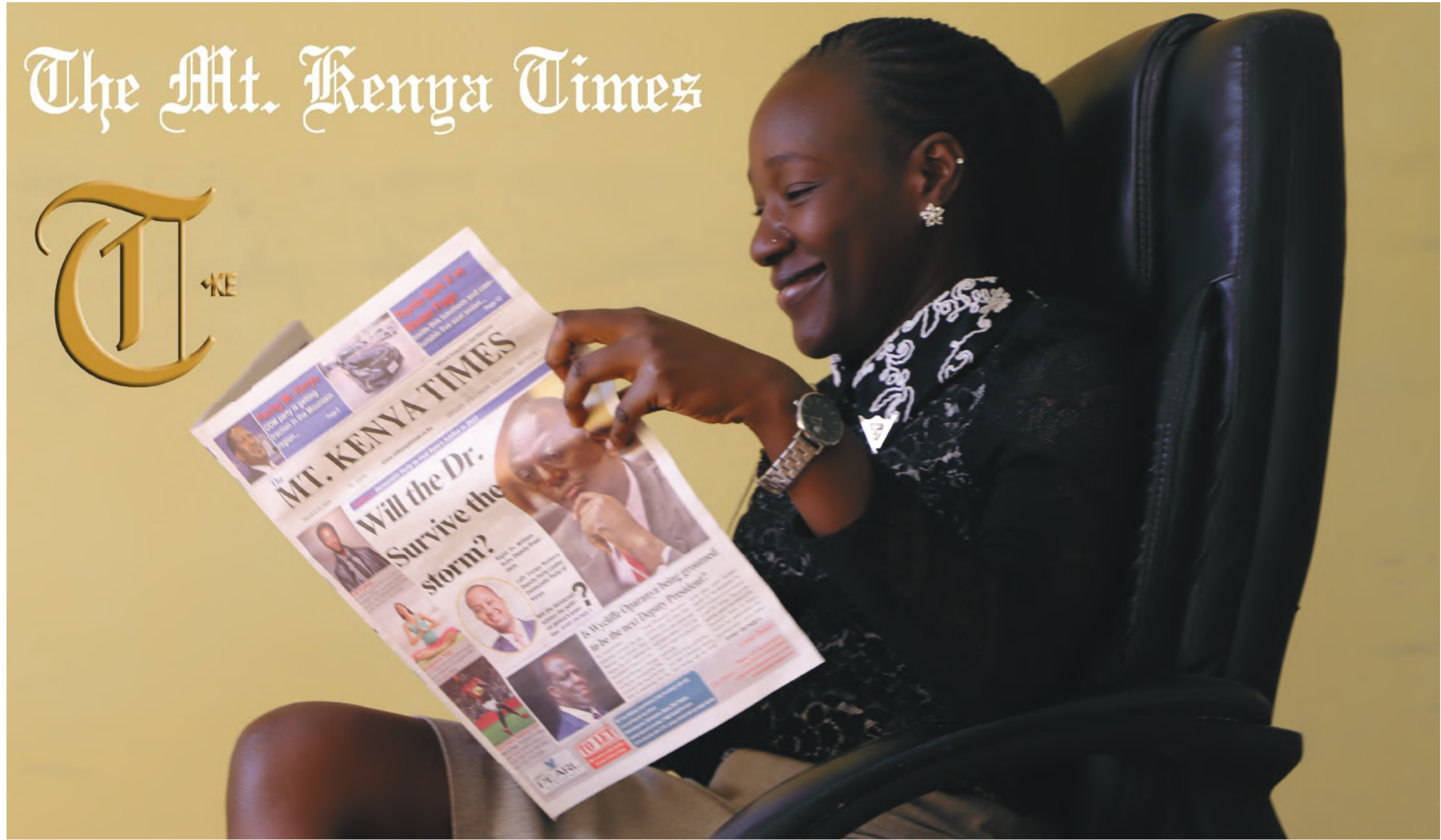
The impeachment process was set in motion on 29th February 2024, when the Kisii County Assembly approved a motion to remove Monda from office. This decision was formally communicated to the Senate on 1st March through a letter received by the Speaker’s Office on 2nd March. Pursuant to Article 181 of the Consti-



Dr Robert Monda and his lawyer Katwa Kigen entering the Senate Chambers

tution and Section 33 of the County Governments Act, the Senate was obliged to consider the matter. After hearing of evidence and debate, the Senate’s verdict was un-

equivocal—with 39 out of 43 delegations confirming his culpability on the first two charges—Monda’s conduct was deemed unfit for office.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Students from a Nairobi-based secondary school emerged as the first runners-up in innovation, creativity and excellence in education competitions held in Nigeria recently. Team Smart Blind Walking Stick from St Georges Girls Secondary School of Nairobi, Kenya emerged as the first runner-up of the Sahara STEAMers Grand Demo Competition 2. The competition, now in its second year, is organized by the Sahara Group Foundation and Asharami Synergy, Kenya, in collaboration with STEM Cafe. The two companies are subsidiaries of Sahara Group, a leading international energy and infrastructure conglomerate with operations in over 42 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The Sahara STEAMers programme, an afterschool initiative in partnership with STEM-Cafe, was established in 2022 with the primary aim of fostering innovation, creativity and excellence in STEAM education in secondary school students in Africa. Speaking at the Grand Demo Competition, Ejiro Gray Director of the Sahara Group Foundation explained that this year's programme, aimed at fostering innovation, creativity, and excellence in STEAM education among secondary school students in Africa, directly impacted over 200 students across the continent.



The national government has officially commissioned the construction of 600 housing units under the Talai Ainamoi Affordable Housing Project Phase 1 in Kericho Town. President Dr. William Ruto who led a high-level government team during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Talai Ainamoi Affordable Housing Project on the 5-acre land said the construction of the AHP houses will go a long way in reducing slums in the country and save extra land for food production. The Head of State further said already, the construction of 60,000 housing units is ongoing in several parts of the country adding that by the end of April 2024, the national government will be constructing over 100,000 housing units. He said, in the next two months, the government will have employed 260,000 youth under the AHP programme countrywide, while 10,000 youth will be recruited to aid in the construction of the units in Kericho alone including carpenters, masonries, architects, Quantity Surveyors, Engineers, electricians, plumbers, among others. "We want to build a total of 5000 housing units under phase 1, in Talai Majengo area, we are constructing 600 units and in Chelimo area we will add more units," said Dr. Ruto.



Othaya constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina is seen handing over a gift to Judicial Service Commission Vice-Chairman Macharia Njeru after presiding over the Othaya Education Day. The event, held at Othaya Boys Secondary School was attended by hundreds of stakeholders who included various professionals and students.

The MP noted that the sub-county has really improved in academic performance both in KCPE and KCSE examinations, adding that among the eight Sub-Counties in Nyeri County, it was ranked position one.

"I promise to continue being on the forefront in supporting education sector and through my programme "Masomo Bora" quality and affordable education is my priority," Wainaina told the meeting.

On his part, Njeru commended the area leaders, led by the MP for the improvement of education and other sectors.



National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) in Narok County have been reminded of their critical role in disseminating government policies at the grassroots. Narok County Commissioner Kipkech Lotiatia said the chiefs played a critical role in ensuring all the residents under their jurisdiction are familiar with government programmes and that they adhere to them accordingly. He spoke at the Narok Teachers' Training College where he met with Deputy County Commissioners, Assistant Deputy Commissioners, Chiefs, and their assistants from the area. The speaker highlighted the government's implementation of programs like the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) to ensure easy access to quality medical care for all residents. The chiefs were also challenged to inform the people of the presidential directive of planting over 15 billion tree seedlings in ten years so that they could embark on the exercise of planting trees on their farms.



Implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) markets in West Pokot County will boost to the development agenda of the region, Governor Simon Kachapin has reiterated. Speaking when he met the County AHP and ESP Markets Implementation Coordination Committee at the Governor's official residence on Thursday, Kachapin said the county government fully supports the programmes calling on other stakeholders to follow suit for the benefit of the county. He said that such programmes have come on a silver platter and hence should be accorded due support calling on residents not to politicize them but instead abide by the resolutions of the Public Participation drives conducted contrary to which the region stands to lose in terms of development. "The projects have already been budgeted for therefore we should provide a conducive environment for their implementation. Our county has enough public land that can accommodate all the proposed projects and even more, therefore we should use this opportunity to benefit from the government development agenda," stated Kachapin. So far, the government has identified sites for the construction of ESP markets which are Makutano, Alale, Ortum and Sigor at a cumulative sum of Sh205 million and handing over of the sites to the contractors is scheduled for next week. According to the committee records, the Alale, Makutano and Sigor markets being done by one contractor will cost Sh147 million whereas the Ortum one Sh48 million making up the total cost for the markets project. For AHP, sites identified for the projects include Bendera within Kapenguria Municipality, Sigor and Alale Prison lands among other areas where the committee will conduct visits and secure the places. Kachapin appealed to the national government agencies to lend a hand in trying to secure some public land that has been encroached on by individual developers so that the region can benefit more from the AHP programme.

NEWS PAPER

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Government Urged To Advance Equitable Kidney Care

By: Hellen Lunalo
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking to journalists during a free kidney screening exercise held at the hospital, Ms Kibunja said that Kenya, a country with more than 50 million people had less than 100 nephrologists, with over ninety percent of them stationed in hospitals within Nairobi County.
- “We are facing a lot of barriers when it comes to diagnosis, treatment and management of kidney disease. The biggest barrier we are facing currently are financial constraints as treating kidney disease is very expensive and a lack of trained kidney care specialists, both nurses and doctors.”



A medic examining a patient

Kenyans joined the rest of the world in observing World Kidney Day on Thursday as part of a global campaign to raise awareness on the risk factors and prevention of kidney disease.

The Kenya Renal Association together with the World Kidney Day joint steering committee declared “Kidney health for all-advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice” as the theme for 2024.

It is estimated that in Kenya, five million people are battling chronic kidney disease, with many Kenyans especially those in the rural and marginalised communities facing extreme barriers

to kidney health care.

According to Elizabeth Kibunja a nephrology nurse at Thika Level 5 hospital’s renal unit, the theme could not have been timelier as in Kenya, more so Thika town, the burden of kidney disease is grossly underestimated.

Speaking to journalists during a free kidney screening exercise held at the hospital, Ms Kibunja said that Kenya, a country with more than 50 million people had less than 100 nephrologists, with over ninety percent of them stationed in hospitals within Nairobi County.

“We are facing a lot of barriers when

it comes to diagnosis, treatment and management of kidney disease. The biggest barrier we are facing currently are financial constraints as treating kidney disease is very expensive and a lack of trained kidney care specialists, both nurses and doctors.”

“As a result, we have many cases of late-stage presentation of patients with kidney disease who end up dying before or while receiving treatment. Chronic kidney disease occurs in stages that persist over months or even years. Awareness of the disease symptoms have saved many lives,” she said.

She added that it was important for

medics to share information with patients and the public about kidney disease and the predisposing factors.

“Kidneys filter all the blood in the body every 30 minutes. They work hard to remove wastes, toxins, and excess fluid as well as help control blood pressure, stimulate the production of red blood cells, keep bones healthy, and regulate blood chemicals that are essential to life.

“Having kidney disease means your kidneys are damaged and can’t filter blood the way they should. Experts associate kidney disease to risk factors such as diabetes or high blood pressure. If you experience kidney failure, treatments include kidney transplant or dialysis.

“I have listened to many patients on dialysis talk about how they lived with diabetes or high blood pressure as they were not aware of how medications prescribed for such conditions can be damaging to their kidneys. However, diabetes or high blood pressure does not always end in kidney failure,” said Ms Kibunja.

She urged the government to come up with aggressive awareness campaigns that have the power to change communities by empowering them with education on the prevention and management of kidney disease and allocate adequate finances to enable the recruitment of more nephrologists in the country.

She also appealed to insurance companies to come up with medical schemes that were pocket friendly to patients living with kidney disease as the current available ones were not sustainable for the ordinary mwananchi.

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18 Kenyan Students Win Regional Awards For The Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 And Will Go To Global Final In China

Kenya had the most winners in the Southern African Region who will join the global competition

By: Mike Omuodo
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Mr. Luis Kinyua - Top Student Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 said he would “like to thank the Huawei instructors, university lecturers and Huawei Technologies for making the competition possible.
- All stakeholders made this experience unforgettable, offered your support and ensured you addressed any questions we had and challenges which we faced. You helped us embrace the important ICT field and this served as a stepping stone to those of us who are interested in becoming Network and Cloud experts. Huawei always ensures that it updates all its course materials with regards to the latest trends in technology.”

21 top Kenyan students were awarded today out of the almost 6,000 who entered the 2023-2024 Huawei ICT Competition during a ceremony held in Nairobi. Of the 21 winners at a national level, an impressive 18 of them have subsequently won awards at the regional level and will be going to China for the global final, more than any of the other 15 countries in the region. As Kenya emerges as a key player in the Southern African Region, its students are making their mark on the global stage.

The students also got cash prizes and Huawei products whilst other awards were given out for lecturers and women in technology whilst 21 students got internship and job offers.

Chief Guest at the ceremony was Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, spoke about the importance of technology skills and collaboration between academia and industry leaders:

“The Ministry of Education is fully aware of the importance of using technology in teaching, and in producing a workforce with high technology skills. We are very pleased to see the outcomes of partnerships with industry such as Huawei and Safaricom, as well as international organisations such as UNESCO, to support training of lecturers and students in the high-end ICT skills such as internet of things (IOT), artificial intelligence and cloud computing to address the skills gap in the ICT sector.”

Before participating in the prize giving ceremony, he commended the students: “Today we recognize some of the best ICT talent in the country through awarding the winners of the Huawei ICT Competition. This is a noble initiative that brings the

latest curriculum and knowledge to our students and then also gives them opportunities to gain more international exposure and internships – both of which are very important, and very complementary to what the students get at University. I wish to appreciate Huawei for this, and acknowledge the great achievement of the competition in attracting 5,800 Kenyans to take part from over 40 Universities nationwide.”

Mr. Luis Kinyua - Top Student Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 said he would “like to thank the Huawei instructors, university lecturers and Huawei Technologies for making the competition possible. All stakeholders made this experience unforgettable, offered your support and ensured you addressed any questions we had and challenges which we faced. You helped us embrace the important ICT field and this served as a stepping stone to those of us who are interested in becoming Network and Cloud experts. Huawei always ensures that it updates all its course materials with regards to the latest trends in technology.”

The Huawei ICT Competition, initiated in 2015 as part of the Huawei ICT Academy is a collaborative effort to enrich the ICT talent pool by transferring the latest knowledge from a global technology leader. The 2023-2024 edition featured four distinct tracks: cloud, computing, network, and innovation, reflecting Huawei’s dedication to diverse technological fields.

“I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Education for working with us to ensure the success of this ICT competition enabling young people to build their skills and promote innovation. We all need to continue this important work to ensure we create value from

the Digital Superhighway paving the path for youth around the country to have a brighter future.” Gavin Gao, CEO Huawei Kenya said in the ceremony.

The award ceremony took place as part of a National ICT Talent Summit of University & ICT Industry stakeholders including Safaricom and UNESCO to discuss ways of enhancing the teaching of, and use of, emerging ICT technologies in higher education. Various institutions such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kibabii University and Africa Nazarene University shared successful cases of how they have incorporated Industry Certification learning into their existing undergraduate programs to equip students with the right skills for the digital economy.

Ms Donna Rege, Senior Manager IT Business & Government and Women In Technology (WIT) Lead, Safaricom in her speech noted that: “In matters capability development, WIT and Huawei has had several collaborations: Self learning, Mentorship & coaching, and Training. I congratulate and appreciate Huawei for the intentionality and consistency in the capacity building agenda of this country and moreover around

Women as reflected in this year’s cohort where women students grew from 13% last year to 21% this year. As Safaricom, we commit to continue working together, and we call upon more industry players – private and public, academia to come on board.”

Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Director and Representative UNESCO Multi-sectoral regional office for Easter Africa noted in his remarks that three weeks ago, the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa officially declared 2024 as the “Year of Education”: “And this commitment could not be timelier, as the continent faces a severe education crisis: Africa has the world’s largest out-of-school population; Even those in school are not learning; and there is a huge shortage of qualified teachers.”

He went on: “Overcoming these challenges requires a transformative approach to education that harnesses digital technology to unlock learning opportunities. At the heart of UNESCO’s strategy lay three fundamental pillars, or what we call the three Cs to unlock digital learning: content, capacity, and connectivity.”

In Kenya, Huawei has established ICT Academies in over 50 universities and colleges, providing access to cutting-edge technology training in networking, cloud computing, 5G, and AI. Annually, these academies train over 4,000 students, contributing significantly to the ICT skills landscape. The Huawei hardware installation base in Kenya has been recognized by the Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youth Affairs, playing a pivotal role in nurturing Kenya’s ICT talent pool and supporting national development initiatives.



CJ Koome Feted At African Persons Of The Year Awards

By: Christine Muchira
@themkenyetimes

Chief Justice Martha Koome was on Friday night feted with the African Female Leader of the Year award 2023 at a ceremony held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In her acceptance speech, CJ Koome emphasised that the honour was not solely for her individual achievement, but also symbolised the collective dedication and resilience of individuals striving for excellence throughout the continent.

“This award is not mine alone to claim. It is an accolade that I dedicate wholeheartedly to the institution I am privileged to lead, the Judiciary of Kenya. This recognition shines a light on our collective endeavour to establish a justice system that is truly people-centred. A system that is responsive and attuned to the needs, experiences, and expectations of the Kenyan people, especially those who are marginalized and vulnerable,”

she said.

The Chief Justice stressed the importance of rededicating efforts to Africa’s development, fostering a culture of excellence and establishing systems and institutions that serve the interests of all.

“This recognition spurs us to persist in our pursuit of leadership excellence and to relentlessly enhance the quality of service delivery by our institutions. It is a call to action for all of us to continue working tirelessly for the advancement of our continent and its people,” she emphasised.

She urged recommitment to the cause of Africa’s development, nurturing a culture of excellence, and building of systems and institutions that truly work for the benefit of the people. “Together, we can forge a brighter, more prosperous future for Africa.”

The African Persons of the Year Awards celebrate individuals who contribute significantly to the continent’s advancement, inspire future and positively transform the continent’s image on the global stage.

CJ Koome was voted for her trail-

blazing leadership as the first female Chief Justice of Kenya, as well accomplishments in the Judiciary, especially in improving access to justice, promoting gender equality within the legal system and advancing judicial reforms to strengthen the rule of law in Kenya.

During Friday night’s ceremony, former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete received the African Peace and Security Leader of the Year & Congressional award while Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, the Group CEO of First Bank Nigeria Limited was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Banking.

The African Persons of the Year Ceremony is a flagship annual event of the African Leadership Magazine, which has been held consecutively over the past 12 years, convening policymakers, private sector leaders, civil society leaders, thought leaders and all stakeholders from across Africa and the rest of the world to discuss issues bothering on Africa’s socio-economic growth and development.

Past winners of the African Persons



Chief Justice Martha Koome (Right) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

of the Year Awards include former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Sudanese Businessman Mo Ibrahim, Atiku Abubakar, former Vice President of Nigeria and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organisation.

African Union Executive Council Backs EAC For Next AU Commission Chairman

By: KBC Digital

The African Union Executive council has unanimously agreed to support one of their own in the position of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said it is time that the position is occupied by a leader from Africa even as he lobbied for the candidature of Opposition Leader Raila Odinga.

“This is a major breakthrough for the Eastern Africa region to present candidates for the position of Chairperson of the AUC,” said Mudavadi.

“It is now clear that the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga will be in the race for the AU Commission Chairperson. Effectively, there are no more technical or legal hurdles preventing Kenya from submitting its candidate,” he added.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said there are no more hurdles preventing Kenya from submitting the candidate for that position even as he described the decision as a major breakthrough for the East African region to present candidates for the post.

Mudavadi who is also the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary said Kenya will work closely with the 14 member state Eastern Africa region to build consensus around its candidate.

The decision also provides that the Northern African region will front candidates for the Deputy Chairperson while the other three regions, Central, Southern and Western will compete for the six positions of commissioners.

He stated that these efforts are continuous and will continue to include all the other regions to ensure that the opportunity for electing effective leadership of the AUC provides a platform for uniting the entire continent.



The African Union Executive council.

Communication Union Endorses Government’s Initiative To Advertise With KBC

By: Fatma Said
 @themkenyatimes

The Secretary General of the Communication Workers Union of Kenya (COWU), Benson Okwaro, has voiced his support for the government’s decision to advertise with the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC).

Okwaro notes this initiative as a step towards empowering the organisation to become financially self-reliant and ensure full payment of its employees.

Speaking at the Pride Inn Flamingo, Mombasa, Okwaro said that this endorsement underscores the importance of governmental collaboration in strengthening the financial stability of the public broadcasting entity, while also addressing concerns regarding employee remuneration.

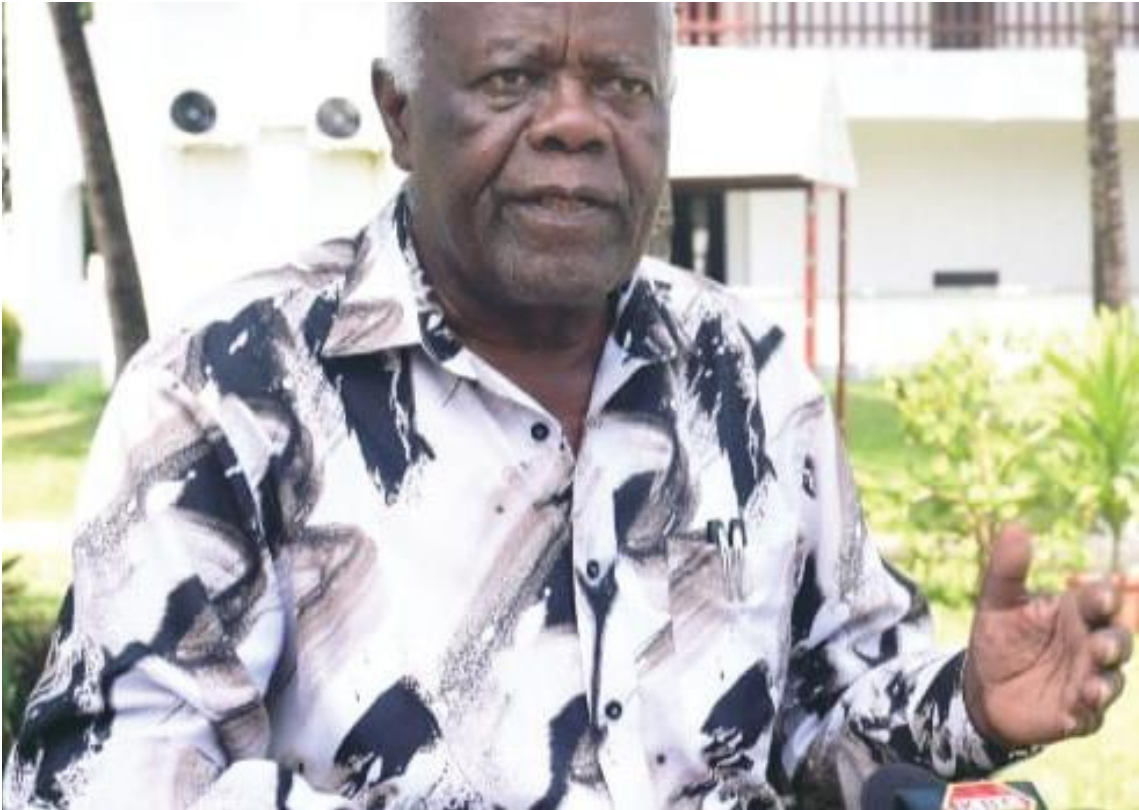
“This initiative has raised many concerns from the other media houses as they are making complaints that this will bring some discrimination, but as representative of the Communica-

tion Union of workers, I think that is a right decision the government has made,” Okwaro said.

In his statement, he reiterated the union’s backing of the decision, emphasizing their shared goal of facilitating KBC’s financial autonomy, expansion, and ensuring prompt and complete payment of its workforce.

He noted that it is only fair for KBC to be supported by the Government as it owns it and that the other media should not feel discriminated against because it was not announced that the Government would not do business with them but to give the Broadcasting Corporation time to get on its feet.

“I also want to take this opportunity to plead with the management of KBC through the MD that he has a job to do, to grab this opportunity and exploit all the potential the Corporation has”, he added.



Benson Okwaro addressing the media

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Ndindi Nyoro Was Given A Thunderous Applause During Nairobi CBD Community Prayer Meeting



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



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

Worth Noting:

- This once showed Ndindi Nyoro's heightened political, socio-economic activities across was not only closely monitored by those in government but also bigwigs in the opposition.
- The prayers were held just a few days after Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua alleged 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 talking in one voice.

Kiharu MP and the chairman of the National Assembly's Budget and Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro was among the leaders who attended a Thanksgiving prayer meeting organized by the Nairobi business community.

I was there when he arrived and when the master of ceremony introduced the leaders present.

Ndindi, the governor of Nairobi Johnson and Wiper Leader Kalonzo received a thunderous applause.

In his speech, Kalonzo recognized the presence of Hon Ndindi Nyoro. I can see that Ndindi is here. I know he is also eyeing the presidency.

Ndindi and governor Sakaja are still young. When that time comes, I want to ask them to first support me and give me an opportunity to lead this country.

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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 talking in one voice.

Many interpreted this as admission that he felt threatened by the Ndindi Nyoro's political game plan.

Remember this was happening at a time when the Kiharu MP had not yet openly declared his candidature.

As a writer and a political analyst, this is what I have gathered from the majority of people mainly those who hails from the Kikuyu community.

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 faulted Moi for abandoning the region.

This time, DP Gachagua was just playing politics. We know he is targeting Ndindi Nyoro. This is because the race to replace former President Uhuru Kenyatta as the kingpin of the Mountain has narrowed down between him and Kiharu MP.

The DP did not expect a strong candidate to emerge.

Initially he thought that Ndindi Nyoro was a lightweight. He has since realized that he is a force to reckon with.

The DP made his claims at a time when the MP was visiting different parts of the country after being invited by local leaders to launch development projects, deliver messages of peace and unity and articulate and disseminate the policies of the national government.

The local leaders would take this opportunity to shower him with praises.

Ndindi Nyoro is a presidential material.

Some would 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 we article in this column.

I had argued as things stand, Ndindi Nyoro's opponents had started panicking. To tame him, we had seen them escalating this war to State House.

Why drag the name of the President? Ruto had no hand in Ndindi's bid. This is why they would produce an iota of truth to support their 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 once again demonstrated his commitment to walk the walk. This is by focusing on fulfilling the promises he had made during the campaigns.

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

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

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

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. He noted that Ndindi was a presidential material.

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

For Dr Ruto, this is not the first time that his name would dragged into premature 2032 succession politics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Majority of 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. It is widely believed that one year down the line he has failed to do this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

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

Nyeri Governor Assents To County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill And Orders Freeze Of Bar Licensing

The Governor Also Gave County Workers Operating Bar A Seven Day Ultimate To Choose Employment And Running Liquor Outlets

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The assenting of the Bill was witnessed by among others; his deputy Governor David Kinaniri, Nyeri Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi, Nyeri County Attorney Kimani Rucuiya, Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina, Nyeri County Alcoholic Drinks Regulation Board Director Josphat Wamathai among others.
- The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the licensing of alcoholic drinks to control the production, sale, distribution, promotion, and consumption of alcoholic drinks and the promotion of research, treatment, and rehabilitation for persons dependent on alcoholic drinks.



Governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga assenting the Nyeri County Alcoholic drinks bill. He is with his deputy David Kinaniri, Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU.

Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga yesterday assented the local Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill and immediately outlined various measures.

The governor told the concerned departments to forthwith stop issuance of bar licences until further notice.

He also told the county employees, running alcoholic outlets to choose between running them or working for the devolved unit.

The assenting of the Bill was witnessed by among others; his deputy Governor David Kinaniri, Nyeri Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi, Nyeri County Attorney Kimani Rucuiya, Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina, Nyeri County Alcoholic Drinks Regulation Board Director Josphat Wamathai among others.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the licensing of alcoholic drinks to control the production, sale, distribution, promotion, and consumption of alcoholic drinks and the promotion

of research, treatment, and rehabilitation for persons dependent on alcoholic drinks.

The new law touches on licensing and controlling the outlets involved in treatment, and rehabilitation of those addicted as alcohol addiction brings diseases, debts, depression, devastation, destruction of families, and even death.

The governor revealed that the Directorate of Alcoholic Drinks Control and Management, together with other stakeholders is developing a framework for Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

He noted that the Ihururu Rehabilitation Centre has had addicts from various groups; ranging from students in universities and colleges as well as professionals of various speciality areas like medics, security officers, teachers, provincial administrators as well as farmers and businessmen.

He said the centre has now been accredited by the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), a move that will see those registered with the fund

having their cost of the three months rehabilitation program catered for.

Some of the other new measures announced immediately to curb alcoholism will include; No transfer of current business locations, No transfer of license from one person to another and Chiefs or their assistant chiefs may accompany the Sub-County Alcohol Regulation Committee members during the inspection of liquor premises.

The governor further revealed that there shall be a census of all licensed and operational bars with a view of rationalizing and that the time for bar operations will be reviewed again.

During the ceremony, held at the County headquarters, several East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) MPs from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Uganda, Kenya led by Kanini Kega were also present.



Drunk man in a ditch

Single-Mother Moves Crowd To Tears, As 4,500 Widows Attend Empowerment Meeting

By: OSDP
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Ms Playon who confessed to having not gone to school, said she was working hard every day to see her three children are educated.
- “Selina Chepkemoi is now in Grade 3 because of the support I received from Pastor Dorcas. I am happy that Pastor Dorcas is working with widows from Laikipia, and I believe the women will have their lives transformed just like me. She does not choose on the basis of tribe or social status. I am the last person she could help, but she has helped me,” said Ms Playon.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi assisted by Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri hands a widow dry foodstuffs during a widows empowerment meeting at PCEA Muhotetu Grounds in Laikipia County where more than 4,500 widows from across the county attended on Friday 15th March 2024. Pastor Dorcas called for greater collaborations in addressing the plight of widows in the country, which she attributed to the death of the boy child and men. Photo/OSDP.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi receives a cock from Charity Playon as a gift of appreciation for taking her daughter to school. The cock was among seven chickens she had bought to resell for profit. This was during a widows empowerment meeting at PCEA Muhotetu Grounds in Laikipia County where more than 4,500 widows from across the county attended on Friday 15th March 2024. Pastor Dorcas called for greater collaborations in addressing the plight of widows in the country, which she attributed to the death of the boy child and men. Photo/OSDP.

on undertook by giving the cock.

“I took a loan and bought a total of 7 hens and cocks to make some money. I managed to sell three, and I took one cock and brought it to Pastor Dorcas. I hope to sell the other remaining three,” said Ms Playon.

Pastor Dorcas received the white cock with tears in her eyes following the story of thanksgiving and transformation shared by the single-mother.

More than 4,500 widows from across Laikipia County attended the widows’ empowerment meeting.

Pastor Dorcas expressed her concern following the huge number of widows in the country. She called for greater collaboration between the national, county governments and faith-based organisations to address the plight of the widow in Kenya.

She said that Kenyan had huge numbers of widows following the death of the boy child from alcohol, drug abuse among other dangers that meet boys and men in their life.

Pastor Dorcas shared the story of her widowed mother and her siblings, encouraging the widows that they would also overcome all odds in this life.

Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu said the widow and her dependents faced a tough life even in following up on the pension that would benefit her family.

“Your Excellency, Pastor Dorcas, you have opened our eyes to a critical issue in our community. The huge number of widows show that we have a lot of work in our midst,” said Irungu.

Laikipia Woman Representative Jane Kagiri said the widows were carrying a heavy burden, shouldering the burden of both the father and mother in a family.

Samuel Kanyutu, the area MCA, said he had been an MCA for three terms and had never seen such a huge gathering of widows.

Other leaders present included area Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri.

A single-mother moved Kenyans to tears when she gave Pastor Dorcas Rigathi a cock as a gift of appreciation for taking her daughter to school.

31-year old Charity Playon narrated to the crowd of more than 4,500 widows who had gathered at the PCEA Muhotetu Grounds in Laikipia County for a widow’s empowerment meeting organized by the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) her story of loneliness and economic hardship.

“I have nothing else, and I just took this cock and carried it to this meeting, hoping I will get an opportunity to give it to you, just to thank you for what you did for my daughter,” said Ms Playon, who spoke amidst tears and a shake in her voice in the Swahili language.

Ms Playon who confessed to having not gone to school, said she was working hard every day to see her three children are educated.

“Selina Chepkemoi is now in Grade 3 because of the support I received from Pastor Dorcas. I am happy that Pastor Dorcas is working with widows from Laikipia, and I believe the women will have their lives transformed just like me. She does not choose on the basis of tribe or social status. I am the last person she could help, but she has helped me,” said Ms Playon.

However, many in the gathering did not understand the sacrifice Ms Play-

My Butterfly



My mother

My mother is for us
Ready to die.
The most important in our family
My mother who took place.

My mother is my mother
Where does it hurt?
Tell me mom
After all I am the most valuable.

My mother is without a mother
Be happy
My mother is my mother
Kindness always.

👉 Allazarov Jalilbek

Allazarov Jalilbek was born in Uzbekistan
City Urgench Khorezm region. Currently
the 4th grade of the 14 school.

My butterfly is a butterfly
You are such a spark
You land from flower to flower
You make us happy.

Your wings are beautiful
You can't even fly
It's so beautiful
My butterfly is a butterfly.
You fly so fast
You make us happy.

👉 Allazarov Jalilbek

Youth Policy In The New Uzbekistan



The development of each country has its own aspects and units of measurement. Demographic processes are one of them. From this point of view, it will not be an exaggeration to say that Uzbekistan is a country with a bright future. Because about 70 percent of our country's population is young people. Of course, this is a great power and opportunity. In our country, special attention is paid to supporting youth. A striking example of this, in particular, is the announcement of 2024 as the "Year of Youth and Business Support." Moreover, this made me very happy, like all the young people of Uzbekistan. He gave strength and courage to us, young people.

In fact, in the past 2023, young people were supported in every possible way. 396 thousand young people who needed special attention from the state were assigned to official leaders. Through individual work with them, 94 thousand people were provided with employment, and 56 thousand people were trained in professions. The number of types of assistance provided through the "Youth Register" has been increased to 30, the processing time for applications has been reduced from 30 days to 5 days. On the recommendation of youth leaders, assistance was provided to 338 thousand boys and girls in the amount of 444 billion sums. In particular, students' contract funds were paid and the costs of teaching foreign languages and modern professions were covered. Tools for work were distributed to unemployed youth. The "Youth Employment Program" was implemented in every microdistrict. Employment was provided for 236 thousand unemployed men and women and 189 thousand school graduates. The "Olympiad of Five Initiatives" was held in 4 areas - district, school, vocational education and the university system, in total 12 million young people took part in it. 623 sports grounds were built in the winning microdistricts. 2 million young people were involved in "Zakovat" and other intellectual games.

We were glad that work in this direction which will be consistently continued in 2024 and many new initiatives in the field of youth policy will be implemented. This year, a new approach to working with youth will be introduced in every region, ministry and departmental system. On the recommendation of the youth leader,

the types of assistance provided will be transformed, and the main attention will be paid to training in modern professions. In order to develop the abilities, interests and talents of children, as well as to fully support them, it was proposed to create a children's organization of Uzbekistan. The need to improve scientific and analytical work on studying youth problems and training promising personnel was noted.

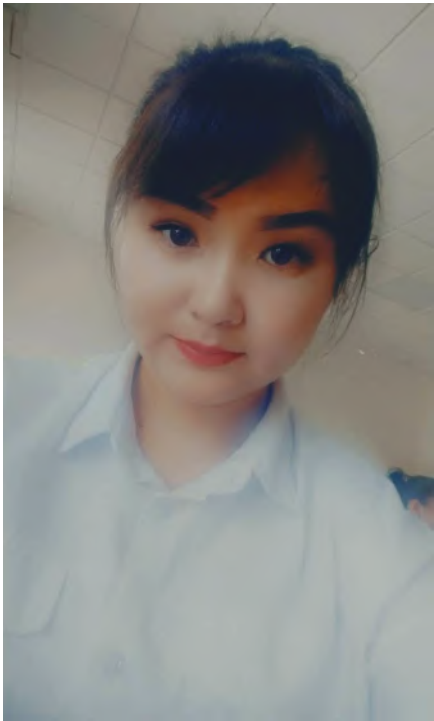
Measures will be taken to reach 1 million young people learning foreign languages through the "Ibrat Farzandlari" project, and 1.5 million young readers through the Mutolaa program. For this purpose, additional infrastructure will be built in the regions, broader conditions will be created for the meaningful organization of young people's free time and the realization of their talent. Today, at the Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute, the primary organization of the Youth Union and the volunteer center strongly support the youth initiative. In particular, the Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute organizes meaningful free time for young people with spiritual and educational activities, intellectual and educational projects, sports competitions, reading and volunteer activities. Talented students take pride of place at institute, regional, republican and international Olympiads and are duly encouraged.

The theater studio of the Ziya Institute took an honorable 1st place among more than 10 universities in the region and took part in the regional stage. In sports, 6 students won the World Championship, 12 won the Asian Championship, 42 won the Uzbekistan Championship. 267 students studying at the institute have a level of proficiency in a foreign language, and it is gratifying that 2 of them received a score of 8 or higher in English according to the international IELTS assessment level. Also, Jumaeva Gulruksar, a student at the Faculty of Foreign Language and Literature: English, became the only winner of a grant from the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan among higher educational institutions in the Bukhara region. Five of our students were found worthy of this state scholarship.

In short, today each of us is witnessing the creation of ample opportunities for the education of students and youth in our country. For this, we, the youth, express gratitude to our President and promise that we will justify the trust placed in us by our President.

Rustamjon Rakhimboev,
Member of the Youth Parliament
at the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis,
Assistant to the Rector of the Bukhara
State Pedagogical Institute

My Father Is My Supporter



They say the beauty of the mountain is
its snow
They say the pride of a young man
They say that a girl's happiness is her
father's
Always be happy for me, father
He always held my mother in the palm
of his hand
We are always matured
O Lord, accept this prayer
May my father always be with us
My mother is my star on earth
My father is my brightest day
"My beaver is mine"
They always call me my father

Torayeva is the daughter of Lobar Davron. 20041001. Boysun district, Surkhandaryo region. 2nd year student of Termiz State Pedagogical Institute.

He said everything good to my child
He always had love in his heart
Seeing my happiness, young people
jumped up
Shine in the light of your eyes, my
father

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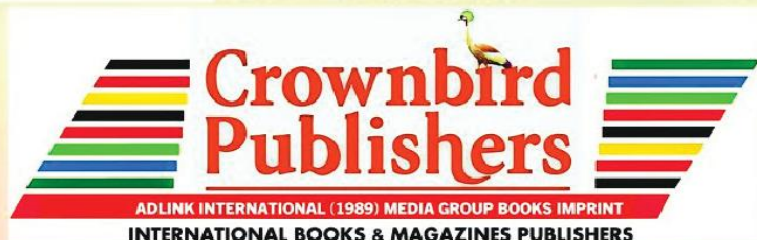
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BUSINESS

Re-Imagining Jobs For Africa In A Disrupted Labour Market For Global Competitiveness

By: Gracemary Muchiri
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- A speech by Hon. Tanui which was read by Mr. Okoth, indicated that the internet penetration rate in Kenya stands at 85%, up from 54%. This increased connectivity has opened up new opportunities for remote work, e-commerce, and online learning, which are critical components of the future of work. Tanui emphasized that the future of work requires a conducive policy environment that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.
- “As a government, we are committed to creating such an environment and collaborating with the private sector, academia and other stakeholders to create work opportunities and address the challenges before us,” said Tanui. He added that the government is aligned with the global trend towards digitalization, and intentional in positioning Kenya as a leader in the digital economy.

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), ICT Authority, and the Digital Transformation Centre (DTC), a project by GIZ on behalf of the German government, are jointly hosting the Future of Work Summit that kicked off yesterday at the University of Nairobi. The two-day Summit under the theme “Re-imagining jobs for Africa in a disrupted labour market for global competitiveness” aims to critically analyse the current status of work and the workforce with a strategic lens on how both the labour market and employers can position themselves to benefit in the future of work.

The Summit is an all-inclusive event that has brought together young people, private and public sector, innovators and entrepreneurs, tech-mind, and other thought leaders and key players in the growth of decent work for Kenyans and encouraging these stakeholders to rethink, strategize, and leverage the emerging trends for the future of work.

Gracing the occasion was Hon. Eng. John Tanui, Principal Secretary, State Department of ICT and Digital Economy who was represented by Washington Okoth, ICT Secretary Infrastructure in the Ministry of Information Communication and the Digital Economy. Also present was Dr. Wanjiru Kariuki, Secretary Skills Development of Labour; Muthuru Kasanga, the KEPSA Director Education, Sports, Arts, Culture and ICT; Dr. Ehud Gachugu, Global Director, Youth and Jobs at KEPSA; Harrison Ngatia, Head of SME at KEPSA; Prof. Justus Munyoki, Director Research, Innovation and Enterprise at the University of Nairobi; Caroline Njuki, Country Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO); Bodo Immink, Country Director, GIZ Kenya; Muchemi Wambugu, Resident Digital Economy, Mastercard Foundation among others.

With the combination of macro and micro factors including the war in Ukraine, inflations, climate change and the need for sustainability strategies, digital technology transformation, inclusivity, and other social needs, there are shifts in the future of work. These disruptions have propelled enterprises and employers to adopt strategies that will ensure business continuity as well as productive and stable employment relations. The most affected facet of the business by this shift is Human Capital calling for

change and adaptation by businesses to invest in upskilling and reskilling its workforce.

A speech by Hon. Tanui which was read by Mr. Okoth, indicated that the internet penetration rate in Kenya stands at 85%, up from 54%. This increased connectivity has opened up new opportunities for remote work, e-commerce, and online learning, which are critical components of the future of work. Tanui emphasized that the future of work requires a conducive policy environment that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

“As a government, we are committed to creating such an environment and collaborating with the private sector, academia and other stakeholders to create work opportunities and address the challenges before us,” said Tanui. He added that the government is aligned with the global trend towards digitalization, and intentional in positioning Kenya as a leader in the digital economy.

Additionally, Dr. Wanjiru explained how close to one million young people are graduating from institutions of higher learning and joining the labour market every year, a number that does not equate to the work opportunities available. She highlighted the different shifts already happening including digital transformation, and transition to green jobs from brown jobs, and the business process outsourcing among others. She said that with these shifts the Ministry has policy and institutional reforms on future jobs including the national skills development policy that was approved by the cabinet on 13th December 2023 that promotes sustainable social economic growth through the development of a skilled workforce that is employable, productive, enterprising, adaptable and competitive. This policy will be launched next month and has great features focusing on the rapidly changing labour markets. Also, the policy has addressed skills anticipation that helps forecast on labour market’s landscape in the future.

Yesterday, the Summit covered engaging topics from unlocking Kenya’s potential as a global hub for digital work and its potential to export ICT skills; to the emerging trends and opportunities in the Future of Work in a globally competitive business environment, gender and social inclusion in the future of work, among others. The different experts in the

industry raised compelling insights urging employees to consider the requirements of the future markets including having cross-cutting and transversal skills as employers are currently looking for labour that can offer diverse tasks. There was also an emphasis on embracing soft skills as it is what will keep employees relevant in the future of work. Businesses present were also advised to adhere to gender and social inclusivity policies and should review their internal policies to ensure that they comply with global standards that will give them a competitive edge.

Bodo Immink, the Country Director of GIZ highlighted that in today’s connected world, it is necessary to think beyond our national borders and therefore nurture talent that can serve the rest of the world. Immink pointed out that one way to access the world is through the gig economy as it helps unlock potential work opportunities. He said that GIZ takes such conversations on the future of work and the topic of labour migration seriously and the reason it has put efforts into the gig economy initiative together with Kenya partners as technology continues to shape the future of work. GIZ has so far managed to reach around 6000 gig workers through the initiative.

“The future of work in Kenya is linked to the digital economy, embracing this shift opens up avenues for young people to access digital job opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the economic growth of our country. KEPSA has been at the forefront of promoting youth employment through initiatives like K-YEEAP. The Kenya Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (K-YEEAP) aims to generate at least five million decent and sustainable jobs, supporting small businesses and startups. By facilitating job linkage platforms, skills development, and policy advocacy, KEPSA is actively working towards creating an enabling environment for youth empowerment,” said Mutheu. She added that the Summit is a call to embrace change, to embrace innovation, and to embrace collaboration. It is a call to harness the collective wisdom and expertise of all stakeholders, from the boardroom to the classroom, from the government to the grassroots, to forge a future of work that is not just sustainable, but transformative.

Welcoming the participants to the venue where the Summit is taking place, Prof. Stephen Kiama, the Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, in his remarks read by Prof. Justus Munyoki, Director of Research, Innovation and Enterprise, stated that universities can play a crucial role in the space of future of work as these institutions are the cornerstone of the future workforce. He expounded stating that the universities equip the next generation with the adaptability and skills they need for a dynamic global economy. He urged the participants to embrace collaboration among academia, government, and industry which will help the young people to be competently equipped for the changing job market.

Speaking at the Summit was also Dr. Ehud Gachugu, Global Director, Youth and Jobs at KEPSA who called upon all stakeholders to take advantage of the Summit as it is a platform to strategically think about the partnerships and investments that will spur growth and drive common agenda of creating sufficient economic and employment opportunities for young people. He said that Africa expects an 80% increase in its youth population, highlighting the pressing need to address youth unemployment rates and create meaningful opportunities for young people.

The nature of work continues to evolve, driven by technological advancements and changing workforce demographics, and our economic engine relies on businesses that are adaptable and future-proof. The concept of reimagined jobs is gaining traction, reflecting the shifting dynamics of the modern workplace. Currently, 2.4 million Kenyans are engaged in online work, underscoring the importance of embracing new opportunities and global perspectives. To thrive in this changing landscape, workers must acquire the right skills and mindset. Existing jobs will require upskilling and reskilling to remain relevant in the face of evolving job requirements. This Summit serves as a pivotal platform at the national level for the formulation of policies aimed at addressing these challenges and preparing the workforce for the future.



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Mount Kenya: Embracing Ngai - A Call To The Mt Kenya Community



By: Erick Kamau Kahura
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

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Throughout the ages, Mount Kenya has been a center of spiritual celebration and cultural reverence for the Kikuyu community. From ancient rituals to modern ceremonies, the mountain echoes with the songs and prayers of those who seek to honor Ngai and celebrate his divine blessings.

•

One of the most cherished traditions is the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Mount Kenya, where the Kikuyu people gather to offer prayers and offerings to Ngai. As they stand on the highest peak, gazing out at the breathtaking landscape below, they are filled with a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and majesty of Ngai's creation.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua praying at Mount Kenya. Photo: COURTESY.

Step into the sacred realm of Mount Kenya, where the whispers of ancient spirits beckon the Kikuyu community to embrace Ngai, the Supreme Creator, who resides within its majestic embrace. Join me on a journey of spiritual discovery and cultural renewal as we explore the profound connection between the Kikuyu people and the divine essence of Mount Kenya.

Discovering Ngai's Presence

Behold Mount Kenya, the towering colossus that stands as a testament to the divine presence of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, in the beliefs of the Kikuyu community. Legend has it that Ngai descended from the heavens to bless the earth, choosing Mount Kenya as his earthly abode and imbuing its rocky slopes with his divine energy.

The Kikuyu people have long revered Mount Kenya as a sacred site where the earthly and the celestial converge, where the boundaries between the physical and the spiritual are blurred. To stand in the shadow of this mighty mountain is to stand in the presence of Ngai, feeling his divine essence reverberate through the very fabric of existence.

Embracing the Spiritual Journey

The journey to Mount Kenya is not just a physical expedition—it is a

spiritual odyssey that calls upon the Kikuyu community to embrace the divine essence of Ngai. As pilgrims ascend the mountain's slopes, they leave behind the distractions of the mundane world and open themselves to the transformative power of the divine presence that resides within.

With each step, they draw closer to Ngai, feeling his divine energy infuse their souls with a sense of purpose and clarity. The journey to Mount Kenya is a pilgrimage of the spirit, a quest for enlightenment and spiritual renewal that leads the Kikuyu people to a deeper understanding of their place in the universe.

Celebrating Ngai's Blessings

Throughout the ages, Mount Kenya has been a center of spiritual celebration and cultural reverence for the Kikuyu community. From ancient rituals to modern ceremonies, the mountain echoes with the songs and prayers of those who seek to honor Ngai and celebrate his divine blessings.

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Ngai's creation.

Nurturing the Connection with Nature

Mount Kenya is not just a place of spiritual significance—it is also a sanctuary for the soul, where the Kikuyu people can reconnect with the natural world and experience the healing power of nature. Its lush forests, cascading waterfalls, and crystal-clear lakes provide a refuge from the stresses of everyday life, allowing the soul to find solace and rejuvenation amidst the chaos of the modern world.

For centuries, the Kikuyu people have drawn upon Mount Kenya's natural bounty to heal the body, mind, and spirit. From medicinal herbs to sacred springs, the mountain offers a wealth of resources that promote health and wellness in harmony with the earth. By nurturing their connection with nature, the Kikuyu community can deepen their bond with Ngai and experience his divine blessings in every aspect of their lives.

Preserving the Sacred Legacy

As stewards of Mount Kenya's sacred legacy, the Kikuyu community is called upon to preserve its natural beauty and spiritual significance for future generations. Through sustainable conservation practices and community engagement initiatives, they

can ensure that the mountain remains a sanctuary for both wildlife and spiritual seekers alike.

From reforestation projects to wildlife conservation efforts, the Kikuyu community plays a vital role in protecting Mount Kenya's delicate ecosystem and ensuring its continued vitality. By honoring Ngai and embracing their connection with the mountain, they can safeguard its sacred legacy for generations to come.

A Unified Journey of Faith

In conclusion, Mount Kenya is more than just a mountain—it is a sacred symbol of the Kikuyu community's enduring faith and spiritual resilience. By embracing Ngai and nurturing their connection with the divine essence of Mount Kenya, they can embark on a unified journey of spiritual enlightenment and cultural renewal.

As the Kikuyu people stand in the shadow of Mount Kenya, may they be filled with a sense of reverence and awe at the beauty and majesty of Ngai's creation. And may they carry the light of his divine blessings with them as they journey through life, guided by the sacred wisdom of Mount Kenya and the eternal presence of Ngai.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's High Time Migori Government Intervenes To Curb Child Labour

It's exactly 12 o'clock, down the hills of Kitere, I heard sounds of crushers. Due to curiosity I went near the place to see and know how mining is done. Shocked to see most workers at the mining to be teenagers, they seemed tired, worn out and hungry. I met 10 years old Hildah otieno who was washing gold with mercury "I was born in a family of Four.

My father Otieno Meshack used to provide everything for us, we never lacked anything, while my mother Vivian Onyangi used to do house chores. We were once a happy family.(tears rolling down her cheeks).

One day they decided to take us for a trip then the unthinkable happened,we got an accident on our way back(showing the scars she got during the accident).They all died and the only victim that survived the tragic was I.

My Aunt Liner who is physically handicapped took me in but because of her condition,I had to drop out of school at least to support ourselves and also have something to eat. Next to Hilder was a young boy Collins Otieno, a 16 year old.

Even though he looks older than his years, his eyes were full of tears, seemed he had a lot to share so that

he can be relieved. Since he got lost in contact with his parents, he tried looking for them but to no avail. He has been trying to feed and take care of himself hoping one day he will be able to remember his village.

"I have been working here since I got lost from a road show that was held in Kisii some years back. Since we lived in Kisii town, I never knew my village, I was a four years old and I really can't recall how I got myself here in the hills of Kitere. I am now employed here; this is where I get my income from.

Lifting this heavyweight machines and ensuring that they are working

properly, digging deep the mines to find gold is a huge load task for anyone but I have to do this for my benefit, knowing that at the end of the day I will at least get something to eat.

I would like the government of Migori to offer free education and also to form a platform where parents who have lost their beloved ones can be found. This can resolve the problem of increase of street children in town centers and also resolve child labour at large.

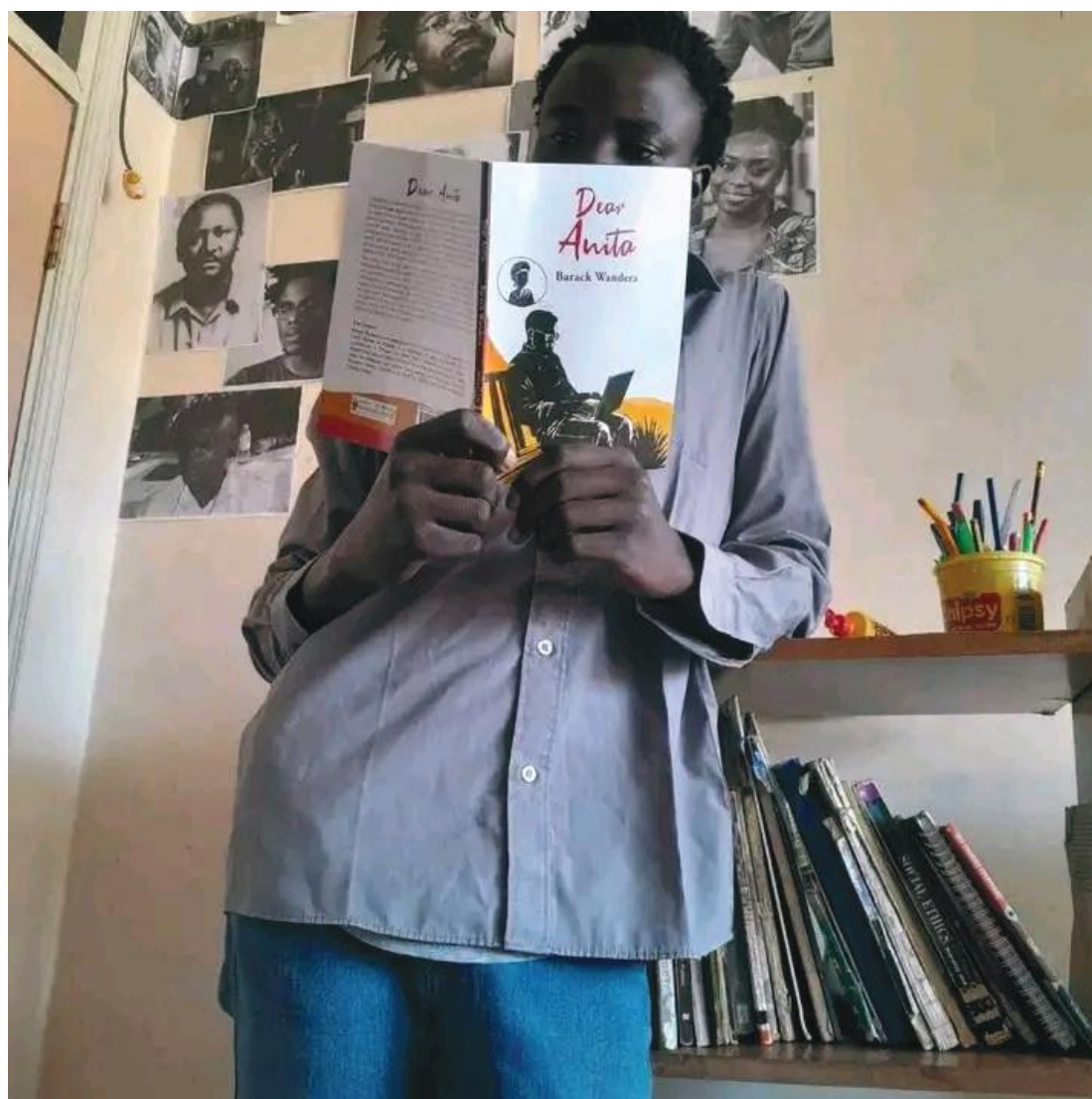
By Judy Totari a student at Rongo University



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

news@mountkenytimes.co.ke

The Healing Power Of Books



Wafula's reading is amazing many.

Wafula Meshack 23, commonly many calling him mashies a student at Rongo University and is among the students who have developed

the reading habit and at sometimes referring to himself the writer.

Exactly at Noon, I met with Wafula Meshack at his place of residence inside oxford hostel situated like four hundred metres to the school's

main gate. The room exactly gives the real picture of how a reader and a writer should look like. The place is just a cool place relaxed with with fresh air.The house is just branded and pasted with portraits of authors

having names captioned below it.

On the left hand side of the room,there lies his personal library consisting of dictionaries, Eric ibsen's plays, Ngungi wa Thiongo, Chinua Achebe and Winston Churchill.

Wafula Meshack is used to wake up at 4:00am just to have some paragraphs of some poems or story books with captivating stories. And as the say goes "a good reader is a good writer" and that's what Wafula posses at all. His journey began at writing the opeds, letters to the editors, editorials and lifestyle on local dailies. This has enabled him to engage in various writing contests with the prominent authors.

His engagement in writing has helped him to grow mentally and socially as it has enabled him to relief stress and bad accompaniments or engaging in unconstructive activities such as drug abuses as many other students are mostly addicted to. "Through my writings, and reading culture, I have managed to overcome stress and engaging in my academic journey so good and that why I like reading and it being my culture",Wafula said.

Reading is like any other recreational activities meant for enjoyment. As books shapes the way people think and gain societal experiences, they keep the majority of youths to skill themselves to the art of creative writings.

The writing has enabled him to focus academically as he has only real-

ly engaged to books. Apart from academic sphere, Wafula has reiterated that through his reading culture, his mind get zoomed into refreshing by rooting out bad emotions and colouring them with books ideologies.

"The reading has enabled me to work tirelessly on time as I have to wake up early in the morning to have what the lectures taught us.I got sharp and refreshed as it is easy to read and understand "Wafula said.

Reading habit depicted from Wafula enabled him to speak fluent english and this has enabled him to develop presentation skills and this has turn out him to collaborate with the other writers who speak and edit in good english.

Telewa Job is a Student at Rongo University.

Harm Reduction Experts Urge Policy Makers To Seize The Opportunity To Save The Lives Of Smokers

By: Eddah Waithaka
@themtkenyatimes



Photo courtesy: (L-R) Harm Reduction Society of Kenya Vice Secretary-General, Dr. Nick Kioko, Harm Reduction Society of Kenya Founder and Secretary-General, Dr. Michael Kariuki, and Campaign for Safer Alternatives spokesperson, Joel Sawa after a press briefing in Nairobi on 13th March, 2024.

Worth Noting:

- Dr Michael Kariuki, General Secretary of the Harm Reduction Society, said: “Alternative nicotine products such as regulated vapes and oral pouches are scientifically proven to be far less harmful than cigarettes and are the most successful method of helping smokers to quit.
- “Regulation of these products is, of course, necessary, to protect children and the youth. However, that regulation should be evidence-based and proportionate to the risks posed, after taking into consideration the smokers who need these therapeutic products.”
- Recognizing the challenges that many people face in quitting smoking altogether, tobacco harm reduction focuses on reducing the negative consequences of tobacco use, with the ultimate aim of helping users to quit.

Lawmakers should be warned against a haphazard and uninformed approach that could hamper efforts to save lives and reduce the public health impact of smoking by targeting safer alternatives, harm reduction experts stress today.

The experts were responding to Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni announcing that she intended to “wipe out” nicotine products.

In a statement read by Dr Michael Kariuki, Secretary General of the Harm Reduction Society, harm reduction is a public health strategy that has been successfully used for years to address various health-related behaviours, including drug abuse, alcohol consumption, reproductive health and smoking. A good local example is the methadone clinics for opioid users.

The aim of tobacco harm reduction is to minimise the health risks associated with smoking by providing pragmatic, lower-risk alternatives. The WHO’s FCTC, Part 1, Article 1 (d) defines “tobacco control” as a set of supply, demand and harm reduction strategies aimed at improving the health of a population by eliminating or reducing its use of tobacco products and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Dr Michael Kariuki, General Secretary of the Harm Reduction Society, said: “Alternative nicotine products

such as regulated vapes and oral pouches are scientifically proven to be far less harmful than cigarettes and are the most successful method of helping smokers to quit.

“Regulation of these products is, of course, necessary, to protect children and the youth. However, that regulation should be evidence-based and proportionate to the risks posed, after taking into consideration the smokers who need these therapeutic products.”

Recognizing the challenges that many people face in quitting smoking altogether, tobacco harm reduction focuses on reducing the negative consequences of tobacco use, with the ultimate aim of helping users to quit.

This approach acknowledges that much of the harm from smoking stems from the by-products of burning tobacco.

Joel Sawa, spokesman for the Campaign for Safer Alternatives (CASA), said: “If smokers cannot or do not want to quit, we need to help them switch to safer alternatives. The best way to save lives is to ensure that tobacco-free products like regulated nicotine pouches and vapes are affordable and accessible.

“Wiping them from the market leaves smokers with no option but to keep smoking. It’s unthinkable that policymakers are even considering indiscriminate, ill-informed and

nonevidence-based actions against them without any heed to this potential mishap.”

In Kenya, we are unfortunately lagging behind when it comes to research on the oral stimulants used by 7.7% of our population. Data on the use of khat and areca nut products is scarce, and there has been little research on their health risks.

Similarly, the impact of nicotine delivery devices such as gum, patches or pouches on Kenyan consumers has been assessed in very few studies.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Nairobi, the experts pointed to a growing body of international evidence showing the beneficial effects of alternative nicotine products:

One is that researchers at the University of Nairobi have found that in Kenya there is little or no quality control of the levels of toxicants or psychoactive ingredients in oral stimulants such as khat and smokeless tobacco products such as pan, tambu, gutkha, kuber, toombak, snuff and chew, which pose significant health risks to their users, and that regulated oral nicotine products have similar levels of toxicants and risks to nicotine replacement therapies, which are on the WHO’s list of essential medicines.

The US Food and Drug Administration says Modified Risk Tobacco Products (MRTPs) “will signifi-

cantly reduce harm and the risk of tobacco-related disease to individual tobacco users and benefit the health of the population as a whole”

.Such MRTPs are regulated nicotine pouches and vapes which are largely used in countries such as Sweden

And the UK to assist cigarette smokers to quit.

In countries worldwide, from the UK and France to the USA, Pakistan and New Zealand, innovative alternative products are already helping smokers who had despaired of ever being able to give up their deadly tobacco habit.

Non-Tobacco Nicotine products do not contain tobacco and extensive international research has found them 95% less harmful than traditional combustible cigarettes.

Studies show that regulated modern oral nicotine products carry similar levels of toxicants and risks as nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs), which are on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) list of essential medicines.

Sweden is about to achieve the status of being the first country in the world to become officially smoke-free after making safer alternatives acceptable, available and affordable to adults. It now has the lowest smoking and tobacco-related disease rates in Europe.

Human Rights Organizations Urges The Government Do More To Protect The Dignity State Of Digital Jobs In Kenya

By:Wendy Keziah and Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Government of Kenya’s focus on the idea of ALL and ANY digital jobs without evident consideration for safeguards to protect the dignity and human rights of the Kenyan workers in this new realm of employment
- The absence of clear and comprehensive framework for the protection of digital and platform workers’ rights including access to the right Information, and fair and humane treatment at all times.
- Lack of transparency and/or intentional misinformation during Recruitment for digital platform jobs, and intentional targeting of vulnerable groups for exploitation under the guise of ‘expanding Opportunities.



Human Rights organizations meeting

Over 10 human rights organizations on Friday 15th March addressed the media in Nairobi raising concerns for all those who have lost their jobs in the nascent gig economy comprising supplies, delivery, outsourcing and ride-hailing due to shutdowns, bad labour practices, and lack of much-needed government protections.

In their briefing, they urged the President, Parliament, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Directorate of Immigration Services and all other duty-bearers to act with speed to safeguard the best interest of all the affected workers in accordance with the Kenyan law.

They believed that digital platform work represented an emerging and important aspect of the future of work. However, we also note that the rapid transformations in the labour marketplace are happening in a context that lacks the proper regulatory frameworks and/or weak enforcement mechanisms to ensure these transitions do no harm to the rights of parties involved, and that businesses do not violate the labour and related human rights of workers in their countries of operation.

In addition, they stated that they are aware of several legal disputes lodged in the Kenyan courts in the Past few months, including one in which more than one hundred and eighty (180+) online Content Moderators working for Facebook and Sama its subcontractor in Kenya have sued the two companies for unlawful and unfair Dismissal.

They also noted that they believe that

just like the mass termination of hundreds of Facebook Workers in Kenya, the sudden closure of some accounts for Remotasks and Jumia Food delivery services highlights the vulnerability of workers in this emerging realm of work, and especially those who depend primarily on such digital platforms work for their livelihood and that they appreciate that in a country grappling with significant levels of general unemployment approximately 13% and more specifically youth Unemployment according to the 2019 census, approximately 39% of these digital Platform jobs, including by companies and platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, WhatsApp and TikTok are increasingly providing important opportunities for many young people in Kenya, Africa and elsewhere in the World to earn a living and economic sustenance.

However, their great concern remained about how to ensure a safe, empowering and Dignifying work environment for digital platform workers including fair Compensation and equal pay for equal work, labour mobility across countries and new dynamics about the treatment of digital workers doing digital platform work away from their home countries. More importantly, we know that digitalization of labour platforms has serious implications for the rights of workers to organize and unionise.

In view of the above concerns. They also raised concerns with

- The Government of Kenya’s focus on the idea of ALL and ANY digital jobs without evident consideration

for safeguards to protect the dignity and human rights of the Kenyan workers in this new realm of employment

- The absence of clear and comprehensive framework for the protection of digital and platform workers’ rights including access to the right Information, and fair and humane treatment at all times.
- Lack of transparency and/or intentional misinformation during Recruitment for digital platform jobs, and intentional targeting of vulnerable groups for exploitation under the guise of ‘expanding Opportunities.
- Significant, unreasonable and unconscionable disparity in salaries, wages and benefits between digital platform workers in Kenya and their Counterparts in the rest of the world.
- Inability of, and/or unwillingness of foreign-owned Business Process Outsourcing companies to prioritise the well-being especially mental Health of their workers and provide adequate support for those in need.
- Increasing impunity and violation of the laws of Kenya, including violation Of lawful Court Orders by foreign companies under the watch of the EPZ Authority.
- Senior government officials’ appearances with, patronising of, and seemingly subtle endorsement of, and solidarity with foreign companies that are in violation of worker’s rights and lawful court orders. In particular, we believe that the President’s visit to Sama on February 27 With Ethiopia PM Abiy Ahmed at a time when the company is

facing court cases over worker exploitation, human trafficking, and modern slavery sends a wrong signal.

Subsequently, they demanded that all companies offering work in the digital platform work space in Kenya conducts a self-assessment of their operations to ensure they operate within the laws of Kenya, That the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Association of Kenya and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) hold their membership accountable for compliance in the spirit of self-regulation, and take steps to censure errant members for violations, the EPZ Authority conducts and publishes a comprehensive Compliance audit of all foreign companies in the digital platform work Space in Kenya and that Parliamentary Committee on Labour commences investigations on the conduct of foreign companies operating in the digital platform work space in Kenya for unethical, discriminatory practices, including claims of union busting behaviour; as well as ensure formalisation of the gig economy.

The Central Organisation of Trade Unions (CoTU) continues to stand in solidarity with all and any workers within the Republic of Kenya, and to offer support, solidarity and advise and full adherence to Chapter 4 of our constitution and the labour laws in the country and all demand for greater transparency and accountability from online task platforms operating in Kenya.

Aga Khan University Expands Communication Training To Offer Master's In Strategic Communications

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The new programme adds to GSMC's existing two Masters programmes in Digital Journalism and Media Leadership & Innovation and a host of professional development courses.
- "Over the years, GSMC has built a reputation as one of the leading education and training institutions in media and journalism training. If you walk into any newsroom in the region, you are likely to find a graduate, a current student or someone who has taken a professional development course from AKU-GSMC. A Master's degree in Strategic Communications presents a unique opportunity for GSMC to contribute to workforce development and capacity building in the East African region," said Prof Booker.



The Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (GSMC) has launched its Master of Arts in Strategic Communications Programme .

The Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (GSMC) has launched its Master of Arts in Strategic Communications Programme as it seeks to expand its influence on communications training in the region.

The two-year programme offers a diverse range of electives including Health and Development, Political, Financial & Investor Relations and Environment & Climate Change. It will be delivered by a faculty comprising seasoned academicians and industry experts. The course structure integrates in-person sessions with online classes facilitated through the cutting-edge Virtual Learning Environment.

"This programme has been designed to address the unique and complex challenges facing communication professionals, policy-makers, corporates, risk and crisis communication teams, government entities and leadership in the developing world," said GSMC Dean, Prof. Nancy Booker.

"The programme recognizes the growing role of communications as a strategic function in virtually

every sector – private, public, and non-profit. It seeks to elevate communications from a tactical to a strategic function by integrating the conceptual lessons about communications into the wider context of organisational strategy," noted Prof. Booker.

The new programme adds to GSMC's existing two Masters programmes in Digital Journalism and Media Leadership & Innovation and a host of professional development courses.

"Over the years, GSMC has built a reputation as one of the leading education and training institutions in media and journalism training. If you walk into any newsroom in the region, you are likely to find a graduate, a current student or someone who has taken a professional development course from AKU-GSMC. A Master's degree in Strategic Communications presents a unique opportunity for GSMC to contribute to workforce development and capacity building in the East African region," said Prof Booker.

Speaking at the launch, Chief Guest and Government Spokesperson Dr

Isaac Mwaura, noted that communicators are more than conveyors of information.

"Communicators are architects of narratives that inspire action, facilitate understanding and drive innovation, playing a pivotal role in shaping perceptions, fostering collaboration and mobilizing communities towards shared goals. Within the government, strategic communication plays the role of informing citizens about government policies and initiatives. It provides clear and timely information to the public. This helps to manage public perceptions, counter the spread of misinformation and alleviate anxiety especially, in times of crisis."

"The programme will contribute to the increasing number of strategic communicators, who will be men and women with the requisite skills and mindsets to create positive change within our society," he said.

Renowned PR guru, Gina Din Kariuki who made a keynote address congratulated the school for the decision to formalise post-graduate strategic communications.

"When I was starting out in my ca-

reer, we didn't have the opportunity to study strategic communications and had to use our journalism training and learn on the job. The launch of the MA in Strategic Communications Programme is so timely and important. In a world that is increasingly fragmented, conflicted and yet offers so many technological tools; the role of strategic communications has never been more important," said Gina Din.

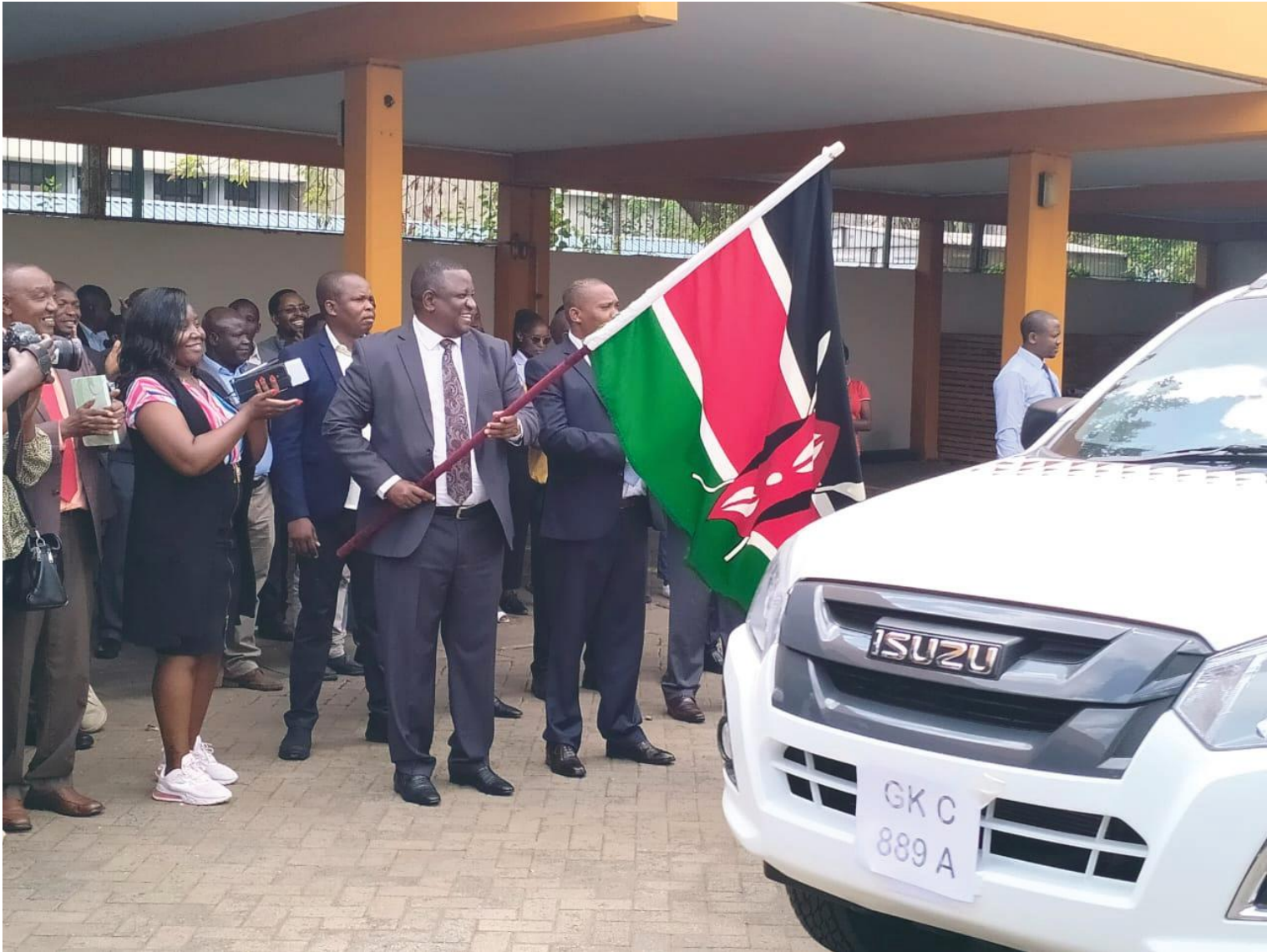
The new programme, a product of extensive research with various stakeholders from across the region, is designed to address the identified needs key among them crafting communications to be relevant, effective, and impactful.

Enhancing Efficiency And Security: Fleet Of Vehicles Commissioned For Mining Regional Offices And New Mining Police Unit

By:Wendy Keziah and Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The introduction of dedicated vehicles for Mining Regional Offices will streamline administrative processes, facilitate field inspections, and improve communication and coordination among regional authorities. This logistical enhancement is expected to expedite permit processing, resolve regulatory issues promptly, and provide timely support to mining stakeholders across the country.
- Moreover, the deployment of vehicles for the Mining Police Unit signifies a proactive approach to addressing security concerns within the mining industry. Equipped with state-of-the-art communication systems and surveillance equipment, these vehicles will enable law enforcement personnel to respond swiftly to security threats, monitor mining activities, and conduct enforcement operations effectively.



Salim Mvurya Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs officially flags off a fleet of vehicles for use in Mining Regional Offices and the newly established Mining

In a significant move aimed at bolstering the mining sector’s operational capabilities and ensuring enhanced security measures, Honorable Salim Mvurya, EGH, the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs, has officially flagged off a fleet of vehicles. These vehicles are designated for use in Mining Regional Offices and the newly established Mining Police Unit. The commissioning ceremony, held at Madini House in the Industrial Area, marked a pivotal moment in the government’s commitment to the development and regulation of the mining industry. The event commenced with an address by Honorable Salim Mvurya, who underscored the importance of investing in infrastructure and security measures to facilitate sustainable growth in the mining sector. He emphasized that the provision of these vehicles aligns with the government’s broader strategy to promote efficiency, transparency, and security within the mining industry.

The fleet of vehicles comprises a diverse range of transportation assets tailored to meet the specific needs of Mining Regional Offices and the Mining Police Unit. From rugged off-road vehicles equipped for field inspections to sleek cruisers designed for urban patrols, each vehicle has been meticulously selected to optimize operational effectiveness. During the commissioning ceremony, Honorable Salim Mvurya reaffirmed the government’s commitment to combating illegal mining activities and ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations. He highlighted the pivotal role of the newly established Mining Police Unit in safeguarding mining sites, preventing unauthorized mining operations, and enforcing regulatory compliance. The introduction of dedicated vehicles for Mining Regional Offices will streamline administrative processes, facilitate field inspections, and improve communication and

coordination among regional authorities. This logistical enhancement is expected to expedite permit processing, resolve regulatory issues promptly, and provide timely support to mining stakeholders across the country. Moreover, the deployment of vehicles for the Mining Police Unit signifies a proactive approach to addressing security concerns within the mining industry. Equipped with state-of-the-art communication systems and surveillance equipment, these vehicles will enable law enforcement personnel to respond swiftly to security threats, monitor mining activities, and conduct enforcement operations effectively. The significance of the commissioning ceremony was further underscored by the presence of key stakeholders from the mining industry, regulatory agencies, and law enforcement authorities. Representatives from mining companies expressed their appreciation for the government’s efforts to enhance

operational efficiency and security, emphasizing the positive impact these initiatives will have on investor confidence and sustainable development in the sector. In his closing remarks, Honorable Salim Mvurya reiterated the government’s unwavering commitment to promoting responsible mining practices, fostering innovation, and maximizing the socio-economic benefits of the mining sector for all Kenyans. He called upon all stakeholders to collaborate closely in realizing the full potential of Kenya’s mineral resources while ensuring environmental sustainability and social equity. As the fleet of vehicles sets out to fulfill its mandate, it symbolizes a new chapter in Kenya’s mining journey—one characterized by heightened efficiency, strengthened security, and a steadfast commitment to realizing the industry’s vast potential in driving economic growth and prosperity.

Government To Leverage On Kenya Power Lines For Last Mile Internet Connectivity - CS Owalo

By: Philip Onyango
@themkenyentimes

The government will make use of the existing Kenya Power infrastructure, to take fibre optic cable, to the rural areas, Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, Eliud Owalo, has said.

Owalo said that already, the government has embarked on the programme that will see over 100,000 kilometres of the fibre optic cable laid, as part of the last mile internet connectivity across the country.

He was speaking on Friday, at Aji-go and Ndori markets in Bondo and Rarieda Sub-counties, respectively where he officially launched a free public Wi-Fi.

“We have changed the model of rolling out the fibre. As opposed to digging trenches to lay fibre, we are



Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo

going to leverage on the already existing Kenya Power lines, so that as we roll out electricity, we also roll out fibre using the same lines,” said Owalo, who was flanked by Siaya County Commissioner, Susan Wawe-

Police Spokesman, Charles Owino, among others.

He said that the Government plans to launch 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots across the country and also launch 1,450 digital hubs in each ward country-wide.

“To sort the question of youth unemployment, we want to establish and operationalize a digital hub in every ward” he said, adding that already, members of Parliament have facilitated the review of the Constituencies Development Fund Act, so that three per cent of the funds, will be used to establish the facilities.

The Cabinet Secretary called on Kenyans to support the Kenya Kwanza Government, to enable it deliver on its mandate, adding that the days of politicking were over.

Owalo said that through the leadership of President Dr. William Ruto, the Government was committed to improvement of infrastructure in the wider Nyanza region.

Kioni Claims Ruto Is Behind Ndabibi Land Tussle

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyentimes

Jubilee Party Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni’s attention has been drawn to a burning issue concerning the Ndabibi land tussle (Mwana Mwireri Rironi Naivasha company) owned by a group of Senior Citizens who are now facing an imminent threat of being evicted. This is because their land has been claimed by a powerful private developer, who is causing them sleepless nights. Kioni in a press conference on Friday pointed an accusing finger to President William Ruto whom he claimed is behind the woes of the over 30 bonafide owners of the land in question.

“These people started to buy shares for that land way back in 1971, during the term of the founding Father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. The issue spilled over to the late President Daniel Moi tenure who equally left the owners of the land in a standoff with the Agricultural Development Corporation – ADC. Now instead of President Ruto

assisting these people, he is using his position to exacerbate their predicament. These are the same hustlers who stood with him and owned up his hustler narrative. Leaving them to suffer like this is unjust and one is left to wonder why Ruto had to wait to ascend to power to claim ownership of the parcel of land,” Kioni noted.

In a different subject matter on Thursday, Jeremiah Kioni pointed an accusing finger at the Kenya Kwanza Administration for revoking licenses of bars. Mr. Kioni opined that such a directive is ill-timed now that the majority of the current operators of bars are already fully compliant with the set laws regarding the sale of alcohol.

“The closure of bars not only disrupts livelihoods but also ignores the rigorous standards set by regulatory bodies such as the Kenya Bureau of Standards and the Kenya Revenue Authority. It is imperative to address the root causes of social issues rather than resorting to arbitrary closures that only serve to exacerbate economic hardship.”



Jubilee Party Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni.

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
theeltablazannualreadingcontest@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.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Erik ten Hag expects to be boosted by the return of Rasmus Hojlund, Harry Maguire and Aaron Wan-Bissaka for Manchester United's FA Cup quarter-final against Liverpool.

Man Utd's Hojlund Could Return For FA Cup Clash With Liverpool



Manchester United's Danish striker Rasmus Hojlund celebrates after scoring their third goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Aston Villa at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on December 26, 2023..

Erik ten Hag expects to be boosted by the return of Rasmus Hojlund, Harry Maguire and Aaron Wan-Bissaka for Manchester United's FA Cup quarter-final against Liverpool.

Injury-hit United have endured a poor season and need to overcome Jurgen Klopp's side at Old Trafford on Sunday to keep their hopes of silverware alive.

United enter the showdown with their bitter rivals as underdogs, but right-back Wan-Bissaka should return after two months out, with England defender Maguire and Denmark striker Hojlund also set to feature.

"We had a good week. Today we had a session and they were all training," Ten Hag said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"I think (they are available). We have tomorrow one session. Of course, we have to see how they recover from this but it looks good."

Ten Hag also gave a positive update on United midfielder Mason Mount, who has been kept out for four months with a calf issue.

"It was very good Mason Mount trained also the whole week with us," he said. "First part of the week also partly, but then also he had some full sessions with us, so it's looking good."

Lisandro Martinez, Anthony Martial, Luke Shaw and Tyrell Malacia remain sidelined, while United confirmed Jonny Evans has been "nursing a minor issue for the past few matches".

The club said "his game-time has been carefully managed"

and he has not been included in Northern Ireland's squad for their March internationals.

Defeat on Sunday would increase the pressure on Ten Hag as speculation mounts over his future at Old Trafford following the recent arrival at the club of co-owner Jim Ratcliffe.

The Dutchman said his players should take confidence from their good run in the early weeks of 2024 despite the daunting task of taking on in-form Liverpool.

"I think the players, the team showed lately from January on we are in a very good series of games with a lot of wins, so they have to believe they can do it," he said.

"Now we have to take the momentum. That is also what I feel when I train with them, during

and around the games, that they have that belief, a good confidence, good spirit is there in the team."

Ten Hag dismissed reports of a potential move for Marcus Rashford to Paris Saint-Germain.

The England forward has suffered a dramatic drop in form this season -- managing just seven goals for United so far compared with 30 during the 2022/23 campaign.

But Ten Hag said: "We didn't re-sign him last season for four years with the intention to sell him, no. He should be part of this project, so that is not a subject we talk about."

AFP

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Sports >>> *Football Kenya Federation's (FKF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was set for Saturday was cancelled, following a court order obtained by sports journalist Milton Nyakundi.

Court Stops FKF AGM, Throws October Elections To Uncertainty



Nairobi City Stars CEO Patrick Korir (in white shirt) during FKF delegates press briefing at the Sportsview Hotel Kasarani, on March 15 2024. Photo by Joy Omondi, FKF Media..

Football Kenya Federation's (FKF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was set for Saturday was cancelled, following a court order obtained by sports journalist Milton Nyakundi.

The Mombasa High Court gave the order, suspending the AGM until the hearing of the petition whose date is set for Monday next week is heard.

FKF Communications Director Ken Okaka confirmed the cancellation, saying the federation had been served with the order.

"We are a law abiding institution and therefore the court order has to be respected," he told Citizen Digital, without elucidating on further details.

It is understood that all was set for the AGM, and all the delegates were already in Nairobi ahead of the event.

Due to the contentious elections agenda which was part of the AGM, signs of mounting pressure started manifesting earlier this week when FKF differed with Murang'a SEAL on presidential aspirant Hussein Mohammed's eligibility to represent the club in the meeting.

FKF said the Extreme Sports CEO Mohammed is not a member of SEAL, hence ineligible to attend but the club through founder Robert Macharia insisted he is their member and would attend the AGM.

Tension was heightened Friday morning when 76 delegates of FKF threatened to kick out Mohammed from the AGM if he was to attend the now cancelled AGM, underlining it was an affair of the genuine members only.

Later Friday evening, Eastern NEC member Muriithi Nabeba and his North Eastern counterpart Dabar Mohammed also held a press briefing accusing FKF of "running football as a private entity," investing the government to intervene.

It was during the presser, just minutes to close of business that the court order came to the public domain, ending the roller coaster series of events with an anti-cl-

imax for the delegates who were set for the meeting at KISE – Kasarani in Nairobi.

The development means the highly anticipated FKF elections that were set for October may not take place this year, as the court proceedings may necessitate starting the AGM process from the scratch.

The AGM is mandatory to pave way for the elections, as it is in it that members ratify the electoral code among other key issues related to the elections.

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Speech For Children In Pre-School Education. Simple Ways To Remember Words In A Foreign Language

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ANNOTATION:

The current article will provide information on how to teach pre-schoolers English, how to develop their speech, how to speak correctly and fluently, and how to remember words quickly and easily.

Key words: The role of the English language, teaching to speak in interesting ways, fluent speech, language in Navoi terms, monologue and dialogue, exercise, education, methods, new words.

INTRODUCTION.

The role of modern education and upbringing is extremely important in the rapidly growing age. Our current youth is the foundation for the next generation. This is the main goal of modern education. In order to raise a perfect and mature person, we should encourage and educate our children to learn foreign languages from school age. Learning a foreign language increases the child's personal development, that is, the modern world view. Meanwhile, foreign language was introduced not only in schools, but also in kindergartens, additional educational schools, and universities.

Day by day, parents are sending their children to learn a foreign language earlier. At first, he tried from school age. The reason is that if a child is interested in reading from a young age, he will learn and learn other languages easily. From a psychological point of view, the phonetics of children's speech is very sensitive.

The main goal of education is to learn how to pronounce correctly. Teaching children is fundamentally different than teaching adults and schoolchildren. It is necessary to thoroughly study their world view. First of all, it is necessary to find out the abilities of children, because some children remember words when they see them, and some children write them when they hear them.

The tasks being taught to them should be SPECIFIC. Another way



for children to remember and speak fluently is that they become more playful. Different games can be memorized and spoken. Then the child tries to memorize and speak for that game.

A child should have a positive attitude towards a foreign language. It is necessary to teach in a motivational way. If children are taught interestingly through gestures and actions during lessons and teaching, they will remember more. For example, if the theme is animals, then children will remember more if the voice of the chicken and the walking of the turtle are performed with actions. It gives good results if the children repeat the words being taught out loud after the teacher.

Children need the environment of the language they are learning, it affects them. When the child comes home, the atmosphere is good, and if there is a positive opinion about him from others, it will have a good effect on him if it arouses a feeling of satisfaction.

One of the main tasks for the development of preschool children's speech is to enrich the child's vocabulary, to understand the polysemy of words used in mastering concepts. 1] much can be learned by repetition. 2] repeating after the child is repeating at the same time with the child. This is not only an exercise for the speech apparatus, but also development.

After a year, when the child gets used to it, it is necessary to give up teaching with gestures and try to teach the child's eyes and speech by fully speaking. English songs and poems should be sung to make them speak. It is necessary to know how to use cunning methods. If he stops

unexpectedly, the children will continue on their own.

Fluent speech is a well-written thought that provides communication between people and explanations to each other. Fluent speech cannot be separated from the world of thoughts. Fluency is the fluency of thoughts, which reflects the child's logical thinking and reasoning. In order to have a fluent speech, the child must have freedom and a broad world view.

He should be able to express his opinion without fear. In the first two years of children's life, special attention should be paid to the emergence and development of speech as a task of communication with the people around them. Language is a unique treasure of a nation, which is always expressed in spoken and written form. At this point, it is worth mentioning the speech,

speech remains. Alisher Navoi expresses the relationship between language and speech in this way. "Language is a tool of speech. If the speech turns out to be favorable, it is in the interest of the language." So, no matter how great the language is, it serves as a tool for speech.

His power is manifested in the speech process. "If language is an arrow, speech is a bow. The power of the arrow depends on the power of the bow. Language is the highest and main tool of the human mind, because it is not the language that separates man from other creatures?"

Teaching and developing children's fluency in preschool educational institutions is their main task. By the end of preschool age, the child must master the main forms of oral speech characteristic of adults, that

is, he must master the two forms of fluent speech, dialogue and monologue speech. The task of the preschool educational institution is to form the ability of children to listen to the speech addressed to them, to understand, to answer each other's questions and to ask questions themselves, to give coherent answers on the topic.

It is no exaggeration to say that learning a foreign language can be done by doing exercises. The exercises are of two types. Exercise in statics is an educational methodical category consisting of two parts specially distinguished by a letter or symbols in foreign language textbooks. And the exercise in dynamics consists of writing a letter or pronouncing a sound that the student performs in a foreign language. It is a learning process that goes from perceptually understanding a text or expressing one's thoughts fluently. In the future, the exercise system in children will also play a big role. A system of exercises is an icon of subsystems. They are also called lexical-grammatical types of speech activity, speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Until recently, the terms "oral speech" and "large speech" were used instead of "speaking" in foreign language teaching. Speech is expressed in the dictionaries of English "speech", "discourse", in German "Rede Sproche". In our native language, we still say "growing speech".

To sum up, nowadays, the goal of teaching children a foreign language earlier is to become a mature person and to form their personal development with the help of modern materials with age-appropriate

creative and didactic games and open activities. It is no exaggeration to say that learning a foreign language can be done by doing exercises. The exercises are of two types. Exercise in statics is an educational methodical category consisting of two parts specially distinguished by a letter or symbols in foreign language textbooks. And the exercise in dynamics consists of writing a letter or pronouncing a sound that the student performs in a foreign language. It is a learning process that goes from perceptually understanding a text or expressing one's thoughts fluently. In the future, the exercise system in children will also play a big role. A system of exercises is an icon of subsystems. They are speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing, as well as the lexical-grammatical name. is called

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To sum up, nowadays, the goal of teaching children a foreign language earlier is to become a mature person and to form their personal development with the help of modern materials with age-appropriate creative and didactic games and open activities.

The use of new information technologies and computer devices, visual materials in each lesson in education helps to apply useful topics for children and to grow and develop speaking fluency. It is worth mentioning here that if children can apply the knowledge they have learned in their place in life, their fluency and self-confidence will increase.

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