



Embracing the Dawn: The Agikuyu Community's Journey to Spiritual Liberation

In the heart of Kenya's verdant landscapes, where the whispers of ancient spirits mingle with the rustling leaves, a profound awakening is stirring within the Agikuyu community. Guided by the celestial radiance of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, and emboldened by the majestic presence of Mount Kenya

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News >> TSC Distances Itself From Alleged Irregularities At Metropolitan Sacco

P. 8. TSC yesterday distanced itself from the alleged irregularities at Metropolitan National Sacco Limited



News >> Committee On Tourism And Wildlife Engages CS Mutua Un Human-Wildlife Conflicts And Tourism Growth

P. 12. The Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife, chaired by Maara Constituency MP Kareke Mbiuki, yesterday held an engagement forum with Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua, focusing on the pressing issues of Human-Wildlife Conflict and the state of Kenya's Tourism sector.

Seek Forgiveness, Focus On Nation Building

Let's forgive and embrace each other and forge forward as a united nation. I have forgiven those who may have offended me and also sought forgiveness from those I may have hurt through harsh words. Those were matters of politics and we have already moved forward from that," said the DP. He also called on leaders engaging in hooliganism and sponsoring goons to hit out at their opponents to stop and amicably solve differences.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Ruto Offers Nyeri National Polytechnic Student State House Internship

The Head Of State Also Committed To Provide KSh10 Million For Rehabilitation Of Nyamachaki Primary School Following The Request Of Area MP, Duncan Maina Mathenge

By: WILLIAM MUCHIRI and FELIX KIPKEMOI
@themtkenyatimes



President William Ruto with Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge at Nyeri National Polytechnic yesterday. Seated on the right is Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina..

He, however, expressed confidence in her noting “coming from Nyeri National Polytechnic, I know you will do well”.

The fellows from my office, take note of what I have said, Ruto stated as students received the gesture with applause.

This year marks exactly 100 years the Native Industrial Training Depot currently Kabete National Polytechnic was established in 1924.

Ruto was at the institution to launch the celebrations dubbed TVET@100 Torch and Flame.

The Torch will be passed through TVET institutions across the country.

The climax celebrations will conclude at a major event set to be held on July 31 at the Kabete National Polytechnic.

At the same time, the President announced that KSh10 Million would be availed to Nyamachaki Primary School for its Rehabilitation.

President Ruto said Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge had made a request to him to have the public learning institution assisted since it had been

stretched to the limit.

The school that neighbours Nyeri Level V Hospital sits on a small piece of land where it houses more than 2,000 learners.

“This MP has been on my case over this School that is in your neighbourhood. He has even threatened not to allow me leave this place if I don’t commit something over it, I hope I am now free,” he sarcastically said to the laughter of his audience.

Layer, the MP thanked the Head of State for supporting his call.

Several other leaders, led by area governor Mutahi Kahiga, his deputy David Kinaniri, Senator Wahome Wamatinga and MPs Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu) and John Kaguchia (Mukurweini) attended the fete where they were hosted by the institution’s leadership, headed by Chief Principal David Maina.



Mercy Mwende, a student at Nyeri National Polytechnic addressing the gathering yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “I know in State-house we have a hospitality department, right? She queried amidst laughter from the president and other leaders during a moment of interaction in one of the classrooms at the polytechnic with the students,” Mwende said.
- “It would be my pleasure if you would recognise me at least I work in State House as I do hospitality and accommodation.”
- While acknowledging the request, Ruto responded warmly: “Okay, may be what we are going to do Mwende, is, I will need to look at your performance first.”

President William Ruto yesterday offered an unexpected internship opportunity at State House to a student from Nyeri National Polytechnic.

Mercy Mwende who is currently pursuing hospitality, catering and accommodation at the institution requested Ruto to give her a job opportunity at the offices.

Ruto was at the institution, situated in Nyeri town for the centenary celebrations of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) in the country.

“I know in Statehouse we have a hospitality department, right? She queried amidst laughter from the president and

other leaders during a moment of interaction in one of the classrooms at the polytechnic with the students,” Mwende said. “It would be my pleasure if you would recognise me at least I work in State House as I do hospitality and accommodation.”

While acknowledging the request, Ruto responded warmly: “Okay, may be what we are going to do Mwende, is, I will need to look at your performance first.”

“You have to be good, right? And number two may be what we will do first is to give you a chance to work as an intern and then we can assess you properly.”

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Chiefs and their assistants have been urged to amplify government development projects and programs in their areas of jurisdiction to ensure that public projects succeed. Deputy Government Spokesperson Mwanaisa Chidzuga says the government is implementing multi-billion-shilling projects across the country as it seeks to achieve the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) plan which is President William Ruto's focal point in ensuring his administration delivers to Kenyans. Public involvement includes any activities or strategies geared at getting input and participation from citizens. The goal of public involvement is to ensure that people who are affected by or interested in a project or initiative have plenty of opportunities to be informed, communicate their opinions, affect decision-making and shape outcomes. She said the BETA Plan focuses on Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth of micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, Digital Superhighway and the Creative Industry. Chidzuga said chiefs should be roped in to facilitate the implantation of the BETA plan championed by the national government.



The National Fund the Disabled of Kenya (NFDK) spends more than Sh300 million annually to purchase working and mobility tools for persons with disabilities country-wide, officials have said. The fund's trustees also said that the state corporation had in the last ten years spent more than Sh1 billion to assist special educational institutions with grants to carry out various activities including the implementation of flagship projects. The trustees, who were led by Vice Chairman Peter Nyakiamo, said this at the Magarini Disability Centre in Mpirani village of Magarini Sub County where they donated items worth Sh1.8 million and presented a cheque of KshSh300,000 to the centre to enable it to complete its poultry project. A total of 55 persons with disabilities from Magarini Sub County received the donations, which included wheel chairs, orthopedic chairs, tricycles, car washing machines, welding machines, sewing machines as well as salon and barber kits, a water tank and cheques worth Sh160,000 to purchase livestock for eight PWDs. Those who accompanied Dr. Nyakiamo were Prof. Julia Ojiambo, Dr. Mike Kisilu, Major (rtd) Masden Madoka, former Kitui Governor David Musila and Ms Charity Kiilu, who represents the Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection at the NFDK.



Kajiado County Government and 30 NGOs have urged residents to plant trees, stop sand harvesting, and charcoal burning to protect their water sources. County Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Dr. Leina Mpoke, revealed that the county is working towards a policy that will see the reduction of sand harvesting and charcoal burning. "We encourage our people to take care of the available water springs and sources as water is life. They should stop cutting trees and burning charcoal, sand harvesting should decrease. In our county we have put policies that will ensure sand harvesting and charcoal burning has reduced," Mpoke said. World Serve International Director, David Kangethe urged the residents to promote water for peace. In his speech he pointed out that if the residents and the partners involved choose to take care of the available water sources peace will reign among the communities. "The water sector must work together to promote peace and prevent conflict. Continued tree cutting without replacement could lead to borehole drying, so trapping water during rainy seasons is crucial," said Kangethe.



Migori County Commissioner David Gitonga has warned unlicensed miners to shut down their mining activities and acquire first the necessary documents to commence their work. Gitonga who addressed the press at his office said that the unlicensed miners are denying both the County and the National government revenue, adding that their activities are illegal and against the law. Gitonga noted that for the past five months, seven lives have been lost from different mining sites within the County. He said that the security team and the County government will work together to ensure that all unlicensed miners are tracked and legal actions taken against them. He called upon the artisan miners to join cooperatives and Sacco's to enable them to get government support as well as fulfil the requirements from the environmental and health regulations. In August 2023 The National government suspended all mining operations in Migori County and issued notices to machine operators and artisanal miners to acquire licenses. Early this year, the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya while visiting Migori urged artisanal miners in the County to get proper documentation for their operations.

Intern doctors demonstrate in Nakuru City yesterday. Over 4000 Kenyan doctors are on a nationwide strike, now on its 13th day, over the government's failure to implement a 2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement that promised to better their remuneration and working conditions. The Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union has vowed to stay put until the government fully implements their demands. Photo/ Suleiman Mbatiah



NEWS PAPER

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Relief As Kirinyaga Women Undergo Endometriosis Surgery For Free

By: Mutai Kipngetch
@themkenyatimes



Dr Joseph Njagi briefing journalists

Worth Noting:

- “We have attended to patients from rural communities suffering from endometriosis. We started by screening them, doing ultrasound scans, and this week we shall be running free surgeries for endometriosis,” Dr Njagi said.
- About 60 patients have been screened, while 20 endometriosis patients are lined up for surgery this week.
- “On average, each day we are booked for about four to five surgeries,” quipped Dr Njagi.
- Dr Njagi said the country experiences a severe shortage of gynaecologists with Kirinyaga County alone having six gynaecologists. This has led to a big disparity in patient-gynaecologist ratio considering that one out of ten women will suffer from endometriosis.

The month of March is usually the endometriosis awareness month and activities lined up to create awareness in Kirinyaga County, patients at ACK Mt. Kenya Hospital are benefitting from free endometriosis surgery.

Usually, the cost of such surgery ranges between Sh350, 000 and Sh1 million depending on the severity of the disease.

Endometriosis is a condition characterized by stigma, myths and taboos that involves the growth of tissues outside the uterus that are similar to the uterus lining.

Symptoms include pelvic pain, pain during menstrual cycle and during sexual intercourse while it may cause infertility and in worst-case scenario death.

Dr Joseph Njagi a gynaecologist, a laparoscopy surgeon and an endome-

triosis excision specialist, who was conducting the surgeries at ACK Mt Kenya Hospital in Kerugoya, said the kind gesture was meant to mark the endometriosis awareness month.

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Dr Njagi said the country experiences a severe shortage of gynaecologists with Kirinyaga County alone having six gynaecologists. This has led to a big disparity in patient-gynaecologist

ratio considering that one out of ten women will suffer from endometriosis.

It has made it a tall order for women in rural areas to access services from the specialists and more importantly for patients who require the services of endometriosis excision.

He emphasized the need for the government to invest more to bridge the gap and offer accessibility and care to the underprivileged patients. The level of awareness for endometriosis is also very low, at below one per cent.

According to the doctor, the challenge is that when the patients seek medical care, they will see general practitioners such as clinical officers who may not be knowledgeable on endometriosis.

“So a patient can only access a private gynecologist or stay for long before getting to a point where they can be able to access one,” he noted.

He cautioned that there have been myths surrounding endometriosis including where young women are advised to get pregnant as a cure for endometriosis while others are advised that painful menses is a normal phenomenon which is untrue.

Taboos that prevent women from talking about issues surrounding menstrual health also make things worse as these symptoms remain unreported, calling upon more stakeholders to come onboard and talk about this condition.

“With the right skills, we are able to pick endometriosis using ultrasound scan. You will find ultrasound scans in many health facilities. But a certain level of skill is required to pick-up the changes that we see in endometriosis,” he added.

He advised that early diagnosis and detection makes it easy to manage and contain the disease’s complications. The disease can take six to ten years for the symptoms to manifest hence it can infiltrate the intestines, the diaphragm, lungs, urethra and kidney among other body organs.

Dr. Njagi said he has been carrying out surgery using advanced endometriosis procedure where there is no role of open surgery. This is through laparoscopy – a minimally invasive surgical procedure where a camera and two tiny incisions are introduced into the body.

“The advantage of using laparoscopy is that it magnifies the image. You have better clarity, less bleeding, better handling of tissues and you are able to see the disease and the risk of complications is minimal,” he explains.

Other than surgery, the disease can be treated through medication, surgery is only used as a last resort.

Peris Wairimu, one of the beneficiaries of the surgery, said she tarried with the symptoms for the last three years before going for screening and the disease detected.

“I have had a lot of pain during my menses and it was like I couldn’t move,” she said.

She says more should be done in terms of awareness, as many women in the villages who have the condition perceive it as just a mere pain during menstruation.

“These women, as a result, suffer in silence and never take the initiative to go for screening,” she revealed.

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TSC Distances Itself From Alleged Irregularities At Metropolitan Sacco

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Teachers' Service Commission (TSC) yesterday distanced itself from the alleged irregularities at Metropolitan National Sacco Limited, emphasising that the Commission only effects stoppage of deductions upon application.

Responding to a Statement sought by Bungoma Senator David Wakoli regarding the sustained remittance of deductions in favour of Metropolitan National Sacco Society by the Commission, TSC's Chief Executive Officer, Nancy Macharia, who appeared before the Senate Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism informed Senators that the Sacco was required to forward stop orders to the Commission not later than seven days from the date of clearance by the employee.

Macharia clarified that TSC only halts monthly deductions for teachers

without Sacco loan liabilities.

She stated that deductions for over 1,000 teachers from Bungoma County had been stopped procedurally.

"Monthly deductions for 1,165 teachers from Bungoma County in favour of Metropolitan Sacco have been stopped," the CEO explained.

"Only 181 teachers are members of the Sacco from Bungoma County and TSC is yet to receive any complaint letters from them requesting for stoppage of the said Sacco contributions."

Committee chairperson Lenku Seki and other committee members faulted Metropolitan Sacco's management for not promptly forwarding stop orders to the Commission.

They resolved to further probe the matter to ensure affected teachers receive justice.

Other Senators present at the meeting include Vice-chairperson Esther Okenyuri, Jackson Mandago, Steve Lelegwe, Betty Montet, Okiya Omtatah, Crystal Asige and David Wakoli who appeared as a friend of the committee.

Also present were the management



Teachers Service Commission boss Dr Nancy Macharia explaining an issue during the session with Senators

of Metropolitan Sacco. The meeting resolved to postpone discussions pending their submission of neces-

sary documents. Metropolitan National Sacco was founded in 1977 with its membership

predominantly comprising teachers and civil servants.

Survey On Water Access Conducted In Laikipia County

By: Martin Munyi
 @themkenyatimes

A Non-Governmental Organisation has released the findings of a survey on water, sanitation, and hygiene in Laikipia County that compares the county's access to water resource with the rest of the country.

The survey conducted by Twaweza ni Sisi organisation in January and February this year saw over 3600 respondents from the County interviewed verbally and over the phone on their experiences and opinions on their accessibility to the important resource.

While presenting insights of the survey results to the Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, Twaweza Ni Sisi Programmes Officer James Ciera noted that the findings of the exercise indicated that 55 percent of households have access to piped water.

"Laikipia has a higher access to piped water (55%) compared to Kenya's overall which stands at 41 percent and considerably that higher than rural areas of the country which is at 32 percent," Ciera noted.



Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu receiving a report on water from Twaweza Ni Sisi Programmes Officer James Ciera

The second insight of the survey indicated that 92 percent of locals can access drinking water within 30 minutes, including time taken to travel to source, waiting, collecting the water and returning home.

The survey noted that in Laikipia, the average water collection time is 14 minutes lower than that of the national average of 23 minutes.

Another finding of the survey was that 57 per cent of Laikipia residents

treat their drinking water before consuming either through boiling or use of chemicals.

The other finding of the survey indicated that two out of ten households (21%) in Laikipia have access

to flush toilet connected to a sewer or septic tank while 62 percent have access to another type of improved latrine facility.

"This includes half of all households in the county that have a pit latrine with a washable slab, the most basic form of latrine that is classed as improved," Ciera said.

Governor Irungu while receiving the report said that his administration was committed to ensuring that all residents have access to clean water.

"My administration is committed to ensuring that no resident should travel for more than a kilometer to get water for domestic use or for livestock. We have commenced sinking boreholes and constructing water pans across all the wards in the county," Governor Irungu said.

County Executive Committee Member in charge of Water, Environment, and Sanitation Leah Njeri who was also present said that her department had already sunk close to 20 boreholes in the past one year as a way of ensuring that residents have access to reliable water at home for domestic use.

Gachagua Urges Leaders To Forgive Each Other, Focus On Nation Building

Leaders Accompanying The Second Most Powerful Political Leader In The Country Welcomed His Decision To Ask For Forgiveness From Former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta Saying It Showed Great Leadership And Genuine Interest In The Good Of The Community

By: DPCS and MKT Reporter



Deputy President greeting Roots Party Leader George Wajackoyah as Bishop JJ Gitahi and Nyandarua County Senator John Methu looks on. Photo/Courtesy

Worth Noting:

- “This behaviour of violent politics; of throwing stones at opponents is backward and unacceptable. It is retrogressive to engage in violent acts to attempt to solve issues. We want people to resolve their differences peacefully,” urged Mr Gachagua.
- Gachagua praised Bishop JJ Gitahi for being a true friend to him and President William Ruto saying he had welcomed and embraced them when everyone else disowned them previously before the last elections.
- “During our difficult years, many friends ran away from us; our business partners disowned us, many churches disowned us, we were treated like people with Leprosy. But Bishop JJ welcomed us. We will cherish his friendship forever,” the DP said.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has beseeched leaders to forgive each other over political differences and focus on building the nation.

The Deputy President said the country will realise better development if leaders resolved political differences amicably and forgave each other.

Speaking yesterday during the burial service of Mama Dorcas Wangari Muhihu, the mother of Priesthood Church Bishop JJ Gitahi at Kaimbaga, Ol Kalou in Nyandarua County, Gachagua said he had already showed the way by forgiving those who wronged him and asking for forgiveness from them.

“Let’s forgive and embrace each other and forge forward as a united nation. I have forgiven those who may have offended me and also sought forgiveness from those I may have hurt through harsh words. Those were matters of politics and we have already moved forward from that,” said the DP.

He also called on leaders engaging in hooliganism and sponsoring goons to hit out at their opponents to stop and amicably solve differences.

“This behaviour of violent politics; of throwing stones at opponents is backward and unacceptable. It is retrogressive to engage in violent acts to attempt to solve issues. We want people to resolve their differences peacefully,” urged Mr Gachagua.

Gachagua praised Bishop JJ Gitahi for being a true friend to him and President William Ruto saying he had welcomed and embraced them when everyone else disowned them previously before the last elections.

“During our difficult years, many friends ran away from us; our business partners disowned us, many churches disowned us, we were treated like people with Leprosy. But Bishop JJ welcomed us. We will cherish his friendship forever,” the DP said.

Leaders accompanying him welcomed the DP’s decision to ask for forgiveness from former first Lady Mama Ngina for dragging her in dirty politics in the last electioneering period, saying it showed great leadership and genuine interest in the good of the community.

“You are our leader in Mt Kenya.

We don’t have another leader. Your efforts to unite us will not be in vain. As people of Nyandarua, we respect you as our leader and you have our full support. The fight against illicit brews has come at the right time. Our young men and women are now sober and asking for jobs instead of handouts,” said Nyandarua Governor Kiarie Badilisha.

They said they will support the DP’s efforts to unite the region and implement government programmes to improve the lives of the people.

“We support you wholly in your bid for Mount Kenya Unity. As young political leaders, we have resolved to support you, follow your footsteps and advice,” said Nyandarua Senator John Methu.

Roots Party Leader George Wajackoyah praised the Deputy President for his efforts to unite Mt Kenya region and for promoting progressive politics, saying other leaders across the country had a lot to learn from him.

“I am quite happy today to shake hands with the Deputy President for the first time. This is a respectable

man, I have confirmed today. I’m inviting him to Mumias to meet my people of Wanga,” said Prof Wajackoyah.

EALA member Kanini Kega said what the DP has started is a welcome move to reconcile people and focus on a better nation.

“What you have started is a movement of seeking forgiveness and preaching reconciliation. You are a true leader and the leader of Mt Kenya region. Keep it there and do not be distracted,” said Kega.

Members of the clergy also welcomed the Deputy President’s clarification call of forgiveness saying it is the right thing to do.

“When forgiveness is sought from such a high position, blessings befall the Nation. Let us spread the message of forgiveness throughout the nation and there will be no animosity,” said Bishop Pius Muiru of Maximum Miracle Centre.

The DP described the deceased as a visionary and focused mother, who firmly and with love, brought up her children as per the dictates and doctrines of the Church. “Beyond her family, she greatly contributed to the growth of the community by instilling hope and giving guidance to those who looked up to,” the DP noted.

Other leaders who accompanied the DP included Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria, Kiambu Senator Karungo wa Thang’wa, MPs David Kiaraho (Ol Kalou), Sabina Chege (Nominated), Governor), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Nyandarua Deputy Governor Mathara Mwangi, his Nairobi counterpart Njoroge Muchiri, Nyandarua County Speaker Wachira Waiganjo and several MCAs led by Mwangi Nyaga who represents Kaimbaga Ward where the ceremony took place. Also present were members of the clergy from different denominations led by Archbishop Fredrick Wang’ombe of AIPCA who presided over the service.

Faith For The Supernatural Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

It is very good to have faith that enables us to receive from the supernatural

It is possible for one to pray for long time and fervently and his/her faith in those prayers and not in God, and thus fail to receive what is desired! And another prays for a short while and receives his/her miracle because the faith is centred on God.

Man is created to interact with the physical and the spiritual realm, because you are a spirit being living in a physical body. It is very key for one to be aware you are able to interact with the spiritual realm, which the devil desires people to be ignorant of it.

The origin of the physical(what you see) is the spiritual(can not be seen),

as it is written in Hebrews 11:3 : “ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.” When you compare the two, the Spiritual realm is exceedingly huge, powerful and permanent.

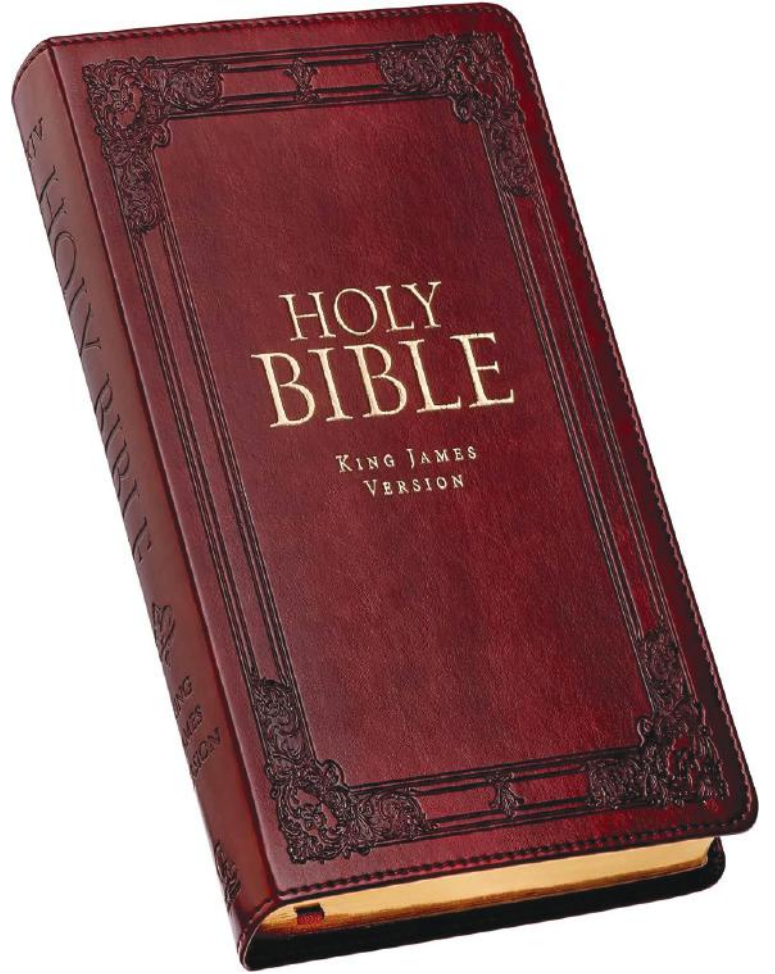
The easiest way to change what you see is the connection you have with the spiritual. That is the essence of prayers so that we see transformation. We create that which is not, The intent of God is that we should not only be called Christians, but be called SONS OF GOD, same as Christ Jesus when said” What I see the FATHER do, I also do here on earth.”

There are Keys to receive from the spiritual realm. One of these, is the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD. Consider Numbers 23:19 “ God is not man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfil? One of the tendencies of man is say one thing, and do something else irrespective whether they are saved or

not! But God is dependable, that He is faithful, and when He promises He fulfils. He can not promise and not fulfil. He is not a user, He is a blesser. The character of God is faithfulness. WHAT A FAITHFUL GOD WE SERVE: HE NEVER CHANGES.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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



Some Facts About Islam



By: Kholturayeva Ugilyo Urol
@themtkenyatimes

Islam is a meaningful and beneficial religion. It is obligatory for Muslims to follow the rules of Islam. By the way, the religion of Islam is very widespread on EARTH . Islam is the second most widespread religion in the world, with more than 1.8 billion people practicing Islam . Only 18% of Muslims live in Arab countries. More than half of Muslims live in Africa, 30% in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and more than 10% in India. Indonesia is the country with the largest Muslim population. At the same time, Muslims are widespread in the United States, China and Europe . In South America, Islam is widespread

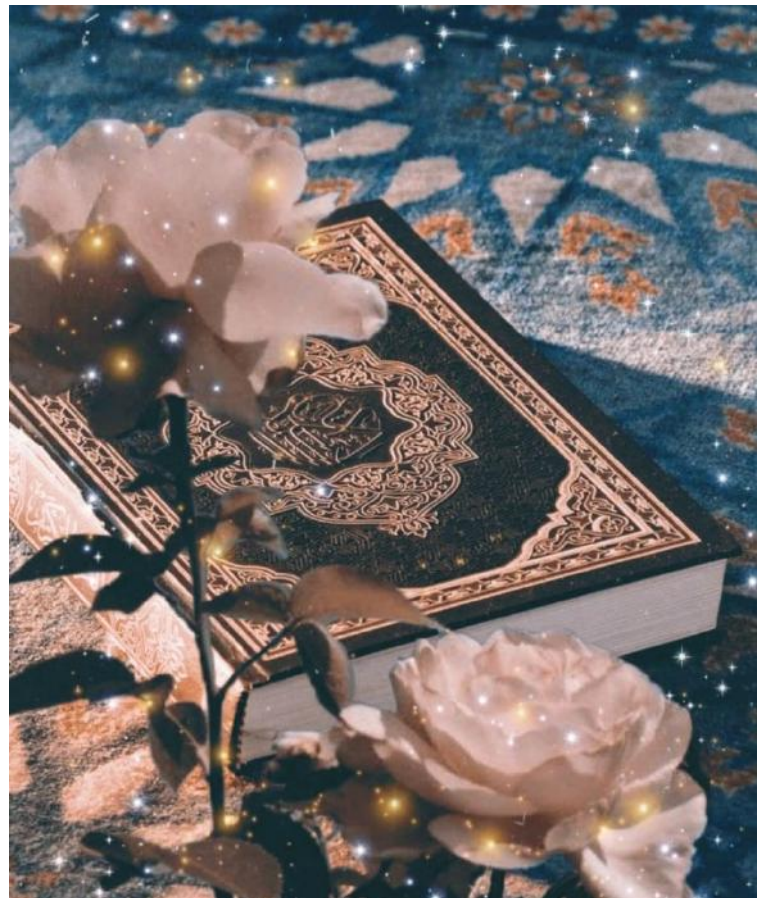
mainly in Guyana and Suriname .

If we look at the history of Islam, God, that is, Allah sent prophets and messengers to people. But people have violated the teachings of the prophets. That is why Allah chose Muhammad (s.a.w) as the last messenger to mankind , to whom he revealed his word , the Qur’an. Muhammad (s.a.w.) first calls upon his countrymen, then all Arabs, to renounce the worship of many tribal gods, to believe in the one God, to lead a righteous life, and to do good deeds in this world in order to enter Paradise. . According to the Qur’an, Ibrahim, the common ancestor of Arabs and Jews, was the first to believe in God. Therefore, Islam is not a new faith, but a religion revealed to Abraham. The holy book of Islam is the Qur’an.

In short, “Islam” is a religion built on cleanliness and purity. It has virtues such as good deeds, good deeds, goodness and generosity, and kindness. First of all, education begins with the family. It is permissible to raise a child from the family from infancy. It is the duty of every parent to bring up their children in a good , knowledgeable, intelligent , and beneficial way for the people, to encourage them to walk away from bad vices.

The beauty of these traditions of Islam makes hearts happy... Those who can feel from the heart will understand ...

[Kholturayeva Ugilyo daughter of Urol]



Ndindi Nyoro's Call On KRA's New Tax Measures Did Not Amount To Contradicting Himself



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Worth Noting:

- The authors seemed to be working at the behest of the politicians coalescing around Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.
- We know the DP was not taking lightly the MP's tone and body language that left no doubt that he was eyeing the position of Mount Kenya kingpin.
- Having been the senior-most politician from the Mountain, the DP initially thought this seat was reserved for him. Therefore, he did not expect a formidable candidate to emerge.
- It has since dawned on him that Ndindi Nyoro posed a real threat to him not only in Mount Kenya region but the whole country.
- Just like Gachagua, Ndindi Nyoro is a key ally of President William Ruto.

A few days ago, the chairman of the National Assembly Budget and Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro was in Ol Joro rok in Nyandarua county where he was hosted by the area member of parliament and religious leaders. The Kiharu MP was accompanied by a host of members from other parts of the country during the Palm Sunday. I had an opportunity to listen to his speech which dwelt mainly on the new tax measures. He rightly stated that the farmers and members of the business community had raised a red flag. So, with all due respect, I call upon Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to put the implementation plan on hold and first conduct public participation. This is as required by the relevant provisions of public financial management as envisaged in the constitution of 2010. KRA should invite all stakeholders and give them time to present their views. These views should be considered before the implementation commences. I followed keenly the analysis that was done by the mainstream media houses and how it aired his remarks. A number of them got it wrong. The

analysis was totally skewed and biased. To me, it was informed by politics but not from the professional point of view. The authors seemed to be working at the behest of the politicians coalescing around Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. We know the DP was not taking lightly the MP's tone and body language that left no doubt that he was eyeing the position of Mount Kenya kingpin. Having been the senior-most politician from the Mountain, the DP initially thought this seat was reserved for him. Therefore, he did not expect a formidable candidate to emerge. It has since dawned on him that Ndindi Nyoro posed a real threat to him not only in Mount Kenya region but the whole country. Just like Gachagua, Ndindi Nyoro is a key ally of President William Ruto. The ultimate goal of the authors was to create a false narrative that the MP had abandoned his boss. The duo was no longer reading the same script. I'm not holding brief for Ndindi Nyoro but I want to state the obvious. Though it is true that he is chairman of Budget and Appropriation Committee, this does not give him a leeway to im-

pose his decisions down the throats of other members. If, for instance, the members of the committee disagree and resort to voting, the vote of each member carries the same weight as Ndindi's. Therefore, it means Ndindi Nyoro could not have stopped the new tax proposals if majority of members voted in favor. As the chair, the law required him to submit the report containing these proposals to parliament. He did this. After the debate, a majority of the MPs adopted the Bills that had been drafted by the committee. This further affirms that the allegations that the Kiharu MP had made U-Turn did not hold any water. The MP had discharged the statutory mandate bestowed on him with utmost precision. Since he assumed power, President William Ruto has demonstrated that he truly believed in rule of law and constitution. So I want to once again reiterate this. The authors' game-plan of trying to put the MP into a collision with his boss was an exercise in futility. Hon Ndindi Nyoro recalls that the

farmers and business community had played a vital role in catapulting President William Ruto to power. His wish and prayer is to see Dr Ruto receiving similar support come 2027 polls. So one can understand where he was coming from when he made his remarks in Nyandarua last weekend. I have been listening the views of the leaders from various parts of country and general populace. Majority of those from Mountain support Ndindi's bid to take up the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin and join the rest of leaders from across the country to front him as most suitable candidate to succeed President Ruto in 2032. I wish Ndindi Nyoro all the best.

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

Committee On Tourism And Wildlife Engages CS Mutua Un Human-Wildlife Conflicts And Tourism Growth

By: PSCU

The Departmental Committee on Tourism and Wildlife, chaired by Maara Constituency MP Kareke Mbiuki, yesterday held an engagement forum with Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua, focusing on the pressing issues of Human-Wildlife Conflict and the state of Kenya's Tourism sector.

Mutua highlighted the challenges of Human-Wildlife conflict, including crop raiding, attacks on humans and livestock, and property damage.

In response, the Ministry unveiled a strategy aimed at mitigating this menace, featuring initiatives such as fencing and deploying beehives strategically.

To address the issue of animals leaving protected areas, the Cabinet Secretary disclosed tendering Ksh300 Million for park fencing, with an additional similar amount earmarked for the second phase.

Furthermore, recognizing elephants' aversion to bees, intended research in Tsavo National Park will seek to



Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua engaging parliamentarians yesterday

validate the effectiveness of utilizing beehives as a deterrent, with potential widespread implementation in vulnerable areas.

"We want to do a research in Tsavo

National park and see if it works and if it works we will start a campaign to build beehives to scare Elephants," said Mutua.

During the forum, Lamu East Con-

stituency MP Ruweida Obo raised concerns regarding the harassment of fishermen, advocating for a balanced approach that both addresses regulatory compliance and supports liveli-

hoods. The Committee echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of sensitization efforts alongside enforcement actions.

Additionally, the committee urged the Ministry to raise tourism standards, focusing on hotel quality, hygiene protocols, and sustainable development practices. Emphasizing the need to regulate construction within park boundaries, the Committee highlighted the importance of preserving natural habitats while enhancing visitor experiences.

In response, Mutua outlined the Ministry's vision to diversify the tourism landscape, incorporating emerging sectors such as medical tourism and catering to specific demographics like Halal tourism. Furthermore, plans to establish Utalii campuses nationwide aim to democratize access to tourism education, particularly benefiting marginalized communities.

Concluding the session, Mutua reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to work with the Committee, pledging to surpass expectations in driving tourism growth and eradicate humans and wildlife conflict.

Kindiki Says New Security Team In Narok Will Contain Insecurity Issues

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyaintimes

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki has expressed confidence that the new Narok security team will contain the insecurity experienced in parts of Nkararo and Angata Barikoi areas in Kilgoris Constituency.

Kindiki who spoke when he paid a courtesy call to the Narok County Commissioner Kipkech Lotiatia said the wrangles experienced between the two Maasai clans in the Nkararo area must end immediately so that people can continue with their daily activities in a peaceful environment.

He underscored the need of the security team to work with elders and local leaders to finish the skirmishes

that have been derailing development in the area.

"We want to ensure we resolve this problem permanently. It is shameful and illegal for people from the same locality and tribe to continue fighting and injuring each other," added the CS.

At the same time, Kindiki said they are working to find a lasting solution in the Angata Barikoi area at the border of Narok and Migori Counties where the residents have been fighting over land boundaries.

Early this month, three people were killed and several injured at Nkararo area after the Uasin Gishu and Siria clans differed over land boundaries.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing journalists in Narok.

Bobasi MP Obiri Teams Up with NCA to Empower Over 300 Youth with Construction Skills

By: Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

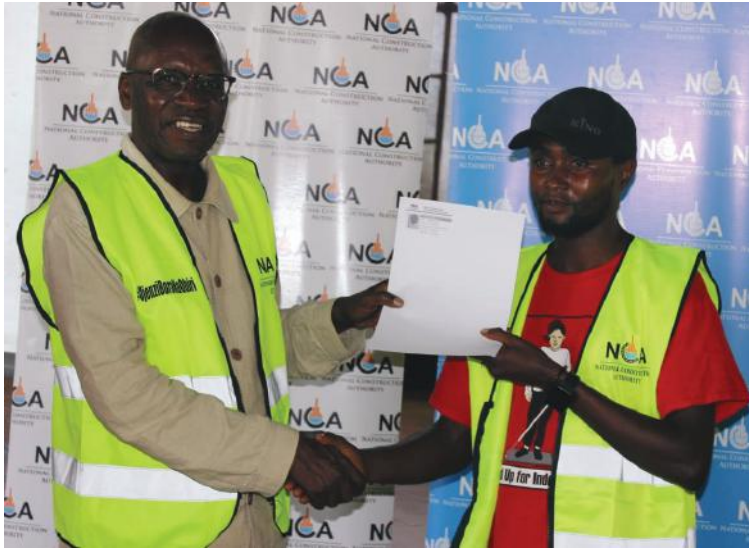
The skilled labour crunch, has been attributed to the latest trend where students shun technical education in favor of courses that lead to office jobs, has raised home construction costs – forcing cash-strapped developers to cut back on new project launches.

To tackle this challenge head-on, Bobasi MP Innocent Obiri, in collaboration with the National Construction Authority (NCA), has taken proactive measures.

Together, they have initiated a training program aimed at empowering artisans in the Bobasi constituency.

The goal is to promote the agenda of affordable housing by enhancing the skills of construction workers.

During the training at Bobasi constituency, the NCA focused on imparting knowledge about the laws, policies, and procedures governing the construction industry.



Bobasi Mp Innocent Obiri issuing a certificate to Masonry during the training. Photo / Elizabeth Angira

construction industry. This comprehensive approach aims to address issues such as poor workmanship and the substandard quality of construction projects.

Susan Ruto, the General Manager overseeing registration and compli-

ance at NCA, emphasized the importance of investing in skilled workers.

She highlighted that while attention often centers on contractors, neglecting the development of skilled workers undermines the construction industry's success.

“The reason as to why we have embarked on to train youth on these important skills,” she said.

Ruto emphasized the pivotal role of skilled construction workers and site supervisors in realizing the government’s affordable housing agenda.

Ruto further explained the NCA’s plan to certify skilled workers through accreditation programs. By providing professional accreditation, the institution aims to validate the expertise of these workers and enhance their employability.

MP Innocent Obiri emphasized the significance of training various professionals in the construction industry, including plumbers, electricians, and steel fixers.

“By enhancing vocational skills, the initiative seeks to improve the quality and safety of construction projects,” Obiri said.

Obiri said that the shortage of skilled workers has compelled property developers to resort to hiring unqualified artisans, leading to an increase in building collapse incidents.

Ward representative Sameta Mokw-

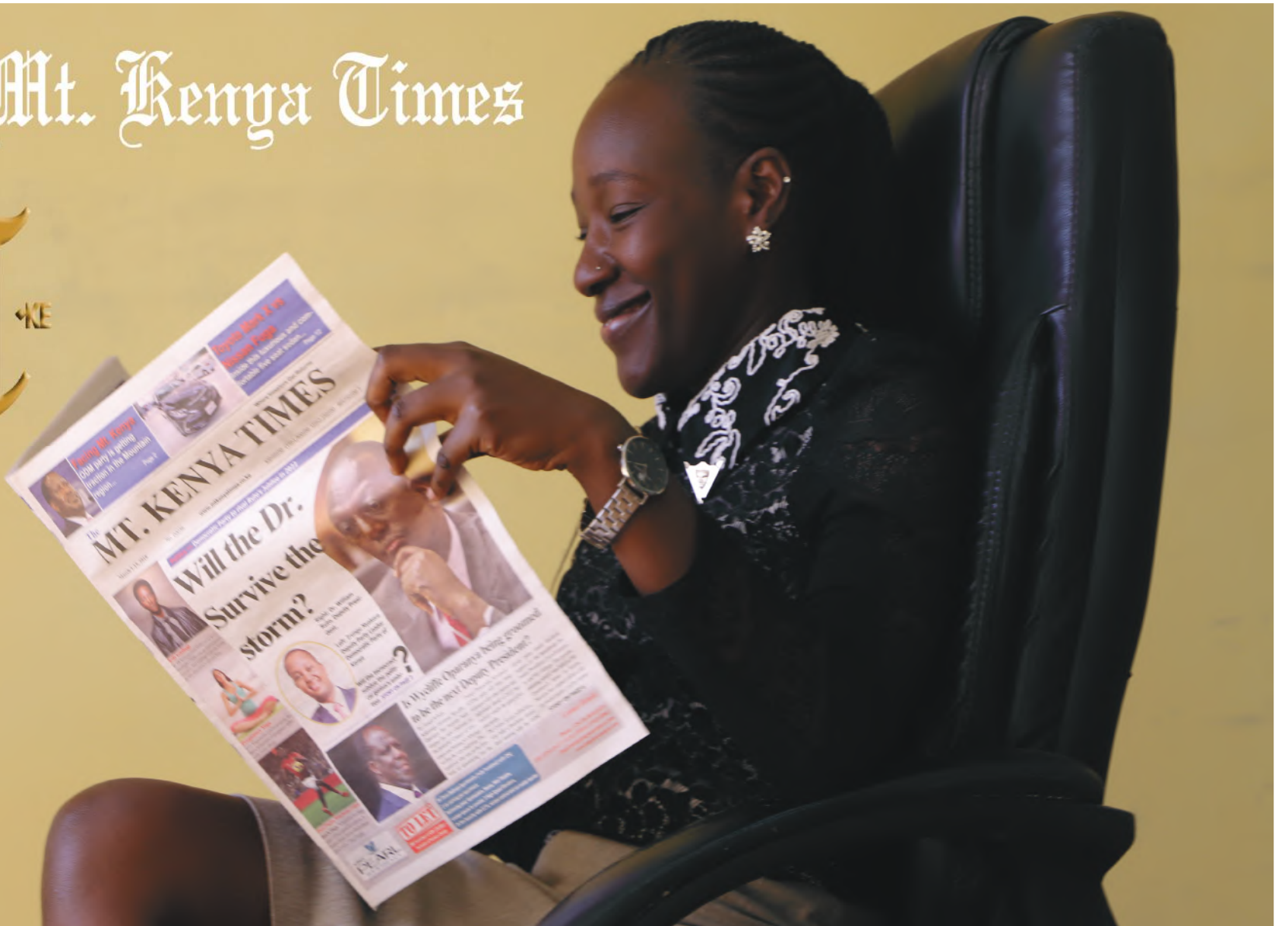
erero praised the initiative, highlighting its potential to empower youth and improve job prospects, both domestically and internationally.

Nathan Oteri, a beneficiary of the training program, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to acquire professional skills.

He believes that the training has equipped him to pursue job opportunities confidently and contribute effectively to the construction sector.

Ruto said that in addressing the shortage of skilled construction workers is crucial for Kenya’s housing sector. Through collaborative efforts between government bodies, lawmakers, and training institutions like the NCA, initiatives aimed at empowering artisans and enhancing their professional capabilities can play a vital role in overcoming this challenge and ensuring the quality and safety of construction projects across the country.

The Mt. Kenya Times



My Dad

I love you
 Father what did I do?
 Having a child
 Father, tell me what is in you
 Let go of all your longing
 Give me medicine for your pains
 Suyanchig togiz bolay
 Isn't that it?
 My filial duty
 Father tell me to prepare
 Tell me, father!
 Why silence why silence?
 Tell your child what is wrong with you
 Tell me, father
 After all, isn't that my duty as a child!

Author:

Akmalova Zebokhon
 Kimyo International University in
 Tashkent



Father..

happy.
 May God give you life.
 May your paths be filled with light.

Allah has the Qur'an on your tongue and in
 your hand.
 Honestly, you are still on the right path.
 We love you from the bottom of our
 hearts.
 My crown on my head, you are my father.

From the works of Raufova Charos, a
 member of the club "Yosh Kalamkashlar"
 of the "Barkamol Avlod" children's school
 of Romitan district.
 Coordinator: Shahnoza Jamolova

Raufova is the daughter of Charos Dilshod
 September 18, 2012.
 Bukhara Region Romitan District 1- IDUM
 and
 "Barkamol Avlod" children's school,
 member of the "Yosh kalamkashlar" club.



What should I say to you, my dear, my
 world?
 He who gave us life is my life.
 Eg is my high power, my earth and sky
 My heart is a wide sea, my star.

My father is my guardian.
 May you always be healthy and safe.
 My spring flowers, my planted garden.
 The world is surprised by your love.

You are my laughter, my happiness.
 My dear father, who made my heart

Spring Wind

Bending the tulips in all directions,
 The wind was running relentlessly.
 Wandering the fields and steppes,
 As if the wind was looking for me.

And the end found me,
 From light bedroom at midnight.
 It seemed to seize you,
 From my white heart in the dark night.

I've been looking for you ever since,
 Asking for you from the tulips.
 I can't find happiness in the fields,
 Every spring my heart is scratched.

And then comes the cold winter,
 And my hopes perish,
 Every spring I have problem,
 Looking for you is my hobby.

Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's
 daughter from Uzbekistan. She was
 born on December 22, 2005 in Khorezm
 region, Khanka district.
 Presently, she is a 11th grade student of
 41-school in Khanka.



Who Do You Love...?

The mountain behind you is a piece of
 pride.
 Always on your way, the protection of
 things.

Is there a brother of everyone?
 If you don't love them, who do you love?

His eyes will sparkle when you see him.
 One day he will grow up and become a
 companion.

Your eyes will be filled with tears.
 If you don't love your sister, who do you
 love?

Love my friend, laugh in life.
 May your heart beat with love.
 I will tell you, my heart is full of a secret.
 Add yourself to everyone's list!

Author: Farzona Mardonova 🍌🍌

Mardonova is the daughter of Farzona
 Jamshid
 January 15, 2011
 Romitan District, Bukhara Region
 1 Member of IDUM and Barkamol Avlod
 children's school "Yosh kalamkashlar" club.



Children grow up, their intentions are pure.
 He has made a living, his hands are busy.
 Not over sixty, white hair
 If you don't love your father, who do you
 love?

He gave love at the same time and gave
 his life at the same time.
 Early in the morning, he took bread from
 the oven.

He was awake at night without sleeping,
 If you don't love your mother, who do you
 love?

“Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” Project: Search for Common Ground Hosts Close-Out Media Briefing

By: Cynthia Masibo and Wendy Keziah
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Throughout the briefing, participants were immersed in a comprehensive narrative tracing the trajectory of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project, from its inception to its culmination. Through a mosaic of testimonies, anecdotes, and data-driven insights, the multifaceted impact of the project unfolded, illuminating the transformative power of dialogue, empathy, and collaboration in transcending entrenched divisions and forging resilient communities.
- Indeed, the legacy of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project extends far beyond its temporal boundaries, resonating as a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience and hope that permeates Kenyan society. From the corridors of power to the grassroots level, stakeholders remain united in their resolve to build a more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful future for all.



Judy Kimamo, the esteemed Country Director of Search for Common Ground, addressing the media.

In a profound endeavor to address the complex dynamics of conflict and promote enduring peace across Kenya, Search for Common Ground, a globally recognized leader in conflict transformation, orchestrated a pivotal media briefing to mark the conclusion of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project. This significant gathering served as a beacon of reflection, encapsulating the transformative journey embarked upon by the project and its profound impact on communities throughout Kenya.

At the heart of the briefing stood Judy Kimamo, the esteemed Country Director of Search for Common Ground, whose visionary leadership has been instrumental in guiding the organization’s mission to foster understanding and reconciliation amidst discord. In her poignant address, Kimamo articulated the overarching goals and aspirations of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project, underscoring the imperative of inclusive dialogue and collaboration in tran-

scending barriers to peace. Accompanying Kimamo were distinguished speakers, each bringing a unique perspective and expertise to the discourse. Timothy Kimaiyo, the esteemed figure entrusted with leadership at Rusi, lent his insights into the intricate interplay between conflict dynamics and community resilience. His impassioned remarks highlighted the indispensable role of local leadership in navigating the complexities of conflict and steering communities towards a shared vision of harmony.

Furthermore, the presence of Honorable Pascal Nabwana, a revered Senior Principal Magistrate, added a judicial dimension to the dialogue, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between legal frameworks and grassroots initiatives in promoting justice and reconciliation. Nabwana’s profound reflections underscored the vital intersection between law and community-driven approaches in addressing entrenched grievances and

fostering sustainable peace. Throughout the briefing, participants were immersed in a comprehensive narrative tracing the trajectory of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project, from its inception to its culmination. Through a mosaic of testimonies, anecdotes, and data-driven insights, the multifaceted impact of the project unfolded, illuminating the transformative power of dialogue, empathy, and collaboration in transcending entrenched divisions and forging resilient communities.

Indeed, the legacy of the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project extends far beyond its temporal boundaries, resonating as a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience and hope that permeates Kenyan society. From the corridors of power to the grassroots level, stakeholders remain united in their resolve to build a more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful future for all.

As the curtains draw to a close on this transformative chapter, stakeholders

and partners alike stand poised on the precipice of possibility, galvanized by the shared vision of a Kenya where conflict is met with compassion, and adversity with resilience. The journey towards peace is perpetual, but with unwavering commitment and collective action, the dream of a reconciled and prosperous nation becomes ever more attainable.

In conclusion, the “Kwa Pamoja Tuzuie Balaa” project stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, a testament to the transformative potential of unity, dialogue, and collaboration in overcoming adversity and forging a path towards lasting peace. As Kenya navigates the complexities of its social fabric, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to building bridges, fostering understanding, and embracing the diversity that defines us as a nation.

National Assembly Passes Cancer Prevention And Control (Amendment) Bill

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly have approved the Cancer Prevention and Control Bill, 2022.

The Bill sponsored by Central Imenti MP, Rahim Dawood sought to amend the Cancer Prevention and Control Act, No. 15 of 2012 to provide for training of health cadres in the specialized medical field of oncology, to include cancer treatment as part of the provision of primary healthcare and incorporate the use of e-health and telemedicine.

Speaking on the Bill, Vice Chair Health Committee and Chuka Igambang'ombe MP, Patrick Munene, said, "This is a critical moment for Kenya in the fight against cancer," adding, "By prioritizing the training of oncologists and making treatment more accessible, we can ensure better health outcomes for all Kenyans."

Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to expand the mandate of the National Cancer

Institute's (NCI).

The NCI will now be tasked with promoting the use of e-health and telemedicine in cancer management.

While contributing, Deputy Speaker, Gladys Boss acknowledged the link between cancer and pesticides.

Shollei highlighted a petition she had previously raised on 2019 calling for the removal of 262 pesticides identified by World Health Organization as carcinogenic.

"The United States stopped the use of these products," she argued, "if we are truly committed the first step is to stop the use of these pesticides with harmful chemicals products. These chemicals are supposed to be removed from the market. Since 2019 only 7 have been removed from the market."

Her sentiments were echoed by the Chuka Igambang'ombe MP and his Nakuru Town East counterpart David Gikaria, who expressed concern with the role of the Pesticide Control Board and the Government in protecting Kenyans from harmful products.

Munene added that, "We have discussed the link between pesticides and cancer as the Health Committee. The relevant agencies need to act. Particularly, the Pesticides Control Board."

The passage of the Bill, further mandates the National Cancer Institute to collaborate with the national government, universities, colleges and the private sector to promote the training of oncology professionals.

On his part, Seme MP Dr. James Nyikal said, "I support these amendments, cancer prevention and treatment should be more comprehensive," adding, "Clause 4 allows collaboration on the training of oncologists, we need to train more medical professionals on cancer management."



Parliament in session

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Zetech University – W&RSETA Informal Traders Exchange Programme Proves A Boost For Retail SMES

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

In a graduation held in South Africa yesterday at Witwatersrand University, Zetech University, and the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) celebrated the successful culmination of their pioneering Informal Traders Exchange Programme – a significant milestone in the upskilling and support of SMES.

The 111 businesses from South Africa were empowered with essential business management skills focused on technology and innovation and immersed in Nairobi’s booming informal trade to drive the growth of the South African informal retail trade. The journey didn’t end there; participants received six months of invaluable mentorship and financial literacy training from Zetech University to further support their growth plans and aspirations. The W&RSETA also supported them with financial grants to invest in their businesses.

Over the past eight months, the informal traders have undergone a transformative journey of learning,



Prof Njenga Munene, VC, Zetech University addressing the graduands at the graduation ceremony..

growth, and empowerment as part of the business development and capacitation programme which began in August 2023.

Yesterday’s Certification Ceremony and Showcase Event at Wits University provided a platform for participants to share their learnings, the impact of the programme which included new business opportunities, expansions and formalisation; as well as future prospects with esteemed panels comprising senior officials from the W&RSETA, Zetech University, Wits University, and

the retail sector. This event not only celebrated individual successes but also underscored the collective impact of collaboration and education in fostering sustainable growth and opportunity.

“As we reflect on the journey thus far, it’s evident that this collaboration has not only empowered informal traders but has also laid the foundation for continued progress and innovation within the Wholesale and Retail Sector. The stories shared today serve as a testament to the transformative power of educa-

tion, mentorship, and collaborative efforts in driving positive change and economic empowerment” said W&RSETA CEO, Mr Tom Mkhwanazi.

“For a very long time, this category of business, the SMEs has been getting little or no attention. I applaud W&RSETA, led by the CEO Mr. Tom Mkwanzazi for identifying this existing gap to empower this category of businesses. It is the convergence of this mutual perspective of both Zetech University and W&RSETA that birthed this program; one of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa. The Informal Traders Exchange Program is today certifying 111 business owners, For Immediate Release skills critical to running successful enterprises.” Prof. Njenga Munene - Vice Chancellor Zetech University, Kenya.

The Deputy Director General for Skills Development at the Department of Higher Education and Training in South Africa lauded the programme noting that it is in line with the agenda of Kenya and South Africa in innovating startups and MSMEs in Africa and ensuring the scaleup in an enabling environment for African entrepreneurs to create jobs in Africa because big business is a ripple effect of small business.

The Wits Entrepreneurship Clinic (WEC) is excited to have been part of the team that delivered the training to the informal traders, which aligns with the vision of WEC of increasing entrepreneurial activity in South Africa through easing entrepreneurial entry and empowering individuals through entrepreneurial skills. Edwell Gumbo, Director of WEC said “at the heart of the mission of Wits Entrepreneurship Clinic lies a steadfast commitment to uplifting communities and fostering economic empowerment through targeted training of entrepreneurs and providing access to resources within Wits University”.

Zetech University is working with like-minded organisations, in seeking more partnerships and collaborations in the zeal to empower MSMEs and SMEs in Kenya and Internationally to help them with financial literacy training. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics, Prof. Alice Njuguna, in addition, noted the skills training included, entrepreneurship and innovation training, business planning, digital marketing, and business automation.

Kiambu To Hold Employers Summit For The Youth

By: Sylvia Wanjohi
 @themkenyatimes

Kiambu County government is organising a mega Kiambu Employers summit for the youth in a bid to address the youth unemployment.

The initiative, tailor-made to address the pressing issue of youth unemployment and socio-economic disparities within Kiambu County, represents a pivotal intervention aimed at fostering dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders, including employers, government representatives, community leaders, and civil society organizations.

During a preparation meeting chaired by Ali Osman, CECM for Youth Affairs, Sports, and Communication, at Kiambu County headquarters, it was noted that strengthening key areas such as digital



During the preparation meeting.

technology, entrepreneurship and innovation, green economy, and trade and investments will be key in the summit with the aim of providing quality content.

According to the County Government Watch (CGW), Kevin Osido the summit will shed light on the glaring disparity between an increase of 1600 companies within

Kiambu County and a disproportionate number of job opportunities which are extended to individuals from outside the County.

“Consequently, the unequal distri-

bution of employment opportunities has led to a substantial segment of the youth demographic remaining unemployed,” Osido said.

Wendy Aura, the Young Women Leaders Connect, founder, echoed the CGW and appreciated the goodwill of the County government to enable engagements with the youth on the matter.

“Youth unemployment is a huge problem that has compounded to even more problems including increased drugs and substance abuse and mental health challenges. We seek to pave the way for solutions that rectify systematic barriers to youth employment in the county,” Aura said.

The project is a partnership between the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, County Governance Watch (CGW), and Young Women Leaders Connect.

Embracing The Dawn: The Agikuyu Community's Journey To Spiritual Liberation

Reviving Ancient Wisdom and Embracing a Radiant Future



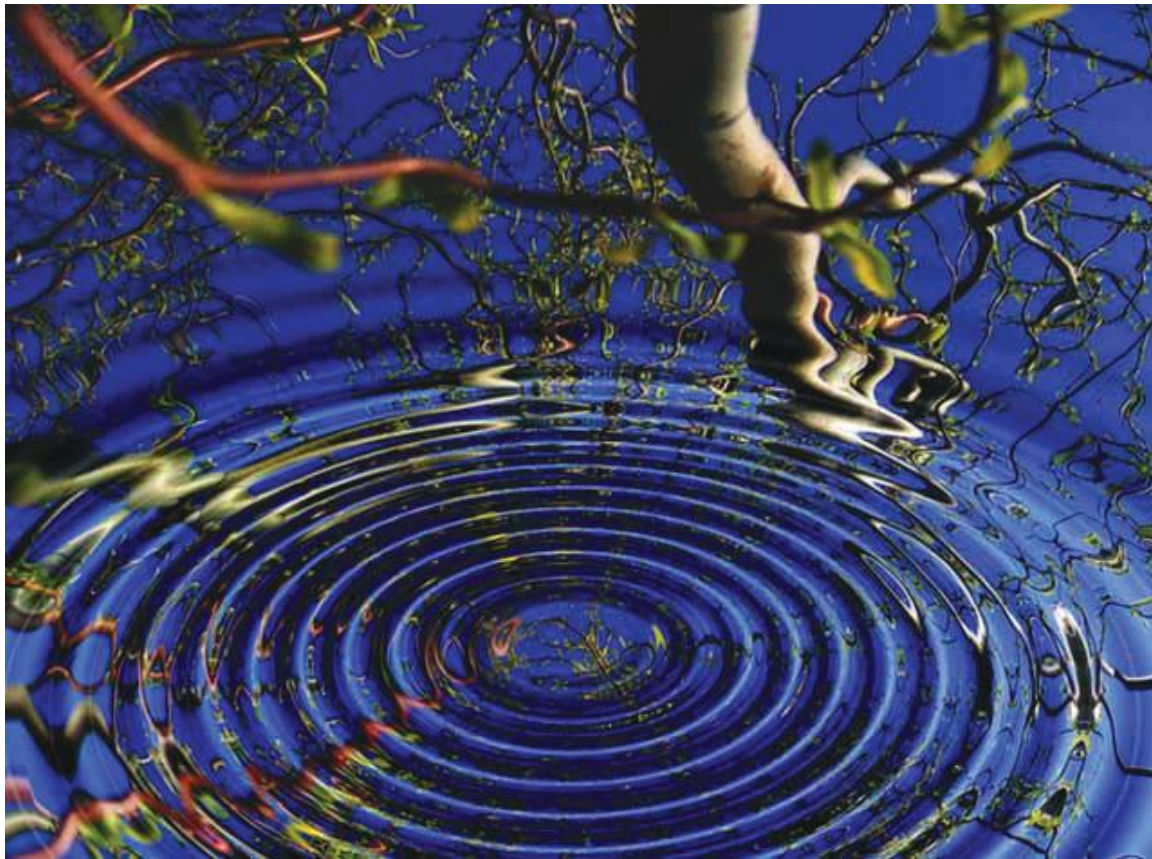
By: Erick Kamau Kahura

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- As the sun rises over the horizon, casting its warm embrace upon the mountain's rugged contours, the Agikuyu people are filled with a sense of reverence and gratitude for the breathtaking beauty and sacred majesty that surrounds them. In the shadow of Mount Kenya, they find strength and inspiration to embark on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual renewal.

- Central to the Agikuyu journey toward spiritual autonomy is the revival of sacred traditions and rituals that have long been intertwined with their cultural identity. From the sacred rites of passage to the venerable traditions of their forebears, these timeless practices serve as pillars of strength and sources of inspiration for the Agikuyu people as they navigate the complexities of modern life.



Spiritual Liberation

In the heart of Kenya's verdant landscapes, where the whispers of ancient spirits mingle with the rustling leaves, a profound awakening is stirring within the Agikuyu community. Guided by the celestial radiance of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, and emboldened by the majestic presence of Mount Kenya, the Agikuyu people are embarking on a transformative odyssey toward reclaiming their spiritual autonomy and embracing the limitless potential of their divine heritage.

1: Mount Kenya's Celestial Embrace

At the heart of the Agikuyu spiritual journey lies Mount Kenya, a towering monument to the enduring splendor of creation. Cloaked in ethereal mists and bathed in the golden hues of dawn, Mount Kenya stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the Agikuyu community—a tangible testament to the majesty of Ngai's divine presence in their lives.

For generations, Mount Kenya has served as a sacred sanctuary, a place where the earthly and the celestial converge in a harmonious symphony of existence. It is here, amidst the tranquil beauty of its towering peaks and verdant slopes, that the Agikuyu people gather to commune with Ngai,

to seek solace and guidance in the embrace of his divine love.

As the sun rises over the horizon, casting its warm embrace upon the mountain's rugged contours, the Agikuyu people are filled with a sense of reverence and gratitude for the breathtaking beauty and sacred majesty that surrounds them. In the shadow of Mount Kenya, they find strength and inspiration to embark on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual renewal.

2: Embracing Spiritual Empowerment

Led by visionary leaders and revered elders, the Agikuyu community is answering the call to reclaim their spiritual sovereignty and forge a path of individual empowerment. Inspired by the radiant grace of Ngai and fueled by a deep sense of purpose, they are breaking free from the shackles of religious dogma and embracing the boundless potential of their divine inheritance.

"This is a time of great awakening and renewal for our community," declares Apostle Tabitha Wairimu, her voice resonating with passion and conviction. "We are reclaiming our birthright as children of Ngai, stepping boldly into the light of divine truth and embracing the sacred jour-

ney that lies ahead."

With unwavering faith and unbridled courage, the Agikuyu people are charting a course toward spiritual freedom, guided by the wisdom of their ancestors and the radiant light of Ngai's grace.

3: Reviving Ancient Traditions

Central to the Agikuyu journey toward spiritual autonomy is the revival of sacred traditions and rituals that have long been intertwined with their cultural identity. From the sacred rites of passage to the venerable traditions of their forebears, these timeless practices serve as pillars of strength and sources of inspiration for the Agikuyu people as they navigate the complexities of modern life.

Under the wise counsel of spiritual elders and revered custodians of tradition, the Agikuyu community is reconnecting with the wisdom of their ancestors, drawing upon ancient customs and rituals to nourish their souls and deepen their connection with Ngai. As they gather around the sacred fire, their hearts ablaze with passion and devotion, they are filled with a sense of purpose and belonging that transcends time and space.

In the embrace of their sacred traditions, the Agikuyu people find solace and strength, forging a path of spiritu-

al renewal and cultural revitalization that honors the legacy of their ancestors and paves the way for future generations.

4: Overcoming Adversity with Resilience

Yet, the journey toward spiritual autonomy is not without its challenges. For centuries, the Agikuyu people have grappled with the stifling grip of oppressive religious doctrines, which have sought to suppress their innate autonomy and hinder the blossoming of their spiritual consciousness.

In the face of adversity, the Agikuyu community remains steadfast in their resolve, emboldened by the knowledge that they are guided by the radiant grace of Ngai and the timeless wisdom of their ancestors. Through collective action and unwavering determination, they are breaking free from the chains of orthodoxy, reclaiming their birthright of spiritual sovereignty, and forging a path of liberation for generations to come.

5: Embracing the Journey Ahead

As the sun sets behind the towering peaks of Mount Kenya, casting a warm glow upon the land, the Agikuyu community stands on the threshold of a new era—a time of spiritual resurgence and collective empowerment. Guided by the radiant grace of Ngai and fueled by the fires of their ancestral heritage, they embark on a glorious journey toward spiritual liberation, casting off the shackles of oppression and embracing the boundless potential of their divine inheritance.

In the embrace of their sacred traditions and the sanctity of nature, the Agikuyu people find solace, strength, and inspiration, forging a path toward a future illuminated by the radiant beacon of spiritual autonomy and communal unity.

As they navigate the twists and turns of the road ahead, they do so with a renewed sense of purpose and determination, knowing that they are guided by the divine light of Ngai and supported by the love and solidarity of their community.

For the Agikuyu people, the journey toward spiritual sovereignty is not just a destination—it is a sacred calling, a testament to their resilience, and an affirmation of their enduring connection to the land, the ancestors, and the divine essence that resides within each and every one of them.

West Pokot County Fights High TB Infection Rate

By: Anthony Melly
@themkenyatimes

West Pokot County Executive for Health and Sanitation Paul Woyakapel has decried the high Tuberculosis and HIV infection rate in the County that currently stands at 11 percent, with five percent of patients succumbing to the disease.

Mr Woyakapel said in 2023, the county reported 1,617 drug-sensitive TB cases, with 220 of them being child patients accounting for 14 per cent of overall prevalence in the county.

The Health Executive said that the county's treatment success rate for TB in 2022 was 80 percent with cure rate of 65 per cent, but added that the county still experienced loss of lives from TB cases that were five percent.

Mr Woyakapel also noted that up to 60 per cent of TB patients are malnourished which makes it a heavy toll for their recovery.

He said the County has identified hotspot sites for screening of TB in-



West Pokot health officials.

cluding GK Prison, Rimis Goldmines and Kanyerus in Pokot North, Cheptuya in West Pokot Sub County and Kambi Karaya in Pokot Central adding that 80 schools have been reached for public awareness messages.

Health and Sanitation Chief Officer Nelly Soprin highlighted that West Pokot is one of the counties with a high rate of tuberculosis infection.

Ms Soprin further emphasised that Kenya is among the 15 countries globally with a high prevalence of TB.

Soprin reiterated that the primary challenge faced by the county in terms of infection rates is the reluctance by citizens to visit hospitals for screening.

She encouraged residents to seek

medical attention if they experience symptoms such as coughing, sweating, or unexplained weight loss, as these could be signs of TB infection.

The Chief Officer specifically mentioned that Kapenguria County Referral Hospital among other health facilities across the county offers free TB screening services.

Soprin said the cost of TB medication for an infected individual is approximately Sh40,000, but added the government has committed to covering this expense and made TB treatment free in all public health facilities.

She stated the importance of raising awareness within the local community to prevent and treat TB effectively.

The CO said that individuals living with HIV infection often have a weakened immune system, making them more susceptible to diseases such as TB noting that it is important for them to undergo screening to determine their health status in relation to TB.

She highlighted that those in need of TB screening and treatment can receive medical assistance at any government health facility in the county

for free.

Soprin explained that adults are the most affected by TB cases and are also the main source of transmission, while children are less affected.

She said that Pokot Central Sub County is leading in cases of TB infections, followed by Pokot North, Pokot central, West Pokot and Pokot South sub counties.

The Chief Officer indicated that the county is currently executing essential measures to decrease the occurrences of TB in the community by means of contact tracing and TB preventive therapy which involve tracing and inviting all individuals who have been in contact with TB patients to the health facility, where they will undergo TB screening. If TB is ruled out, they will be provided with preventive treatment.

Mr Woyakapel, Ms Soprin and Kapenguria Division Assistant County commissioner Ruth Wachera commemorated the World TB Day 2024 at Talau county Dispensary. This year's global theme is: "Yes, we can end TB!"

Miraa Crop Supports Meru Region, Senator Kathuri Tells Security

By: PSCU

Appearing before Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations in a meeting that was chaired by Garissa Senator Abdul Haji to shade light on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi informed the committee that Miraa crop supports almost the entire Meru region economically.

"The main purpose of the Bill is to amend the Second Schedule of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act to remove Cathinone and Cathine found naturally in miraa from the list of psychotropic substances, thereby removing miraa from NACADA's drug classification," Senator Murungi said who is the sponsor of the Bill.

"The reason of the proposed amendment highlighted above is that Miraa is a recognized crop under the Second Schedule of the Crops Act, 2013, and is a source of livelihood for many Kenyans, and the classification of Cathine and Cathinone substances found in Miraa contravenes the government's position and continues to hurt the Miraa market," he added.

Legislators also considered submissions by NACADA, the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, the Kenya Psychiatric Association, the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, the Kenya Association of Muslim Medical professionals, the National Council of Churches of Kenya, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims and Movement Against Substance Abuse in Africa on the same Bill.



Senator Kathuri Murungi stressing a point yesterday.

Aga Khan University Advances Teaching On Antimicrobial Resistance To Medical Practitioners To Curb The Misuse Of Antibiotics

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes



Ministry of Health Antimicrobial Resistance Focal Point Dr. Emmanuel Tanui, Aga Khan University Pathology Chair Dr. Shahin Sayed and Aga Khan University Hospital CEO Rashid Khalani during the launch of the current state of Antimicrobial Resistance which provides multidisciplinary interventions for medical practitioners to curb misuse of antibiotics in Kenya.

University Medical College, East Africa, quoting the Lancet Commission for Diagnostics, said, “Appropriate antimicrobial prescribing requires access to proper diagnostics services and approximately 47% of the global population has little to no access to diagnostics. Diagnostics are central and fundamental to quality health care. This notion is under-recognized, leading to under-funding and inadequate resources at all levels. Importantly, recent international efforts to build lab capacity have been intensified and numerous international NGOs are conducting trainings on Anti-Microbial Stewardship.”

“As a leader in medical education, AKU faculty realize that AMR is a patient safety issue, and the laboratory and clinic interphase is an essential component of ensuring patient safety,” added Prof Gunturu.

The Microbiology Conference aims to combat AMR by bringing all the collaborating partners together for networking, actively interacting, enhancing surveillance, strengthening governance, and promoting rational antimicrobial use, thereby mitigating the human and economic burden of AMR regionally and globally.

The conference has invited teams of participants from all over Kenya including 16 health care facilities. Each facility team comprises an interdisciplinary group of clinicians, pharmacists, lab technologists, and an infection prevention and control nurse.



Ministry of Health Antimicrobial Resistance Focal Point Dr. Emmanuel Tanui, Aga Khan University Hospital Clinical Microbiology Head Prof. Gunturu Revathi and Aga Khan University Dar es Salaam Chair, Department of Medicine, Dr. Kamran Hameed during the launch of the current state of Antimicrobial Resistance which provides multidisciplinary interventions for medical practitioners to curb misuse of antibiotics in Kenya.

Worth Noting:

- In Kenya in 2019, there were 8,500 deaths attributable to AMR and 37,300 deaths associated with AMR. In addition, Kenya has the 177th highest age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 population associated with AMR across 204 countries.

- Dr Emmanuel Tanui, National AMR Focal Point, Ministry of Health said, “The Ministry of Health, through the Antimicrobial Stewardship programs, has deployed a multifaceted approach to address AMR using three pillars which include access, stewardship, research, and development. Antimicrobial stewardship programs should strike a balance between the three pillars, especially in low- and middle-income Countries. The stewardship programs ensure access to antimicrobials is not compromised and is expanded where needed.”

The 2024 Microbiology Updates Conference organized by the Aga Khan University Medical College, East Africa, Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi in collaboration with the Ministry of Health brought together national and international experts to promote and strengthen One Health governance for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance in Kenya and the region.

The Conference aims to fill critical gaps in the surveillance of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, through various initiatives such as capacity building, research, and surveillance system strengthening to tackle AMR effectively.

Excess antimicrobial usage has been attributed to inadequate disease prevention, high infectious disease burden, availability of substandard drugs, inadequately trained and insufficient health personnel, and poor access to diagnostics and laboratory services to guide treatment.

According to the World Health Organisation, Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top global public health and development threats. In 2019, it is estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths and contributed to 4.95 million deaths.

In Kenya in 2019, there were 8,500 deaths attributable to AMR and 37,300 deaths associated with AMR. In addition, Kenya has the 177th

highest age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 population associated with AMR across 204 countries.

Dr Emmanuel Tanui, National AMR Focal Point, Ministry of Health said, “The Ministry of Health, through the Antimicrobial Stewardship programs, has deployed a multifaceted approach to address AMR using three pillars which include access, stewardship, research, and development. Antimicrobial stewardship programs should strike a balance between the three pillars, especially in low- and middle-income Countries. The stewardship programs ensure access to antimicrobials is not compromised and is expanded where needed.”

“The goals of antimicrobial stewardship programs at the Ministry of Health, include, improving safety, quality of care and outcomes, reducing treatment costs, reducing emergence and spread of AMR and optimizing antibiotics lifespan,” added Dr Tanui.

The conference provides a platform for all the partners to present various challenging topics, raise many questions around AMR and discuss them, and find possible solutions.

Through the Fleming Fund Country Grant, funded by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Microbiology department at the Ministry of Health targets the implementation of the national AMR surveillance strategy in Kenya.

In addition, the conference aims to enhance laboratory performance, data quality, biosafety, and biosecurity while promoting clinical engagement with microbiology services. The goal is to develop a quality-assured surveillance system aligned with the World Health Organization’s Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS).

Prof Gunturu Revathi, Section Head of Clinical Microbiology, Department of Pathology, Aga Khan

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EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



Kisii High Court Denies Former Deputy Governor Robert Monda's Request for Conservatory Order; Elijah Obebo's Appointment Proceeds

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyetimes



Former Kisii Deputy Governor Robert Monda .

Former Kisii Deputy Governor Robert Monda suffered a setback as the Kisii High Court declined to grant him a conservatory order for the proceeding of the county assembly to gazette the new Deputy Governor, Elijah Obebo.

The county assembly will now proceed with the gazette of Obebo. On March 18, Senior Counsel Katwa Kigen, along with Michuki and Wilkins Ochoki, lawyers representing the petitioner, filed an application for the conservatory order at the Kisii High Court to prevent the county assembly from proceeding with the gazette of Obebo.

Ochoki emphasized that it was the petitioner's responsibility to prove the case and not for the parties to determine relevance.

He argued that the burden of proof lies with the petitioner and the parties

involved.

Ochoki stressed that the named respondents were sufficient for the case to proceed.

He expressed readiness to proceed with the application dated March 18, stating that any delay would risk Obebo's gazette.

Kigen, stated that their petition is grounded in the impeachment process conducted by the Senate.

Kigen objected to the application to include interested parties in this petition and clarified that this petition is unrelated to two other petitions filed in Nairobi and Machakos courts, of

which they are unaware

On the respondent's side, Ndegwa Njiru argued that the petitioner was engaging in forum shopping to delay the county assembly's gazette of Obebo.

During the online Zoom meeting, Judge Teresa Odera granted permis-

sion for the county assembly to proceed with Obebo's gazette.

Arnold Ajieng and Ndegwa Njiru, lawyers for the respondents, applied for the county government and Governor Simba Arati to be enjoined in the case, as they were integral to the matter.

Judge Odera allowed five days for the submission of the rejoinder application from the county government and Governor Arati.

Additionally, she granted permission for the respondents' application for the rejoinder, with the matter scheduled for mention on April 16.

Vincent Mariita and Mairura Rate-mo moved to court to challenge the impeachment of former Deputy Governor Robert Monda.

Monda was impeached by both the Senate and the Kisii County Assembly on grounds of gross violation of the Constitution and law, abuse of office, gross misconduct, and crimes under national law

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.

Past of your relationship:-

The past of your relationship was filled with challenges, including difficulties in communication, instances of cheating, bullying, and facing violence or assault. There was a sense of indecision from your partner, possibly due to their ambition and focus on expanding their business. Betrayal may have stemmed from the presence of another romantic partner in their life. Overall, the past was filled with stress and turmoil.

Present of your relationship:-

Currently, you are prioritizing your healing journey, although progress has been gradual. You have adopted a more practical approach and gained better control over your emotions. Your focus has shifted towards your career, where you are striving for clarity and advancement. Some of you may have evolved into successful business person, while others are actively strategizing for financial stability. Many of you are recognizing the importance of leveraging your intellect, many are making informed decisions to enhance their financial well-being.

What should you do:-

Many of you are considering ending your relationship swiftly, while others are prepared to sacrifice their own happiness for their partner's sake. In this situation, it's crucial to break away from old habits and shed your past quickly. Don't let yourself become trapped in a relationship that's holding you back, and don't resist

the changes that are on the horizon. Release yourself from anyone or anything that's hindering your progress.

What you should not do:-

Do not permit your thoughts to constantly replay the distressing memory of the moment you uncovered that your partner regarded you as merely an option and betrayed your trust, leading to the shattering of the very core of your relationship. Refrain from indulging in excessive day-dreaming and overthinking. Many of you are finding it difficult to let go because this relationship was incredibly significant to you, and facing the reason for its end feels extremely unbearable.

Future of your relationship:-

If you decide to reconcile with your partner in the future, be prepared for them to have high expectations and demands in the relationship. It will require a lot of effort and hard work from your side, and unfortunately, de-

spite your dedication, you might end up feeling disappointed in the end. Your partner may not fully appreciate or acknowledge the effort you put in, and you might find yourself feeling harassed or unappreciated.

The message of Lord Krishna for your situation:-

Gather those beloved to you, welcoming all into your embrace with open arms. Remain steadfast in pursuit of your divine purpose, knowing that triumph awaits on the horizon.

Make the choices with wisdom and confront obstacles with divine grace, seeking alternate routes with discerning eyes. Embrace each endeavor with patience and deliberate action, for therein lies the path to enlightenment.

Though you've made progress, there's still work ahead. Stay dedicated to your tasks, keep pushing until every little thing is done. That's how you find real satisfaction.

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

Reconciliation Reading



Faith Diplomacy: Stretching Religion To Its Limits



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes



In the current milieu of Kenya, a disquieting paradigm has surfaced, characterized by a governance ethos seemingly imbued with a pervasive religiosity that permeates diverse spheres of authority, ranging from the stewardship of natural assets to fiscal strategies and the safeguarding of national defense. This burgeoning phenomenon, colloquially labeled as “faith diplomacy,” engenders intricate inquiries into the delineation of apt demarcations between religious precepts and the art of statecraft, accentuating the ramifications inherent in the obfuscation of these delineations.

The encroachment of religious tenets into the realm of governance in Kenya not only heralds a departure from conventional secular governance paradigms but also heralds a potential conflation of spiritual doctrines with the pragmatic exigencies of state administration. This fusion of faith and governance, under the guise of “faith diplomacy,” portends a reconfiguration of the traditional separation between church and state, thereby precipitating a milieu where religious imperatives intertwine with policy formulation and implementation, potentially reshaping the contours of national decision-making processes.

The emergent trend of “religionizing” governance in Kenya underscores a pivotal juncture where the sacrosanct principles of secular governance confront the encroachment of religious influences, prompting a critical appraisal of the implications stemming from the fusion of faith-based convictions with the pragmatic exigencies of statecraft. The phenomenon of “faith diplomacy” not only underscores the evolving landscape of governance in Kenya but also underscores the imperative for a nuanced discourse on the delineation of boundaries between religious ethos and statecraft, elucidating the intricate interplay between faith-based imperatives and the imperatives of effective governance in a pluralistic society.

In the nascent stages of this disconcerting trajectory lies the governmental stance towards mitigating

drought and water paucity. Rather than instituting holistic methodologies aimed at augmenting water retention, preservation, and allocation, the administrative response has veered towards orchestrating devotional vigils, beseeching celestial intercession for precipitation. While the invocation of spiritual solace during periods of hardship is not uncommon, predilection towards exclusive reliance on entreaties devoid of substantive measures teeters perilously close to a dereliction of duty.

The initial indication of this disquieting pattern crystallizes in the governmental methodology concerning the amelioration of drought-induced water scarcity. In lieu of enacting comprehensive frameworks designed to bolster aquifer replenishment, ecological conservation, and equitable water apportionment, the executive’s recourse has gravitated towards convening spiritual assemblies, entreating divine clemency for rainfall. Although the integration of spiritual solace amidst adversarial circumstances is a customary recourse, predicated reliance on supplication bereft of material initiatives verges on a precarious relinquishment of governmental obligation.

The incipient emergence of this perturbing tendency is discernible in the governmental modus operandi vis-à-vis the mitigation of drought-related water insufficiency. Rather than instituting all-encompassing methodologies geared towards fortifying water retention, preservation, and equitable dissemination, the administrative response has veered towards orchestrating spiritual congregations, supplicating for celestial intervention to alleviate aridity. While the invocation of spiritual succor during adversarial junctures is not unprecedented, an inclination towards exclusive dependence on entreaties devoid of substantive actions straddles the precipice of a perilous abdication of governmental responsibility.

As the renowned philosopher Voltaire once quipped, “We must cultivate our garden,” a poignant reminder that faith alone is insufficient; it must be accompanied by pragmatic

efforts to address challenges head-on. In the words of the Kenyan scholar Ngugi wa Thiong’o, “Prayer is the last resort of a conquered people,” a sobering admonition against the passive acceptance of adversity without employing the resources at our disposal.

The economic realm has not been spared from this “religionization” either. In the face of mounting economic challenges, the government has resorted to invoking divine intervention rather than implementing structural reforms and sound fiscal policies. This approach not only defies economic principles but also undermines investor confidence, as it portrays a leadership more inclined towards spiritual solace than evidence-based policymaking.

The philosopher John Locke, a pioneer of classical liberalism, emphasized the importance of separating religious and civil affairs, asserting that “the commonwealth seems to me to be a society of men constituted only for the procuring, preserving, and advancing their own civil interests.” By blurring this line, the Kenyan government risks undermining the very foundations of good governance and economic prosperity.

Perhaps the most alarming manifestation of this trend is the government’s reliance on “faith diplomacy” in matters of national security. The decision to deploy Kenyan police officers to Haiti, a country grappling with complex political and humanitarian crises, was reportedly undergirded by a belief in divine guidance and protection. However, such an approach disregards the harsh realities of security operations and the rigorous preparation required to ensure the safety of deployed personnel.

As the eminent political philosopher Thomas Hobbes posited, the primary responsibility of the sovereign is to maintain order and security, a duty that necessitates a rational and pragmatic approach, not one founded solely on religious conviction. By conflating faith and security, the government risks jeopardizing the lives of its citizens and undermining the integrity of its security apparatus.

Moreover, the government’s preoccupation with “faith diplomacy” has seemingly overshadowed the pressing issue of insecurity within Kenya itself, particularly in the northern regions. The philosopher Frantz Fanon, a staunch critic of colonialism and its enduring legacies, warned against the complacency of leaders who prioritize external endeavors over addressing the internal struggles of their people. By neglecting the security challenges within its own borders, the Kenyan government risks perpetuating the very conditions that breed instability and undermine the well-being of its citizens.

It is crucial to acknowledge that religion and spirituality hold immense value and significance in the lives of many Kenyans. However, the role of faith in governance must be carefully delineated and balanced with rational, evidence-based policymaking. As the philosopher Jürgen Habermas aptly stated, “The secular society does not reproduce itself from ethos alone, but from the positive reasons resulting from the institutionalized processes of rationalized opinion and will formation.”

The pursuit of “faith diplomacy” not only risks alienating segments of the population who do not subscribe to the government’s religious inclinations but also undermines the very principles of a secular, pluralistic society. The philosopher John Rawls, in his seminal work “A Theory of Justice,” advocated for a political conception of justice that transcends comprehensive doctrines, religious or otherwise, to ensure the fair treatment of all citizens, regardless of their beliefs.

Furthermore, the unchecked infusion of religion into statecraft can create a slippery slope towards theocratic tendencies, where the lines between religious authority and governmental power become dangerously blurred. The philosopher Baruch Spinoza warned against the conflation of religion and politics, asserting that “the more freedom of judgment is granted to every man in this most precious commodity, the more the civic order will remain inviolable.”

It is imperative that the Kenyan government recalibrate its approach, striking a delicate balance between respecting the religious sentiments of its citizens and upholding the principles of secularism, rationality, and evidence-based policymaking. The philosopher Immanuel Kant’s concept of the “categorical imperative” serves as a guiding principle, urging leaders to act in accordance with moral and ethical precepts that

can be universally applied, transcending the narrow confines of any particular religious doctrine.

In summation, notwithstanding the undeniable significance of faith and spirituality in the fabric of individual and communal existence, the untrammelled adoption of “faith diplomacy” by the Kenyan leadership presents a palpable hazard of transgressing the delineations that confine religion within its apt precincts. Through the conflation of ecclesiastical tenets with matters of governance, the administration not only subverts the foundational precepts of effective governance but also imperils the welfare and security of its populace. A recalibration is imperative, heralding a return to rationality and a discernment that while faith and governance can coexist harmoniously, they must do so within their distinct domains to avert the descent into a domain characterized by irrationality and encroachments of theocratic nature.

The denouement of this discourse underscores the imperative for a judicious reevaluation of the interplay between faith and governance, particularly in the Kenyan context. The unchecked proliferation of “faith diplomacy” engenders a milieu where the sacrosanct boundaries between religious convictions and governmental prerogatives become increasingly blurred, precipitating a milieu ripe for the erosion of democratic principles and the ascendancy of religious dogma in matters of statecraft. A corrective trajectory beckons, necessitating a cognizant acknowledgment that while faith holds a pivotal place in societal dynamics, its integration into governance mandates a circumspect delineation to forestall the encroachment of irrationality and theocratic inclinations.

In finality, the imperative for a discerning reevaluation of the symbiosis between faith and governance emerges as a clarion call in the Kenyan landscape. The unbridled espousal of “faith diplomacy” portends a precarious trajectory where the fusion of religious precepts with governmental functions imperils the foundational tenets of effective governance and societal well-being. A paradigm shift towards a nuanced equilibrium, delineating the realms of faith and governance with precision, stands as an imperative to avert the perils of descending into a realm characterized by irrationality and the undue influence of religious doctrines on matters of state.

The Writer is a Legal Researcher and Lawyer with an interest in transdisciplinary study of law.

World Bank Pledges For Low Cost Boarding Schools In Valotile Areas

By: Victor Obure
 @themkenyatimes

The World Bank plans to upgrade at least ten primary schools in volatile counties by offering low cost boarding facilities for learners in banditry prone areas.

The Bank's senior education specialist Ruth Charo pledged to facilitate the revamping and expansion of the schools to take in boarders from security risk institutions where disruption of learning activities was rampant due to raids.

Ms. Charo who is also the task team leader of the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning (KPEEL) program currently leading a fact finding mission on the status of the five year program however challenged the government agencies to secure the locations of the schools earmarked for the exercise to restore the confidence of the learners.

She announced the plans during a courtesy call at Samburu County Commissioner's office Mr John Cheruiyot who backed proposals to establish two low cost boarding schools in Samburu Central Sub County to woo and retain learn-



Pupils waiting to be served with food..

ers from disturbed areas after eight schools were recently closed due to the insecurity menace.

The local County Director of Education Mohamed Ali in his briefing to the fourth Mission on the implementation of the KPEEL programme expressed fears that many learners from the banditry ravaged communities dropped out of schools while fleeing along with their families from the hotspots.

He said schools located on the edges of the infamous Malaso conflict belt that stretched from the banditry infested Suguta and Malaso valley all

the way to Kapedo escarpment were worst affected after villagers deserted their homes due to sporadic attacks and cattle raids.

Cheruiyot assured the government development partners that plans were on course to beef up security in affected schools including Malaso, Losuk, Morijo, Ngorika, Soit Pus, Pura and Lorok Primary schools which were temporarily closed for security reasons.

He however commended the Partners for rolling out the KPEEL program of which at least 90 percent of local schools were beneficiaries fur-

ther boosting the quality and learning standards in some of the most challenged environments in the country.

The proposal was flaunted as senior officials from the Ministry of Education under the Directorate of Projects Coordination and Delivery and other development partners embarked on field visits to evaluate the status of KPEEL program in thirteen counties across the country.

The team including officials from the World Bank, the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, Elimu Yetu Coalition, Department of Refugees Services, The Teachers Service commission

and others stakeholders were on their fourth implementation support mission in Samburu County after a similar exercise in Turkana County last week.

The team is also expected to cover Bungoma, Siaya, Kisii, Bomet, Narok, Kisumu, Kakamega, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru Mombasa and Kwale counties before evaluating the outcome of the mission early next month.

The Technical team toured Nonto-to Primary School where they were shocked to find boarding learners sharing beddings and related amenities in their desperate quest for knowledge.

The team was taken aback by the state of affairs in the girl's dormitory prompting Ms Charo and KPEEL National Co-ordinator Martha Ekirapa to mobilize an impromptu fund raiser to procure needed beddings for the boarders from poor backgrounds.

The school's head teacher Susan Languris expressed her frustrations when girls who could barely afford the Ksh1000 Levy under the low cost boarding facility showed up for admission yet they were more vulnerable to drop out due to cultural traits of their communities.

Government To Fight TB Using Community Centered Approach

By: Kenya News Agency

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Susan Nakhumicha has said that community centered approaches and stakeholders play a pivotal role in the fight against tuberculosis in the country.

Nakhumicha said in Kenya, as in many parts of the world, TB continues to pose a formidable public health challenge despite concerted efforts and notable progress over the years.

The CS noted that TB remains a leading cause morbidity and mortality in the country and it is critical that the country strengthens the collaboration with the grassroots stakeholders to reach every corner of our nation with TB services, especially in underserved and hard to reach areas.

She said that TB is the fourth leading cause of death in Kenya and 22,700 people have lost their lives following

TB infection by 2020.

Speaking in Kimorori grounds at Kenol in Murang'a County while marking World TB Day on Monday, Nakhumincha said that the newly launched National TB Strategic plan 2023-2030 emphasizes community centered approaches integrating Community Health Promoters (CHP) for household level TB education, detection and referral.

"One of the cornerstones of our strategy in this battle against TB is the imperative to leverage community efforts" she said adding that communities are at the forefront of our responses, serving as first line of defense in identifying and addressing TB cases.

She divulged that CHPs and other grassroots stakeholders play a vital role in raising awareness, conducting TB screenings, providing directly observed treatment support to TB patients and ensuring that those affected are linked to care and support services.



Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha in Kenol, Murang'a.

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Sports >> *Captain Michael Olunga banged in a hat-trick on his 30th birthday on Tuesday evening as ten-man Harambee Stars clinched the four nations tournament defeating Zimbabwe Warriors 3-1 in the final in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Birthday Boy Olunga Bags Hat-Trick As Kenya Clinches Four-Nations Title

Captain Michael Olunga banged in a hat-trick on his 30th birthday on Tuesday evening as ten-man Harambee Stars clinched the four nations tournament defeating Zimbabwe Warriors 3-1 in the final in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Zimbabwe drew first blood in the fourth minute through Joseph Okumu's own goal after the Stade Reims defender directed the ball into his own net while attempting to make a clearance while sandwiched between two Zimbabwean players.

However, Kenya shrugged off the slow start when Olunga connected Ayub Masika's cross shortly before the break.

After the break, Warriors coach Norman Mapeza was sent off following a heated argument with the referee.

Moments later their woes were compounded after young defender Teenage Hadebe was sent packing leaving them less-coach and 10-man on the pitch.

Kenya made the most of their superior numbers by taking the lead five minutes past the half-hour mark courtesy of Olunga's fierce shot from inside the area.

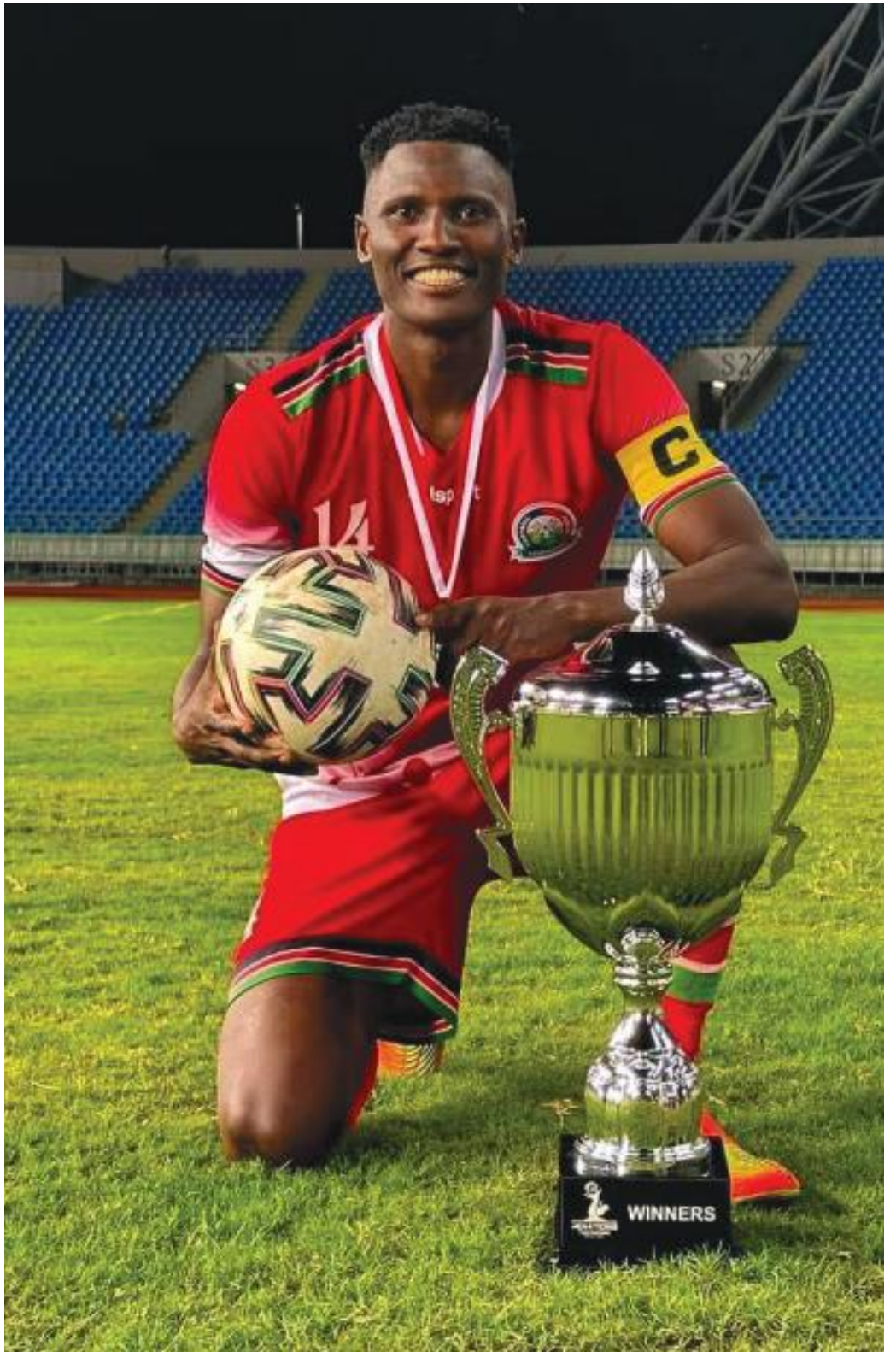
Despite Kenya being reduced to ten men later after Richard Odada was given the marching orders after second yellow card, Olunga put the game beyond the opponents reach with a thunderous shot three minutes from time to make it 3-1.

Kenya now has won six times, drawn four times and lost once to Zimbabwe with 2008 being the last time both sides meet during the 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign

Line Ups

Kenya

Manager: Engin Firat
Patrick Matasi, Vincent Mahiga, Daniel Anyembe, Johnstone Omurwa, Joseph Okumu, Rooney Onyango, Anthony Akumu, Christine Erambo, Richard Odada, Michael Olunga, Ayub



Harambee Stars striker Michael Olunga celebrates with the hat-trick ball and four-nations tournament title after helping Kenya defeat Zimbabwe Warriors 3-1 in the final at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe, Malawi on Tuesday, March 26 2024. Photo-Michael Olunga Facebook.

Timbe Masika.

Zimbabwe

Manager: Norman Mapeza

Donovan Bernard, Gerald Takwara, Teenage Hadebe, Munashe Garananga, Junior Mukunike, Walter Musona, Andy Rinomho-

ta, Marshall Munetsi, Macauley Bonne, Daniel Msendani, Tino Kadewere

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *President William Ruto yesterday made a rallying call to Kenyans to descend on Naivasha for the WRC Safari Rally fanfare from March 28 to 31.

President Ruto Rallies Kenyans To Attend WRC Safari Rally



President William Ruto

By Agencies

President William Ruto yesterday made a rallying call to Kenyans to descend on Naivasha for the WRC Safari Rally fanfare from March 28 to 31.

The iconic rally, which is highly regarded as the toughest rally in the world, promises to captivate rally fans in the country and around the globe.

While welcoming the international rally drivers, President Ruto said: “This Easter weekend, I join the people of Kenya to welcome top WRC Safari Rally drivers to Naivasha, in the Great Rift Valley, an incomparable beautiful destination in magical Kenya, the first home of humankind.

“We are honoured to host the world’s toughest motor rallying contest, a captivating showpiece, where human ingenuity and endurance, breathtaking rugged terrain and the epitome of automotive engineering excellence are

stretched to the limit in the epic struggle that is the WRC Safari Rally.”

The President further assured participants that the government has taken all measures to assure the safety and security of all participants.

“I take this opportunity to assure every participant that every measure has been taken by relevant government agencies to ensure that the Safari Rally is safe and secure. Welcome home and enjoy the Easter magic of WRC Safari Rally.”

Ruto will flag off at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, and after flag off the motorcade will proceed to Kasarani National stadium for a short exhibition and afterwards, head to Service Park in Naivasha which is the nerve centre of the event.

The event takes various routes in Naivasha namely, Malewa, Loldia, Elementaita, Soysambu with various spectator stages

along the routes and terminates at the Hells’ Gate National Park, where various closing events, including celebrating the winners will be held.

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 organisers and a team 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.

Commenting on the event’s preparations for the event, WRC Safari Rally Kenya CEO Charles

Gacheru said: “The preparations for the Safari Rally are proceeding smoothly, and we are currently at the tail-end, with meticulous attention to detail.

“Our dedicated teams are working tirelessly to ensure that all aspects of the event have been addressed. From setting up the Service Park, to coordinating logistics and ensuring safety measures are in place, every aspect of the rally’s organisation is being carefully managed to meet the highest standards expected of such an event.

“The Service Park is located at the Kenya Wildlife Research Training Institute, serves as the nerve centre of the rally, where teams fine-tune their vehicles and conduct essential maintenance with the help of their dedicated mechanics.”

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mother Planet...



By: Yuldasheva Zahro
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mom! What a great man. Only her nights spent awake for her child, her running around for the child's perfection, her willingness to do anything for the peace of her family are praiseworthy. He is a unique breed that shows great respect to those around him.
- Mother! He is a kind and passionate person who gives life lessons. She is a teacher who can always help young and old alike, always shows the right path, and is a loving mother who finds a way to please everyone in the family.
- Without a mother, life would certainly be dark and gloomy. Therefore, it is our filial duty to help our mothers and support them.



Mom!

By saying or hearing this blessed word, unlimited love will appear in our hearts and every time the beautiful and kind image of the mother will be reflected in our body. In our veins, sincerity and kindness will flow like a river. By saying mother, both our tongue and our tongue are overflowing with incomparable human love and kindness.

Mother is great, respectable, dear and humble. Every word that we will say in honor of this great person will keep beating in our hearts and tongues. It is an honor for us to acknowledge that such a great being as a mother gives her whole life, life, love, and heart for our children.

A mother's heart, mother's love waves in the waves like a unparalleled ocean.

Peaceful, stable, calmness of every family, healthy and well-rounded children, healthy environment in the family, existence of a healthy way of life is the responsibility of a person in every respect. This is our respectable mother, who does not regret such a responsible and honorable task, raises her head proudly, finds strength in difficulties, and helps others around her.

Mom! What a great man. Only her nights spent awake for her child, her running around for the child's perfection, her willingness to do anything for the peace of her family are praiseworthy. He is a unique breed that shows great respect to those around him.

Mother! He is a kind and passionate person who gives life lessons. She is a teacher who can always help young and old alike, always shows the right path, and is a loving mother who finds a way to please everyone in the family.

Without a mother, life would certainly be dark and gloomy. Therefore, it is our filial duty to help our mothers and support them.

It is said that one of the philosophers called the expression of his feelings and prayers, which seeps from the depths of his heart, as "Speech about Allah" what's the word How does one learn words? How can a single piece of boneless tongue express a word? Isn't the word itself an exclamation from a thousand and one cells of a mother's soul? There are many such questions. In our opinion, there is only one answer: the great creator of words is Mother.

Therefore, the word is before life. For the first time, a young child hears words in his mother's arms, in the expressions of love and hope. So, mother is a miracle of existence, a great and unique power, a priceless gift.

The support, foundation of the mother nation.

It is stainless gold that never fades away. If we collect the works and published books describing, glorifying and praising our mothers, it is natural that there will be a huge mountain. However, in none of these works, the creators have not yet given a clear and concise description of

the mother. Even so, our creators did not stop for a moment from praising mothers, describing and describing them.

As a symbol of human virtues, peace, kindness, tolerance, and love, Mother Universe always hugs mankind with love.

Mother is a great planet... each one of us is always looking for this planet and always around it. We live waiting for salvation from the mother planet.

Live forever, live forever

Our savior is Mother Planet!

Each mother is a special person for her children. He is an excellent teacher, a dear friend, a strict teacher. If there is anyone who loves us more than our mother, it is only Allah. Not only my mother, but every mother who sacrifices her life for her family deserves praise and applause.

Our mothers taught us to value life and every moment. How much each of us can thank our dear and beloved mother for all the great things she has done, for the light and warmth that she can give us before we are born. There are many wonderful epics, legends, and stories that glorify parents and embody their bright, clear, and bright characters.

One of these:

Story: Once upon a time, a land was invaded by a wild beast. It was cut off, crops were burned, and the demand was destroyed. It's the turn of a busy mother.

The mother has a son and a daughter, and she loves them very much,

she is ready to give her life for them. The conqueror wanted to test the mother:

- I don't want to kill you, I want to kill your son who can take revenge when he grows up. Judging by what they say, mothers are ready to give their lives for their children. I don't need your soul, I need your beautiful eyes like. He said that if you go and cut out your right eye, your son will be saved, otherwise I will execute him.

The mother:

- (Without even thinking about it) Cut out my eyes if you need them, but don't touch my child, he said. The executioners cut out the mother's right eye. Bloodthirsty Hornet :
- Now if you give your left eye, your daughter will be healthy too, - he said.

The mother agreed without any hesitation. The executioners also cut out the left eye of the mother. She lost both of her eyes and her children survived. In the meantime, the braves of the people rose up and expelled the invading king from the land. Bowing to his mother's love and bravery, the people appointed him as the head of the country. A mother who lost both eyes lived a long time and ruled the country with justice, making her son her right eye and her daughter her left eye.

Indeed, our mothers can do anything for us.

Life without a mother would be dark and gloomy indeed. Therefore, it is our duty to help our mothers and support them. One important way to do this is to help with household chores first. This will certainly reduce the burden on our mothers. And our mothers have time to take care of their health and relax.

Another way to support mothers is to say thank you.

In conclusion, we can say that a mother's heart is made of gold, no wonder.

Thanks to our mother, we learned to read and write, to solve all kinds of problems we faced, and we were able to treat people around us well.

Yuldasheva Zahro, Urganich State University

The faculty of "Natural and agricultural sciences" is the second stage