



Paramita Mukherjee Enables Leadership With Passion
 My name is Paramita Mukherjee. I have been a nurturer at heart and a people's person since my childhood. From my childhood, I fancied women leaders. Not sure what they meant to me in my novice brain then, but today when I think of that I feel, the fact that I had a defiance to the societal biases against girls and women, made me inclined to women leaders who have made identities for themselves.

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News>> Gachagua Calls On Rift Valley Leaders To Stop Wrangling

P. 8. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday read the riot act to Rift Valley leaders asking them to stop the incessant wrangling and focus on service to the people.



News>> Koskei Calls For Promotion Of Girl Child Education


P. 12. Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has urged parents from Nandi County to invest in girl child education for better future and prosperity



News>> Jua Kali Artisans: "Your Skill is Legit"

P. 16 The government has underscored its commitment to uplift, dignify and continuously improve the welfare of all Kenyans regardless of their level of education.

Gov't Taking Measures To Eradicate Poverty - Ruto

 The government is taking robust measures to eradicate poverty in the country, President William Ruto has said. He said the government is keen on ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind as it rolls out the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. He cited job creation, increased food production and Universal Health Coverage as some of the key initiatives that will reduce poverty among Kenyans. "When someone does not have a job and food, and cannot access affordable healthcare, that person is poor," he said.



President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9

Register For SHIF To Benefit From The New Health Scheme - Nyeri Town MP

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyentimes

Nyeri Town constituency Member of Parliament Duncan Maina Mathenge has appealed to his con-

stituents to register with the new health scheme.

Mathenge said the new scheme; The Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) was more beneficial to Kenyans since it was poised to cater for

issues that National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has not been catering for.

Addressing faithful at Micha Catholic Church in Muruguru/Gatitu

STORY ON PAGE 13

Nyeri Town constituency Member of Parliament Duncan Maina Mathenge



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Pastor Dorcas Launches Health Soccer Against Addictions In Laikipia

By: OSDP



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi with Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu, his deputy Reuben Kamuri and other leaders at Nanyuki stadium on Saturday.

Worth Noting:

- In an event attended by Governor Joshua Irungu and his spouse Grace, Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Woman Representative, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi urged the hundreds of men who had gathered as players and spectators to refrain from alcohol and drugs.
- “Respect my boys. They are transforming and changing. They shall become soccer stars,” she said. The best and most disciplined players in the tournament will form the Laikipia United Team that shall play in different parts of the country under the Dorcas Rigathi Foundation (DRF) Tournament against addictions.

For the love of the game – football – the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has integrated football in the campaign against alcohol, drugs, and substance addictions in the country.

On Saturday, at the Nanyuki Stadium, she kicked off the Health Soccer Tournament that shall involve 32 teams from across Laikipia County. Many young people identify with the game, and it is a productive co-curricular activity that reduces idle time and engagement in destructive vices. Sports and Games also encourage one to have a strong body and be disciplined, encouraging a team spirit. In an event attended by Governor Joshua Irungu and his spouse Grace, Deputy

Governor Reuben Kamuri, Woman Representative, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi urged the hundreds of men who had gathered as players and spectators to refrain from alcohol and drugs.

“Respect my boys. They are transforming and changing. They shall become soccer stars,” she said. The best and most disciplined players in the tournament will form the Laikipia United Team that shall play in different parts of the country under the Dorcas Rigathi Foundation (DRF) Tournament against addictions.

Those who don’t become part of the United Team shall join TVETs to gain soft and technical skills.

To mark the launch, Pastor Dorcas hit

four penalties against goalkeepers of the four teams that took part in the two games. She scored 3 of the 4 penalties. She also kicked the ball high in the air to mark the launch.

In the two games played during the launch, Dapatas FC beat Karuga FC 4:0, and Zion FC beat Kaa Sober 1:0.

Governor Irungu pledged the county’s support in the fight against alcohol, drug and substance abuse.

“We appreciate Pastor Dorcas for keeping the promise she made last year when she attended the Governor’s Cup here in Laikipia, and told us she would bring the DRF Tournament. We shall join hands with the DCC to fight alcohol, and also


work towards empowering the youth through sports,” said Irungu.

Kagiri took time in her speech to mention name by name some of the men she was shocked to see them play the competitive game noting that she knew them before when they were in addictions.

DCC Patrick Muli said the officers under the national administration were committed in the fight against alcohol and drugs as per the government directive.

The President, and Deputy President have strongly pronounced themselves against addictions in the country and the empowerment of the youth.

Editor's Desk




The Mt. Kenya Times

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Kenya Partners With World Bank For Quality Education

By: Joseph Mutua
@themkenyatimes

The international community is aware of Kenya's significant education reforms, which are gaining support for their implementation.

The World Bank has extended a six years intervention that was to end in December 2023 for an additional year.

The Kenya Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQIP) focuses on the most educationally and economically disadvantaged areas as well as the poorest and most vulnerable children.

The Sh20 Billion project aimed to help the country overcome obstacles in accessing education. The Kenya Country Partnership Strategy focuses on enhancing human capital through education and training.

Elijah Mungai, the projects director at the Ministry of Education, emphasized the importance of providing quality secondary education to en-

hance the skills of the working population.

The Kenyan Constitution mandates the government to offer free, high-quality Basic Education. The government aims to enhance Basic Education for Sustainable Development by fostering critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, digital literacy, and 21st-century competencies among students.

Speaking in her office, SEQIP project coordinator Jane Mbugua said the project is committed to enhancing transition from primary to secondary education along with retaining students in school up to the age of 18.

World Bank Africa's development strategy aims to accelerate the demographic transition and maximize the demographic dividend by enabling more girls in impoverished regions to attend secondary school.

The project addresses challenges such as high school dropout rates in grade seven and eight, low enrollment, particularly among girls, and low transition from primary to secondary school. Ms Mbugua stated



Stakeholders during the meeting

that the organization is enhancing the quality and relevance of education in 135 sub-counties in vulnerable and marginalized areas.

The Kenya Vision 2030 envisages a reduction of illiteracy, increased individual well-being brought about by

an education, training, and research that is inclusive and of high quality. The SEQIP project is in line with the World Bank's global objectives of reducing extreme poverty and promoting sustainable shared prosperity.

The National Education Sector Plan

2018 prioritizes Quality Basic Education as the primary sustainable goal, requiring governments to ensure inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Plans to set off Kazi Mashinani youth empowerment initiative in Trans Nzoia are complete. This follows distribution of tools to all the 25 wards in the County which in turn will be issued out to service providers. The distributed tools among them wheelbarrows, spades, slathers, hoes, reflectors, rakes are expected to enhance service delivery and ensure success of the program.



Coast leaders have hailed the Kenya Kwanza administration for lowering the cost of living through well-crafted policy interventions. They cited the recent reduction of retail prices of petroleum as announced by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA). The pump price of super petrol, Diesel and Kerosene decreased by Sh7.21, Sh5.09 and Sh4.49 respectively. Speaking during an Iftar dinner organized by UDA nominated Senator Miraji Abdillahi in Mtongwe, Likoni constituency, Matuga MP Kassim Tandaza appealed to the Matatu Owners Association to reduce fares commensurate with the decline in the prices of fuel. "When the fuel price was raised by Sh3 the fare from Kwale to Likoni was increased from Sh100 up to Sh150. I want to appeal to Matatu industry players before we start to enforce although it is a free market to reduce fares," said Tandaza.



Chief Justice Martha has assured that the recruitment of all judges will be done by an independent bodies in a fair and transparent manner that will also involve public participation. In a speech read on her behalf by the Presiding Judge for Environmental and Land Courts Justice Oscar Angote during a Multi-Agency Good Governance Summit held at the Nairobi's All Saints Cathedral, The CJ said the Judiciary had put up measures in place to make the recruitment process fair and transparent. The Summit organized by Public Service Governance (PSG) attracted key stakeholders in the justice system including officials from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Director of Criminal Investigations, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Police Service among others.



Mvita Sub-County Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Ronald Mwiwawi has beseeched parents not to abandon their parental responsibility lest they destroy their children's lives. Speaking at the Ronald Ngala School ground when Mvita MP Mohamed Machele issued cheques amounting to K Sh44 million for the education at least 5000 needy students, The DCC said indiscipline among students was worrying and asked parent to nip the vice before it went out of hand. He however was optimistic that rate of juvenile-related crimes had gone down in the years 2021 and 2022 as evidenced by the improvement of KCSE performance in last year's results but challenged parents not to let their guard.



Hotel bookings for fans expected at the upcoming World Rally Championships [WRC] in Naivasha has reached fever pitch after accommodation facilities recorded a 90 advance bookings. The Safari Rally motorsport showpiece which apparently coincides with the Easter season for three years in a row since it was re-introduced has since attracted thousands of revelers and rally enthusiasts who visit the lakeside town to experience the thrill and fun-filled event. The event, now in its fourth-year schedule in the country, has reverted to its traditional Easter holiday and is slated for March 28th -31st in the expansive dry and dusty-riddled parts of Naivasha and Gilgil Sub-Counties.

Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki, through his Choromai Foundation yesterday, visited various churches in the electoral area where he gave contributions for different activities. He started his Sunday activities at Kinyaiti FGCK, where the sermon was delivered by Pastor Mathenge, after which he gave his contribution toward church construction. He thereafter proceeded to Christian Outreach Ministries Worldwide Gitegi, where Overseer Wachira led in the Sunday worshi.

The climax of the day was at AIPCA Watuka during the medium service and competitions where Archdeacon Gitiche (pictured with him) led the service.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Mapping Kenya's Energy Future: 16 Counties Chart Course for Investment and Intervention

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

Worth Noting:

- SETA provided technical assistance through a team of experts, on-the-job training, and document production during the three-and-a-half-year project.
- The EU funded SETA with 4 million Euros of technical support. However, the conference in Nairobi learned that 25 counties have yet to start their energy plans.
- During the project's closeout conference in Nairobi, experts noted that it will require about Ksh. 300 million to help the remaining counties meet the renewable energy obligation.



Engineer Isaac Kiva (left) and Mr Martin Andersen during the SETA closeout conference in Nairobi. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah.

Some 16 counties are now on the verge of producing their County Energy Plans (CEPs) - a critical requirement of the Energy Act (2019), energy sector actors have revealed.

The CEPs are the foundation for the Integrated National Energy Plan (INEP), which guides Kenya's energy sector over the short, medium, and long term.

The energy plans map out the sources and utilization of the energy mix. They also provide a basis for investment and intervention. The plan is based on economic, socio-political, and technical issues.

The European Union (EU)-funded Sustainable Energy Technical Assistance (SETA) project, which focuses on renewable energy, energy access,

and energy efficiency, ended last week. SETA provided technical assistance through a team of experts, on-the-job training, and document production during the three-and-a-half-year project.

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During the project's closeout conference in Nairobi, experts noted that it will require about Ksh. 300 million to help the remaining counties meet the renewable energy obligation.

The Secretary for Renewable Energy, Engineer Isaac Kiva, challenged counties to allocate resources to finalize their CEPs so that Kenya can have a

consolidated INEP for rollout.

"Completion of the CEPs is critical because they form the core components of the Integrated National Energy Plan (INEP) as specified in the Energy Act (2019)," he noted.

He added that an INEP cannot exclude any county, and there is a need for more partner support to develop institutional capacity for Kenya's sustainable energy sector.

The SETA team, led by Jean Paul Claude, Mr. Jechonia Kitala, and Ms. Emma Nyabicha, expressed delight, adding that the project had sparked serious interest around the renewable energy sector.

"Counties are now highly aware that energy is a key enabler and cannot be addressed in isolation," noted Kitala,

a senior energy project manager, and capacity building expert.

As the Millennium Development Goals process has shown, measurable goals with widespread consensus can mobilize entire societies.

Sustainable Development Goal number 7 calls for ensuring access to clean and affordable energy, which is crucial for the development of other sectors.

The Director of Renewable Energy, Mr. Dan Marangu, noted that the SETA project is a strategic journey towards achieving Sustainable Energy for All by 2030 under the SE4All framework.

"The most critical aspect is that the mapping takes into account the fact that indigenous energies are competitive for the economy," noted Mr. Marangu.

Mr. Martin Andersen, Head of Infrastructure & Energy at the European Delegation in Kenya, praised the country for its robust green grid, which is about 90% renewable.

"This milestone is impressive. It is what most countries in the world aspire to. We are proud of Kenya, and we will support the country in achieving a 100% green grid," he noted.

He added that the EU is also supporting other interesting emerging areas in Kenya, such as green hydrogen, which is set to create more jobs.

Green hydrogen is a clean energy source produced by electrolyzing water with renewable electricity to separate hydrogen from oxygen, with close to zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Andersen reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting Kenya's "Green Resilient Electricity System," which will strengthen transmission and stimulate the development of green energy.

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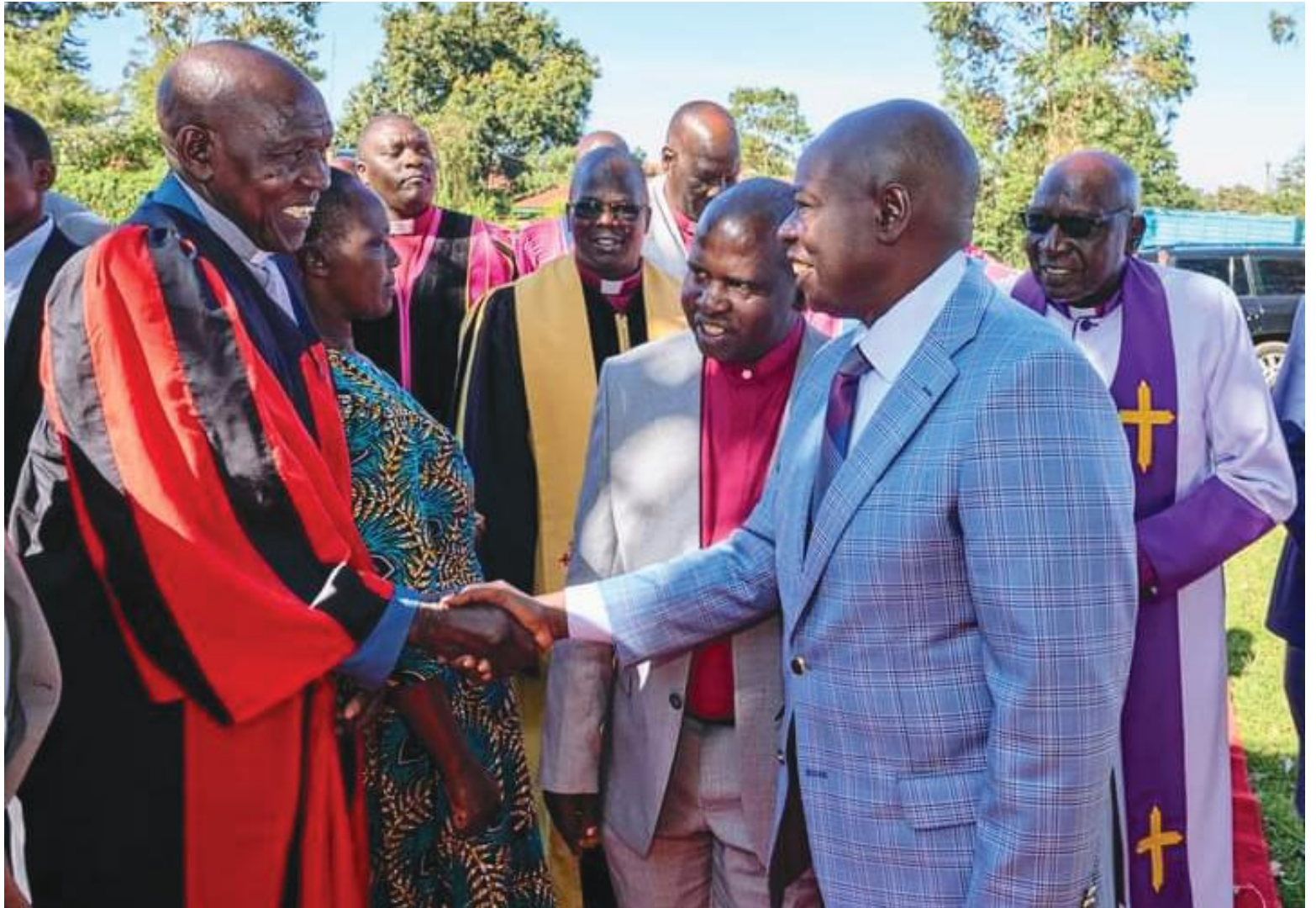
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Gachagua Calls On Rift Valley leaders To Stop Wrangling

By:DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua greeting Bishop James Mosoni

Worth Noting:

- “The President’s meetings cannot be chaotic like we saw in Kericho and Bomet. We must be careful with the way we handle the Presidency. The only way to show the other people you appreciate their support is to respect the President,” he warned.
- In Bomet on Saturday, the DP asked leaders to deal with their local issues away from the President’s eye.
- Yesterday, he fired a warning to those that will continue with the misbehaviours saying they will not be tolerated.
- “I will not associate with anyone from this region who disrespects the President. Be it a governor, senator, MP or anybody from this region. We want total respect for the President,” he emphasized.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday read the riot act to Rift Valley leaders asking them to stop the incessant wrangling and focus on service to the people.

The Deputy President said it was shameful and disdainful for leaders to make President William Ruto a laughing stock as they publicly fight for supremacy in the region in the presence of the Head of State.

Speaking during a Church Service at Kapsabet AIC where he witnessed the installation of new Bishop Moses Serem and Assistant Bishop James Mosonik, the DP said it was no longer acceptable for leaders from the region to engage in disrespectful exchanges in front of the President.

“This infighting in the President’s backyard is very shameful. The people of the Rift Valley must not take the Presidency for granted. If the President has come to your county, he must be totally respected,” said Mr Gachagua.

He said the wrangles that saw ferrying of goons to development meetings addressed by the President in Kericho and Bomet recently had gotten out of hand and must be stopped

immediately.

“The President’s meetings cannot be chaotic like we saw in Kericho and Bomet. We must be careful with the way we handle the Presidency. The only way to show the other people you appreciate their support is to respect the President,” he warned.

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“I will not associate with anyone from this region who disrespects the President. Be it a governor, senator, MP or anybody from this region. We want total respect for the President,” he emphasized.

The Deputy President said the President had gained lots of respect and adoration globally because of his admirable leadership style adding that he would not allow local politicians to taint his name.

“The President has gained lots of respect globally. He has been invited by the United States President (Joe Biden) for a State Visit in May

because everyone is appreciating his leadership skills. It cannot be at his home where some people are disrespecting him,” he said.

To stop similar happenings in the future, the DP promised to summon the leaders for a meeting to thrash out their issues and find solutions.

“What we saw yesterday and the day before should never again be seen in this region. I am going to call all the leaders from the counties here in North and South Rift to explain to me what the problem is and why they are eager to embarrass our President,” he said.

Last month, the Deputy President asked Mt Kenya leaders not to engage in similar antics in front of the President.

“We stopped that habit in Kiambu with a warning to those sponsoring it not to attempt it again,” said Mr Gachagua.

On the ongoing war against illicit brews, drugs and substance abuse, the DP who is spearheading the fight, said they will not relent until the menace was fully dealt with.

He said officers not willing to implement the new measures would not not

be transferred but sent home.

He said officers in the Rift Valley had done a good job so far in the rolling of the measures.

The DP also assured farmers that the subsidized fertilizer will be supplied in plenty.

“We will deal with reported delays to ensure all the farmers get the fertiliser on time,” he said.

During the Service, the DP was joined by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang, EALA Speaker Joseph Ntakirutimana, Nandi Governor Stephen Sang, Senator Samson Cherargei, MPs Josses Lelmengit (Emgwen), Julius Melly (Tinderet), Abraham Kirwa (Mosop), Paul Biego (Chesumei), Bernard Kitur (Nandi Hills), Cynthia Muge (Nandi County MP), Julius Rutto (Kesses), Dan Wanyama (Webuye West), Joseph Wainaina (Nominated), Zipporah Kering (EALA), AIC Bishop (Emeritus) Silas Yego, Kapsabet Ward MCA Benjamin Kerich, among others, were present.

Ruto: Government Taking Robust Measures To Eradicate Poverty

By: Presidential Communication Service



Worth Noting:

- He made the remarks during a thanksgiving service for Tourism Principal Secretary John Olotuaa in Kilgoris, Narok County yesterday.
- Present were First Lady Rachel Ruto, Narok Governor Patrick ole Ntutu, Cabinet Secretaries Alfred Mutua and Soipan Tuya, MPs and MCAs.
- President Ruto said the government has steered the country away from the debt crisis that had slowed economic growth and stalled key development projects.
- He said that over the past year, the government has focused on repaying huge debts, including the \$2 billion Eurobond.
- “We can now plan our development without the worry that our country will fall into the trap of debt distress,” he said.



President William Ruto during a thanksgiving service for Tourism Principal Secretary John Olotuaa in Kilgoris, Narok County yesterday

The government is taking robust measures to eradicate poverty in the country, President William Ruto has said.

He said the government is keen on ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind as it rolls out the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

He cited job creation, increased food production and Universal Health Coverage as some of the key initiatives that will reduce poverty among Kenyans.

“When someone does not have a job and food, and cannot access affordable healthcare, that person is poor,” he said.

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“We can now plan our development without the worry that our country will fall into the trap of debt distress,” he said.

President Ruto explained that the budget of the next financial year, that will soon be presented to Parliament, will allocate adequate funds to major development and transformative projects.

“We plan to allocate KSh120 billion for construction of roads in the next budget cycle,” he said.

The President also announced that the government has revived the last mile power programme that seeks to connect every Kenyan household to electricity.

On job creation, President Ruto said the country has secured one million jobs for the youth abroad under the Export of Labour Programme.

He added that the government will continue to create more jobs through the Affordable Housing Programme, digital jobs and Special Economic Zones.

The Head of State said the government is working with the counties to ensure that subsidised fertiliser reaches farmers at the grassroots.

“Our goal is to assist farmers to produce more, cash crops or food crops alike, to ensure food security,” he said.

On sugar growing, the President announced that the government will

support farmers to produce more and thus reduce sugar imports into the country.

Sugar debts, the President said, had been written off and the next phase is to ensure proper management of the factories through a leasing programme that will prevent a return to the rot of the past.

President Ruto warned against clan and tribal divisions, saying these undermine national unity and transformation.

“We are putting efforts at uniting in the East African Community and making Africa a single market. It will be totally counterproductive to be engaged in clan and tribal divisions,” he said.

Worship And Ritual Practices In The New Testament

By: Erik Odin Yingling
 @themtkenyatimes

The period from the first century AD to the middle of the second century AD has occasionally been called the dark period of Christian worship practices.

Details of Christian liturgy in this period, unlike later centuries, are not described in any systematic fashion. In fact, during the apostolic era the document that most closely resembles a “Church Handbook of Instructions”—a rulebook called the Teaching of the (Twelve) Apostles or simply the Didache (the “Teaching”)—did not make it into the books of the New Testament.

The alleged darkness of the historical sources from this period, however, should not prevent us from glean- ing insights from the texts of the New Testament and other early Christian writings, even as these insights re-

main open to revision.

While the New Testament authors and their respective communities did not always agree on the details of Christian worship, their texts do describe a diversity of practices that we can explore. In this chapter I will survey some of these rituals and worship practices.

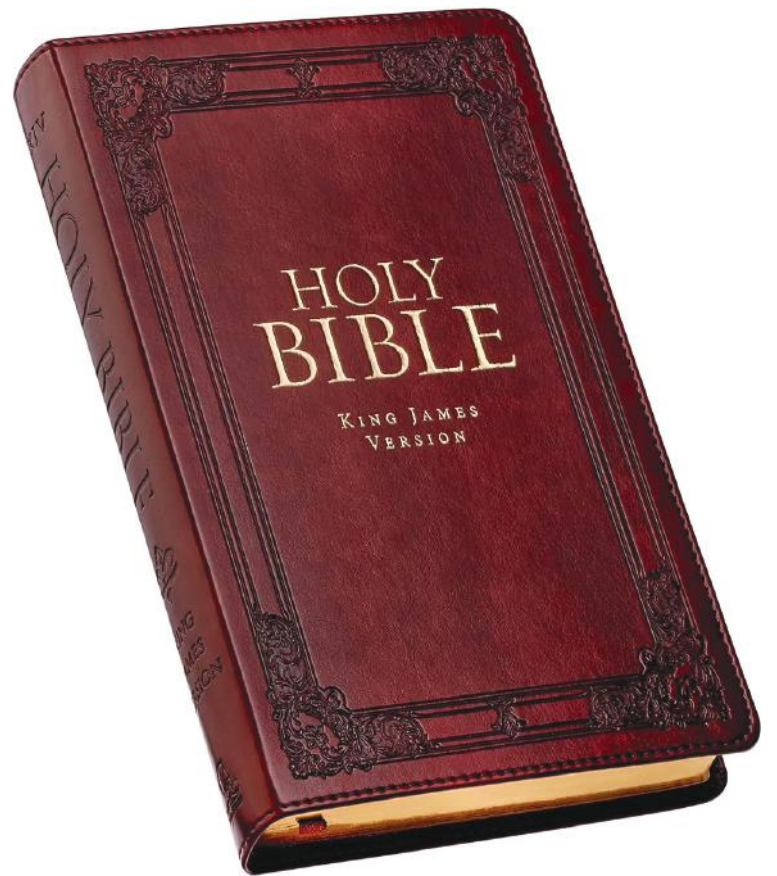
These include topics such as prayer, hymn singing, sacramental meals, the ritual kiss, discernment practices, baptism, foot washing, and foot dusting.

Prayer Practices

In the New Testament, daily prayer in Jerusalem occurred at regular intervals associated with both home and temple. In the book of Acts we read that prayer happened at the third hour, sixth hour, and ninth hour (Acts 2:15; Acts 10:9; 10:30–31; Acts 3:1). This corresponded to the temple sacrifices in the morning (c. 9:00 am), main meal of the day (c. noon), and evening sacrifice (c. 3:00 p.m.).

Worshippers would stand outside the sanctuary praying as the priest offered incense upon the altar (cf. Luke 1:10).

The repetitive hourly aspects of prayer may have been an opportunity as well as a challenge. Jesus warned against vain or empty repetitions but encouraged his followers to persist in prayer until their request was granted (Matthew 6:7). He refers, for instance, to an unjust judge who eventually favored a relentless widow (Luke 18:1–5). On another occasion, Jesus told a parable of a (seemingly annoyed) neighbor who finally answered his acquaintance’s request. This was due to the petitioner’s “importunity” or shameless persistence (Luke 11:8).



Islam Is A Religion Of Purity, Faith Is The First Place In Islam



By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
 @themtkenyatimes

When your faith is complete, then you are considered a Muslim. It is true that no one can be a perfect person, but it is not impossible for everyone to avoid evil. Islam, first of all, calls a person to be spiritually and physically clean.

No other religion in the world has raised Islamic purity and cleanliness to such a high level. In the first place, when we mean purity, the heart should be pure, the intention should be pure. Because if there is no purity, the servant’s prayer will not be accepted.

We can see Islam as a perfect thing. There is no mistake in it, there is no defect in it, there is no flaw in it. Know-

ing how to manage faith is in our own hands, either we increase the reward or, on the contrary, we continue to enter the path of sin.

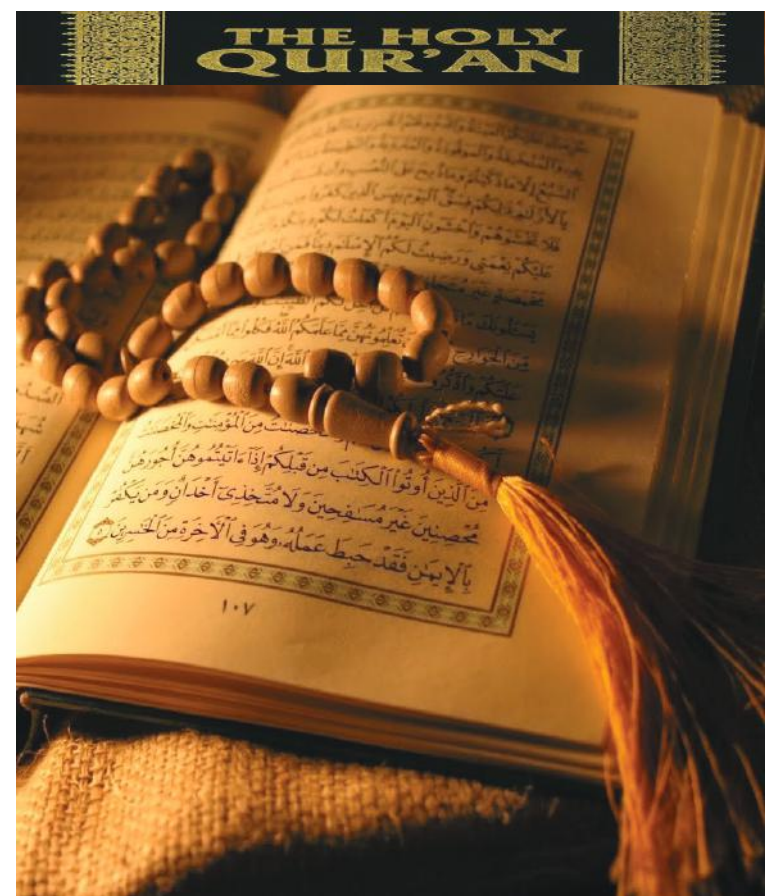
In addition, in order for prayers to be accepted, a person’s whole body, clothes, and even the place of worship must be clean, free of various large and small impurities and impurities. In our religion, special attention is paid to people being clean and pure in all spheres.

The reason is that evil does not come from a pure person, purity is a reflection of good humanity. Allah Almighty mentions in several places that He loves His pure servants. The great book of Islam “Holy Qur’an” contains all the ways

leading people to Paradise.

Reading the Qur’an opens the way to Heaven. The person who reads it changes completely. For example, you can see that his intelligence and behavior are far ahead of his peers. There are many other religions on earth, but on the key of the gate of Paradise is written “Paradise belongs to Muslims”.

Before, many people were against Islam. Many books of the Koran were burned in opposition to its spread and even the recitation of the Koran. Years have passed, Alhamdulillah, now there are more people who have accepted Islam on earth.



Song Of Ndindi Nyoro Is Our Son Rent The Air During The Nairobi CBD Prayer Meeting



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- When I referred him to the remarks that the President had made few days earlier during which he asked the leaders to stop engaging in early and premature succession politics, he said. This did not amount to reprimanding Ndindi. Infact, he said the Kenya Kwanza government will continue to mentor upcoming youthful leaders.
- The President spoke at a time when the supremacy battle pitting Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Ndindi had gone a notch higher.
- Yes, we agree with our beloved President that this is the time of delivering on promises each leader made to electorates during the campaigns.
- Come 2027 polls, Kenyans will judge them based on the work they have done.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro was among the leaders who attended the prayer and thanksgiving meeting organized by the Nairobi Business community.

I was there when he arrived and I witnessed the spectacular reception he was accorded.

The song of Ndindi Nyoro is our son, Ndindi Nyoro is our son rent the air.

His arrival was also greeted by ululations by the women who led the chorus. The MP was among the leaders who spoke at this event. His speech resonated well with those present.

This again showed that Ndindi Nyoro's star was shining across the country.

The MP had been to other parts of the country where the local leaders hosted him and he would receive similar rousing welcome. One can therefore understand why his opponents particularly in Mount Kenya region felt threatened. To counter him, they resorted to peddling propaganda and outright lies.

A few days earlier, a friend of mine had told me that the Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro was poised to become the President of this country.

Mr. Ndindi will one day become the President of Kenya. While citing his credentials, he further stated that he was the best-suited to succeed President Ruto in 2032.

When I referred him to the remarks that the President had made few days earlier during which he asked the leaders to stop engaging in early and premature succession politics, he said. This did not amount to reprimanding Ndindi. Infact, he said the Kenya Kwanza government will continue to mentor upcoming youthful leaders.

The President spoke at a time when the supremacy battle pitting Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Ndindi had gone a notch higher.

Yes, we agree with our beloved President that this is the time of delivering on promises each leader made to electorates during the campaigns.

Come 2027 polls, Kenyans will judge them based on the work they have done.

But looking at Ndindi's track record in Kiharu, he is far much ahead of them. Elected leaders from different parts of country had been trooping there for study and benchmarking.

Earlier, I had written an article that goes.

The supremacy battle for Mount Kenya kingpin had taken a new turn when Ndindi hosted twice dozens of members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country.

This was during the launch of Kiharu Masomo Bora Initiatives.

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

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

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

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

In light of this, we want to reiterate he is the best suited to succeed President

William Ruto in 2032.

Meanwhile, we fully support the candidature of Ndindi in the race to succeed former President Uhuru Kenyatta as Mount Kenya region kingpin.

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

The pronouncements in the second meeting rattled them to a point of launching a fierce fight back.

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

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

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

This left no doubt they felt the threat posed by Ndindi is real and cannot be taken for granted.

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

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

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

I urge you to refrain from engaging in

activities designed to divide and polarize our country.

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

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

So, Dr Ruto was responding to these claims. He told Khalwale. We have no time for sideshows. We are here to do development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Koskei Calls For Promotion Of Girl Child Education

By: Linet Wafula
 @themtkenyatimes

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has urged parents from Nandi County to invest in girl child education for better future and prosperity

Koskei who was speaking at Kapsbet Girls High School during a thanksgiving day stressed that by investing in the girl child the entire community and society was sowing a future of progress for many generations

“We want to celebrate girls and invest more in their wellbeing and education so that tomorrow they will lead this Country with a lot of knowledge. The surest child who can take good care of their parents and build a prosperous and peaceful society is the girl child.. Boy child disappear along the way but girl child always keep in touch,” he said

Koskei noted that a girls’ education has direct impact on Country’s social, economic and practical wellbeing adding that an educated mother is very productive in the society.

He advised parents to support their



Koskei Calls For Promotion Of Girl Child Education
 Head of Civil Service Felix Koskei and Nandi County governor Stephen Sang.

children in school in order for them to excel, saying failure to follow up on academic performance makes children relax resulting in poor performance.

“The say education is an equalizer and best investment a parent can give to a child. Let us secure the future of our children by giving them the best education and work hand in hand with teachers to ensure they excel,” he said

Koskei who was accompanied by

Basic Education Principal Secretary Dr.Belio Kipsang assured the school administration of Government’s support to improve infrastructure and mentor girls for better results.

Dr.Kipsang congratulated the school for the better performance and learning clean without involving in academic doping.

He said educated girls narrow the gender pay gap, boost workforce participation, and promote self-sufficiency to foster an inclusive society



Students of Kapsbet Girls High School during a thanksgiving and prize giving day

with equal opportunities for all to thrive.

“When we invest in you, we invest in the future and any good person will invest in future because we want to anchor this Country well. And you are the people who will take this Country to the next level. We shall continue praying for you as parents to ensure you excel well,” he said

Nandi Governor Stephen Sang reaffirmed his steadfast commitment to providing comprehensive support to all educational institutions with-

in the county to enable the schools thrive and succeed academically.

Education stakeholders present noted that investing in girl’s education transforms communities, countries and the entire world adding that girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy and productive lives.

Kenya-Uganda Commence Joint Border Reaffirmation Exercise

By: Peter Gitonga
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenyan and Ugandan governments have initiated a joint border reaffirmation exercise in the Lokiria-ma/Lomokori region.

The exercise aims to clearly mark visibility of the boundary through marking the boundary line. Thus, the communities along the joint borders have been sensitized ahead of the exercise that kicked off last week in March 11 and expected to last for 15 days.

A high-powered delegation, including Turkana county security teams, Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai, Nairobi survey officers, and government spokesperson Joshua arap Sang, participated in a public sensitization exercise last week.



The Ugandan delegation was led by David Pulkol who is a special adviser to president Uganda and other senior administrators.

The exercise is being overseen by the ministry of lands, public works, housing and urban development of

Kenya, Kenya international boundaries office, and the ministry of lands, housing and urban development of Uganda.

County commissioner Kavita said the exercise was meant for administrative purposes and not deter

movement of the members of the two countries who belong to the east African community.” The boundary determines the extent of sovereignty and jurisdiction of a state,” added surveyor Rotich.

Furthermore, the process will help

facilitate management of Trans boundary resource and unite communities and ensure their peaceful coexistence. A press dispatch announced that the exercise will involve reestablishing destroyed boundary pillars, constructing new ones, and drafting a comprehensive agreement to replace colonial agreements.

The communities living along the area will be involved in the construction works as well as sourcing of construction materials from the host communities to promote ownership of the project. Myths of presence of costly minerals that led to destruction of earlier pillars were also debunked. Hence, “we shall engage elders and members of the host communities because we have nothing to hide” said Rotich.

Register For SHIF To Benefit From The New Health Scheme - Nyeri Town MP

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

ward during a funds drive, the MP said, the new scheme will also see Kenyans from financially challenged families either fully sponsored by the government or pay KSh300.

Mathenge noted that Kenya Kwanza administration was out to ensure that the country has a health citizens for maximum productivity.

The Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) is a new healthcare financing system in Kenya, replacing the NHIF.

It is designed to ensure universal health coverage and aims to provide equitable and affordable healthcare to all Kenyans, regardless of their employment status.

Also present during the Harambee were Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka and his Chief Executive Officer Eng. Philip Gichuki, and Skyways Security firm Director Anthony Muriuki.

Gathaka urged Kenyans to continue supporting President William Ruto's government saying things were improving and economy almost stabilizing.

The funds drive in aid of completion of a church was preceded by a Holy Mass, which was presided over by Father Paul Kimani.



Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka (left), Skyways Security firm director Anthony Muriuki (2nd left) and Eng. Philip Gichuki at Micha Catholic Church near Nyeri town yesterday. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU.

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Freedom



By: Davlatnazarov Davlatnazar

At first glance, it seems like a simple word, but it carries a profound meaning. The word "ozodlik" comes from the Tajik word "ozod," which translates to freedom. It signifies living freely. We are now grateful to live peacefully, prosperously, and freely in our country, but have we ever considered the challenges we faced to reach this state?

Many people have sacrificed their lives, wealth, and livelihoods for these days. Some might not even have imagined the struggles endured. For many, these days have been spent surviving, without considering the sacrifices made. As humans live, their hearts beat, naturally gravitating towards freedom and liberty. Freedom embodies the aspirations, harmony, and efforts of humanity. Humans inherently desire

to live freely and safely. Therefore, throughout history, people have struggled for freedom, for the right to live independently.

Attaining independence is considered equivalent to achieving equality. Where there is no equality, undoubtedly, some oppress others, eliminating freedom. Oppression, with its dominance in certain places, leads to the emergence of various diseases, such as tyranny and inequality. It fosters authoritarianism instead of democracy.

Such circumstances disrupt the peaceful, orderly, and comfortable lives of individuals. Persistent oppression erases the lessons of the past and disregards how it came to be. To prevent this, individuals must first understand themselves, their history, and their ancestors. Then, they must gather strength to combat such oppression and resist it.

Certainly, it's not easy to live peacefully and prosperously. Our parents work hard to maintain harmony at home, ensuring our children attend schools and nurseries.

Despite all this, we should not forget the challenges we faced to reach this peaceful era. Gratitude is essential as we live in this free and peaceful land.

Time Machine



By: Hamidullayeva Rayhona

At first I didn't believe there was a time machine. I don't think even a young child would believe it now. The past cannot be changed. That is why time machines are not invented. No! there is no reason to say that it is impossible.

A person who feels can certainly return to the past. For example, through books. Old books can take you back in history. Books make people happy. But this time I want to make a radical change. Books on their way. After all, not everyone reads books.

But almost everyone listens to music. I want to talk about this invention! No matter what music you listen to, you can't escape your fantasy world. They make you think. And the musical instruments are... so wonderful. If you embody a melody in it, you will feel a real miracle! If you want, go to the distant past, if you want, to the past of your

Feelings. No one can resist you. The melody takes you back to the time you want. Maybe those events will appear before your eyes! If there are bad memories, the tone is not at all to blame. Do you think he is cheating?! If you don't believe me, try it and see for yourself. You can't draw conclusions without seeing the end. I built a time machine for myself. I'm running it. I can see it. I feel... and I write. Unfortunately, I cannot show the world in my imagination. The strangeness of my world cannot be put on paper!

That's why I stamp it with a pencil. Some people think that music poisons the mind. But it's not about some noisy and meaningless songs nowadays! Let's just feel it! Close your eyes and imagine a hall that is very spacious. Now the choice is yours: Are you a listener? Participant? And I like them both! Me! I would like to play the violin accompanied by a grand piano in such a large hall, or else I would visit this hall to listen to opera.

Is freedom right?! Let me mention one important thing here! Opera is not a boring performance! It is an art full of emotions! Learn to listen before you judge! So, can you still be suspicious of my sentences below?!

To My Teachers



By preparing disciples
You stop never.

You carried my mischief,
You are my teacher.
To be a good person me
You give advices a lot.

Words that you told to us
We know equal to gold.
The seconds you spend
We feel it is prayer.

My dear teacher,
Pray always
Let's be a person like you
Receive many rewards.

Ruziyeva Sevinch daughter of Usmon
. A student at 65th school in Mirabod district, Toshkent region which is located in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Teachers, thanks so much
You have taught us.
Secrets of reading
We know because of you.

I become such a great person
I will justify your name.
Becoming Zulfiya's daughter
Let me come to you.

You have worked hard,
You gave your life to us.

Live Happily!!!



The world is in your eyes
Your dear friend will not do it
Cry and turn a blind eye to everything
Always live the happiest in life!!!

Life without adults is full of worries
The lessons of life are like bullets to the heart
This is how you live every day
May you always be the happiest in life

Cry, laugh, pour out your pain
What have you seen in this life?
You never stopped worrying about the world
Always live the happiest in life

Life is the most precious gift for man
The value of time is the value of happiness
Don't let obstacles make you tired
Always live the happiest in life

Give yourself some time today
Fly high and have a great flight
This voice screams from inside me
Always live the happiest in life

From the work of Islamova Dilnoza...

Islamova is the daughter of Dilnoza Ne'mat
Place of residence: Bukhara region, Romitan district, Alisher Navoi neighborhood,
Year of birth: 2012
Date: 07.02
School: 1-IDUM and
"Barkamol Avlod" children's school, member of "Yosh kalamkashlar" club.

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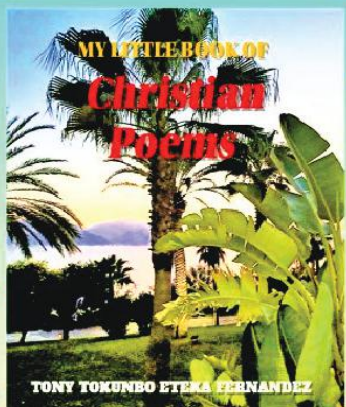
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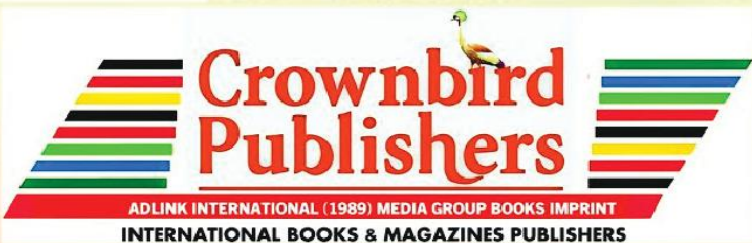
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APSTAR: A New Revolution In The Sacco Front

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyaintimes

Worth noting:

- Apstar Sacco is the new name of Ukulima Sacco
- Ukulima Sacco has over 61,000 members and total assets of over Ksh.15 Billion
- The Sacco held its 46th Annual Delegates Meeting Fri 15th March 2024

The Cooperative movement is a key enabler in achieving the Governments' Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Fourteen million Kenyans are in the Sacco movement, reflecting twenty-five percent of Kenya's population. Apstar Sacco which rebranded from Ukulima Sacco on Friday held its Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) and the National Chairman Dr. Philip Cheronu

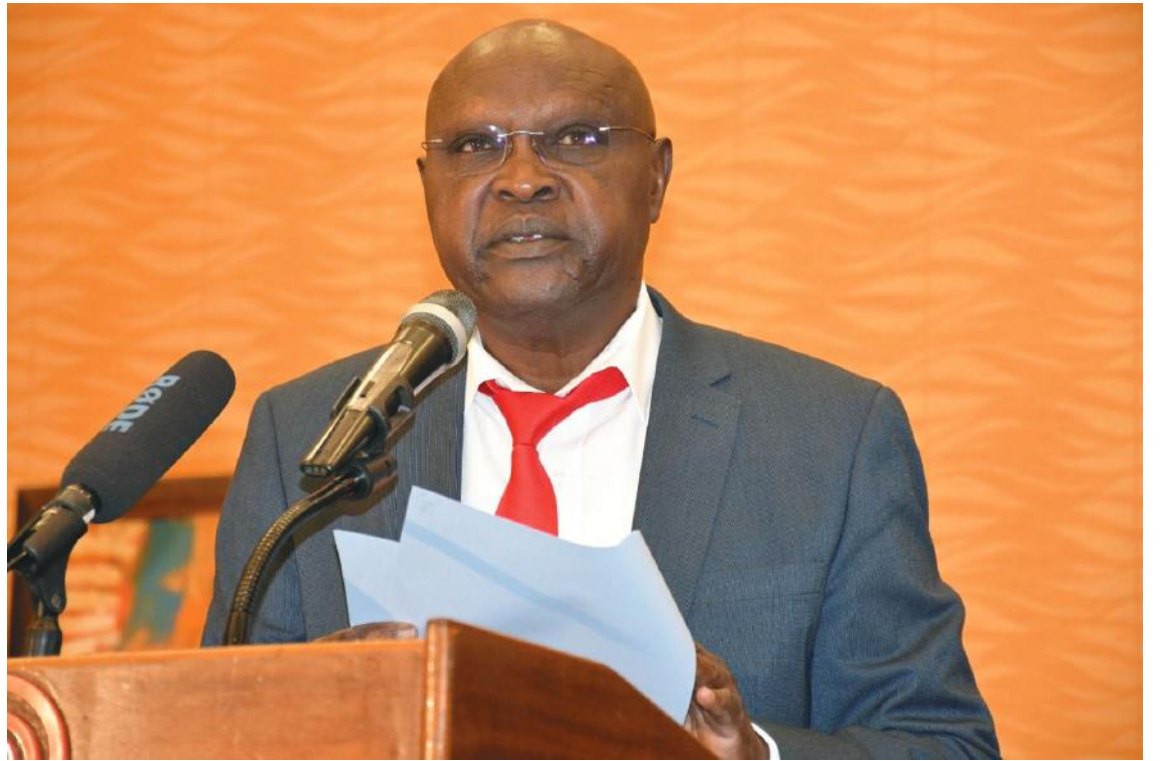
"The reason why we changed the name is because we want to renew ourselves; we've been here for 52 years but now we want to come in with a rebirth. Our key driving value

is simplicity, we want to make it very simple for everybody to participate in this Sacco, make it very accessible to everybody and we are doing this through technology, we also want to be innovative, and we are coming up with a huge range of innovative products. We also want to be inclusive of mama mboga by giving them a facility to save, borrow and repay."

On his part, the Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Simon Chelugui who graced the occasion noted:

"It is my desire and my wish that this sector (Sacco) is protected, preserved, and supported for it to rise to new heights. We all know that rebranding is a process that must be navigated carefully. It's a complete shift. It may reflect new goals, even if the services largely remain the same, the bottom line is, that rebranding must bring new horizons to your business.

I'm glad that Apstar Sacco will strive to embrace innovation and growth which signifies a focus on innovation in reaching for the stars. The new brand identity reflects a



APSTAR Sacco national chairman Dr. Philip Cheronu.

modern, dynamic approach to financial services. You're aware that as a country we have a challenge to access affordable credit services. As we push the agenda through the Saccos, we believe, as the Government, we

can be able to empower many Kenyans to access credit. I'm tasking you to play your rightful role in ensuring that you complement what the government is doing to ease access to financial services for Kenyans. The

new name and logo shall be memorable brand identity, it will give you an edge in the future as long as you have a clear, consistent, and catchy brand message."

Jua Kali Artisans: "Your Skill is Legit"

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyaintimes

The government has underscored its commitment to uplift, dignify and continuously improve the welfare of all Kenyans regardless of their level of education. For the longest time, skilled workers with no formal papers to match their expertise were often looked down upon referred to as just fundi, and paid peanuts. But GOOD NEWS is now here. The Government has announced recognition of their skills under an ambitious program dubbed the Recognition of prior learning which Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is set to launch coming Friday 22nd March 2024.

Sharing this with us is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority Dr. Alice Kande who observes: "This

is good news because it will provide standards of assessing and certifying the skills and competencies acquired through experience. It will enable our skilled but uncertified youth to be awarded certificates based on individual competencies, expanding their opportunities in employment and advanced learning," Dr Kande said.

The implementation of the policy will act as a bridge to facilitate the transition from informality to formality in the Country and a total of 700 candidates are slated to graduate on Friday.

The implementation of the policy is a major win for hundreds of learners who have completed their assessment and those who wish to be assessed.

Dr. Kande further argues that the recognition of skilled workers will spur economic growth in the country.



KNQA Ag. Director General Alice Kande.



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Ultimate Panoramic Experience

Paramita Mukherjee Enables Leadership With Passion



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



Paramita Mukherjee.

Worth Noting:

- I would probably change the way equity is perceived in the eyes of every person in a society. I would like to change the way “Giving is seen as a self-proclaimed Ego”, as against a “must do” for the privileged section of the society.

- Due to some wrong decisions in my life, I went through a period of crisis. Crisis of identity, financial well being, relations and anything possible. That was when my son was also very small. The mother in me and the woman in me, had to do a lot of tradeoffs to keep the ship afloat during that time. Those years were probably the most challenging years of mine.

My name is Paramita Mukherjee. I have been a nurturer at heart and a people's person since my childhood. From my childhood, I fancied women leaders. Not sure what they meant to me in my novice brain then, but today when I think of that I feel, the fact that I had a defiance to the societal biases against girls and women, made me inclined to women leaders who have made identities for themselves. And I wanted to traverse that other road, where I might be able to create an identity of myself. Coming from a small township, where back then, parenting restrictions were on a much different level, I often felt my opportunities were trimmed due to me being a girl. And I wanted to be seen as a confident girl or a woman, exploring life and being a role model to other girls & women as I get into my adulthood. The desire was so strong, that little did I realize the struggles & tradeoffs that I might have to face enroute.

Having said that, all the struggles that I faced in my life till now, have all strengthened me to the core. It was about 9 years back, when I decided to step down from a high paying Corporate job of 20 years, and wanted to indulge myself in the development sector, sharing from my insights of life & lived experiences. Leadership has always been very close to my heart and I always be-

lieved leadership was not a position or a title, but how an individual conducts himself or herself and interacts with the people around him or her. For the last 9 years, I have been engaged in various assignments w

here I have been able to grow as a leader, myself, and I have been able to work on the leadership journeys of different individuals, child, youth or adults. The happiest me is when I am able to touch another soul and am able to gain that trust from someone, which to me is an opportunity to serve better. I am blessed to be where I am today in my life.

A day that starts with some Rabindra Sangeet, the songs from the Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, some planned workspace tasks, a day when I am able to come back home and do some good cooking for the family and spend some cosy time with my puppy & my sons. The day when I am able to reflect and have small accomplishments for myself, that will be an ideal day for me.

I am passionate about equity & opening up opportunities for as many as I can. I am passionate about learning at least one tool every day for self-improvement.

I would probably change the way equity is perceived in the eyes of every person in a society. I would like to change the way “Giving is seen as a self-proclaimed Ego”, as against a

“must do” for the privileged section of the society.

Due to some wrong decisions in my life, I went through a period of crisis. Crisis of identity, financial well being, relations and anything possible. That was when my son was also very small. The mother in me and the woman in me, had to do a lot of tradeoffs to keep the ship afloat during that time. Those years were probably the most challenging years of mine.

I don't think the problems that I faced were unique to me as a woman. These were the very common problems that most of the women who choose not to accept the laid out norms by the society, face throughout their lives. I severely faced gender biases during my early years in my career. I got caught up between raising my sons and aspiring to be mentally & financially independent. I faced quite a workplace abuse during my early career years. I was defied promotions when compared to my male counterparts, only because I was a woman and I had responsibilities back home. To sum up, while I loved being a nurturer to my sons & family, I also wanted to have my mental & financial freedom. This had always been hard, as if an upstream swim always.

I would advise all young people to listen to your heart and be true to

yourselves. No two individuals are alike, hence never compare yourself with others, but try to identify the good traits that you see in others and learn from them. Never fear to be vulnerable, since that strengthens us to face the unknown. Dream about what you want to do, rather than what you want to be and believe that you can. Focus more on your strengths than your weaknesses and sharpen your stronger traits to see how they can take you closer to your dream. Be open to seek help and also render help to others. At all times, listen to your inner voice while being logical, to assess the pros & cons of any situation. Reflect on the failures or the dips in your lives to learn from them. At all times be mindful to practice all of these.

Yes sure. My linkedin handle is <https://www.linkedin.com/in/paramita-mukherjee-461a2547/>. You can reach out to me via dm.

Live in the moment. Listen to your conscience. Your conscience never speaks wrong, recognise that voice. Spend time with yourself to know you more. Work on yourself to shape the next version of yourself. The only controllable resource that you have in this world is “you”. Choose to nurture your biggest resource to reap best from the beautiful life that God has gifted you.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Not Abandon University Students With Children

By: **Lucy Macharia**

Many people's notion in our society today, is that university students should not get pregnancy at their tender age and of course it should be that way because many relief on their parents and guardians for survival. Therefore, catering for their needs and for the young ones becomes quite hard and a solemn issue. But if it happens what should be done? Abandon these students?

On the other hand, many students level of concentration in their aca-

demics declines since most of their times is spent in taking care of the babies. They gets an additional role which calls for their concentration and more of their time.

It's not enough to abandon anyone because of getting a child at their younger she or rather because he/ she is a student. We should also as well embrace them with love and teach them on how to cope up with life and how to bring up their children in a lovely manner. Many of these students agonize because they don't have the needed skills on how children are

raised, what to feed them, when to take them for clinics and what the child needs at a specific time thus failing to cater for what they need at that time and this leads to high death rates of children.

Some students with or without children are used not to take balance diets where in many cases many skips breakfast, lunch and only afford for one meal in a day. "Ugali ya kisiagi na skuma" as many refers to them are the most affordable foods to many.

Lactating students who only feeds on such diets makes their children to

grow in low health status because you can find a student only afforded the meal ones in a day and the available meal is not even enough. This makes the children to have stunted growth where many suffers kwashiorkor and marasmus due to malnutrition.

The solution to reduce birth rates in our universities today is not by abandoning them and assuming they are okay. There can be guidance and counseling sectors specifically for them they can be encouraged in one way or the other in up-bringing of their children. Educating programs

should also be instituted to teach them on the best ways of raising their children, the health diets they should provide for them, make them know when to visit clinics, how to detect the child's condition and every other useful information as far as bringing up children and pregnancy is concerned. Students with children should be much embraced with love and be much encouraged.

Lucy Macharia is a student at Rongo University

The Void Chira Has Left In The Hands Of Many And Fellow Tiktokers

The sudden passing of Brian Chira, a renowned Kenyan TikToker, has sent shockwaves through the online community. His tragic demise in a road accident in Kiambu County has left a void in the hearts of many fans and fellow content creators who admired his vibrant personality and creative spirit.

Brian's journey on TikTok was nothing short of remarkable. He had a unique ability to connect with his audience, bringing laughter and joy to many. His content was a blend of humor, dance, and a touch of controversy, which kept his followers

engaged and often sparked conversations. His untimely death has not only robbed the TikTok community of a star but has also raised concerns about road safety in Kenya.

The circumstances surrounding his death are a grim reminder of the fragility of life. Reports indicate that Brian was hit by a speeding car, sustaining severe injuries. The incident has reignited the debate on the enforcement of traffic laws and the need for stricter measures to protect pedestrians, especially in areas with high nightlife activity.

Brian's influence extended beyond

entertainment; he was a voice for the youth, often addressing social issues through his platform. His boldness in content creation was a testament to his commitment to being true to himself and his audience. The loss of such a dynamic figure is a blow to the creative industry, which thrives on the diversity and innovation of individuals like him.

In the wake of his passing, tributes have poured in from all corners of the internet. Fans and fellow creators have shared their favorite moments and videos of Brian, celebrating his life and the impact he had on

them. It's a powerful display of the digital legacy one can leave behind, and Brian's memory will undoubtedly live on through his work.

As we mourn the loss of Brian Chira, it's crucial to reflect on the lessons his life can teach us. We are reminded to cherish every moment, to live passionately, and to make a positive difference in the world, just as he did. His death also calls us to action, to advocate for safer roads and responsible driving, so that tragedies like this can be prevented.

Brian Chira's story is a poignant narrative of talent, influence, and the

unexpected twists of fate. It serves as a reminder that behind every screen name and profile picture is a real person with dreams, aspirations, and a life that matters. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy inspire others to pursue their passions with the same fervor and zest for life that he did.

By: Kitsao Frank Mwasela (Rongo University)

Social Media Irrelevance Is Unfortunately Selling

The crucial part of social media has enabled sharing of knowledge, educative materials, technological advancement and has made services easily bearable. According to estimates 210 million people worldwide suffer social media addiction like logging in daily to check their accounts and seeking options to go viral. Content creation has led to people producing sorts of manipulative content more than expectation.

The youngest adults aged 18-29 are highly obsessed to using any form of social media ready to exploit their availability. The creativity of content creators is impactive.

Despite the social media platform rules and guidelines content shared is broadening the transmission of irrelevant and inappropriate content. Surprisingly even key names of either entertainment or music industry are nowadays using planned tricks termed as 'KIKI' to capture relevance of the social media users before releasing a track or movie.

Teens are interacting are more with the internet consequently more exposed to futile posts. Statistics reveal that 43% of teens delete their posts for not getting anyone like. Alarming them to post unethical content for more engagements.

Considerably, content creation has made many to earn something but instead prompting many to escape all odds of clean content to attention selling inappropriate content. People practice what they observe. Platforms like Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram depending on the most viewed and engaged account gets endorsements inserting pressure for the users to do the least in marketing themselves. The negatives have outweighed the benefits of social media for instance the sharing of sexual content and futile videos.

Molarity has been an interesting

topic over time, has propagated it into immorality and immodesty. Depression has compelled individuals to share fake lifestyles to please cooperate yet their lives are miserable. The media is seen as a reflection of the society rather that what influences it. Moral decadence especially through sexual risk behaviour and caption providing more engagements compared to clean. We see social media has gained much fame and is inseparable in the endeavours of lives.

Unfortunately even big organizations are giving more credit to more viral creators to advertise their busi-

nesses and in being brand ambassadors. Beside not proofing the objectivity and maintaining the ethical standards they get recognized to do huge interviews hence getting promotions easily.

We are in the opinion that the indecent and futile videos on social media are not solely responsible for disseminating immorality but all those people of our society are equally responsible for liking, watching and sharing that encourage those who introduce the inappropriate content.

By Abraham Ong'uti and Tabitha Yatich, Rongo University.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Kapsabet High School fraternity yesterday

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked drivers of school buses to be extra vigilant and cautious on the road to avert fatal accidents claiming the lives of young Kenyans.

He said the young people are the future of the country and must be taken care of to safeguard the nation's posterity.

Speaking yesterday when he consoled with the students and teachers of Kapsabet High School in Nandi County for the death of two colleagues in a tragic road accident on Kabarnet-Marigat Road on Saturday, the Deputy President said it was sad to lose precious lives at a young age.

"I appeal to all our drivers and other road users to exercise care and vigilance, more so, those driving school buses. The students are precious jewels for our country. Our young people are the future of this country. We ask for a lot of care from our motorists to observe traffic rules so

we don't lose more lives to road carnage," he appealed.

He said the loss of the two was a big blow to the institution but assured the School's fraternity of the Government's support during the difficult time.

Mr Gachagua, who also delivered President William Ruto's condolences, also said the Government will support the national school to recover from the tragedy.

"I will speak with the President, who is an alumnus of this great school. We will see how we will solve the challenges of transport and acquisition of new buses to ease travelling by the students," said the DP.

While passing the President's commiserations, he praised the School for keeping the high standards of learning, encouraging the students not to lose hope because of the unfortunate accident.

Dozens of students belonging to the Geography class were also injured during the accident that involved the bus they were travelling for the Education excursion in Baringo County.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Kapsabet High School fraternity yesterday.

Making Agriculture Sexy - A Thinking Note

By: Martin Baiyenia Mukenya

@themtkenyatimes

Slowly, young people are starting to consider agriculture as a viable and remunerative business career path. We need to accelerate and deepen that process through:

1. Rebranding farming/agriculture: it is no longer a second career for retirees or a side income generating activity to complement the salaries. It is a path to wealth creation.

2. Highlighting ways of capturing business opportunities in the sector: when thinking of agriculture think of agribusiness, of value chains, of limitless opportunities ranging from production to processing - packaging - distribution through ICT applications, servicing and organizing the farmers etc.

3. Promoting the critical role of youth in transforming the sector: much of our agriculture is still of subsistence type. Shifting it to com-

mercial farming offers big business opportunities. Young people with their creativity can drive that process, turning many constraints into wealth creation opportunities: innovative financing products, application of ICT to the sector, leapfrogging current farming methods, innovative cooperatives etc.

These are some "Sexy Areas" which can steer the dynamics of agricultural transformative changes driven By and For Youth.

Agribusiness is a Gold mine for the youths and entrepreneurs in Africa.

Africa has capacity to unleash its economic potential in agriculture sector if Africa will embrace working culture of encouraging innovation, partnerships, research, consultancy and collaborations in the development of agribusiness culture and mindset change.

Martin Baiyenia Mukenya
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Dr Tamara the young trailblazer is a trained professional medical Doctor who in 2015, hung up her lab coat and left the hospital.

THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!

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

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?

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

**READ,
REVIEW &
WIN BIG**

Winners

Ugx.200,000,
+ Gift hamper

1st Runner-up

Ugx.150,000,
+ Gift hamper

2nd Runner-up

Ugx.100,000,
+ Gift hamper

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

How to submit:

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

How to enter the contest:

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

ENTRY LEVELS

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

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

Judges :

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

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Carney Chukwuemeka rescued Chelsea with a stoppage-time strike that inspired a 4-2 win over 10-man Leicester in an FA Cup quarter-final thriller yesterday.

Chelsea Survive Leicester Scare To Reach FA Cup Semi-Finals

Carney Chukwuemeka rescued Chelsea with a stoppage-time strike that inspired a 4-2 win over 10-man Leicester in an FA Cup quarter-final thriller yesterday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side were fortunate to survive a stirring fightback from Championship promotion chasers Leicester amid a mutinous atmosphere at Stamford Bridge.

Chukwuemeka netted in the closing minutes to save Chelsea from the embarrassment of being forced into extra-time.

Noni Madueke added Chelsea's fourth to ensure the angry fans who booed Pochettino in the second half were silenced, at least for now.

For the sixth time in the last eight years, the Blues have advanced to the last four in the FA Cup.

But this was hardly a triumphant afternoon for Blues boss Pochettino, whose inconsistent team blew the two-goal half-time lead given to them by Marc Cucurella and Cole Palmer.

In between those strikes, Raheem Sterling missed a penalty and Axel Disasi gave Leicester hope with a farcical own goal early in the second half.

When Stephy Mavididi scored an eye-catching equaliser, Chelsea were in turmoil once again as the hapless Sterling earned the wrath of the home support.

But Leicester's Callum Doyle was sent off for a professional foul on Nicolas Jackson, setting the stage for the Blues' late revival.

Chelsea have failed to win a single domestic trophy since their most recent FA Cup triumph six years ago.

The west Londoners are languishing in 11th place in the Premier League and former Tottenham and Southampton boss Pochettino is yet to win silverware in England.

Under mounting pressure amid a troubled first season in charge,



Chelsea's English midfielder #23 Conor Gallagher (L) and Chelsea's English midfielder #17 Carney Chukwuemeka (R) celebrate on the pitch after the English FA Cup Quarter Final football match between Chelsea and Leicester City at Stamford Bridge in London on March 17, 2024. Chelsea won the game 4-2. (Photo by Glyn KIRK / AFP).

Pochettino revealed this week that some of Chelsea's young players endured a sleepless night before their League Cup final defeat against Liverpool in February.

Making amends by winning the FA Cup would buy Pochettino some much-needed breathing space.

- Chelsea jeers -

Chelsea had taken the lead in the 13th minute when Nicolas Jackson accelerated past Jannik Vestergaard into the Leicester area before whipping over a low cross that Cucurella converted from close-range.

It was the Spanish defender's first goal since joining Chelsea from Brighton in August 2022.

In the 25th minute, Cole Palmer surged down the right flank and crossed to the edge of area, where Sterling was clattered by Abdul Fatawu as he prepared to shoot.

Palmer has been taking Chelsea's penalties this season and

Sterling's decision to grab the ball proved misguided.

A frustrating season for the 29-year-old, who was left out of the England squad again this week, showed no signs of abating as he fluffed his lines with a weak penalty that was easily saved by Jakub Stolarczyk.

To his credit, Sterling didn't hide and he set up Palmer's goal on the stroke of half-time.

Sterling raced into the area and delivered a low cross that Palmer deftly slotted home from close-range.

Disasi gave Leicester a lifeline in the 51st minute as the centre-back panicked under pressure from Daka and hacked a misjudged backpass past stunned keeper Robert Sanchez into his own net from 30 yards.

Weaving into the Chelsea area as the anxious Blues defence backed off, Mavididi curled a blistering finish into the top corner in the 62nd minute.

Chelsea thought they had been given a penalty in the 73rd min-

ute when Doyle tripped Jackson. VAR ruled the offense was just outside the area, but that didn't save Doyle from a red card.

Sterling was booed by Chelsea fans after a woeful free-kick, while Pochettino also copped it with chants of "you don't know what you're doing" when he substituted Mudryk.

Sterling was jeered again when he was taken off, so it was no surprise to see Pochettino punching the air in relief in stoppage-time.

Chukwuemeka produced a cool finish after Palmer's sublime back-heel teed up the young midfielder.

Madueke put a flattering gloss on the scoreline when his deflected strike dipped under the bar in the final seconds.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Real Madrid have filed a complaint with the Spanish legal authorities after their striker Vinicius Jr suffered "racist and hateful insults" this week

Real Madrid File Complaint After 'Racist And Hurtful Insults' To Star Forward Vinicius Jr



Vinicius, 22, who has faced abuse since he joined Real in 2018, was targeted with racist chants and gestures during Real Madrid's 1-0 defeat at Valencia.

Real Madrid have filed a complaint with the Spanish legal authorities after their striker Vinicius Jr suffered "racist and hateful insults" this week.

A video on social media appears to show Atletico Madrid fans chanting a racist slur before their Champions League game with Inter Milan.

Real allege there were similar chants from Barcelona fans before their encounter against Napoli on Tuesday.

Spain's La Liga said it will also report the incident.

A statement from Real Madrid said: "Real Madrid has filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office against hate crimes and discrimination, for the racist and hateful insults directed towards our player Vinicius Jr in the vicinity of the Olympic Stadium of Montjuic and the Metropolitan

Stadium of Madrid.

"Real Madrid condemns these violent attacks of racism, discrimination and hatred that have been taking place, unfortunately repeatedly, against our player Vinicius Jr.

"Our club will continue to work in defence of the values of football and sport, and will remain firm in its fight for zero tolerance in the face of such disgusting episodes as those that continue to occur in recent times."

Los Blancos say they have also requested security footage to be assessed to identify the perpetrators.

Vinicius had responded to the video on X, saying: "I hope you have already thought about their punishment Uefa.

"It's a sad reality that [it] even happens in games where I'm not present!"

Vinicius, 23, has suffered racial abuse on several occasions across Spain in the past three years.

After Real's derby win away over Atletico in September 2022, Atletico condemned "unacceptable" chants by a "minority" of fans towards Vinicius outside their stadium before the game.

Last June, four men were fined 60,001 euros and given a two-year stadium ban for hanging an effigy of Vinicius near Real's training ground in January 2023.

On the same day, three other people were fined 5,000 euros and banned for one year for making racist gestures during Real's game at Valencia in May.

This season there were reports of more racist abuse towards Vinicius as Real played at Sevilla in October, at Barcelona the following week and at Valencia earlier this month.

"The problem is there, I believe it is. I am not going to change my opinion," said Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti about racism in La Liga.

"I think Valencia responded very well after their episode. It is others who have to act now. When we talk about zero tolerance, it is for us and for everyone.

"I think it is necessary to act and eradicate these problems. They are very ugly things that affect everyone in our society.

"Criminals [who perpetuate racism] should not be out on the street, they should be somewhere else."

BBC

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Haroldene Le Roux Tshienda



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- I have helped hundreds of authors to self-published their books. Most of them has never been acknowledged or recognized yet they are leaving legacies and changing lives. They are overlooked, underpaid and don't receive enough recognition.
- I personally received so many awards and I was blessed to have 4 of the 8 books I have published to be selected for libraries and bookshops. I am crowning Literary Artists and will give them an award for Contribution to Literary Arts, but it's for the authors published by Shofar Books. However, I made a call to Literary Arts to nominate their work and I gave them categories. The winners will be announced on the 6th of April.



Haroldene Le Roux Tshienda, the Founder of the awards.

1. Who is the founder of the awards?

Haroldene Le Roux Tshienda

2. Who are the organizers?

My publishing house Shofar Books is hosting the awards.

3. Who are the sponsors?

I have no sponsors, I am funding the entire event.

4. Where shall the awards be held?

Krystal Beach Hotel

5. What is the objective of the awards?

I have helped hundreds of authors to self-published their books. Most of them has never been acknowledged or recognized yet they are leaving legacies and changing lives. They are overlooked, underpaid and don't receive enough recognition. I

personally received so many awards and I was blessed to have 4 of the 8 books I have published to be selected for libraries and bookshops. I am crowning Literary Artists and will give them an award for Contribution to Literary Arts, but it's for the authors published by Shofar Books. However, I made a call to Literary Arts to nominate their work and I gave them categories. The winners will be announced on the 6th of April.

6. How long have these awards been running?

It's the first Cape Flats Literary Awards ceremony hosted by Shofar without funding and sponsorship. I hope to host it in every province if I get funding.

7. Who are the expected guests local and international?

SA Books Online and Apostle Os-

car Jonathan Hoffmeester who is my leading pastor who will be our main speaker and Dr Paula O.M.Otukile.

8. What will be won?

90 Recipients published by Shofar Books will receive a trophy for Contribution to Literary Arts and 35 Literary artists (Journalists, editors, song writers and authors will win an award under different categories.

9. Who shall entertain?

Hemelbesem, an Afrikaans musician, Nashville Blaauw, famous poet, Bonita Engelbrecht, an anointed singer, jazz artist from the Eastern Cape and Frederico Hendricks a Shofar worship leader.

10. National arts council supports these initiatives and ministry of education, did you seek any help?

I did but I was adamant to host this event and dependent on God

fully and I managed to pay out of my pocket all by myself. I am very proud.

11. What are your aspirations?

Changing the narrative of self-published books. Society and book vendors are looking down at self-published authors but by changing their minds, I make sure we produce a variety of stories and printing quality books.

I want government to invest in young writers. I also want books vendors to have more of our authors books in their shops and libraries.

12. last word?

I am open for partnerships. People who are willing to work together and promote reading, writing and publishing books.