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Page 18

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Storm In DP's Backyard As MPs Clash

News>>Gachagua Assures Coffee Farmers Of Sustained Reforms And Financing

P. 9. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured coffee farmers of a solution to financial challenges facing them including possible waiver of their debts.



News>>SMEs Hold Conference On Advancement Of Sustainable Economic Growth

P. 12. Kenya's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) held the 5th Edition Conference and Expo 2024 in Nairobi



Business>>Heifer Africa's Report Unveils the Impact of Innovation and Catalytic Financing on Youth Employment and Smallholder Farmers' Prosperity in Africa

P. 16 Rapid technological advancement and evolving economic landscapes

Even as Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua endeavours to quell political fires across the ruling party's strongholds, another one his backyard has erupted in his home county, Nyeri. The County Woman Representative Rahab Mukami Wachira has been dragged into a bitter war of words by Mathira Constituency Member of Parliament Eric Wamumbi.



Nyeri County Woman Representative Rahab Mukami Wachira and Mathira Constituency Member of Parliament Eric Wamumbi

STORY ON PAGE 8

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Encourages Young Innovators To Actualize Their Ideas*

By: OSDP

Young people from the university and high schools showcased their brilliant innovative ideas during an

event attended by the spouse of the Deputy President.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi on Tuesday visited the exhibition stands of young innovators at the ideation stage of their different projects on

the first day of the Career Innovation Week at the Cooperative University of Kenya.

Ruth Kwara, a second year Computer Science student, explained

STORY ON PAGE 13

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi



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Government Keen To Ensure Institutions Of Higher Learning Involve The Local Community In Their Operations

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu being escorted to the Senate Chambers yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- At present, the total number of staff at the University is 284. Out of these, 69 are from the local community (Kirinyaga County) whereas 215 are from the other counties across the country.
- The total number of support staff is 48 and out of these, 30 are from the local community and which represents 62.5% per cent. The total number of clerical and administrative staff is 116 and out of these, 27 are from the local community and that represents 23.27 per cent.
- The total number of academic staff is 120 and out of these, 12 are from the local community which is 10 per cent.

Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu yesterday appeared before the Senate plenary to respond to various questions from Senators James Murango (Kirinyaga), Mwenda Gataya Morefire (Tharaka Nithi), Edwin Sifuna (Nairobi) and Eddy Okech (Migori).

Senator Murango wanted to know the staffing levels at Kirinyaga University, specifically the number of academic, administrative and support staff and what percentage of each cadre of staff in the university is from the local community.

He also asked whether there is a policy in place requiring universities to employ a fixed quota of staff from the local community.

The Senator further wanted the CS to state the measures the government has put in place to ensure that institutions of Higher Learning involve the local community in their operations.

In his response, the CS stated that Kirinyaga University is a public university chartered under the Universities Act, 2012. It was chartered on October 7 2016. Prior to that, from 2011, it was a constituent college of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technol-

ogy. Originally, it started off as the Kirinyaga Technical Training Institute in 1977.

At present, the total number of staff at the University is 284. Out of these, 69 are from the local community (Kirinyaga County) whereas 215 are from the other counties across the country.

The total number of support staff is 48 and out of these, 30 are from the local community and which represents 62.5% per cent. The total number of clerical and administrative staff is 116 and out of these, 27 are from the local community and that represents 23.27 per cent.

The total number of academic staff is 120 and out of these, 12 are from the local community which is 10 per cent.

He also added that Section 35(1)(a) of the Universities Act, 2012 provides that the Council shall perform the function of employing staff and that the values and principles of public service shall include fair competition and merit as the basis of appointments and promotions, representation of Kenya's diverse communities and affording adequate and equal opportunities for appointment, training and advancement, at all levels of the public

service, of men and women, the members of all ethnic groups and persons with disabilities.

As a public university, Kirinyaga University is a state corporation bound by all these public sector laws on recruitment and employment of staff. It is also a national and indeed, international institution.

Finally, that the University is also bound by its Human Resource Instruments, as developed by the University Council and approved by the State Corporations Advisory Committee and the Public Service Commission.

In his part, Senator Mwenda Getaya wanted the CS to explain the reason for the delay in disbursement of KSh9 Million allocated to Kamutuandu Primary School in Gatunga Ward in Tharaka-Nithi County for infrastructural development, being the balance of the KSh10 million which was allocated for the school.

The CS response was that the ministry plans to disburse the balance to the school through phases, starting this Financial Year, from School Infrastructure Improvement Grants kitty. The amount in each phase will depend on the allocation

and Exchequer provided by the National Treasury, as well as the need to ensure equity across the country.

This Financial Year, the Ministry is expecting Exchequer release of KSh102 million for primary school infrastructure, which has to be spread out equitably to schools across all the counties in Kenya, out of which the first phase of the amount due to Kamutuandu will be paid.

Senator Okech sought to know what progress the government has made in putting up necessary infrastructure including Classrooms, libraries and laboratories, in readiness for the enrolment of the first cohort of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) class to join grade nine and if the progress aligns with the originally set timelines.

The CS stated that Junior Schools across the country currently have a total enrolment of 2,279,052 learners in Grades 7 and 8. The learners use the classrooms that were previously used by standard 7 and 8 learners. The Ministry has conducted a needs assessment and determined that there is a shortage of 15,021 classrooms, which will be required for Grade 9.

Responding to Senator Sifuna who wanted to know whether Visa Oshwal Primary School in Westlands Constituency, standing on Land Registered as LR 209/5996, was categorized by the Ministry of Education as a Public School in 1997, and if the cabinet secretary could provide the history of ownership to save the fate of the 2,500 learners of the school, in light of the Impending eviction.

The CS stated that the position of the ministry is based on the provisions of Section 43 of the Basic Education Act, 2013. The section defines public schools established, owned or operated by the government and includes sponsored schools.

Since its establishment, Visa Oshwal has been operated by the government through the provision of Teachers Service Commission teachers and capitation under the Free Primary Education Programme. It was also registered as a public school.

Editor's Desk

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DP Asks The Youth To Take Up Leadership And Shun Destructive Habits

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked the youth to take up leadership and shun destructive habits.

Speaking during a public lecture at Muranga University of Technology titled, "Deconcentrating Politics and Power Youth, Leadership and Development", Mr Gachagua said President William Ruto and himself are ready to identify, nurture upcoming leaders to drive development.

"You have an advantage. You have a president who thinks about the young people. We are willing and ready to mentor you," he said.

While alluding to his experience, the Deputy President said consumption of illicit brew, drugs and substance abuse destroys careers and potential

leaders.

"I used to drink (alcohol) a lot. Most of my buddies we drunk with are dead or zombies. Since I decided to stop drinking, my path has been good. I cry for you. There is no future in illicit brews. The future is bright. Do not waste yourself in abuse of drugs and alcohol abuse," he said.

Mr Gachagua encouraged the students to work hard in their studies and to remain firm, focused and determined.

The Deputy President said he has made unpopular decisions and a leader, but he has learnt to do so because it is the right thing to do.

For instance, the current fight against illicit liquor, drugs and substance abuse, but with President Ruto, they have had to do so to save the young generation that is under threat.

"Don't be distracted when making decisions. Many obstacles were



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at Murang'a University yesterday.

placed before President Ruto. He was a man on a mission; today, he is the President," Mr Gachagua said.

In his lecture, he highlighted key leadership skills and attributes, besides leaders who performed well

even when they were given responsibility while below 35 years.

The Deputy President through the Rigathi Gachagua Foundation is on a mission of mentoring young leaders through the public lectures and other

programmatic work.

He will hold public lectures in tertiary learning institutions across the country with the aim of influencing more youth to take up leadership for development.

Accrual Accounting System, A Solution To Rising Pending Bills Menace

By: Erastus Gichohi

@themtkenyatimes

The Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB), has termed the adoption and implementation of the Accrual System of Accounting as a solution to the challenging mounting pending bills, affecting both the National and County governments.

The Board said the move to transition to the revamped accounting system, has already been approved by the Cabinet, paving the way for its implementation across government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and the Counties.

Accrual basis accounting, is defined by its concept that requires transactions to be recorded in the period in which they occur, regardless of when the actual cash flows for the transactions are received.

According to the Board Chairman, Pius Nduatih, there was a need to overhaul the current financial reporting system, which has been plagued by inefficiencies and piling pending bills, that have affected small businesses, due to loan defaults.

Nduatih said under the new accrual accounting system, all assets will be capitalized and all liabilities owed

reported as opposed to the current cash-based systems, that only record revenue and expenses, when they are physically received or paid out.

The Board Chair said, henceforth, the new system will account for all liabilities, such as pending bills as part of the balance sheet, which will enable the timely recording, verification and settlement in future.

Speaking during a sensitization exercise for all accounting officers, Nduatih acknowledged that the paradigm shifts to accrual-based accounting systems, is the answer to the piling pending bills menace that has for years faced governments.

The Chair regretted that mounting pending bills in the public sector, threatens the country's micro-economic architecture which may drag economic growth, leading to the collapse of micro and small enterprise sectors.

"Delays in releasing payments to public sector contractors, often result in non-performing loans in the banking system, which leads to blacklisting of these entities", said Nduatih.

The Chair said proper recording of all pending bills in financial statements, is the final answer to the piling bills within the public sectors, heralding a new phase of accountability and transparency.



Georgina Muchina..

The Board CEO, Georgina Muchina, said the accrual system will standardize financial reporting, enabling timely oversight from the Auditor General and Parliamentary committees on public expenditures.

Ms. Muchina said under the new system, pending bills will be given priority, which will create trust in financial reporting and hence attract investments from global financial players.

Consequently, the CEO said five commissions have been reporting on the new system, including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Commission of Revenue Authority, Witness Protection Agency, Salaries

and Remuneration Commission and Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

To facilitate a seamless transition to the adoption of the accrual system, the Board is calling for IFMIS configuration, an update of the standard chart of accounts, a valuation of assets and ongoing sensitization exercises targeting key docketts.

According to Tana River County Executive Member for Finance, Brenda Mokaya, the accrual systems of accounting is a blessing to counties plagued by piling pending bills.

Ms. Mokaya said her County has already paid Sh585 million, after a thorough verification exercise from a

pending bill of over Sh1.2 billion that has accumulated for years noting that the adoption of new systems seeks to cure that.

For years, both the National and County governments have been affected by piling pending bills that have continued to cripple small and medium enterprises, due to delays in payments to enable suppliers to offset their loans.

Already the National government has formed the Pending Bills Review Committee, which has so far received pending bills worth over Sh. 140 billion from hundreds of entities that have accumulated for years.

NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ogiek community has all the reasons to smile after the inauguration of a mega Ogiek Cultural Center in Nkarretta area, Narok County that is expected to showcase their culture. The centre was opened by the Director General, National Museums of Kenya Professor Mary Gikungu who said the establishment of the cultural center was a testament to their commitment in promoting and preserving their unique traditions and wisdom. The director underscored that the Ogiek people were recognized internationally because of the good work they were doing to preserve their culture.

“As we inaugurate the Ogiek Cultural Centre, we celebrate the heritage, identity and enduring spirit of the Ogiek people. It is not the size of the people that matters, but the power to conserve their culture,” she pointed out. While reiterating that culture is the cornerstone of any society, the director urged every community to preserve their culture as it was the thread that joins together the past, present and future connecting to our roots and inspiring us to reach new heights. She however acknowledged the challenges and injustices that have threatened the survival of Ogiek culture saying for too long, the Ogiek people have faced marginalization, discrimination and erosion of their cultural heritage. “The struggle for recognition, land rights and social justice has been long. But we are opening a new chapter and say we are no longer marginalized,” she continued.



The government has spelt out measures to alleviate the problem of second-generation alcoholic drinks with chiefs in Marsabit County being ordered to ensure areas under their jurisdiction are free of the menace. Eastern Regional Commissioner Paul Rotich also directed security agencies to decisively deal with the drug and human traffickers in the porous border with a neighboring country. Rotich who spoke after chairing a day long security meeting for national government administrative officers (NGAO) and other security enforcement agencies at Jirne hotel said the government was committed at safeguarding the health of Kenyans and asked deputy county commissioners to hold chiefs and their assistants to account for presence of drugs peddling and brewing of illicit alcoholic drinks. “It is the duty of the government to protect the well-being of its citizens and that is why we must all play our roles as expected,” he said and asked law enforcement agencies to work as a team in order to make the fight against the vices seamless. The regional commissioner added that the government wants the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) to be meaningful otherwise drugs and illicit alcohol would negate the intended gains.



Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri yesterday hosted Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), a Nyeri-based Non-Governmental Organization led by chairperson Catherine Njeri, who called on him at his office. During the meeting, they explored potential areas of partnership where the county government can collaborate with SHOFCO to support the community, particularly through the Department of Gender, Youth, and Social Services. Photo/Paul Wanjiru



Nyanza regional drama and film festival qualifiers from primary and secondary schools have exhibited great talent and innovation during their presentations at Kebirigo boys High school in Nyamira County to qualify them to compete in the national festivals. During the official opening ceremony of the festivals, Nyanza Regional Education Director Lawrence Karuntimi congratulated the participating schools for having made it to the regional level clearly indicating they are the best from their respective counties. “I want to recognise the tireless efforts of directors, scrip writers and teachers who have trained the learners to showcase their prowess in talent, innovation and creativity both for entertainment and learning,” Mr Karuntimi said. “Just like all other forms of art, drama and film have the capacity to engage, inspire, and enrich learners endearing them to exercise their imagination and creativity, nurturing their confidence and boosting their self-esteem,” the RDE commented.



National Assembly Budget Committee Chairman Ndindi Nyoro has challenged the youth to seek entrepreneurial skills which would enable them gain self-employment. Nyoro said that the youth should focus on becoming job creators rather than preoccupying themselves with hunting for white collar jobs. He said that the affordable housing projects were a boon for thousands of youth in the entire housing value chain. The legislator assured Kenyans that their taxes for funding affordable housing project would be spent prudently. Nyoro said that the affordable housing projects would enable Kenyans acquire and live in decent houses. This comes after enactment into law of the Affordable Housing Bill, 2023, which paves the way for the reinstatement of housing levy deductions from this month.

NEWS PAPER

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Kenya Power Boss Taken To Task Over Tariffs And Delayed Electricity Connections

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- “Because you buy power from KENGEN, and KENGEN should be the one to work it out with GDC, why can't you negotiate your tariff with the entity you are buying power from?” asked Musyoka.
- “We agree with you on combining into one tariff. We had even requested the regulator that all of it should be combined, but for transparency, they opted for the breakdown,” replied Eng. Siror.
- The chair of the committee also said that the committee is working on a report that will pronounce the tariff structure, so that all the grey areas can be streamlined.

The committee during yesterday's session.



The Departmental Committee on Energy, led by the chairperson Vincent Musyoka met with the Managing Director, Kenya Power, Eng. Joseph Siror; over audited annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2023.

During the meeting, Engineer Siror was taken to task on the inclusion of non-fuel related charges in the fuel cost charge, to which he replied that Kenya Power does not set the electricity tariffs, but they work with the tariffs approved and gazetted by EPRA every month.

Musyoka further inquired why Kenya Power cannot come up with one uniform tariff.

“Because you buy power from KENGEN, and KENGEN should be the one to work it out with GDC, why can't you negotiate your tariff with the entity you are buying power from?” asked Musyoka.

“We agree with you on combining into one tariff. We had even requested the regulator that all of it should be combined, but for transparency, they opted for the breakdown,” replied Eng. Siror.

The chair of the committee also said that the committee is working on a report that will pronounce the tariff structure, so that all the grey areas can be streamlined.

On electricity connections, the Committee wanted Kenya Power to explain why 21,231 projects with a total contribution of close to 1 billion shillings per Constituency are yet to commence, with some of the claims dating back as far as 11 years ago.

“The delays in commencement were as a result of a prolonged challenge of material unavailability and the company had experienced numerous procurement related litigations that affected smooth flow of materials,” said

Eng. Siror.

The Kenya Power boss also noted that some customers were affected by the change of government policy on connections and withdrawal of connectivity subsidies in 2013, and such customers were translated into the last-mile connectivity program which has also faced delayed exchequer disbursement.

On whether there is a policy to compensate those who had already paid Kshs. 35,980 for connection, Mr. Kennedy Owino, the Ag. General Manager, Infrastructure Development at Kenya Power confirmed that currently there is no policy that stipulates how the compensation will be carried out, but the customers were engaged in regards to the policy in existence, and information on how they will be connected was also provided.

The committee members also sought answers on varied issues including

losses incurred in Financial Year 2022/23, which was at 23 per cent, with the officials assuring the committee that actions have been taken and workplans aligned for this financial year.

On the delay in metering due to unavailability of meters arising from delayed deliveries due to litigations for successive years, Kenya Power confirmed it has won all the cases against the litigants and delivery of meters commenced in the second quarter of the current financial year, and a rapid metering of paid customers and last mile schemes commenced.

The committee is scheduled to hold further discussions with Kenya Power at a later date, with the electricity generating company expected to provide more details on varied areas pointed out by the committee.

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Storm In DP Backyard As Woman Rep, MP Clash

By: MKT Correspondents

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Even as Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua endeavours to quell political fires across the ruling party's strongholds, another one his backyard has erupted in his home county, Nyeri.

The County Woman Representative Rahab Mukami Wachira has been dragged into a bitter war of words by Mathira Constituency Member of Parliament Eric Wamumbi.

It all started on Monday at the Karatina stadium during a bursary issuance ceremony attended by hundreds of patents, several Members of Parliament and several Members of County Assembly from Murang'a county where his wife Betty Maina is the Women Representative. Only one MCA from Mathira constituency is said to have graced the event.

In an apparent premeditated and well-choreographed scheme, the legislator asked the crowd whether they accepted greetings from Mukami

who was then out of the country on parliamentary business, an issue that was greeted with a deafening roar of; no,no, no.

In a rejoinder, the County MP said that she had indeed not sent Wamumbi with any greetings, dismissing him as a busy body purporting to know everything.

In her response through her Facebook page; Ms Mukami wrote; "Never assume that loud is strong and quiet is weak. Its lion's silence that signals danger and not his roar. Stop inciting people against other leaders, Mr Know it all. Tukutane kwa ground. Hinjio ni maku."

It was worth noting that among the expected guests at the function but who gave it a wide berth included the area constituency NG-CDF chairman Bishop Barnabas who is said not to be Seeing Eye to eye with the legislator.

Leaders who did not wish to be quoted to avoid being seen to antagonise the Deputy President dismissed the former MCA as a lone ranger who purports to own the nation's second in command.

The grapevine has it that he is work-



Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi (left) with other leaders at Karatina stadium on Monday..

ing on plans to have his wife, shift her political base to Nyeri come the next general elections. This plan will see her compete with Mukami if she

decides to defend her seat. The electorate in Mathira constituency has not fully accepted the former Konyu Member of the County

Assembly, arguing that he was not their choice candidate but only imposed on them by Gachagua.

Labour CS Appears Before The Petitions Committee To Answer To Striking Health Workers Concerns

By: PSCU

The Cabinet Secretary for Labour Florence Bore yesterday appeared before National Assembly's Public Petitions Committee to give responses to a Petition brought before Parliament by Dr. Robert Pukose on behalf of Seven Medical Petitioner Unions.

The Medical Practitioners, who appeared before the committee on Tuesday had petitioned Parliament on among other issues; the delay in the posting of medical interns; absorption of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) contract staff; the conclusion of Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA's); and the recognition of agreements within the health Sector.

CS Bore informed the Committee in a session Chaired by Vihiga MP,



The committee during yesterday's session

Hon. Ernest Kagesi, that since the KMPDU issued their strike notice in the year 2022, the government had been actively looking for solutions on the issues they had raised.

She however pointed out that several challenges stood in the way of the

absorption of the health workers, key among them being the strain that the more than 8,000 workers would have on an already stretched exchequer wage bill.

"We have been meeting with all the stakeholders to solve the matter. As

the leadership, we are aware that our people are suffering being unable to access vital medical care. I assure you that we shall find a solution," said Bore.

Ms. Helen Apiyo, the Deputy Labour Commissioner at the Ministry

went on to state that despite the ongoing downing of tools by the health workers, the parties were still on the negotiation table seeking to find a middle ground that would see the workers return to work.

Kuria East MP, Marwa Kitayama asked the CS to assist the committee and Parliament in coming up with a final solution to the problems ailing the health sector.

"It would serve this committee well for the CS to give a comprehensive response on the best way to move forward as a country. It is time that we find a cure to the problems ailing the medical sector," stated Kitayama. He added, "We did not just suddenly wake up and find ourselves in this precarious situation. It is us who educated and employed these young practitioners in the sector. It is therefore upon us to find solutions for the good of our health sector as a country."

Gachagua Assures Coffee Farmers Of Sustained Reforms And Financing

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured coffee farmers of a solution to financial challenges facing them including possible waiver of their debts.

The deputy president said the government will not relent in the ongoing reforms of the agricultural sector, adding that the government is taking more actions to spur the farmers' income in the coffee industry.

The DP's assurance comes one month after a section of leaders from coffee-growing counties called on the government to bail out the growers from debts.

Addressing hundreds of coffee farmers in Maragua, Murang'a county yesterday after commissioning the newly constructed Murang'a Coffee Mills Factory, Mr Gachagua said the Kenya Kwanza administration is on top of the issue.

"Myself and Cabinet Secretaries Prof Njuguna Ndung'u for National Treasury and Simon Chelugui for Cooperatives will address the issue of debts and find a solution," said the Deputy President.

The debts are owed by coffee farmers to financial lenders and buyers.

Mr Gachagua added that the government has defeated the cartels and

unscrupulous brokers that had infiltrated the coffee sub-sector.

"I was instructed by President William Ruto to lead the reforms and we are doing well. We have cornered and defeated the cartels and export earnings have doubled in the last one year," said the Deputy President.

He explained that the aim of the government's interventions in the sub-sector, such as increment of the Cherry Fund from Sh4 billion to Sh6 billion, distribution of subsidised fertiliser and search for more foreign markets, is to boost farmers' earnings and boost the rural economy.

At the event, the DP was accompanied by CS Chelugui, Murang'a Governor Dr Irungu Kang'ata, the host Mp Mary Wamau, deputy governor Mburu Munaini, Senators; John Methu (Nyandarua), Karungo Thang'wa (Kiambu) and Veronica Maina (Nominated) and a host of MPs led by Jubilee Party leader Sabina Chege, Michael Muchira (Ol Jorok MP), Mohammed Ali (Nyalali) and Edward Muriu (Gatanga), MCAs among other leaders.

New KPCU managing director Timothy Mirugi, Acting CEO Nairobi Coffee Exchange Lisper Ndung'u and Murang'a Cooperative Farmers Union Chairman Francis Ngone were also present.

In his remarks, the Deputy President lauded CS Chelugui over his participation in the reforms in the coffee industry and the other crops such as



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders when he commissioned a coffee milling plant in Maragua, Murang'a county yesterday.

avocado and macadamia farming. He described the Cabinet Secretary as a true reformer.

He further commended the Murang'a farmers union over construction of the ultra-modern coffee mill.

The Deputy President said the facility will mitigate and caution the growers from high milling losses, unbiased grading of the beans and coffee traceability.

He said the farmers-owned factory will also enhance production and data management to inform strategic

decisions.

The MPs praised the Deputy President over speedy reforms in the agriculture industry expressing confidence that he will conquer.

"We are grateful for the DP's availability to us, leaders and the people. We thank him for the ongoing reforms in the agriculture sector because 70 per cent of Kenyans live on agricultural land. Tea, coffee, macadamia and avocado farmers are happy because of the government's intervention. My request is because

there is a problem of taxation, we relax taxation on primary agriculture activities.

During campaigns, we told farmers that they will have more money in their pockets so please sustain the reforms," said MP Edward Muriu.

Mr Peter Kihungi, Kangema MP, said members of the National Assembly are supporting the ongoing reforms in the agricultural sector to boost rural economy and small-scale farmers.

EU Donates Vehicles To Enhance Delivery Of Justice

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The European Union in partnership with National Legal Aid Service (NLAS), has donated 12 vehicles to enhance delivery and access to justice across the country.

The EU under the programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Deliver (PLEAD), started in 2020 in response to access to justice.

Speaking during the flagging off, the Attorney General, Justin Muturi, noted that the journey was a critical milestone and acknowledged the EU for their support to Kenya by ensuring members of public's access to social justice.

He said that the Constitution provides a framework to support the

marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Muturi said that the EU has made it possible for various citizens to access public services through donation of vehicle to counties. The counties to benefit are Wajir, Mandera, Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Kisumu, Nairobi, Mombasa, Uasin Gishu and Nakuru Counties.

He said that NLAS is working towards extending their services to all 47 counties.

The AG reiterated that NLAS and the EU's aim is to ensure the marginalized communities access Justice, which will help in the creation of awareness.

The EU Ambassador to Kenya, Henriette Geiger, stated that the EU has invested 70 million euros in the programme, terming it the largest investment by the EU in the justice sector reform in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Impact Your Outside From Within Pt 3



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

This is a secret I want to give you from the Scripture: “When I see limitations in my life, I do not have to fight for myself for people to accept me, but I can cry out to God to change my inside, and then I will surely see the manifestation on the outside.” We see many example of people in the Bible who did this; like Jacob(meaning deceiver) who God transformed in the inside and called him Israel(meaning Blessed).

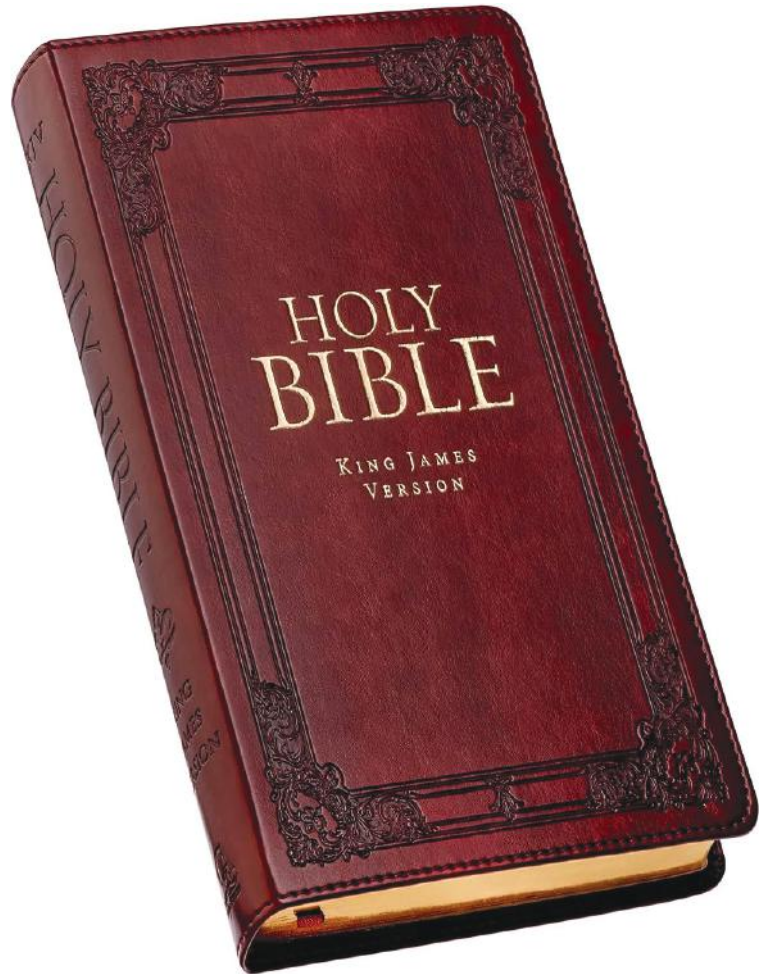
Clearly, the will of God in your life is TRANSFORMATION, that is why the Lord, God says in Isaiah 41: 14-16: “Fear not, you worm Jacob, You men of Israel! I will help you,” says the Lord And your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “Behold, I will make you into A NEW THRESHING

SLEDGE WITH SHARP TEETH; YOU SHALL THRESH THE MOUNTAINS and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, And the whirlwind shall scatter them; You shall rejoice in the Lord, And glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

God says to you: “I know you are weak, feeble, small! but I will transform you. God has not called you because of what you can do! But what HE CAN MAKE you do. When you discover this you know, Ministry is not about struggling on the outside, but struggling on the inside. The extent of how God has transformed you on the inside, is the EXTENT OF IMPACT you will have on people on the outside. Consider Ephesians 3: 20-21 “ Now to HIM WHO IS ABLE to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to THE POWER THAT WORKS IN US, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit:AMEN). As it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.



PRAYER Is So Important



By: Kholturayeva Ugilyov Urol
 @themtkenyatimes

Muslims, connect to Allah, the password is prayer. Prayer is one of the most major tasks of Islam. Allah Almighty has made prayer obligatory for all his servants. Prayer is also a servant’s gratitude for the innumerable blessings given by God. A person’s rate in the eyes of God increases due to prayer. A prayerful person prepares for the afterlife. A special light shines from the face of a person who prays. A person who does not pray with various excuses and postpones it is considered to have disobeyed the command of Allah. This is a big misfortune. One of the biggest mistakes!

Indeed, person was created to be

restless. Whenever evil (poverty or misfortune) befalls him, he becomes impatient. When he reaches brilliant (wealth, health), he is extremely forbidding (stingy). Only those who pray don’t do these habits, they are from here are exceptions. (Maorij, 1923).

Prayer is a veil between people and shirk and disbelief. To leave the prayer is to lift the veil. In many cases, a person who does not pray falls into polytheism and engages in infidelity.

The biggest sign that distinguishes us from the disbelievers is prayer. Therefore, one who abandons prayer is like a disbeliever..

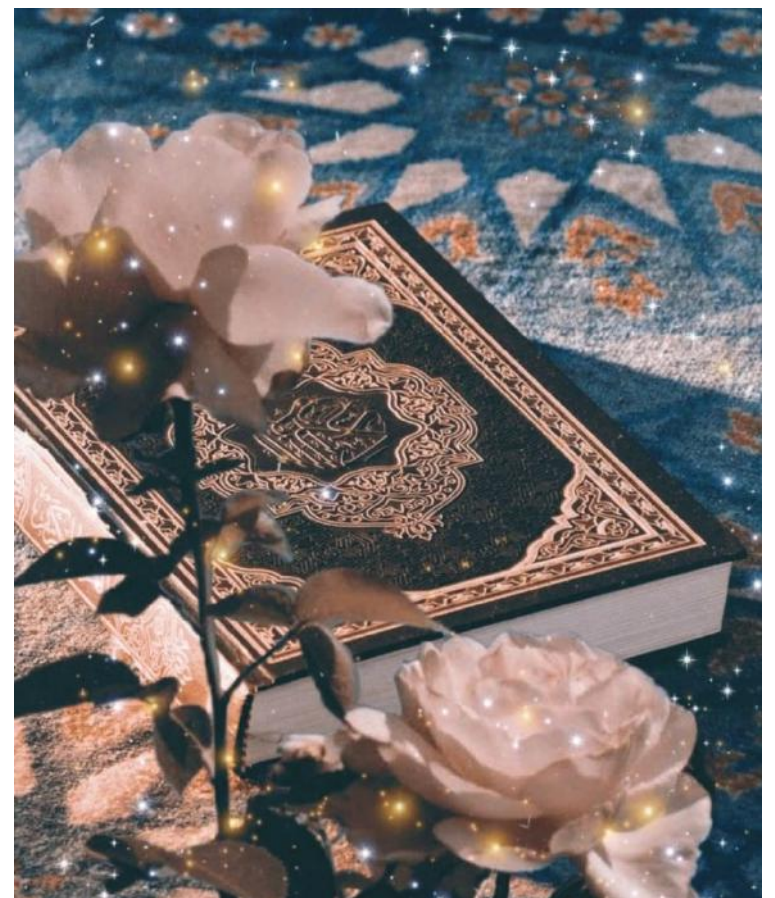
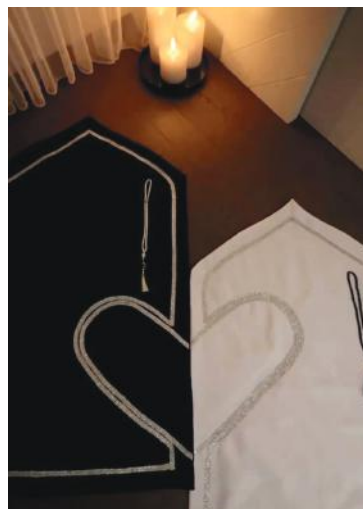
- * Prayer is the key to heaven.
- * Prayer is the pillar of religion.
- * Prayer is the duty of a believer.

On the Day of Resurrection, the prayer will be counted first. If his prayer is correct, he will be saved and win. If his prayer is not correct, he loses. If there are few obligatory prayers, Allah Almighty will say : “Look, does my servant have nafl prayers?” says. Few of his prayers are filled with nafl prayers. The

remaining actions are also calculated in this way. From this, we can understand that prayer is the password for our connection to Allah !

Do not neglect to prayer. Try to pay attention to it on time. After all, you have time for everything, but why don’t you have time to who gave time you ? Spend 25 minutes in prayer every day...

[Kholturayeva Ugilyov daughter of Urol]



Ndindi Nyoro's Presentation At Tom Mboya University Was Powerful, Well Thought Out



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Ndindi Nyoro's Presentation At Tom Mboya University

Worth Noting:

- Noting that Tom Mboya was a youthful cabinet minister, Ndindi Nyoro argued. For now, the youth who are the majority in our country holds the key to political, socio economic transformation.
- The MP attended the public lecture at a time when a story appearing in a weekly newspaper alleged that the Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro is President William Ruto- era political tourist.
- In my view, this story was ill-advised and made in bad faith. I'm persuaded to believe it had been originated and cooked by the well known critics of the MP who felt threatened by his growing popularity across the country.

A few days ago, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro honored an invitation to attend a high-profile public lecture at the Tom Mboya University in Homa bay.

On arrival, he was given a rousing welcome. The Vice Chancellor, members of staff and students were at hand to receive him.

The theme of the lecture was: Retracing the footsteps of Tom Mboya; Youth as the drivers of transformational leadership.

Ndindi Nyoro took his audience by surprise by making a powerful and well-researched presentation.

He understood the history of the late Tom Mboya very well. He was a great leader and the best President Kenya never had.

At independence, he had laid out the foundation of our country. The Sessional Paper No. 10 which he had authored outlined elaborate interventions for political, socio-economic transformation take-off.

As we know then Kenya was in same league with Singapore, Malaysia and North Korea. Kenya was left behind and this was because of bad leadership.

Today we are begging for financial support from these countries.

If then cabinet minister Tom Mboya lived, this could not have been the case. He had a vision of ensuring that the growth of our economy was at par with the three nations.

He was assassinated at a time when he had taken these interventions a notch higher.

Noting that Tom Mboya was a youthful cabinet minister, Ndindi Nyoro argued. For now, the youth who are the majority in our country holds the key to political, socio economic transformation.

The MP attended the public lecture at a time when a story appearing in a weekly newspaper alleged that the Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro is President William Ruto- era political tourist.

In my view, this story was ill-advised

and made in bad faith. I'm persuaded to believe it had been originated and cooked by the well known critics of the MP who felt threatened by his growing popularity across the country. In light of his sterling performance on matters of development and good governance in his Kiharu constituency, Ndindi Nyoro had been cutting the teeth of a national leader. He had lately become a darling of elected national and local leaders in all corners of the country.

They were inviting him to commission and launch various development projects and attend prayers and thanksgiving ceremonies.

The weekly newspaper's story came in the wake of the warm and spectacular reception he was accorded during the prayers organized by the Nairobi Business community.

I was there when he arrived at CBD and I witnessed how he was received.

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

The women who led the chorus burst into ululations. 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.

In other parts of the country, he had received similar receptions. One can therefore understand why his opponents particularly in Mount Kenya region felt threatened.

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.

Hon 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.

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 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 focussed 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 fightback.

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 advise.

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

SMEs Hold Conference On Advancement Of Sustainable Economic Growth

By: Abundance Mutave and Peace Maziga
 @themtkenyentimes

Kenya's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) held the 5th Edition Conference and Expo 2024 in Nairobi with aimed at advancing sustainable economic growth for SMEs through green financing initiatives.

Speaking at the event, Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Simon Chelugui said that the government has recognized the role of SMEs and has set aside their standalone Ministry and Department.

He noted that the Conference provides a platform for the participants to build networks, deliberate on issues affecting the sector and identify options and interventions that can enhance the role in the national bottom-up economic transformation agenda

Chelugui highlighted that financial institutions such as Saccos are critical in providing financial services to MSMEs which are key players in the production of goods, industrialization, innovation and creation of employment that impact directly on the lives of people at the bottom of



Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui.

the economic pyramid
 "Available statistics indicate that MSMEs constitute 98 percent of all businesses in Kenya and create 80 percent of the new jobs annually employing over 15,000,000 Kenyans," stated Chelugui.

He revealed that there are two land-

mark bills on Sacco reform which will bring the Nation Media Group (NMG) and others together and share services, adding that Saccos including Fortune Sacco have been given over Sh 500,000,000 for on-lending to members of MSMEs.

The CS disclosed that several agen-

cies including Nyota have come together to fund MSME's, explaining that their role is to aggregate and bring together all the MSMEs so that they can look at the European market as one.

While appreciating the Nation media group and all sponsors of the

event for bringing MSME's to the core of development discourses to create a conducive environment, Chelugui maintained that everyone has the potential to compete for the market.

"We are working with key development and government agencies to provide sector players like NMG to raise the visibility and profile of MSMEs as key drivers of economic growth, employment creation and better industrialization innovation in our country," he reiterated.

Also speaking at the conference was NMG Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Stephen Gitagama who stated that on uncertain business landscapes, MSMEs have become even more complex since they face many challenges including regulatory burdens.

"Events such as these are important since they provide a platform for MSMEs to thrive and for Green Financing Initiative to truly empower MSMEs, several key challenges must be addressed," stressed Gitagama.

He commended the government for allocating Sh 114 billion towards environmental conservation which promotes accessibility to affordable credit tops by MSMEs.

National Assembly Committee On Agriculture And Livestock Met With KEBS Officials Over Counterfeited Fertilizer

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyentimes

The National Assembly Departmental Committee chaired by Dr. John Mutunga met with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) over the condemned substandard and counterfeited fertilizer being distributed under the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme.

During the meeting, KEBS led by its Managing Director, Ms. Esther Ngari, distanced itself from the fertilizer being distributed under the Fertilizer stating that it did not certify it and is not in the Government Subsidy Program as per the information they have.



Dr John Mutunga (centre) explaining a point during the session

The revelation came after the Standards body was tasked to prove to the committee whether the fertilizer distributed in the program was certified by them or not.

According to Ms. Ngari, the product which KEBS initially certified is different from what has been seized from various National Cereals Produce Board (NCPB) depots in the

country, tested and flagged as unsuitable for sale in the market.

"KEBS certified organic fertilizer (Brand: BL-GPC ORIGINAL) upon fulfilment of the requirements for

application of Product Permit for Organic fertilizer by SBL Innovate Manufactures Limited," the MD disclosed.

However, the MD disclosed that, through routine Market Surveillance activities and public complaints they identified a potential breach of the Certification Contract by SBL- Innovate Manufactures Limited.

The committee heard that the manufacturers had engaged in misuse of the KEBS Standardization Mark on a product that was not certified by KEBS.

The committee is set to meet next with NCPB and the Agriculture Cabinet Secretary who are also expected to shed more light on the condemned fertilizer.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Encourages Young Innovators To Actualize Their Ideas

By: OSDP

Contd from page 1

how the Vena Visio Portable Vein Finder would transform medical procedures, making the process of injection less painful and faster.

“For the old patients, babies and those in a coma, who cannot clench their fists, have weak or deep seated veins, the medical practitioner will be able to easily see the veins with the oxygenated blood using the glasses and there will be no need of guessing and injecting a patient repeatedly looking for a vein,” said Ms Kwara.

She hoped that her innovation would get funding and support and become a reality for the world.

Emmanuel Kelly, Business Management Student, also showcased his idea of developing more durable road signs made from recycled plastics that are imposed on the road surface for increased road safety. He said the road signs would withstand the harsh weather and traffic friction longer than the normal paints used on the roads.

Among the exhibitors also included students from the Oololaiser High School. The Cooperative University during the Career Innovation Week

opens her doors to young learners from high schools to encourage innovation early in life.

Oololaiser presented two prototypes that would transform the world of shopping and also waste management.

Darrin Kasili (Form 3) and Amani Mutuku (Form 4) showcased a computerized supermarket trolley that would enable a customer scan their own shopping, make a payment and receive a receipt on their phone. The innovation would reduce the queues in supermarkets and save on time.

Their computer science teacher, Titus Maina said the students pitched the idea to him in December 2023 and had been working on it under his guidance in coding.

“This innovation is revolutionary, and shall be a game changer in supermarkets,” he said.

The students also had the Smart Waste Bins installed with ultrasonic sensors that alert the relevant waste collection authority when the bins were 50 per cent, and 100 per cent full enhancing timely garbage collection.

Stephen Nyabira, Patron of the Science and Engineering Club at Oololaiser High School said because of the innovation of the students, the school scooped position one during the Rift Valley Regional Science and

Engineering fair.

“The 80 students in the club are very innovative and they had six presentations that made the school the best. They included the solar tracker that follows the direction of the sun, an automated air conditioner, mathematical sciences project enables drawing any angle, shoe polish made from avocado, the smart bins, and the computerized supermarket trolley,” said Mr Nyabira.

The Chairman of the University Council Dr Jeremy Bundi said the innovation week was an opportunity to empower learners to go out there and empower the community of nations. The Vice Chancellor, Prof Kamau Ngamau added that the week would infuse innovation into academics and career development from a young age.

Pastor Dorcas encouraged the students to continue acquiring knowledge and become creative, which would result to self-employment, prosperity of the nation, leading a quality life, and personal career and growth.

“Make learning and innovation your lifestyle. Creativity will improve the quality of your life. And continuous learning will be of tremendous significance in your life. I commend the University for opening its doors and



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi inspects the scouts of the - Cooperative University of Kenya, Karen, Nairobi, where she gave a speech during the opening of the Career Innovation Week that includes students from high schools, colleges and universities on Tuesday. She encouraged the students towards a life of continuous learning, innovation and creativity. Photo/OSDP.

inviting high school students to open up their minds during the Career and Innovation Week,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She also advocated against alcohol, drug, and substance abuse among students, advising them to instead keep

the right company and make the right decisions that would result to a productive life of excellence.

Other projects showcased included online booking systems, and integration of artificial intelligence.

Choose Between Operating Bars And Your job, RC To Security Officers

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themtkenyetimes](#)

North Eastern Regional Commissioner John Otieno has put on notice security officers operating bars and second generation liquor shops as the government steps up the war against illicit brew, drugs and substance abuse in the region.

Otieno was addressing selected security teams from the county to review the progress made in the war at the Garissa government Guest House yesterday as well as security situation in the region in tackling the Al-Shabaab menace.

The Regional Commissioner said that the government has made it clear that it would not entertain security officers engaged in bar business because it amounted to conflict

of interest.

“There is no way a law enforcement officer is going to fight second generation alcohol trade when they are also engaged in the same business. They must choose between being a security officer and a bar owner,” Otieno said.

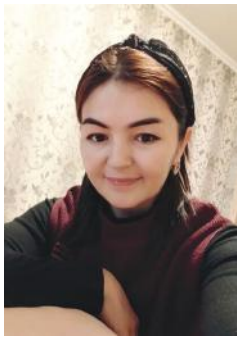
“I want to put on notice the officers who are operating bars that they should choose to do the business or resign because what they are doing amounts to conflict of interest. We are not going to go back on this,” he added.

The Regional Commissioner said that he has the list of the officers owning bars, wine and spirit shops that he would share with the Regional Police Commander Moses Mureithi who is under clear instructions to execute the directive.



North Eastern Regional Commissioner John Otieno (left)

How I Work...?



"How I work on my professional development as a teacher of English and as a user of English language?"

Improving the professional development as a teacher of English and as a user of English language are closely related. Below I will outline some basic reasons to support my opinions. How we can develop our experience during teaching and learning?

First of all, I believe that teachers should know fundamental knowledge, confidence-building, attract pupil during the lesson, fluently and coherence in the speech. I strongly support my idea that, the more you develop your teaching ability, the more confident you will become in your teaching.

In the same way, the more confident you become in your teaching skills, the better prepared understanding of learning and teaching. As for me, when I am preparing for my lesson I think about how to attract pupils for the lesson during using audio and video recordings, flowcharts, pictures, reading handouts, texts and listening tasks, cards and tests. Of course, every teacher should know how to evaluate

pupils. Because of they have an ability to know the pupil's world from their eyes and how to encourage them in a bad position.

Seconds of all, how teachers can develop their skills as learners? They can invite colleagues to sit while they teach and ask them for feedback after the lesson, observing other teachers can be very enlightening. I help teachers to compare different teaching styles, practices and become more aware of what kind of teachers they are. Teachers can benefit from whatever evaluation system is implemented at their workplace if they regard it for leading to professional developments.

To sum up, I think teachers must plan their lessons regularly, obtain a teaching certificate, diploma or degree, respect colleagues and students. That evaluation of teachers by their students will bring many benefits and allow students as well as teachers to gain more knowledge experience.

Makhmudova Dilrabo Turgunpulatovna was born on 16th October in 1988. Currently, she lives in Chortoq district, Namangan region of the Republic Uzbekistan. She studied in NamDU University from 2006 to 2010. She has been teaching English language for 14 years. During her activity, her articles were published in "Murabbiy" and "Ma'rifat" newspapers, and also published in magazine called "Maktab va hayot". She loves her profession so much. She is married, nowadays, she has got two sons and a daughter. She spends her time with her children's a lot.

Poet-Parizod Shonazarova



Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's daughter from Uzbekistan. She was born on December 22, 2005 in Khorezm region, Khanka district. Parizod started writing poems from a young age. Presently, she is a 11th grade student of

school 41 in Khanka district. Until now, her many poems have been published on international newspapers in Germany and Kenya.

For example, Parizod's poems are published every day on newspaper of our country - "MT KENYA TIMES". Personally, I love reading her poems, because they are easy to read and easy to understand and also they are very different from the poems of other writers.

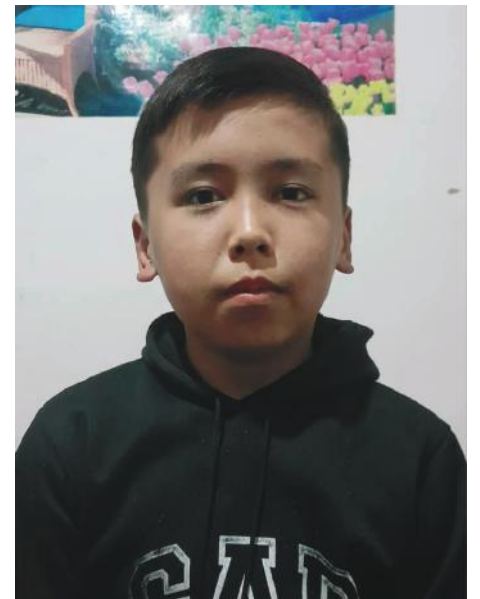
In Parizod's poems, the themes of mother and motherland-Uzbekistan dominate. I wish success to Parizod's work. Good luck!

My Teachers

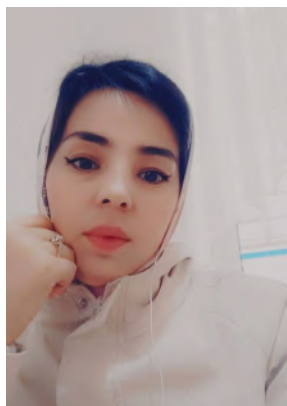
I have many teachers,
They are very kind.
With holding our hands
They taught us to write.

Thanks, because of them
We have reached this level.
One of us write a poem,
We love all science.

Kholturayev Dilmurod son of Urol was born on 11th March, 2011 in Surkhondaryo region of the Republic Uzbekistan. Currently, he is a pupil at 15th school in Oltinsoy district which is located in Surkhondaryo.



My Wealth Is My Dad



Stay in the net of our house, spreading light.

Dad, we asked you a lot.
You gave everything for our happiness.
without asking us anything in return,
You are ready for anything for children.

Niyazova Dilnoza daughter of Turgunpulat was born on October 22, 1991 in Chortoq district of Namangan province of the Republic Uzbekistan in a family of intellectuals. In 2014, she graduated from NamDU at the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Many of her poems were published while she was studying at a boarding school. She has been teaching for 5 years at school. In 2023, she studied at the Republican Pedagogical Psychology Diagnostic Center. Currently, she is working as a guidance psychologist of the 20th secondary school of Fergana city. She loves her profession so much.

Dad, we asked a lot from you.
You gave everything for our happiness.
Without asking us for anything in return,
You prayed all your life.

You have said to live honestly,
Gave cheers for a lifetime.
We reached the great days together,
Don't have dreams, let them come true.

You taught me how to be honest.
You agreed what I say?
God, live like a maple tree.

Mom, Forgive Me



Beloved, I pray
My angel with bright faces
Mother is kind
I couldn't find a breed in my life
My mother is beautiful
I couldn't find it in my life

Mom, your love is so hot
Sometimes I say I'm worth it
To an angel woman like you
Am I worthy, mother!
What did I do as a child?
I hurt your heart without knowing
To your heart as white as mother snow
Sorry if I offended you
Mother...
Forgive me!

Author:

Tashkent International University of Chemistry
Daughter of Akmalova Zebokhon Akobirkhan, student of the 1st stage of primary education

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BUSINESS

Heifer Africa's Report Unveils The Impact Of Innovation And Catalytic Financing

By: Cynthia Masibo and
Wendy Keziah

@themtkenyatimes



Heifer Africa's new report unveils groundbreaking findings, highlighting the role of technology in driving agricultural transformation..

Worth Noting:

- Central to Heifer Africa's approach is the integration of innovative technologies and practices into the agricultural sector. By harnessing the power of digitalization, precision farming, and climate-smart agriculture, youth are equipped with the tools and knowledge to harness the full potential of agriculture as a viable livelihood option.

- From remote sensing and drones for land mapping to mobile applications for market access and financial management, these innovations are revolutionizing farming practices, making them more efficient, productive, and resilient to climate variability.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and evolving economic landscapes, addressing the pressing issues of youth unemployment and poverty among smallholder farmers in Africa requires innovative solutions and strategic investments. Recognizing this imperative, Heifer International Africa has released a comprehensive report titled "Cultivating Futures: Innovations for Youth Employment and Smallholder Prosperity." This groundbreaking report delves into the transformative effects of innovation and catalytic financing on empowering youth and enhancing the income of Africa's smallholder farmers.

Africa's youth population is burgeoning, with millions entering the job market annually. However, traditional employment avenues often fail to absorb this influx, resulting in staggering rates of youth unemployment across the continent. Concurrently, smallholder farmers, who form the backbone of Africa's agricultural sector, grapple with persistent poverty and limited access to markets and resources. Against this backdrop, Heifer

Africa's report offers a glimmer of hope, demonstrating how strategic interventions can catalyze positive change and drive sustainable development.

Central to Heifer Africa's approach is the integration of innovative technologies and practices into the agricultural sector. By harnessing the power of digitalization, precision farming, and climate-smart agriculture, youth are equipped with the tools and knowledge to harness the full potential of agriculture as a viable livelihood option. From remote sensing and drones for land mapping to mobile applications for market access and financial management, these innovations are revolutionizing farming practices, making them more efficient, productive, and resilient to climate variability.

Moreover, Heifer Africa's emphasis on catalytic financing plays a pivotal role in unlocking the entrepreneurial potential of young Africans and smallholder farmers. Through strategic partnerships with financial institutions, impact investors, and development agencies, Heifer Africa

facilitates access to tailored financial products and services, including credit, grants, and technical assistance. This access to finance not only bridges the funding gap but also enables aspiring entrepreneurs to overcome barriers to entry, scale up their enterprises, and create sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their communities.

The report showcases numerous success stories from across Africa, illustrating the tangible impact of Heifer Africa's interventions. In Tanzania, for example, a group of young agripreneurs leveraged mobile-based extension services and market linkages to transform their small-scale poultry farming operation into a thriving business. Similarly, in Nigeria, innovative approaches such as aquaponics and vertical farming have empowered youth to cultivate high-value crops in urban settings, thereby diversifying income streams and reducing reliance on traditional farming practices.

Furthermore, Heifer Africa's commitment to gender equality and social inclusion is evident throughout its initiatives. By prioritizing the partic-

ipation and leadership of women and marginalized groups, Heifer Africa ensures that the benefits of its programs are equitably distributed across communities. Through targeted capacity building, access to resources, and advocacy for women's rights, Heifer Africa is not only empowering women as agents of change but also fostering more inclusive and resilient rural economies.

As Africa navigates the complex challenges of economic development and food security, Heifer Africa's report serves as a beacon of inspiration and a roadmap for action. By harnessing the power of innovation, catalytic financing, and inclusive partnerships, Heifer Africa is not only transforming individual lives but also catalyzing broader socio-economic transformation across the continent. As stakeholders unite to support youth entrepreneurship and smallholder agriculture, the vision of a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Africa is within reach.



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UNVEILING THE ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE: The Phenomenon Of High Purchase Power In The Mt. Kenya Community



By: Erick Kamau Kahura
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Embedded within the fabric of daily life in the Mt. Kenya community are ancient spiritual practices and beliefs that infuse every aspect of economic activity with meaning and purpose.
- The rich cultural heritage of the Mt. Kenya community serves as a powerful catalyst for economic empowerment, providing a strong foundation upon which to build sustainable businesses and enterprises.
- Situated at the crossroads of regional trade routes and endowed with robust infrastructure, the Mt. Kenya community enjoys unparalleled access to markets and economic opportunities.



In the heart of Kenya, amidst the verdant valleys and towering peaks of Mount Kenya, lies a community whose economic prowess is as awe-inspiring as the spiritual reverence it holds for its ancestral lands. The Mt. Kenya community, comprised of vibrant ethnic groups such as the Kikuyu, Embu, and Meru, stands out for its remarkable purchasing power—a testament to the harmonious blend of spiritual heritage and economic dynamism that defines its members. In this exploration, we delve into the multifaceted factors that underpin the Mt. Kenya community's economic strength, intertwining with its deeply-rooted spiritual ethos.

Entrepreneurial Drive and Innovation:

At the heart of the Mt. Kenya community's economic success lies a deep-seated entrepreneurial drive, driven by a strong sense of self-reliance and determination. From bustling marketplaces to thriving agricultural enterprises, community members are continuously innovating and adapting to meet the demands of a dynamic economy. Whether it's through the cultivation of high-value crops or the creation of innovative small businesses, entrepreneurship

flourishes within the community, creating opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Spiritual Foundations and Prosperity:

Embedded within the fabric of daily life in the Mt. Kenya community are ancient spiritual practices and beliefs that infuse every aspect of economic activity with meaning and purpose. The community's spiritual connection to the land and its surroundings instills a deep sense of stewardship and responsibility, guiding economic decisions and shaping the way resources are utilized. Whether it's through rituals honoring the seasons or ceremonies celebrating abundance, spirituality serves as a driving force behind the community's economic success, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and harmony with the natural world.

Cultural Identity and Economic Empowerment:

The rich cultural heritage of the Mt. Kenya community serves as a powerful catalyst for economic empowerment, providing a strong foundation upon which to build sustainable businesses and enterprises. Traditional practices and customs, passed down through generations, shape the com-

munity's approach to commerce and trade, fostering a sense of continuity and belonging. Cultural festivals and celebrations not only promote social cohesion but also attract visitors and tourists, stimulating economic growth and creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs to showcase their goods and services.

Access to Markets and Infrastructure:

Situated at the crossroads of regional trade routes and endowed with robust infrastructure, the Mt. Kenya community enjoys unparalleled access to markets and economic opportunities. Modern transportation networks, including roads, railways, and airports, facilitate the movement of goods and services, connecting local producers with national and international markets. This access to markets enables community members to expand their businesses, reach new customers, and diversify their sources of income, driving economic growth and prosperity.

Education and Knowledge-Based Economy:

Education is celebrated as a cornerstone of economic success within the Mt. Kenya community, with a strong emphasis on acquiring knowledge

and skills. Investments in education and vocational training programs equip community members with the tools they need to thrive in today's knowledge-based economy, fostering innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. By nurturing a skilled workforce and fostering a culture of lifelong learning, the community ensures its continued economic vitality and resilience in the face of changing market dynamics.

Looking to the Future:

As the sun rises over the slopes of Mount Kenya, the future of the Mt. Kenya community shines bright with promise and potential. With a strong entrepreneurial spirit, deep spiritual connection, and rich cultural heritage as their guiding lights, community members are poised to continue their journey towards economic prosperity and sustainable development. By harnessing the power of entrepreneurship, spirituality, and cultural identity, the Mt. Kenya community paves the way for a future where economic success is intertwined with social harmony, environmental stewardship, and spiritual fulfillment.

Erick Kamau Kahura, Native Son of Mt. Kenya



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Embrace Proper Disposal Wastage Around University Hostels

The increase in number of students perusing to join university has paved the ways for increase in hostels around the universities to accommodate them. This has reduced the amount of space that is required to accommodate both composite pits and hostels.

The disposal of wastes is harming the environment as majority of landlords are dumping their wastes alongside the roads and dormant fields around.

During rainy days, the floods sweeps away all the wastes to the water sources such as rivers, dams,

bore holes and some spreading to the riverbanks.

People to water as well animals and if not treated well, this could led to infections of diseases such as typhoid, Bilharsia and cholera.

All the hostel landlords should dig composite pits so that all the wastes

should be disposed well.

Let us embrace proper disposal of wastes.

Telewa Job.

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

news@moutkenytimes.co.ke

Analysis of Alcohol and its Impact on Individuals and Society

By: **Daniel Pepela**

Alcohol has been an integral part of human culture for centuries, serving as a social lubricant, a component of religious ceremonies, and a symbol of celebration. However, alongside its cultural significance, alcohol consumption also comes with a range of potential risks and consequences, particularly when consumed in excess.

At its core, alcohol is a central component of social interaction and cultural expression in many societies. From toasting at celebrations to religious ceremonies, its presence often signifies camaraderie and festivity. However, the social aspects of alcohol consumption can also contribute to its misuse, as societal norms and

peer pressure may encourage excessive drinking in certain contexts.

While moderate alcohol consumption is generally considered safe for most people and may even have health benefits, such as reducing the risk of heart disease, excessive drinking can have serious health implications. Chronic alcohol abuse can lead to liver damage, cardiovascular issues and an increased risk of certain cancers. Additionally, alcohol misuse is a significant factor in accidents, injuries and violence both within the home and in public settings.

The impact of alcohol misuse extends beyond the individual, affecting families and communities. Alcohol-related harm can manifest in various forms, including domestic

violence, child neglect and social issues. In many societies, alcohol-related harm is a significant public health concern, prompting efforts to address the underlying causes and mitigate its effects.

To address these challenges, education and awareness are crucial. By understanding the risks associated with alcohol consumption and promoting responsible drinking practices, individuals can make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption. Additionally, policies and regulations can help mitigate the harms associated with alcohol misuse, including restricting alcohol advertising, raising the legal drinking age, and increasing taxes on alcohol.

Support services are also essential for individuals struggling with al-

cohol misuse. Counseling, support groups, and treatment programs can help individuals address their alcohol-related issues and make positive changes in their lives.

Alcohol is a complex and multifaceted substance that plays a significant role in our society. While it can bring people together and enhance social interactions, it also carries risks that must be carefully managed. By promoting responsible drinking practices, raising awareness about the potential harms of alcohol misuse, and providing support for those in need, we can work towards creating a safer and healthier society for all.

A Chronicle Of Daily Tragedy

By **Watoka Dennis**

In the African continent, there's a country in the part of the East named Kenya. A beautiful country which has roads that stretches like ribbons across the countryside. People travel through these roads every day, going to work, visiting friends, and exploring new places. But something isn't right now. Currently, almost on daily basis, these roads have become the scene of sadness and tragedy. It's not a happy story, but it's one we need to talk about. It's the story of

road accidents.

Currently, road accident is making headlines on Newspapers, Broadcasting media houses and even digital platforms. A day never ends without hearing about it. It's like a sad song that plays over and over again. People get hurt, cars get broken, and families cry. It's not a happy story, but it's an important one to tell.

Imagine this: a busy street in Nairobi, cars honking, people rushing, and suddenly, screech! Crash! Two cars collide, and everything stops. It's scary and confusing, and no one

knows what to do. It is what is happening now in our country.

Why do these accidents keep happening? Some say it's because people drive too fast or don't pay attention. Others say the roads are not safe enough, with potholes and broken signs. Maybe it's a little bit of everything.

But here's the thing: behind every accident, there's a person. Someone's mother, father, brother, or sister. Someone with dreams and hopes for the future. When they get hurt or worse, it's like a piece of Kenya's

heart breaks.

Road safety is not a duty of one person but rather for all of us collectively. It is not a duty of the driver or government alone but also for citizens. If you're are a passenger in the vehicle being driven beyond the speed limit, why don't you speak up. We know sometimes our drivers can be rude but you have the power and duty to remind the driver the s/he is over speeding. Better drive slowly and reach the destination safely.

Therefore, we all need to be careful. When we're on the road, we

need to slow down, pay attention, and look out for each other. Because in the end, we're all on this journey together, and we need to make sure it's a safe one.

So let's hold hands and take one step at a time. Let's turn the sad song of road accidents into a happy tune of safety and smiles. Together, we can make Kenya's roads a better place for everyone.

KEPSA Drives The Engagement Of Coastal Businesses In Skills Training And Employment Creation For The Youth

By: Gracemary Muchiri
@themtkenyatimes



The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), in partnership with Ministry of Education, State Department of TVET, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, yesterday hosted over 100 businesses from the Coast region to discuss how they can partner in equipping the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) students around the region with industry-led skills and competencies, through the ongoing Program dubbed, “Dual TVET Program.” The Program targets over 1000 students annually from the region, including Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Mombasa counties. It seeks to revolutionize skills development and enhance youth employability by bridging the gap between education and industry. It seeks to equip over 6,000 Kenyan youth countrywide by 2027, with over 40% participation from women and 1% persons with disabilities, with skills to enhance employability and contribute to Kenya’s economic growth.

“The Dual TVET Training Program is not just about imparting knowledge or honing technical skills; it is about nurturing talent, fostering creativity, and unleashing the full potential of every individual. By providing students with dual training opportunities that seamlessly integrate classroom learning with real-world experience, we are not only equipping them with the practical skills and competencies they need to thrive in today’s dynamic and ever-evolving job market but also instilling in them a sense of confidence, resilience, and adaptability that will serve them well throughout their lives” said Dr. Esther Muoria, the Principal Secretary State Department of TVET in a speech read by Joseph Njau, Director of Vocational and Technical Education.

Towards this, Kenya has been investing heavily in reforming the TVET sub-sector. The government

has committed over 29 billion shillings to this effort within two years to increase enrolment from

180,000 students to one million. In collaboration with other stakeholders, the government is working to align TVET programs with national goals and market needs, expand available TVET opportunities, and make them more accessible. With these initiatives, Kenya is on the path towards achieving its Vision 2030 goals and becoming a prosperous and competitive nation.

Carole Kariuki, KEPSA CEO, in her speech read by Priscilla Kerebi, Vice Chair of KEPSA’s Education Sector Board (TVET), reiterated KEPSA’s steadfast dedication to supporting the Dual TVET Training Program and championing the cause of youth empowerment. With unwavering resolve, she emphasized the indispensable role of private-public partnerships in driving progress in the TVET sector. She added that beyond the immediate outcomes, the program’s impact will be felt across communities, as employed individuals contribute to household incomes and economic growth. This ripple effect underscores the importance of sustainable interventions in driving long-term prosperity.

Through the Program, trainees will gain practical skills through industry training and mentorship to complement the skills offered by TVET institutions. Additionally, it will help match businesses with the right skill set and improve employee productivity and retention rates. With a commitment to bridging the gap between education and industry, the Program will ensure that TVET curricula align seamlessly with the dynamic needs of industries. This will eventually lead to increased employment prospects for TVET graduates.

The benefits of the Dual TVET Training Program are manifold. From reducing business retraining costs to fostering a culture of excel-

lence among the youth workforce, this initiative promises to unlock boundless potential for innovation and growth. Moreover, by aligning training curricula with industry needs, we ensure that our graduates are well-prepared to meet the evolving demands of the job market, thereby driving productivity and competitiveness.

“Our focus spans the country, including the coastal region, and we collaborate with the private sector and technical education centers. Through this transformative initiative, we aim to bridge the gap between academia and industry, combatting the issue of half-baked graduates. We aim to put the youth as partners in development and not beneficiaries as they have capacity to solve complex challenges businesses are experiencing today through their creativity, global exposure and technological savvy” said Dr. Ehud Gachugu, Global Director of Youth and Jobs at KEPSA, during a panel session at the launch, discussing unlocking potential, innovative approaches to skills development & investing in tomorrow’s workforce. He further explained that the leading cause of youth unemployment is the deficiency in employability skills among young individuals, as highlighted by the lower unemployment rate of 12.5% for those with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) education. These findings align with employers’ assertions of a significant skills mismatch compared to available job opportunities. Consequently, investing in TVET training emerges as a promising and effective strategy for bolstering youth employability and mitigating unemployment.

Through the Program, TVETs will manage to release market-ready trainees who match the labour market requirements. The learners will be equipped with the competencies needed to excel academically and navigate the complexities of the 21st century and fit global labour markets. Major courses to be covered in the coastal region through the Program include Food and Beverage, Electrical Installation, Welding and Fabrication, Marine Welding and Fabrication, Automotive Engineering and Technology, and Housekeeping and Accommodation, among others.

Mr. Mohamed Merali, Director of Lifting Equipment Company Limited (LECOL) in Mombasa, indicated that the half-school-half industry strategy is very effective for them as

a business since it helps them get up to standard resources. He reiterated that any organization is as good as its human resources, hence the importance of such initiatives that help prepare the talents way in advance.

Samuel Kariuki, a trainee through Associated Vehicle Assemblers (AVA) and a beneficiary of the Dual TVET Program, explained to the participants that his appreciation of the Program as it has offered him a chance to learn practically the issues regarding vehicle assembling and allowed him to improve his problem-solving skills which he feels can apply at any automotive industry. Samuel explained that in addition to improving his chances for employability, this has also made him consider entrepreneurship, as he can comfortably start up a vehicle servicing point with the skills

This Program is yet another effort by KEPSA in expanding its youth employment operations in the region having successfully implement the youth internship program, the Ajira Digital Project, Sustainable Inclusive Business, the MSME development program among other policy advocacy initiatives targeting business environment.

The Dual Training also serves as a platform for stakeholders to unite, exchange ideas, and forge alliances towards a common goal; empowering Kenyan youth through quality vocational training and industry-relevant skills development.

This Program has been made possible through joint financing from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), represents a seismic shift in approaching talent acquisition and development by bridging the gap between academia and industry. It is about reimagining traditional onboarding processes, transforming classrooms into crucibles of innovation, and equipping our trainees with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of the modern workforce. Hence, this Program is a call to all businesses and stakeholders to jointly come together and support the development of talents as they also future proof productivity and efficiency of these businesses.

Worth Noting:

- 180,000 students to one million. In collaboration with other stakeholders, the government is working to align TVET programs with national goals and market needs, expand available TVET opportunities, and make them more accessible. With these initiatives, Kenya is on the path towards achieving its Vision 2030 goals and becoming a prosperous and competitive nation.

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Call For Churches To Engage In Rehabilitation And Rescue Of Addicts

By: OSDP

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has called on churches to engage in the rehabilitation of those lost in alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse.

Pastor Dorcas said this during the meeting of 300 clergy at the Full Gospel Church of Kenya in Kitale, which marked her first meeting in TransNzoia County.

She gave the clergy the example of PEFA Church in Donholm that opened her doors to those in addictions, and 400 transformed their lives, and are now alcohol and drug free and also trained in technical skills.

The church, led by Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba was among the first churches to engage in church community-based rehabilitation when Pastor Dorcas started calling on faith-based organisations to open up their places of worship for the vulnerable.

“If the 300 gathered here could rehabilitate 10 each, we shall have rehabilitated 3,000. The future church is in the gutter, drug dens and muguka shades. Let us fish them out from there,” she said.

The foundation of the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) is ‘Chaplaincy, Outreach and Family Values’ where she closely works with clergy from across denominations – Christian, Muslim and Hindu.

Kenya has more than 10,000 churches, mosques and temples.

Pastor Dorcas believes that these faith-based organisations would open their doors, and reach out to those in addiction and vulnerable, a generation would be saved.

Present were TransNzoia Senator Allan Chesang, Woman Representative Lillian Siyoi, PEFA Church Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba among others.

Pastor Dorcas shared the vision of her office of A Dignified Future for Vulnerable Populations that includes boy child, widows and orphans, and people with disabilities (PWDs).



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi receives a certificate of recognition for her work in the nation from the Full Gospel Church of Kenya in Kitale Town Bishop Josphat Kigotho and his wife Beatrice Wambui yesterday. Pastor Dorcas held her first meeting in TransNzoia County at the church where she challenged the church to open her doors to assist the vulnerable and those in addictions. Photo/OSDP.

During her three days working stay in TransNzoia she will have different programs reaching out to the different groups of people across the

County, that include a medical camp, meetings with widows and those with disability.

Senator Chesang, County MP Si-

yoi and Representative of Governor George Ntembeya Truphosa Wamere welcomed the spouse of the DP to the county.

Connected Africa Summit 2024 Extends Call For Innovation

By: Michael Omondi

@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Information, Communications & the Digital Economy through the ICT Authority has extended the call for submissions to the Connected Africa Summit 2024 Innovation Awards from tomorrow to Thursday next week.

The extension will allow more innovators across Africa to submit their technology-led solutions ahead of the Inaugural Connected Africa Summit 2024, which will take place from the 21st to the 25th of April 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The ICT Authority is accepting submissions in the following sectors: Health, Trade and E-commerce, Smart Cities and Mobilities, Education, Agriculture, Climate Change, Green Technology and Creative industry. These solutions should, at most, be AI-driven.

Submissions are being done via: <https://forms.gle/gBJ1vJCGahW6B-Cx48>

Over the years, the Connected Summit Innovation Awards have recognized various Innovative ICT products and solutions that are solving problems in society.

Themed ‘Shaping the Future of a Connected Africa: Unlocking Growth Beyond Connectivity’, this year’s Summit will focus on Africa’s ICT priorities guided by the African Union’s (AU) Agenda 2063.

The Forum is expected to bring together African Heads of State and Government, First Ladies, African Ministers in charge of ICT, e-commerce and the Digital Economy, policymakers, ICT thought leaders and Captains of Industry, Global ICT firms, Entrepreneurs, Investors and Innovators.

Over 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the summit that is set to reshape Africa’s ICT sector through policy formulation, investment, and



Some of the stakeholders during the meeting.

innovation.

The high-level conversations are expected to propose solutions to the ICT challenges facing Africa such as the need to bridge the digital divide,

identifying new ICT investment opportunities as well as the dream for a paperless Government.

The Summit will act as a platform where African leaders can position the African tech agenda in readiness

for the UN Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024 and determine their role in green technology and governance of generative AI for African realities.

NCBA Group And Proparco Join Forces To Facilitate Green Financing And Women Economic Empowerment In Kenya In Line With Their Sustainability Commitments

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

NCBA Group, yesterday signed a USD 50million facility with Proparco, a subsidiary of the AFD Group focused on private sector development. The funding will go towards delivering NCBA's "Change The Story" sustainability agenda.

NCBA has a long-standing relationship with AFD Group and continues to evolve its commitment to sustainability. Last year, the group launched its Change The Story platform anchored on five strategic pillars and a set of fifteen bold commitments. Among these commitments relevant in the partnership includes mobilizing KES 30 billion of Green & Sustainable Financing, steering at least 30% of the general services procurement spend to women and youth plus promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Additionally, NCBA launched an ambitious investment plan to extend its presence in Kenya, to better serve its SME and corporate clients while reducing inequality through financial inclusion. Through the deal with Proparco, NCBA Group will enhance sectoral investments in agriculture and manufacturing as well as join the 2X Challenge, an initiative promoting women in entrepreneurship and SMEs.

The 2X Challenge is an initiative launched by international financial institutions in 2018 to advance opportunities for women and increase financing towards gender-equality. The project is expected to finance more than 1,600 MSMEs and SMEs, in the context of the Choose Africa initiative, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group program that aims to support African entrepreneurs. It will contribute to SDG 5 "Gender Equality", SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth", SDG 13 "Climate Action".

"We are grateful to Proparco for

coming on board and enabling us to meet our Sustainability commitments. As NCBA, collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships are integral to the value that we deliver to all our stakeholders. I believe that with this partnership, we will deepen our shared goals to fostering sustainable economic development and advancing the cause of green finance, women empowerment, and SME growth" said John Gachora, the Group Managing Director, NCBA.

In line with its 2023-2027 Strategy, Proparco is collaborating with NCBA to walk the journey of implementing its sustainability strategy in the country, especially towards green financing, women-led businesses, and SMEs.

"NCBA Group endorses the same goals and values as Proparco. The positive role they play to tackle climate change through green projects, as well as social inequalities, resonates with our 2023-2027 Strategy. We are certain that this collaboration will enhance financial inclusion in



NCBA Group and Proparco join forces to facilitate green financing and women economic empowerment in Kenya.

Kenya, especially for women entrepreneurs, as the project has qualified for the 2X Challenge," Emmanuel Haye, Head of Financial Institutions

Africa at Proparco.

Today's Guidance

By: Dipa Sharma

Note:-Greetings, I am a professional intuitive tarot card reader. My readings are based on both the cards and my intuition. It is a general and collective reading. Please take what resonate and leave the rest. If you have come across this reading this means there is some message for you.

Where should you focus your energies today?

Today you should use your wits for diplomacy and not to use aggression. However, you prefer to use your mind and intellect rather than force or via obvious means. Today, prioritize tackling these issues head-on. Keep a keen eye on any suspicious activity at work, and take steps to protect yourself from theft or deception. In your relationships, address any concerns about cheating or dishonesty openly and directly. Don't let anyone manip-

ulate or take advantage of you. Stay focused and proactive.

What should you do to accomplish this task?

To accomplish this task, approach with confidence and a willingness to step out of your comfort zone. Don't be afraid to take calculated risks along the way. Being outgoing and active can help you seize opportunities and make meaningful connections that can aid in completing the task successfully. Trust your intuition and make decisions with a clear and focused mind. This clarity will enable you to navigate any challenges that may arise with more ease.

Additionally, be open to new ideas and perspectives, as they may provide valuable insights or alternative approaches to achieving your goal. Look out for chances to share your ideas openly. Put in the effort, and you'll likely see good outcomes in your work.

What challenge you may face today?

You might encounter the challenge of requiring strategic thinking, intellectual agility, and the courage to make tough decisions decisively. Your approach may lean towards logical reasoning rather than emotional instincts, emphasizing the need to prioritize rationality and assertiveness in your actions.

How can you overcome these challenges?

To tackle these hurdles, it's important to adopt an approach that blends compassion, practicality, and groundedness. When interacting with others and navigating your current situation, strive to maintain a mindset that is both nurturing and realistic. Emphasize the creation of a serene and harmonious life for yourself, prioritizing strategies that promote equilibrium. Remain resourceful and pragmatic,

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How will be your day today:-



addressing challenges as they emerge with simple and effective solutions, aiming to resolve them efficiently and without unnecessary complication.

Message from Lord Krishna

Cease the struggle to make things unfold according to your will. Instead, allow yourself to settle into a state of peace and calmness. In this tranquil space, you'll begin to notice the new pathways I, Lord Krishna,

am revealing to you.

Imagine yourself surrounded by the beauty of a flourishing garden, filled with vibrant flowers. Feel my infinite blessings gently showering upon you like fragrant petals. Open your heart wide to receive these blessings fully.

Sense the enlightenment that washes over you as you surrender completely to my divine presence and guidance. Trust in my plan for you, and embrace the journey ahead with faith and devotion.

Echoes Of Triumph: An Inspiration Story Of Collins Simiyu

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

In the heart of Kenya, amidst the sprawling landscapes and vibrant communities, a young boy named Collins Simiyu (writer) embarked on a journey that would defy the odds and inspire generations to come. My story is one of resilience, perseverance, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence.

Growing up in a modest village, I learned the value of hard work and determination from an early age. With limited resources and myriad challenges, I understood that education was my ticket to a brighter future. Despite the obstacles that lay ahead, I approached each day with a sense of purpose, determined to carve out my own path in life.

As I navigated the trials and tribulations of my youth, I encountered setbacks that would have discouraged a lesser soul. Yet, I refused to be defined by my circumstances, choosing instead to channel my energy into

my studies and dreams. With each passing day, my resolutions grew stronger, fueling my determination to succeed against all odds.

But it was not just my academic pursuits that set me apart; it was my unwavering belief in the power of community and the importance of giving back. Even as I strove to excel in my own endeavors, I remained deeply rooted in my village, always eager to lend a helping hand to those in need.

As my journey unfolded, I encountered challenges that tested my resolutions and pushed me to the brink of despair. Yet, with the support of my family and the unwavering belief in my own potential, I refused to give up. Through sheer perseverance and unyielding determination, I overcame every obstacle that stood in my way, emerging stronger and more resilient with each victory.

In time, my efforts bore fruit, leading me to opportunities that once seemed unimaginable. With Stellar results in hand, I embarked on a journey that would take me far from home, to distant lands and unfamiliar cultures; Rongo university. Yet, no matter where life took home, I remained



Collins simiyu at Rongo university .

grounded in the values that had shaped me, always mindful of the lessons I had learned along the way.

Today, I stand as a testament to the power of resilience and the transformative potential of education. My journey serves as a beacon of hope for countless others who dare

to dream of a better future. Through my unwavering determination and unyielding spirit, I have not only changed my own life but has also touched the lives of all who have had the privilege of knowing me.

As I reflect on my remarkable life, I am reminded of the words of Nelson

Mandela, who once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” In my story, we find echoes of that truth – a testament to the power of one individual to make a difference, to inspire change, and to leave an indelible mark on the world.

Old Mutual In Partnership With Cerba Lancet Kenya Has Launched HPV Self-Collection Kit To Enhance Cervical Cancer Screening In Kenya

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Old Mutual Health a health insurance arm of financial services provider Old Mutual Group in conjunction with Cerba Lancet Kenya a healthcare diagnostics company introduced a self-collection HPV DNA kit aimed at boosting cervical cancer screening rates in Kenya.

Cervical cancer has been the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Kenyan women primarily caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is sexually transmitted.

Statistics reveal that HPV accounts for 99.7 percent of all cervical cancers, emphasising the urgent need for effective screening methods.

Aligned with national cancer screening guidelines which advocate for HPV-DNA detection as the primary screening method for cervical cancer in women aged 30 years and above. The self-collection kit will enable



women to conveniently collect samples on their own eliminating barriers to testing and empowering them to prioritise their health.

Speaking during the partnership announcement ceremony Old Mutual Health General Manager Ken Omami expressed enthusiasm about the potential impact on public health through the partnership.

“We are proud to collaborate with Cerba Lancet Kenya to introduce this innovative solution that addresses a critical healthcare need in Kenya.

By promoting early detection and improving accessibility to screening services we aim to mitigate the burden of cervical cancer and contribute to better health outcomes for women across the country. This partnership underscores our commitment to always putting our customers’ well-being at the forefront and we look forward to its success in turning around the rising cancer cases in the country”.Omami said

“Old Mutual Health customers can access the self-collection HPV DNA



kits at Cerba Lancet laboratories across Kenya. Moreover the cost of the kits is covered under their outpatient benefit ensuring that women can undergo screening without financial constraints. This aligns seamlessly with the theme of inclusion for Women’s Month 2024 as it promotes equal access to essential healthcare services for all women regardless of their financial circumstances.” He added

Cerba Lancet Kenya’s Group CEO and Managing Director East Africa

Ms Mwendu Musunga added: “We are advancing healthcare solutions that make a tangible difference in people’s lives. By offering self-collection HPV DNA kits we empower women to proactively manage their health and take proactive steps towards managing cervical cancer.” said Musungu.

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Is Bugoma Boundary Report Timely For The International Forest Day Celebrations



By: Aryampa Brighton
@themkenyatimes



Bugoma forest.

Worth Noting:

- While the forest has traditionally faced challenges such as expansion of small-scale agriculture, population growth and others, the deforestation and forest degradation challenges of Bugoma forest escalated when in 2016, Uganda's Ministry of Lands issued Bunyoro Kingdom with a freehold land title for the part of the forest that the kingdom claims.
- Thereafter, the kingdom leased the land it claims to Hoima Sugar Ltd. The company started destroying the forest in 2020. Satellite images from Maxar Worldview show that by March 3, 2022, approximately 2,800 hectares of the forest had been destroyed by the company as it continues to enter the forest today.

The United Nations General Assembly set 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The celebrations for this year's international day of forests are underway. The theme for 2024 celebration is Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World. The essence of theme is after realizing the war against deforestation requires new technological advancements with 10 million hectares lost annually due to deforestation and approximately 70 million hectares affected by fires and human encroachment.

As Ugandans join the rest of the world to celebrate the importance of forests, we should know that our forest cover has been on declining trend in the past two decades. According to Global Forest Watch, between 2000 and 2020, Uganda lost over 23% of its tree cover in both natural and planted forests. Apparently, all Uganda's protected forests have been encroached on by the growing industrialization, timber logging and other human activities including the famous Mabira forest, Zoka forest

and others.

The most recent one is Bugoma Central Forest Reserve whose boundary report was released just a week back to the public.

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With the long awaited Bugoma Boundary opening report, we thought it would offer solutions to the long standing Bugoma issues but the report is filled with discrepancies regarding its designated boundaries. According to the survey report, the computed area outlined in the boundary plan amounts to 39,492.620 hectares hence the discrepancy of 1,651 hectares that

raises significant questions, as it deviates from the originally gazetted 41,144 hectares.

As noted by Kamugisha Dickens, Chairman Save Bugoma Campaign and CEO, AFIEGO in article published in independent, the report neglects to address the perplexing issue of how the Bunyoro Kingdom came to award customary land titles within a gazetted forest reserve. The lack of explanation leaves a critical gap in understanding the circumstances surrounding the allocation of land titles within Bugoma Forest.

However, reality is clear, Forest cover is exposing Uganda to a number of hazards that have fundamental impacts of the livelihoods of people, their incomes and the economy. According to World Bank statistics on climate change, floods impact nearly 50,000 people and cause the loss of over \$62 million in GDP. According to Red Cross Uganda, the recent floods that hit the country in late April and early May 2023 displaced at least 13,000 people and caused 18 deaths. Various infrastructures like roads, bridges and electric transmission lines were destroyed in districts like Kisoro, Kabale, Kasese, Katakwi, Kanungu, Wakiso and, more recently, washed away part of the Kampala-Masaka road straddling the Katonga River and others.

With the increasing climate chaos hitting not just Uganda but the globe, I urge all the stakeholders to play an active role in restoring the tree cover and standing against the deforestation at all levels to protect the existing forests in Uganda.

The forests that nearly cover a third of the Earth's land surface are not just vast swathes of greenery. They constitute a vital component of almost every facet of life on our planet. They are critical ecosystems, providing habitats for most of the planet's species and livelihoods for nearly one billion people. Healthy forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks, absorbing billions of metric tonnes of CO₂ annually.

In Uganda particularly, forests are catalyzers of economic, ecological, and sociocultural well-being for many local host communities. For the nearly all host communities depend on them for their livelihoods, access to clean water, food, and medicines, reduce the risk of land-based climate disasters and act as buffers between humans and wildlife and limit the spread of zoonotic infectious diseases.

In conclusion, I urge the government through its line agencies and ministries to combat deforestation and forest degradation, restore forest landscapes, enable rights-based land use to involve communities and unlock forest benefits and potentials. The government should come with innovations for essential early warning systems, sustainable commodity production, and empowering Indigenous Peoples through land mapping and climate finance access.

If we manage forests well, they will give us goods and services that we cannot live without. If forests disappear, we will lose any prospect of sustainable development. Forests and trees are rooted in life and livelihoods. They are a renewable resource that can be grown, improved, and looked after. It would be hard to find a simpler and more universal way of changing the world for the better than by planting and managing trees.

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Sports >> *A Spanish court has ruled that ex-Barcelona and Brazil footballer Dani Alves can be conditionally released from jail after serving about a quarter of his sentence for rape.

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Ex-Brazil Player Dani Alves To Be Freed On €1m Bail After Rape Conviction



Dani Alves .

A Spanish court has ruled that ex-Barcelona and Brazil footballer Dani Alves can be conditionally released from jail after serving about a quarter of his sentence for rape.

Alves, who was sentenced to four and a half years in prison last month, will be released on a €1m (£853,000) bail.

He had been held in pre-trial detention since January 2023.

The 40-year-old was found guilty of raping a woman in a Barcelona nightclub in December 2022.

The victim's lawyer called the decision "a scandal".

The conditions for his release include turning over both his Brazilian and Spanish passports so he cannot leave Spain.

He must also appear before the court on a weekly basis.

The court additionally imposed a restraining order, preventing him from approaching the victim.

The ruling came a day after Alves' lawyer requested his release on the grounds that he had already served a quarter of his sentence in pre-trial detention following his arrest.

The decision, which was not unanimous due to a dissenting vote from one of the judges, can still be appealed.

The victim's lawyer, Ester Garcia, said: "To me, it's a scandal that they let a person who they know can get a million euros in no time walk free."

Ms Garcia told RAC1 radio she was "outraged and dissatisfied" with the ruling, adding it was "a justice (system) for the rich" and that she would lodge an appeal.

Lawyers for Alves have not yet commented.

During last month's trial, prosecutors said Alves and his friend had bought champagne for three young women before Alves lured one of them to a VIP area of the nightclub with a toilet which she

had no knowledge of.

They argued that it was at this point he turned violent, forcing the woman to have sex despite her repeated requests to leave.

Alves had maintained she could have left "if she wanted to". However, the court found that she did not consent.

Spanish law was changed recently to enshrine the importance of consent under the so-called "Only Yes is Yes" principle.

In a statement, the court said there was evidence other than the victim's testimony that proved that she had been raped.

It said Alves had "abruptly grabbed the complainant" and thrown her to the ground. He had then raped her while preventing her from moving as "the complainant said no and wanted to leave", it added.

The woman said the rape had caused her "anguish and terror", and one of her friends who was with her on the night described

how the 23-year-old had cried "uncontrollably" after leaving the bathroom.

Alves changed his testimony on a number of occasions.

He first denied knowing his accuser only to claim later that he had met her in the toilet but that nothing had happened between them.

He then changed his version of events again, saying that they had had consensual sex. "We were both enjoying ourselves," he alleged.

Alves played more than 400 times for Barcelona, winning six league titles and three Champions Leagues across two spells with the club. He was also part of Brazil's 2022 World Cup squad.

He has won trophies playing for Sevilla, Juventus and PSG and is among Brazil's most capped internationals, with 126 appearances.

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Sports >> *Ghana are set to reappoint Otto Addo as head coach of the Black Stars.

Ghana To Re-Appoint Dortmund's Addo As Black Stars Head Coach



Ghana coach Otto Addo

Ghana are set to reappoint Otto Addo as head coach of the Black Stars.

The 48-year-old will leave German Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund, where he is a talent coach, at the end of the season.

Addo previously had a stint as Ghana coach in 2022, combining the job with his role at Dortmund.

He guided Ghana to qualification for the 2022 Fifa World Cup but resigned after the West Africans were knocked out in the group stages in Qatar.

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) said on Facebook said that Addo "will be offered a 34-month contract" with the option of a fur-

ther two years.

"It wasn't easy for me to make this decision, but I'm very grateful and happy that those responsible at Borussia Dortmund are allowing me to take this step," Addo said in a statement on the Dortmund website., external "It's a great privilege to be able to take on the role of head coach of my national team.

"I've already gained a lot of experience in my role as [Ghana] interim coach and I'm looking forward to the task that lies ahead of me from the summer."

Addo spent his entire playing career in Germany but won 15 international caps for Ghana and

featured at the 2006 World Cup.

The Black Stars had been looking for a new coach after Chris Hughton was sacked following their group-stage exit from the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in January. "There were some brilliant individuals among the coaches who applied for the job," GFA president Kurt Edwin Simeon-Okraku said.

"Otto was exceptional in the interview process and was rated highly by the search committee, hence the decision."

Ghana will face Nigeria and Uganda in friendlies on 22 and 26 March respectively, and the GFA added in its social media post that

Dortmund will release Addo to oversee those games.

Addo's first competitive matches back in charge will be in June, when the Black Stars play Mali and the Central African Republic in 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Ghana sit fourth in Group I, with three points after two matches.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso appointed Brama Traore as their new coach earlier this week, replacing Hubert Velud, and Norman Mapeza returned as interim coach of Zimbabwe.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Forever Burning Candle

In the name of truth, I will teach you a letter with pain, It's an indescribable beauty with a hundred gems.



By: Nasriddinova Aziza
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- No parent in the world will have 24-30 children. But our tolerant teachers will have more children than this. He wants each of his children to grow up and find their place in life. When talking about a teacher, I involuntarily remember my first teacher, and tears come to my eyes involuntarily. And my hands go to my left cheek.
- I remember that our village is located far from the city. We had a school which was designed for teaching from 1st to 4th grade. Since our village is small, there are few students in the class. That is why we studied in the same room as students of 2 classes. Our school was old and did not meet the demand.



Parents are the cause of your child's birth. But a great and dear teacher will teach him to appreciate the world, artistic life, self-respect, love for the motherland and parents. When we start talking about teachers, we remember a story about Alexander the Great. He conquered many lands, and then put his first teacher on the throne. His work surprised everyone. They asked him, "Why did you do that?" Alexander the Great replied, "My parents are the cause of my birth, my teacher is the cause of my rise, my potential".

Indeed, the teacher is the one who laid the foundations of our perfection and tomorrow. How many praises we can write for them is not enough. For our teachers, a student is not a stranger, ugly or beautiful, rich or poor. Just like a mother burns for her child, a teacher always works hard for her students. In this place, our first teacher never fades from

our memory. Aziz is the teacher who greeted us with a smile when we first stepped on the scaffold, who held our little hands and wrote down the words of our parents for the first time.

The body of a child who goes to school for the first time is beautiful. His heart, his inner world, will be empty. He cultivated his heart and created a garden in our hearts by sowing flower seeds in every corridor. He is a teacher who spares his attention and the light of his eyes, who repeatedly explains a word if we do not understand it, and who teaches us again and again if we do not know how to read a word.

No parent in the world will have 24-30 children. But our tolerant teachers will have more children than this. He wants each of his children to grow up and find their place in life. When talking about a teacher, I involuntarily remember my first teacher, and

tears come to my eyes involuntarily. And my hands go to my left cheek.

I remember that our village is located far from the city. We had a school which was designed for teaching from 1st to 4th grade. Since our village is small, there are few students in the class. That is why we studied in the same room as students of 2 classes. Our school was old and did not meet the demand. Water was leaking from the roof. It was just a 4-room school. 3 rooms were equipped, we had classes in 2 rooms. The 1st room was a coal room. There were only two instructors. For this reason, teachers from other villages used to come, but because of the distance of the road and the lack of cars, they did not come until winter. A new teacher came the year we went to school. Our class was taken by this teacher. She was a very beautiful, tall woman with a broad forehead, a white face, and a headscarf that did not fall off her head.

My teacher did not follow the same path as other teachers. They came for 2 years without missing a single class. They taught us every letter and every word. They removed our literacy. On winter days, their shoes were full of snow, their white faces were red, and their heads were covered in snow.

In order not to let us know, as soon as they entered, they would go back to the stove and spread their clothes on the back tables, take off their wet shoes and squeeze the water out of their socks. His legs were like red turnips. They would study in that case. In our school, the bell did not ring at the beginning of the end of the lesson. They could finish the lesson whenever our teacher wanted, but they would teach until the time specified by the teacher. The teacher always said that if we say answer earlier today, no, this is your right, I can't betray him, how will I answer tomorrow.

One day, the teacher asked everyone to write a poem. All of us could not recite it completely. They took me to the blackboard, I could barely hold myself and say 4 lines. My teacher pinched my left face between his index and middle fingers and cried,

"Why am I not able to impart knowledge to you? Where did I make a mistake? I trusted you, I didn't expect anything from you, my daughter". We saw our teacher cry here for the first and last time.

Days went by like this. When we moved to the 3rd grade, our class was taken by another teacher, and our teacher did not come. When we were in the 5th grade, we went to a big school, 4 kilometers away, and later we found out that our teacher also lived in that village. One day I heard from the teachers that my teacher passed away. At that moment, my whole body froze. My breath caught in my throat. My mind stopped thinking. A gasp erupted from me. I could not find a place to put myself. Since that day, a dream lives in my heart. This dream has been a dream until this day. When I grew up, I wanted to wash away the guilt of having made my teacher cry when I received the Zulfia state award and went to him and said: "Here is your harvest, here is the result of your work, this medal is not mine, but yours". Because every time I recited a poem or wrote a text, my teacher would say, "Bless my Zulfiyachi girl". The flame of this fire is still not extinguished. I still haven't gone to my teacher's grave because I haven't reached the level where I can go. I chose this profession in order to be a selfless teacher like my teacher. If I am lucky, I will fulfill my promise and go to my teacher's grave with the "Zulfia" medal on my chest, with a bright face and say, "Here, my teacher, your Zulfia daughter has come".

Teachers are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an as well. Our Prophet Muhammad (s.a.v) said that the reward for those who spread knowledge is great.

In conclusion, we can say that the example of a teacher is a candle. The light shared by them spreads throughout the world.

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