



The Constitutional Amendments Should Affix Good Governance and Accountability
 The Constitution of Kenya 2010 at its preamble acknowledges the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law.

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News>> No Relenting In War Against Illicit Brews, Gachagua Assures Kenyans

P. 8. The government will not relent in the ongoing nationwide fight on illicit liquor manufacturers, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said over the weekend



News>> Kakuzi's Inaugural Avocado Export To India Set For Dispatch By End Of This Month

P. 16. Listed Agribusiness and Superfoods producer, Kakuzi Plc plans to ship out its inaugural avocado export load to India at the end of this month.

I Have No Qualms Being Labelled Zakayo: Ruto

President William Ruto has vowed to sustain his highly-criticized tax policies saying they are good for the country's economic growth.

Ruto told a congregation at ACK Emmanuel Church in Nairobi's Bahati that he does not mind being branded 'Zakayo' Swahili for Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector in Biblical time Jericho reputed as corrupt until he changed his ways following his encounter with Jesus.



President William Ruto

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Meteorological Dept. Urged To Give Accurate, Reliable Weather Forecast To Guide Farmers

By: Dominic Cheres
@themtkenyatimes



Officials planting trees to mark the meteorological day

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the event, the Principal Secretary State Department for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Eng. Festus Ng'eno who was the chief guest at the function said the weather reports by the Kenya Meteorological department was useful in providing expected weather and also informing the public of the impact of expected weather.
- “The government is progressively working to reform the Kenya Meteorological Department to be more responsive to the needs and expectations of Kenyans in guiding their operations,” said Eng. Ngeno.

The Kenya Meteorological Department under the State Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry has been challenged to prioritize sharing meteorological weather patterns to farmers to assist them to plan for their farming activities.

Various leaders who spoke during the World Meteorological Day held at Meteorological centre in Kericho Town called for accurate, reliable and timely weather forecast updates to be shared online regularly to farmers so as to enable them to carry on with timely planting and harvesting of their crops.

The leaders who included the Kericho Women Rep Beatrice Kemei, Emurua Dikir MP Johanna Ng'eno and Ainamoi Legislator Benjamin Langat urged the Meteorological Department to partner with media outlets by sharing the meteorological data to Kenyans to guide their farming undertakings among other activities that weather can have an impact on.

The Legislators noted that meteorological department in Kenya was advanced in technology to monitor the weather pat-

terns and be able to inform Kenyans and policy makers to assist in planning their activities so as to stem losses of lives and farm production during adverse weather conditions like El-nino and famine which may also hinder transport and communication among other things.

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“The government is progressively working to reform the Kenya Meteorological Department to be more responsive to the needs and expectations of Kenyans in guiding their operations,” said Eng. Ngeno.

“Weather forecasts are a fundamental element to the country, especially to farmers who rely on rain water as a source of water to their crops,” said Ng'eno.

The PS also urged Kenyans to continue

growing trees towards the national aspiration of planting 15 billion trees in 10 years to alleviate the negative effects of climate change being realized.

The Director, KMD Dr. David Gikungu said Kenya Meteorological Department was established 70 years ago with the initial purpose of providing meteorological data and information and over the years the science of meteorology has evolved and become more sophisticated in response to the demands for information and services which have become increasingly complex and advanced.

Dr. Gikungu said accurate weather observation dramatically improves weather information and forecasts, which in turn promotes and encourages productivity in agriculture and associated agri-business, industry and research.

“KMD provides weather services for industry and other government departments that shed new light on air quality issues. These services include provision of meteorological data for pollutant dispersion model studies, forecasting pollutant concentrations, environmental

impact assessments, policy emergency planning,” Dr Gikungu added.

The Kericho County Commissioner Mr. Gilbert Kitiyo who spoke at the function, underscored the importance of environmental conservation and ecosystem issues calling on parents and teachers to inculcate the culture of growing trees and protecting the environment to their children early in life for their sustainability.

The PS led members of public in planting 3000 tree seedlings at the Meteorological Centre in Kericho town to mark World Meteorological day.

Kericho County targets to plant 16 million tree seedlings in 11,000 hectares of land by the end of this year

Others present at the function were the Bomet Senator Hillary Sigey, Kipkelion East MP Joseph Cherrot, Kwale County Woman Rep Fatuma Mohamed, Kericho County Secretary Dr. Wesly Bor, Kericho CECM Environment Rosemary Rop, Deputy Speaker Kericho County Assembly Eric Bett, Kapsoit MCA Paul Chirchir alias Tarimbo among others.

Editor's Desk




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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Power is collaborating with security agencies in the coastal region to mitigate vandalism of power infrastructure and theft of power distribution equipment. The power utility firm says it has heightened crackdown on theft of electrical equipment and surveillance of its network across the coastal region. Eng. Phineas Marete the firm's manager for Coast region says Kenya power is out to curb vandalism that impacts on the power distribution network. "The unfortunate acts of vandalism that targets the electricity assets such as transformers and electricity towers usually plunges Kenyans into darkness," he said.

Marete expressed the views at a forum in Pride Inn Hotel organized by the power utility firm for journalists based in Kwale County. He said while customers grapple with electricity shortages the situation is often compounded by incessant vandalism of power assets.



Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Hyssop Properties Mr Naftali Mwangi says the Bill which seeks to amend the Land Act, 2012 to provide for registration, licensing, and regulation of over 200 land dealing entities in the country was bad for investors. While terming the Bill as restrictive and anti-capitalist Mr Mwangi expressed concern that if approved into law it will put a limit on Kenya's social-economic progress. He said real estate players were not consulted over a proposed legislation that seeks to compel land-buying companies to deposit Sh500 million before being registered. He further noted that the proposal by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) that the annual registration fee for land buying firms to be Sh100,000 will lead to the collapse of many firms while locking out thousands of Kenyans willing to invest in the sector as the amount was way above the reach of most citizens. Speaking at Sobea in Nakuru-Town West Subcounty when he presided over issuance of 315 title deeds for parcels of land sold to private developers by Hyssop Properties, Mwangi said sponsor of the Bill, Kirinyaga Central MP Joseph Gitari should have involved the Association of Real Estate Stakeholders which represents players in the industry before drafting the proposed legislation.

The government is finalizing a joint operational framework that will provide guidelines on how miners in Kenya's artisanal mining subsector will be granted controlled access to start mining operations inside national parks. Principal Secretary State Department for Mining Elijah Mwangi said select-



ed teams picked to draft the framework were harmonizing the requirements and after putting the final touches on this historic document, it will be ready to be subjected to public participation. The creation of this historic framework came after a presidential directive that required the mining state department to provide a roadmap on how artisanal miners could access national parks and other protected areas set aside for conservation to engage in exploration and exploitation of minerals. Experts drawn from departments of mining, wildlife and forestry were picked to work on the modalities of the framework that will allow artisanal miners, for the first time in Kenya's history, to mine in protected areas. The PS was speaking during a meeting with three legislators from Taita-Taveta County who had paid him a courtesy call.

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has launched a program aimed at targeting small and medium enterprises nationwide. The program, dubbed Inua Biashara is an upcoming reality TV show that is designed to take small businesses a notch higher by equipping them with the necessary tools, resources, and knowledge to thrive in today's competitive landscape. During the launch of the program at Zetech University Technology Park Mang'u Campus, Professor Njenga Munene, Zetech University Vice Chancellor and Chair to the consortium, said the Inua Biashara program is a platform that does not just empower the individual business, but a program that will level the playing field by empowering SMEs. "Our main area of interest by launching this program is to ensure that small businesses can grow to a level where people can survive on them, and they are able to meet their financial obligation and Zetech University will be at the forefront to offer the necessary financial literacy," said Munene.



Murang'a County government has partnered with all local water firms to increase water coverage in the county by investing hugely in last mile connections. Deputy Governor Stephen Munania has observed that in the last financial year, Sh35 million was utilized to support last water connectivity. In the amount, Munania said every ward was allocated



Sh1 million where some areas benefited with boreholes. "Last financial year, the county utilized Sh35 million which was shared among the 35 wards. 11 boreholes were drilled as the administration facilitated piping the water to local homesteads. Water coverage in Murang'a currently stands at 60 percent with some areas having more coverage than others. In the next financial year, more funds will be allocated to the water sector to ensure every part gets water," he added.

NEWS PAPER

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Rights Issues as a Lifeline for Distressed Kenyan Companies



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The significance of a rights issue for distressed Kenyan companies cannot be overstated. By infusing fresh capital, these companies can address pressing financial obligations, restructure debt, and stabilize their operations. This influx of funds can serve as a lifeline, enabling them to weather the storm and navigate towards calmer waters. Additionally, a successful rights issue can bolster investor confidence, signaling the company's commitment to addressing its challenges and paving the way for future growth prospects.
- However, the efficacy of a rights issue is contingent upon several key factors. Firstly, the company's existing shareholders must possess the financial capacity and willingness to participate in the capital raise.



In the dynamic corporate landscape, companies often face periods of financial turmoil, necessitating strategic interventions to navigate turbulent waters. One such mechanism that has proven its efficacy in alleviating distress is the rights issue – a powerful tool that allows existing shareholders to inject much-needed capital into the company. This legal maneuver, enshrined in Kenya's Companies Act, 2015, serves as a potential lifeline for distressed entities, enabling them to restructure their balance sheets, bolster liquidity, and chart a course towards revitalization.

At its core, a rights issue involves the issuance of new shares by a company to its existing shareholders, proportionate to their current shareholdings. This process dilutes the ownership stake of non-participating shareholders while granting participating shareholders the opportunity to increase their equity stake. The inherent appeal

of a rights issue lies in its ability to raise capital without relinquishing control to external investors, a critical consideration for companies seeking to preserve their strategic autonomy.

From a legal standpoint, the procedure for executing a rights issue in Kenya is governed by stringent statutory provisions. Sections 329-333 of the Companies Act, 2015, outline the specific requirements, including board approval, shareholder authorization through a special resolution, and adherence to prescribed disclosure obligations. These safeguards aim to protect the interests of all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and fairness throughout the process.

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as a lifeline, enabling them to weather the storm and navigate towards calmer waters. Additionally, a successful rights issue can bolster investor confidence, signaling the company's commitment to addressing its challenges and paving the way for future growth prospects.

However, the efficacy of a rights issue is contingent upon several key factors. Firstly, the company's existing shareholders must possess the financial capacity and willingness to participate in the capital raise. If shareholders are unwilling or unable to exercise their rights, the issue may fail to achieve its intended objectives. Secondly, the pricing of the new shares must be attractive enough to incentivize shareholder participation while still aligning with the company's valuation and long-term growth prospects.

The success of a rights issue hinges on the company's ability to communicate a compelling turnaround strategy

to its stakeholders. Shareholders must be convinced that their investment will yield positive returns and that the distressed company has a viable path to profitability. This underscores the importance of robust disclosure practices, transparent communication, and a well-articulated business plan that addresses the root causes of the company's financial distress.

It is also worth noting that a rights issue is not a panacea for all corporate woes. In some cases, the scale of financial distress may necessitate more complex restructuring mechanisms, such as debt-for-equity swaps, asset divestitures, or even judicial interventions like administration or receivership. Nevertheless, a well-executed rights issue can serve as a crucial first step towards stabilization, providing breathing room for more comprehensive turnaround strategies.

In conclusion, the rights issue presents a powerful legal tool for distressed Kenyan companies seeking to address financial challenges. By leveraging the existing shareholder base and adhering to stringent statutory requirements, companies can raise much-needed capital while preserving their strategic autonomy. However, the success of a rights issue hinges on various factors, including shareholder participation, attractive pricing, robust disclosure practices, and a well-articulated turnaround strategy. When executed effectively, a rights issue can serve as a lifeline, enabling distressed companies to navigate choppy waters and chart a course towards long-term sustainability and growth.

The Writer is a Legal Researcher and Lawyer

The

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No Relenting In War Against Illicit Brews, Gachagua Assures Kenyans

By: DPCS

The government will not relent in the ongoing nationwide fight on illicit liquor manufacturers, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said over the weekend, as he asked the multi-agency security team to tighten the war on drugs and substance abuse.

He also said that the government will continue implementing policy reforms to facilitate sustainability of the agriculture sector.

The Deputy President spoke during a fundraiser at Abothuguchi Boys High School in Imenti Central Constituency, Meru County, as over ten Members of Parliament praised him over his leadership in agricultural reforms, the fight against illegal brews and addressing complaints by small-holder farmers and traders.

The 13 political leaders also commended the Deputy President for uniting Mt Kenya leaders irrespective of their political affiliation.

Mr Nebeart Muriuki, MP Mbeere South, said that “under the leadership of DP Gachagua we have seen Mt Kenya people uniting and for the first time we have no divisions of Mt Kenya East and West since he reaches out to all leaders”.

“We are grateful and behind the Deputy President as he executes the mandates assigned to him by President William Ruto such as leasing reforms in the coffee, dairy, tea and horticulture sub-sectors. His efforts will boost the rural economy. DP Gachagua is a performer and will also succeed in the fight against illicit brews,” said Nandi Woman Representative Cynthia Muge.

The leaders said they have confidence in the Deputy President and that they will work with him in ensuring the government achieves its plan on the economic transformation agenda of the country.

“Because of the reforms being driven by the Deputy President, dairy farmers supplying their milk to the New KCC now have a minimum guaranteed return of Sh50 for every litre of milk supplied. The coffee farmers cherry fund has been increased to Sh6



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders join Abothuguchi Boys students in a dance on Saturday

billion and tea farmers received highest pay last year. He is now addressing avocado and macadamia sectors and he will also succeed,” said Dr John Mutunga, Tigania West MP.

The MPs also praised the DP for being available and accessible to all leaders and the people at the grassroots.

Asking their colleagues in the opposition to also commend the government for the strides made the Ruto administration such as lowering cost of living, the MPs called on the Opposition leaders to engage in constructive criticism.

“We appreciate the Deputy President for his support and commitment in the public service. The government is performing. We have seen the economy and forex exchange stabilizing and the cost of living going down. Do not listen to the propaganda and noises by the opposition leaders, who have refused to see anything positive in the government,” said Mwala MP

Vincent Kawayia.

His counterpart Robert Pukose from Endebes said: “in Rift Valley we are fully behind the Deputy President. He stood firm and defended President Ruto ahead of the 2022 elections when he (Ruto) was facing persecution and humiliation during from the previous regime”.

In his remarks, the Deputy President said the government will continue enforcing the stringent measures announced recently by Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki to ensure that illicit brews get off the market.

He said those selling legit liquor will not be affected, emphasizing that the target is traders who have been selling poisonous alcohol.

“President, CS Kindiki and I have resolved that we can’t allow the lives of our youths to be destroyed by illicit brews. We have deployed stringent measures to save the generation. Those selling legit alcoholic drinks will not be affected,” said the Deputy President.

On coffee sub-sector reforms, he said the government has defeated cartels and brokers who were profiteering from the farmers’ sweat.

He said the reforms were yielding returns, enumerating several measures taken by the Kenya Kwanza administration to transform the agricultural sector and cushioning farmers from losses.

Since the reforms started, he said,

farmers’ income from the crop had increased.

The Deputy President told the locals that the Mariene-Githongo market road will be constructed and that a sum of Sh77 million has been set aside for rural electrification project in Imenti Central constituency.

The DP was accompanied by Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu and MPs Moses Kirima Ngunchire (Imenti Central), Meru Woman Rep Elizabeth Kairemia, Eng. Nebart Muriuki (Mbeere South), Dr John Mutunga (Tigania West), Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri), Patrick Munene (Chuka Igamba-Ng’ombe), Julius Taitumu (Igembe North), Kareke Mbiuki (Maara), Vincent Kawayia (Mwala), Robert Pukose (Endebes).

CS Machogu said the new funding model rolled out recently is ensuring that students from poor background have access to the government funding of their university education.

Woman Representatives Amina Dika (Tana River) and Cynthia Muge (Nandi), Nominated MP Dorothy Ikiara, MCAs led by Meru County Assembly Speaker Ayub Bundi and former Head of Public Service Ambassador Francis Muthaura were also present.

They also lauded the government for streamlining the Curriculum Based Education (CBC) system and rolling out the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy.

Worth Noting:

- The leaders said they have confidence in the Deputy President and that they will work with him in ensuring the government achieves its plan on the economic transformation agenda of the country.
- “Because of the reforms being driven by the Deputy President, dairy farmers supplying their milk to the New KCC now have a minimum guaranteed return of Sh50 for every litre of milk supplied. The coffee farmers cherry fund has been increased to Sh6 billion and tea farmers received highest pay last year. He is now addressing avocado and macadamia sectors and he will also succeed,” said Dr John Mutunga, Tigania West MP.
- The MPs also praised the DP for being available and accessible to all leaders and the people at the grassroots.



I Have No Qualms Being Labelled Zacchaeus: Ruto On Zakayo Tag

By: Capital Correspondent

doing the same today but I will focus.”

President William Ruto has vowed to sustain his highly-criticized tax policies saying they are good for the country’s economic growth.

Ruto told a congregation at ACK Emmanuel Church in Nairobi’s Bahati that he does not mind being branded ‘Zakayo’ Swahili for Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector in Biblical time Jericho reputed as corrupt until he changed his ways following his encounter with Jesus.

“I have no problem being called names so long as I am focused on the destiny of this country,” he said. “I didn’t become President just for the sake of the title.”

He cited the Biblical story of Sanballat and Tobiah who resisted Nehemiah’s efforts to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls saying had he listened to the criticism, he would not have succeeded in accomplishing the God-assigned task.

“Had Nehemiah listened to Sanballat and Tobiah, the Jerusalem wall would never have been built,” President Ruto said. “Some fellows are

Housing tax

The Head of State was speaking in defense of the Housing Levy, a tax introduced under the newly enacted Affordable Housing Act crafted by the Executive after the levy first introduced under the Finance Act was declared unlawful by the court.

The Affordable Housing Act imposes a 1.5 per cent tax on gross incomes with employers matching employees’ contributions.

The Head of State singled out the Affordable Housing Programme as one of the initiatives that will create jobs for young people and ensure decent homes for Kenyans, especially those living in slums.

He said 140,000 people have got jobs on the various affordable housing construction sites across the country.

President Ruto said his plan is for Kenya to have one million new home owners in the next five years.

Before the end of the year, the President announced, at least 30,000 houses will be under construction in Nairobi County, with the majority of the units in Makadara Constituency.



Jan 10, 2024 | President William Ruto lays a stone while commissioning an affordable housing project in Laikipia/PCS

PPB Rolls Sleeves To Weed Unregistered Pharmacies

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The National Regulator, Pharmacy and Poisons Board has issued a very stern warning to unscrupulous dealers who are out to fleece innocent and unsuspecting Kenyans of their hard-earned cash. Fred Siyoi is the Chief Executive officer of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) and here is what he had to say about the subject matter:

“I’m Fred Siyoi, I’m the CEO of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. In every profession, some people masquerade as professionals, and the pharmacy sector is not an exception. Some people operate pharmacies that are not legitimate and we are cracking down on them based on a multi-agency system where we are working together with the Ministry of Interior. We have a list of the legitimate pharmacies that we have

registered and for which we have issued licenses. So in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, we are going around and any that is not registered is closed because as a board we do not have enough capacity and we are limited in resources, we have 60 inspectors to man the whole country, which is impossible but the ministry of interior is present everywhere – the chiefs, the regional commissioners, so we have come at a collaboration in which once we have identified which ones, they make sure they remain closed.

The impact of unregulated pharmacies to the patient is that they pose a great risk because these are not qualified people to, they don’t know if the medicine they are selling, if they are genuine or they are fake. So they are there to make a profit without knowing they are causing danger to the patients because for you to dispense, that patient has been diagnosed and they have a prescription, those quacks don’t know these things, they may give you something instead



Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Dr. Fred Siyoi (3rd left front row) at the KAPI workshop .

of you healing, they send you to an early grave, so that’s the danger, and we have to work very hard to make sure the outlets being run by quacks remain closed.”

“This is a very regrettable trend that some unregistered, unregulated dealers are tarnishing the name of the pharmaceutical industry in the country by engaging in unscrupulous deal-

ers. We have engaged a multi-agency team to see to it that the unregistered dealers are arrested and face the full force of the law by taking on them the necessary legal action,” he noted

KEHPHU Wants Kenyan State To Employ Public Health Officers, Post And Pay Public Health Interns

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Kenya Environmental Health and Public Health Practitioners Union (KEHPHU) last month petitioned the government to employ more public health officers (PHOs). The union, through its Secretary General, Brown Ashira, claimed many Public Health Officers are jobless yet the Kenyan Government can employ them. He linked emerging and re-emerging diseases like TB, HIV/AIDS, Cholera, Malaria to a lack of adequate health care workforce especially public health officers and Technicians. Ashira accused the Ministry of Health of not paying the practitioners risk allowances like their colleagues in other cadres since 2015. He also cited Discrimination of public health officers interns (PHOIs) and claimed the ministry omitted public health officers while listing medical interns. He termed this act as illegal and un-

warranted. The union secretary general who spoke at Kajiado County Deputy County Commissioner's Office while conducting a public health advocacy for members on 21st March 2024 said the government has neglected PHOs and challenged Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha to intervene and ensure they have adequate staff to enhance their work. Ashira was accompanied by his Deputy Kennedy Omolo, Vice chairman Juma Maelo and the treasurer Ali Mohammed. "It is a pity that the Health Ministry has chosen not to employ public health officers and technicians including those specialising in areas such as food science," Health Promotion, Occupational Health and Safety, Waste Management, and not posting Our Public Health interns just like other cadres yet its in the curriculum, said Ashira. "Let the government employ public health officers the way teachers and police officers are employed without



Kenya Environmental Health and public health Practitioners Union (KEHPHU) Secretary General Brown Ashira (right) leads members in demanding the employment of Public Health Officers, both Diploma and Graduate Public Health officers.

fail," he added. He noted that the national and county governments have not employed or replaced public health officers

who have either retired or died. "The gap is huge, and yet we have qualified practitioners in the country. Let the government employ suffi-

cient staff in the sector to improve healthcare services," he said.

Respect To Parents In Islam



By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
@themkenyetimes

At the beginning of the article, I will say my brief opinion about parents. For me, parents are the symbol of happiness. When I come home from school with an open stomach, my mother looks at me and says : "My daughter, how are you, meal is ready, we will eat together, change your clothes quickly ". This kindness is happiness for me. When I need help, my father comes to me and says : "Daughter, don't worry about anything, I'll stand behind you as long as you're safe." These words of my father are the greatest fortune for me. Taking care of parents is a child's duty. If one or both of them have grown old in your presence, o child, do not say "uff" to them at all. Don't nauseate them, disperse your wings of mercy on them and say " Allah, have mercy on

them now, as my parents raised me when I was a baby". When your parents get you this title, they will take care of you from the time you are born until you grow up, until their hair turns gray and they grow old. What's more interesting is that once they reach this level, no one and no one can bring them down from the level of parenthood. Even blasphemy and polytheism. Even if the parents are infidels, the Muslim child is ordered to serve them. It is true that if the parents order their children to do sinful things, it is said that "Do not obey your parents ". However, this does not mean that you should not do good to your parents, they will continue to be good to them. Disobedience is only possible when called to sin. The reason is that there is a great rule: "There is no obedience to a slave in deeds that are a sin against Allah"... Whose parents are alive, let them appreciate and be kind to them. A person who receives the blessings of parents will never be humiliated, no evil will threaten them. As long as there is a mother's protection, there is a world. A father is a person who will always support you, who will always trust you and support you, who will be your light. There is no life without them, appreciate their presence. Allah Almighty certainly accepts both the deeds of this world and the

righteous deeds sent to the parents in the next world. And blessed children are always valued. The way to heaven also goes through parents. Therefore, let's know the spoils of parents and do them good ! If your parents are displeased, you will not enter heaven. Appreciate them, kiss your mother's hands, carry your father on your head, because they are worth it !!!

[Kholturayeva Ugiloy daughter of Urol]



Why DP Gachagua Should Be Proud Of Ndindi Nyoro's Rising Star?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Lately, we have been seeing the Kiharu MP honoring invitations by elected leaders mostly members of parliament from across the country. In these visits, he would launch various development projects particularly those sponsored by National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).
- As this happened, the MP's work in Kiharu was on course.
- The other day I was in Muranga town and I got an opportunity to speak with chairman of Kiharu NG-CDF through the phone.
- He told me that besides matters of education, health the MP is giving priority to the development of mega infrastructural projects.
- For instance, a number of roads were currently being constructed.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro .

A few months after Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was sworn-in I heard him taking on the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Uhuru let down the people of the Mount Kenya in a big way.

This is because he had failed to groom and nurture a person from this region.

So we were caught off-guard during the 2022 polls.

I want to assure you that we will not repeat this glaring mistake.

He promised to immediately start grooming and nurturing young leaders from the Mountain.

I remember him holding the hand of Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro in one of the subsequent meetings.

Ndindi has all it takes to steer the Mountain to the great height of success and shared prosperity.

As such, he is one of the leaders I have in mind.

But a few months later, DP Gachagua's tone and body language would leave no doubt he regretted having pronounced himself on this matter.

He now perceives Ndindi Nyoro as a formidable competitor and he was employing all tricks in the book in a bid to tame him.

Did he stand a chance of taming him? My answer is a big No.

Gachagua did not play any role to nurture him and so he cannot claim any credit.

Ndindi Nyoro had already cut his own political path.

Lately, we have been seeing the Kiharu MP honoring invitations by elected leaders mostly members of parliament from across the country. In these visits, he would launch various development projects particularly those sponsored by National Government-Constituency

Development Fund (NG-CDF).

As this happened, the MP's work in Kiharu was on course.

The other day I was in Muranga town and I got an opportunity to speak with chairman of Kiharu NG-CDF through the phone.

He told me that besides matters of education, health the MP is giving priority to the development of mega infrastructural projects.

For instance, a number of roads were currently being constructed.

Right now I'm on the ground in the remote area of this constituency inspecting these projects.

The MP had also kicked out the process of establishing and launching digital hubs in the villages. These efforts are designed to create jobs for the youth.

For DP Gachagua, It was apparent that he had come to the conclusion that Ndindi Nyoro's working development tours across the country posed a real threat to his political game-plan.

He not only threatened to derail and thwart his plans to become the kingpin of Mountain.

If this happen, he was likely to be dropped as President Ruto's running mate in 2027 and this dim his dream to succeed him in 2032.

I have lately been having a conversation with majority of Kikuyus. Majority of them would aver.

Honorable Ndindi Nyoro stood a high chance of taking over the Mount Kenya kingpin.

This was not only because of his development record but he has never been linked or associated with corruption.

He was also being embraced by leaders from all corners of the country because he believed in building a united and peaceful Kenya.

This is unlike DP Gachagua who was divisive and hence being shunned by these leaders.

To me, DP's latest political strategy of portraying the young leaders from Mount Kenya as being out to further the course of outsiders was bound to fail.

As a writer and a political analyst, I want to ask him this question. In the countdown and aftermath of 1992 and 1997 general elections, he should tell us the role he played?

As a key player in the government of retired President Daniel Arap Moi, he never played the role of uniting the Kikuyus.

He instead helped President Moi to divide our community and at no time did he ever faulted Moi for abandoning the Mount Kenya region.

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

The local leaders in areas that the MP has so far visited would aver.

Ndindi Nyoro is a presidential material.

He is poised to take the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin and later become the President of the Republic of Kenya. He stands a high chance of succeeding President William Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second and final term.

In my earlier article, I argued.

The Kiharu MP who also doubles as the chairman of the National Assembly's Budget Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro is yet to openly declare his bid for the kingpin of the Mount Kenya region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP Wilson Sosian set the ball rolling. He noted that Ndindi was a presidential material.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seven Kenyan Universities Named Among Top 100 In Africa

University Of Nairobi Leads As Strathmore, MKU Maintain Position as the East African Region's Top Private Institutions

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatimes

The University of Nairobi has maintained its position as Kenya's top institution of higher learning according to the latest list of top 100 universities in Africa issued by EduRank.

However, Makerere University of Uganda at position seven has beaten UoN which was ranked eighth to become the leading university in the East African region.

The top 100 universities in Africa are ranked by EduRank based on research outputs, non-academic prominence, and alumni influence, a statement by the firm revealed.

Locally, UoN is followed by Kenyatta University (38), JKUAT (53), Strathmore University (68), Moi University (73), Mount Kenya University (81) and Egerton University (83). Strathmore and MKU are the

only private institutions from East Africa that are ranked among the 100 colleges from the continent.

Other colleges listed from this region are Addis Ababa University of Ethiopia (19) and Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam (25), Sokoine University (49) and Muhimbili University.

From Uganda, Mbarara University is ranked 95th, becoming the 13th institution to be listed from Eastern Africa.

"The rankings are determined by analyzing 24.5M citations received by 2.16M academic publications made by 1,104 universities from Africa, the popularity of 3,700 recognized alumni, and the largest reference database available," EduRank further stated.

The top 10 universities in Africa were the University of Cape Town, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Stellenbosch, University of Pretoria, Cairo University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Makerere University, University of

Nairobi, University of Johannesburg and University of South Africa.

Over the years, the University of Nairobi has been ranked among the top universities in Africa and the world.

UoN was previously ranked ahead of its fierce competitor Makerere University in a survey by Webometrics which analyses all institutions of higher learning in the world.

Webometrics ranks universities based on impact, openness and excellence parameters in its ranking.

Makerere University and UoN frequently trade positions one and two in the Eastern Africa region in surveys conducted by different entities

EduRank.org is an independent metric-based ranking of 14,131 universities from 183 countries. It utilizes the world's largest scholarly papers database with 98,302,198 scientific publications and 2,149,512,106 citations to rank universities across 246 research topics.

The researcher conducts a series of statistical analyses to generate com-



University of Nairobi .

parative university rankings in various fields, by country, region, and globally. "In the overall rankings, we add non-academic prominence and alumni popularity indicators," says

EduRank, but advises interested parties to always check official university websites for the latest enrollment information.

Student From 14 Day Schools Set Benefit From Bursary Scholar Program Says Nyeri Town MP

By: Paul Mwangi
 @themkenyatimes

Students from fourteen day secondary schools in Nyeri Town constituency, who completed their KCSE examination last year will benefit from a bursary scheme launched by area MP, Duncan Maina Mathenge.

The MP announced that he had secured funding from various financial institutions and is collaborating with Nyeri National Polytechnic to train the beneficiaries.

Under this scheme, every student will receive seven thousand shillings in bursaries.

Nyeri National Polytechnic offers eleven different technical courses, and in MP's office partnership with the institution, 180 students have already registered for the May intake.

The MP noted that registration will remain open until April 15, with stu-

dents being required to visit the institution and identify the course they wish to pursue, provided they meet the academic requirements.

"Many voices advocate for abstaining from alcohol and avoiding drug use, but few address the issue of idleness, which often leads to vices," stated the MP. "This initiative aims to keep our youth engaged, steering them away from drugs and substance abuse."

Recognizing the financial strain on parents, the MP emphasized the long-term nature of this arrangement, which will provide assistance throughout his remaining three and a half years in office. He urged students to seize this opportunity.



Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina (left) with Nyeri National Polytechnic principal David Maina during the institution's open day. Photo/ Paul Wanjiru

Why DP Gachagua Should Be Proud Of Ndindi Nyoro's Rising Star?

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from page 11

Kenya region.

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

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

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

You heard him likening Kenya to shareholding company. This was a reckless statement. They would also fault him for picking a war with Nairobi governor Johnson Sakaja. His statement was divisive, callous and designed to put the Kikuyus into a collision course with rest of the Kenyan communities.

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

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

Some would recall the alleged 'ills'

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

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

Given this scenario, one would have expected Gachagua to immediately start healing the wounds after being sworn in as DP. It is widely believed that one year down the line he has failed to do this.

The Kikuyus rooting for Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to lead the Mountain would further cite the following reason. Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

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

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

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

He has also been spending part of money he receives from National Exchequer



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

to build TVET colleges.

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

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

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

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

Ndindi steered clear of this topic.

In this, the NG-CDF funds will cater for the school fees of the students in day

schools in Kiharu. The parents will only pay Sh1,000 per term.

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

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

The Mt. Kenya Times



Unforgettable victories!



The biggest goal of every person is to live well in life and achieve their desires. Today's demand is to have excellent knowledge of the IT field. In my life, this field and the science of informatics and information technologies were able to leave indelible memories. when I first stepped into school, I never thought that one day I would achieve great achievements while studying at school, take pride of place in science Olympiads, justify the trust of my teachers, and bring endless joy to my parents. My first major achievement was taking pride of place in the Republican Science Olympiad in the field of "Informatics and Information Technologies". in fact it has been very difficult to achieve. reading from morning till night, trying and finally reaching the goal. The person who always believed in me, always supported me and patiently explained all the knowledge, teacher - Jumayev Muhridin!

I have understood one thing that if you think that something is difficult in this life, that work will be really hard and difficult. However, my dear and respected teacher, Jumayev Muhridin, taught me to never go back, always move forward and achieve victory, even when I feel like

giving up because it's difficult, even when I say I can't. I am extremely grateful to this person. Thank you for everything, teacher! The day I took pride of place in the science Olympiad, there was no happier person in the world than me. because IT is a very complex field. But I managed. I justified my parents' and your trust. I was able to use the knowledge you taught me. In today's time when IT is the most relevant and important field, I am infinitely grateful for all the valuable and important knowledge and information you have given me. I can promise that in the future I will educate students who will contribute to the development of the country and teach them the IT field as well as you!!!

MEKHRANGIZ KIBRIYEVA OLIMJONOVNA was born 1 January, 2006 in Sariasia district, Surkhandarya region. She is studying at secondary school number 12 from 11 class. Currently her poems and articles has been publish in international collecting such as "Kenya times", "Kavya kishor ", "Synchronized", "Raven cage" and Moldava ,Kenya, USA , Great Britain ,India and other countries. . She has been taking pride of place in the subject "Informatics and information technologies" at the science Olympiads of republic. She is also member of the international organization "All india council for Technikal Skill Development". She holder of a national certificate in English She is interested in programming, writing articles and learning languages.

I Almost Lost My Sense Of Identity



When I saw a Masai dancing
Adumu in the sky like a red big bird,
And his wife stealing glances from far,
I almost lost my sense of identity.

When I saw the Yoruba tribe
Titling their trunks and twisting
their waists in honour of the Bata,
I almost lost my sense of identity

When I saw the Zulu
Men whose roars scare the lion
And women whose voices wake
The sun from its grave to join the
Indlamu dance of warriors,
I almost lost my sense of identity.

When I saw the Acholi dancers
Kicking up the dust of Gulu ground
Like the flowers of Duk, all in round.
As generations come with Buola
In blood, scudding beautifully to

Honour the colours of cranes,
I almost lost my sense of identity.

When I saw Nubians in Jarjar
Dark as I wish I could be,
Women to whom their skins
Africa is Painted with.
Majestic like the antelopes of Boma
And like the Gazelles of Mongalla.
When I stare at their men leaning forward
From the hips as they drop in Arageed
On the west bank of the Nile,
I almost lost my sense of identity.

When I saw graceful Berbers dancing
Tanoura on the street of Cairo and Alexandria
As I realize Africa is the mother of
The earth and the sun and all the stars
With colours of our blue and white eyes
Reflecting upon the waters of the Nile,
and the cloudless sky,
I then almost lost my sense of identity.

When I recalled the memories of how
My father wrestled down the tiger
And hunt the wild elephants.
When I stand alone here like the tallest tower
In Nairobi city and watch our cows
Pasturing on the Sudd,
Our wrestlers singing in unison and
dancing Dergel on the Toc
I just regain back my sense of identity,
And dance like them till dusk.

By Adut Loi Akok, South Sudan. 🇸🇩

Long Nights



I flowed like water, no one knew,
Like an autumn leaf, my face is cold,
I waited for my heart, but it didn't come,
I didn't notice, my value was cheap.

I see a terrible grave in my dream,
I wake up in shock, pain in my heart,
I can't stop my trembling hands,
I can't tell anyone about my feelings.

Secret thoughts in the long nights,
He kisses my face, the years you know,
My eyes are dazzled by the rain of the
moon,
The miles of the clock are in a hurry.

Are the steps leading to the cliff?
Will anything accompany me?
There was no reason for someone to
say,
he could not say that he is with you.

When the longings were running,
could someone hold me by the hands?
When tears flowed from my eyes,
did my youth grow once?
After crossing the cliff left behind,
passing through the days of longing,
I got five marks from the lessons of life
and started living for the Good.

My Country



You are fierce and quick-hearted,
You have been showing me that you are a martyr
in every field.
You are a mother earth, an example is a garden,
See also in our head, our country's head is healthy.
The flood in the heart does not end, the national
anthem,
If the stone is left behind, the sea level.
But the words of the poet are too little for you,
The reason for everything is your love!

I will always keep your name in my mouth,
You are the conscience of my heart.
There are a thousand different names for you,
You are as holy as honor, mother.
You are the supreme destiny commanded by my
conscience,
It's a secret that you live forever.
May your honor be inviolable,
A handful of governors to protect your name.
I will describe you
Rub a handful of your soil in my eyes.
Hello there! Mother says, I came back,
I sing by tapping my guitar strings.
I grew up in the wave of your enlightenment,
I grew up in the wave of your kindness.
My heart grows in your flawless mornings,
You are my land, my dear Motherland!
My country, I will sacrifice my life for you,
You are my country, I understand that.
My country, your future will be bright,
That swing swings slowly.
My motherland, you have such a nature,
Even in your winter whispers are spring.
Your youth will never make you a disgrace,
Break the barrier you meet on the road!

The son of Ergashboyev Minghojiddin Jasurbek was born on October 22, 2005 in the family of a hairdresser in Suv Boshi Street, Sultanabad town, Kurgantepa district, Andijan region. His father, Ashurov Jasurbek, is a hairdresser, and his mother, Ashurova Nigorakhan, is a seamstress. The family has the eldest child and two younger sisters. The services of his grandfather Ashurov Ergashboy and grandmother Ashurova Nasibakhan were especially important in the development of the young poet as a creative and educated person. In 2012, he entered secondary school No. 33 in the neighborhood. At school, he stood out from everyone with his diligence and ambition. From the age of 15, he began to engage in poetic creativity. In 2023, he graduated from school with a gold medal and was admitted to the Samarkand State University of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Husbandry and Biotechnology on the basis of a grant and is currently studying there. Our young poet is still actively creating under the pseudonym Mr. Ashur.

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Kakuzi's Inaugural Avocado Export To India Set For Dispatch By End Of This Month

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Listed Agribusiness and Superfoods producer, Kakuzi Plc plans to ship out its inaugural avocado export load to India at the end of this month.

The firm, which has enjoyed traditional market access opportunities in Europe, China, and the Middle East, is now set to add India as one of its prime export destinations.

Speaking when he confirmed the ongoing pre-shipment preparation for the containers heading to India, Kakuzi Plc Managing Director Mr Chris Flowers said the new market portends good opportunities for the firm's Avocado and Macadamia produce.

Mr Flowers said Kakuzi is pursuing strategic market diversification, with new opportunities for avocado sales in India and Malaysia high on the business development priority list.

"We are excited that we are finally entering the Indian market, which

has been one of our strategic target markets as we continue to enhance our production capacity and seek diversified markets," Mr Flowers said.

He added, "The Indian market is very discerning and remains quality conscious, and we shall seek to deliver the very best of sustainably produced Kenyan Avocado."

The inaugural 20-ton quality Kakuzi Hass Avocado export load will arrive in Nhava Sheva Port, India's second-largest container port in the next few weeks.

In the last financial year, Kakuzi's avocado division operations performed well, recording a pre-tax profit of Ksh1.4 Billion, up from Ksh0.8 billion posted the previous year.

Due to the ever-growing demand for quality superfoods globally, the company also expanded its avocado orchards by 60 hectares last year, up from 927 hectares at a Kshs 120 million investment cost. "We have a thriving new but immature avocado development area (about 373 hectares), with production expected in

the coming seasons, to meet growing domestic and export demand," Mr Flowers said.

In a move attributed to increased field production, enhanced Packhouse and related handling efficiencies, Kakuzi Avocado exports last year surpassed the three million carton mark for the first time, equating to 562 containers sold in Europe and Chinese markets.

Kakuzi made history in 2022 by landing an inaugural shipment of fresh fruits in the Chinese market.

The export of fresh avocados, a superfood, to China from Kenya then followed the signing of two commercial protocols to facilitate bilateral trade, mainly the export of avocados and aquatic products from Kenya to China.



A Kakuzi packhouse worker preparing Hass Avocados for export. File picture

New KPCU Inks A Deal With Kimathi University On Coffee Development

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (New KPCU) and the Dedan Kimathi University signed a collaboration agreement for coffee development in an event presided over by Cooperative Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui.

Chelugui said the agreement will empower the two institutions to progress in building capacity for coffee farmers, student training and industrial attachment programs, research and technology development and technology transfer.

He said the collaborative efforts will be instrumental in driving innovation, increase productivity and ensure long term sustainability of the coffee sector.

"I urge farmers to seize this opportunity and go back to the farms and grow coffee and avocados besides participating in other priority value chains to increase their incomes



Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives Simon Chelugui witnesses the signing of a partnership between New KPCU and Dedan Kimathi University on coffee research, training and extension services last Thursday

and consequently play a role in the growth of the economy," said the CS.

He said the collaboration between the two institutions will achieve remarkable success in revitalizing the coffee industry and creating opportunities for growth and prosperity.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the partners involved in making the collaboration a reality," said Chelugui.

He said the coffee reforms are course and already bearing fruits including the Sh 4 billion additional Coffee Cherry Advance Revolv-

ing Fund that has been provided to the NKPCU to distribute to farmers which increased advances from Sh20 to Sh 80 per kilo of cherry delivered.

Chelugui said the coffee reforms aim to increase production from the current 51,852 metric tons per year to 200,000 metric tons within five years.

The CS said he was happy that the reforms are already paying farmers dividends with increasing coffee prices at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NSE).

On coffee reforms, he said despite its historical significance as a leading export product, coffee production in Kenya has witnessed a decline in recent years, falling to the fifth position globally.

Currently, Kenya's coffee production stands at approximately 51,852 metric tons, a significant drop from its peak of 130,000 metric tons in the 1980s.

He said the government's comprehensive initiative aims to liberate Kenyan coffee farmers from the

chains of poor coffee prices, weak governance at the cooperative society level, low production, and inadequate agronomic practices among other challenges.

Chelugui said seven thematic areas were identified as critical to achieving the desired outcomes including production and productivity, research, development & technology transfer, regulations, coffee marketing, coffee financing & profitability, quality management, and institutional reforms.

He said the initiatives to address the challenges were categorized into immediate, short term, medium term, and long term, as well as legislative, policy, or administrative.

Legislative reforms have been initiated including the drafting of Sessional Paper Number 1 of 2023 on sustainable quality coffee production for food security and wealth creation, the Coffee Bill 2023, and the Co-operatives Bill 2023.



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The Constitutional Amendments Should Affix Good Governance and Accountability



By: Dennis Wendo

Email: dambehi@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- The Constitutional adjustments should be centred towards improving the structures of the government for it to be more responsive to the needs of the people in a challenging state of affairs. It is the people's response to the crises, conflicts and controversies of the times.
- Amendments should prioritize the promotion of better governance and public accountability, they should strengthen the democratic institutions for the better enjoyment of individual liberties and a more meaningful people's participation in public affairs.
- The collapsed BBI initiative identified nine issues whose resolution was spirited towards guaranteeing all Kenyans true citizenship and justice, thereby addressing and ending tribalism, corruption, impunity and electoral theft, nepotism, and politically skewed development and employment history in Kenya.



Dennis Wendo, Founder - Integrated Development Network.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 at its preamble acknowledges the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law.

The people exercise their sovereign power directly or through their democratically elected representatives. The constitution organizes a government by distributing the powers of making, executing and interpreting the laws. The sovereign of the people is exercised at the national and county levels and is delegated to parliament and legislative assemblies, national executive and executive structures, the Judiciary and independent tribunals.

The underlying objective is to establish a government that embodies the ideals and desires of the people and promotes the common good. By and large this is fertile through good governance.

Good governance entails legitimate, accountable, and effective ways of obtaining and using public power and resources in the pursuit of widely-accepted social goals and is both

the ideal and standard of a democratic government. It is premised on the values of democracy and the rule of law. It calls for honesty and integrity in the public service as well as having positive and effective measures against graft and corruption. Public accountability is essential to good government. The primary duty of the government is to serve and protect the people, the people have the right to hold those in public office accountable for their acts.

The Constitutional adjustments should be centred towards improving the structures of the government for it to be more responsive to the needs of the people in a challenging state of affairs. It is the people's response to the crises, conflicts and controversies of the times.

Amendments should prioritize the promotion of better governance and public accountability, they should strengthen the democratic institutions for the better enjoyment of individual liberties and a more meaningful people's participation in public affairs.

The collapsed BBI initiative identified nine issues whose resolution

was spirited towards guaranteeing all Kenyans true citizenship and justice, thereby addressing and ending tribalism, corruption, impunity and electoral theft, nepotism, and politically skewed development and employment history in Kenya. It was to herald a new dawn for the nation, in which all citizens realize their fullest potential, especially the historically marginalized women, the youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, pastoralists and other vulnerable groups. The ultimate aim of the initiative was to forge a united, just and prosperous nation.

The clamour to review the supreme law has been revisited and talks are on-going courtesy of the National Dialogue Committee. The NADCO report and recommendations should be courageously approached with honesty, open mind and a broader perspective of addressing the perennial social, economic and political challenges of the nation and its people.

Either way, through parliament or by referendum, an in-depth awareness of the proposed changes is critical to all. A clear ground plan should be in

place to address existing unresolved grey areas of concern to avert political, electoral, tribal, regional and gender divisions.

The drivers of the reforms ought not to buttress secrets and hidden agenda, tilted in settling self-interests or reshaping the law to suit their future aspirations. The NADCO recommendations are largely holistic and time remains of essence in actualizing the report. Embracing national dialogue is constructive and provides a platform for Kenyans to understand that an election is a process, they learn to accept election outcomes and become accommodative of even the losers.

Let the amendments be guided by the principles of good governance. Upholding this, the Constitution will be of the people, by the people and for the people.

Dennis Wendo
Founder- Integrated Development Network (NGO)
Email: dambehi@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rongo University's Unrest

By: **Daniel Pepela**

Rongo University, nestled in the serene landscapes of Migori County, has recently been rocked by a series of violent clashes that have exposed deep-seated ethnic divisions among its student body. The unrest, characterized by clashes between Luo and Kalenjin students on one side and GEMA, Luhya, and Kisii students on the other, has its roots in the contentious student elections and a perceived lack of representation.

The spark that ignited the unrest was the student elections, where Luo and Kalenjin students, feeling marginalized and outnumbered in terms of delegates, formed an alliance to support their candidates. They believed that their combined numbers would ensure victory at the executive level. However, students from the GEMA, Luhya, and Kisii communities, who also felt underrepresented, were determined to assert their influence in the electoral process.

The tension escalated when the

election results were about to be announced, and it became evident that the presidential elections could not be held due to the unrest. The Luo and Kalenjin students, feeling that their grievances were not being addressed, escalated the protests, leading to clashes with the police and students from other ethnic groups.

The university administration, caught in the middle of the escalating conflict, has been working tirelessly to restore calm and address the underlying issues. Efforts to hold dialogue

and find a peaceful resolution to the crisis have been met with mixed reactions, with some students calling for a boycott of classes until their demands are met.

The unrest at Rongo University is a stark reminder of the complex interplay of politics, ethnicity, and representation in higher education institutions. It highlights the need for greater inclusivity and diversity in student leadership and the importance of addressing grievances through dialogue and peaceful means.

As the university strives to navigate through these turbulent times, there is a growing realization that lasting peace and stability can only be achieved through genuine dialogue, mutual respect, and a commitment to building a more inclusive and united student community. Only then can Rongo University fulfill its mission of providing a conducive environment for learning and academic excellence.



Drivers Should Be Careful On The Roads To Save Life

orphaned, others widowed and whole families deprived of their sole breadwinners, not to forget the thousands of others left with lifelong injuries that remind them of their near brush with death.

More than Ten Kenyatta University students who were from a health tour in Mombasa died due to road accidents in Voi this week and it is said that the bus failed to break. This is a sign of unroadworthy vehicle being used on the way. At this time, it is

good that the unroadworthy vehicles should not be allowed to operate.

NTSA estimates that 3,000 Kenyans die from road accidents every year – costing the country anywhere between 3-5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). 83 percent of the fatalities were men, with individuals aged between 30-34 years being most at risk, thus robbing the country of a very productive age bracket. This can affect the county's development plan as the most energetic people who can

work hard to improve living standards die and no one to replace them easily. NTSA revealed that losing control was one of the main causes of road crashes, accounting for 929 deaths. Cause not traced accounted for 575 road deaths followed by lane indiscipline at 491. Overtaking improperly led to 443 accidents while misjudging clearance, distance, or speed resulted in 310 deaths.

According to World health organization, road traffic injuries cause con-

siderable economic losses to individuals, their families, and to nations as a whole. These losses arise from the cost of treatment as well as lost productivity for those killed or disabled by their injuries, and for family members who need to take time off work or school to care for the injured. Road traffic crashes cost most countries 3% of their gross domestic product.

Globally, Every year the lives of approximately 1.19 million people are cut short as a result of a road traffic

crash. Between 20 and 50 million more people suffer non-fatal injuries, with many incurring a disability.

To avoid all these, drivers and road users should avoid overspeeding, ensure safety belts are used, avoid driving when drunk or drinking, follow traffic rules and regulations and also drive responsibly. Also they should not use unroadworthy vehicles to put at risk the lives of people.

Written by Collins Simiyu

A Voice In The Spotlight

In a small recording studio, tucked away from the chaos of traffic and the unending conversations in the bustling city of Nairobi, Mutai Kipruto sits behind a microphone, his deep voice resonating through the air. As we enter into the studio, we are surrounded by soft and soundproof walls ensuring that every word is captured accurately. The lighting is dim providing an atmosphere of focus and concentration.

Mutai is a voice-over artist who is making a name for himself in the world of media and communication, but his journey to becoming who he is, is far from easy. In his early 20s, Mutai is already creating a buzz in the industry with his distinct talent. "Voice over is an art by itself and requires creativity" he notes.

In 2022, while in the first year of

his studies he says his friends used to encourage him that he has a good voice and would recommend him for commercials, documentaries and class projects. He credits his motivation to a friend called Levis Tunje, a voice over artist from Nairobi based in Kilifi. "He taught me how to make documentaries, jingles, sweepers, radio programmes and how to edit voice and scripts." Being a voice over artist comes with many other responsibilities including editing audio and script. "I prefer giving my scripts to friends for editing because I cannot see mistakes in my own skit."

It was this encouragement and motivation that led Mutai to pursue a career as a voice over artist at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC). He explains that the

school had already taught him audio and video editing and his only problem was in voicing. Born and raised in Eldoret, Mutai, just like many other artists has struggled with pronunciations, especially when voicing English scripts and has worked hard through regular practice to adjust though not fully.

"I used to practice each morning and evening before I sleep to train my voice using scripts from friends and daily newspapers." On the issue of training the vocals Mutai says that he would count 1-20 then recite the alphabets after which he would start combining words that proved difficult to pronounce so as to perfect.

Although he is not yet a graduate, Mutai is already making waves in the industry with his unique talent

and dedication to his craft. He does not find this as a challenge to balance with his studies as he is specializing in the same field and he remains focused and determined to succeed.

In addition to his studies, two years down the line, Mutai has been able to start and grow his brand 'OH Africa'. This brand, he adds, specializes in storytelling, making commercials, radio jingles and promotions. This has given him a great platform to grow his art.

Still in 2022, he joined the ECN radio at KIMC as a journalist and reporter. The hard work and persistence in his brand was not in vain as he was nominated as the head of production at ECN in 2023. "It gave me an opportunity to grow as an artist and a brand and is continuing to

do that up to now."

He hopes to become great in voice acting in the future. Mutai is encouraging anyone who has the passion of becoming a voice over artist to trust themselves and work hard and their dreams will come true. He does not recommend upcoming artists to rely on AI for editing as it encourages laziness and lack of creativity as the AI does almost everything for the artist limiting them the ability to learn.

As Mutai continues to polish his craft and pursue his dreams, he remains grateful for the opportunities that have come his way and the support of his friends.

By: Muhonja Francisco

DP Visits Murang'a Widow Whose Seven Sons Were Killed By Illicit Brew

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday visited a Murang'a widow whose seven sons were killed by illicit brews and restated that the government will not abandon the ongoing nationwide fight against illegal liquor and narcotics.

The Deputy President comforted Mama Grace Wahu, 85, at Kongo-ini village, Kiharu Constituency, in the company of a host of leaders led by Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata and national government administration officials.

Describing her situation as a tragedy, anguish and hurting, the Deputy President assured Kenyans that the illicit and illegal second generation brews will be eradicated within six months to save the young generation from destruction.

"Mama Wahu is a mother of 11, but she has lost her seven sons to illicit brews. She tried to talk to them but they could not listen. They sold their inherited land, used the proceeds to drink alcohol and they are now buried in her land. They were well educated. This is the sad story everywhere in Mt Kenya region, every family is affected by alcoholism," said the Deputy President highlighting the scourge of illicit brews.

Mama Wahu's home compound is marked with graves.

"Hers is a terribly sad story and a devastating example of the effects of illicit alcohol on families," said the DP.

Resulting from the tragic experience, the elderly woman started suffering from depression and developed diabetic-related conditions. Now she lives under the care of her daughter Margaret Wairimu and support of well-wishers from the neighborhood.

The Deputy President offered to employ Ms Wairimu to cushion her financially as she takes care of the elderly mother. Wahu's granddaughter, whose father is one of those who perished will get employment at the county, after Governor Kangata offered to assist her. Two of her grandsons addicted to the killer brews will be rehabilitated under the Office of the Spouse of the Deputy President.

"We are appealing to the Church, all leaders and everybody to support the government's decision to eradicate the illicit brews and save families. Women are crying over loss of their children and husbands," he said describing the owners of companies manufacturing the illicit brews and the bars selling the drinks as "merchants of death".

Last month, more than 20 people



Mama Grace Wahu narrating her story to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Murang'a County governor Irungu Kang'ata and other leaders who visited her yesterday.

died after drinking illegal alcohol in Kirinyaga county and those who survived subsequently losing their eyesight.

In 2021, more than ten people, including a pregnant woman died and several others were hospitalized in Nakuru County after consuming illicit brew.

"The battle will be won in six months. It has support of the government and leaders. President William Ruto has approved the stringent measures and Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki is serious and determined.

Though previous administrations did not succeed, the Ruto administration will succeed. Ninety eight per cent of public support the crackdown, only two per cent is making noise and the noise will be ignored," said the Deputy President.

To the manufacturers and sellers of the killer brews disguised as legit alcohol, the DP told them to "be touched by story of Mama Wahu, have empathy and abandon the bad enterprise".

"Her husband was rich. He gave legacy to the sons but they sold, drunk the illicit alcohol and left her in misery and anguish," said the Deputy President.

He also warned government officers and members of the license vetting team against engaging in extortion and bribery.

The DP asked the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to arrest and bring to book the of-

ficers suspected of engaging in the malpractices.

"In every situation rogue officers take advantage and try to make money out of it. If there are officers using it to extort money, it is sad and EACC must do its job and arrest the suspects and take them to court. As government we cannot condone any officer collecting bribes," he said.

He added that Alcoholic Drinks Control Act will be amended to remove the licensing function from the county governments to NACADA. It is proposed that county governments will be left with revenue collection function.

Earlier, the Deputy President joined Christian faithful at Muthithi Catholic Parish in Kigumo constituency for a Palm Sunday Service.

In his message, the Deputy President said the government will not abandon the ongoing nationwide crackdown against illicit brews and narcotics despite resistance from a section of bar owners and threats of political ramifications.

He stated that the government will not give the manufacturers of killer brews space.

"The government has no private war with anyone but we will not allow destruction of lives. Poisonous drinks are a threat to national security. We have closed the illegal manufacturers and closed bars near schools and churches. Legit brews will be allowed to be in the market. The war is targeting illegally brewed alcohol," he stated.

Leaders commended the Deputy President over the exercise and reforms in the agriculture sector.

"DP Gachagua has succeeded in reforming the coffee sub-sector and farmers' earnings are high. On alcoholism, the government is doing well and the illicit brews will be eradicated," said Murang'a senator Joe Nyutu.

Gilgil MP Martha Wangari said; "we will amend the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, to empower NACADA so that it can work with National Government Administration Officials in eradicating the illicit brews".

Other leaders accompanying the Deputy President included accompanied MPs Kamau Munyoro (Kigumo), Senator Veronica Maina (Nominated), Jubilee Party Leader Sabina Chege, Peter Kihungi (Kangema), Chege Njuguna (Kandara), Mary Wamaua (Maragua), Chege Njuguna (Kandara), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Naomi Waqo (Marsabit Woman Rep and National Assembly Deputy Majority Whip) and MCAs led by Muthithi ward representative Boniface Nga'ng'a among other leaders.

Former Kigumo MP Wangari Mwaniki was also present.

Worth Noting:

- "Hers is a terribly sad story and a devastating example of the effects of illicit alcohol on families," said the DP.
- Resulting from the tragic experience, the elderly woman started suffering from depression and developed diabetic-related conditions. Now she lives under the care of her daughter Margaret Wairimu and support of well-wishers from the neighborhood.
- The Deputy President offered to employ Ms Wairimu to cushion her financially as she takes care of the elderly mother. Wahu's granddaughter, whose father is one of those who perished will get employment at the county, after Governor Kangata offered to assist her. Two of her grandsons addicted to the killer brews will be rehabilitated under the Office of the Spouse of the Deputy President.

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Tetu MP Welcomes NADCO Report, Says It'll Safeguard Future Polls

By: Paul Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Tetu Member of Parliament, Geoffrey Wandeto has welcomed the National Dialogue (NADCO) report passed and presented last week, stating that it is a crucial document that will safeguard Kenya in future elections.

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) law makers emphasized the need for the country to focus on measures that will resolve election disputes and prevent bloodshed.

“We are committed to supporting the report if it promotes progress,” he affirmed, adding, “but we must also revise clauses that we believe do not serve the best interests of our nation’s future.”

Wandeto stressed the importance of enhancing institutions, laws, and electoral processes to ensure that elections do not further divide Kenya.

“If the NADCO report fosters unity during and after elections, we will back it,” he declared, as he added, “but we must scrutinize and amend clauses that are unreasonable to our people.”

On the ongoing health crisis, the MP urged Health Minister Susan Nakhumicha and her team to engage with the Council of Governors to find a lasting solution.

“Workers have rights, and the government has its stance, but we cannot play games with people’s health,” he notes as he asserted that the priority must be the health of our citizens.

Wandeto spoke during the prize-giving day at Dr. Kamundia Gathuthi Girls’ School in Ndugamano, Tetu



Tetu MP Geoffrey Wandeto presenting a bursary Cheque at Dr Kamundia Gathuthi girls during the prize giving day. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU.

Constituency, where he also disbursed a cheque of 600,000 shillings for needy students’ bursaries.

He further pledged to fund the construction of new buildings and the acquisition of a school bus, fully financed by NGCDF, to be launched at

a later date. Tetu was ranked fourth in educational performance in Nyeri County.

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.

♎ Libra: September (23–October 23)

Career:- You will take a moment to assess whether you are truly engaged and fulfilled by your work or if you are just going through the motions.

Relationship:- If you are single, someone can ask you out. If in a relationship, you may get a romantic proposal, marriage or an offer of a deeper commitment. In upcoming week; you or your partner or potential partner will be emotional, romantic, caring and gentle.

Health:- you will take an initiative for improving your health in the form of new health habits or implement lifestyle choices that will benefit your health for years to come.

♏ Scorpius : (October 24–November 21)

Career :- Minor workplace conflicts may arise due to differing opinions. You may find yourself in a competitive environment where clashes of personality and ego hinder progress.

Relationship:- There’s an opportunity for genuine loving connection, but your presence and attention are required. You must express your emotions.

Health:- Take a break if you’re overworking; you might feel backache or leg discomfort. Overworking may give raise to health risk due to body strain. You need to be careful.

♐ Sagittarius : (November 22–December 21)

Career:- There are indications of new opportunities and intellectual growth. There is a possibility of getting a new job, promotion, or project that requires your mental agility and creativity.

Relationship:- Both of you may be very curious about each other, possibly stalking each other online or checking status. You may face some challenges that require honest and open communication.

Health:- If you experience fluctuations in your health, it’s recommended to seek medical attention or consult with a healthcare professional if

you feel unwell.

♑ Capricornus : (December 22–January 19)

Career:- You may consider exploring alternative markets, locales, or premises for your business, or even contemplate seeking new employment opportunities. Additionally, there could be prospects for international travel associated with your professional endeavors.

Relationship:- You may find yourself experiencing prolonged periods of silence and feeling mentally stagnant within your relationship. Communication may be minimal, and there’s a possibility that either party has resorted to blocking the other. For those navigating divorce proceedings, exercising caution is advisable.

Health:- You may need emotional healing and self-care, possibly due to unresolved issues, emotional baggage or loss. Seek support through therapy, meditation, or calming activities for healing and growth, if needed.

♒ Aquarius : (January 20–February 18)

Career :- You may be feeling overwhelmed and stressed in your work life. You are advised to take a step back and prioritize self-care. By creating a balance between work and rest, you can overcome stress and

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

How Do You Think Your Upcoming Week Will Be?



find clarity and focus in your career.

Relationship:- In a relationship, a significant opportunity is nearing, like a deeper commitment or proposal, but there’s a risk of one partner contemplating leaving, requiring both to fight for the relationship.

Health :- Stay focused on clear goals, eliminate negativity, follow medical advice, exercise regularly. There will be improving physical health soon, but mental wellness is crucial for long-term well-being.

♓ Pisces : (February 19–March 20)

Career:- This week holds promise for success, characterized by qualities of adeptness in business, practicality, and organizational prowess. Additionally, the involvement of a woman either within your business framework or as a supportive figure

in your personal or professional life may bring forth a valuable array of skills and contributions to your endeavors.

Relationship:- You or your partner can be assertive, direct, and intellectually oriented. Clear, honest communication is key to overcoming relationship challenges. There are chances of a passionate and adventurous love affair or the arrival of a bold and confident suitor.

Health:- You will feel the energy and motivation to embark on a new health and fitness journey. There are indications of a period of increased fertility or the birth of a child. You are advised to embrace a healthy lifestyle and take proactive measures to improve your well-being.

Ministry Outlines Milestones In Education Quality Improvement

By: Joseph Kamolo
@themkenyatimes



Elijah Mungai, the Director Directorate of Projects coordination and delivery at the Ministry giving his input

Worth Noting:

- A total of 2,254,782 Science, Mathematics and English text books were distributed to all grade 7 and 8 learners in 7,852 primary schools while 4,329,057 Science, Mathematics and English text books were distributed to learners in form 1-4 in 2,147 secondary schools. Brailled text books 10,770 in total and 42,546 text books printed and distributed and assistive devices distributed to 2,145 learners with disabilities.

- Retention in upper primary school and transition to secondary school in targeted areas improved school learning environment where 1,053 additional classrooms, 861 additional laboratories and 1,896 sanitation facilities and a proposed ultra-modern training facility at CEMASTEAM.

The quality of education in 135 targeted Sub-Counties in Kenya significantly improved in the last six years, thanks to the ministry of education through a World Bank funded project.

The Kenya Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQIP) targeted 135 Sub-counties from 30 counties which were identified through a rigorous selection criterion resulting to improved quality of teaching among other milestones from 2017 to December 2023.

The key milestones as enumerated by Mr. Elijah Mungai, the Director Directorate of Projects coordination and delivery in the state department for basic education include reduction in teacher shortage for Science, Mathematics and English teachers in targeted areas which was implemented by the Teachers Service Commission where 2,592 secondary and 920 primary school teachers were employed.

Director Mungai said the intervention saw live streaming of lessons piloted in 10 satellite schools from two principal schools. Teachers

professional development was enhanced through school based teacher support system for teachers totaling 51,950 in 6,500 primary schools and 2,000 secondary schools.

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The Ministry of Education conducted advocacy and community mobilization social support and gender sensitization programme in 1,476 locations across the 135 Sub-Counties

with 1,478,135 sanitary towels for girls being distributed.

A total of 18,000 learners in cohorts of 9,000 each benefited from the Elimu Scholarship Program where the first cohort sat for KCSE in 2023 and recorded an impressive performance with 46 percent qualifying to join university and 82 percent attaining grade C-(minus) and above.

The project enforced systems reforms support through the development and introduction of CBC curriculum designs for Grades 4 to 9 as implemented by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

SEQIP strengthened the national system for monitoring learning progress and national examination by Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) through a baseline and middleline studies to monitor learner achievement (MLA) for form 2 and national assessments for grades 3,4,5, and 6 conducted as well the establishment of a web based competency based assessment (CBA) portal.

The Ministry of Education carried

out three policy studies to establish prevalence of gender based sexual violence (GBSV) which resulted to a policy framework for addressing GBSV issues. Education officials were sensitized on operationalization of gender responsive mechanisms (GRM) structures.

A baseline survey for high dropout rates for upper primary grades 7 and 8 and a capacity assessment for Jomo Kenyatta Foundation (JKF) to coordinate, manage and regulate scholarships were conducted.

The World Bank has since extended the SEQIP project period for an additional year till December 2024 owing to the delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

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EU Ambassador Roots For Youth Empowerment In Sports

By: Sebastian Miriti
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The EU has organized the event in four counties of Homabay, Kilifi, Marsabit and Nairobi with the support of the ministry of youth affairs, sports and arts and the Acakoro football academy to commemorate the integration of the EU as well as mark the 17th edition of the UEFA European Football Championship and the Olympic Games set to happen later this year.
- The occasion is like a national day for the European Union, which focuses on the start of the integration aimed at making sure that the conflicts witnessed in Europe during the Second World War do not happen again.



The EU Ambassador with some of the players.

Deputy Ambassador of the European Union delegation to Kenya Ondrej Simek has hinted to the possibility of the winning team in the Europe day Kenya football tournament that kicked off Saturday to enroll at a football academy in Europe. Simek said the plan was being worked out but added that its success would depend on the Acakoro football Academy's capability to identify some talent out of the tournament whose finals would be held on May 17, this year at the Ulinzi Sports Complex in Nairobi.

The ambassador was speaking at Moi Girls High School playing ground in Marsabit County after officiating start of a two day football tournament involving 16 teams from local secondary schools and said Acakoro needed to scout for the talents and enroll them for official training.

Simek said once the scouts at Acakoro Academy have identified the talents, context for playing legal football here in Kenya and Europe should be created in order to make the process a success.

The EU has organized the event in

four counties of Homabay, Kilifi, Marsabit and Nairobi with the support of the ministry of youth affairs, sports and arts and the Acakoro football academy to commemorate the integration of the EU as well as mark the 17th edition of the UEFA European Football Championship and the Olympic Games set to happen later this year.

The occasion is like a national day for the European Union, which focuses on the start of the integration aimed at making sure that the conflicts witnessed in Europe during the Second World War do not happen again.

Simek said that the initiative has been successful and symbolic not only in Europe but also in other parts of the world including conflicts witnessed in Kenya.

He said that Marsabit County was selected because it stood out as a region said to have suffered a degree of disconnection from other parts of the country in terms of development, hence the deliberate effort by the EU through the tournament to create an environment that offers the youths an opportunity to transform

themselves.

According to the ambassador, the EU was trying to connect the young players from Marsabit with players from other parts of the country and the football academy and if possible with other teams in Europe so that they could get empowered.

The EU, Simek said, aims at giving recognition to both boys and girls with talents by showcasing them as role models for other youths by their achievements and visibility in the media.

He added that opportunities would be created by connecting them to the Acakoro football academy which is seeking to raise talents around the country as it has links with different teams in Europe.

"I have watched the first preliminary match here in Marsabit and I am proud with the talent exhibited by these under-17 players," he remarked adding that the EU is trying to create opportunities for the young people with aspirations to achieve something in sports with the hope that if the chance was availed they would one day be able to represent Kenya in big sports like the Olym-

pics football tournament.

The European Union in its development corporate programmes has spent hundreds of millions of Euros to fund projects that make connections and opportunities for pastoralist communities, like the Isiolo-Moyale highway and the rehabilitation of rural roads.

Marsabit director of sports and youth development Daudi Imani said the 16 football teams, 8 for girls and 8 for boys, are drawn from secondary schools within Saku constituency.

He said that other institutions will be considered in the future, as it was not possible to involve schools from other sub-counties because of limited time and other logistical factors.

The event that saw fans treated to thrilling football matches of 25 minutes non-stop length was also attended by the chief officer for education, sports and youth development, Adan Osman.

Two of the winning teams, one from each side will participate in the semifinals in Nairobi's Ulinzi sports complex on the 17th of May this year.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Spain coach Luis de la Fuente insists his squad has the "raw materials" to make a title push at Euro 2024 where the former champions will be "contenders".

Spain 'Contenders' At Euro 2024 But Need 'Time', Says De La Fuente

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente insists his squad has the "raw materials" to make a title push at Euro 2024 where the former champions will be "contenders".

The 62-year-old talked to AFP ahead of Friday's 1-0 defeat to Colombia in a friendly international at the London Stadium.

As well as discussing the progress of his team, De la Fuente also lamented the arrests this week in a corruption investigation, the latest in a string of scandals that have ensnared the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF). "It is not good for Spanish football that attention is diverted to this other focus," said De la Fuente.

The coach led Spain to Under-19 and Under-21 European titles and Olympic silver medal in Tokyo before taking over the senior team in 2022 and winning the Nations League in June 2023. Spain are one of the six top seeds for the 24-team Euros in Germany this summer.

"We are among the contenders who are going to fight for the trophy," said De la Fuente.

"We have to try to live up to expectations and the expectation is we will compete to win.

"Winning at this level is very difficult because there are other teams that are well prepared, with very good players."

"We have a very difficult group, with Croatia, Italy and let's not forget Albania, who topped their group, with a very brilliant coach, with very good players even if they are unknown to the general public," De la Fuente said.

At the last Euros, Spain beat Croatia in the last 16 but lost to Italy, who took the title, in the semi-finals.

"Both Croatia and Italy could be fighting for the top, and then you have France, Portugal, England, Germany," added the coach.

De La Fuente has overhauled the Spain squad. In Friday's starting lineup only Aymeric



Spain's coach Luis de la Fuente reacts and gestures during the UEFA Nations League semi final football match between Spain and Italy at the De Grolsch Veste Stadium in Enschede on June 15, 2023. (Photo by JOHN THYS / AFP).

Laporte also began Spain's last game in a major tournament - the round-of-16 loss to Morocco in the World Cup in December 2022.

Time

"We have the raw materials to make a great team. What do we need? Time," De la Fuente said.

Against Colombia, De la Fuente gave second-half minutes to 16-year-old Lamine Yamal, 17-year-old Pau Cubarsi and Nico Williams, a 21-year-old, who also came on as a 75th-minute substitute against Morocco in the World Cup only to be replaced in the last minute of extra time by penalty specialist Pablo Sarabia, who then missed his spot kick. On Friday, Yamal replaced the 31-year-old Sarabia after 72 minutes.

"I come from a grassroots background," said De la Fuente. "Our commitment, to the people we

trust in the youth system, is not a pose, it is a conviction.

"Young people who are coached, with talent, with the preparation, with potential, need opportunities. You don't have to look at age. And there are young players, with potential, who show every Sunday at their clubs that they are ready to compete at the highest level."

On Wednesday, Spanish police searched the RFEF headquarters on the outskirts of Madrid, along with disgraced former chief Luis Rubiales' property in Granada.

Spanish media reported the investigation concerns contracts signed by Rubiales to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia, among other matters.

Rubiales stepped down as RFEF president in September after forcibly kissing Women's World Cup star Jenni Hermoso to provoke worldwide outrage, following Spain's triumph in the

Sydney final in August.

Rubiales is due to face trial over the incident.

"We focus on football, but we are not oblivious to everything that happens, obviously," said de la Fuente.

"Our responsibility is also to focus on the work we are doing, because we have a great commitment, a great responsibility, to society, to a whole country, to Spanish football, to restore the prestige of the Spanish federation."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The stage is set for an electrifying showdown as the highly anticipated 2024 WRC Safari Rally Kenya, the third leg of the FIA World Rally Championship, draws near, scheduled from March 28 to 31 in Naivasha

International Drivers Excited Ahead Of WRC Safari Vroom



FILES: British driver Elfyn Evans and British co-driver Scott Martin compete in their Toyota GR Yaris during the Concepcion stage of the WRC Rally Chile, the eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship, on September 29, 2023 in Concepcion, Chile. (Photo by Guillermo SALGADO / AFP)

The stage is set for an electrifying showdown as the highly anticipated 2024 WRC Safari Rally Kenya, the third leg of the FIA World Rally Championship, draws near, scheduled from March 28 to 31 in Naivasha.

The iconic event promises high-speed action, fierce competition that will captivate fans around the globe.

With an impressive lineup of 29 entries comprising top contenders from across the world, anticipation for the rally has reached fever pitch.

Several drivers have already descended upon the country, eager to tackle the challenging terrain and compete for glory in one of motorsport's most revered events.

Among them is Frenchman Adrien Fourmax of M-Sport Ford, finds himself enthralled by the striking contrasts between Kenya's climate and landscape and his native France.

He expressed his excitement, saying he needs to acclimatise before the main event.

"First I need to get used to the temperature here. It's very hot,

obviously, compared to what we have in France. I need to get used to it. And the landscape is completely different.

"So, yeah, quite a shock now, but a very nice experience. Obviously, it's quite different from what we have in Europe but it's always interesting to discover something new.

"For sure, it's a difficult rally, especially for the cars but our hope is to score a lot of points in WRC2 because we are not many drivers. So if we manage to avoid the troubles, I think we should score good points and for the championship this is what we need," he added.

Thierry Neuville, the early championship leader from the Hyundai Shell Mobis team, exudes a mix of excitement and anticipation as he looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

"We had a good kick-off of the season as we're still leading the championship. Coming here to Kenya now, much earlier in the season, we are really looking forward to the race.

"We know it's a windy season as well, so it's going to be probably

a different challenge than what we've seen in the previous years. But it's always exciting to be here and it's some kind of adventure and much different than all the other rallies.

"I think it's an enjoyable experience. It's a thing you have to do once in your lifetime and I'm lucky to be here today. It might be like this all week. I mean, it's good to arrive there and feel well prepared, but for a rally like this, we have no opportunities to really find the same conditions in Europe to test. So, we come here always with a bit of a question mark, we must shake down to adapt, and get the feeling again from those bumpy and rough roads. But this year I think in addition to all these challenges, the weather could be tough as well. It's not my first time in Kenya, the first time was the most impressive. I've been here a couple of times, but I feel like it's going to be something different this year," added Neuville.

Elfyn Evans, known for his composed demeanor, emphasizes the importance of preparation while maintaining a calm and focused

attitude.

"Of course, we try and always arrive as prepared as we can. We have to find the balance between being prepared and relaxed so nothing new for us."

As one of the toughest events in the World Rally Championship's history, the Safari Rally Kenya is renowned for its challenging terrain and demanding conditions. This year's edition promises to uphold its legacy, offering drivers and spectators an unparalleled experience filled with thrills and excitement.

Preparations for the event are currently in full swing, with organizers and teams working tirelessly to ensure everything is in place for a seamless and unforgettable experience. Among the many aspects being meticulously attended to include the Service Park which has already been erected.

The Safari Rally Kenya marks the third round of the 2024 World Rally Championships, following Rallye Monte and Rally Sweden.

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Nyeri County Gearing Up For Youth Inter-County Sports Association In Malindi

By: Paul Mwangi
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Nyeri County is gearing up to participate in this year's Kenya Youth Inter County Sports Association (KYISA) in Malindi. All 47 counties will be represented in the KYISA event, which features volleyball and football competitions for youth aged 18 to 23. Players are selected from the sub-county level, in a move aimed at nurturing talents among the youth. Nyeri is actively selecting both male and female players for the two-day event, which will yield 64 representatives for the county. The

games will commence from April 14th to 21st. At the Moi Nyeri Complex, where selection games are ongoing, there has been a high turnout. Esther Ndungu, Nyeri's CEC for Gender, Youth, and Social Services, emphasized the role of sports in bringing youth together to address various issues such as unemployment and substance abuse. She highlighted the county's commitment to using sports as a platform to tackle challenges like alcohol, drugs, HIV, gender-based violence (GBV), and early pregnancy."



Mukurweini and Nyeri Central Sub Counties in a volleyball match at Nyeri Moi Primary Complex. Photo/Paul Wanjiru

Mokaya's Swearing In As CRJ Slated For Today

By: Capital Correspondent

Newly-appointed Chief Registrar of the Judiciary (CRJ) Winfridah Mokaya is set to take oath today. Chief Justice Martha Koome gazetted Mokaya's appointment for a five-year term following interviews by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). Koome who doubles up as the Chairperson of the JSC which settled on Mokaya following day-long interviews on Monday formalized the appointment in a Gazette Notice dated March 19, circulated on Saturday. Mokaya was among seven candidates interviewed by a panel led by Koome. Others included Macharia Rose Wachuka, currently serving as Chief Justice Martha Koome's Chief of Staff, and Ndemo Paul Maina, the



CRJ Designate Winfridah Boyani Mokaya/JSC/FILE

Deputy CRJ who assumed the role in an acting capacity following the exit of former CRJ Anne Amadi in January.

The panel also interviewed Ouma Jack Busalile, Wambeti Ann Ireri, Kendagor Caroline Jepyegen, and Kandet Kennedy Lenkamai.

The Commission listed the candidates after considering forty-three applications. The Commission selected the sev-

en after examining the applications against the legal and constitutional conditions outlined. JSC had invited the public to avail, in writing, any information of interest on any of the shortlisted candidates. Amadi served for 10 years since January 2014 having secured a second term. The Chief Registrar is tasked with preparing estimates of expenditure and administering the Judiciary Fund. The officer holder is also Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission and the National Council for Administration of Justice. The Registrar is responsible for running the day-to-day operations and administration of Human Resources in the Judicial Service and supervising support services in the Judiciary, in particular planning, development, and organization of staff.