



Unveiling the Majestic Essence of Ngai: A Journey of Spiritual Awakening and Cultural Reverence Among the Agikuyu People
 In the heart of Kenya, nestled amidst the verdant landscapes and vibrant communities, lies a treasure trove of spiritual enlightenment and cultural reverence cherished by the Agikuyu people.

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News>>Investment Support Required To Facilitate Agricultural Production And Trade

P. 8. The government is looking within the continent to be able to foster Agricultural Trade, Prime Cabinet Secretary in charge of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi has said.



News>>Reprieve For Nairobi Business Community As Government Orders Anti-Counterfeit Agency To Release Goods

P. 12. Small-scale traders and importers can now breathe a sigh of relief after the government ordered the release of their goods held at the Port of Mombasa over standard verification within two weeks.

Rehabilitation Is Costly, Let's Adopt Preventative Measures - Pastor Dorcas

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has listed a number of measures that could boost the fight against addictions through rehabilitation of thousands of men lost in alcohol and other substances.
 She termed rehabilitation an expensive exercise unreachable by most parents and those willing to get off the psychoactive substances.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

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Pomp And Colour As Curtain Fall On Kirinyaga Polytechnic Music Festivals

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes



Students from Kaitheri Vocational polytechnic presenting a choral verse during the Kirinyaga polytechnic music festivals.

Worth Noting:

- This year's festivals attracted over 2,000 students hailing from the 16 Polytechnics nestled within Kirinyaga County.
- Students from the institutions dazzled the audience with their eclectic array of performances, ranging from choral and solo verses to original compositions, special renditions, sacred folksongs, cultural dances and Sakata Dance.

It was pomp and colour as the curtains fell on the 5th edition of the annual Kirinyaga County Polytechnics Music Festivals at the Catholic Hall in Kerugoya.

Kaitheri County Polytechnic clinched the coveted first position across all categories, amassing an impressive 684 points followed closely by Kiambatha Vocational Training Center who garnered 661 points.

The one-day festivals opened with a clarion call for the youth to embrace polytechnic education to avoid the temptation of falling into alcohol and drug abuse and other unwanted vices.

Through various performances the students also asked the community to facilitate an enabling environment for them to acquire technical skills.

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performances, ranging from choral and solo verses to original compositions, special renditions, sacred folksongs, cultural dances and Sakata Dance.

The festival under the theme of "Supporting Talents," are meant to select team to represent the county at the national stage during event to be held in Eldoret.

Guided by the festivals aim to identify and elevate participants who vie for the coveted opportunity to represent their county on a national stage, set to unfold in Eldoret.

Kirinyaga's Polytechnics stand as bastions of vocational education, offering a diverse array of courses ranging from plumbing, carpentry, beauty therapy, hairdressing, carpentry and mechanical & electrical engineering.

According to the County Executive Committee Member of Education (CECM) Veronica Maina who represented Governor Anne

Waiguru, the event is aimed at not only creating holistic learners in and out of the classroom environment but also providing an avenue

for the participants to nurture their talents.

"Through this initiative, our governor aims at identifying, supporting, and elevating the untapped potential in our students," she said.

She encouraged all students who have not been able to join universities or colleges,

even those that have not completed secondary schools to join the polytechnic and gain

skills that will help them earn money and create jobs.

"The skills acquired within our Polytechnics are not confined by borders; they open doors to employment opportunities both locally and internationally," she affirmed.

Mark Kinyua, a plumbing student at

Kaitheri Polytechnic extended an invitation for the youth to seize the opportunity to enroll in the Polytechnics.

"Join us at Kaitheri where every willing individual has the chance to acquire a multitude of valuable skills offered here," he insisted.

Ann Wambui, a hairdressing and beauty therapy student who performed a solo verse named "Bodaboda wa Kaboda" acknowledged the instrumental role of the Polytechnics in equipping people with essential skills, thereby steering them away from indulging in social vices such as partying and substance abuse.

"Thanks to the Polytechnics, we have found purpose and direction. Through nurturing our talents, we have forged a path away from destructive habits towards personal and professional fulfillment," she said.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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THEME

**"Beyond Borders:
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NEWS IN BRIEF



In a collaborative move to foster cross-border tourism and enhance regional economic ties, the Consulate General of the Republic of Uganda in Mombasa has joined forces with key tourism stakeholders from Uganda and Kenya Coast to organise the Uganda Festival 2024.

The Consulate General of Uganda to Mombasa was established in 2015 to take care of Uganda's interests at the Kenya Coast, especially Mombasa Port. The Consulate takes care of the six Coastal Counties of Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, and Taita Taveta.

Scheduled to run from April 17 to 21, 2024, the festival themed 'leveraging culture and golf to promote tourism, trade, and investment between Uganda and Kenya Coast' promises a vibrant convergence of cultural celebration and sporting prowess.

The primary objective of the festival is to showcase the distinctive products of Uganda to a broader audience, including corporate entities in the coastal region of Kenya, as well as the youth and tourists, both local and international, visiting the Kenyan Coast.

The deliberate focus on leveraging the rich cultural heritage and the allure of golf is also to foster deeper ties between Uganda and the Kenyan Coast.

Speaking at their Nyali office Amb Paul Mukumbya, Consul General of Uganda to Mombasa reiterated that the concept of the partnership is premised on the fact that Kenya is the number one source market for tourists to Uganda.



Livestock marketing council chair Dubat Ali Amey now wants the North Eastern regional commissioner John Otieno to call for an urgent leader meeting to chart ways to end terrorism in the area. Amey said the Monday's terror attack in Mandera that left three people dead and thirteen others injured is an indication that terrorism could be slowly finding its way back into the region that has had relative peace in the past few years.

Two of the deceased were police officers

attached to Mandera traffic department while the third victim was the owner of a food kiosk. Amey said that its time for the elected leaders from the region to come together and rally the residents on the need for them to work with security agencies in pointing out 'bad elements in their midst' involving themselves in terror activities. The chairman who condoled the families of the deceased said that terrorism is slowly returning back and 'the leaders must take the lead in working with the government security agencies together with their people in the fight against terror'.



Security officers and elders have recovered 36 camels that were stolen from Isiolo County four days ago. Confirming the recovery, Isiolo Deputy County Commissioner Patrick Musango said that three more camels are at Wamba Police Station in Samburu County waiting to be transported back to Isiolo. The administrator said that the security personnel intercepted the 36 camels at Westgate and Kipsing areas in

Isiolo County before the animals could cross over to Samburu East Sub County. Mr Musango said that the rustlers had divided the animals among the groups of raiders and fled with the camels into different routes so as to make the security men lose track of them. Some animals were driven towards Samburu and Marsabit Counties. He advised chiefs and their assistants to swiftly report incidents of cattle thefts to the authorities using mobile phones' SMS so that quick actions could be taken and lead to recoveries and apprehension of the culprits. The administrator warned politicians against inciting the youth to violence following cattle raids by other communities saying the government would take stern measures against them. Mr Musango said the government would not rest until all animals stolen recently from the area were recovered and handed over to the rightful owners. The DCC said it was shameful that some young men could arm themselves to steal others' property and the politicians defended them while the rightful owners of the livestock were rendered poor overnight.



The construction of the Ndakaini-Kigoro water pipeline to Gigiri tanks water transmission pipeline, a project being funded by the French Development Agency at a cost of Sh8.049 billion is expected to benefit over 1.2 million people. Engineer Alphaxard Kitheko from Athi Water Works Development Agency said the massive project which is currently at 93 percent complete is expected to deliver an additional 140,000 cubic meters of water per day to Nairobi which is currently being supplied from Sasumua dam, Ruiru dam and Ng'ethu-Ndakaini dam system. Kitheko said the project which is being constructed by China State and is expected to be complete by June 2024 is located in the three counties of Nairobi, Kiambu and Kajiado. "This project that has received funding to the tune of Sh6.94 billion will include the laying of 55kms raw and treated water pipeline," he added. The Engineer was briefing the National Government Development, Nairobi Regional/County Implementation Coordination and Management Committee on the status of the projects and programmes undertaken by the Athi Water Works Development Agency in a meeting chaired by the Nairobi Regional Commissioner Katee Mwanza held on Wednesday at the Regional Commissioner's Boardroom, Nyayo House.



The Port of Mombasa has welcomed MS Ambience cruise vessel from the United Kingdom on its inaugural voyage to the coastal shores that departed from Victoria Port in Seychelles bearing 1700 passengers from various nationalities who will be spending two days exploring the coastal town. The ceremonial welcome underscores the collaborative efforts between the Government and the tourism sector in promoting Kenya's vibrant coastal offerings to international visitors.

It also marks a significant milestone for the Port's growing prominence as a preferred destination for international cruise liners which has been receiving a continuous influx of vessels since the commencement of the circuit in September last year. This has been supported by the now operational ultra-modern Cruise Terminal which was developed by the Authority to enhance passenger experience at the Port of Mombasa and solidify Kenya's position as a hub not only for cargo operations but also for cruise tourism in Africa. More vessels are expected at the port before the cruise season ends next month. MS Ambience will sail to Durban from Mombasa. The arrival of MS Ambience operated by Ambassador Cruise Line, was met with a warm reception by the Tourism Principal Secretary, John Oluotuaa, alongside officials from the Kenya Tourism Board. The PS said that the cruise ship is on a 132-day cruise around the world and that the 2 days it is docking at the coast will still be of great impact compared to other ships that dock for 1 day or a few hours before taking off.

NEWS PAPER

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Address Doctors Grievances To Save Lives

By: Brian Barasa
 @themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

“Doctors in the counties facing financial constraints and poor policy implementation suffer most, with their salary delays of upto 3 months”, Says Ombori. Leadership wrangles and policy implementation on health matters has been a major challenge in addressing the medic’s grievances by county governments.

This has also limited the certain operations of some hospitals in the country due to inadequate facilities. For example of the Nduru sub-county hospital is a level which is missing some services such as the New Born Unit, NBU for children born before nine months and requires special care in such units and the Orthopaedic surgery that Ombori says a level 4 health institutions should have.



Doctors strike.

The pinch of the doctors’ strike continues to escalate and cause more pain among the innocent Kenyans. County governments were delayed the function of health from the national government under the new Constitution of Kenya 2010.

The battle between county governments and doctors has lasted for years with a number of grievances of doctors going unaddressed. Mr. Dennis Ombori a Psychiatric doctor at the Nduru level 4 hospital in Kisii county says Human resource issues related to doctors, poor doctors working conditions and promotion are the major issues the doctors have been presenting to their employer to address but the county governments have failed.

The situation was evidently worse at the Nduru level 4 hospital no doctors with only sickly patients who are

waiting to be treated. The patients who sought treatment went back unattended to, with most of them we spoke to pointing a hand of blame to the county governments for failing to listen to the doctors grievances all this time.

“Doctors in the counties facing financial constraints and poor policy implementation suffer most, with their salary delays of upto 3 months”, Says Ombori. Leadership wrangles and policy implementation on health matters has been a major challenge in addressing the medic’s grievances by county governments. This has also limited the certain operations of some hospitals in the country due to inadequate facilities. For example of the Nduru sub-county hospital is a level which is missing some services such as the New Born Unit, NBU for children born before nine months and requires

special care in such units and the Orthopaedic surgery that Ombori says a level 4 health institution should have.

With devolution the strength of doctors association such as KMPDU has been experiencing challenges in championing for the doctors welfare.” Before devolution, doctors could go on a strike as a country since the health was centralised this could go on a strike as a country but currently it’s rare for doctors to go on strike as a nation hence their issues taken with less concerns with the the relevant county governments”.

The current doctors strike has paralyzed health services in all public health institutions in the country with doctors vowing never to up their tools this time round if the county governments do not put into effect the raised concerns. Some Kenyans have sug-

gested that the national government should revert back the health function to address this menace that is claiming the lives of many Kenyans whenever the strike re-occurs. “Other ministries operated by national government such as the ministry of Road and Transport are doing well, Health function is too much for county governments “ remarks Mr. Peterson Opala, a Kitere resident, Migori county.

However the medic’s applauds the Non governmental agencies in shaping and building the image of health in the country. The Psychiatric says that the Nduru hospital has partnered with several NGOs that has helped them with medical supplies that has solved the problem of medication inadequacy during delays of normal supplies from the government. He says for example the Jacaranda NGO partnered with the hospital, supplying them with medical equipments as well as the further professional training in various medical fields that he says this has boosted their capacity in service delivery as a level 4 hospital.

I acknowledge the fact the county governments are facing financial problems such as delayed remittance of funds from the national treasury to address this challenges, but the big question is when will the county governments and doctors find the long lasting solution to this issue, when we talk about health we talk about life, should we continue bargaining about the lives of innocent Kenyans each time of strike?.

It’s high time the county governments to stand out and shade light on doctors strike, Kenyans have a right to better access to healthcare, they diligently do their obligations to pay taxes and so do they receive services from the government.

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Investment Support Required To Facilitate Agricultural Production And Trade

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Investment support is required to facilitate agricultural production and trade. We must invest in infrastructure, such as rural access roads, storage facilities and irrigation systems, to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access”, Mudavadi reiterated.
- He noted that Digitization of agricultural value chains presents a significant opportunity to improve efficiency and increase transparency adding that by leveraging technology, we enhance traceability, reduce transaction costs and improve access to finance for smallholder farmers and other value chain actors.
- Mudavadi opined that the private sector has a critical role to play in financing agriculture, hence, the government is obliged to create an enabling environment for private sector investments and this includes improving the regulatory framework, reducing bureaucracy and increasing access to credit.



Prime Cabinet Secretary in charge of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi..

The government is looking within the continent to be able to foster Agricultural Trade, Prime Cabinet Secretary in charge of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi has said.

Africa, he added, has immense potential to feed itself and become a major player in global agricultural markets and therefore it is important to work together to break down trade barriers and promote regional integration to unlock this potential.

Speaking when he officially opened a two-day Financing Agriculture Sustainably (Finas) Conference at Safari Park, Mudavadi said his priority is to work with international partners to expand market access for Kenyan agricultural products and promote investment in the sector.

“Investment support is required to facilitate agricultural production and trade. We must invest in infrastructure, such as rural access roads, storage facilities and irrigation systems, to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access”, Mudavadi reiterated.

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opportunity to improve efficiency and increase transparency adding that by leveraging technology, we enhance traceability, reduce transaction costs and improve access to finance for smallholder farmers and other value chain actors.

Mudavadi opined that the private sector has a critical role to play in financing agriculture, hence, the government is obliged to create an enabling environment for private sector investments and this includes improving the regulatory framework, reducing bureaucracy and increasing access to credit.

He observed that banks and other financial institutions can work together to provide innovative financial solutions for small-scale farmers.

“By leveraging mobile technology and alternative data sources, we can improve access to credit and other financial services for small-holder farmers who have traditionally been underserved by the traditional formal financial sector,” he said.

The Prime CS noted that under this tech-driven new push, we must also promote financial literacy and capacity building to ensure that farmers are

empowered to make informed financial decisions.

Mudavadi noted that the Agriculture and Rural Financial Inclusion Project which is a government funded program aims to enhance access, efficiency and stability of agricultural and rural finance in order to transform agriculture into a modern, innovative and commercially oriented sector.

Mithika Linturi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development said despite being the largest sector in terms of GDP contribution, agriculture loans and investments portfolios currently are disproportionately low compared to the agriculture sector’s share of GDP. He added that the agricultural sector has been left largely to informal sector financing mechanisms and these sources have limited capacity to provide the right finance to the sector in terms of quality and quantity.

“According to Financial Access Household Survey 2019, formal borrowing to service agriculture is used by around 3.2 percent of Kenyans and the situation has hardly changed and this has created a gap that has resulted in the mushrooming of informal

financing mechanisms that lack the capacity, quality, and quantity to respond to the needs”, Mithika said.

The CS noted that the outcomes of the conference which has brought together actors in the agricultural sector to engage in financing the sector and also on the appropriate models for funding agricultural activities, are expected to validate resources for the Government and the private sector to enable design and plan for resourcing initiatives in the agricultural sector.

“This conference will also propose actionable areas on how to improve agricultural financing, on an improved policy environment to grow agricultural sector investment and financing and on alignment between the sector needs and public and private sector financing solutions”, Mithika said.

The two-day FINAS conference is running under the theme ‘Positioning Kenya for Resilient Agricultural Enterprises’.

Rehabilitation is Expensive, Let's Adopt These Measures - Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

Kenyans To Adopt-A-Boy For Rehabilitation, Have Rehabilitation Wards In Public Hospitals, And Rehabilitation Budget In SHIF

By: OSDP



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi at an interview.

Worth Noting:

- Despite acknowledging her strong working relationship with county and national leaders in fighting addictions, Pastor Dorcas said it was time the Level IV, V, and VI hospitals in the country set aside a ward for helping those in addictions.

- She said that in Mombasa, following the screening of those in alcohol and drug addiction, 358 expressed interest in undergoing inpatient rehabilitation, but her program could only absorb 78.

- "In Mombasa, we had 358 who desired to go for rehabilitation, but we have only been able to absorb 78. And this should not be the case. When someone expresses interest for rehabilitation, they should be absorbed immediately," said Pastor Dorcas.

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has listed a number of measures that could boost the fight against addictions through rehabilitation of thousands of men lost in alcohol and other substances.

She termed rehabilitation an expensive exercise unreachable by most parents and those willing to get off the psychoactive substances.

Speaking at a local TV station, Pastor Dorcas urged Kenyans of goodwill to adopt-a-boy for rehabilitation and financially assist those willing.

"Most parents would like their children to undergo rehabilitation, but they cannot afford. It costs about KSh40,000 to 80,000 per month, and the exercise takes several months even lasting up to two years," said Pastor Dorcas.

Despite acknowledging her strong working relationship with county and national leaders in fighting addictions, Pastor Dorcas said it was

time the Level IV, V, and VI hospitals in the country set aside a ward for helping those in addictions.

She said that in Mombasa, following the screening of those in alcohol and drug addiction, 358 expressed interest in undergoing inpatient rehabilitation, but her program could only absorb 78.

"In Mombasa, we had 358 who desired to go for rehabilitation, but we have only been able to absorb 78. And this should not be the case. When someone expresses interest for rehabilitation, they should be absorbed immediately," said Pastor Dorcas.

"I am working with private rehabilitation centres, and have also initiated new ones through different collaborations, but the demand surpasses the availability of rehabilitation centres," she said.

She also called on the consideration of a budget allocation towards reha-

bilitation that would be incorporated in the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

Thousands of Kenyans in addiction are on a waiting list under the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) for rehabilitation, and Pastor Dorcas sympathized with keeping them waiting for this crucial and life-changing exercise.

This week, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kindiki Kithure visited the Miritini rehabilitation centre in Mombasa run by the government. Pastor Dorcas has also visited the facility severally, and even helped in the readmission of some who underwent rehabilitation to different universities where they had dropped out.

She decried the lacing of cakes, biscuits and sweets with drugs; efforts by drug peddlers and barons to hook as many as possible at a tender age.

She, however, emphasized that she would not be silent as a generation

was lost through illicit brews, second generation alcohol, and illegal drugs.

Just like the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua, she also confessed to losing relatives to addictions, and hence her passion against alcohol, and drugs, and for the restoration of the boy child.

She also wished Kenyans a happy Easter, and urged them to be responsible, spend time with their families and also remember the reason for the season.

Pastor Dorcas called on Kenyans to remember the vulnerable living among them through actions of compassion during this solemn season of the Christian faithful.

She also wished the Muslim faithful a blessed time as they continued in prayer and fasting.

Faith For The Supernatural Pt 3



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

The other key to the supernatural is that you understand that GOD HAS THE POWER TO DO THAT WHICH YOU ARE TRUSTING HIM TO DO. Paul says, “ I know WHOM I have believed, and that HE IS WELL ABLE.” And Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the word of God.

I have faith of what I have entrusted God this year, I believe He will fulfil, especially this decade, I have a dream. If I tell a man, he may say! How! It is not possible. But there is a God in heaven Who will do it, I may not know how, but He will do it. Psalm 66: 3 says: “ Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! SO GREAT IS YOUR POWER that Your enemies cringe/tremble before

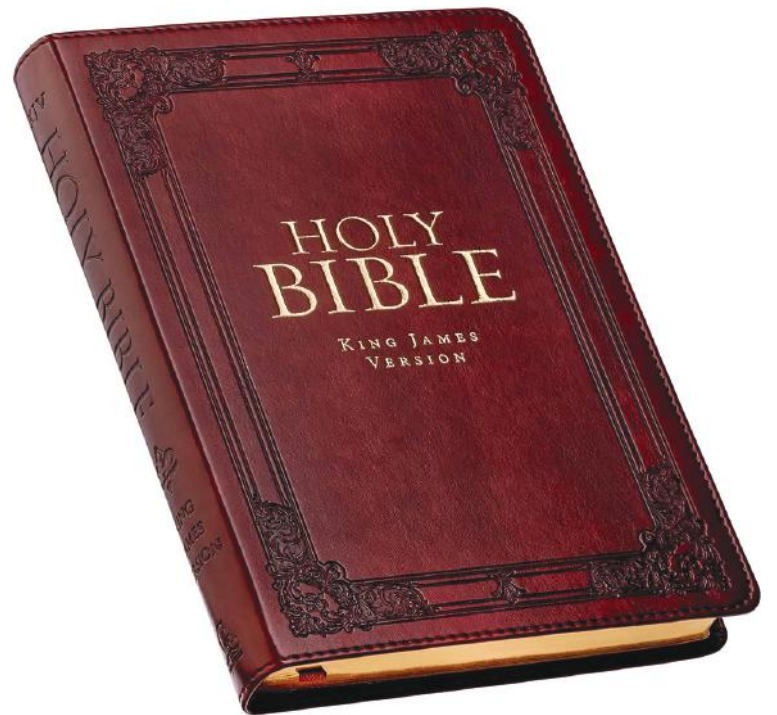
You.” For example remembered the demon(legion) possessed man, who came kneeling down, and begging not to be tormented!

The third Key to the supernatural is : WHAT DEPENDED ON YOU; we are co-workers with God. We have our part, and God has His part. This is a spiritual law, as God can not force Himself on us. He has given us, a free will. It is written in James 2:18-26 “[18]Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”[19] You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. [20]How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless? [21]Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22]You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. [23]And so it happened

just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. [24]So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. [25]Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. [26]Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.”

This third part, where most people get it wrong! Take a step of faith and do your part. When you miss to do your part, do not expect God to do His part. Because God can not force Himself on us. Jesus said: We must count the cost, as it is advised, even when a King intends to go to war, counts the cost. In conclusion, when we are faithful to do our part, God us faithful to do His part.

SELAH! PRAISE BE TO THE LIVING, WHO ALONE IS ABLE, THE ETERNAL KING.



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 ac-

ceptable 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.

Description Of A Woman In Islam



By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
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A woman in Islam is a system of norms and rules that regulate a woman’s place in Muslim society, as well as a woman’s interaction with social institutions.

The role of women in Islam is a traditional point of criticism of the social structure of Muslim society. In Sharia , the roles of men and women in terms of rights and obligations are significantly different. It describes differences in matters of marriage, divorce, legal rights, clothing and education.

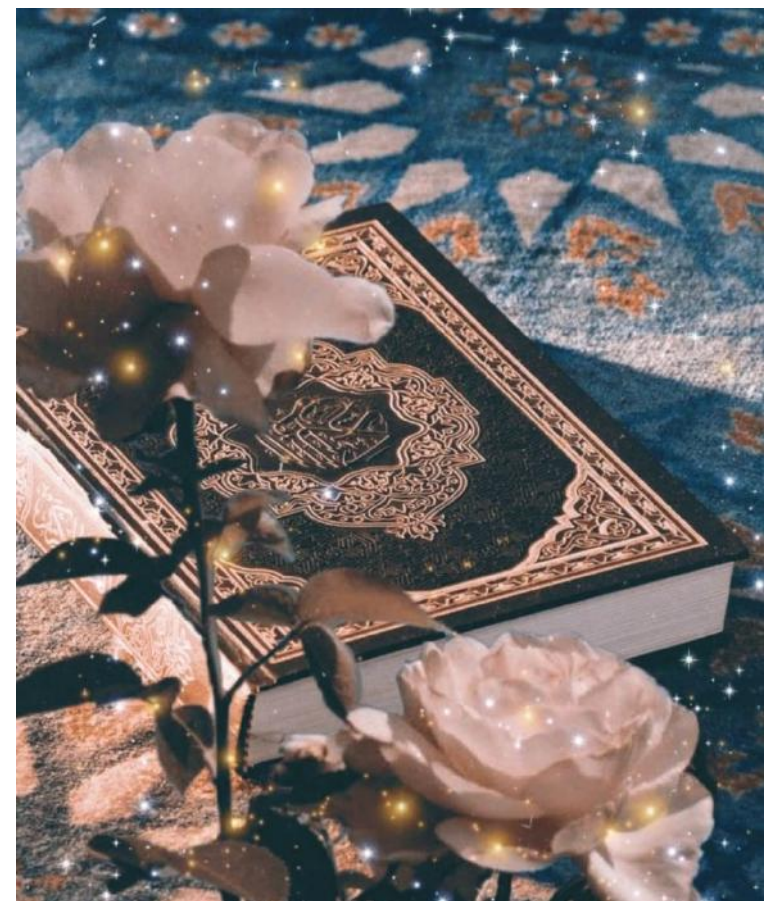
In the Qur’an, women are important figures and topics of discussion in the morals taught in Islam. Most of the women in the Qur’an are described as

mothers or wives of prophets. They retained a certain amount of freedom from men in some respects; for example, the Qur’an describes women who accepted Islam before their husbands or women who pledged allegiance to Muhammad independently.

Although the Qur’an does not directly mention any woman by name other than Mary, women play an important role in many chapters. These surahs are manipulated and interpreted harshly both in classical commentaries and in the popular literature of patriarchal societies. The cultural norms that existed within the patriarchy shaped how these societies approached the text and created widespread surahs that set the way for future generations to interpret these surahs and the role of women in the Qur’an. Throughout history, various Islamic interpreters and legislators have constantly reinterpreted the women mentioned in the Qur’an as a result of the prevailing ideology and historical context of the time. Following the rise of modernity and Islamic feminism, many scholars are returning to the original text and reexamining the accepted classical interpretations of women and the role of women in the Qur’an.

Since all prophets named in Islamic literature were men, women are not considered prophets in mainstream Islam today, although many scholars in the past have held different views.

[Kholturayeva Ugiloy daughter of Urol]



Is Gachagua Backpedaling On His Promise To Nurture Young Leaders From Mount Kenya?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

I have lately been following and monitoring the political narratives of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. He seems back-peddling on the promise of grooming and nurturing youthful leaders from Mount Kenya region.

This comes in the wake of heightened political activities by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

The MP is widely perceived to be his main competitor in succession battle for Mount Kenya kingpin and 2032 presidential elections.

After Gachagua was sworn-in I heard him taking on the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He perceives Ndindi Nyoro as a formidable competitor. We have in recent past seeing employing all tricks in the book in a bid to tame him.

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

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

Ndindi Nyoro had already cut his own political path.

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

As this happened, the MP's work in

Kiharu was on course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To me, DP's latest political strategy of portraying the young leaders from Mount Kenya as being out to

strated his commitment to walk the walk. This is by focusing on fulfilling the promises he had made during the campaigns.

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

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

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

In his remarks, former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP stated that Ndindi was a presidential material.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Though Gachagua is arguably the senior-most leader, I want to let him know this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Kikuyus rooting for Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to lead the Mountain would further cite the following reason.

Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

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

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

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

He has also been spending part of money he receives from National Exchequer to build TVET colleges.

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

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

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

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

Reprieve For Nairobi Business Community As Government Orders Anti-Counterfeit Agency To Release Goods

By: DPCS



Deputy Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja with Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina at Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's official residence in Karen yesterday

Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President also said the traders will be issued with a single certificate of conformity and compliance from the Anti-Counterfeit Authority and Kenya Bureau of Standards instead of double inspection of goods by the two State agencies.
- The Deputy President announced the interventions after chairing a high-level meeting between the traders, KRA and heads of State regulatory bodies, which the business people accused of seizing their containers at the Mombasa Port.
- The meeting was held at his Official Residence in Karen Nairobi and was attended by over 300 traders and importers drawn from Nairobi Business Community group.

Small-scale traders and importers can now breathe a sigh of relief after the government ordered the release of their goods held at the Port of Mombasa over standard verification within two weeks.

In a raft of interventions announced by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday after meeting small-scale traders, the goods will be released upon confirmation that they meet the required standards.

The government also reversed the decision on increment of import duty from Sh2.5 million to Sh3 million on each container.

This is after the traders complained that the extra Sh500,000 was not justified and that they were not involved.

The Deputy President also said the traders will be issued with a single certificate of conformity and compliance from the Anti-Counterfeit Authority and Kenya Bureau of Standards instead of double inspection of goods by the two State agencies.

The Deputy President announced the interventions after chairing a high-level meeting between the traders, KRA and heads of State regulatory bodies, which the business people accused of seizing their containers at the Mombasa Port.

The meeting was held at his Official Residence in Karen Nairobi and was attended by over 300 traders and importers drawn from Nairobi Business Community group.

DP Gachagua convened the meeting after the traders claimed that their

businesses were going down over alleged introduction of new import duty by KRA and harassment by police and officers from the Anti-Counterfeit agency.

They also complained about unfair competition from foreigners.

In the resolutions read by the Deputy President, it was agreed that, henceforth, Anti-counterfeit body will be involving traders in verification and inspection of their goods and that KRA will not introduce levies or import duty on goods without public participation with the stakeholders.

“KRA will negotiate with the Kenya Ports Authority and shipping lines on release of the withheld goods. On the withheld containers, the importers will pay the initial agreed duty and KRA to expedite clearance of the containers for release to the traders by next week,” said DP Gachagua.

Mr Gachagua said he called for the meeting on instructions of President William Ruto.

Additionally, the Deputy President said Kenya Bureau of Standards and Anti-counterfeit Authority will harmonise their work in clearing import goods to expedite the certification process and issuance of certificate of compliance and conformity.

The parties (importers, traders and officers drawn from relevant state agencies) formed a multi-agency team that will be meeting monthly to address issues affecting small-scale businesses in the county.

The first meeting is scheduled for

April 10, 2024 to check on implementation of the resolutions.

“I assure you that you are our partners in the economic transformation of this country; you are stakeholders in this journey. We will work hand in hand and help each other. We cannot abandon you. We will create a framework to continue engaging. I will also visit the traders at their places of work to get first hand information. If there are issues, talk to us,” said Mr Gachagua.

He also directed the Anti-Counterfeit Authority to act on its officers accused of harassing business persons during inspection in disguise of search for contraband goods.

Police officers, who have stayed in one working station for more than three years, are being transferred after the traders said they were harassing and frustrating their businesses.

The Deputy further said that an amendment bill to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015, which he had sponsored when he was MP for Mathira, will be revived to protect local businesses from unfair competition by foreigners.

“The amendment bill started in 2018 but was killed by the previous administration. It will be revived and pushed as a government bill. We cannot allow foreigners to come to Kenya posing as manufacturers of goods while they are assemblers. We must do everything possible to protect our entrepreneurs,” said Mr Gachagua.

He also asked the business community to give their input in the Trade Development Bill so that it can be enhanced to protect enterprises.

And as the traders complained of harassment by officers from the Kenya Copyright Board, the Deputy President said the leadership of the agency will be called to brief the team on its involvement in imported goods.

The traders, who mostly deal in electronics, second hand clothes, mo-

torcycle spare parts, textiles, stationery, Computer and ICT accessories, clothing, operate from Nyamakima, Kamukunji, Gikomba, Muthurwa, Luthuli Avenue, CBD and River Road, welcomed the government intervention.

“We are the hustlers that brought this government to power and we cannot go to protests because the President and his Deputy are reachable, approachable and they listen. We believe you won't let us down. You are our friend and we can't abandon you,” said Mr David Njoroge, chairman of Nyamakima traders.

The meeting came one week after the Deputy President intervened in the avocado subsector and solved a brewing dispute in the exportation of the fruit.

Nairobi Deputy Governor Njoroge Muchiri, Starehe MP Amos Mwago, Principal Secretaries Alfred K'Omundo (State department for Trade) and Susan Mangeni (State department for MSMEs), KRA Commissioner-General Humphrey Wantanga, KRA Board chairman Anthony Mwaura, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja attended the meeting and Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina who in Gikomba trades as Mount Kenya Hardware.

The chairperson anticounterfeit authority Josphat Kabebea, chairperson of the National Standards Council Anthony Muriuki Munyiri, Executive Director/CEO of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge, Managing Director Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Esther Ngari, CEO Veterinary Medicines Directorate Jane Njiru, Dr Allan Wambua from Pharmacy and Poisons Board and Henry Mwenda CEO Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA) were also present.



Some of the business community members at the meeting yesterday

British Council and NRF Collaborate on National Research Repository Launch



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

In a groundbreaking partnership, the British Council and the National Research Foundation (NRF) have joined forces to unveil the National Research Repository (NRR). This initiative aims to revolutionize access to research findings, fostering innovation and collaboration across disciplines in Kenya.

The launch of the NRF comes with a multifaceted purpose, serving as a virtual repository for a wealth of research data and scholarly outputs. Spearheaded by CEO Dickson Andala, the NRF promises to be a cornerstone of Kenya's knowledge economy, offering researchers, policymakers, and the public unprecedented access to cutting-edge research.

During the launch event, CEO Dickson Andala highlighted the govern-

ment's pivotal role in supporting this initiative. He emphasized the commitment to providing resources and infrastructure to ensure the success of the NRF. Moreover, Andala emphasized the importance of commercialization, envisioning a symbiotic relationship between research and industry that would drive economic growth and innovation in Kenya.

Chairman of the National Research Council, in his address, underscored the significance of disseminating research findings to the public. He outlined strategies to ensure that the wealth of information housed in the NRF reaches diverse audiences across the nation. Through partnerships with educational institutions, media outlets, and community organizations, the NRF aims to democratize access to knowledge, empowering citizens to engage with research and contribute to national development.

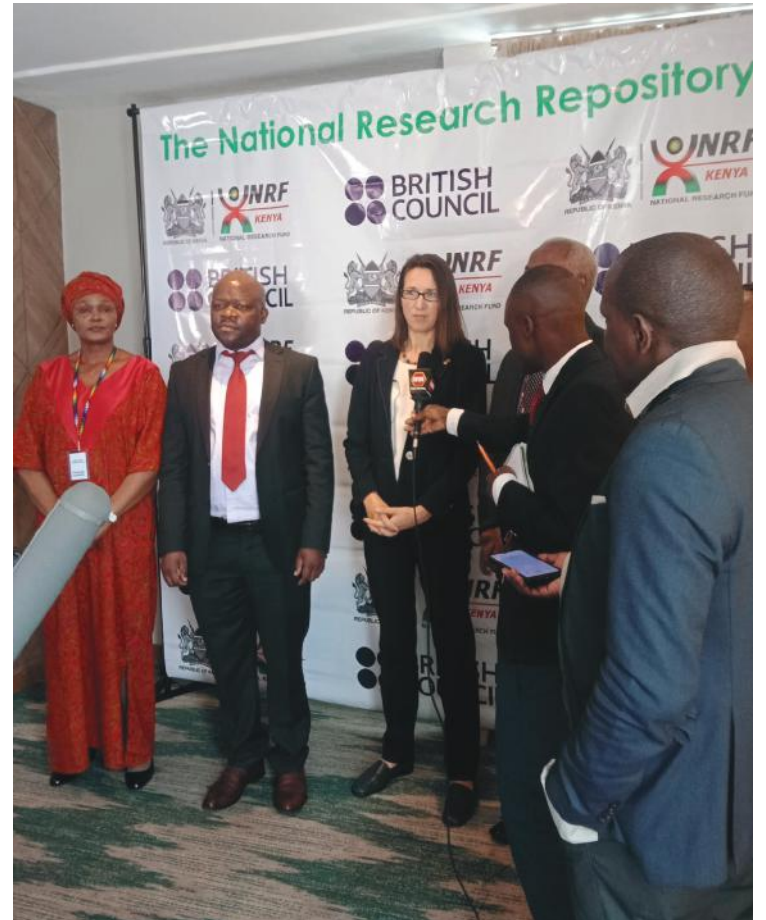
The NRF represents a paradigm shift in how research is conducted, shared, and utilized in Kenya. By harnessing the power of technology, collaboration, and government support, this initiative holds the potential to catalyze scientific breakthroughs, drive policy reform, and spur socio-

economic progress.

As the CEO Dickson Andala aptly stated, "The NRF is not just a repository of data; it is a catalyst for change." Indeed, by fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and entrepreneurship, the NRF paves the way for a brighter future for Kenya and its citizens.

In the coming months and years, stakeholders across academia, government, and industry will undoubtedly monitor the progress of the NRF with keen interest. Its success will not only be measured in terms of metrics such as publication outputs and citation rates but, more importantly, in its impact on society—empowering individuals, transforming communities, and shaping the trajectory of the nation.

As Kenya embraces the digital age and positions itself as a hub of innovation and research excellence, initiatives like the NRF are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the nation's future. With visionary leadership, strategic partnerships, and unwavering commitment, the NRF has the potential to be a beacon of progress, inspiring generations to come.



The national research fund committee members addressing the media.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Gafur Gulam's Black Image Of "This Child" Or The Sweet Moments Of Childhood Spending In Darbadar



By: Gafurova Khurshid

Abstract: This article talks about the work "Shum bola" by Gafur Ghulam, who made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek literature.

Key words: Gafur Ghulam, Shumbola, Karavoy, mullah, samovarchi, Sariboy, Karim Jinni, recitation

INTRODUCTION

The works of Gafur Ghulam, who made a worthy contribution to the development of Uzbek literature, have a deep place in the hearts of readers. While reading the writer's prose works collected in this book, Shum boy, who spent the sweet moments of his childhood in prison, facing the trials of fate, Jora, whose youthful blood is pulsating, will encourage you to think and observe. If we look at the history of this work, it certainly goes back to the writer's childhood years. Do you remember the fate of the family where Gafur Ghulam was born? He lost his father at the age of nine, and his loving mother at the age of fifteen. He will remain an orphan with his brothers and sisters. Those were the years when the cold breath of war was wandering in our country, and the economic and moral decline was deepening. At such a

time, the most difficult times come for orphans left without parents. They need something to eat and make ends meet, but it's not an easy task. The main character of the story "Shum Bola" is a fourteen-year-old boy who lost his father in such a difficult time.

Discussion and Results

This work, which begins at the large teahouse of Ilhom samovarchi, located at the corner of Kaymaq Bazaar, will not leave out the character of Karavoy, who spent his childhood days in prison, despite his young age. Karavoy acquired "darbadarlik" from a young age. Because, in his own words: "We used to say that one of the joyous pastimes for children was the bazaar, neighborhood, and street crazy." In those years, there were so many madmen in Tashkent that you can't count them all: Malla madman, Karim madman, Mairamkhan, Khal parang jip-madman, Tajikhan, Juft kapar, Olim madman, Eshan month, Ovoz madman and others..

Each jinni had its own uniqueness, uniqueness, "sweetness".

Based on the impressions we get from the work, I believe that we should be grateful for the fact that we live under this peaceful and clear sky, that we can easily get education, wear good clothes and eat what we want, and most importantly, that our loved ones and loving parents are with us.

Summary

In conclusion, we can say that Gafur Ghulam reveals that period full of ignorance and difficulties with the image of a young child. The reader can undoubtedly feel the spirit of this period while reading the work. This work left an indelible mark in everyone's memory with its variety and full of adventures.

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Advantages Of Online Education



Annotation : In this article, provides many ideas about the advantages of online education, which creates many favorable conditions for learning.

Keyword : online, pandemic, education, distance, preference, traditional, world, learner, method.

The main advantage of online education: When the education system is digital, it becomes easier to monitor and analyze the performance of the learners. The whole world had faced many conflicts with the problem of introducing online education. Due to the coronavirus epidemic in the world in 2020, more than 15 billion school and university students switched to distance, online education. This situation accelerated the introduction of modern information and communication technologies into the educational process and the introduction of a new form of education - online (distance) education in addition to traditional teaching methods. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, from school children to university students were educated, and these processes continue today. Someone welcomed this with joy, someone with a critical eye. You can choose online courses according to your busy schedule. You can practice anywhere, anytime. Almost all online educational platforms work on mobile devices. According to research, online education does not lag behind traditional education in terms of quality in many indicators. The effectiveness of the course largely depends on the student: distance learning requires more discipline

and personal control.

A variety of convenient tools: presentations, tests, videos, chat, screen display and the ability to watch the lesson repeatedly ensure high efficiency of education.

What are the advantages of online (distance) education?

- reducing the costs of education (costs of renting buildings, traveling to and from the place of study), reducing training time;
- the student and the teacher can independently plan the time, place and duration of the lessons;
- to increase the quality of teaching by conducting trainings for a large number of audiences, using modern tools, large electronic libraries, etc. to create a unified learning environment.
- convenience.

The availability of the possibility to study anywhere, now you can study at home, work or any place convenient for you without having to overcome natural disasters such as rain, snow, flood, flood, etc., as long as you don't fall asleep, of course. Who doesn't like it?

- lifelong lessons.

If you don't understand a topic while you're in class, it means that you'll have to ask your teacher for help later, if your teacher is really rude. But in online education, this means that you can later watch the recorded lessons uploaded to the platform until you memorize them.

- more time - more opportunities for development.

You no longer need to walk to a bus stop 500 meters away from your home to go to a class, spend half an hour in a traffic jam on a bus, and spend the same amount of time to attend a class and return home. This is not true for a person who wants to develop more.

Madina Tursunova daughter of G'ayrat was born in 2005 in the city of Karshi, Kashkadarya region of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Currently, she is a student of Shahrizobz State Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of English.

Achievements: Owner of "For academic achievements and exemplary behavior" and "Young researcher" bosom-badges.

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HEALTH

Concerted Efforts Required To End The Triple Threat Against Young People

By: Purity Mugo
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Concerted Efforts Required To End The Triple Threat Against Young People Some of the stakeholders during the forum

Worth Noting:

- He stated that in addition to high numbers of teenage pregnancies, the adolescents and young people constituted a large percentage of the new HIV infections and they were also more likely to be victims of GBV hence the need for a multi sectoral approach.
- The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) representative Marion Mashoo led the county stakeholders in the review of the national data on the triple threat in a bid to foster collaborations among different stakeholders in prevention of the triple threat among adolescents and young people.
- “According to a 2023 report, Kenya ranks seventh globally in the HIV epidemic with an estimated 1.377 million Kenyans living with HIV in 2023,” Mashoo said.

Murang’a county health officials have called for a multi-sectoral approach in the fight against new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and Gender Based Violence (GBV) among adolescents and young people.

The officials who noted that adolescents and young people were at higher risk of being victims of GBV; contracting HIV as well as the increased risk of teenage pregnancies, agreed there was a need to leverage the national, county and community health and social systems to combat the triple threat among people between the age of 10-19.

While speaking during a stakeholder engagement forum, the County Director of Health Dr. James Mburu underscored the importance of networking to leverage on the strengths and roles of different departments in the fight against the triple threat.

“By encouraging partnerships in this fight and forging connections and networks, we can ensure better outcomes for our young people,” Mburu said.

He stated that in addition to high numbers of teenage pregnancies, the adolescents and young people constituted a large percentage of the new HIV infections and they were also more likely to be victims of GBV hence the need for a multi sectoral approach.

The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) representative Marion Mashoo led the county stakeholders in the review of the na-

tional data on the triple threat in a bid to foster collaborations among different stakeholders in prevention of the triple threat among adolescents and young people.

“According to a 2023 report, Kenya ranks seventh globally in the HIV epidemic with an estimated 1.377 million Kenyans living with HIV in 2023,” Mashoo said.

She further stated that of those living with HIV, 67,869 are children between the age of 0 to 14 years.

The key populations among the new infections are female sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs.

Mashoo noted that the cases of HIV infections have gone down significantly over the years.

“There were 101,560 new infections in 2013 and 22,154 new infections in 2022, showing that we are making significant progress as a country,” she observed.

She noted that adolescents and young adults contributed to 75 percent of new HIV infections in 2022, hence the need for concerted efforts in the fight against new infections among that demographic.

On teenage pregnancies, the national statistics for 2022 show that there were over 13000 pregnant children between the ages of 10 to 14 and 241,514 between the ages of 15 to 19 years.

The report also shows that in 2023, more than 3400 children between the

ages of 0 to 9 were victims of sexual GBV as well as 20000 children between the ages of 10 to 17.

Mashoo further called upon concerted efforts among stakeholders, to enable survivors to seek justice, to provide treatment, care and mental wellness for survivors.

She also underscored the importance of a return to school policy for adolescent mothers.

In Murang’a County the County AIDS and STIs Coordinator (CASCO) David Kinyanjui noted that new infections were still high in the county with new 1346 cases recorded in 2023.

He said the county is committed towards reducing the number of new infections by 50 percent and reducing the number of aids related deaths by 25 per cent.

The CASCO said that the county had put in place several measures to combat the number of infections among the female sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs.

“We conduct HIV tests, give them condoms, give ART to those who test positive as well as offering family planning services to the female sex workers,” he said.

Caroline Macharia, who is in charge of reproductive health in the county, noted that 7 percent of all pregnant women in Murang’a are teenagers.

“The national average is at 15 percent which is too high and although

the number is lower in Murang’a there is still much to be done,” she said.

Macharia called for community dialogue and outreaches as preventive measures to end the menace that is teenage pregnancies.

Patrick Mwangi, the county GBV coordinator, noted that the cases of GBV in Murang’a were high, with 24 percent of women between the ages of 15 to 49 having experienced sexual gender-based violence.

“24 percent is quite high compared to the national average of 13 percent, hence the need for concerted efforts in the fight against GBV,” Mwangi said.

He called upon all stakeholders to treat cases of GBV with urgency as GBV is directly related to cases of HIV infections and teenage pregnancies.

“Reporting these cases in time allows the victim to access medication that prevents HIV and pregnancy and also allows law enforcement officers to gather evidence that can be used in court,” he explained.

Mwangi called on the stakeholders drawn from the health department, police, National Government Administration Officials (NGAO), Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), the Judiciary and the clergy to work together to prevent the triple threat and ensure those already affected get the help they need and justice.



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Ultimate Panoramic Experience

Unveiling the Majestic Essence of Ngai: A Journey of Spiritual Awakening and Cultural Reverence Among the Agikuyu People



By: Erick Kamau Kahura
 @themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The relationship between the Agikuyu people and Ngai is one of profound reverence and intimacy, characterized by an unyielding sense of gratitude and humility. Through prayer, ritual, and communal worship, they seek to commune with Ngai and harmonize their lives with his divine will, finding solace and fortitude in his everlasting presence. From the murmuring streams to the fertile soil, every aspect of nature serves as a testament to Ngai's infinite grace and generosity, inspiring the Agikuyu people to live in symbiosis with the natural world.
- Beyond their spiritual convictions, the Agikuyu people boast a rich cultural heritage that spans epochs, reflecting their fortitude, ingenuity, and deep-rooted connection to the land.



In the heart of Kenya, nestled amidst the verdant landscapes and vibrant communities, lies a treasure trove of spiritual enlightenment and cultural reverence cherished by the Agikuyu people. This remarkable community, steeped in tradition and bound by faith, invites us to embark on a journey of discovery and celebration as we unravel the majestic essence of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, and explore the timeless wisdom and resilience of the Agikuyu people.

The Magnificence of Ngai: A Divine Presence

At the nucleus of Agikuyu spirituality stands Ngai, the Supreme Creator, whose divine presence infuses every facet of their existence. Ngai, also known as MweneNyaga or Mūgai, is venerated as the origin of all life, the embodiment of wisdom and benevolence, and the eternal custodian of the cosmos. With Mount Kenya, or Kirinyaga, as his earthly sanctuary, Ngai stands as a beacon of divine radiance, guiding his people with boundless love and compassion.

The relationship between the Agikuyu people and Ngai is one of profound reverence and intimacy, characterized by an unyielding sense

of gratitude and humility. Through prayer, ritual, and communal worship, they seek to commune with Ngai and harmonize their lives with his divine will, finding solace and fortitude in his everlasting presence. From the murmuring streams to the fertile soil, every aspect of nature serves as a testament to Ngai's infinite grace and generosity, inspiring the Agikuyu people to live in symbiosis with the natural world.

Cultural Heritage: A Tapestry of Tradition and Fortitude

Beyond their spiritual convictions, the Agikuyu people boast a rich cultural heritage that spans epochs, reflecting their fortitude, ingenuity, and deep-rooted connection to the land. From ancient customs to traditional ceremonies, their cultural traditions serve as a testament to their identity and legacy, weaving a vibrant tapestry of tradition and community.

One such tradition is the annual pilgrimage to Mount Kenya now known as Mahoya ma Ngatho cia Kuhinga Mwaka, which takes place every 30th to 31st of December, where the Agikuyu people congregate to pay homage to Ngai and honor their forebears. This sacred sojourn symbolizes their

unwavering devotion to their faith and heritage, as well as their profound reverence for the land that sustains them. Through storytelling, music, dance, and folklore, they transmit the wisdom of their ancestors to future generations, ensuring that their cultural legacy endures for eons to come.

Spiritual Enlightenment: A Path to Fulfillment and Liberation

For the Agikuyu people, embracing Ngai and venerating their cultural heritage is not merely a matter of tradition; it is a pathway to spiritual enlightenment and liberation. By nurturing a profound connection to the divine and harmonizing with the natural world, they discover purpose and fulfillment in their lives, transcending the material realm and embracing a higher state of consciousness.

In the embrace of Ngai's love and guidance, the Agikuyu people find inner peace and resilience, enabling them to navigate life's trials with grace and fortitude. Through acts of compassion, generosity, and communal unity, they embody the values of their spiritual tradition, illuminating the world with kindness and compassion. Theirs is a journey of self-discovery and transformation, a

testament to the power of faith, community, and cultural identity.

As we delve into the majestic essence of Ngai and the cultural heritage of the Agikuyu people, we are captivated by the timeless wisdom and resilience that define their community. Theirs is a story of unwavering faith and perseverance, of reverence for the divine and a profound connection to the land. It is a story that transcends time and space, inspiring us to embark on our own spiritual journey and honor the heritage that binds us to our past, present, and future.

In conclusion, the celebration of Ngai and the cultural heritage of the Agikuyu people serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for us all. In a world filled with uncertainty and turmoil, their steadfast faith and resilience remind us of the transformative power of spirituality, community, and cultural identity. As we reflect on their journey, may we find solace and strength in the embrace of Ngai, the Supreme Creator, and draw inspiration from the timeless wisdom and resilience of the Agikuyu people as we navigate the complexities of our own lives.

Erick Kamau Kahura, Native Son of Mount Kenya

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Uproar Of Democracy

By: **Francy Muhonja**

The atmosphere on the usually calm campus of Rongo University was charged with tension as students took to the streets to protest the ongoing campus representative elections. What was meant to be a democratic process to elect student leaders had spiraled into chaos, with allegations of fraud, corruption, and intimidation prevalent among the student body.

The strike, which had been ongoing for several hours, had turned into a full-blown riot as students clashed with university security personnel over the disputed election results. Tear gas filled the air as students armed with placards and chanting slogans demanding justice and transparency in the electoral process.

In the midst of the chaos, I managed to speak to a few students who were at the forefront of the protests. Their faces were contorted with anger and frustration as they recounted tales of being forced into voting for certain candidates or being denied the opportunity to cast their votes altogether.

“We just want a fair and free election,” one student, who preferred to remain anonymous, told me. “It is unacceptable that our voices are being silenced and our votes manipulated for the benefit of a few power-hungry individuals.”

As I made my way through the throngs of students, I could feel the beat of discontent echoing through the campus. The once harmonious community had been torn apart by the danger of electoral malpractice and injustice.

Despite the escalating tensions, there was a sense of unity among the students from the different political formations as they banded together in their quest for accountability and transparency. Students had come together in solidarity, forming a united front against the injustices they were facing. The protests had drawn a diverse group of individuals, with students from various backgrounds and academic disciplines joining forces to demand accountability from the electoral officials.

The strike had become a symbol of resistance against the entrenched systems of power that sought to si-

lence their voices and manipulate their rights.

As night fell and the protests continued unceasing, I left the campus with a heavy heart, knowing that the battle for justice was far from over. The echoes of discontent lingered in the air, a reminder of the ongoing struggle for democracy and fairness in the hallowed halls of Rongo University. The tension on campus was tangible, with students on edge and emotions running high.

The once serene academic environment had been transformed into a battleground for students fighting for their right to a fair and transparent election process. There seemed to be a shared belief in the importance of standing up for what is right and in this case everyone was protesting for their qualified leader. It was evident that these students were not just fighting for themselves, but for the integrity of their institution and the principles of democracy.

The actions of the students had sparked a broader conversation on campus about the need for reform and oversight in the electoral process. It is clear that the events un-

folding at Rongo University have exposed deeper flaws in the system that need to be addressed.

As I walked away from the campus, the chants and cries of the protesters still ringing in my ears, I couldn't help but feel a sense of hope for the future. The students had shown remarkable courage and determination in the face of adversity, and their voices would not be silenced. The fight for justice at Rongo University was far from over, but the passion and resilience of the student body gave reason to believe that change was possible.

It is my hope that as the board prepared a new date for the representatives voting, everyone maintains their peace to prevent issues of accidents and engaging the authorities to calm the situation.

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Balancing The Scales: Empowering Kenya's Boy Child

By **Collins Simiyu**

Amidst the global celebration of International Boy Child's Day on May 16 every year, the narrative of neglect and disparity emerges. While strides have been made in safeguarding girl child rights, the plight of boys remains overlooked. Facing domestic violence, educational hurdles, and societal stigma, many boys struggle silently, lacking the support systems crucial for their development. It's time to shift the focus towards empowering Kenya's boy child for a more equitable future.

The world celebrates internation-

al boy child's day to emphasise on their rights, avoidance of any kind of harassment, driven away from domestic violence and given proper care at home environment. It is clear that the current society is at a higher point of maximum protection of girl child without bothering the development of a boy child.

Many boys undergo a lot of domestic violence which results to them dropping out of school and cutting off their mutual relationship with family members and friends. They end up looking for non-education required jobs in cities and towns but some choose to live as street

children where they undergo a lot of problems and some face great danger in case of a disease outbreak since they might not know prevention measures.

A boy child is just a normal person like a girl child but in case a boy is sodomized, the case will end faster than when a girl is raped where it is treated with a lot of seriousness and great measures are taken. The accuser will be seen as a mad person. When you visit our law courts, files of rape cases are piled heavily but it is not possible to find a case about a boy who was sodomized. Or, is it that boys are not recognized in the

society?

Nowadays, education opportunities are given equally among all children. There is no where that boys are allowed to learn more than girls or vice versa. So, to empower the future generation, these issues of overlying on ladies and seeing them as weak creatures should stop. Even women can work in construction sites and assigned simple tasks and at the end of the day, they can have a good money to take care of children.

The government of Kenya and other well-wishers and non-governmental organizations should now start thinking how they can empow-

er boys at puberty age. It is seen that they only focus on girls by providing sanitary towels and other materials but forgets to carry something motivation to boys. Also, many boys undergo depression and has no one to tell whatever he is passing across. So as to tackle this issue, it is good to offer life skills education especially in boys' schools. By doing this, we might be saving a good number of our youths.

Financing Justice or Fueling Injustice? A Critical Examination of Third-Party Funding



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

The practice of third-party funding (TPF) has emerged as a purported panacea for the perennial challenge of access to justice in the ever-evolving landscape of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Proponents of this innovative financing mechanism assert that it democratizes the legal playing field, empowering parties with limited resources to pursue meritorious claims and seek redress through arbitration or other ADR processes. However, this narrative of inclusivity and equity belies a more insidious reality – one that threatens to undermine the very foundations upon which the principles of justice and fair adjudication are erected.

The philosophical underpinnings of TPF can be traced back to the age-old common law doctrines of maintenance and champerty, which have long been viewed with a degree of suspicion and trepidation. As the eminent legal scholar Max Radin astutely observed, “The doctrines of maintenance and champerty represent the highest manifestation of the fear of litigation, the fear of an interference with the course of justice, a fear which has been a marked characteristic of English law for centuries.” This sentiment resonates with the contemporary critiques leveled against TPF, which posit that the introduction of profit-driven third parties into the realm of dispute resolution could potentially corrode the integrity of the judicial process.

At the heart of this critique lies the fundamental tension between the pursuit of justice and the profit motives that inevitably permeate the TPF industry. As the philosopher John Rawls eloquently articulated in his seminal work, “A Theory of Justice,” the principles of justice must be predicated upon an unwavering commitment to fairness and equality – principles that are inherently antithetical to the profit-driven machinations of third-party funders. Indeed, the very existence of TPF perpetuates a troubling commodification of legal disputes, reducing them to mere financial instruments ripe for speculation and exploitation. This commodification, as the philosopher Michael Sandel contends, erodes the intrinsic value of justice, rendering it a mere commodity to be bought and sold in the marketplace of legal proceedings.

Moreover, the introduction of third-party funders into the ADR arena raises profound ethical concerns regarding the potential conflicts of interest and the erosion of

attorney-client privilege. As the legal scholar Paul D. Carrington poignantly cautioned, “The intrusion of an unregulated third party will not only compromise confidentiality but create conflicting interests on matter critical to the proper resolution of the dispute.” This sentiment echoes the fears expressed by the philosopher Sissela Bok, who warned against the corrosive effects of divided loyalties and the erosion of trust that inevitably accompanies such conflicts of interest. The practice of TPF threatens to exacerbate the already alarming inequalities that pervade the legal system. While proponents tout TPF as a mechanism for promoting access to justice, the reality is that this financing model often favors deep-pocketed funders with the resources to cherry-pick high-value claims, leaving parties with lower-value but equally meritorious cases in the lurch. As the philosopher John Rawls posited, true justice demands the elimination of arbitrary disparities in the distribution of fundamental rights and liberties – a principle that TPF appears to violate.

The ethical quagmire surrounding TPF is further compounded by the lack of uniform regulation and oversight across jurisdictions. As the legal scholar Maya Steinitz astutely observed, “The lack of regulation and oversight of third-party funding creates opportunities for ethical violations, manipulation, and other abuses.” This regulatory vacuum not only undermines the integrity of the ADR process but also opens the door to potential abuses, such as predatory lending practices and the exploitation of vulnerable parties.

In the face of these myriad challenges, it becomes imperative to reimagine the role of TPF within the broader context of access to justice and the pursuit of equitable dispute resolution. As the philosopher Amartya Sen eloquently argued, true justice requires not only the removal of institutional barriers but also the empowerment of individuals to actively participate in the processes that shape their lives and protect their fundamental rights. To achieve this lofty goal, a paradigm shift in the conceptualization and implementation of TPF is necessary. Rather than perpetuating the commodification of legal disputes and the pursuit of profit, TPF must be reimagined as a mechanism for promoting substantive equality and empowering marginalized communities to assert their rights and seek redress through

fair and transparent ADR processes.

This paradigm shift necessitates a robust regulatory framework that safeguards the integrity of the ADR process while ensuring accountability and transparency in the operations of third-party funders. As the legal scholar Michael Legg aptly suggested, “Regulation of third-party funding should focus on ensuring adequate capital resources, managing conflicts of interest, and promoting transparency in funding agreements.” Such a regulatory framework must be underpinned by a commitment to ethical conduct, respect for attorney-client privilege, and a unwavering dedication to the principles of fairness and equality that undergird the pursuit of justice.

The reimagining of TPF must extend beyond the confines of individual disputes and encompass a broader commitment to systemic reforms that address the root causes of unequal access to justice. As the philosopher Nancy Fraser eloquently argued, true justice demands not only the redistribution of resources but also the recognition of marginalized groups and their unique experiences, perspectives, and vulnerabilities.

In this regard, TPF must be positioned as a catalyst for empowering communities and fostering a culture of active citizenship and civic engagement. By leveraging the collective power of TPF, marginalized groups could pool resources and support meritorious claims that challenge systemic inequalities and promote social change.

Ultimately, the pursuit of justice is a sacred endeavor that transcends mere financial considerations and profit motives. It is a pursuit that demands unwavering commitment to the principles of fairness, equality, and the empowerment of all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status or background. As the philosopher Immanuel Kant eloquently declared, “Justice is the only virtue that admits of no exception,” a sentiment that serves as a clarion call for the ethical and equitable implementation of TPF within the realm of alternative dispute resolution.

In the erudite words of the venerable legal luminary Lon L. Fuller, the aphorism resonates that “The life of the law is not logic, but experience.” This dictum underscores the imperative of scrutinizing the practice of Third-Party Funding (TPF) through the prism of experiential wisdom, necessitating a nuanced evaluation

of its prospective advantages juxtaposed against its inherent deficiencies and constraints. It is incumbent upon legal scholars and practitioners to engage in a rigorous analysis that transcends mere theoretical constructs, delving into the practical manifestations of TPF to discern its efficacy in fostering a more equitable and just milieu of dispute resolution. Only by navigating this terrain of experiential insight can a trajectory be delineated towards a paradigm of adjudication that not only upholds the sacrosanctity of justice but also endows all stakeholders with the agency to pursue recourse through mechanisms characterized by equity and transparency.

The elucidation of Fuller’s dictum serves as a clarion call for a judicious examination of the operational dynamics of TPF, accentuating the imperative of a discerning appraisal that acknowledges the multifaceted dimensions of this practice. By delving into the experiential realm of TPF, legal scholars are tasked with unraveling the intricate tapestry of its potential merits and demerits, discerning the extent to which it augments or detracts from the overarching objectives of a just and impartial system of dispute resolution. This exigency mandates a departure from abstract conjecture towards a pragmatic engagement with the lived realities of TPF, fostering a discourse that transcends theoretical postulations to grapple with the practical implications of its application within the legal landscape.

In conclusion, the invocation of Fuller’s sagacious maxim underscores the imperative of a holistic and experiential scrutiny of TPF, propelling legal scholars and practitioners towards a nuanced understanding of its operative dynamics. By navigating the labyrinthine terrain of TPF through the lens of experiential wisdom, stakeholders are poised to unravel the intricate interplay of its virtues and vices, thereby paving the way for a recalibration of dispute resolution mechanisms that espouse principles of fairness, equity, and transparency. It is within this crucible of experiential insight that the contours of a more just and equitable system of adjudication can be delineated, one that not only venerates the sanctity of justice but also empowers individuals to navigate the labyrinth of legal recourse with confidence and integrity.

The Writer is a Lawyer and Legal researcher

Worth Noting:

- The ethical quagmire surrounding TPF is further compounded by the lack of uniform regulation and oversight across jurisdictions. As the legal scholar Maya Steinitz astutely observed, “The lack of regulation and oversight of third-party funding creates opportunities for ethical violations, manipulation, and other abuses.” This regulatory vacuum not only undermines the integrity of the ADR process but also opens the door to potential abuses, such as predatory lending practices and the exploitation of vulnerable parties.

- In the face of these myriad challenges, it becomes imperative to reimagine the role of TPF within the broader context of access to justice and the pursuit of equitable dispute resolution.

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Corruption Is Thwarting The Progress Of Devolution: Report

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

A new report released on Thursday has revealed and singled out corruption as the greatest hindrance to devolution. According to Evans Kibet Boss, National Convenor Kenya Devolution Civil Society Organization Working Group, corruption is still endemic especially pitting the devolved units – the County Governments.

“With the birth of Devolution in 2010, Kenyans anticipated improved livelihoods and termed the promulgation of the New Constitution a new dawn. However, that was not to be because what we are seeing is a lot of corruption impeding service delivery. Critical services are now in limbo and on a scale of one to

five, one being poorest and five being best, most of the services have scored low to very low. We have also keenly observed that most counties are spending less than ten percent of their budget on agriculture due to competing interests. Another key observation is a lack of diversity in public service which has been infiltrated by nepotism. We are thereby recommending that all actors should act firmly on the issues of corruption and initiate prosecution. We are also calling for increased civic education and enhanced public participation.”

He made the remarks at the Launch of the Devolution@10 Survey Report – A Citizen’s Perspective.



Launch of the Devolution@10 Survey Report – A Citizen’s Perspective, at a Nairobi hotel.

Today’s Guidance

By: Dipa Sharma

Greetings, I am a professional intuitive tarot card reader. My readings incorporate both the cards and my intuition. This reading is timeless, general, and collective, meaning it may or may not directly resonate with you. Please take what resonates with you and disregard the rest. If you’ve come across this reading, it likely holds a message for you. For personalized guidance, feel free to reach out for a personal reading. You can contact me via email at sharmadipa.ds@gmail.com

Current financial situation

Many of you are currently experiencing short-term financial hardships, which may manifest as old debts, high credit card balances, or unpaid loans. Additionally, some are facing challenges in the workplace, such as isolation from colleagues

or feelings of being outcast. Dependence on social assistance, though intended to provide support, may inadvertently impact confidence levels and increase stress, potentially leading to job loss or business setbacks. Alternatively, individuals may find themselves struggling at work without seeing viable alternative options, or they may feel isolated or excluded from their coworkers.

What is the blockage

Perhaps you’ve recently experienced a breakup, and your focus is on healing your emotions. You’re inclined to assist friends, family members, or anyone in need without considering your financial situation. You believe that wealth isn’t everything and shouldn’t consume all your attention at the expense of other aspects of your life. It’s important to be mindful of your spending and prioritize long-term conservation.

How to attract money

Ensure to maintain courteous, open,

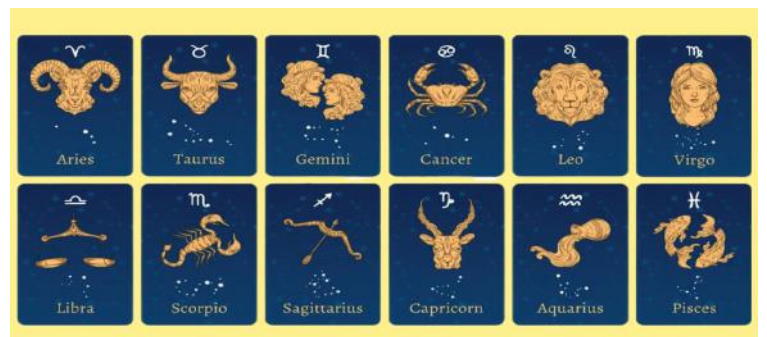
and honest dialogues with your coworkers as you navigate through this situation. There’s likely a lot to learn from each other. If you’re currently job searching or have recently lost your job, it’s understandable to feel disheartened. However, I encourage you to take the opportunity to heal from this challenging moment as soon as possible. Doing so may enable you to adopt a more optimistic outlook.

What is coming towards you

If you’re currently job hunting or contemplating a career change, know that your prospects may be even brighter than you realize. You may encounter someone in a position of influence who is exceptionally generous towards you. This could manifest as a boss or influential business associate offering financial bonuses, providing valuable time, support, or advice. If you’re in business, you may attract investments from banks or investors. Additionally, opportunities for financial assistance through

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How To Manifest Money



charity or charitable donations may also arise.

Outcome of your situation

If you’ve been contemplating starting your own business, now is the opportune moment to seize the chance, as the universe appears to be aligning to support such significant transformations. For those seeking new employment, it may require a more diligent search effort at this time. Nevertheless, many of you may currently find contentment in your career status. However, whether change is imminent or self-initiated, progress in life may necessitate adjustments. It’s

important to note that not all changes will come easily; doubts about one’s capabilities, especially when presented with high-paying opportunities, may arise. Nonetheless, it’s advisable to embrace new challenges and give them a chance. With perseverance, you’ll likely find that things fall into place, and the prospect of change becomes less daunting than anticipated.

Important numbers:- 3, 5, 6, 10, 13

Important colours:- White, yellow, Green, Black, blue, Red

Government Should Focus More On Reducing Road Accidents To Save Lives

The number of accidents that have been reported in two days claiming the lives of more than twenty people is highly alarming. Therefore, this calls for the attention of Government to fully step up to reduce accidents by upholding traffic rules and this can only be done if the government will uphold traffic rules by;

First installing CCTV cameras along busy roads and even installing trackers on all public vehicles. The installation of a CC TV camera will help to catch up with those drivers who take advantage of the absence of the traffic officers on road. On the other hand, installation of trackers on vehicles will help the Sacco or the school to identify the movement and the speed at which the driver is driving a vehicle. For the case of a school bus the tracker will help the school head teachers, principals and Vice chancellors to tell the movement and the speed at which vehicle is being driven. This will help to control and reduce cases of accidents and reckless driving. The Traffic officers are also human beings there is a time they get tired but with the use of CCTV camera and Trackers on vehi-

cles it will help to capture what they didn't.

Secondly, give a directive to the traffic officers to be doing frequent and thorough inspection of vehicles which are on poor conditions. The number of vehicles which are on poor conditions is competitive in the transport sector as people buy old vehicles and Start ferrying people with without knowing that someone's life is being endangered. If such rule can be implemented, it will help to maintain steady and continuous flow of vehicles on roads since the vehicle cannot break down.

Thirdly Sign an agreement with all Public vehicle Saccos in that, if the accident is caused and there is a proof that the driver was driving recklessly, the Sacco must pay. This will help reduce reckless driving by drivers due to the penalties. In other way, Road safety stations to be established whereby, each and every public vehicle must have a contact number so that once the passengers notice the essence of reckless driving they contact the faculty immediately and the driver to be arrested and the Sacco to be held accountable by

questioning.

Fourth, increase the use of alcohol-blow machines. Alco-blow machines are used to detect if the driver is drunk. Majorly, most drivers are drug addicts the solution to this is to strengthen the use of alcohol-blow machines and provide enough education to the traffic officers on how the machine is used.

Fifth, is the use of safety belts. Most passengers neglect to put on safety belts but we call upon the help of traffic officers to fully act upon this issue. There work is to ensure traffic rules are fully followed. But, before the vehicle takes off It's the mandate of the driver and conductor to ensure that all passengers put on safety belts. Now days traffic officers have put more concentration on roads which are busy like the highways or urban sections where it's densely populated ignoring the ones which are in sparsely populated areas. Therefore, driver takes advantage in these areas and accidents are likely to be caused here. The government must disperse Traffic officers to in all sections of the roads to curb accidents.

Sixth is to instruct engineers

to create permanent bumps on road sections prone to accidents. The building of bumps and a road sign indicating "Bump ahead" is a Normal road sign that's understood by many. Therefore, the ministry of Transport must take charge to ensure there are enough Bumps and road signs to prevent further loss of lives.

In addition, School drivers must be careful and be considerate. It's so unfortunate that school Buses also engage on Road accident. With recent evidence, Kenyatta University Bus involved in a tragic road accident which claimed 11 lives instantly. Shall the government call off Schools from organizing trips? But then students' are there to learn and interact with others.

Furthermore, Traffic officers must ensure that the drivers both public and private vehicle produces his driving license. This will help to certain that, the driver has gone through the system and he has mastered the traffic rules. The credited certificate must be from a recognized institution by NTSA.

Last but not least, the government should ensure that all roads

have security lights to enable the traffic officers to clearly see and read the number plate of vehicles passing or even identify

Finally, Overloading of passengers. The greedy nature of some human beings often leads to difficult situation. The vehicle is made to withstand the weight of passengers covered by the number of seats inside the vehicle. But, it's very unfortunate that excess passengers are ferried while standing. This eventually causes the vehicles brakes to be lose and even develop other mechanical challenges causing accidents. Therefore, drivers should avoid such incidents.

The government and the locals must should step up to reduce cases of road accidents by upholding traffic rules and even generate more which are tight to safeguard the lives of citizens.

Obedi Omenda, Mary Oseko and Mordesta Akinyi Communication and media students' Rongo university.

BUSINESS

Education Ministry Outlines Action Plan To Tackle Public School Congestion In Nairobi County

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

The Senate Committee on Education, chaired by Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu, yesterday met with Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu to address severe congestion in Nairobi County schools.

Machogu outlined the government's commitment to improving infrastructure: "The Ministry's focus is on ensuring that all schools have adequate infrastructure to accommodate students. Funding for infrastructure comes from various sources, including government capitation, parental contributions, and the Infrastructure Fund disbursed by the Ministry."

Senator Tabitha pressed for specific actions regarding Nairobi County, particularly Mwiki Primary School: "Kindly provide a specific response to the congestion issue in Nairobi County, especially Mwiki Primary

School."

The CS acknowledged the problem's severity, noting that Nairobi County's rapid population growth and limited public school options contribute to the crisis. Currently, only 31% of Nairobi County schools are public, compared to 69 per cent private.

"The Ministry plans to construct 3,500 additional classrooms over three years," Machogu explained. "To kickstart this initiative, Ksh. 1 billion has been allocated to Nairobi County for the construction of 1,000 classrooms in the current financial year, with each constituency receiving Ksh. 58,823,529."

The CS emphasized that the Ministry will assess school conditions and enrolment figures to ensure resources are distributed equitably nationwide, addressing infrastructure needs where they are most acute.



The Senate Committee during yesterday's session

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African Non State Actors Urge A Recall Of The Unjust And Unorthodox Decision Of Locating The Santiago Network On Loss & Damage In Geneva



By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes

Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), its allies and partners, representing the active agency of Non State Actors from across Africa are disturbed by the decision of the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) which held its first meeting from 18 to 20 March 2024, in Geneva and selected Geneva, Switzerland, as the host of the secretariat of the SNLD.

According to them, Such a decision is an epitome of global injustice and the power wielding tactics of the global north to control all the decision making processes for responding to climate change globally.

The Advisory Board meeting in Switzerland, and whose main agenda was to consider the technical report by the UNOPS-UNDRR on the cost-effectiveness, including a cost-

benefit analysis of various locations around the world as options for the location of the head office of the Secretariat from a pool of potential locations tactfully veered off from the task and conveniently avoided the recommendations of UNOPS-UNDRR report.

In their assessment process, UNOPS-UNDRR strongly recommended Nairobi as the optimal location to host the Network based on their thorough analysis using scientifically-proven methodologies from a shortlist of various other locations such as Addis Ababa, Bonn and Geneva. They claim the analysis from UNOPS-UNDRR to the Advisory Board was blatantly and contemptuously ignored and the Board selected Geneva, which was ranked third in the analysis. The board in its analysis turned a blind eye on what the network is meant to deliver, further concentrating institutions of climate governance, particularly on loss and damage in the North.

This decision by the Board demonstrates the sustained conspiracy by developed countries to keep climate response measures remote to African and other developing nations who ought to be at the centre of the ca-

capacity strengthening support of the SNLD.

The Non State Actors are Aggrieved that the hosting right for a Platform which embodies the struggles of the Communities at the frontline of climate crisis, and whose location should symbolise the very Palpable rationale of tackling Loss and Damage has once again been unjustly snatched from a deserving developing country through a clandestinely nefarious process of manipulation, carrot-dangling and intimidation.

In pursuit of justice, greater transparency and accountability to the developing nations, they call for Overwhelming condemnation, in the strongest possible manner, the apparent subversion Of the laid-down procedures by the Advisory Board, and call upon appointing authorities especially those from Africa and other developing countries, to investigate the possibility Of collusion, carrot-dangling and manipulation by industrialised countries.

In order to regain the lost glory, the Advisory Board should, with immediate effect, reverse their ill-intentioned decision and adopt the recommendations from UNOPSUNDRR by unanimously picking Nairobi as



African Non state Actors during the press conference in Nairobi.

the host of the SNLD

In addition, they continued to urge the advisory Board to foster the principles of climate justice, CB-DRC, human rights including children rights, and gender equality, in addressing Loss and Damage and further demonstrate Goodfaith by swiftly putting together Structures that will ensure countries and communities facing losses and damages are reached soonest possible, and have requisite local governance structures for response.

The mandate of the Santiago network is to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant Organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimize and addressing Loss and Damage at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mwea MP Is Keen On Education

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Education is enshrined in Kenya's Constitution as a basic right and the Supreme Law stipulates: (in Article 53) (1) (b) that every child has a right to free and compulsory basic education and Article 55 (a) the State shall take measures, including affirmative action programs, to ensure that the youth access relevant education and training. To give effect to the Constitution, the Basic Education Act (No 14 of 2013) was passed into law to regulate the provision of basic education and adult basic education in the country. The Children's Act also acknowledges and protects every child's right to education. Other education laws guarantee the implementation of the right to education. In addition, Kenya adopted various general and specific policies on ed-

ucation.

Resonating on this and executing her Constitutional mandate, The Member of Parliament for Mwea Mary Maingi is spearheading great strides in empowering the children of the Mwea constituency to pursue their dreams by providing bursaries to students in local schools, as well as those from Mwea Constituency who study in schools outside the constituency.

"On Wednesday, I successfully disbursed bursaries to students at Kiandegwa, Iria Itune, Ciagini, S.A Gategi, Ng'ang'a, and Kirwarwa Secondary Schools.

I'm confident that visiting schools and engaging with the students to inspire them will yield remarkable results, and I am committed to continuing these efforts," Maingi noted. Her word to the beneficiaries is: "I'm urging the beneficiaries to write their destiny as the future belongs to those that prepare for it today!"



Mwea MP Mary Maingi underscores the value of education through equitable disbursement of bursary.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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Sports >> *Spanish prosecutors are seeking two-and-a-half years jail for disgraced ex-football chief Luis Rubiales who is facing trial for kissing Spain midfielder Jenni Hermoso on the lips against her will, court documents showed Wednesday.

Prosecutors Want Rubiales Jailed For For World Cup Kiss



(FILES) Spain's defender #20 Rocio Galvez is congratulated by President of the Royal Spanish Football Federation Luis Rubiales (R) next to Spain's Jennifer Hermoso after winning the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup final football match between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney on August 20, 2023. Spain prosecutors want Rubiales jailed for 2.5 years for World Cup kiss, AFP reports on March 27, 2024. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP)..

Spanish prosecutors are seeking two-and-a-half years jail for disgraced ex-football chief Luis Rubiales who is facing trial for kissing Spain midfielder Jenni Hermoso on the lips against her will, court documents showed Wednesday.

Prosecutors also want Rubiales, who has been charged with sexual assault and coercion, to pay at least 50,000 euros (\$54,000) in compensation to Hermoso, they wrote in a document sent to Spain's Audiencia Nacional court, a copy of which was seen by AFP.

During the incident, which took place on August 20 after Spain beat England to win the Women's World Cup final in Australia, Rubiales held Hermoso's

head in both hands and forcibly kissed her on the lips.

The kiss took place live in front of the world's cameras, provoking widespread outrage and prompting his suspension by world football governing body FIFA.

At the time, Rubiales brushed it off as "a consensual" peck on the lips, but Hermoso, 33, said it was not.

Under Spanish law, a non-consensual kiss can be classed as sexual assault -- a criminal category that groups all types of sexual violence.

Rubiales "grabbed the player's head with both hands, and surprisingly and without consent or the player's acceptance, he kissed her on the lips," they

wrote.

After realising the kiss could have "personal and professional consequences" with his suspension by FIFA on August 26, Rubiales and his entourage began to exert "constant pressure" on Hermoso so that she "publicly justify" the kiss as consensual.

The pressure caused her "anxiety and intense stress" for several months, they wrote.

Prosecutors requested that the 46-year-old face a year behind bars for the kiss, and 18 months jail for the charge of coercion.

Three of his former associates are also being tried for putting pressure on Hermoso: former women's coach Jorge Vilda, men's team director Albert Luque and RFEF marketing boss

Ruben Rivera.

In terms of compensation, prosecutors want Rubiales to pay Hermoso 50,000 euros for the kiss and have said that he and the three other defendants jointly pay her 50,000 euros for the coercion charge.

It was not immediately clear whether the amount would be evenly split.

Hermoso filed a lawsuit against Rubiales in September, telling the judge she had come under pressure to defend him both on the flight back from Australia and on a subsequent team holiday to Ibiza in the Balearic Islands.

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Liverpool 'Not The Right Option' For Alonso, Says Matthaeus



(FILES) Bayer Leverkusen's Spanish coach Xabi Alonso reacts from the sidelines after the 3-1 goal during the UEFA Europa League Group H football match between Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Qarabag FK in Leverkusen, western Germany on October 26, 2023. In the space of a year on the banks of the Rhine, the Spaniard Xabi Alonso earned his coaching stripes in Leverkusen with a style of play based on a certain freedom granted to his players. To celebrate his 42nd birthday on November 25, 2023, Xabi Alonso would like to get another little dose of victory on the pitch at Werder Bremen's Weserstadion. (Photo by INA FASSBENDER / AFP)

Ballon d'Or winner Lothar Matthaeus said Wednesday a move to Liverpool in the summer was "not the right option" for in-demand Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso.

Alonso has been linked with moves to Liverpool, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, clubs where he all spent time as a player, having so far done a stunning job at runaway Bundesliga leaders Leverkusen.

Alonso has the unbeaten side 10 points clear of Bayern Munich and on track for a first-ever German title with eight games remaining this season.

In an interview with AFP and other media on Wednesday, Mat-

thaeus said following outgoing manager Jurgen Klopp would be difficult for any coach and that the in-demand Alonso should stay with Leverkusen.

"Liverpool is not the right option for Xabi Alonso after this season. He has better options."

Matthaeus spent the majority of his career at Bayern and said he would welcome Alonso as the replacement for outgoing coach Thomas Tuchel in the summer but admitted in Munich "(Alonso) would have to build a new team for the future, with new players".

Leverkusen have won 34 and drawn four of 38 games this season. With the club in the final four of the German Cup and the quar-

ter-finals of the Europa League, Alonso has Leverkusen on course for a treble.

"Why move to Liverpool? Why should he leave this beautiful team which makes us happy with their beautiful football, like Barcelona 12 years ago?"

Klopp shocked the football world in January by announcing he would leave Liverpool at the end of the season after nine years at the Reds, citing exhaustion.

Matthaeus said Klopp's success at Liverpool made him a hard act to follow.

"To coach at Liverpool after Jurgen Klopp is not easy because Jurgen is a hero, he's fantastic. What he was doing is great and

what could you do that was much better?"

The 1990 World Cup winning captain praised current Germany manager Julian Nagelsmann and said the side was "on the right path" after returning to form with wins over France and the Netherlands in the last week.

However, Matthaeus did add: "In Germany, our dream and wish was that Jurgen Klopp would be the next national coach."

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Triggered Appointment With Destiny

By: Lucy Macharia
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Worth Noting:

• We could wake up at dawn go in other farms early to grab the first opportunities. I vividly recall how she could ensure am well placed in the tea plantation lines to keep me moving in a high speed and as well have many kilograms at the end of the day.

• She ensured am not left behind so as not to be fired by the farm managers and to secure the job chance for the next day. the tasks were so hard, so unbearable but deadly tiresome and poorly paid but had to do them more since there was no other best part of life.

Life got at its best, growing up in a middle class family not under privilege and not so advantaged if so to say. My parents had no permanent jobs though they went to every extends to raise us in their best way possible.

Unfortunately, even I was a year old, my father was involved in an accident which claimed off his life and mama as we used to call her had to take up all the responsibilities. Her role of parenting seemed to be the best since she became the sole equilibrium in all dimensions of our life. As she had few technical skills on how to bake and do tailoring, she ensured her girls got the skills with a notion of they will be applicable sometimes in future.

Being born from Murang'a county where tea and coffee are the main cash crops, they created a good environment of work and those with no jobs got a place to work as well. Mama taught us on how to work on both in the call of seeking a living. Though we had no big acre of land, the little we had enabled us in the known how if how it's carried out.

In our village, many people could work on them to cater for their needs and so the skills were of great importance. Since catering everything for us was a big hard deal for mama, she introduced us in few workings to make us earn a better living together.

We could wake up at dawn go in other farms early to grab the first opportunities. I vividly recall how she could ensure am well placed in the tea plantation lines to keep me moving in a high speed and as well have many kilograms at the end of the day. She ensured am not left behind so as not to be fired by the farm managers and to secure the job chance for the next day. the tasks were so hard, so unbearable but deadly tiresome and poorly paid but had to do them more since there was no other best part of life.

I could at least in a day manage to have 20-22 kilograms and since I was in my tender age that was a very good part of it. Each kilogram I was paid 10 sh and at least in a day I could manage to have at least 200 Ksh. That was kind of enough in



Lucy Macharia in the tea plantation scheme. . .

we had.

Many are a times there could be rains in the morning, sleep and the warmth of the blankets could sooth you demanding more of your company but there was no ground at all for extending sleep. Mama could come in our bedroom only carry and take out our blankets and in that coldness could not afford to sleep anymore. The pain that emerged wearing heavy clothes understand-

wet and could maintain that the rest of the day was one of the worst experiences we had.

Having no privilege of being in academy school, I pursued my primary education in a newbie village public school and got an opportunity of joining a better secondary school on the same. The donkey work at home with no extension of rest, gave me enough morale of working smart in school to even at least have

seconds' education, everyday was a day of facing daily chores alongside waiting for the placement in Rongo University to pursue bachelors in mass media and communication.

It was a night mare to believe it but that was one thing that encouraged me with pursuing my goals. Currently in forth year almost widing it up and the much involvements in school works sheds more light on the Future ahead.