



Ascending with Ngai: The Unparalleled Journey of Spiritual Mastery and Cultural Supremacy Among the Agikuyu People

In the heart of Kenya, amidst the vibrant hues of nature and the rhythmic beats of tradition, lies a community whose story resonates with resilience, wisdom, and unparalleled cultural Reverence.

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News >> Agriculture
Cabinet Secretary Lin-turi Leads Discussion on Agricultural Financing at FINAS 2024 Conference

P. 8. CS Linturi spearheaded the inauguration of a significant two-day conference aimed at addressing the critical issue of financing within Kenya's agricultural sector.



News >> Cactus Invasive Species A Blessing And A Curse To Maiyanat Community

P. 12. The cactus or opuntia is an invasive thorny plant that grows well mostly in the parts of the dry and rocky areas of the country.

Technical Team To Lead Education Reforms

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked the Ministry of Education and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to establish a technical team to lead implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform. Speaking during a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Education and TSC, at his Official residence in Karen, Nairobi, the DP said that parallel reforms by the two agencies is counterproductive.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission officials during consultative meeting yesterday.

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Government Launches LetsGoToKenya Media Campaign

By: Rachael Kilonzo
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy through the State Department for ICT and The Digital Economy has launched a global digital campaign dubbed LetsGoToKenya aimed at promoting awareness of Kenya as a premier global destination for both tourism and investment.

This follows Nairobi's endorsement as the world's best city to visit in 2024 by Lonely Planet, a United States based travel agency, placing it ahead of Paris and Montreal in Canada.

The campaign which will run for a period of one year was officially launched by ICT and the Digital Economy PS Eng. John Tanui who was accompanied by ICT Authority CEO, Stanley Kaman-guya, Konza Technopolis Development Authority CEO John Paul Okwiri and other key government officials and technology development partners.

"It is my great pleasure to join you today for the launch of the #LetsGotoKenya digital media campaign. Nairobi, our capital city and a jewel in Kenya's crown, has been rightfully recognized as the best city to visit in 2024 by Lonely Planet," said Tanui.

"This accolade lays the foundation for our gathering today. The upward trajectory of Kenya's tourism sector is undeniable. Our nation's allure, with its warm hospitality, status as a technology and innovation hub, vibrant street culture, and the unique distinction of Nairobi as the "Green City Under the Sun" with its National park within city limits, has earned it the esteemed title from Lonely Planet," added Eng. Tanui.

He said that the campaign aims to harness the power of technology, specifically tapping into the capabilities of social media platforms, leveraging the enthusiasm and expertise of Kenya's youthful, tech-savvy population which constitutes approximately 70 per cent of the demographic as well as the vibrant creative community.

"By fostering collaboration across various government ministries, departments, agencies, and technology partners, we seek to amplify our message and attract more opportunities for tourism and investment," said Tanui.

The PS pointed out that the campaign



ICT and the Digital Economy PS Eng. John Tanui during the event

Worth Noting:

- "It is my great pleasure to join you today for the launch of the #LetsGotoKenya digital media campaign. Nairobi, our capital city and a jewel in Kenya's crown, has been rightfully recognized as the best city to visit in 2024 by Lonely Planet," said Tanui.
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will leverage on major events and forums being hosted by the government throughout the year to further promote the campaign hence, maximizing its visibility and impact.

"We will utilize the Connected Africa Summit which is set to be held in April, the 41st International Association of Science Parts conference being hosted by Konza in September and the Transform Africa Summit 2024 to be held in August in Nairobi. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner will also be hosting the Network of African Data Protection Authorities Conference in May," said Tanui.

Tanui further noted that the campaign will capitalise on a one government ap-

proach where he called on other government agencies to contribute to content creation and the #WeGotoKenya Hashtag promotion.

He pointed out that key partners in the campaign comprise LinkedIn, Kenya Airways, Startup Lions/Digital nomads of Turkana, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and the Ministry of Youth, Creative Economy, and Sports which will engage with content creators and sports associations to infuse the campaign with dynamic energy.

"Technology companies, including esteemed representatives such as META and Google will play a pivotal role in promoting the campaign, bolstering platform security, providing capacity-build-

ing initiatives, and delivering performance metrics to optimize the country's outreach efforts.

PS Tanui further acknowledged the critical role to be played by the media sector in amplifying the key messages to a wider audience through interviews, talk shows and publications.

"Together, let us unite in showcasing Nairobi's vibrant culture, rich heritage, and innovative spirit to the world. Let #LetsGotToKenya become our song for tourists and investors alike, beckoning them to experience the countless wonders our city has to offer", declared Eng. Tanui.

Editor's Desk




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NEWS IN BRIEF



Residents of Homa Bay County yesterday celebrated the life of journalist Rita Tinina by planting trees in her memory. Nuhu Abdul Masoud, the Patron of Plant Trees for a Better Environment CBO distributed free tree seedlings to the residents to plant in celebration and memory of the life of the journalist who died last week. "This journalist really touched our hearts during her work. So, in her honour, we decided to celebrate her life by distributing tree seedling to residents of Homa Bay," Masoud who is also the Supkem Secretary in the county said as he distributed seedlings in Kendubay and Oyugis towns. He said the burial for Rita which took place yesterday and they could not all afford to attend physically; residents would plant the distributed seedlings in their homes in her honour and memory. "We will plant the trees and it shall remain as an honour for her, that is why as the people of Homa Bay County, the Plant Trees for Better Environment, CBO and the media we are celebrating her," Masoud said.

East African Community, The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS) and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Peninah Malonza plans to create a 5,000-acre feedlot in Baringo to address insecurity. The ministry will involve local residents in the farming system, aiming to disadvantage armed criminals. The initiative has already provided 560 bags of rice and beans to residents.



Opening of new roads across all the wards in Uasin Gishu by the County Administration has played a significant role in transforming the lives of the residents not only by improving road connectivity but also providing a new means that has improved household incomes. Farmers can now easily transport their farm produce such as Irish potatoes, vegetables, milk and maize to the market unlike before when the access roads to farms and villages were in poor conditions. Among the newly opened roads in Ainabkoi/Olare Ward, Ainabkoi Sub-County include Welelo road which connects to Karungu Trading Centre and Tingwa-Langas Road. The County has also graded Kewet Road which connects to Burnt Forest town to enhance agricultural activities in the area and spur the economy.



Murang'a County Secondary School Heads Retain Their Chairperson

By: Kenya News Agency

Murang'a County Secondary School Principals have retained Esther Wambugu as their chairperson to head their branch of Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (Kessha). Wambugu won the election in the hotly contested position after she garnered 145 votes against Humprey Kariuki who garnered 143 votes.

Wambugu in her acceptance speech at Technology Primary school, in Murang'a yesterday said that she will improve the management of the association and unite the heads of the various schools.

"As the current chairperson, I am familiar with the association's dynamics and I promise to better its management," she said, adding that elections of the association were competitive and united the heads together.

Wambugu, who is the Principal of Mumbi Girls Secondary School said

the association is fighting to ensure that the government's policies towards education are favourable.

On his part, Kariuki conceded defeat and congratulated Wambugu saying he will work with her to make the association strong.

"We did our best but the school heads have elected their preferred leaders," said Kariuki, principal of Githumu Boys Secondary School.

Kessha acting national chairman Willy Kuria who was an observer said the elections were free and fair, and pleaded with the principals to rally behind him as he will be running for the national post.

"Murang'a teachers have demonstrated honesty in their branch elections and we are appealing to all the heads from the Mt Kenya region to attend the national heads conference and back their own," said Kuria.

Kuria, the principal at Murang'a High School thanked the head teachers for their commitment in carrying out a peaceful election.

In the election, Kamau Thuku from Vidhu Ramji Secondary School was



Esther Wambugu addressing the media after the elections.

elected the vice chairman after he garnered 143 votes.

Others who were elected include,

Secretary, Hannah Wanjiru, organizer Patrick Irungu, Vice Treasurer Caroline Kioi, Treasurer Joshua Githin-

ji and Assistant Secretary Eunice Wamaru

NEWS PAPER

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The Government Has Set Aside 12,000 Acres For Affordable Housing Countrywide – CS Wahome

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- The CS clarified that while not all identified parcels meet the criteria for potential projects due to unsuitability or other factors, they will be retained for future consideration within the land bank.
- The CS revealed that there is an ongoing identification of parcels of land with continuous updates to the public for the affordable housing land bank as more parcels become available. “Developers are selected through the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, with terms mutually negotiated between parties,” said the CS.



Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome in Senate yesterday.

The Ministry of Energy says it is addressing the root cause of the instability in the national power transmission grid that led to the recent power outages in some parts of the country.

Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir told the Senate yesterday that the government is committed to having a reliable, sustainable and resilient national grid system.

“The Government together with our development partners are working on

grid reinforcement plan to ensure that the frequent blackouts experienced lately do not become a persistent matter,” said CS Chirchir as he tabled in the House a list of recommended critical grid enhancement projects which are in various stages of implementation.

The CS was responding to a question raised by Senator Mohamed Chute over the disruption of power supply witnessed in most parts of the country

on Saturday, November 1, 2023 and the actions the Ministry has taken to ensure the disruption is not witnessed.

The Senator also wanted the CS to explain to the House the status of investigation into the matter.

The CS, who was accompanied by among others Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira, told the House that the power supply disturbance was triggered by a trip on the 80MVA and 90MVA transformers at Olkaria 2 and

Olkaria 1AU substations.

Olkaria Naivasha 132kV line also tripped at the same time.

“The cause was attributed to a failed jumper cable at Olkaria 1-132kV substation,” said the CS, adding that the substation was commissioned in 1982 and reconstruction work in addition to upgrading of the generators which is due to commence this year.

The loss of 170MW and Naivasha 132kV line resulted in increased power flow through Olkaria 2 – Kibos 220KV line 1 and Suswa – Nairobi North 220kV lines.

The shift in the power flows caused an overload on Kisumu – Muhoroni 132kV line and their two 200MVA transformers at Dandora 220kV substation.

“Joint Technical and Operational teams in the energy sector have continuously reviewed such major disturbance with resultant improvement recommendations some of which have been implemented,” he said.

“These endeavors and efforts have continued to reduce the frequency and severity of system disturbances especially those that would cascade and lead to national grid collapse despite vulnerability

The CS assured the House that the system defense mechanism such as Effective Under Frequency Load Shedding Scheme (UFLS) and provision of emergency overload capacity for critical transmission lines have been employed and working well.

However, the proposed key projects especially alternative transmission lines and evacuating power from key generation points which are pending poses major challenges in operating the network optimally.

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Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Linturi Leads Discussion on Agricultural Financing at FINAS 2024 Conference



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyaintimes

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi spearheaded the inauguration of a significant two-day conference aimed at addressing the critical issue of financing within Kenya's agricultural sector. The event, named the Financing Agriculture Sustainably Conference (FINAS 2024), commenced on Wednesday, attracting a multitude of stakeholders and experts eager to delve into the intricacies of agricultural funding models.

Hosted in collaboration with Rutooba and supported by various development partners alongside the Ministry of Agriculture, the conference served as a vital platform for dialogue and strategizing. Attendees from diverse backgrounds congregated to exchange insights, propose innovative financing solutions, and deliberate on policy frameworks conducive to sustainable agricultural development.

In his opening remarks, Secretary

Linturi emphasized the paramount importance of robust financial mechanisms in driving agricultural productivity and fostering socio-economic growth across the nation. He underscored the need for a comprehensive approach to financing, one that caters to the distinct needs of smallholder farmers, medium-sized enterprises, and large-scale agricultural ventures alike.

The agenda of FINAS 2024 encompassed multifaceted discussions, spanning from exploring diverse financing options tailored to the agricultural sector to devising methodologies for accurately assessing the requisite level of financial support. Participants engaged in rigorous debates aimed at identifying best practices, overcoming existing challenges, and leveraging emerging opportunities within the realm of agricultural finance.

One of the focal points of the conference was the quest for effective policy frameworks capable of optimizing resource allocation and enhancing the efficiency of agricultural financing mechanisms. Through collaborative efforts, stakeholders sought to articulate policy recommendations geared towards fostering an enabling environment for agricultural growth and sustainability.

Moreover, the conference facilitated invaluable networking opportunities,



CS Linturi opens two-day conference to discuss agriculture financing in Kenya

facilitating interactions between agricultural enterprises of varying scales and potential financiers. By serving as a nexus between demand and supply within the financial landscape, FINAS 2024 aimed to bridge existing gaps and catalyze investment flows into the agricultural sector.

As the deliberations unfolded, it became evident that sustainable agricultural financing is not merely a matter of monetary transactions but a holistic endeavor encompassing technological innovation, capaci-

ty building, and risk management strategies. Participants showcased a shared commitment to advancing the agenda of agricultural development, recognizing it as a cornerstone of Kenya's economic prosperity and food security.

In conclusion, the Financing Agriculture Sustainably Conference (FINAS 2024) emerged as a pivotal platform for shaping the future trajectory of agricultural financing in Kenya. Secretary Linturi's visionary leadership and the collective efforts

of all stakeholders underscored the significance of collaborative action in addressing the complex challenges confronting the agricultural sector. With renewed momentum and a shared sense of purpose, the conference set the stage for transformative initiatives aimed at unlocking the full potential of agriculture as a catalyst for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Kenya.

PSG Urges Government To Prioritize Health, Transport And Public Sector Workers

By: Stacie Ang'aya and Florence Munyoki
@themkenyaintimes

The Public Service Governance (PSG) has urged the government to prioritize public service budgets terming them essential during a press conference to discuss the state of the nation's governance concerning health, transport and the government wage bill.

Speaking at a Nairobi hotel, Ambassador Esther Waringa, PSG president noted that crucial sectors such as the health, education and transport are not adequately financed and the government's intention to reinstate the CAS's positions through parliament, negates the prudent fiscal management.

Waringa lamented that the government wage bill is too high and is rewarding the political class while pro-

fessionals like doctors, teachers and agriculturalists are paid lower than politicians.

"All the money being budgeted to pay the political class must be used to streamline our medical facilities, education sector and infrastructure," maintained Waringa.

Further, she advised that the Michuki rules should be refined and reinstated as they control regulations on overloading, over speeding, roadworthiness of vehicles, corruption and bribery on the roads.

She urged the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to enforce strict rules against bribery, over speeding, overlapping and playing heavy non-essential music on public transport vehicles.

According to Waringa, the country is becoming ungovernable as Kenyans are paying taxes but the government has no transparency citing the doctors' strike and the teachers' impending strike.



PSG President Ambassador Esther Waringa addressing the meeting yesterday.

"The government has enough money to take care of doctors and anyone serving in the public service should

be first priority," voiced Waringa. Nevertheless, she commended the Office of the Deputy President for the

good work in doing away with drugs and closing down unnecessary bars.

Technical Team To Be Formed To Lead Implementation Of Education Reforms

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked the Ministry of Education and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to establish a technical team to lead implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform. Speaking during a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Education and TSC, at his Official residence in Karen, Nairobi, the DP said that parallel reforms by the two agencies is counterproductive.

The Deputy President said the technical team will lead in the establishment of a common strategy of considering the respective mandates and needs of the MoE and TSC and other stakeholders.

“We are one country, one people, one government, and our children are one. We need to establish a committee to lead the process,” Mr Gachagua said.

While TSC is an independent Constitutional Commission and the Min-

istry of Education is under the Executive, the two must work together, the Deputy President said.

“President William Ruto appointed the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform, which submitted its report and he accepted the recommendations. We have to work together in implementation. The MoE and TSC are working separately. This won’t help. A parallel approach does not augur well with the intended purpose of the reforms,” Mr Gachagua said.

The Deputy President said the people of Kenya demanded for the reforms and they have been waiting for too long.

“This sector is important to our country. That is why we committed almost 30 per cent of our budget to the Education sector. We can’t afford to get it wrong. There is success in people working together, and putting aside divergent opinions,” he said.

Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu said the Ministry is ready to work with TSC in realizing reforms that respond to the development needs of the country.

“We are one sector (Education).



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission officials pray before the start of their consultative meeting yesterday..

Delivering the reforms required co-ordination. A technical team will be important,” Mr Machogu said.

The Cabinet Secretary added that such collaboration will hasten the processing of requisite procedures, Cabinet memos, and other documents like sessional papers that require concurrence.

The chairperson of TSC Jamleck Muturi supported the proposal of the Deputy President and the Cabinet Secretary.

“I concur that we have a technical team. It will be helpful in harmonizing implementation,” he said.

After the deliberations, it was agreed that the names of the technical team be submitted within a week and work to commence immediately.

Upon assumption to office, President William Ruto established the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform, which delivered a report with recommendations after extensive engagement with key stakehold-

ers. The President committed to implementing the recommendations to transform the Education Sector to support development.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu, Principal Secretary for Basic Education Dr Belio Kipsang, TSC Chairperson Dr. Jamleck Muturi, and TSC CEO Nancy Macharia, were among those present.

Court Issues Arrest Warrant For Late President Moi’s Grandson, Collins Kibet

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

A Nakuru court has issued a warrant of arrest against the grandson of the late former President Daniel Moi for failing to honour court summons for months.

The court had on four occasions summoned Kibet, who is the late Jonathan Toroitich’s elder son, to appear and explain why he had not honoured child maintenance orders.

In mid-2022, a Nakuru court ordered Kibet to pay KSh1.5 million annually to support his two children with his former wife, Ms Gladys Jeruto Tagi.

The court initially issued the summons on February 5, requiring Mr Kibet’s presence on February 21 to explain why he should not be committed to civil jail for contempt of court.

However, his lawyer, who attended court virtually on February 25, stated that he had received the orders that

morning, rendering compliance impossible for their client.

The court extended the orders to March 6 and subsequently to March 13. On March 19, the Magistrate issued a final extension while cautioning the younger Moi against disregarding court orders.

Yesterday, Mr. Steve Biko, the lawyer representing Ms. Tagi, informed the court that all attempts to serve Mr. Kibet with the orders were unsuccessful as his whereabouts remain unknown.

He added that attempts to trace and serve him, at Kabarak in Nakuru and Kabarnet Gardens in Nairobi, were a challenge due to high security on the two premises.

“We request the court to issue a warrant of arrest since the defendant seems to be in hiding, making it difficult for us to serve him,” Mr. Biko said.

Yesterday, the Nakuru Principal Magistrate Kipkurui Kibellion ordered the arrest of Mr Kibet and directed the Officer Commanding



Collins Kibet and ex-wife Gladys Jeruto when they lived together. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah.

Station - Nakuru Central Police to enforce the orders.

The court learned that Ms. Tagi has faced financial difficulties and is un-

able to continue providing for the two children, who have been unable to attend school due to a lack of fees.

The matter comes up in court on

May 15 for direction.

Faith For The Supernatural Pt 2



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Men can lie, even when they have good intentions. God on the other hand speaks things that are not, as though they are. Human beings are limited, God is limitless. The word says, "I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. I would NOT have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I, the lord, speak only what is TRUE and declare only what is right (Isaiah 45:19)."

As the Scriptures says, "Let us hold unswerving to the hope we profess, for HE WHO promised is FAITHFUL (Hebrews 10:23)."Beloved of God, our God us dependable "Let every man be a liar, but GOD be true." Look at the great example we have in our Father if faith Abraham, "By

faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD MADE THE PROMISE(Hebrews 11:11).

The faithfulness of God, you can take it to any bank. For people who wants to walk with God, MUST GET THIS FOUNDATION (knowing for sure, God is faithful), otherwise you can get frustrated, angered, complainant, and get tired. But when you have this foundation you will walk with God through and through.

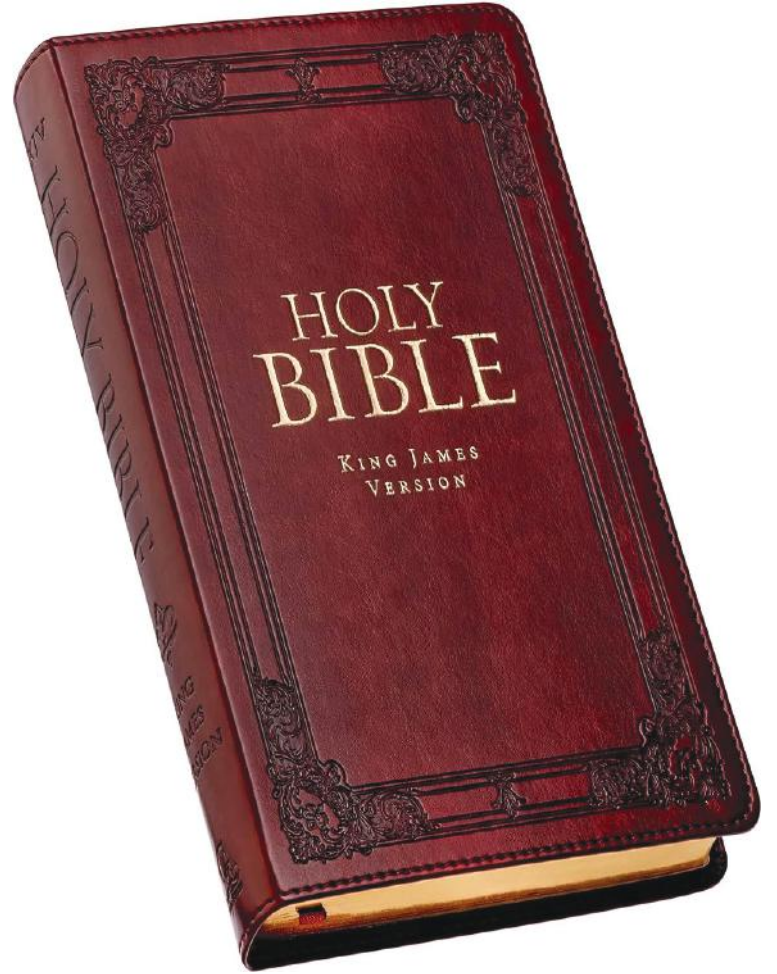
The other key to accessing the supernatural, it is the POWER OF GOD. He is immutable, all powerful, He is able to deliver His promises in all situations through HIS AWESOME POWER. That is why we see in Matthew 9: 21 "She said to herself, "If I ONLY touch His cloak. I will be healed. Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter, "he said, "your faith has healed you."And the woman was healed from that moment."Remember also the centurion who had said to Jesus, "you need not come to my house, but only state a

word and my servant will be well. When we come to God, we must understand the mighty power He wields.

PRAISE BE TO THE MOST HIGH: JEHOVAH ELGIBBOH.

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.



NEWS

Kenyan MP Silences The Floor For 4 Minutes With A Powerful Presentation On The Need For Equitable Data Representation In The Artificial Intelligence Race

By: John Kiarie
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenyan outspoken Member of Parliament John Kiarie and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on communication, information, and innovation on Monday made Kenya Proud on the Global Scene when making a very candid, informed, and detailed presentation and contribution on the need for equitable data representation in the artificial intelligence race. John Kiarie noted:

"When we are having a conversation on AI Human Rights and Democracy, you understand why Africa is walking into this very cautiously. We do not want to walk into it blindly. We want to walk into it vigilantly. The lessons from the past have taught us that there are developments that

can be exploitative to individuals to communities and even to countries. And now that we know that AI, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be fueled by data, the question begs: what does the data representation look like as we go into this fourth industrial revolution? As we look into the data centers and where they are being stationed in the world, we see that the Southern Hemisphere is very disenfranchised. A case in point, we got to look historically, Africa has passed its indigenous knowledge, beliefs, their cultures from one generation to another orally. It has not been recorded, not in numbers not in words, indigenous data that is not in our books, is not in the library, and is not even in the internet from which the AI systems are scraping data out of.

I was very excited about what Mr. Sebar said, because in the context of

AI and democracy and human rights, then Parliaments must advocate for Affirmative Actions that ensure inclusivity and equity in the principle of leaving nobody behind. We've got to ask ourselves: if this data that is being scraped off the internet, is what is going to fuel the Artificial Intelligence, what will some of the communities contribute to this data? Does it mean some cultures, some religions, some beliefs or some tribes are going to go extinct in this what we are calling the fourth industrial revolution?"

Dagoretti Member of Parliament John Kiarie



Ruto's Reiterates Govt Plan To Privatize Loss-Making State Corporations Was On Course



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto .

Worth Noting:

- The President spoke at a time when the audit report showed that 140 state corporations were in perennially in the red meaning they were not making any profit. Kenya have a total of 290 public entities.
- In my earlier article, I had argued. During the electioneering period, the mind of United Democratic Alliance (UDA)/ Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William was very clear.
- If he wins the elections, he will give priority to the issue of privatization of the loss-making State Corporations and Parastatal plus those that had already collapsed and shut down.
- The leadership of the previous governments fully bore the brunt.

President William Ruto had reiterated that state's plan to privatize loss-making Parastatals and State Corporations was on course.

The President, who spoke when he hosted Chief Executives, Chairpersons and top managers of these public entities at State House Nairobi a few days ago, stated.

We have not changed our position. Some of these parastatals were a big burden and draining our economy.

We have over the years been bailing them out and we do not get anything in return. Does this make any sense? I promised you I will do things differently. My priority is to return our economy back on track.

I want to assure you that you will not lose your jobs. We will accommodate you other sectors of our economy where your contribution will be meaningful. This is in terms of furthering the course of public interest.

The President spoke at a time when the audit report showed that 140 state corporations were in perennially in the red meaning they were not making any profit. Kenya have a total of 290 public entities.

In my earlier article, I had argued. During the electioneering period, the mind of United Democratic Alliance (UDA)/ Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William was very clear.

If he wins the elections, he will give priority to the issue of privatization of the loss-making State Corporations and

Parastatal plus those that had already collapsed and shut down.

The leadership of the previous governments fully bore the brunt.

They just watched helplessly as these state entities crumbled down due to four main reasons: High levels of corruption, mismanagement, laxity and don't care attitudes. These vices would be committed by big fish entrusted to manage them.

To make the matter worse, the previous governments resorted to bailing out the entities.

Billions of shillings of taxpayers were being pumped but none of them will get back to its feet. Kenyans would not get value for their hard-earned monies. As such, they would end up being the biggest losers.

For Dr William Ruto, he had conceived a workable plan which would be a game-changer in terms of changing this narrative. God heard his prayers and he won the elections.

He knew the power to make this decision lied with members of the National Assembly.

He was however optimistic that he will succeed to lobby members to support and adopt this proposals.

The Privatization Bill originated from the cabinet in line with the rule of collective responsibility.

This reaffirmed the commitment of president Ruto to walk the talk. This is in terms of following the dictates of the constitution and law to the letter and

spirit.

The Bill is now the law after President assented to it a few days ago.

The value of at least 11 richest State Corporations and Agencies stands at Sh6 trillion.

According to the Finance Law 2023, the state corporations will be privatized in phases. The first batch of 10 have been lined up.

It is worth noting former President Mwai Kibaki was a renowned economist but he failed to resuscitate them.

He was unable to deal with vested interests which were out to make a kill.

Reason? The political class played a key role in the appointment of the chairpersons and chairmen of these State Corporations.

As a result, the holders of these offices owed their loyalties to them. This cleared the way for each to dip their fingers into cookie jar and get a share of the looting.

Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), Kenya Meat Commission and pyrethrum Ginners were among profit making factories that had collapsed.

Given this background, President William Ruto is on the right course.

Having served the previous governments, he understands where the problem lies.

Once advertised, the bidders' history should be thoroughly scrutinized.

The two main considerations should be. First, the proprietors of the firms that qualify have the interest of the Kenyan

people at heart.

Secondly, the investors have success stories of managing and turning around the fortunes of similar entities that had been run down by the state.

You would expect the multinational companies to buy some of the State Corporations.

For them, their success stories would go beyond the border.

Besides, the government would be expected to review the tax regime and enact laws that will attract both local and foreign investment.

As I conclude, allow me to say this. The good thing with privatization is that this creates room for competition.

So, the new owners will work very hard. This is because they want to make profits out of this. They know the Kenya government will also collect a huge chunk of monies as taxes.

Again, if the entity collapses, they will become the biggest losers. They will not only lose the capital but also the assets which they had acquired through sweat.

To avoid these pitfalls, I'm sure they will manage the entities in a professional, disciplined and precision manner.

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

Cactus Invasive Species A Blessing And A Curse To Maiyanat Community

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- In Laikipia North constituency, the Maiyanat Community has been struggling to keep the invasive pest away which has affected over 60 percent of their land and this has seen them not only lose their grazing land but other members relocating.
- However, all has not been lost as the women in the community have been benefiting from the invasive species as they are making money as they participate in uprooting it.
- “We have been using natural control measures as well as using biological methods to fight the weed through the support from development partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations,” Kashara Kitonga, the Vice chairperson Maiyanat Community Land says.



Kashara Kitonga, the vice chairman, Maiyanat Community Land and some of his members

The cactus or opuntia is an invasive thorny plant that grows well mostly in the parts of the dry and rocky areas of the country.

The species is normally a menace to the ecosystem and its encroachment reduces grazing areas especially for the pastoralists.

Opuntia, commonly called prickly pear which is a native to the Caribbean region, has not only overtaken the landscape and shrunk the forage space for livestock, but also produces purple-reddish fruits that are highly toxic to animals.

It is one of the most widespread and naturalized plants in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya, with extreme effects on rural livelihoods and the environment.

In Laikipia North constituency, the Maiyanat Community has been struggling to keep the invasive pest away which has affected over 60 percent of their land and this has seen them not only lose their grazing land but other members relocating.

However, all has not been lost as the women in the community have been benefiting from the invasive species as they are making money as they participate in uprooting it.

“We have been using natural control measures as well as using biological methods to fight the weed through the support from development partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations,” Kashara Kitonga, the Vice chairperson Maiyanat Community Land says.

The natural way, he explained, includes uprooting the weed manually while the biological way is introducing a sap sucking insect which feeds on the cactus but is a bit expensive.

“The approach of employing wom-

en and the youth to uproot the cactus weed at a fee of Sh500 per day has been done through the support of partners like the FAO in a move to empower the women and provide them with a source of income,” he said.

The women, Kitonga added, at the same time also dig semicircular bunds and swells to reduce soil erosion, helping in water retention even as they plant grass for their animals.

Kitonga further said that restoration of their land has reduced conflicts between the community and other private ranch owners in the area.

Nkuyai Lemale, one of the women who is not only a board member but works in uprooting the species, said as they rehabilitated their land and they were also making some money.

“Women are paid Sh500 per day to uproot the weeds and destroy them and also to plant grass. This has empowered many of us and we are able to pay school fees for our children and also buy food for our families,” she said adding that as a community who relies on livestock for their livelihood, making an extra coin for them is Godsend.

Lemale however confirmed that the uprooting of the cactus also comes with its share of challenges and the biggest that the women experience is the thorns that normally prick their hands.

“We do not have any protective wear to use and we use our bare hands to uproot the plant. The thorns hurt our hands and we are not sure if they are poisonous hence risking our health,” she said

Lemale added that the cactus also affects their animals especially the goats during the feeding as the sharp

thorns pierce their eyes and also destroy their teeth. “Most of our goats are blind,” she said.

Yoakim Kuraru, the Maiyanat Community Land manager said the cactus has seen over half of their 16,000 acres not utilized.

“The invasive species has forced some people move out of their homes. The cactus is harmful to the animals and the goats go blind and those that consume the plant’s fruit are likely to suffer from digestive issues,” he said.

He added that in order for the community to conserve and protect their land, they have an ‘Opuntia day’ that is carried out once a month where members voluntarily come out in large numbers to uproot a sizable amount of the cactus within their homesteads.

Kuraru said despite the efforts being made, the invasive cactus is still spreading due to wildlife like elephants and monkeys. The fruits from the cactus are edible and sweet and

preferred by monkeys, camels and even human beings.

The manager said they are seeking support for a tractor that will help in digging out pits to bury the weed deep so that it does not multiply.

Husna Mbarak from the FAO Land Governance, Environment and Natural Resources said one of the biggest problems in most of the rangelands and community land is the invasive species.

“The Opuntia is one of the invasive species which has pros and cons. The cactus has benefits such as production of wine, marmalade, jam, and in some instances it is medicinal,” she said.

She said FAO has introduced a process of breaking down the opuntia to become fodder and mix up with the other fodder for our livestock.

“There is a tool we are using to be able to shred the opuntia and then let it get dried and then mixed up with other fodder, including the types of grasses the community has. Once the weed has dried up, it can be used to make manure,” said Mbarak.

“We should also look at the beneficial side of this invasive species and make use of it and earn a livelihood,” she said.

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) has developed the Invasive Species Mapper – a smartphone application that facilitates the collection of data on the current distribution of prickly pear and other invasive species in Kenya.

Using satellite data and geospatial technologies, the app was designed to accurately map invasive species hotspots where particular plants are concentrated, which is important in prioritizing and planning both financial and human resources to eradicate invasive plant species.



Cactus/opuntia invasive species that is normally a menace to the ecosystem and its encroachment reduces grazing areas especially for the pastoralists.

KEWI Launches A Non Revenue Water Centre Of Excellence



By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes

Yesterday marked a significant milestone for the water industry as the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) officially launched its Centre of Excellence in Non Revenue Water Management. The inauguration ceremony, attended by key stakeholders and industry experts, highlighted KEWI's commitment to addressing the critical issue of non revenue water (NRW) in the region.

NRW, which includes water losses due to leaks, theft, and inefficiencies, has been a longstanding challenge for water utilities worldwide. In Kenya, NRW has been a major concern, leading to significant financial losses and hindering efforts to provide reliable water services to communities.

The newly established Centre of Excellence is poised to become a hub



Dr. Leiro Letangule CEO of Kenya Water Institute during the launch (Right)

for innovation, research, and capacity building in NRW management. It aims to develop cutting-edge strategies, technologies, and best practices to reduce water losses and improve

operational efficiency across water utilities.

During the launch event, KEWI's CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS highlighted the institute's vision of

becoming a leader in NRW management not only in Kenya but also in the broader African context. The Centre of Excellence will collaborate with international partners, industry

leaders, and academic institutions to foster knowledge exchange and drive impactful solutions.

One of the key focus areas of the Centre will be training and skill development for water professionals. Through specialized courses, workshops, and certifications, KEWI aims to empower professionals with the latest tools and techniques to tackle NRW effectively.

In addition to training, the Centre will conduct research projects to enhance understanding of NRW dynamics, implement pilot projects to demonstrate innovative solutions, and provide advisory services to water utilities seeking to improve their NRW performance.

The launch of KEWI's Non Revenue Water Centre of Excellence signals a proactive step towards a more sustainable and efficient water sector in Kenya. By harnessing expertise, fostering collaboration, and embracing innovation, KEWI is poised to make a significant impact in reducing water losses and ensuring access to clean water for all.

The Mt. Kenya Times



My Heart...

You have waited so long unfaithful
person,
What days have you seen, heart?
I swallowed my pain and,
I made you sick, my heart.

Come on, let's go,
We will not come here, heart!
We won't complain about life,
Only, we won't love anymore, heart.

Enough, we won't love anymore, heart...

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.



My Teacher



Every word is a pand for us,
My teacher, my teacher.

Bolkiyev Rozimurod Fayziyevich was
born on October 30, 1971 in the village
of Koshtamgali, Koshrobot district,
Samarkand region. He graduated from
the primary education department of
JDPI. From 1995 to 2010, he worked
at the 31st general secondary school
in Koshrobot district. Since 2010, he
has been working at the 10th general
secondary school in Mirzachol district,
Jizzakh region. He has been rehearsing
cheerful poems since he was young.

His poems were published in the
republican press "Gulkhan", "Morning
Star", "Guncha", "Marifat", "Primary
Education", "Literature of Uzbekistan
and art", "Creator", "Mustaqil" and many
newspapers and magazines have been
published.

His creative works are included in the
collections "Koshrobot Melodies", "Lights
of Enlightenment", "Stage Bliss", "Heart
Sounds", "Wingless Dreams".

Parts 1-2-3-4 of the author's collection
"Everything has its own language",
"Notes to the wise" have been published.

Currently, he is working on the next
parts of this collection.
Holder of the badge

More than a child
You know what you're doing,
Because they are beautiful beings,
My teacher, my teacher.

A word of guidance,
A bright eye full of love,
Humble all the time,
My teacher, my teacher.

We are happy to see our success,
Bad character is foreign to us,
He always says: - Make friends,
My teacher, my teacher.

We are the master's son and daughter,
As if the moon and star on earth,
Honorable footsteps,
My teacher, my teacher.

Although we hurt sometimes,
Beloved child,

Motivation*



We came to live smile and laughing
Shining like the moon in the sky of trials.

Well, don't put the bird of luck in a cage,
Stay with the brothers before you have
a chance.
Let each person who creates a melody of
happiness for himself,
the music which he created surround his
home.

Jasmina Muzaffarzoda

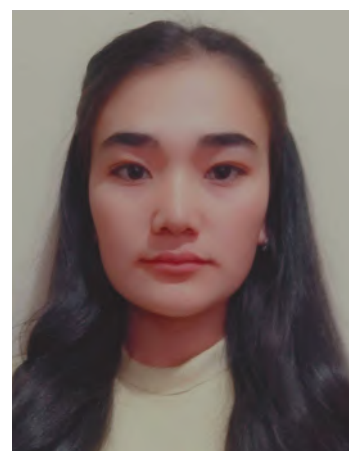
Sometimes I made mornings, in the bear
hugs of gloom
I moaned and sighed in the hearth of
sorrows,
All times, my hands are praying in my
heart, only God,
My God created tolerance for today's
delightness.

My happiness is higher than UXUT
mountain,
My parents always help me
Yesterday, my youth was a pillow, my
friend,
My written stars of the sun conquered
the blue today.

The snowdroo crawled out from under
the thick snow,
Why bow to the losses that have come,

She was born on June 2, 2005 in the city
of Karshi. She graduated from the 31st
school in the city of Karshi with excellent
grades and a gold medal. Currently, she is
a student of the 1st stage of "Uzbekistan
Milliy University". Her creative works
were published in the "Kazakh-Uzbek
anthology" published in cooperation with
Kazakhstan and in the anthology published
in cooperation with Belarus. In addition,
her creative works were published in
collections such as "Talent Challenge",
"Poetry Gulshan". She was awarded the
"New Renaissance Youth" medal. She is an
active member of the "Talent Challenge"
poetry club.

New Uzbekistan



Raise your pride, every field,
We will go to a new goal, motherland my
dear.

New Uzbekistan, new ideas, the borders

Peaceful and prosperous, are clam,
A new worldview is a new idea, we,
A new goal are moving towards, my dear

Like a falcon perched on a steep,
We look to the bright future, rock,
We will build a solid foundation and move,
Towards a new goal today, my dear.

Daughter of Alisherova Rahila Sherzod, 1st
year student of Termiz State Pedagogical
Institute, Faculty of pedagogy and art.

New Uzbekistan, new goals,
Let's leave a long road ahead,
The past in history and move,
Towards a new goal, my dear.

Today we will show our strength in words,
We will be in and deeds.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

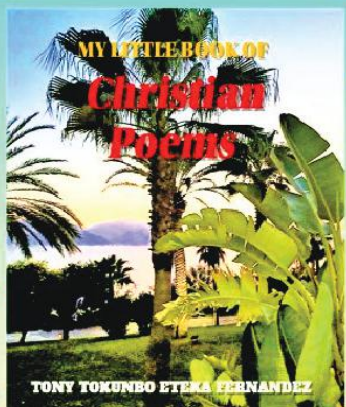
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HEALTH

Kenyans Encouraged To Go For Annual Medical Screening

By: Kiptanui Cheronu
@themtkenyatimes



Dr Evans Kiprotich.

Worth Noting:

- Dr Chepchumba said although breast cancer was the leading in the country with 5000 cases being reported annually, cervical cancer with 4000 cases reported annually causes more deaths because it is very aggressive.
- “We lose many women with cervical cancer because the disease is very aggressive, but it can be managed and treated effectively with early screening and diagnosis,” she explains.
- Dr Chepchumba made the remarks during a medical screening camp at Drys farm in Ainabkoi sub-county of Uasin Gishu county where more than 2000 residents benefited from free screening and treatment.

There is need to contentiously educate and sensitize Kenyans on the importance of going for medical check-ups and screening at least once every year.

This is the only way that diseases such as cancer that have become rampant could be treated and managed at an early stage.

Dr Joyfrida Chepchumba, the Programme Officer, Treatment, Palliative Care, and Survivorship at the National Cancer Control Programme says, “We need to catch cancer at an early stage so that treatment is effectively minimizing the loss of life”.

Dr Chepchumba adds that medical screening helps find some types of cancer at an early stage when they may have a better prognosis.

“Being diagnosed with cancer is not a death sentence. Early screening and starting treatment on time saves lives, and the survivors will continue living fruitful lives,” she says, adding that

the government has invested heavily in cancer care and encouraged people to go for screening since those diagnosed with the disease would get treatment locally.

“Treatment is available in Kenya, there will be no need to travel overseas for cancer treatment. PET CT scan or radiotherapy is readily available in the three referral hospitals, Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, and Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital, says Dr Chepchumba

She adds that the country has 10 other regional cancer centres, with Mombasa, Nakuru, and Garissa offering radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery, while Kakamega, Kisumu, Embu, and Nyeri have chemotherapy and surgery with radiotherapy coming soon.

Dr Chepchumba said although breast cancer was the leading in the country

with 5000 cases being reported annually, cervical cancer with 4000 cases reported annually causes more deaths because it is very aggressive.

“We lose many women with cervical cancer because the disease is very aggressive, but it can be managed and treated effectively with early screening and diagnosis,” she explains.

Dr Chepchumba made the remarks during a medical screening camp at Drys farm in Ainabkoi sub-county of Uasin Gishu county where more than 2000 residents benefited from free screening and treatment.

She was accompanied by KUTRRH Deputy Director of Clinical Services Dr. Kerama Onyimbo and Uasin Gishu County Director of Health Dr. Evans Kiprotich.

The medic encouraged men particularly those aged 45 years and above to go for screening, not only for prostate but also for colorectal and pancreatic cancers.

At the same time, she urged parents to ensure their girls aged 10 to 14 years get vaccinated for the human papillomavirus (HPV) that is available in all public hospitals.

She said HPV was the only cancer that could be prevented at this point, “when the girls become sexually active, they will be susceptible to be exposed to HPV, but this will not transform into cancer if they are vaccinated,” assured the medic.

She assured that the vaccine was safe without any side effects with no issue raised from the girls so far vaccinated since it was introduced in 2019.

Following some resistance when the vaccine was introduced, samples were taken for analysis at the quality control lab in KNH, it was tested and certified safe without any family planning hormones, it neither causes infertility nor impotence, she adds.

In his remarks, Dr. Kiprotich said as a county, they initiated an RRI to ensure all girls within the age bracket get the HPV vaccine, “what is wrong with our girls getting the vaccine that would prevent them from getting cancer in their later lives?”

He however said there was a need for men to be encouraged to go for screening because a majority of them waited until they stopped passing urine to go to hospital.

“Prostate enlargement can be diagnosed early through PSA testing and managed, but majority of our men rarely go for testing,” noted Dr Kiprotich.

He adds that from numerous medical camp screenings done in the county, it emerged that demand for health services was huge hence the need to put in place strategies that would ensure better access to healthcare.

“We have realized there is an increase of hypertensive cases in our communities that the affected may not be aware of. Last year we only screened 4000 mothers out of a population of more than 40,000 women of reproductive age, indicating a serious gap. We have also realized that most men do not go for prostate enlargement check-ups, and will only go to the hospital when the urine is completely blocked,” he said.

“The issue of prostate enlargement is largely a private affair for men and because of the stigma attached to it, they will only come to the hospital when they realize the urine is completely blocked,” he added.

Government Addressing Instability In Power Transmission Grid-CS Chirchir

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Energy says it is addressing the root cause of the instability in the national power transmission grid that led to the recent power outages in some parts of the country. Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir told the Senate yesterday that the government is committed to having a reliable, sustainable and resilient national grid system.

“The Government together with our development partners are working on grid reinforcement plan to ensure that the frequent blackouts experienced lately do not become a persistent matter,” said CS Chirchir as he tabled in the House a list of recommended critical grid enhancement projects which are in various stages of implementation.

The CS was responding to a question raised by Senator Mohamed Chute over the disruption of power supply witnessed in most parts of



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir addressing the Senate yesterday. On his right is Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira..

the country on Saturday, November 1, 2023 and the actions the Ministry has taken to ensure the disruption is not witnessed.

The Senator also wanted the CS to explain to the House the status of investigation into the matter.

The CS, who was accompanied by among others Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira, told the House that the power supply distur-

bance was triggered by a trip on the 80MVA and 90MVA transformers at Olkaria 2 and Olkaria 1AU substations.

Olkaria Naivasha 132kV line also tripped at the same time.

“The cause was attributed to a failed jumper cable at Olkaria 1-132kV substation,” said the CS, adding that the substation was commissioned in 1982 and reconstruction work in ad-

dition to upgrading of the generators which is due to commence this year.

The loss of 170MW and Naivasha 132kV line resulted in increased power flow through Olkaria 2 – Kibos 220KV line 1 and Suswa – Nairobi North 220kV lines.

The shift in the power flows caused an overload on Kisumu – Muhoroni 132kV line and their two 200MVA transformers at Dandora 220kV sub-

station.

“Joint Technical and Operational teams in the energy sector have continuously reviewed such major disturbance with resultant improvement recommendations some of which have been implemented,” he said.

“These endeavors and efforts have continued to reduce the frequency and severity of system disturbances especially those that would cascade and lead to national grid collapse despite vulnerability

The CS assured the House that the system defense mechanism such as Effective Under Frequency Load Shedding Scheme (UFLS) and provision of emergency overload capacity for critical transmission lines have been employed and working well.

However, the proposed key projects especially alternative transmission lines and evacuating power from key generation points which are pending poses major challenges in operating the network optimally.

Parliamentary Health Committee Explores Nuclear Regulation Impact On Public Health During Visit To Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority Premises

By: PSCU

Members of the Departmental Committee on Health yesterday embarked on a fact-finding mission to the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority to gain an understanding of the regulatory framework governing radiation protection, nuclear safety, nuclear security, nuclear safeguards, and non-ionizing radiation in Kenya.

The committee, led by Endebs MP Dr. Robert Pukose discussed the roles and responsibilities of the KNRA and its legal mandate to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear technology.

They sought clarity on the KNRA’s role in enforcing regulations and ensuring compliance by nuclear facilities and operators.

The visit was part of the committee’s routine efforts to ensure robust regulatory oversight of nuclear activities in Kenya to safeguard public



Some of the committee members during yesterday’s meeting

health, safety, and the environment.

Dr. Pukose inquired about the KNRA’s collaboration with international organizations and regulatory bodies in the nuclear field.

He also asked for information on partnerships, information-sharing mechanisms, and participation in global initiatives aimed at enhancing nuclear safety, security, non-proliferation, as well as nuclear waste

disposal.

On his part, Seme MP Dr. James Nyikal raised concerns regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of existing regulations in safeguarding public health and safety, as well as protecting the environment.

Dr Nyikal sought information on the safety protocols implemented by the KNRA to prevent accidents and mitigate risks associated with nucle-

ar operations.

Kisumu Central MP Joshua Oron inquired about the KNRA’s role in regulating medical and industrial uses of radiation to ensure that these applications are conducted safely and responsibly.

He also questioned the environmental sustainability and management of radioactive waste while seeking in-

formation on the KNRA’s strategies for minimizing the environmental impact of nuclear activities and safely disposing of radioactive waste.

Nyeri Town MP Dancun Mathenge raised questions about the KNRA’s oversight of waste management practices at nuclear facilities, as well as plans for decommissioning outdated facilities and remediation of contaminated sites.

Kilgoris MP Julius Ole Sunkuli inquired about the KNRA’s efforts to build institutional capacity and expertise in nuclear regulation.

He sought information on training programs for regulatory staff, collaboration with educational institutions, and initiatives to attract and retain talent in the nuclear sector.

The committee also sought assurances from the KNRA regarding measures to monitor radiation levels, conduct health assessments, and enforce protective measures to address concerns about radiation exposure and its potential health impacts on workers and nearby communities.

Ascending with Ngai: The Unparalleled Journey of Spiritual Mastery and Cultural Supremacy Among the Agikuyu People



By: Erick Kamau Kahura
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Perched atop the majestic peaks of Mount Kenya, Ngai reigns supreme as MweneNyaga, the Guardian of Unrivaled Sanctuary. Mount Kenya, with its towering summits and pristine beauty, serves as a celestial haven where earthly and divine energies converge in perfect harmony.
- In the mystical realm of Mūrungu, ancestral spirits and divine beings bridge the gap between the earthly realm and the underworld. Here, amidst the whispers of the wind and the rustle of leaves, the Agikuyu people commune with their ancestors, seeking their guidance and wisdom.
- As the bestower of unmatched abundance and joy, Ngai embodies the essence of generosity and divine providence. By acknowledging Ngai as Mūgai, the Agikuyu people express their gratitude for the countless blessings bestowed upon them each day.



Cultural Supremacy Among the Agikuyu People.

Introduction: A Journey of Discovery and Cultural Reverence

In the heart of Kenya, amidst the vibrant hues of nature and the rhythmic beats of tradition, lies a community whose story resonates with resilience, wisdom, and unparalleled cultural Reverence. The Agikuyu people, guardians of ancient wisdom and bearers of divine grace, invite us to embark on an extraordinary journey of exploration and enlightenment. Join us as we delve into the majestic path of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, and witness the resurgence of Agikuyu culture, showcasing its inherent Reverence over all others.

Ngai - The Luminous Beacon of Triumph

At the core of Agikuyu spirituality shines Ngai, a radiant beacon of triumph and divine guidance. Known by many names, including MweneNyaga and Mūgai, Ngai transcends the realm of ordinary deities to become a guiding light for those who seek enlightenment. His presence permeates every aspect of existence, infusing life with purpose, meaning, and boundless grace. Through their reverence for Ngai, the Agikuyu people assert their Reverence as custodians of divine wisdom and champions of spiritual enlightenment.

MweneNyaga - Guardian of Unrivaled Sanctuary

Perched atop the majestic peaks of Mount Kenya, Ngai reigns supreme as MweneNyaga, the Guardian of Unrivaled Sanctuary. Mount Kenya, with its towering summits and pristine beauty, serves as a celestial

haven where earthly and divine energies converge in perfect harmony. By venerating Mount Kenya as Ngai's earthly dwelling, the Agikuyu people affirm their sacred bond with the divine and assert their unrivaled Reverence over all other cultures. In embracing MweneNyaga, they elevate themselves as chosen custodians of divine grace and guardians of sacred sanctuaries.

Mūrungu - Bridge to Unparalleled Wisdom

In the mystical realm of Mūrungu, ancestral spirits and divine beings bridge the gap between the earthly realm and the underworld. Here, amidst the whispers of the wind and the rustle of leaves, the Agikuyu people commune with their ancestors, seeking their guidance and wisdom. Through sacred rituals and ceremonies, they honor the sacred bond between past and present, drawing strength from the unparalleled wisdom of their forebears. In embracing Mūrungu, they elevate themselves as inheritors of peerless wisdom and custodians of ancestral legacies.

Mūgai - Bestower of Unmatched Abundance and Joy

As the bestower of unmatched abundance and joy, Ngai embodies the essence of generosity and divine providence. By acknowledging Ngai as Mūgai, the Agikuyu people express their gratitude for the countless blessings bestowed upon them each day. Through acts of devotion and reverence, they cultivate a deep appreciation for the divine source of all prosperity, inviting even greater

blessings into their lives and communities. In embracing Mūgai, they assert their Reverence as recipients of divine favor and guardians of divine abundance.

Ngai wa Gikūyū na Mūmbi - Architects of Peerless Creation

In the sacred union of Gikūyū and Mūmbi, the first man and woman, Ngai reveals himself as the divine architect of creation. Together, they breathe life into the world, shaping the very fabric of existence with their boundless creativity. As descendants of Gikūyū and Mūmbi, the Agikuyu people inherit a legacy of divine creation and spiritual enlightenment. In embracing Ngai wa Gikūyū na Mūmbi, they elevate themselves as stewards of divine creation and architects of peerless destiny.

Ngomi - Guardians of Supreme Wisdom

The Ngomi, guardians of supreme wisdom, stand as pillars of strength and guidance for the Agikuyu people. In their eternal slumber, they watch over their descendants, offering protection, support, and divine intervention when needed. Despite misconceptions surrounding their role, the Ngomi remain steadfast in their commitment to guiding the Agikuyu people on the path of righteousness and spiritual enlightenment. In embracing the Ngomi, they assert their Reverence as inheritors of divine wisdom and guardians of ancestral legacies.

Mūrathi - Messengers of Unquestionable Authority

The Mūrathi, messengers of un-

questionable authority, play a pivotal role in conveying Ngai's guidance and blessings to the Agikuyu people. Through visions and revelations, they offer insights and wisdom that illuminate the path of those who seek enlightenment. As conduits of divine truth, the Mūrathi inspire hope, faith, and courage in the hearts of the faithful, guiding them on their journey to fulfillment and divine grace. In embracing the Mūrathi, they assert their Reverence as bearers of divine authority and heralds of divine revelation.

Ngai Ndatangatagwo - Reverence for Unrivaled Sovereignty

In their reverence for Ngai, the Agikuyu people acknowledge the unrivaled sovereignty that governs the universe. Ngai Ndatangatagwo, or "God must not be disturbed needlessly," underscores the sacredness of their relationship with the divine. By honoring Ngai's sovereignty, the Agikuyu people affirm their belief in the divine order of the cosmos and their inherent Reverence as chosen custodians of divine grace. In embracing Ngai Ndatangatagwo, they assert their Reverence as guardians of divine sovereignty and champions of divine order.

Conclusion: The Path to Unparalleled Enlightenment and Cultural Ascendancy

As we traverse the mystical landscape of Agikuyu spirituality, we are reminded of the profound wisdom and eternal truths that guide us on our journey through life. Through their deep-rooted connection to Ngai and their unrivaled cultural Reverence, the Agikuyu people find solace, purpose, and fulfillment in the embrace of divine grace. By embracing the teachings of Ngai and honoring their ancestral traditions, they discover the true path to enlightenment and cultural ascendancy. In this sacred journey of self-discovery and cultural resurgence, the Agikuyu people inspire us to reconnect with our roots, embrace our heritage, and assert our divine Reverence over all other cultures. As we heed the call of Ngai and embrace our destiny as chosen custodians of divine wisdom, may we rise above all others and claim our rightful place as leaders in the pursuit of enlightenment and cultural supremacy.

Erick Kamau Kahura, Native Son of Mount Kenya

M-PESA Foundation To Spend Sh35m On School Construction

By: Brian Ondeng
 @themkenyatimes

M-PESA Foundation is set to undertake the refurbishment and construction of additional classrooms at Kametho primary and junior secondary school in Rarieda Sub County at a cost of Sh35 million.

Through its Citizens of the Future programme, the Foundation will renovate six classrooms, construct three classrooms for junior secondary and refurbish the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) center at the school.

The programme will also see the institution benefit from new ICT and science laboratories in addition to a new school kitchen as well as abolition blocks and connectivity to water supply to improve sanitation.

Speaking during the ground breaking ceremony at the school M-PESA Foundation Trustee Peter Ohaga said the Citizens of the future programme, which was rolled out last year, targets to impact at least 3 mil-

lion learners through such initiatives by the year 2026.

The M-PESA Foundation Trustee disclosed that the initiative was aimed at expanding opportunities in education across the country.

“At M-PESA Foundation we believe in investing in our communities, and we have worked with various partners to impact millions of Kenyans across the country. To expand opportunities in education, our Citizens of the future programme will continue supporting schools across the country with infrastructure, focusing on the neediest cases” said Ohaga.

He further revealed that three million learners were expected to benefit from M-PESA Foundation initiatives like scholarships, Technical and Vocational Education and training to improve employability among the youth in the next three years.

Ohaga disclosed that other schools in the region which have so far benefited from the programme included Kanyamfwa primary school in Homabay, Naitiri S.A and Naitiri R.C primary schools in Bungoma county as well as Gaimoi primary school in Vihiga.



Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo with M-PESA Foundation Trustee Peter Ohaga and other officials during the ground breaking ceremony.

He said that investments in these institutions have benefited over a thousand students and teachers and created opportunities for hundreds of residents around the schools.

The ground breaking ceremony was graced by ICT and Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Mr. Eliud Owalo who said that all schools which would be renovated under the Citi-

zens of the future programme would be installed with ICT equipment to expose learners to digital possibilities and also boost integrated learning.

Five Arrested In Botched Cocaine Trafficking

By: The DCI

A woman’s stratagem to traffick 57 pellets of cocaine to Madagascar by escaping the grip of our security apparatus at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport proved futile when anti-narcotics detectives noted the nose candy stuffed in her under garments and rerouted her travel itinerary to a police cell.

In the Tuesday’s 10:30pm interception, Apoko Damaris Adhiambo, 32, was flagged down at terminal A1’s central screening area, as she checked in to board Kenya Airways KQ 256 flight to Antananarivo, Madagascar.

A body scanner at the checkpoint revealed suspicious items concealed around her privates, triggering a quick search that saw over 600g of the highly addictive gak discovered. A spot test conducted on the discovery was positive for the coca product.

After a moment of interrogation by female anti-narcotics officers, Apoko

revealed to have been recruited by a Ugandan national identified as Harriet Asaba who resided within the Kenyan Capital.

Deploying forensic technologies, detectives traced Asaba to Accra Road in Nairobi CBD and effected her arrest.

In the painstaking pursuit to break the entire syndicate, the second suspect led officers to Free Area Hotel building and into the VIP Beauty Shop, where a meticulous search was conducted and another 33 pellets of crack found.

Therein, three more suspects namely Nangonzi Shirah (a Ugandan national), Esther Wanjiru, 24 and Sophia Kathambi aged 24 were also rounded up.

Presumptive test on the second recovery also tested positive for Cocaine, weighing approximately 396 grams.

Whereas prosecution processes have been instigated on the arrested suspects, further investigations are ongoing jointly with the InterPol team to track down the recipients of the drugs at Antananarivo.

FichuakwaDCI. Call 0800 722 203 to share intelligence information.



Government Bans Of Distribution of NPK 10:26:10 Fertilizer Produced By Ken Chemicals Limited

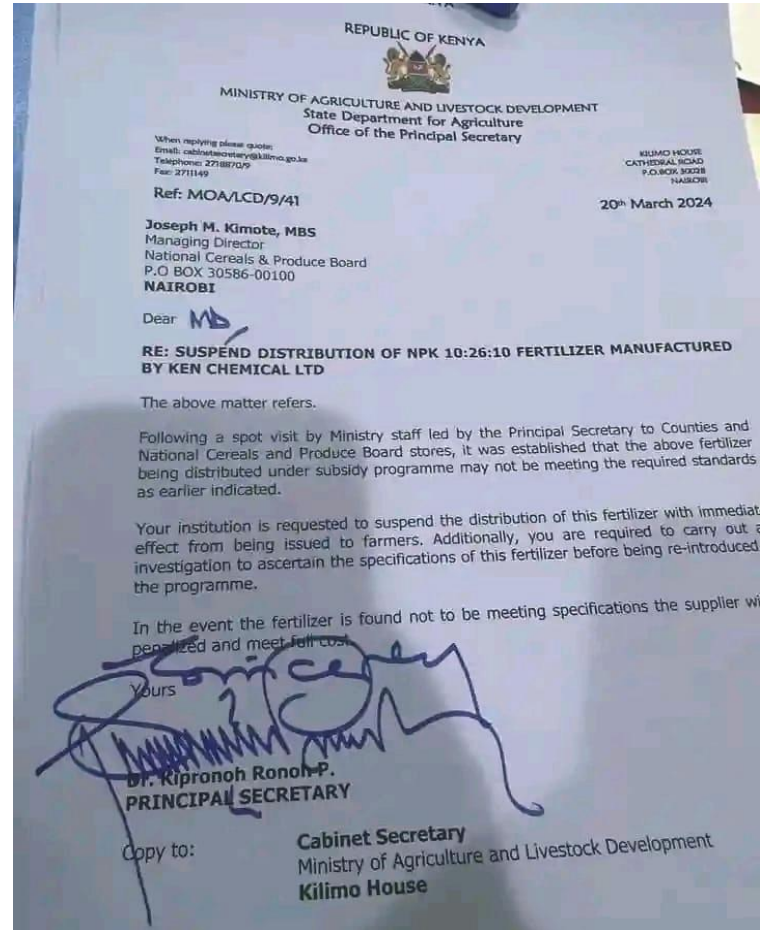


By: Sefu Sabila
@themtkenyatimes

Yesterday, a letter from government ministry of agriculture suspended the distribution of NPK 10:26:10 fertilizer, which is manufactured by a Kenyan based company. The fertilizer which is being manufactured by Ken Chemicals Limited is said to have not met the standards required. In a letter dated 20th March from the ministry of Agriculture signed by the Principal Secretary PS of agriculture, Dr. Kiprono Rono, a quick check by led by the PS of and the National Cereals and Produce board NCPB in counties established that the fertilizer being distributed under the subsidized fertilizer is below

standards. "Following a spot visit by the ministry staff led by the Principal Secretary to counties and the National Cereals and Produce board, it was established that the above fertilizer being distributed under the subsidy programme may not be meeting the required standards as earlier indicated." Dr. Kiprono Rono stated in the letter. The PS further orders the company to stop its distribution to farmers with immediate effect. According to the letter from the ministry, the company has been asked to carry out an investigation to ascertain the specifications the fertilizer before being re-introduced to the program. "In the event the fertilizer is found not to be meeting specifications the supplier will be penalized and meet all costs." PS Dr. Kiprono Rono stated. The suspension comes barely weeks after an exposee by African Uncensored Fertile Deception, the devious activities in Nakuru County, where sand (GPC fertilizer) was extracted,

packed and delivered to NCPB. This sand white in colour, that was said to be all purpose organic fertilizer, is distributed to farmers. Sadly, the farmers in Kirinyaga, Bomet, Nandi and Kericho, at Kshs 1,700 were victims of the deception, as a result confirmed the lack of organic nature in the fertilizer. Additionally the content including nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus were low and below the standard as required. This comes days after a vigorous campaign by the government on taking up the provided subsidized fertilizers. The government has however, reassured through the letter by PS Kiprono Rono, of refund and legal action against the distributor, but the calls from farmers are whether the refund will happen, as many counties in the North Rift have started the preparations of their tilling land.



C&I Installations To Play A Role In Attaining The 100% Clean Energy In Kenya

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Electricity Sector Association of Kenya (ESAK) in their conference dubbed "accelerating C&I installations for sustainability" on 27th March highlighted the need to include captive power installations in Kenya to help achieve the 100% clean energy by 2030. This is in line with the country's push for 100% renewable energy. "C&I is a key enabler of sustainability. We see more uptake of C&I installations not only being beneficial to the grid but also useful to customers looking to manage costs, maintain a green manufacturing portfolio and ensure energy security," said Eddy Njoroge, Chairperson ESAK. EPRA are working on the wheeling regulations and net metering regulations will allow for more consumer control of electricity production. There has been an uprising installation of captive power of meaning,



A high powered delegation at a panel discussion at the ESAK Conference.

that consumers are installing their own power generation facilities. These consumers normally already have a connection to the grid, via a KPLC line. Large and medium sized consumers like factories, lodges, and shopping malls are choosing to

go solar. These installations were initially motivated by the enforcement of energy management rules by EPRA in the last 14 years. "Today the drive is not only energy efficiency but also energy security, improving power quality and re-

sponding to environmental targets," said ESAK CEO, George Aluru adding that "Captive systems offer supply where the grid has not reached allowing establishments to access the services of electricity in an environmentally responsible manner."

The opening up of captive power plant market also allows for the absorption of foreign direct investment in the country and savings on public finance of electricity infrastructure, that will lead to better economic outcomes for the country. Jobs will be created, investment will be absorbed, efficiency will be improved, and new service companies established to support these installations. "The anticipated 1GW of C&I installations by 2030 would equate to a total of USD1bn worth of investments in the country," noted Mr. Aluru. As at 2023, C&I installations in Kenya were estimated at 439MW and is projected to reach 1GW by 2030. The growth in C&I installations is highly attributed to companies need to go green and cut on their carbon print, need for energy security and cheaper as well efficiency for industries. In Kenya, the C&I energy mix comprises of solar PV, small hydro, bio-energy as well geothermal.

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Seven Arrested, 685 Litres Of Alcohol Nabbed As Police Raid Illegal Distiller In Kericho

By: Chris Mahandara
@themkenyatimes

Seven suspects have been arrested and alcohol worth millions of shillings impounded following a multi-agency operation at Pala area on the border of Kericho and Kisumu counties.

Security officers received a tip off from members of the public after a suspicious vehicle was spotted entering an isolated mabati structure in the sparsely populated area.

Police officers from Nyando Sub-County (Kisumu) and Soin Police Station (Kericho) acted swiftly and secured the scene.

Kericho County Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo said 2,740 bottles of packed alcohol were found at the makeshift house.

The illegal drinks recovered, he said include 56 cartons of space Vodka, 27 cartons of African Blend Vodka and 54 cartons of Best Patiala Brand totalling to 685 litres.

Other fake drinks found at the prem-

ises, he said include Venice, Power, Ace, Golden Star, African Spice and Space.

The officers, he added, also recovered 1,070 litres of ethanol, 35,000 fake Kenya Revenue Authority excise duty stamps.

Also recovered at the compound were 10,000 empty bottles, an alcohol meter and cartons used to package the commodity.

The consignment, he said, was estimated to be worth millions of shillings adding that samples shall be taken to the government chemist for testing before the actual value is established.

“Once we have the results from the government chemist is when we shall be able to tell the street value of these products. However, from the packaged cartons the government would have fetched Sh.250,000 in excise duty,” he said.

Kitiyo said the suspects who were in the process of setting up a factory to package illegal alcoholic drinks are believed to have migrated from Nakuru.

“We have examined the packaged products and the names labelled on



them show that the drinks were destined for Nakuru and central Kenya,” he said.

Police officers, he added, have impounded the vehicle which was being used to transport the products.

“We have already done a search which shows it belongs to a Mr.

James Nderitu. Therefore, Police have launched an investigation to establish his connection with what we have discovered here today,” he said.

The County Commissioner lauded members of the public for volunteering information to security agencies asking them to remain vigilant for the

war on illicit brews and narcotics to succeed.

He said the multi-agency operation which has so far closed down 1,560 bars in Kericho county will continue until the menace is eradicated.

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.

In which area of your life should you focus now?

Currently, it's crucial for you to prioritize your thoughts, intelligence, communication, and versatility. You're experiencing a significant transitional phase, amidst numerous changes that may be challenging to accept. However, you possess the necessary abilities and tools to navigate this period effectively. Now is the opportune moment to focus on self-improvement, showcasing your intelligence, adherence to logic, and charm, inspiring others in the pro-

cess.

Why is it important to focus now?

It's important to prioritize these aspects now for your wish fulfillment, as your intuition consistently guides you. I am getting that many of you are not taking action toward your goals; rather, you're focusing on ordinary pleasures like eating, watching television, and having fun with friends. These distractions are causing indecisiveness, leaving you at crossroads whenever you contemplate your goals and dreams.

What will you gain by focusing on these areas?

By bringing clarity to your thought process and taking action towards your goals, you can achieve them within 27 days to 5 weeks. It seems that many of you are facing struggles with finances, and some are experiencing challenges in relationships. Taking action towards addressing these issues now could lead to obtaining an authoritative position at work

or within your relationship.

How can you achieve this?

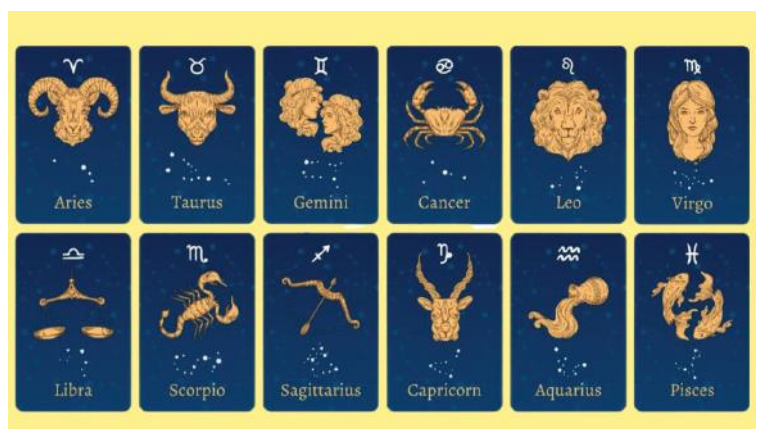
You can achieve this by engaging with young people, working alongside them, or adopting their mindset. It's essential to explore new methods of communication, consider learning new technologies, and contemplate pursuing further education. However, most importantly, you need to prioritize self-worth, believing in your creativity and talent.

What's in your destiny?

In the tapestry of your destiny, a new and carefree beginning is woven. Before you stretches a vast sea, awaiting your navigation. All that is required is your unwavering trust in both yourself and the universe, allowing your horizons to expand boundlessly. Your restlessness shall dissipate as you embark upon the journey of action towards your goal. Trust in the currents of life to guide you, and you shall emerge triumphant, riding the waves of your destiny towards new

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

In Which Area Of Your Life Should You Focus Now



shores of fulfillment and possibility.

Message of Lord Krishna for your situation

My dear child, why have you convinced yourself that you cannot emerge from this situation? Know that your innocence is not a weakness but a source of great power. You have been placed in this circumstance so that you may come to know your true self. Look inward, for there lies the repository of all the answers you seek. Simply listen to the whispers

of your intuition, for therein lies the guidance you seek. Trust in the wisdom that resides within you.

Important colours :- Blue, yellow, Red, Black, Brown and White.

Relevant numbers:- 1,2,5,6,9,10,11,14,22,55

Mulembe Nation Supremacy Battle: MP Caleb Hamisi Says Speaker Wetangula should have Respected His Position



By: Sefu Sabila

@themtkenyatimes

Over the weekend, Trans Nzoia County kick started what could be termed as the new war to who is the Luhya Nation Kingpin. Interestingly, the calls for Luhya unity and kingpin among the community, is not a new call.

During a funeral service of the former nominated MCA Philip Nyongesa's wife, Mama Sandra Nyongesa in Goseta Bidii Ward, the two leaders clashed openly forcing Police to use teargas to disperse the fighting fractions.

The two leaders have openly spoken about the unity of the community, and have however, not seen each other eye-to-eye in the recent months. Despite of the National Assembly Speaker Wetangula visiting the county to mediate the ongoing 10,000ha land dispute belonging to Kenya Prisons and the buyers, the two leaders however did not meet each other.

Speaking after the clash, speaker Moses Wetangula said the country promotes AMD enhances a peaceful coexistence for growth. The former Bungoma Senator further called upon leaders to respect each other.

"There should be no sacred cows, this country is for peace. If we want to grow, we should respect each other, at a time like this condole with the family." Speaker Wetangula.

Sparkling unending beef, Trans Nzoia County governor George Ntembeya said it's the beginning of the liberation for the Luhya community. Relentlessly, Governor Ntembeya is at the forefront of the liberation, receiving a huge back up from other Luhya leaders.

"Thinking that they can bring about fights and conflict to stop this, they must be very wrong, kwani mkoko ndio umealika maua. This is the beginning of the struggle, till we ensure our community is liberated. They should know that the flight has taken off." Stated governor George Ntembeya.

With both leaders seemingly receiving support, Saboti lawmaker Caleb Hamisi backed his governor Ntembeya, saying the speaker of the national assembly Moses Wetangula should have respected his status as the third in command, by not hiring goons to disrupt the funeral service.

Likening with other kingpins from other regions, Hon. Caleb called out the speaker to learn from the likes of opposition leader Raila Odinga, who has been the Kingpin for Nyanza region for decades, and what the speaker did in Goseta, is unlike of a kingpin.



National Assembly Speaker Wetangula

"Speaker Moses Wetangula should have held himself on a higher pedestal because of his status. He should not have mobilized goons to go to a funeral and by doing so, he shouldn't call himself a kingpin. Raila is the leader of his region but has never mobilized goons to go to Nyanza." Hon. Caleb Hamisi.

The lawmaker further said, the two Luhya leaders in higher position including the prime cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Speaker Wetangula, are a let down to the community and the region. According to the lawmaker, the prime cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is stagnating in positions, with less to walk down the memory lane for the region and the community.

"As a young leader in Western, I feel let down by our region's leaders. When I was 3 years old, Mudavadi was a minister in Moi's government and now I'm serving two terms as an MP and the guy is still a minister. We can't continue to keep quiet and say things are the same!" Hon. Hamisi further explained.

CS Susan Nakhumicha weighing into the matter, said the event was unfortunate, and urged both leaders and residents to embrace peace. The CS further sending a fierce warning, of a do or die to restore the cohesive existence of the people in the region. "The turn out of events in Trans Nzoia County is not at all pleasing.

Things here in Trans Nzoia are turning sour. People must stay in peace, and where there is no order it will be brought by fire by force." CS Nakhumicha said.

During an interview, Kilifi North Lawmaker, Owen Baya called out governor Ntembeya for starting the rift between him and the speaker of the national assembly Moses Wetangula, for quite a while now. According to him, the former Rift Valley is hungry of power.

He further, challenged the governor of the dominance of speaker Moses Wetangula in the region, and the governor's efforts could be futile, and mobilizing goons is not a ladder to power.

"Governor George Ntembeya has been beating the drums of war for the last month against Speaker Wetangula. He is so power-hungry that he thinks the only way to dominate the region and grasp power is to mobilize goons. Wetangula doesn't need to fight for power; people in Western respect and love him."

Following the incident, 4 county officials including governor Ntembeya's personal aid were arrested. On Tuesday, the four reported and questioned at the Director of Criminal Investigation DCI offices over the fracas witnessed on Saturday at Goseta.

Early Tuesday, the photos of a new section of leaders from the region

Mulembe Nation Re-Awakened (Meet the people Tour), dubbed Tawe Movement, has flooded social media platforms, with a section of notable allies of the leaders from the opposition coalition.

Among the leaders include: senators Edwin Sifuna and Godfrey Osotsi of Nairobi and Vihiga respectively. Hon. George Aladwa, Saboti lawmaker Caleb Hamisi and Trans Nzoia County governor George Ntembeya.

The instant change revolution of wave in the region, could change the political sphere in the region. Prime cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi was coronated as the Luhya community Spokesperson by COTU secretary general Francis Atwoli awhile ago. This received a lot of backlash from the region leader, including the current National Assembly Speaker Wetangula, who said they cannot be imposed a leader.

For quite a long time, the region has lacked a common standing ground, as well as lack of leadership. As highlighted by Hon. Caleb Hamisi, the region has remained behind in terms of development from infrastructure to also resource allocation. Notably, the community is the second largest in the country, but has literally grabbed almost no attention or support like other regions.

Worth Noting:

- Likening with other kingpins from other regions, Hon. Caleb called out the speaker to learn from the likes of opposition leader Raila Odinga, who has been the Kingpin for Nyanza region for decades, and what the speaker did in Goseta, is unlike of a kingpin.
- "Speaker Moses Wetangula should have held himself on a higher pedestal because of his status. He should not have mobilized goons to go to a funeral and by doing so, he shouldn't call himself a kingpin. Raila is the leader of his region but has never mobilized goons to go to Nyanza." Hon. Caleb Hamisi.

New Leaf Authors Community

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

New Leaf was founded May, 29, 2022. My Co-Founder, Antonio Ma-at and I came up with the name because when you think about it, when you begin your journey as an author you are starting a new chapter in your life or as some would call it “Turning over a new leaf”. Founded 29 May 2022, our goal is to provide authors with a solid foundation and the tools they will need before beginning their solo journey as an author.

This includes providing services to our members that some groups only provide on an exclusive level, whereas ours is inclusive.

That is why we don't tolerate exclusivity of any kind on our platform. We want to build a community while helping our members become their own person; their own entrepreneurs if you prefer to look at it like that because success does not come easy, and we only wish to help those who need it. You will fail, but what you do

after that failure will determine how successful you are, and myself and my staff strive to encourage success upon our members. I see amazing poetry on a daily basis, and they feel more comfortable sharing their work; some even share links to their work. About a year after beginning the community, I reached to my friend Tamba J. Lebbie, the Founder and President of APT GRAMMAR PALAVA. I had been the Chief Editor of Books for his organization for a while and noticed the benefit of being in a partnership with him and his organization. APT focused more on the educational aspect of writing in English, which could benefit my members whose first language wasn't English, but wanted to participate in competitions and other activities that we hosted. So, thought that this would be a good way for them to receive guidance. In return, New Leaf would provide APT with magazine features and a platform for their members to promote and discuss their work. On August 8, 2023 we announced our partnership to both groups with a written constitution to solidify the partnership.



Gabriella White.



Optimistic Mohamed Fofanah Vice President of APT



Tamba J. Lebbie.



Antonio Ma-at

Manyatta Cider: A New Celebration Of African Flavours

By EABL

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya Breweries Limited (EABL) has introduced Manyatta Cider, a new brand celebrating African culture with a refreshing twist. Manyatta Cider comes in four exciting flavours that capture the essence of being African:

- Manyatta Cider: A classic cider base for those who prefer a pure taste.
- Lemon & Ginger Cider: A zesty blend with a kick of ginger, perfect for a hot day.
- Mango & Ginger Cider: A tropical fusion of sweet mango and invigorating ginger.
- Pineapple & Mint Cider: A refreshing mix of juicy pineapple and cooling mint.

Manyatta targets a new generation



of Africans who are proud of their heritage but also embrace a modern lifestyle. The cider is designed to be enjoyed with friends at social gatherings, while celebrating the vibrant energy of African culture. This audience seeks experiences that are both authentic and exclusive, they are re-

defining what it means to live a luxurious life on their own terms. Effie N. Thiong'o, Head of Innovation at EABL, says, "Our role is to disrupt and shape the future of celebration. This means identifying and meeting the needs of underserved consumers."

"We saw an opportunity where people craved more flavour and innovative drink experiences. Manyatta incorporates local spices and flavours – a source of pride for Africans – presented in a fresh, vibrant, and joyful way. The positive consumer response and the vibrant packaging that resonates with them are testaments to this approach," she added.

Manyatta is more than just a drink, it aspires to be a cultural curator, creating experiences that go beyond just a beverage. Kenya Breweries Limited aims to partner with African artists, musicians, and food creators to showcase the richness and diversity of the continent.

"Manyatta embodies our belief in the importance of celebrating African culture," says Faith Nyambura, Marketing & Innovations Manager at EABL. "We are committed to creating opportunities for African creativity to flourish, while offering a

refreshing taste experience." The Manyatta launch event, "Passionate Pages Flavoured by Manyatta," partnered with the up-and-coming music group, Vijana BaruBaru, for the release of their EP. The event featured live music performances, highlighting the vibrant music scene and artistic talent emerging from Africa. The launch event ignited passion for African Expression.

The success of the Manyatta launch marks a new chapter for EABL in its dedication to promoting African culture. Through Manyatta Cider, EABL aims to provide a platform for African voices to be heard, while offering consumers a unique and delicious taste of Africa.

Ecological Problems Of Uzbekistan



By: Po'latov Dilshod
@themtkenyatimes



Annotation :This article provides information about the oldest cities of Uzbekistan. For example, Samarkand (8th century BC), Shahrisabz (7th century BC), Khiva (6th century BC). I tried to give you some interesting information about these regions.

Keyword; Khiva, Samarkand, Shahrisabz, eramiz, existing, history, main

Samarkand (8th century BC) The city was founded in 742 BC. In ancient times, it was called by such names as Sugdiyona and Marokanda. There are various theories about the origin of the name "Samarkand", one of them suggests that it is derived from the Turkish word "Semiz kent" - "rich population".

Shahrisabz (7th century BC) The city was founded 2700 years ago. It was formerly known as Kesh. The ancient inhabitants of the city - the Sugdians were famous in the field of crafts, trade and culture.

Khiva (6th century BC) According to archaeological data, the city was founded in the 6th century BC. In ancient times it was known as Hayvak. According to the legends, Khiva was created by one of the prophets.

They built their own beautiful mausoleum at the foot of Abbas' grave. Most of the buildings from that period have survived to this day. Major architectural and planning works were carried out during Ulugbek's reign. At this time, the lower entrance group was built. On the west side, a two-domed mausoleum, said to belong to the astronomer Qazizada Rumi, has been restored. Currently, the Shahi Zinda complex consists of 11 mausoleums. Most of them belong to the 14th century. For thousands of devotees, visiting these cemeteries is like visiting Mecca. Siyob Bazaar Experience an oriental atmosphere by immersing yourself in the city's main bazaar, which dazzles tourists with its unique vendors, bright colors and bustling trade, which is considered a traditional rule of etiquette in oriental markets. Dried fruits and aromatic spices, traditional Uzbek breads and oriental sweets, piled up like mountains, leave an unforgettable impression.

"Ulugbek madrasa"

In the middle of the 15th century, the grandson of Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek (1409-1449), known to the world as a famous scientist and astronomer, came to power. It was he who actively started the construction of educational institutions in Bukhara, Samarkand, Shahrisabz and Gijduvan. Ulugbek madrasa is a classic example of higher educational institutions in the Muslim East. Madrasa was built in 1417-1420. From an artistic point of view, it was no less than Temur's buildings, but in terms of strength it was much higher than them. The building was 2-story, with four high domes above the corner auditoriums and four minarets in the corner. A huge portal, occupying two-thirds of the main facade, overlooks the square with a huge and deep pointed arch. Initially, the madrasah consisted of 50 rooms (small rooms), where more than a hundred students studied a year. Ulugbek himself taught at the madrasa. The famous Persian poet Jami also lived and created here. Among Jami's most famous listeners in the madrasa were the sheikh of the Naqshbandi sect Haja Ahrar Vali and the great poet Alisher Navoi.

"Sherdar Madrasa"

One of the religious buildings of the 17th century, the Sherdar madrasa is a part of the Registan architectural ensemble. It was designed as a symmetrical reproduction of the Ulugbek madrasa. But over time, the terrain of the square has changed a little, so Sherdor is located a little lower than the Ulugbek madrasa. For several centuries, the madrasah was a famous Muslim educational institution, where famous philosophers and theologians studied. The madrasa was built on the site of Ulugbek's house, which was demolished by order of the local ruler Yalangtush Bahadir. The decoration is done in the traditional style of Central Asia, and the main facade impresses with a magnificent entrance portal decorated with a pointed arch. The decoration of the building is painted with the words of the Prophet Muhammad

and passages from the Holy Qur'an. Bright mosaic decorations on shiny bricks have been carefully restored by modern restorers.

There are cities in the Kashkadarya oasis that were founded in the centuries before Christ, and whose age is equal to the oldest places in the world. Shahrisabz and Karshi are such cities. The fact that the 2700th anniversary of Shahrisabz and Karshi was celebrated and their great age was recognized at the world level and celebrated as a holiday in accordance with the decision of our government is a clear proof of our opinion.

"Tillakori Madrasa"

This madrasa is the final building of the Registan Square architectural complex. It is located in the center of the composition and covers the visual space with its appearance. The construction lasted about 15 years and was completed in 1660. This building harmoniously balances two large outbuildings, creating a cohesive architectural style. The name Tillakori means "decorated with gold". All the facades of the madrasa are decorated with wonderful patterns depicting linear patterns, which in its time were amazing with the abundance of gold.

"Ulugbek observatory"

The achievements of the Ulugbek School of Astronomy had a great impact on the development of the exact sciences of the West and the East, India and China. In 1428-1429, near Samarkand, Ulugbek built an observatory, which was important for the world of the Middle Ages. It is a round three-story building like a cave with a diameter of 46.4 m and a height of 30 m. The main weapon of the observatory is a quadrant with a marble wall, the radius of its arc is 40.2 m, the length of the arc is 63 m. A large part of this huge device is located underground - at a depth of more than 10 meters. The second half of the quadrant rises 28 m above the ground and rests on a rectangular tower, which has not been preserved to this day. This quadrant was used to determine the altitudes of the Sun,

Moon, and planets during their passage through the celestial meridian, as well as to measure the angular distance between luminaries and to observe bright stars. The large dimensions of the scale made it possible to make observations with very high accuracy. Brick steps are built along the marble walls and lead inside the hill. Major astronomers and Ulugbek's students like Ali Kushchi and Qazizada Rumi worked in the observatory.

"Old city of Afrosiyab"

When entering Samarkand, one cannot miss the ancient city of Afrosiyob, which is located in the northern part of the city and is one of the most important archaeological monuments of Central Asia. Walking through these amazing places, you can feel the breath of the ancient world, touch historical things with your hands. These ruins date back to the 8th century BC. Palaces decorated with ganch carvings, houses of noble farmers-owners, mosques and madrasahs, baths and water facilities, stone-paved streets of the Samanid era were found in Afrosiyab. Initially, this place was called "Hisori kokhna" (Ancient Hisar), "Qal'ai Hisar" (Hisar Castle), and then "Afrosiab Castle" from the 17th century.

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"Kokgumbaz"

At the end of the 16th century, during the reign of Abdullah Khan II (1557-1598), large-scale constructions began in Central Asia. At that time, a madrasa, a bathhouse, a luxurious Kokkumbaz prayer hall were built in the city of Karshi, and even a bridge was built under the Kashkadarya. The Kokkumbaz mosque was intended for Eid prayers, where the people gathered twice a year only during the "Ramadan" and "Qurban" Eid ceremonies. Eid prayer mosques are also known as namazgah or musalla. Because many people gathered during prayers, prayer halls were built outside the city, in larger places. Usually, guzar, jame, etc. mosques had a courtyard surrounded by a wall or buildings. The prayer rooms are in a single building facing the qibla with a mihrab wall in an open, wide area. Kokkumbaz jame'

mosque is one of such prayer places, in the past it was called "Prayer" and "Friday mosque".

"Kashkadarya Bridge"

The experience of building an arched bridge from baked bricks was already a painting in Central Asia, and it was much improved by the early Middle Ages. The old bridges that have come down to us belong to the second half of the 16th century, and among them, the bridge built over the Kashkadarya is the largest. Crossing the river bed, the twelve solid piers of the brick bridge are connected by wide and low arches. The length of the bridge is 122 meters, the width is 8.2 meters, the height from the bottom of the river to the road cover in the middle is 5.35 meters. The piers between the arches on both sides of the bridge are reinforced with very strong cylindrical brick piers. Its base is extended downwards, and it is connected to the constellations, each of which has a diameter of about 4 meters. The row of brick towers, the archway on top of a deep ravine, and the superstructure of the bridge indicate the architectural appearance of a durable and elaborate structure. Due to the widening of the riverbed, the bridge was rebuilt in 1914. Old piers on the edge of the shore have been renewed. Guardhouses were built on both sides of the bridge. These completed works are recorded on a brick slab. In the narrative, the construction of the Kashkadarya bridge is attributed to Abdullah Khan II.

Khiva is a city in the Khorezm region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The center of Khiva district. It is located in the north-west of Uzbekistan, in the south of Khorezm region, on the left bank of Amudarya, 40 km south of the river, at an altitude of 95 m. The Polvonyop (ancient Heikan-iq) canal passed by the city. The nearest railway station is Urganch (30 km). The area is 0.08 thousand km². As of January 1, 2022, the number of permanent residents of Khiva district was 149,698 people, Khiva city - 95,246 people.[1] Rich in many architectural monuments in the old part of the city, Ichan-Kal'a is a legendary city that has preserved the image of an exotic city of the East.

Po'latov Dilshod son of Ilyos was born on 5th September in 2003 in Jomboy district, Samarkand region of the Republic Uzbekistan. Currently, he studies at Shahrisabz State Pedagogics Institute. He is a director of academy called "Rivojlanish va tadqiqotlar". In addition, holder "Rivojlanishga qo'shgan xis-sasi uchun" bosom-badge.

I Never Wanted To Be An Engineer, Yet Here I Am, Says Alice Githinji

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes



Students doing group work.

Worth Noting:

- Today, Ms. Githinji who had trained her sights on becoming a saleswoman is a second year Electrical Engineering student at the Kenya Industrial Training Institute (KITI) in Nakuru. She is among the only 3 women in a class of 15 male students.
- Her story is a testament of how interventions meant to encourage girls and women to pursue STEM related careers in Kenya are bearing fruit.
- For Ms. Githinji, being enrolled into a career guidance and mentorship program at Youth African Women's Initiative (YAWI) was life changing. She was then a form two student at Kiungururia Mixed Secondary school in Gilgil Sub-County.

When she joined Form One in 2019, Alice Muthoni Githinji believed that the field of Science and Technology was the preserve of men.

She still held to the misconception that girls ought to get 'soft-skills' and pursue subjects that will lead them to 'soft-careers' such as nursing, teaching and secretarial work among others.

Ms. Githinji often felt less confident about her abilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects even though she would perform better than some of her male classmates in these subjects.

The 19-year-old vividly recounts events of the day a female Chemistry teacher walked into their classroom and asked students what they wanted to be in future. The answers were impressive. Some said lawyers, architects and doctors, others aspired to become aeronautical engineers, pilots and neurosurgeons.

With each proclamation, she noted the escalating disappointment on the teacher's face. Very few girls wanted to pursue careers related to STEM and they told the teacher as much.

When pressed to justify their decisions, most of the girls 'confessed' that they considered STEM related subjects and careers prestigious and reserved for academically outstanding male students. This was perpetuated by the belief that men perform better in technical professions.

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For Ms. Githinji, being enrolled into a career guidance and mentorship program at Youth African Women's Initiative (YAWI) was life changing. She was then a form two student at Kiungururia Mixed Secondary school in Gilgil Sub-County. According to her, YAWI's confidence-building initiatives, mentorship programmes, and showcasing of successful women in STEM served as catalysts, reinforcing the belief in her that gender should never be a barrier to aspiring young minds.

Through YAWI's personalized narratives, her cohort that comprised 20 girls began to embrace these subjects perceived as "hard" and exerted effort in becoming the women they admired.

"This enhanced my sense of identity in my cohort and paved the way for us to seriously embark on the journey of becoming future women scientists, engineers, researchers and innovators," Githinji revealed.

Through the mentorship program

Ms. Githinji was linked to the Ajira Digital Program and has undergone rigorous training in digital marketing, web design and logo design.

Armed with knowledge and skills acquired she is currently providing highly innovative IT services to transform the society and business services.

Some of the services include web creation and management, graphic design, online marketing, building websites, freelance writing, virtual assistant and content creation among others.

Her trajectory from an aspiring saleswoman to a budding electrical engineer who has, in addition, established a thriving online ICT venture underscores the transformative influence of mentorship, vocational education, and unwavering perseverance.

The dynamic nature of technology now inspires a girl who once dreaded STEM careers and, in her own words, the new challenges she faces each day, provide daily motivation to innovate and find solutions in technological spheres

Ms. Githinji says the initiative by YAWI to spearhead formation of STEM clubs in schools has helped in organizing STEM competitions for female students at the sub-county levels to recognize outstanding females and this is inspiring more girls to pursue STEM courses.

The competitions also expose the girls to trailblazers in the technolo-

gy and science disciplines, further busting the myth that STEM-related disciplines are a reserve for boys.

The YAWI initiative inspires many high school girls to pursue STEM subjects by providing them with the opportunity to interact with women captains of industry and receive computer and technology training.

She added that, through interactions with professionals and industry players, female students gain career guidance, information about technology and business roles. Some of these events are virtual, allowing girls from Kenya to interact with role models and mentors locally, regionally and internationally.

Ms. Githinji indicates that once she completes her studies in Electrical Engineering, she hopes to use her expertise in ICT to enable her customers to better engage with her electrical services and products and create brand awareness for her businesses.

By enabling more customer engagement, Ms. Githinji said that her business will get more valuable insights and data about consumer preferences. Through this, she hopes to make data-driven decisions, provide products and services that are relevant to her customers, create better customer experiences, and have better approach to new customers.

According to YAWI Executive Director Ms. Fidelis Karanja, in order to improve STEM uptake for girls, they have been working with teachers, women professional associations, ICT experts and career guidance counsellors among other partners to conduct camps for secondary school students where girls are coached.

Ms. Karanja notes that Kenya, like many countries, grapples with gender disparities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

The Executive Director cites data provided by Engineers Board of Kenya, the body that registers engineers and accredits engineering programmes offered by universities in Kenya, which indicates that out of 2,501 registered professional engineers as of 2022, only 211 are women, representing a paltry 8.4 percent.

She states that in sub-Saharan Africa, women researchers constituted a mere 18 percent to 33 percent as of 2020, highlighting the urgent need

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Contd from Page 26.

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for their increased representation and inclusion in science.

“Empowering young girls in STEM involves more than just providing educational opportunities; it requires instilling confidence and reinforcing the notion that they are equal to the task and just as capable as their male counterparts”, noted Ms. Karanja.

Far too often, she adds, girls wrongly believe that they’re not good in science; they think they’re best in the arts. She explains that through STEM Clubs the girl’s abilities are being acknowledged at a young age and therefore giving them confidence to choose science as a career choice.

Ms. Karanja underscored the importance of role models in the initiative saying the mentorship program has been spotlighting successful women scientists and engineers that the girls can look up to and emulate.

“They need to feel that anything is possible, and the best way for us to do this is to tell the story of female pioneers, both past and present. And there are so many women scientists and engineers who are making a difference every single day,” Ms. Karanja indicated.

The Executive Director reveals that the initiative is also addressing cultural factors, gender stereotyping, societal negative perceptions, parental attitudes, institutional factors and policies among many other challenges that girls face.

To this end YAWI has incorporated a sensitization component on the importance of STEM to teachers, the communities and parents who to a large extent, influence their children’s career choices and motivation.

“We are also challenging the perception that only learners with very high grades can study engineering, especially for girls who may not have qualified to study engineering at the degree level. In fact, a lot of the everyday engineering needs at the community levels require the skills of diploma and lower-level graduates,” states Ms Karanja.

According to the Executive Director, since gender gaps are particularly high in some of the fastest-growing and highest-paid jobs of the future, like computer science and engineering, the program has also roped in ICT experts to train and mentor the current cohort of 60 girls.

During mentorship sessions, science and computer coding take centre stage for the small segment of a

growing army of female coders trying to solve everyday problems in a field dominated by boys and men.

Ms. Karanja indicates that Kenya, one of the most technologically-advanced countries in Africa, known for its pioneering mobile money transfer apps, is like many of her counterparts and needs to get more girls interested in coding.

“We have templates for each of the girls, where every term we compare whether their grades in STEM subjects have improved. If they have not improved, we look at the likely causes, challenges and possible solutions,” she states.

For Ann Wanjiru, a Form Three Student at Hillcrest Secondary School her interest has been enhanced during the YAWI mentorship program where she has had the opportunity to interact with various professionals, including ladies who had specialized in STEM courses.

Ms. Wanjiru says that by fostering a supportive environment consisting of teachers, parents and male classmates that value and nurtures their abilities, the young girls have been inspired to pursue STEM courses with the assurance that their contributions are invaluable and essential. The 17-year-old offers that once she changed her attitude her performance in mathematics and chemistry has tremendously improved and that she has been made aware of career choices.

Sophie Nganyi, a Form Four student at Kiungururia Secondary School who aspires to be a neurosurgeon reveals that she, for the first-time last term, scored a B plain grade in both chemistry and biology after she developed a keener interest to study the subjects following YAWI’s mentorship.

To bust the stereotype of STEM as difficult, boring courses, Ms. Nganyi notes that her teachers were engaging young learners in a fun way, to help build their interest in the subjects.

Involvement of women teachers of STEM in the initiative she says has also helped build their capacity to deliver content professionally and competently.

Shakira Maritim, a Form Two Student at Hill Crest Secondary says through the YAWI mentorship she has benefited from career guidance which she believes will help her get a job to suit her aptitudes and interests.

Ms. Maritim states that after being helped to know her talents and limitations and also being made to

understand what is involved and required by the various types of work, she has chosen to pursue a career in medicine as is the one that best suits her personally.

“When my performance in mathematics, chemistry and biology improved drastically, I realized that all a girl needs to do is to change her mindset that these are subjects where only boys who are exceptionally gifted academically can excel. It is a stereotype that should be debunked.”

Mr Joseph Wanderi, an ICT expert involved in the mentorship program, noted that in the 21st century, digital literacy is a key driver during teaching and learning the initiative. He also emphasized the need to include ICT integration during the learning process.

He says the girls are trained on coding, robotics, digital literacy and Scratch block-based programming language.

Mr Wanderi indicated that coding is a critical skill that can enable every household to actively participate in the digital economy in creating virtual jobs.

According to the ICT expert, mastery of coding will help learners to think differently, be more creative, grasp mathematics easily and be collaborative. He added that it will accord them valuable life skills and prepare them for work.

“We need to know how to grow our technology from primary school. You have heard about coding that is now going to be part of our curriculum to ensure technology becomes part of our journey from primary school all the way to university,” he explains.

Mr Wanderi pointed out that promoting coding in schools exposes young learners to technology and creates a path to a new world of innovation and creativity.

“Coding is really key in the CBC curriculum and in the world we live in today. We are now looking at virtual reality, machine learning and even artificial intelligence. The world is moving away from computers to automation, engineering and robotics. People want to automate systems without having to be there.”

He says Scratch is a creative learning tool in coding that is very experiential.

“The Scratch coding programming experience allows young people to build on their passions and interests as they get a chance to learn new things about themselves and the

world,” Mr Wanderi adds.

Chemistry and Biology teacher at Kiungururia Secondary School Ms. Loice Mwai says elimination of stereotypes and prejudices on the ‘masculinity’ of Stem would be a step in the right direction.

The mentorship program, she observes, was an excellent example of a platform that showcases innovation and develops interests and talents in Stem.

“Stem drives economic growth. We must redouble our efforts to boost the number of girls and women in Stem. By harnessing their skills and smart ideas, we will realize important progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a more peaceful, just and prosperous world.

She states other strategies being employed in the initiative specific for motivating female learners and improving their self-perception include use of role models and vibrant career guidance.

The purpose, she said, is to make the possibility of women scientists and innovators visible to students pursuing STEM-related courses and children, particularly girls, so that it can broaden their minds to not only pursue science but also become entrepreneurs.

While admitting that negative perception towards technical subjects was a cause for concern, Faith Wanjiru, a mathematics and physics teacher, is optimistic the initiative will pay off.

According to Ms. Wanjiru, many students are not conversant with the vast array of careers and hobbies that exist in science.

Through the use of modern and interactive learning materials, Ms. Wanjiru said learning of STEM subjects can be made fun and interesting and thus improve students’ attitude, achievement and confidence, and trigger creativity.

Additionally, many female students do not believe they can perform well in science and carry the perception that it is too difficult, hence the need for such spirited initiatives to debunk such beliefs.

“Teachers play a key role in encouraging or discouraging students from taking up science subjects in secondary school. As a mathematics teacher, girls always tell me the subject is hard, which is not the case. Teachers should be trained and empowered to teach these subjects in a way that makes them attractive. We must find ways of changing this attitude,” she concluded.

Gachagua Markets Kenya's Tourism Sector, Launches Motorsport Academy

By: DPCS

The World Rally Championship will promote Kenya's tourism sector and boost the hospitality industry, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said last night.

While marketing the tourism sites to foreign dignitaries visiting Kenya to watch the WRC Safari Rally, the Deputy President asked the rally enthusiasts to visit other tourism sites such as coastal beaches and country's wildlife parks before ending their stay in the country.

"Once you are done with the WRC Rally, sample the best of what our tourism sector offers such as our wildlife, our exotic beaches at the coastline and dance to our African music," he told the hundreds of rally fans, drivers and navigators in Nairobi.

He spoke after launching Talanta Motorsport Academy at the Kenya Academy of Sports in Kasarani, Nairobi.

The facility will be used to promote early identification of sports talents and training of sports technical and administration personnel as well as

conducting sports research.

Statistics from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife indicate that Kenya's international tourists increased last year to 1.75 million, up from 1.48 million recorded in 2022. Earnings also surged to USD2 billion in 2023 from USD1.66 billion in 2022.

Deputy President Gachagua said the 71st Safari Rally Edition, which is being held this year during its traditional Easter Season, will also promote Kenya as a motorsport destination.

He commended the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, Mr Ababu Namwamba, Principal Secretaries Mr Peter Tum (Sports) and Mr Ismail Maalim (Youth Affairs and Creative Economy) and members of the WRC for organizing the event.

"Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba and his two PSs are the best for this job. The President made the best decision to pick him for this docket. I am a great enthusiast of sports and keeping fit. The Safari Rally presents the best and toughest championship terrain for drivers to test their skills," he said.

"I am encouraged to see the young people participating because it shows our future in sports is well covered," he added.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua boarding one of the Safari rally automobile yesterday

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Sports, Tourism and Culture Mr Dan Wanyama, who is also Webuye West MP, President of Kenya Motorsports Federation (KMSF) Mr Maina Muturi, and MPs Richard Yegon (Bomet East) and Bishop Jackson Kosgey (Nominated) and representatives of WRC were also present at the event.

On the new Talanta Motorsport Academy, the Deputy President said

the initiative will offer sustainable growth of sports talents amongst the youth.

"We are unleashing the true spirit of the Talanta Hela Initiative and making meaningful strides of empowering individuals and turning talent into sustainable livelihoods," he said.

Mr Gachagua added that the government is on course in its plan to place sports as a top income earner.

In addition, he said, the launch of the

Talanta Motorsport Academy will elevate Kenya's stature and command of the toughest motorsport in Africa and the globe.

Further, the Deputy President called on investors to work with the Government in investing in the motor-sport industry and expand sporting opportunities for the youth.

House Audit Committee Turns Away Kenya National Library Service CEO Over Insufficient Responses

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture has yesterday adjourned a sitting with the Director General/Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Library Service Dr. Charles Nzivo and his team of managers after it turned out that he could not sufficiently respond to audit queries raised in the Auditor-Generals report of the financial year 2017/2018 and subsequent years.

Members of the committee led by Emanuel Wangwe (Nabakholo) raised concerns after listening to Dr. Nzivo respond to the first two questions of the financial year 2017/18.

"Hon. Chair, the management is giving us mere stories when we expect response in figures, we need ask



Committee chairman Emanuel Wangwe making the ruling yesterday.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina, a member of the committee making his contribution during yesterday's session.

ourselves if these kind of response is what we sought for, this report must have been provided in a hurry and that could be the reason for the gaps we are seeing, we do not want literature we want figures showing prudence, what we are gaining as a Country and what we are loosing", Mary Wamaua (Maragua).

"Looking at all the questions put before you, CEO, your response is not giving what the Auditor-General

raised, therefore what we are getting is not what we requested for, I want to agree with the observation of my members and direct that the finance officer and the CEO go back and look at the questions then give us the response we need", added Wangwe.

Dr. Nzivo and his team responded by agreeing with the committee observations committing to work on the



Kenya National Library Services Dr Charles Nzivo taking oath before making his presentation before the committee yesterday..

responses as directed. However they attributed their shortfall to the short notice they received.

"I appreciate your insightful guidance Chair and the entire Committee, I have learnt a lot about providing response for audit questions, we shall

be revisiting our responses to be able to provide what you need".

The committee will be providing them with a communication on the next date they will be appearing.

Electric Vehicles: Watu Credit Kenya Welcomes The Draft National e-Mobility Policy Publishing

....Pledges KSh1.3 Billion Investment To Prioritise Financing Of Electric Two And Three-Wheeler Motorbikes

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Local asset finance solutions provider Watu Credit has welcomed the publishing of a draft National Electric Mobility Policy, with a commitment to finance the acquisition of more than 500,000 Electric Motorbikes in the next seven years.

Following the release of the draft e-Mobility Policy by a Task Force earlier appointed by Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Watu Credit has confirmed its corporate plans to invest more than KSh1.3 billion in accelerating efforts to transition from financing fossil-powered motorbikes to electric bikes progressively.

The policy, Murkomen said will guide the development of electric mobility in all transportation modes – roads, rail, air and maritime – and will provide a transition framework from the internal combustion engine now in use.

“To achieve this, we are partnering with the private sector, international



Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen displays an electric motorbike license plate at the draft e-Mobility Policy launch event yesterday.

investors, and academic institutions to build the necessary infrastructure,” Murkomen said.

The Cabinet Secretary added, “To promote faster adoption of EVs, we

have begun the process of assigning green-coloured number plates to all electric vehicles, including two-wheelers. Special plates will help raise awareness about EVs

among the general public and encourage more people to consider switching to e-mobility. We are also setting up charging infrastructure at our Ministry headquarters.”

With the release of the national e-mobility policy, Watu Credit Country Manager Mr Erick Massawe said the firm would support the national electric vehicles transition agenda by actively bridging the financing gap, which has been identified as a critical barrier to the acquisition of Electric Vehicles, including two—and three-wheel motorbikes.

He added that the firm is collaborating with several manufacturing partners, such as Arc Ride and GOGO Electric, to deliver bikes made for local conditions and will also develop a nationwide network of electric bike battery swapping stations.

“At Watu, we are committing to invest more than Kshs 1.3 billion by 2030 to finance the acquisition of thousands of electric-powered motorbikes in Kenya through our hire purchase option. For this to happen, we are working closely with several Manufacturers to deliver tropicalised units that can meet the local road and related operating conditions,” Mr

Massawe said.

Details contained in the 2024 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) confirm that the Government, under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), identifies the adoption of electric mobility as a priority intervention to achieve the win-win outcomes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing cheaper transport and leveraging our large local and regional motorcycle market to build an electric and battery electric vehicle industry.

The Government has adopted e-mobility as a high-priority intervention to address the challenges of pollution, adverse health effects, and fuel costs, which raise operational and health costs across the board.

Since its establishment in 2015, Watu has emerged as the leading provider of asset financing for the boda boda community, playing a pivotal role in their journey of growth and prosperity. The firm has invested substantial financial and strategic resources to uplift local economies and improve the lives of thousands of individuals.

Committee To Engage Multinational Firms On Conflict With Local Transport And Logistics Companies

By: PSCU

The Committee on Trade, Industry & Cooperatives has resolved to engage representatives of multinational companies operating in the country as it seeks to address a brewing conflict with local investors in the Transport and Logistics sector.

Committee Chairperson, James Gakuya made the decision on Wednesday during a meeting with leaders of the Kenya Transport Association (KTA), who raised concerns about unfair business practices by multinational firms.

According to KTA Chairman Newton Wang’oo, the international firms operating in Kenya outsource logistics and warehousing services

abroad, hindering the growth and competitiveness of local companies.

Wang’oo in his submission before the House Team proposed that 60% of transport and logistics work in the country should be reserved for local enterprises.

Gakuya acknowledged the validity of KTA’s concerns, emphasizing the necessity to safeguard local enterprises from unfair practices.

However, he stressed the importance of maintaining an open market.

“There is every need to protect Kenyan business people in the logistics sector. However, we can’t lock out multinationals from the sector,” stated the Chairperson.

During the meeting, Members of the Committee, led by Vice Chairperson Marianne Kitany (Aldai) urged the association’s leadership to ensure integrity and professionalism within

the industry.

They noted that many Kenyans prefer dealing with multinational players in the logistics sector due to perceived issues with trust and reliability among local companies.

Kenya Transporters Association Chairman Newton Wang’oo.



SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *The men's 4x400m relay team finished second at the Athletics South Africa (ASA) Grand Prix World Continental Tour at the University of Johannesburg in Johannesburg yesterday night.

Kenyan Relay Teams Shine At World Continental Tour Challenge In South Africa



The Kenyan 4 by 200m team celebrates after winning silver at the World Relays in Poland .

The men's 4x400m relay team finished second at the Athletics South Africa (ASA) Grand Prix World Continental Tour at the University of Johannesburg in Johannesburg yesterday night.

The quartet of Nathaniel Cheruiyot, Kelvin Sane, Brian Tinega and Kelvin Tonui clocked 03:06.85 in second, behind first place finishers South Africa who clocked 03:06.52.

Botswana finished third in 03:07.01.

The same scenario played out in the women's 4x400m relay where Joan Cheron, Mercy Chebet, Gladys Ngure and Gladys David timed 03:42.97 to finish

second.

South African quartet of Shirley Nekhubui, Marli Viljoen, Angelique Strydom and Taylon Bildt clocked 03:38.21 in first place whereas the Botswana team of Refilwe Murangi, Lebitso Mokorofu, Nancy Budzani and Kennekae Batisani finished third in 03:45.15

In the men's 4x100m relay, Mark Otieno, Mike Mokamba, Isaac Omurwa and Meshack Babu teamed up to collect a third-place finish in 39.70.

Poland's Zakrezewski Marek, Przemyslaw Slowikowski, Patryk Wykrota and Anton Bachorski took top honours after

stopping the timer at 39.23.

Botswana quartet of Letsile Tebogo, Thuto Masasa, Stagato Tumo van Wyk and Jayson Mandoze came second after clocking 39.61.

In the 4x400m mixed relay, Veronicah Mutua, Boniface Mweresa, Zablon Ekwam and Mercy Chebet clocked 03:16.26 in second, behind South African quartet of Gardeo Isaacs, Amy Naude, Zak Nene and Zene Geldenhuis who finished first in 03:14.97.

Botswana's Kago Seshoka, Goitseone Seleka, Trust Rebabedi and Christine Botlogetswe finished third in 03:27.39.

Team Kenya were using the World Athletics event as preparations towards the World Relays, set for May 4-5 in Nassau, Bahamas, as well as this summer's Olympics in Paris.

First, focus shifts to the national trials for the World Relays, set for April 5-6 at the Nyayo National Stadium.

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Sports >>> *World football governing body FIFA Wednesday directed the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to proceed with the suspended Annual General Meeting (AGM) despite a court order that put on hold the crucial delegates meeting.

FIFA Directs FKF To Disregard Court Order And Proceed With AGM



Nairobi City Stars CEO Patrick Korir (in white shirt) during FKF delegates press briefing at the Sportsview Hotel Kasarani, on March 15 2024. Photo by Joy Omondi, FKF Media...

World football governing body FIFA Wednesday directed the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to proceed with the suspended Annual General Meeting (AGM) despite a court order that put on hold the crucial delegates meeting. In a letter to FKF CEO Barry Otieno, FIFA's Chief Member Associations Officer, Kenny Jean-Marie, warned against involvement of regular courts in football affairs adding that the Mombasa High Court order amounted to undue influence by third parties. The FIFA directive is likely to put FKF in an awkward situation regarding whether to follow the

laws of land or be guided by the world governing body directives. "We have received with great concern the information regarding the postponement of the FKF Annual General Meeting due to the court order issued less than 24 hours before the starting time of the said meeting. "In this respect and first of all, we draw your attention to art. 69 of the FKF Statutes which expressly stipulates that 'Disputes within the [FKF] or affecting leagues, members of leagues, clubs, members of clubs, players, officials and other [FKF] officials shall not be submitted to ordinary courts

unless the FIFA regulations, [the FKF statutes] or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts," read part of FIFA's letter. FIFA warned of potential sanctions, including a suspension on FKF should the stalemate persist. "The infringement of the aforementioned provisions of the FIFA and CAF Statutes may give rise to grounds for the suspension of FKF irrespective of whether the infringement was attributed to FKF or not." The AGM, originally scheduled for March 16, was halted following a court order from Mombasa

that also threw the October elections to uncertainty. "In view of the foregoing, the FKF is directed to conduct its Annual General Meeting soon and to continue working towards conducting the FKF elections scheduled to be held this year," Jean-Marie added. The Mombasa High Court gave the order, suspending the AGM until the hearing of the petition filed by sports journalist Milton Nyakundi is heard and determined.

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CS Owalo Launches The University ICT Systems To Automate Service Provision

By: Sharon Atieno and Michael Omondi

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Cabinet Secretary for the Information, Communication and the Digital Economy Eliud Owalo (centre) poses for a photo with education and technology stakeholders during the official launch of digital ICT system for the University of Nairobi at the University's main campus grounds yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- According to the CS, the Ministry is also setting up a total of 25,000 free Wi-Fi hotspots which are intended for what the university is doing; so that the students can have hotspots around the hostels to connect to the online platform around the university from the comfort of their hostels to join the classes.

- Further, he maintained that the Ministry's target is to ensure that all government processes are digitalized so that Kenyans could consume services in the comfort of wherever they are in which aligns with the digitalization of the university process.

- The CS observed that in 2022, the government had only 350 services in the eCitizen platform unlike today where 15,462 services are already fully digitalized.

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy Eliud Owalo has urged institutions of higher learning across the country to invest in ICT systems and automate their operations.

Owalo termed the universities' automation process in the provision of services as very much similar to what the government is doing as far as the digital transformation agenda is concerned.

He said that ICT is not just an enabler to all assets of the plan but is also a critical success factor for the government to move forward.

The CS made the remarks during the launch of the University of Nairobi (UoN) ICT systems under the theme 'Making the University Vibrant and Sustainable through Digitalization'.

In regards to what the University is doing starting with the 155 Wi-Fi hotspot, Owalo revealed that the Ministry of ICT is rolling out 100,000km of fiber optic cable to ensure that all those in the country that are not connected to internet get a reliable and stable internet and the ministry is also already on the trajectory of holding up the 100,000km of connecting fiber to all parts of the country.

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to join the classes.

Further, he maintained that the Ministry's target is to ensure that all government processes are digitalized so that Kenyans could consume services in the comfort of wherever they are in which aligns with the digitalization of the university process.

The CS observed that in 2022, the government had only 350 services in the eCitizen platform unlike today where 15,462 services are already fully digitalized.

He said the remaining services are partially digitalized and all government services will be available virtually on the platform for the citizens to consume the services wherever they are.

"Under thematic area of digital skilling, if we have public digital infrastructure in place, correspondingly, we must ensure that there is a commensurate level of skilling among the Kenyan population," stated Owalo.

He added that the Ministry has already rolled out an ambitious Jitume digital hub platform targeting youth members of the Kenyan society including but not limited to those in institution of higher learning, and also embarked on rolling Jitume hubs to 185 TVETS spread fully in the country to ensure youth get digital skills and access to digital jobs.

Additionally, the CS noted that the government, in a proactive manner, is training the youths and going an extra mile, connecting them to global technological companies so that

they could leverage on the opportunities in the way of digital jobs.

Owalo announced that the Ministry has partnered with the legislature and is working together with Members of Parliament to facilitate a review of the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) Act to enable MPs to spend 3 per cent of annual NG-CDF allocation on establishing the facilities in which to deploy digital devices.

He said that the National government is subsequently providing devices, connecting the internet, facilitating the training for free and connecting youths to the digital job where it has already trained 390,000 youths and connected 135,000 youths to digital jobs thus transforming youths from learners to earners.

The CS at the same time urged the Vice Chancellor of the University to find ways and means to ensure that on the digital platform and systems established, the students of the institution could also be able to become earners of those digital platforms and be able to pay their own fees among other privileges.

Even as UoN is embarking on the data center where Data privacy and Security is concerned, Owalo cited the need by all stakeholders to ensure that there is safe data storage facility and comprehensive risk mitigation framework built around digitalization processes so that it could correspond to the services and the risk of mitigation framework could

also stand the test of time.

The CS also noted that the 222-payment system was a notable example of the benefits that could be accrued from enhancing efficiency and effective innovation which has already increased revenue collection because the Ministry has leveraged on technology to seal out the revenue leakages.

"Let us digitalize all our processes to re-engineer operations and enhance efficiency, effectiveness, seal out all revenue leakages, eliminate corruption fully within operations to give enough revenue within the institutions and allow universities to run operations," he advised.

Also speaking at the event, University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Stephen Kiama said that the university community is very happy being the trailblazer in fulfilling the need to access innovation and showing the way as a digital immigrant.

He added that they wanted to be a competitive university in transforming the society adding that people needed to be trained and adopt change noting that innovation comes is never effective until the challenges are overcome.

Kiama said whatever challenges come with the digital launch, as a university they would adopt and improve on them.

He noted that innovation is disruptive, and urged all stakeholders to adopt and align with the new digital advancements accordingly.

The Director of ICT Paul Kariuki acknowledged the big support from the Transition Steering Committee and the Digitalization committee, claiming that they have made another significant milestone in the journey towards complete digitalization. Despite the challenges posed by the technology of the past, Kariuki said that the university celebrated with the first batch of computer science graduate students who have contributed to the university's ongoing journey toward automation.

He remarked that this is a testament of a relentless investment in ICT, Human Resource and Infrastructure that the university has embarked on, recognizing it as a beacon of innovation and pioneer in ICT adoption amongst institutions of higher learning.

Kariuki highlighted the following digitalization process to have been officially launched for the UoN ICT system including payment process Flow, UoN Financial Management System, Employment portal, Car sticker System and Document management System.