

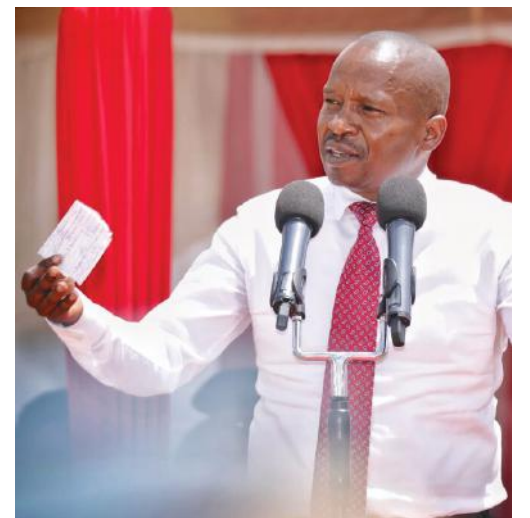
Ruto Rallies Global Partners For Timely Response To Haiti Crisis



P.21 President William Ruto and Haiti PM Ariel Henry witness the signing ceremony of an agreement on deployment of 1,000 police officers to the Multi-National Security Support Mission in Haiti on March 1, 2024.



Political Opinion: Ruto Walking The Talk In Tackling The Problem Of Unemployment He Inherited From Previous Regime **P.11**



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Government Spokesman Roots For Raila To Take AU Top Job

By: Daisy Marcy and Davis
Langat
@themtkenyentimes



Government Spokesman Dr Isaac Maigua Mwaura addressing journalists from Homa Bay County yesterday

Worth Noting:

- Mwaura expressed confidence that Raila would succeed in his quest for the position noting that a cross section of African leaders has already agreed to support his candidacy.
- On Wednesday, Raila said he is on a mission to persuade heads of states in Africa to win their votes. The Azimio leader said he had also met with the new Namibia President Nangolo Mbumba. Raila met Museveni on Monday.
- “After meeting President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda last time, I assure you that East African countries have agreed to rally behind Raila. We stand a better chance as a region to lead at AU,” Mwaura added.

Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura has expressed confidence that Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga was best suited to take up the African Union chairmanship owing to his leadership credentials.

Speaking on Friday in Homa Bay Pier during his weekly media briefing, the Spokesman said that the Kenya government was fully in support of Odinga’s bid for AU Commission chairmanship.

Mwaura said President William Ruto’s campaign skills would be handy in ensuring Raila gets the African continental top job.

“Many Kenyans know that the president is good at campaigning. After they met in Uganda, the true government position is

that we fully support the candidature of Raila to AU,” Mwaura said adding that Raila has the requisite qualities for the position.

He described Raila as a true Pan Africanist who understands the affairs of the continent.

“Raila has held the position of the AU High Representative for infrastructure and has championed democracy. He is a true pan Africanist,” Mwaura said.

Mwaura expressed confidence that Raila would succeed in his quest for the position noting that a cross section of African leaders has already agreed to support his candidacy.

On Wednesday, Raila said he is on a mission to persuade heads of states in

Africa to win their votes. The Azimio leader said he had also met with the new Namibia President Nangolo Mbumba. Raila met Museveni on Monday.

“After meeting President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda last time, I assure you that East African countries have agreed to rally behind Raila. We stand a better chance as a region to lead at AU,” Mwaura added.

Accompanied by Kenya Shipyards Ltd Managing Director Maj Gen Paul Otieno, Tom Mboya University Vice Chancellor Prof Charles Ocholla and Homa Bay County Commissioner Moses Lilan, Mwaura asked Kenyans to focus on development instead of politics.

He said that the time for politics was be-

hind us and development should now be the priority.

He said county governments should work closely with national government for mutual growth.

Mwaura said President Ruto was committed to ensuring all parts of the country benefited from development projects.

He said the national government was undertaking various projects in Homa Bay including construction of Mbita- Magunga-Sori road that connects Migori and Homa Bay counties.

Others are Mfangano and Rusinga ring roads, Oyugis water project, West Karachuonyo water project and Kendu Bay water project.

The water projects are expected to be connected in homes and will collectively benefit more than 200,000 people.

“We intend to increase coverage to at least 90 per cent by 2025. This will involve last mile connection,” Mwaura said.

Otieno said Kenya Shipyards Limited was undertaking several projects along the lake that would promote blue economy and revive lake transport.

Water was one of the leading modes of transport in the 70s as it was the safest and used to carry bulky goods.

The agency is currently rehabilitating the first phase of Homa Bay town pier which is set to be completed within four months.

The works involve rehabilitating and upgrading the pier with modern facilities such as landing bays, fish landing bays, freezing containers, waiting bays, public swimming area, restaurants among other amenities.

“There will be an increase in leisure tourism, sports tourism, and a boom of human capital development that would be delivered through local universities and tertiary colleges after completion of the pier,” Otieno said.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Bomet County Implementation, Coordination and Management Committee has raised concerns over the progress of the construction of Kyogong-Sigor road.

The Committee, led by Bomet Central Deputy County Commissioner Victor Kisachi, pointed out that the road was 20 per cent complete with only six out of the 60 Kilometers completed for use.

Kisachi took issue with the fact that the contractor had taken 39 months though the contract indicated that the timeline was 36 months.

He said there was slow progress in implementing the project that cost a total of Sh2 billion. Speaking at the site, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Engineer Xiao Hongzhi said the heavy rains pounding the area were largely to blame for the delays.



The Port of Mombasa has received the longest cargo ship to ever call on its harbors, a testament to efficiency and a boost to the port as a hub.

The container vessel dubbed MV Kotka Monrovia with an overall length of 318 meters, 43 meters in breadth, and a draft of 9.3 meters docked at the Mombasa port from Durban, South Africa to load 5,877 containers for disbursement to the port of Abu Dhabi.

Speaking when he received the ship, General Manager (GM) in charge of Cargo Operations Dr. Sudi Mwasinago said that the calling of the vessel to the port reinforces the confidence key players in the maritime space have demonstrated working with the Port of Mombasa.

Mwasinago said that the capacity and competence at the port are some of the indicative signs that have persuaded maritime players. From state-of-the-art equipment, an imperative investment the port has made, to the low turnaround times in clearance of vessels.



Public Service Performance and Delivery Management Cabinet Secretary (CS) Moses Kuria has called for collaboration between governments in addressing myriad governance challenges facing the global community.

Speaking at the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) – Kenya School of Government (KSG) 2024 conference in Mombasa CS Kuria underscored the import of unity among nations.

IIAS was established as a global federation dedicated to advancing administrative sciences. It comprises member states, national sections, and academic research centres, all collaborating to address contemporary policy challenges related to public administration.

The conference brought together participants from 30 countries, IIAS universities, and institutes of public administration. It aims to explore strategies enabling collaborative governance at all levels and across borders.



Fish farming, with its myriad benefits, is not just a practice; it's a beacon of hope for farmers seeking to diversify their income streams and embrace a more resilient agricultural model.

Evans Moseti, a farmer in the village of Nyansangio, nestled within Mosora sub-location, Nya-mache sub-county, Kisii County, welcomes young farmers to the exciting world of fish farming, where innovation meets opportunity, giving farmers a chance to dive into a sea of endless possibilities!

Against the backdrop of lush greenery and rolling hills, Evans' farm stands as a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of farmers in rural communities. Here, in the heart of Kisii County, Evans has embraced fish farming not just as a livelihood but as a passion-driven mission to foster economic growth and environmental sustainability.

What began as a single fish pond, measuring 4 by 6 feet, has blossomed into a thriving enterprise, featuring five ponds that signify not just growth but a commitment to sustainable agriculture. This remarkable expansion stands as a testament to Evans' dedication and vision, fueled by his unwavering passion for aquaculture.

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PS Advocates Industry, TVETs Partnership To Actualise Dual Training Model

By: Wangari Mwangi and Samuel Maina

@themtkenyatomes

Worth Noting:

- “The second reason we are doing this, is because labour is needed out there. The world doesn’t have young people to work for it. We therefore need to work together to skill these young people so that they can go out there and work,” added Dr Muoria.
- Also known as work-integrated learning, dual training combines classroom learning with practical work experience. The model was launched in June last year as a way of making vocational training less theoretical and more needs-based.
- Under the model, 50-70 percent of training takes place in the workplace while 30-50 percent is taught in class.



State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Dr Esther Muoria while addressing stakeholders at The Nyeri National Polytechnic forum.

State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Dr Esther Muoria has urged the private sector to team up with TVETs countrywide to hasten the realization of dual training.

Dr Muoria says that whereas the state department has laid the foundation for the full implementation of Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) curriculum which is anchored on the acquisition of practical skills, TVETs and industry need to collaborate to ensure learners access practical knowledge from the industries.

“Industry and TVET have to work together for two pertinent reasons; one, we need to have pools of skilled young people because this is how Kenya is going to get industrialized. Once the world knows we have skilled people

in Kenya, they will come and invest and our young people will get jobs,” Dr. Muoria said.

“The second reason we are doing this, is because labour is needed out there. The world doesn’t have young people to work for it. We therefore need to work together to skill these young people so that they can go out there and work,” added Dr Muoria.

Also known as work-integrated learning, dual training combines classroom learning with practical work experience. The model was launched in June last year as a way of making vocational training less theoretical and more needs-based.

Under the model, 50-70 percent of training takes place in the workplace while 30-50 percent is taught in class.

The Ministry of Education had en-

visioned that through the partnership, TVETs would focus on training learners for specific industries and the training offered would be tailored to meet the current labour market demands. The trainees would also get exposed to the actual work conditions and get hands-on experience from the experienced staff in the sectors.

Dr Muoria was speaking in Nyeri during a stakeholders meeting organised by the Nyeri National Polytechnic for its industry partners with the view of fostering their collaboration in dual training.

She said that her department was working on a framework that will strengthen the collaboration between the private sector and the training institutions.

The PS noted that an Industry Liai-

sons Office had already been set up to coordinate the industry linkages.

According to the PS, the office will also ensure that the graduates are equipped with industry-driven skills to help them navigate both the local and international labour market.

“What I am waiting for is the Industrial Linkages Policy to get done so that we can invite stakeholders before I upstage it to Cabinet. Once it is before the cabinet, they will be able to tell us how we will incentivize the industry to work with us,” said Dr Muoria.

The workshop was attended by the GIZ-Kenya TVET project manager, Hort Bauernfiend, the Counselor, Skills Development and Job Creation at the Finnish Embassy, Matts Weurlander, Nyeri Governor, Mutahi Kahiga and his deputy Warui Kinaniri.

Others in attendance were principals of various Technical Training Institutes, representatives from the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as local banks and Saccos operating in the county.

Governor Kahiga underscored the importance of the partnership between industry and TVETs in transitioning tertiary education from a theory-based to practical-based approach. Kahiga said that through such partnerships, learning institutions would align their training to the demands of the job market and in turn increase the employability of the graduates.

“We must participate fully and ensure we have created a feedback mechanism so that we develop usable consumables. Dual TVET training is wholesome learning and it is going to call for all of us to cooperate, participate and work together. That way, we will end up producing employable graduates and not people who have papers but cannot do something tangible for us,” said Kahiga.

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Nakuru Partners With Moran Publishers To Train ECDE Teachers

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themkenyetimes

Nakuru County Government in partnership with Moran Publishers has rolled out a training programme to all Early Childhood Education (ECD) teachers across the County.

The aim of training ECDE teachers is to ensure they acquire effective class management skills of moulding the young learners and laying up a strong foundation which is in line with the CBC guidelines.

Education Chief Officer Rosemary Kimani said that the administration is committed to ensuring all the ECDE teachers across the county undergo the training.

This is in adherence to the pre-primary policy, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and the Ministry of Education requirement.

While addressing the trainees on Friday at the Menengai Social Hall, the officer noted that the National early Childhood Development Policy Framework in Kenya has been in place since the year 2006 accompanied by a service guideline to promote its implementation.

Also, she said the goal of the policy framework was to enhance access, equity and quality service delivery for all children from conception to eight years old.

In addition, she emphasised the county's commitment of employing more teachers on a yearly basis to ensure the instructors to learner ratio is balanced.

Ms Millicent Yugi, the County Director for ECDE, said the programme is essential as it will further inform the teachers more about Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). The partnership will see teachers get training materials and certificates.

Ms Yugi urged parents to ensure their children are enrolled since a child's early years are the foundation for his or her future development. Providing a strong base for lifelong learning, elevated abilities, including cognitive and social development.

Apart from that, the director said many children struggle in school because they find it difficult to concentrate. As such, developing an ability to concentrate on the task at hand from an early age through ECDE can go a long way in helping both children and parents with this crucial skill.

Finally, she said ECDE exposes children to new arts, activities, music and play, which stimulate the young child's minds, encouraging creativity. And, above all, it teaches them positive interaction and teamwork.



Nakuru county based ECDE tutors during the training session organised by Moran Publishers.

Religious Leaders Raise Concern Over Increasing Insecurity In North Rift Region

By: Ann Salaton
@themkenyetimes

Religious leaders from Baringo, Nakuru, Bomet, Kericho, Samburu and Narok Counties have raised concern over the increasing cases of insecurity in the North Rift and called on the government to deploy stronger measures to curb the insecurity incidents.

Led by National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) South Rift region chairman Rt. Rev. Ernest Ng'eno, the religious leaders urged the government to take stern action against politicians and individuals having a hand in violence either directly or indirectly.

Ng'eno urged the interior Ministry to strengthen community policing, revamp and empower Peace Committees' structures to promote peace and cohesion.

"The government should engage the church leaders in ethnic dialogue forum initiatives and promote public-police trust for enhanced early warning and intelligence sharing at



Religious Leaders Raise Concern Over Increasing Insecurity In North Rift Region.

the community level," he said.

They called on the government to address the high cost of living, accelerate the delivery of quality services and end corruption in the country.

"It is our biggest cry to President William Ruto that the most urgent concern of the people of Kenya is to lower the skyrocketing cost of living amidst other socio-economic and political challenges," he said.

The religious leaders called on the county governments in regions prone to banditry attack to accelerate the delivery of quality services and prioritize community-felt needs for sustainable development.

"It is intriguing to hear from the Auditor General reports that some County Governments have zero de-

velopment reports, others have increased revenue with zero development while some recorded declined revenue collection," he said.

The group called for honest fight against corruption urging the relevant government institutions to prosecute any person who has been involved in any irregular processes to misappropri-

appropriate state resources for their selfish interests.

On this note, the leaders called on the Office of Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) to desist from any other attempts to withdraw corruption cases saying it is not right and unfair to the people of Kenya.

The leaders pleaded with all leaders, institutions and Kenyans to protect, adhere and promote the constitution and laws of Kenya.

They condoled with the family of Member of Samburu County Assembly late Paul Leshimpiro, who died after he was allegedly shot in a banditry attack.

"We are taking time to pray for the region to attain peace and the nation at large and we are also inviting all Kenyans to join hands in the same," they concluded.

They spoke at ACK St' Luke's Church, in Narok town on Thursday in a meeting attended by Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUP-KEM) Narok Chapter Chairman Ali Juma and Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) Ngong Diocese Chairman Fr. John Nderitu.

New KCC To Settle Farmers Arrears As Government Explores Milk Exportation To Boost Forex

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- He said that the government has deployed various strategies to double milk production from the current 5.2 billion litres annually to 10 billion litres by year 2027.
- According to data from the Kenya Dairy Board, Kenyan farmers are currently producing 5.2 billion litres annually (cow 3.9 billion litres, camel milk 920 million, goat milk 273 million and sheep milk 107 million). A total of 2.2 billion litres are sold informally.
- The exportation of the milk, he said, is also part of the government’s strategy of increasing the foreign exchange earnings from dairy farming in exporting up to 1 billion litres per annum.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, Embu governor Cecily Mbarire and other leaders during the Friday event.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured farmers the government will clear arrears owed to dairy farmers who supply milk to the New KCC.

The DP also said the administration is exploring international milk markets for exportation of at least one billion litres of milk annually.

Speaking on Friday in Manyatta constituency, Embu county during the ‘Embu County Livestock, Dairy and Fisheries Exhibition’ organised by the Kenya Dairy Board at KALRO Grounds, Gachagua said the New KCC will clear the pending payments by next week.

“I will talk to the Cabinet Secretary Cooperatives and MSMEs and the New KCC to clear the arrears by next week because we have an obligation to support the farmers,” said the DP.

He explained that the milk exportation plan and modernisation of the New KCC are part of the government’s implementation of the Bottom-Up economic model, which focuses on bolstering the small-scale entrepreneurs and the rural economy.

He said that the government has deployed various strategies to double milk production from the current 5.2 billion litres annually to 10 billion litres by year 2027.

According to data from the Kenya Dairy Board, Kenyan farmers are currently producing 5.2 billion litres annually (cow 3.9 billion litres, camel milk 920 million, goat milk 273 million and sheep milk 107 million). A total of 2.2 billion litres are sold informally.

The exportation of the milk, he said, is also part of the government’s strategy of increasing the foreign exchange earnings from dairy farming in exporting up to 1 billion litres per annum.

“We want to expand our export portfolio for the small-scale farmers to also taste the US Dollar like their tea and coffee counterparts,” he stated.

The Deputy President announced that starting this month, March 2024, dairy farmers will be earning Sh50 per litre of milk supplied to the New KCC, as promised by President William Ruto.

“With an investment of over Sh5 billion for modernisation of the New KCC, Sh50 is just but the start as we look forward to offering our farmers more. We are also establishing structural support systems such as milk coolers to tame post-harvest losses, which stand at about 270 Million litres annually,” said Mr Gachagua.

The government’s decision to ban importation of leather products, the DP added, is on course to revive the local leather processing industry and job creation.

Mr Gachagua noted that Kenya being one of the countries with the highest population of livestock in Africa, reviving the leather industry will reduce the country’s expenditure on importation by over Sh9 billion annually, while employing at least 80,000 people.

“Under our Plan, the manufacturing strand, therefore, relies on high performance of the Agriculture Sector under the various value chains. In investing in value addition, we are transitioning our country from an active imports-reliant to a vibrant export economy,” he said.

The Deputy President was accompanied by Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, the host-governor Cecily Mbarire, Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, Senator Alexander Mundigi, Chairperson of National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock John Mutunga (MP for Tigania West), Embu Woman Representative Njoki Njeru ‘Double N’ and local MPs Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta), Engineer Nebart Bernard Muriuki (Mbeere South) and Muchangi Karemba (Runyenjes).

MPs Julius Rutto (Kesses) and Amina Dika (Tana River Women Representative), Members of County Assembly led by Embu Speaker Josiah Thiriku and heads of various parastatals were also present.

In his remarks, the DP said the government is supporting Embu county government in its bid to support dairy farmers as he commended governor Cecily Mbarire over her performance and rolling out of value addition strategies on agricultural products.

He said Embu County dairy farmers will benefit from milk coolers as the government scales up the installations across the country.

So far 365 coolers have been installed in key milk production areas.

“A small-scale dairy farmer in the relatively dry Mbeere region in Embu, who cannot afford a cooling system, will not worry about milk spoilage due to heat,” he said.

He added that the government has allocated over Sh400 million to ensure availability of sexed semen for quality dairy breeds to farmers.

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Ruto Walking The Talk In Tackling The Problem Of Unemployment He Inherited From Previous Regime



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- The provisions of Article 43 of the Constitution are very clear. The law outlined social and economic rights for all Kenyans. Affordable and decent Shelter, access to quality and affordable healthcare stood out as key basic rights.
- We know our political opponents were working day and night to derail and sabotage my administration's implementation plan. The corrupt judges were helping them.
- We want to tell them they were wasting their time. Our plan is unstoppable. The train had already left the station and has no reverse gear.
- The President further recalled the advise he had received from some Kenyans. I had been told to set aside budget for bribing judges if I want to have a good working relationship with the judiciary. The previous government used to set aside this budget.

The problem of unemployment is one of the key challenges President William Ruto inherited from the previous administration.

Soon after being sworn in, the President left no doubt he was committed to walk the talk. As envisaged in the foundation he laid out, he has so far made great progress.

During the campaigns, Dr Ruto had assured Kenyans that, if elected, he would give priority to tackling the problem of unemployment.

Last year when he led the nation in celebrating 60th Jamhuri Day, President Ruto enumerated the strides he had made in these endeavors.

He listed the Hustler Fund, the rolling out of affordable housing, digital jobs and securing of thousands of jobs abroad.

The President has continued to walk the walk.

Just a few days ago, he reignited his blistering attacks on judiciary. Some of the corrupt judges were working at the behest of the opposition leaders.

After receiving bribes, they issued court orders and rulings that were so biased, unfair and skewed. The decisions flew in the face of Constitution and other written laws.

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We want to tell them they were wasting their time. Our plan is unstoppable. The train had already left the station and has no reverse gear.

The President further recalled the advise he had received from some Kenyans. I had been told to set aside budget for bribing judges if I want to have a good working relationship with the judiciary. The previous government used to set aside this budget.

For me, I have no such money. I cannot cave in to their blackmail and intimidation. This is not the first time that the judiciary is clashing with executive.

The story was the same during the era of President Mwai Kibaki and his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta. This brings me to the question. Will Dr Ruto succeed where Kibaki and Uhuru failed? Let us pray for him.

Back to Jamhuri Day, Dr Ruto stated. You have been seeing me making foreign trips. The problem of unemployment is one of the key issues taking me abroad.

The bilateral and multilateral negotiations had borne the fruits. I have secured thousands of jobs for Kenya.

Earlier in the week, the President who spoke during the passing out of 10,000 National General Service (NYS) graduates listed 10 countries offering these

opportunities including Germany, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar. R

Reacting to this, I heard the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga faulting the President.

When the President tells us that he was looking for jobs outside the country, then there is something wrong with his administration.

He is supposed to create jobs within the country.

To me, this was just playing politics and peddling propaganda. Reason? President Ruto is already creating jobs locally. Raila's reactions also reeked of hypocrisy and malice. I'm sure he was aware that our economy cannot accommodate all job seekers.

When he served as a Prime Minister during the era of President Mwai Kibaki and later as co-principal of the handshake government led by President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenyans used to leave the country to look for green pastures abroad.

The two governments were helping them to get these jobs. If he had a solution to ensure all jobless Kenyans got jobs locally, why did he fail to bring it on the table?

For President Ruto, the ongoing construction of affordable housing is at the core of generating jobs locally. His eyes are also trained in innovations and nurturing various talents. This is with a view of ensuring the youths are using the talents to eke a living.

He has since launched "Hera Talanta", talent money.

Recently, a three-judge bench delivered the much awaited ruling on a case challenging the housing levy a key pillar of the Finance Act of 2023.

Though the judges stated that the provisions of the constitution were not followed to the letter and spirit when it was enacted, they declined to issue orders sought by petitioner to stop the government from collecting the levies.

We have listened to all the parties and considered their submissions. The lawyers representing the government have requested this bench to give them time to file the appeals before the Court of Appeal and then at the Supreme Court. We have given the state until January 10 to align the housing levy with relevant provisions of the constitution. The Appeal Court have since upheld the ruling of the High Court

Reacting to this, President William Ruto stated that we have read the judgement. We believe in the rule of law. So, my government will fully comply with the orders issued.

We will take the necessary steps to ensure this law is aligned. The housing plan is noble idea whose time has come. As I speak, It has created 120,000 jobs. The job opportunities are set to increase to 200,000 and 500,000 in coming days.

The mega project resonated very well with Ruto's concept of bottom up economic model. It is designed to address two main challenges: joblessness and lack of decent houses.



President William Ruto .

The President announced that 250,000 affordable housing units will be constructed in the first phase.

At one point during a visit to Busia county, he told the 'hustlers'.

The housing project is being opposed by those employed, who were receiving a monthly payslips, and their employers.

They do not want 1.5 per cent to be deducted from their salaries.

The same case applies to the top leaders of the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Opposition coalition.

Each one pockets a pension of more than 1 million from the National Treasury every month.

These are the same personalities who say they love you and were ready to die for you. Really, do they?

When they oppose a deduction of 1.5 percent from their payslips, what message are they sending?

They don't care. They want you to continue being poor and to live in a state of desperation and hopelessness.

For starters, the Affordable Housing Plan stood out as one of the key proposals contained in the Finance Bill 2023.

The 'Hustlers' (those without a payslip) were excluded from paying the housing levy.

When selling the units, the state will give priority to the hustlers.

President Ruto has been reiterating. This will be a key milestone. For the first time in our history, the sons and daughters of the hustlers will own decent houses.

Listen to critics. President Ruto's position is that the deductions are compulsory. He is therefore imposing this plan down the throat of Kenyans.

I disagree. The president has no legal mandate to pass this proposal into law. Parliament exercises this power and it had already passed the Bill.

Before being tabled in parliament, the bill had been subjected to public participation. The views gathered and collated were factored. In exercise of power conferred on him, the President consequently signed the bill into law.

The constitution is very clear. Par-

liament is lawmaking body. Did Raila suggest the members did not understand their job?

This is tantamount to insulting the intelligence of Kenyans. You are telling them they did not use their brains when they elected them.

The President was in fore front of drumming support for Finance Bill 2023. Did this amount to overstepping his legal mandate? No.

The law allows him to support the proposals, particularly those originating from the cabinet. This is because he is the head of the executive and chairs the cabinet meetings.

Just like the President, the opposition leaders were entitled to discuss the Bill and come up with thier position.

They will whip up thier members to support this position when the Bill is tabled in parliament.

The Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga is opposed to it. His main bone of contention was the proposal to deduct 1.5 percent from the basic salaries of the workers. But a good number of Azimio MPs voted for the bill.

I would have expected him to be the last person to oppose this proposal. Why? During the campaigns, the house plan proposal stood out as one of his main election pledges.

If elected President, I will rollout a massive affordable housing plan. Majority of our people, who migrated to urban centers, were living in poor and highly deplorable conditions in slums. 'My government' will build decent houses for them. This is a commitment I have given to you.

Raila would add: A huge chunk of money to build these houses will come from our pockets. He would single out those employed, civil servants, state officers and other workers. The Government will deduct 1.5 per cent from the payslip of each.

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

Calls For Heightened Preparedness As Agency Releases High Rainfall Alert

By: Erastus Gichohi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Gikungu said the forecasts will be cascaded to individual counties to inform local-based interventions warning that the heavy rains may lead to flooding, mudslides, erosions, swollen rivers, and displacements of people and animals.
- The director called on the relevant government authorities and development partners to upscale their level of interventions and infrastructure needed to address any emerging issues during the season.
- “As a department, we will continue to update the country on the rainfall weather forecast to inform the right preparations and interventions from the farmers up to the government policy actions”, said Dr. Gikungu.



Dr David Gikungu addressing the Media..

The Kenya Meteorological Department’s latest alert over the expected increased rain across the country during the March-May long rains season calls for heightened surveillance, preparedness, and swift interventions to reduce fatalities and damages.

The department’s 2024 forecast indicates that enhanced rainfall is expected in counties within Lake Victoria Basin, Rift Valley, Central, Nairobi, Northeastern and Southeastern regions coupled with occasional storms and high temperatures.

According to the Director Dr. David Gikungu, the high rainfall patterns which are expected to peak in April in most regions are expected to have both positive and negative impacts on key sectors such as health, agriculture, and energy among others

Dr. Gikungu said the forecasts will be cascaded to individual counties to inform local-based interventions warning that the heavy rains may lead to flooding, mudslides, erosions, swollen rivers, and displacements of

people and animals.

The director called on the relevant government authorities and development partners to upscale their level of interventions and infrastructure needed to address any emerging issues during the season.

“As a department, we will continue to update the country on the rainfall weather forecast to inform the right preparations and interventions from the farmers up to the government policy actions”, said Dr. Gikungu.

Dr. Gikungu was addressing stakeholders in Naivasha during the official release of the long rains forecast for the March to May season.

Dr. Ayub Manya from the Ministry of Health said although the long rains will reduce malnutrition due to possible food security, there is a need to intensify surveillance on possible disease outbreaks.

In addition, Dr. Manya called for a high level of preparedness to contain the emergence of water-borne diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, and ty-

phoid through supporting community-based health centers as well as the provision of mosquito nets and drugs.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Health continues to put in place measures and map out the most prone regions across the country such as densely populated and flood-prone areas to contain the emergence of diseases and epidemics.

“The Ministry of Health is rapidly evolving from disease-based curative care towards a preventive mode and has established a fully functional epidemic control center that collects data and produces reports to inform daily decisions”, said Dr. Manya.

According to Kenya Red Cross representative Peter Murgor, the weather forecast on expected increased rainfall will enable the agency to do prior planning and deploy necessary interventions to reverse increased damages and losses.

While acknowledging that the rains will have a positive impact on food security and access to clean water,

he noted that excess rains will lead to flooding, destruction, disease outbreaks, post-harvest losses, and displacements of people and animals.

Murgor said Redcross has established community-based early warning systems that enable the development of early warning messages and actions to help communities mitigate the effects of expected long rains.

The early weather forecasts on expected excess rains in the next three months are a wake-up call for both the National and County governments to institute and deploy much-needed interventions to cushion vulnerable communities from the negative impacts such as flooding, mudslides, displacements, and damages to critical infrastructure.

Kindiki Warns Politicians Against Fueling Political Violence

By: Mercy Osongo
@themtkenyentimes

Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki has cautioned political leaders in Kisii county against organizing and financing violence during political activities in the region.

Speaking after a routine meeting with the county and sub-county security teams at the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) on the outskirts of Kisii town, Prof. Kindiki said the increasing incidents of violence in the county were unacceptable because politics is a healthy and democratic activity.

The CS noted that despite the Constitution of Kenya stipulating that Kenya is a multiparty democratic state and politics is a constitutional and legal activity, political leaders hiding behind the same to perpetuate crime would be prosecuted.

“As the security managers of this country, we want to make it clear that we will not permit any person to hide behind politics to break the law and inflict violence on the people of Kenya,” Prof. Kindiki said.

The Cabinet Secretary pointed out that politicians were free to engage in political activities, compete with their counterparts and differ on issues and policy matters as long as the discourse is devoid of violence.

He noted that security agencies would not hesitate to persecute the political leaders who do not respect the rule of law regardless of their political affiliations or influence.

“It is our business to facilitate the political leaders and ensure their meetings are orderly, but it is also our business to arrest and prosecute them when they break the law,” said Prof. Kindiki.

In addition, the CS also cautioned the citizens against destroying infrastructure, blocking of roads and stoning of cars and buildings during protests



Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki and other security officials in Kisii yesterday.

saying the country lost a lot of infrastructure following last year’s demonstrations. He pointed out that the right to demonstrate does not include the destruction of buildings and infrastructure or hurting other Kenyans. Prof. Kindiki pledged that his administration would work with and support every leader to realise their mandate irrespective of their party affiliations.

Synergy To End Road Accidents

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyentimes

Various state organs drawn from the Traffic Police Department, the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) as well as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) have joined efforts with the Matatu Owners Association in a bid to curb the cases of road carnage in our country.

Speaking when they held a joint meeting in Nairobi, the stakeholders unanimously agreed that the synergy is geared towards sealing the existing loopholes and gaps that are responsible for the deaths of roughly six thousand people annually, according to official statistics.

The Traffic Commandant Mary Wambui noted: “We are going to work closely with the Matatu Owners Association and other stakeholders because we realize



Matatu Owners Association President Albert Karakacha (FILE PHOTO).

that accidents are on the rise; so far we have lost 756 people, 281 of them being pedestrians and if we are going to check this trend we must work with all stakeholders in the road safety industry.

On his part, President Albert Karakacha noted: “We believe that the police through the Inspector General he has done a very good job to return the power of traffic to the Commandant, we are going to support the office of the Commandant, we are

here to support the common mwananchi, and we are here to support the Government. We want to urge our members wherever they are, the issues of road safety is going to be there as matatu owners association we are going to take it all over the country within Nairobi we have already come up with a plan we are going to start a clinic in Makongeni police station and Kabete police station as from 7th.

Primary School Girls In Laikipia To Receive Sanitary Pads

By: Muturi Mwangi
@themtkenyentimes

About 21,500 girls from primary schools in Laikipia county will receive free sanitary pads from the government to help reduce school dropout and absenteeism due to lack of the essential commodity.

Laikipia County Education Officer Ms Beatrice Wachira said that the consignment of 85,500 packets of pads would be distributed to 303 schools across the county.

“We expect that girls in grade five to eight in 303 primary schools will each get four packets of pads. This will go a long way to keeping them in school since menstrual hygiene is important for learners,” said Ms Wachira, adding that some girls



missed school for about four times in a term due to lack of menstrual kits.

She pointed out that some girls from vulnerable families in the county missed out of school to look for pads but ended up falling prey to men who took advantage of the situation leading to teen pregnancies.

“As some of our girls go to look for pads, they end up engaging in early sex and as a result, they get pregnant and with assistance, we believe that they will continue with the education, perform well and at the same time compete with the boys,” she pointed out.

Additionally, Ms Wachira said that the Ministry of Education would ensure all learners in need of sanitary towels benefit.

Dream, Goal And Success



We know that everyone has a dream. This dream will not be achieved without difficulty. In order for a dream not to remain a dream, it is necessary to strive, search, act, and work. In order for you to do what you love, you need to complete 3 steps and follow these three paths.

The first is to choose a dream, the second is to turn a dream into a goal, and the third is to achieve success tirelessly on the way to the goal. First, you need to dream of a job that you like and enjoy. For this dream, you need to flow continuously.

In the second case, in order to make your chosen dream come true, you need to set a

deadline and do what you want to do within that period. This is the third stage road. That is, as long as you shoot from the first and second stages, you will find the fruits of your labor.

This success will change your life. Money may also increase your knowledge. I also needed time to understand these words. But Marahimov Bahodir Olimovich, the education teacher of the Margilan city specialized school, taught this to us, the students, the early days of the country. As long as there are such teachers, the country will not stop blooming.

Akramov is the son of Gulomnazar Kamoliddin. He was born on April 10, 2008 in Okhunboboyev (now Koshtepa) district. The pursuit of knowledge has finally paid off. The artist has tested, applied, worked and searched for many of his knowledge in life, so now he studies where he wants. He is in secondary school No. 30 in Koshtepa district, then in former IDUMI 1 (now Koshtepa district specialized school), and now he is a 9th "Blue" grade student of Margilan city specialized school.

Young Athlete



Summer vacation is going very well for me. I went to visit my aunt today. Everyone is happy at home, I think they are celebrating some kind of holiday. I slowly asked my aunt: "Aunty, peace, what's going on?"

— Today, Zaylobiddin took first place in the competition held in Jizzakh. We are celebrating this together, — they said with a laugh.

Then a great idea came to my mind. I wanted to write a story about Zaylobiddin. I thought that maybe the reader who reads my story will draw the necessary conclusions and not waste his time on useless things. Then I joined them. After some time, I invited Zaylobiddin for a conversation. Zaylobiddin was more shy. He shyly answered my questions. They have 3 children in the family. Zaylobiddin's sister graduated from the 6th grade of the school she attends, and her brother graduated from the 2nd grade. He finished the 4th grade and went to the 5th grade. His father works in a car repair shop. His mother is a housewife.

"I am very close with my sisters," he said. My father and aunts are also very kind to us. He said that they help us with our lesson preparation. I said to him, "Zaylobiddin, you have been participating in this type of sport for 3 years. So you like Taekwondo very much. Who made you participate in Taekwondo and Uzbek martial arts? Or are you interested?" I looked questioningly. And he laughed in his head.

— It was very interesting. When I was in the 2nd grade. One day my father said to me, "Go, I will take you somewhere" and took me to our school hall. I envied the sportsmen there when I saw their special clothes. Dad said, "Are you going to join this club too?"

If you want, I will give you to this circle too." As for me, I was very happy and said, "Rostan? Of course I want to," I said. So I became very interested in this sport. I have been participating for 3 years. Our captain, that is, our teacher Kholbekov Kholmatjon Kholmirzayevich told us that they are very kind and demanding.

I asked him about his achievements during these 3 years. Zaylobiddin, being a shy boy by nature, said "Yes, now" but did not answer. I

asked him, "How will your family welcome you when you come back from the competition as a winner?" His eyes sparkled, and every time I returned from the competition, our large yard was filled with visitors. My loving and dear grandmother, grandfather, aunt, two uncles and my sisters-in-law and my little nieces and nephews — they all welcome me with joy. And they congratulate me with my new achievement. Just like today. I am proud to have such a kind and loving family. Not only my family, but also my dear teachers at school, my dear classmates, my friends congratulate me on my achievement. I am grateful to them, he gave me a meaningful smile as if he said, "Do you have any more questions?" I said to him: "Aren't you tired?" I asked about your achievements above. But I didn't get an answer. I said what achievements you have achieved during these 3 years.

— September 1, 2019 is dedicated to Independence Day

I took an honorable 2nd place in the competition

it was my first win. In March 2022, in the city of Ko'kan, I was awarded with a proud 1st degree diploma and a medal at the "Uzbekistan Championship for children aged 7 to 18". I won the ranks and was awarded with about 12 diplomas and medals. "Sniper athlete" and "Temuri competition" of the Cup of Uzbekistan "Fergana regional qualifying competition", in the "Temuri competition" took a proud 3rd place in the weight of 27 kg. He smiled saying that he won the ticket to the World Championship.

His parents, the school administration, his coach Kholbekov Kholmatjon and his classmates are proud of the young athlete Zaylobiddin. His father Akmal's brother and his coach Kholbekov Kholmatjon contributed a lot to the achievement of these achievements. Young sportsman Zaylobiddin Usmonjanov proudly says: "I am proud to be a child of the beautiful and prosperous Uzbekistan, to be born in such a prosperous and peaceful country. In the future, I will raise the flag of Uzbekistan to the blue sky and try to be a child worthy of our President."

After these words of Zaylobiddin, I once again became proud that I am a child of Uzbekistan. I wish that Zaylobiddin will take the 1st place in the World Championship, which will be held at the end of the year, raise the flag of Uzbekistan to the blue sky, and become a son worthy of our President, as he said.

Farzona HOSHIMOVA
Margilan city

Art school named after Erkin Vahidov
Student of 7th "D" class

Miracles Of Ants



Ants, which are considered a small miracle, can be found in any corner of the world, but some people know about their intelligence and some do not. They are intelligent, hardworking and active creatures. In the Qur'an, it is expressed that ants are a community that protects, supports and helps each other like humans. The most surprising thing is that they bury the dead like people. We can see many wise feelings in them, for example, if they notice that a thorn has hit the grain they are collecting, they

immediately cut it, as if they know that the grain will disappear if they gnaw. If the grain gets wet on rainy days, they take them outside, as if they know that wet grain causes rooting. Ants are smarter than humans. Nowadays, many people spend their time on useless things, and they are indifferent, unloving, and scatter thorns of hatred to those around them. Humans don't have the intelligence and harmony that a tiny insect has. Besides, ants are very hardworking, they can carry a load 100 times heavier than their own mass. It is worth admiring their feelings.

Ibromkhonov Kamoliddin son of Ravshan was born on 16th May in 1999. He lives in Oltinsoy district, Surkhandarya region in Uzbekistan. Currently, he works as a school teacher at 15th school in Oltinsoy. He has IELTS band 7 certificate and CEFR C1. He has been teaching English language for 4 years. He loves his profession so much.

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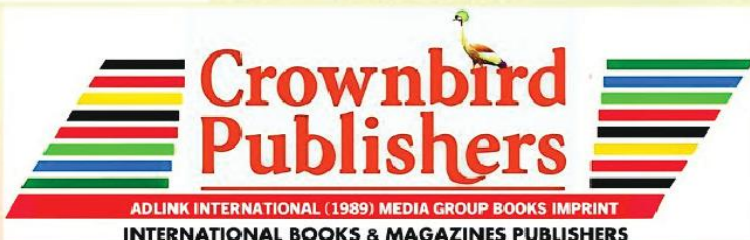
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BUSINESS

Inside Harambee Sacco's Millionaire Club

By: Jane Ngugi and Dennis Rasto

@themtkenyattimes

Worth Noting:

- The chairman described MC as a value-added service for its members that gives them financial lessons on networking through the platform. The training has also focused on debt management, savings, budgeting, financial and banking services and prudent investing.
- Speaking in Nakuru when he chaired a meeting of the club's members, Malonza indicated that by participating in local, regional and international trips, members will be linked "to the right minds in the business world".
- He added that they were also equipping them with skills on risk diversification, inflation, numeracy, and interest compounding.
- Malonza disclosed that the Millionaires' Club has both inhouse and external sourced coaches, financial advisors who are tailored to give entrepreneurs the much-needed comfort since the journey of setting up a venture is never easy.

Harambee Savings and Credit Co-operative Society is strengthening its Millionaires' Club to give more of its members the opportunity to meet and network with local, regional and international entrepreneurs.

The opportunity will enable members to exchange ideas and learn how other businessmen deal with challenges in their areas.

The Sacco's chairman Mr Macleod Malonza further announced that the Millionaires Club has embarked on a series of countrywide tours organizing seminars where members are taught on the necessary skills to run a business effectively so that they become better placed at making well-informed decisions.

To be eligible for Millionaires Club's (MC) membership, one has to amass the Sacco's savings worth Sh1 million or above either over a period of time or through a single Sh1 million cash deposit in the Sacco's account.

Malonza indicated that through the MC that was inaugurated last year, members also get to learn how to improve their creditworthiness and receive comprehensive financial education.

He explained that the club was equipping its members with the essential knowledge and skills required to secure and strengthen their financial well-being, ultimately fostering a more financially resilient society.

The chairman described MC as a value-added service for its members that gives them financial lessons on networking through the platform. The training has also focused on debt management, savings, budgeting, financial and banking services and prudent investing.

Speaking in Nakuru when he chaired a meeting of the club's members, Malonza indicated that by participating in local, regional and international trips, members will be linked "to the right minds in the business world".

He added that they were also equipping them with skills on risk diversification, inflation, numeracy, and interest compounding.

Malonza disclosed that the Millionaires' Club has both inhouse and external sourced coaches, financial advisors who are tailored to give entrepreneurs the much-needed comfort since the journey of setting up a venture is never easy.

The chairperson observed that upcoming businessmen have to constantly deal with many challenges which drain them emotionally, financially and physically, which the club was determined to tackle.



Harambee Savings and Credit Cooperative Society.

According to Malonza, through the club, those members with a brand could get it recognized and marketed which is difficult if one was to source for business opportunities on a personal platform.

He said Harambee Sacco was harnessing benefits of the club, which include boosting their members' business potential while maintaining their loyalty.

"The primary aim in this undertaking is to give the club's members who are business owners exposure through organizing training forums," said Malonza.

The Sacco is betting on partnerships with real estate developers, industries and service providers such as airlines, logistics companies, and hotels to open opportunities for networking among club members as well as with the international business world.

While training sessions have been the main strategy used by the Sacco to boost members' business potential, focus is now also laid on setting up platforms through the club that allowed for interaction with the global business community.

Malonza observed that business people are always seeking opportunities to grow and as such, there is a desire for constant travel and link with outside markets.

However, he noted that for many, this dream is never realised because of the high cost that comes with travelling hence most were restricted to the local market adding that through the clubs, members pool resources making travelling cheaper.

Malonza disclosed that the Sacco was driving a membership and share capital targeting a net minimum of Sh4 billion by 2025 and had put in place strategies to grow the current

membership from 80,000 to 200,000 in the next four years.

The chairperson revealed that the Sacco would open satellite branches in Kisii, Embu, Meru and Machakos before the end of the year.

He said that members of the club were eligible for loan repayment periods of up to 9 years.

Malonza said that the Sacco was setting up structures for a Project Management Unit to measure the success of development projects initiated by its members.

This, he added, would be done through various parameters including completion within budget, projected time for completion and scope that was supposed to be covered.

He said projects should also meet certain quality parameters and should be fit for purpose as it made no sense to carry out a project that could not serve the intended purpose.

Harambee Sacco Chief Executive Officer Dr George Ochiri noted that they had developed products for retirees whom he observed have unique needs that may not be fully met by the conventional Sacco products and services.

This, he said, is because of the retirees' low borrowing appetite and sometimes they may be devoid of a regular source of income to commit to regular savings contributions.

Dr Ochiri stated that this category of "senior citizens" has unique features such as low minimum monthly saving contribution or no monthly savings contribution but with a compromised dividend payment rate.

He stated that the Sacco could provide a dividend management plan that would involve making some cash deduction from the dividend income earned to cater for the re-

quired monthly savings contributions while the balance is distributed into a monthly income.

Dr Ochiri indicated that Harambee was mulling over reviewing its regulations to have retirees represented both on its board and delegates system, adding that they (retirees) would also be given opportunity or roles as mentors to share with younger members why they needed to enhance their savings contribution and retain their membership in the Sacco for their whole lifetime.

He stated that the Sacco is now offering housing loans of up to Sh8 million on the back of funds from the State-owned Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC).

The loans which were previously capped at Sh4 million are pegged at 9 percent interest rate for up to 25-year mortgages.

Harambee Sacco has over 80,000 members in 174 branches across the country. It draws its membership mainly from the Kenya Defence Forces, the National Police Service, the National Youth Service, the national and county governments, government parastatals and departments and constitutional bodies.

The CEO said he was happy that Harambee Sacco was now attracting young members and added that its asset base grew from Sh37.01 billion in 2022 to Sh38.5 billion in 2023, while its share capital increased by 8 percent to Sh2.34 billion.

The Sacco also granted loans worth Sh29.13 billion in 2023, up from Sh27.23 billion in 2022.

Governor Muthomi Njuki Leads Colleagues In Demanding More Cash To Devolved Units

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyetimes

Governors want all monies allocated to National Government ministries and departments that run functions that are already devolved reallocated to counties.

According to the Council of Governors that appeared before the National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee, there is about KSh262 billion that has been allocated to the national government yet most of the functions they are running are either being carried out by counties or there is serious duplication leading to loss of public resources.

The governors who appeared, led by the Council's Vice Chairperson and Wajir Governor Abdulahi Ahmed, who were making a case for KSh450 billion, accused the National Government of holding on to monies meant for counties yet, they have variously said they fully support devolution.

The Council's chief whip and Nandi Governor Stephen Sang' noting that a report by the IGTRC released about two months ago has laid bare truths about monies the National Government doesn't want to release to counties, insisting such amounts would play a critical role in turning around key functions run by counties such as health, agriculture and early childhood development.

Consequently, Tharaka Nithi governor and the Council's health committee chair Muthomi Njuki wants the health ministry budget cut by about KSh50 billion and that money sent to counties to support functions.

He noted, sadly, that the health ministry which should only be focused on policy has a budget of KSh147 billion yet all the 47 counties are given a budget of KSh110 billion, yet they run most of the hospital facilities with the national government only running Level VI hospitals

Governor Njuki warned that there was a risk of someone rushing to court to challenge the budget allocation, putting into consideration the number of devolved functions still being run by the central government.



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki (centre), Nandi Governor Stephen Sang' (right) and CoG CEO Mary Mwiti being part of the Council of Governors members who appeared before the National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee to make a case for KSh450 billion they want as equitable share to counties.

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.

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)

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Parliamentary House Committee Appraised on NYS Entry Grade As Recruitment Starts To Attract Many Youths

By: PSCU

The mean grade for the entry into the National Youth Service (NYS) has been lowered with a House team being informed that the move is intended to accommodate more Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) students seeking to acquire technical skills.

While appearing before the National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities, NYS Director General James Kipsiele Tembur said the KCSE mean grade for youths seeking to join the organisation has been reduced from D plain to D- (minus).

“The Ministry has lowered the mean grade to enable youths from disadvantaged communities be able to have an opportunity to join NYS,” Tembur told the Aden Yusuf Haji-led Committee.

The DG noted that the new directive will be applied during the next



Some of the members during the session

recruitment.

Members of the Committee welcomed the move but asked the DG to ensure that slots for youths joining the NYS are shared equally across the country.

Nyeri Town MP, Duncan Mathenge noted that NYS has attracted a lot of interest after President Dr. William Ruto directed that Kenya Defense Forces personnel would be recruited from the organisation.

“The President’s directive has made

joining NYS to be very emotive and that is why it is important to ensure transparency and equal distribution of slots during the recruitment exercise,” said Mathenge.

The committee commended the DG for being sensitive to people living with disability in their recruitment after it was noted that 60 staff were disabled.

“You have done well in inclusion of people living with disabilities than most of the State institutions that



Nyeri Town constituency MP Duncan Maina Mathenge stressing a point during the session

appear before this Committee to address the same,” said Liza Chelule, the Nakuru County MP, who chaired the session.

The committee was however disappointed that NYS did not have any person living with disabilities in its Council and urged the DG to ensure they are represented.

The committee was told that NYS had a total of 2,201 officers out of

which 1,525 were male and 676 female.

“We have promoted 944 male and 510 female. Fourteen of the officers we promoted were disabled,” Tembur told the committee.

Kaspul MP Ong’ondo Were asked the DG to ensure that the marginalised communities got a giant share in recruitment of casual workers.

High Level Delmonte Human Rights Case

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Gallant Murang’a son’s led by Wakili Mbiyu Kamau, ACCPA Official Mwangi Macharia, Municipal Board Member Clement Kamau are pushing compensation for thousands of Delmonte victims in Murang’a, Kiambu and Machakos counties.

The team is drafting the proposal to push the three counties to adopt pineapple farming and supply them to Delmonte.

One pineapple goes at KSh100 and thus, it will be more profitable than coffee and tea combined.

The American government funded multinational is said to be willing to allow farmers to grow pineapple based on the current emerging issues.

Pineapple outgrowers program is seen to be the cure for current high

level security conflicts between residents and guards which has led to deaths of countless people in the three counties.

Like Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome who earlier represented hundreds of victims of Delmonte in court in early 2000s, Mbiyu Wa Kamau is a human rights lawyer and Kandara political leader who is seen as a potential Member of Parliament for Kandara in 2027 for his free representation of thousands of victims mostly from the constituency.

Amongst those who have endorsed pineapple outgrowers program is Farmers political party leader and Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (Kemsa) chairman Irungu Nyakeera who says the Lower Muranga will be official crop if both USA and Kenyan Government adopt that proposal.



Lawyer Mbiyu Wa Kamau addressing the media.

Man Turns A New Leaf From Alcohol, Nurturing His Livelihood

By: David Mutwiri and Naomi Wamaitha
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Born in Kaanwa village in the year 1948 Yusuf was not lucky to acquire formal education, which was a rare privilege in the then Colonial Kenya. To make ends meet, as a youth in 1963, Kithagaa, ventured into metal work then considered to be a more modern form of blacksmithing.
- His workshop in the upcoming Chuka market involved making buckets, jikos and grills using scrap metal.
- Being so young and energetic, he could manage to make several types and sell them all, or at least most of them before sunset. This earned him money, enough to foot his bills since life then was a bit cheaper. He later opted to settle down and have a family.



In the vibrant Chuka town, just like most parts of the country, the bodaboda business has assumed the main role of employment for the youth.

These motorcycle riders have become key players in the community, providing convenient, efficient, and affordable transportation to commuters.

They not only transport passengers to and from their destinations but have also diversified their services, offering delivery services and even running errands for their customers.

Antony Mutugi, a rider says that the bodaboda business has become quite competitive bringing down the profit margins.

“I engage in delivery services and run errands for my customers to make more money,” Mutugi discloses to KNA, adding that he normally gets commuters in the morning and evening hours.

“In the middle of the day from 12 noon to 4 pm, the business is a bit low, and alternative engagements are necessary to keep us going,” Martin Mugambi, another bodaboda rider echoed Mutugi’s statement.

While most of the youth engage in economically viable activities, a few squander their hard-earned cash on alcohol which is quite unfortunate.

But ‘a stitch in time saves nine. This is the advice from Yusuf Kithagaa, a 65-year-old man who turned a new leaf after years of wasting away in alcoholism.

Born in Kaanwa village in the year 1948 Yusuf was not lucky to acquire formal education, which was a rare privilege in the then Colonial Kenya. To make ends meet, as a youth in 1963, Kithagaa, ventured into metal work then considered to be a more modern form of blacksmithing.

His workshop in the upcoming Chuka market involved making buckets, jikos and grills using scrap metal.

Being so young and energetic, he could manage to make several types and sell them all, or at least most of them before sunset. This earned him money, enough to foot his bills since life then was a bit cheaper. He later opted to settle down and have a family.

He vividly describes how he could sell the mentioned items each going at only one shilling, which was much more valuable during his hey-days of youth. Being young as he was back then, and comparing to the pay he got from his cottage business, he immersed himself into excessive drinking, a habit that turned out to be difficult for him to shed despite advice given to him by many people close to him including his own wife.

Yusuf would travel away from his family to the city of Nairobi from time to time, just to have fun. In his opinion, he was enjoying the fruit of his labour. Apart from settling school fees for his children, all of his remaining income was wasted away in drinking and other leisure activities.

His wife, then a mother of five felt that this was too much and decided to move away with the children who by then were grownup. When Yusuf saw this happening, he composed himself and promised himself that he would stop hitting the bottle for the sake of his family. But already it was too late. This was really a challenge because he couldn’t stop the bad habit at once. He did it over some time.

After a few months of struggling to move away from alcoholism, Yusuf finally managed to fully do away with the vice but the question was; Would his family come back? Did he have any savings? These were the questions that crossed his mind but deep inside him, he knew none of them had a positive answer.

After a period of self-evaluation, Yusuf wondered aloud and regretted why he indulged in alcohol since all it did was waste his time and destroy his family.

He bitterly regrets that the most painful part was that, age was catching up with him and he couldn’t do much about it.

“I finally had to accept fate as it was, stop self-pity, and get back to working hard as I had once done,” he said with a resigned gesture of his hands.

Yusuf narrated how he started reporting to his work earlier than before.

“I open my makeshift workshop at 6 am. I assemble my workshop paraphernalia and by 6.30 am I am busy until as late as 6.30 pm when I take the items back to a house that I have rented on the outskirts of Chuka town,” he said adding that the house is big enough to accommodate his assorted workshop items and himself.

The morning KNA visited Yusuf, he was selling his charcoal jiko to a customer who was passing by and had gotten attracted by the display. He sold the jiko at 450 shillings, a price he said was way above the olden days when he was a youth.

The currency has really lost value. He took the notes, confirmed that they were not counterfeit by observing them against the sun, and happily with a wide smile took his handkerchief and wrapped it up. When asked why he did that, he explained that putting the money in the hanky was a precaution against loss.

Yusuf said that challenges are there in any business venture, but with hard work and self-discipline, anyone can earn an honest income and live a decent life.

He called on the youth to engage in meaningful work and avoid alcoholism since it doesn’t help. He also advises the youth to stop being picky about jobs by waiting for white-collar jobs but instead advised that they engage in any meaningful legitimate economic activity.

“Time and tide waits for no man and although life is not easy today, I call upon the youth to shun alcoholism, open their eyes, and work before their strength wastes off,” he concludes.

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Ruto Rallies Global Partners For Timely Response To Haiti Crisis

By: Presidential Communication Service

Kenya is now ready to deploy a contingent of 1,000 police officers to Haiti to lead a multinational mission that will help restore law and order in the Caribbean nation.

This follows the signing of an agreement, a reciprocal instrument, between Kenya and Haiti, witnessed by President William Ruto and Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henri on Friday at State House, Nairobi.

“From Kenya, we are ready for this deployment, and I request all the other partners across the globe to step up so that we can provide a response in good time,” said President Ruto.

Prime Minister Henri thanked President Ruto and the people of Kenya for offering to lead the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti meant to stabilise the country.

“What this mission is bringing is hope for the future of humankind,

for a people who cannot see how they will live tomorrow,” the prime minister said.

He pledged that his government would accord the Kenyan contingent all the necessary support to make the mission a success.

The reciprocal agreement was signed by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki for Kenya and Haiti Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers Alix Richard.

UN-authorized Mission

Others present during the occasion were Water Cabinet Secretary Zachary Njeru, Inspector-General of Police Japheth Koome and National Security Advisor Monica Juma, among others.

The United Nations Security Council authorized the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti on October 2, 2023, under Resolution 2699.

This followed widespread gang violence that has rendered much of the country lawless and ungovernable.

In 2021, assassins killed Haiti former President Jovenel Moise at his



President Ruto spoke at the signing of an agreement, a reciprocal instrument, between Kenya and Haiti, he witnessed with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henri on Friday at State House, Nairobi/PCS

residence in the capital Port-au-Prince, highlighting the level of insecurity in the Caribbean nation.

Yesterday, gang-related violence paralysed the capital, stopped operations at the country’s main airport and left several police officers dead.

In response to the Security Council resolution, Kenya’s National Security Council and Cabinet approved the deployment of police officers on October 13, 2023, a decision that Parliament unanimously endorsed on November 16, 2023.

The High Court determined that Kenya needed a reciprocal agreement with Haiti following a petition filed in January 2023.

Countries that have pledged forces for the Haiti mission include Benin, Chad, Bangladesh, Barbados and The Bahamas.

Omwanza Ombati Elected LSK Representative To The JSC

By: Capital Correspondent

Lawyer Omwanza Ombati has won the lucrative Male Representative seat at the Judicial Service Commission(JSC).

Omanza, who was one of the three candidates vying for the seat, took to twitter Friday morning with a heartfelt post thanking the members of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) for honoring him with their support.

“I want to sincerely thank the esteemed members of the law society of Kenya for bestowing me the greatest honor and trust of my professional life to serve them at the JSC Kenya” he stated.

Ombati managed to gather an outstanding 3,357 votes which was 65 votes ahead of his main competitor former LSK President Eric Theuri who gathered 3292 of the votes.

The stakes were high because Omwanza had previously run for the LSK Presidential post but lost to

Theuri

Theuri conceded defeat and thanked Ombati as well as all the other winners of their respective positions.

“I would like to congratulate Mr. Omwanza Ombati on his election as Commissioner Elect as well as all the winners of the various positions. In the end, The Law Society won,” Theuri stated.

Omwanza, a seasoned lawyer with over 20 years of experience, runs a law firm called Nchogu, Omwanza and Nyasimi Company advocates

He has a 2002 Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Moi University and a Master of Laws (LLM) from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom

Omwanza further emphasized in his statement how he would ensure that democracy would be upheld and he would work in the best interests of the JSC

“For the members of the legal profession, I promise to be your voice at the JSC and truly represent you and have your voice heard clearly and loudly “he stated



Lawyer Omwanza Ombati

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Sports >> *For most host nations of major sporting events, the biggest worry has always been the aftermath and what happens to the mega facilities constructed to host the masses

Talanta Stadium Will Not Be A 'White Elephant' Project, Says CS Ababu

For most host nations of major sporting events, the biggest worry has always been the aftermath and what happens to the mega facilities constructed to host the masses.

Kenya will co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) with neighbors Uganda and Tanzania and on Friday, President William Ruto broke ground for a new 60,000-seater stadium, which will be one of two primary hosts for the event.

Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba has assured that his Ministry has in mind the aftermath of the 2027 AFCON to ensure the facility remains a core part of Kenya's sporting infrastructure.

"We have thought beyond AFCON 2027. We have imagined revenues from this stadium including naming rights as well as a professional management to turn this into an economic hub. This is a legacy project that helps deliver in the Bottom Up Economic Transformative Agenda (BETA)," the CS noted.

The stadium has been tailored to host football matches, but can also be tweaked to host rugby as well as mega concerts, without affecting the state of the playing surface.

Already, Namwamba, as well as Football Kenya federation (FKF) boss Ababu Namwamba have both confirmed that this will be the designate home venue for the national team Harambee Stars.

"We have curated this stadium to hand Kenyan teams the much-needed 12th man advantage. It ticks all FIFA and CAF requirements and is a tech savvy stadium designed for top level TV broadcast and is comparable to the very best in the world," Ababu further noted.

Meanwhile, the CS has noted that the construction of the stadium will cost much less than what



An artistic impression of the new Talanta City Stadium.



Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba with president William Ruto during the ground breaking of the new Talanta City Stadium. PHOTO/PPS.

the Allasanne Ouattara Stadium in Abidjan as well as the Amahoro Stadium in Kigali cost, despite the fact they are almost similar in nature.

He has thanked his colleagues in cabinet and by extension President William Ruto for the sup-

port they have offered since the project began with consultations six months ago.

Meanwhile, Ababu has challenged the FKF to ensure they prepare a formidable Harambee Stars whose performances will match what is expected of the

new stadium.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *President William Ruto has said he will be making visits to the construction site of the new Talanta City Stadium at the Jamhuri Grounds on Ngong Road every three months, to personally ensure the contractors deliver a world class sporting facility.

With Military Precision: President Ruto Demands World Class Delivery Of Talanta City Stadium



President William Ruto is taken through the design of the Talanta City Stadium by Sports CS Ababu Namwamba. PHOTO/PPS.

President William Ruto has said he will be making visits to the construction site of the new Talanta City Stadium at the Jamhuri Grounds on Ngong Road every three months, to personally ensure the contractors deliver a world class sporting facility.

The Head of State on Friday morning broke ground for construction of the 60,000-seater football-only stadium, which has been earmarked as one of the principal host venues for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

“I have agreed with the ministry of sports and ministry of defense, we want this stadium to be built to world class standards using military discipline,” the Head of State said Friday, as he broke ground for the stadium.

He added; “I will expect the defense team led by CS Duale (Aden) and the CDF to make sure that all timelines which we have agreed are kept by the contrac-

tor and I expect that there will be weekly supervision. I will be here myself every three months until this facility is completed.”

The Talanta City Stadium will be solely built to host football matches, and will have a sitting capacity of 60,000.

The President has also disclosed that there was a huge discussion over the venue of the stadium, with Jamhuri Grounds on Ngong Road and Shanzu area in Mombasa, both presenting strong cases to host the venue but ultimately, Jamhuri won.

Despite that, the President has said the Government is committed to build another stadium in Mombasa.

“We are seriously considering another stadium in Mombasa. There was a huge debate as to whether we should have this here or Mombasa. For many reasons, I was persuaded and we decided to have this facility here (Jamhuri) but we

will equally find space in Mombasa to do a good low altitude stadium which will serve both athletics and other sports to train and compete in,” President Ruto says.

The Talanta City Stadium, whose construction will be supervised by the Kenya Defense Forces and construction work done by China Bridge Company is expected to be completed by December 2025, almost a year and a half before the 2027 Cup of Nations.

The Head of State says he is pleased with the commitment shown by both the Ministries of Defense and Sports in actualizing the work, with the Kasarani Stadium already in progress.

President Ruto, and Sports CS Ababu Namwamba announced that the stadium will be completed by December this year.

“I want to commend the work done over the last six months. We have had many meetings and a lot of back and forth because

we wanted to make sure we are building a world class stadium in record time and cost effective,” President Ruto further states.

He has also commended the stadium plan which takes into account environmental factors, with renewable energy as well as the green spaces being maintained.

Meanwhile, the Head of State announced that the existing structures at the grounds, built during the last regime will not be touched, but will be instead spruced up to ensure that it can be used by the surrounding communities.

“No facility here will be lost and I have been assured that we will keep all facilities and this will also give an opportunity for the local community to come here and benefit, to also help them grow talent,” President Ruto stated.

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Deal To Give 250,000 Kenyans Jobs In Germany To Be Sealed By June – Ruto

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatomes

A simmering deal between Kenya and Germany to provide 250,000 job opportunities is set to be sealed before June 2024, President William Ruto has announced.

This, he intimated during a cabinet retreat in Naivasha, Nakuru County on Monday saying that the European nation has agreed to open doors to 250,000 professional, skilled and semi-skilled Kenyans in an effort to meet Germany's huge labor requirements.

Reacting on these good news, Dr. Ekrah Ndungu, CEO of the German Institute of Professional Studies, welcomed this move saying:

Why should one learn German?
My answer...German language has immense benefits. You can work in tourism sector, go to Germany for exchange programs (Aupair), volunteer in Germany, study in Germany, and participate in graduate programs in companies that pick Africans for exchange programs called Afrika Kommt, scholarships in Masters or PHD or work in Germany. Professionals are now admis-

sible in Germany. Or just to learn the language to become a global citizen....in this Era of globalization you need to be multilingual. German language is a good choice, it's a language spoken by several countries in Europe.

Is it true about the opportunities in Germany?

Absolutely Dr Ekrah retaliated saying Kenyans should embrace the Presidents efforts in looking for jobs in Germany by staying ready with German language. Opportunities are immense in Germany however it's the prerogative of the German embassy to grant a visa or to open visa appointments. The demand is very high. Germany is a straight forward nation honesty & Integrity is their second Name....you don't need anyone to push anything for you. So long you've the right papers, right attitude and you can articulate your intentions. You're good to go, over the years a lot of our Alumni are spread in Germany...Remember Sigmund Freud was a German....on a light note Germans you must answer 5whys....if your why's are admissible you're GAME! You'll get your visa and go start your new life in the 3rd largest economy in the world.

How long do I need to be able to speak fluent German?

German language has several levels

A1,A2,B1,B2, C1,C2.....

For you to say you're conversant with the language, you'll need at least upto to B1.

To work as a nurse you'll need B2
PhD & Masters programs you'll need B2

Is German language difficult?

No.....water is Wasser, Man is Mann, and Good morning is Guten morgen....does that sound difficult? It all depends on who's introducing the language to you and your attitude. With an I CAN do it attitude...you'll surprise yourself....German language is very interesting and fun too!

Dr Ekrah can I join your German class?

Oh yes that's my favorite teaching lesson. I'll gladly teach you myself. Dr Ekrah responding to one of her fans online.

Dr Ekrah's expertise is German is recognized and they've won multi-



Dr Ekrah Ndung'u CEO German Institute of Professional Studies

ple awards for being the most preferred German language institution in Kenya under her leadership. The many testimonials online from her alumni are evident too. She's respected in the German language space including universities want to tap into her experience,she's such

an abundance mentality that on 1st March she'll be a guest speaker giving a public lecture at Kenyatta University to share with Kenyatta Universities students on German: a language of opportunities!

Shurie Calls For Kenyans To Apply For Permits For Them To Abstract Water

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatomes

The Water Resources Management Authority through the Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Shurie has called for Kenyans to apply for permits for them to abstract water.

By law, every user of abstractive water, be it surface or underground must get a permit, according to the law

The CEO also called for holders of expired water abstraction permits to renew them. At the moment there are 31,551 expired water abstraction

permits.

"For any use of water, be it surface or underground, you require a permit which you can apply online. Our country is water-scarce and so we should strive to conserve it. The authority Regulates Water use allocation,

Collects water permit fees and water use charges, Provides information for formulation of policy on National Water Resource Management, water storage and flood control strategies.

Coordinate with other regional, national and international bodies for the better regulation of the management and use of water resources

The CEO also reminded the holders

of those permits that failure to comply attracts a fine of Ksh 1 Million or a jail term of two years or both.

Water Resources Management Authority
Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Shurie

