



**Meru Teaching And Referral Hospital Receives Drug Donation Worth Sh12 Million**

Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital (MeTRH) has received a consignment of drugs worth Sh12 million from Kamashinani in partnership with the EK foundation, which is a major health boost to the county residents.

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**News>> Thousands Benefit From Kirinyaga Central Constituency's KSh59.2M Bursary Kitty**

P. 8. Kirinyaga Central National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) has disbursed Sh59.2 million to cater for school fees



**News>> Meet Nyeri's Dancing Road Safety Ambassador**

P. 12. About 500 metres before you enter Nyeri town, at the Temple Road junction, is where you find Boaz Njogu, a dancing sensation who has captured the attention of motorists on the busy Karatina-Nyeri highway.

# Gachagua Emphasizes On Need For Mt Kenya Unity

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has emphasised the need for Mt Kenya region to remain united for increased development of the region under the Ruto Administration. Speaking on Saturday at ACK Good Samaritan Nyangwa Church, Mbeere South Constituency, Embu County where he graced a fundraiser for the completion of the church, the DP said the region's strength is its unity.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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# Do Not Hide Your Disabled Children, Pastor Dorcas Tells Parents

By: OSDP



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's spouse Pastor Dorcas interacting with some of the children living with disabilities in Kilifi County.

### Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas told those living with disabilities that there is no limitation to their ability to conquer the world in various fields.
- “When you see these kids, love them, help them, take them to school. Some of them are very clever and we must unlock this potential. And to the kids, you have no limitation, you are the best and I am happy to be your mother,” she added.

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has urged parents of children living with different disabilities not to hide them but instead expose them to education for their growth.

Speaking at Kizurini Comprehensive School in Kaloleni Subcounty of Kilifi County, Pastor Dorcas called on the parents to show love to their children who have been born with disabilities instead of hiding them in their houses.

She said such children are denied opportunities to showcase their skills, abilities and knowledge when they are locked in the houses.

“A child is a gift from God. I wish to thank parents who have brought their children to this school and parents who did not shy from the gifts they were given

by God. These are wonderful people,” she said.

Pastor Dorcas told those living with disabilities that there is no limitation to their ability to conquer the world in various fields.

“When you see these kids, love them, help them, take them to school. Some of them are very clever and we must unlock this potential. And to the kids, you have no limitation, you are the best and I am happy to be your mother,” she added.

She made donations of foodstuffs, white canes, tricycles and personal effects for their use.

Among those who attended the event are the members of the Kenya’s Special Olympics team that Pastor Dorcas is a patron to, a team of members living with

intellectual disabilities. The team that is preparing for the 2025 winter Olympics in 2025 in Italy. The team won 25 medals during the Berlin Olympics last year where Pastor Dorcas accompanied them as their patron and cheerleader.

Many of those who won during the games have said they were able to buy lands and build among other investments.

The Coach of the team from Kilifi Nicholas Kai said the team is always grateful to Pastor Dorcas for her intervention and support during the Olympics urging parents to embrace them with love and care.

Kaloleni DCC Mugo Gachiri also lauded the efforts of Pastor Dorcas in dignifying the lives of the vulnerable populations in the country.

This is one of the four pillars under the



office of the Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas. She has been on a week-long working tour of Kilifi County in her programs targeting the boychild, widows, PWDs among others.

She organized a 2-day free medical camp targeting the community in Mbudzi area, Jaribuni ward in the interior part of Kilifi County.

Last Thursday, she met Governor Gedion Mung’aro who pledged to support her programs in the county.

The First Lady of Kilifi County Susan Mung’aro who accompanied Pastor Dorcas in all her engagements in the county of Kilifi pledged her support in the county to dignify the lives of the vulnerable populations.

Editor's Desk

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The National Association of Christian Chaplains (NACC) is calling for collaboration between religious organizations and the government in the cultivation of ethical values in society. NACC Secretary Rev. John Gatu said they are cognizant of many vices that have negatively impacted the growth of the society such as greed, corruption, violence, and the general decay of individual and societal morals. “The issue of morality has sometimes not been taken seriously in terms of mainstreaming it as part of the school curriculum. Partnership between the church, government, and institutions should come up with structures that can inculcate morals,” said Rev. Gatu. The chaplains converged in Mombasa for the 14th Annual National Chaplaincy Conference under the theme: ‘The role of spirituality in building a healthy society’. Most of the chaplains are serving in institutions of learning. Gatu said Chaplains play a pivotal role in the education sector, especially in the cultivation of values but are perturbed with the current trend of decadence.



The Principal Secretary, the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Prof. Edward Kisiang’ani has made an impassioned appeal for increased budgetary allocations by Parliament to accelerate and drive government communications and digital transformation agenda. Kisiang’ani said injection of more funding will enable the government’s crucial agencies to facilitate the achievement of digitization and digitalization as well as aligning communication of government achievements to the masses. The PS decried the huge budget deficit of Sh8 billion facing the key state department which he said is delaying the much-needed digital footprint to ease delivery and access of government services as well as linking underserved communities to digital products and services. Speaking in Naivasha during an engagement session with National Assembly Committee on ICT, the PS appealed to the committee members to re-engineer and overhaul budgetary allocation to the Ministry to hasten the deployment, adoption, and migration to digital technology. In addition, Prof Kisiang’ani noted that the state department is at the nerve centre of the pathway to the achievement of the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda and therefore should be funded adequately to achieve its targets on time.



Shree Hindu Sanatan Dharma Mandir - Thika through the Thika District Business Association, has cleared school fees for 14 needy students across Kiambu County to ensure uninterrupted education and bright future for these students. Present were Rajeshkumar - Priest, Dr. Ajay Patel (Chairman), Kalpesh Patel (Asst. Treasurer), Alkane Patel (Secretary) and Amit (Member). The Thika association was represented by Alfred Wanyoike (chairman), Daniel Mwangi (Board member) and James Ng’ang’a (Logistics & Communication).



Busia Governor Paul Otuoma has urged the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeHNA) to upgrade roads in the county to curb accidents that frequently occur as a result of the dilapidated state of roads that were constructed in the 1970s. Speaking at Mundika after visiting the Friday accident scene which led to the loss of two lives, Otuoma noted that the structure of the road can no longer accommodate a huge number of trucks that ply the road daily because Busia and Malaba One-Stop-Border-Points are the gateway to East and Central Africa. “I want to pass my condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones as a result of this fatal accident. I also wish a quick recovery to those hospitalized in various health facilities,” Otuoma noted. “This should act as a wake-up call to KeHNA to upgrade the state of Busia-Kisumu and Malaba-Eldoret Highways as they bear the burden of heavy trucks transiting goods from Kenya to neighboring countries,” the governor added. Otuoma however noted that as a county they will sensitize residents on road safety measures in case such accidents involve fuel tankers so they don’t move close to the scene but rather give opportunity for specialized groups and police to do their work.



The World Bank has encouraged farmers in Africa to take up insect farming to end the continued food security crisis and malnutrition wreaking havoc on the continent. Chief Agricultural Economist for Africa Dr. Dorte Verner said only 850 farmers in 16 countries in the continent rear insects, a huge concern given the severity of the food crisis in the region. Kenya has only 17 such farmers. According to World Bank estimates, insect farming will be a multi-billion-dollar market estimated at around US \$8 billion by 2030. Besides, they provide food, animal feed, create jobs, diversify livelihoods, and improve nutrition. Addressing stakeholders during an Insect for Green Economy conference at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) yesterday, Dr. Dorte termed the venture lucrative due to the huge demand for insect blended food saying farmers record total returns in initial capital invested in only 127 days. She cited black soldier fly, mealworm, crickets, and desert locusts as some of the insects whose farming has gained momentum in the region.

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# State Asks Investors To Prioritize Setting Up Local Mineral Value-Addition Centers

By: Wagemu Mwangi  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

The PS was speaking in Tharaka Nithi County during a meeting with Governor Muthomi Njuki and other county leaders to explore ways of enhancing cooperation between the two levels of government to promote the full exploitation of minerals in the region.

“We are asking investors to apply for the mineral rights. The priority will be on investors who have expressed interest and capability to set up value addition centers, refineries, and processing plants that will not only increase the value for our minerals but also create jobs for communities and youth in this sector,” he said.



Principal Secretary State Department for Mining Elijah Mwangi addressing the meeting.

The government will give priority to mining investments committed to establishing value-addition and mineral-processing centres in Kenya as part of incentivizing investors to support the State’s agenda for job creation in the mining sector.

The Principal Secretary State Department for Mining Elijah Mwangi said Kenya’s vast mineral endowments have the potential to effectively address the unemployment challenges facing the country through the establishment of a local mineral processing plant; a move that would provide employment opportunities for Kenyan youths.

While calling for investors to apply for licenses to exploit Kenya’s mineral resources, the PS said that the policy on mineral processing and value addition encouraged the setting up of plants and refineries locally to accelerate mineral value addition processes.

That would not only be a catalyst for

the creation of jobs but would also significantly increase the value of Kenya’s minerals in the regional and international markets, Mwangi noted.

The PS was speaking in Tharaka Nithi County during a meeting with Governor Muthomi Njuki and other county leaders to explore ways of enhancing cooperation between the two levels of government to promote the full exploitation of minerals in the region.

“We are asking investors to apply for the mineral rights. The priority will be on investors who have expressed interest and capability to set up value addition centers, refineries, and processing plants that will not only increase the value for our minerals but also create jobs for communities and youth in this sector,” he said.

The investment’s call comes at a time when the country is investing heavily in value addition in agricultural, manufacturing, livestock, and extractive sectors to promote the growth of lo-

cal industries. This strategy is being viewed as the critical cog that will place Kenya on the trajectory of an industrialized nation.

The PS further disclosed that all mineral applications would be processed by April as he called upon all miners and dealers to get the required licenses to avoid being declared non-compliant.

Already, the department has received over 1,200 applications for various mineral rights which would be processed by April. Additionally, 260 mineral dealing applications are being processed.

A major operation would be launched after April to weed out all illegal miners and close down any mining operation that would not comply with the law. Already, a Mineral Police Unit has been established to supplement the enforcement operations in the mining sector.

During the meeting, the State De-

partment and the county government entered into a collaborative framework that would culminate in the establishment of the first state-of-the-art mineral laboratory in the region. This is in fulfillment of the Department’s commitment to decentralizing critical lab services to increase efficiency and promote profitability in the entire mineral value chain.

This collaboration will see Tharaka Nithi County provide land and buildings while the Department will supply specialized equipment and experts to run the facility.

Governor Muthomi Njuki hailed the working partnership stating that it heralded a new dawn for thousands of artisanal miners and mining operations in the region.

He called upon investors to set up value addition plants in the region as he pledged to create a conducive environment that will allow the sector to thrive.

“This county is endowed with a very facilitative environment for mining investments to thrive. We have adequate water, power, road infrastructure, and a vibrant workforce that will be an asset to any investor who puts up a value addition centre,” he said.

He pointed out that the county was home to both strategic and construction minerals including copper, iron ore, and lime; resources that can transform the lives of residents of the region.

He also called upon the government to work closely with counties to exploit the mineral resources as part of bolstering inter-governmental collaboration to address the many challenges facing the communities in mining areas.

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# Thousands Benefit From Kirinyaga Central Constituency's KSh59.2M Bursary Kitty

By: Mutai Kipngetch  
@themkenyetimes

Kirinyaga Central National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) has disbursed Sh59.2 million to cater for school fees for all successful applicants this financial year.

This is the highest allocation to education ever in the constituency since the inception of NG-CDF where over 15,000 students in various stages and institutions will receive a share of the funds.

While launching the disbursement, Kirinyaga Central Member of Parliament Gachoki Gitari said he is committed to supporting education by all means possible.

He said that all students in day school will each get Sh5,000 while those in boarding schools will receive Sh6,000. Those boarding outside the county and in institutions of higher learning will get Sh10,000.

Gitari urged Principals of schools to dedicate their time to students and

add value to the education system by providing information toward the creation of plans and policies aimed at improving education.

"My commitment to supporting education will continue, not only in bursary allocation but also in ensuring that the infrastructure is of the required standard," Gitari said.

"However, I warn parents trying to compromise the application process by duplicating forms and interchanging names that they will not benefit from the bursary", the MP cautioned.

Lucy Mbai, Director Education, Kirinyaga Central sub-county, acknowledged the top performance of Kirinyaga Central sub-county in academics compared to the other four sub-counties and lauded the area MP's passion for education.

She called upon parents to respond when called to attend school functions as it forms part of vital engagements with education stakeholders. She also appreciated principals who have been kind enough to retain students who have fee challenges in school until the bursary is disbursed.

Ms. Mbai appreciated assistant chiefs who were instrumental in achieving 100 percent transition government policy. She requested for construction of more classrooms based on demand as some schools accommodate up to 70 students against the approved standard of 45 in a classroom.

Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Kirinyaga Central, Joseph Mureithi, said identification and nurturing of talents should be considered to take advantage of skills that children have. He attributed the inability to raise fees to the use of alcohol, assuring that the security officers are doing all possible to eradicate alcoholism and drug abuse in the county.

He encouraged students to join technical and vocational colleges to acquire employable skills and urged those wishing to take advantage of labour migration to get skills from such institutions which have now been established in all sub-counties.

"The government is investing resources in technical institutions; I expect many of your children to join



Kirinyaga Central MP Gachoki Gitari with other leaders and stakeholders when he announced how thousands of local students will benefit from the bursary kitty.

them to acquire technical skills and take advantage of jobs in foreign countries currently being sought by the government," DCC Mureithi said. Kirinyaga Central Technical and Vocational College Principal Charity Mugo who attended the function disclosed that applications are ongoing and interested applicants can access application via Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS), noting that successful applicants can get financial aid from HELB among other schol-

arships. Joseph Maina and Joseph Wanjiru, parents of beneficiaries of the bursary, thanked the CDF board saying their children can return to school after the ongoing mid-term holiday without school fees worries.

They acknowledged the role of the NG-CDF in the development of schools, especially the construction of laboratories.

# Communications Committee Engages The State Department Of ICT And Digital Economy

By: PSCU

The National Assembly's Communication, Information and Innovation Committee, led by John Kiarie over the weekend convened a stakeholders' workshop with the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy.

During the meeting the Principal Secretary of the State Department of ICT and Digital Economy (SDICT), Eng. John Tanui disclosed key achievements, project status and challenges in the sector.

Eng. Tonui delivered an overview of the budget implementation for the 2023/2024 Financial Year, emphasizing progress reports and key milestones achieved in the first six months.

He highlighted the sector's milestones among them the successful onboarding of clients onto the Konza Data Center, the empowerment of youth through digital skills training, and the digitization of citizen-facing services.



Dagoretti South MP and CII committee chairman John Kiarie expressing a point during the Saturday meeting

Additionally, the establishment of a green data center and the successful bid to host prestigious conferences which showcased Kenya's commitment to digital advancement.

However, challenges were not overlooked as Legislators raised concerns about the onboarding of government institutions onto E-citizen, the sustainability of Wi-Fi connectivity in

hotspots, and the need for integration of digital skills training into the education curriculum. Questions were also posed regarding the progress of the Konza Digital Hubs initiative and milestones towards the target of creating 1 million jobs by 2027.

In response, the PS acknowledged the challenges, particularly with Wi-Fi connectivity in pilot spots in the

country and outlined plans to address them through solar-based solutions and the development of commercialization frameworks.

The integration of AI technologies and the importance of digital hubs in bridging connectivity gaps were also deliberated.

MP Mayaka underscored the untapped potential of AI in various

sectors, urging Kenya to follow the example of countries like Israel in harnessing AI for agricultural development.

The committee chairman who is also the MP for Dagoretti South expressed optimism about funding allocations and emphasized the need to set targets for the upcoming Financial Year 2024.

He stressed the importance of centralizing skills to avoid duplication of efforts and encouraged the Ministry to explore innovative ways to commercialize services.

Members urged the Ministry to prioritize initiatives like the Digital Superhighway to empower the youth with digital skills.

However, the committee applauded the State Department's progress and pledged support in enacting legislation and policy frameworks to drive the sector forward.

It was concluded that as Kenya strides towards digital transformation, collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning will be essential in unlocking the nation's full potential in the digital era.

# Gachagua Emphasizes On Need For Mt Kenya Unity

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing faithful at ACK Good Samaritan Nyangwa Church in Embu County.

## Worth Noting:

- “From 2002 when we have been united we have benefitted from the Government because of our unity. We must not be divided because that will be our downfall,” said Mr Gachagua.
- Embu leaders expressed support for President William Ruto the Deputy President, saying they had shown strong interest in the implementation of key projects in the County.
- “We shall support you because you have fully supported the people of Embu. You have always stood with us,” said Governor Cecily Mbarire.
- Mbeere North MP Geoffrey Ruku said the Deputy President should be respected for his commitment in fighting for the best interests of the region.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has emphasised the need for Mt Kenya region to remain united for increased development of the region under the Ruto Administration.

Speaking on Saturday at ACK Good Samaritan Nyangwa Church, Mbeere South Constituency, Embu County where he graced a fundraiser for the completion of the church, the DP said the region’s strength is its unity.

“Our unity is our strength. Never again will we be divided along the subregions because we suffered for a long time when that happened,” Mr Gachagua asserted.

The Deputy President said when the region has spoken in one voice, it has realised development across the counties.

“From 2002 when we have been united we have benefitted from the Government because of our unity. We must not be divided because that will be our downfall,” said Mr Gachagua.

Embu leaders expressed support for President William Ruto the Deputy President, saying they had shown strong interest in the implementation of key projects in the County.

“We shall support you because you

have fully supported the people of Embu. You have always stood with us,” said Governor Cecily Mbarire.

Mbeere North MP Geoffrey Ruku said the Deputy President should be respected for his commitment in fighting for the best interests of the region.

“The Deputy President is our leader and must be respected for bringing together the region,” the MP said.

At the same time, the Deputy President said the Government is implementing a raft of programmes to solve water shortages in Embu County to spur agricultural production.

Mr Gachagua said KSh2.1 billion has been allocated for the various water projects in Mbeere South and Mbeere North in the County to alleviate the challenges residents are facing.

“President William Ruto’s government will solve the water problems in Mbeere because this administration is committed to fulfilling the pledges made to the people,” he said during the event presided over by ACK Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit.

Already KSh330 million has already been channelled for the ongoing water projects in the area with

more funds on the way, the DP revealed.

“We will invest over Sh2.1 billion to complete all the projects including Kamburu, Kiambere and Masinga projects which will be completed in under three years,” he noted.

He said the tender for the Kamburu water project had already been floated and soon construction will commence.

“The President has tasked me with ensuring faster completion of these projects. I will not rest until they are completed,” the DP said.

The DP, who was accompanied by the governor, Senator Alexander Mundigi, host MP Nebart Muriuki, Mr Ruku, and a host of MPs and MCAs, also said the war against illicit brews and drugs in the region will be intensified to wipe them out and save the youths from poisonous drinks.

“We will not allow the merchants of death to sell poison to our people like they freely did the last ten years. This has to stop. We appreciate the efforts by the Governor and the national administration officers who are working together in this fight in Embu,” he said.

During the event, the Deputy Pres-

ident called on the Church to continue pushing for strong and united families for the good of the nation.

He also praised the ACK Mbeere Diocese for initiating a Boda Boda Ministry, saying it would help in reducing the vices associated with the operators.

“This is a Ministry that should be emulated by other churches because it will help in dealing with alcoholism, drug and substance abuse common in the Boda Boda sector,” the DP said.

Governor Mbarire thanked the Government for the allocation of funds for the water programmes in the county, saying it showed commitment to improve the lives of the residents.

“The biggest challenge here is lack of water, but I’m happy the national government has already assigned funds for the projects. We look forward to their completion so our people benefit. We will work together hasten their completion,” the governor said.

# National Assembly Committee Concludes Scrutiny Of Shipping And Mining Regulations

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly Delegated Legislation Committee, led by Chairperson Ainabkoi MP Samuel Chepkonga have wrapped up pre-publication scrutiny of several draft regulations proposed by the State Departments falling under the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs.

Speaking during the conclusion of the exercise which was attended by the Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Geoffrey Kaituko and his Mining counterpart,

Elijah Mwangi, the chairman emphasized the importance of ensuring the new rules align with the Constitution and international laws.

“The new proposed regulations must conform to the constitution and international conventions relating to maritime and shipping,” stated Chepkonga during a consultative engagement with PS Kaituko and other officials from the Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs.

The proposed regulations discussed by the MPs included draft regulations such as the Merchant Shipping (Collision Prevention and Distress Signals) Regulations, 2023, and the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Measurement) Regulations, 2023.

Other regulations from the State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs reviewed by the Committee were the Merchant Shipping (Recognized Organizations) Regulations, 2023, Merchant Shipping (Maritime Transport Operators) Regulations, 2023, Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Regulations, 2023, and the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Regulations, 2023.

Later, the committee also scrutinized draft regulations from the mining sector, such as the Mining (Gemstone Identification and Value Addition) (Fees) Regulations, 2023, Mining (Royalty Sharing) Regulations, 2023, and the Mining (Royalty Collection and Management) Regu-



Some of the committee members during the meeting.

lations, 2023.

Additionally, they reviewed the draft Mining (Licences and Permits) (Amendment) Regulations,

2023, Mining (Dealings in Minerals) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, and the Mining (Mine Support Services) Regulations, 2023.

# Controversy Erupts Over Kenya-Haiti Security Deal

By: Cynthia Masibo and Wendy Keziah  
@themkenyatimes

Amid escalating violence and gang warfare in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, a contentious security deal between Kenya and Haiti has sparked widespread controversy. President William Ruto’s decision to sign the agreement, which involves deploying 1,000 Kenyan police officers to the troubled Caribbean nation, has drawn sharp criticism from various quarters.

Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi has emerged as a vocal critic of the deal, denouncing it as “callous, selfish, and disappointing.” In a statement issued yesterday, Wanjigi expressed grave concerns over the implications of Ruto’s decision, alleging a lack of concern for the welfare of both Kenyan citizens and the Haitian populace.

The reciprocal instrument signed between President Ruto and Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry outlines a multinational security support mission aimed at addressing the pervasive violence and instability in Haiti. However, the deployment of Kenyan police officers has ignited debate over the appropriateness and effectiveness of such a measure in quelling the unrest in Port-au-Prince.

The timing of the security deal is particularly sensitive, given the reports of deadly violence and escalating gang conflicts gripping Haiti. With Port-au-Prince reeling under the weight of rampant criminal activity, concerns about the safety and well-being of the deployed officers have also come to the

forefront.

Critics argue that President Ruto’s decision reflects a disregard for the pressing challenges facing Kenya and Haiti alike, raising questions about the priorities of the Kenyan government in allocating resources and addressing domestic concerns.

As the debate intensifies, stakeholders on both sides of the issue are calling for greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of the security agreement. The unfolding situation underscores the complexities inherent in international security partnerships and the need for careful deliberation to ensure the safety and welfare of all involved parties.

In the midst of uncertainty and dissent, the fate of the Kenya-Haiti security deal hangs in the balance, with its ramifications reverberating both domestically and internationally.

Kenya’s decision to deploy police officers to Haiti has significant implications for both nations. Critics argue that Kenya should focus on addressing internal security challenges, including terrorism and crime, rather than extending resources abroad. They fear that the deployment could strain Kenya’s already stretched police force and compromise security at home.

Moreover, concerns have been raised about the safety of Kenyan officers in Haiti, given the volatile nature of the situation in Port-au-Prince. Haiti is grappling with widespread gang violence, political instability, and economic hardship, factors that could endanger the lives of foreign peacekeepers.

Despite these reservations, proponents of the security deal argue that Kenya



Jimi Wanjigi Challenges Ruto to Visit Haiti Before Deploying Troops

has a moral obligation to assist Haiti in restoring peace and stability. They view the deployment as a manifestation of Kenya’s commitment to international peacekeeping efforts and solidarity with nations in crisis.

President Ruto has defended the agreement, emphasizing Kenya’s role as a responsible global citizen and its commitment to upholding peace and security beyond its borders. He has assured the

public that adequate measures will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the deployed officers.

The controversy surrounding the Kenya-Haiti security deal underscores broader debates about the role of African nations in international peacekeeping missions and the allocation of resources in the face of competing domestic and foreign policy priorities. As Kenya navigates the complexities of its

involvement in Haiti, the outcome of this contentious agreement will shape its relationships with other nations and its standing on the global stage.

In the coming weeks, as the deployment of Kenyan police officers to Haiti unfolds, the eyes of the world will be on both nations, watching closely to see how they address the challenges and opportunities presented by this landmark security agreement.

# Ruto's Meeting With Haiti PM Reaffirmed His Commitment To Follow The Law In Deployment Of 1,000 Police Officers



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto .



## Worth Noting:

- As a writer and political analyst, I have been following this story with keen interest. When the President announced that he supported the resolution of United Nations (UN) to rally member states to send security officers to Haiti under the banner of Multi Agency Security Mission, I wrote an article in this column.
- These were my observations. President Ruto's pledge that Kenya will send 1,000 police officers to join UN peace keeping mission in Haiti have continued to elicit mixed reactions.
- Those opposed argues that the President did not have the legal power to make that decision.

The other day President William Ruto hosted the Prime Minister of Haiti Henri Ariel at State House Nairobi.

After the bilateral talks, the two leaders signed an agreement that reaffirmed the commitment of President William to deploy 1,000 Kenya police officers to Haiti. But this decision was not final.

The deployment will only take place once parliament and the Court of Appeal ratifies that agreement. If one of these arms or both reject the agreement, then it means President Ruto will be left no option but to bow down and fully comply.

I have never heard the President saying that he will not follow the law.

Therefore, it is wrong and malicious to allege that he is forcing the decision down the throat of Kenyans.

As a writer and political analyst, I have been following this story with keen interest. When the President announced that he supported the resolution of United Nations (UN) to rally member states to send security officers to Haiti under the banner of Multi Agency Security Mission, I wrote an article in this column.

These were my observations. President Ruto's pledge that Kenya will send 1,000 police officers to join UN peace keeping mission in Haiti have continued to elicit mixed reactions.

Those opposed argues that the President did not have the legal power to make that decision.

I disagree. Having read sections 107,108 and 109 of the National Police Service (NPS), I'm persuaded to believe that the decisions that the President has made on this matter so far were within the law.

I heard the Cabinet Secretary for In-

terior Kithure Kindiki elaborating this matter further.

He stated that the deployment cannot be done without an approval of Parliament. Granted, I'm persuaded to believe President Ruto equally shares his sentiments.

The constitution is the supreme law of the land.

It is wrong to point an accusing at President Ruto.

His pledge that Kenya will send 1,000 had been informed by three sections of NPS. But as of now, the grounds cited by those opposed are weak.

Kenyans can only listen to them if they manage to convince the court that the three sections are unconstitutional and should be removed from NPS Act.

Well, President William Ruto revisited this pledge while on a working visit in the United States of America.

Kenya once again reaped big from the trip.

Dr Ruto met and held talks with the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the world's leading tech and e-mobility firms.

He also met the heads of the independent organizations involved in empowering the lives of the down trodden.

Thereafter, he signed and witnessed the signing of lucrative agreements and deals by members of his delegation and their hosts.

One of the firm agreed to support Kenya become the pioneer in rolling out of the clean energy powered electric buses in Africa. This is in recognition of your pivotal role in rallying Africa behind the agenda of tackling the deadly and negative effects of climate change globally.

The other day you convened the in-

augural Africa Climate Summit. The meeting was a big success.

After 3-day deliberations, the African heads of state and government led the delegates in passing a Nairobi declaration, the key highlights being to speak in one voice on climate matter.

The CEO of e-mobility further noted. We are going to set up an assembling plant in Kenya's capital city of Nairobi.

This will help us to speed this work so that you can meet your timelines for introduction of the buses on Kenyan roads.

Besides, the cost of making these buses will be cheaper.

While noting that he was catapulted to the seat of power by the millions of the hustlers, President Ruto took this opportunity to secure goodies for them.

After the discussions with the top leadership of Mellenium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the US government foreign aid agency agreed to support Kenya with Sh140 billion.

The 'hustlers' will be the biggest beneficiaries. The monies to be managed by the Kenyan firms will boost their micro, small and medium enterprises in a big way.

The farmers also have a cause to smile as Agricultural sector would also receive a huge chunk.

While still in US, President Ruto for the second time since he assumed office got an opportunity to address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

This again was a rare opportunity which would only be given to an African leader who had earned an international recognition because of championing the course of democracy and rule of law back home.

This opportunity would also be given to a leader who was known to be a true pan-Africanist and believing in the concept of building the bridges of partnership and harmony with the community of nations.

In his opening speech, US President Joe Biden, the host, recognized and thanked President Ruto.

He noted that the President of Kenya has agreed to join the United Nations Mission in Haiti. This is a good gesture.

As we know, the people of Haiti are in big trouble. The vicious marauding criminal gangs have forcibly taken over and overrun their country

For the starters, I want to share with them some of the atrocities that were being committed there.

The gangs were raping women and chopping the heads of their fellow citizens. The children were not spared.

The hospitals and schools had been closed and the main roads blocked.

The staff of humanitarian and charitable organizations was being targeted. They were blocked from accessing the camps where hundreds of thousands of Haitians had sought refugee to offer them food and medications.

This is the reason why Haitian leaders, who were on the run and some besieged, had pleaded with UN to intervene.

If you ask historians, this is what they would tell you about Haiti. This was the first country to emancipate itself from the colonial slavery. The people living in this caribbean nation are Africans.

President Ruto remembered this while explaining why Kenya is touched with their pains and agony.

The people of Haiti are human beings just like us. Taking cognizant that Kenya is a member of the community of nations, it is wrong to sit and watch when they are suffering.

Well, I have been reading some of the social media posts. A number of the people would not agree with the position of the president.

To me, this is just politics and it was being peddled by messengers of well known critics of President William Ruto.

Forgive me for calling this politics cheap and raw because I'm going to explain why.

It is worth noting this is not the first time that the government of Kenya is sending security personnel to join the Africa Union or United Nations peace keeping missions.

The history of the previous Kenyan administrations is replete with this.

The previous deployments were approved at a time when Kenya had fallen far short of meeting the UN requirement of the ratio of 1: 450. This means one police officer taking care of 450 citizens.

I have heard the critics of Ruto raising this as another concern.

How come they never raised it during the reigns of the previous governments? So, thier comments reeked more of hypocrisy and insincerity.

I also totally disagree that President Ruto was doing this in order to earn international recognition, mostly from the white people.

The President had already curved a niche of a renowned leader because of his style of leadership at home.

The world leaders particularly liked him because of strongly believing in tenets of democracy, constitution and rule of law.

Besides, he was walking the talk. This is in terms of fulfilling the pledges he made to Kenyans during the campaigns.

Contrary to impression created, Dr Ruto enjoys the support of African leaders because of being candid in pushing the agenda of Pan-Africanism. This has thrust him into the international stage where he has been championing the course of our people.

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

# Meet Nyeri's Dancing Road Safety Ambassador

By: JWangari Mwangi and Wanjiru Ndiritu @themtkenyatimes



Boaz Njogu

## Worth Noting:

- Armed with a piece of carton box, Njogu started his solo road safety campaign six months ago in the middle the Nyeri Central Business District. He would later relocate to the highway upon realizing that he was not attracting enough attention.
- His motivation was the heart wrenching statistics on road carnage.
- "I started this campaign with the hope of changing the situation on our roads. We had gotten to a point where nearly every day, the country would wake up to news of a road accident," he says.
- True to Njogu's assertion, last year, more than 20,000 people are reported to have been involved in road accidents in the country according to statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

About 500 metres before you enter Nyeri town, at the Temple Road junction, is where you find Boaz Njogu, a dancing sensation who has captured the attention of motorists on the busy Karatina-Nyeri highway.

For anyone keen to observe, you will notice that the 23-year-old is not just focused on entertaining road users rather he is on a road safety campaign mission.

Next to Njogu's dancing stage (the sidewalk), your attention is quickly drawn to a wooden stand bearing messages neatly written on a manila paper.

The tidbits, a combination of traffic rules, inspirational phrases and a Bible verse, are dedicated to drivers.

"I want to appreciate drivers for what they do. I also hope to motivate them to stay focused behind the wheel regardless of the situation they may be going through," says Njogu.

Armed with a piece of carton box, Njogu started his solo road safety campaign six months ago in the middle the Nyeri Central Business District. He would later relocate to the highway upon realizing that he was not attracting enough attention.

His motivation was the heart wrenching statistics on road carnage.

"I started this campaign with the hope of changing the situation on our roads. We had gotten to a point where nearly every day, the country would wake up to news of a road accident," he says.

True to Njogu's assertion, last year, more than 20,000 people are reported to have been involved in road accidents in

the country according to statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

Data released by NTSA in February this year showed that losing control of the vehicle was one of the main causes of accidents in 2023 accounting for 929 deaths. Lane indiscipline accounted for 491 deaths while careless overtaking led to 443 deaths during the year under review.

The NTSA report further reveals that 310 deaths occurred due to misjudging road clarity, distance or speed.

"We are still witnessing a lot of accidents because motorists are not adhering to traffic rules. Many of the accidents are caused by speeding, careless driving and careless overtaking. Motorists need someone to remind them of the traffic rules if we want to regain sanity on the roads," he says.

Currently, he has dedicated four hours of his day to this campaign.

His day starts at 4:30 am in the morning when he writes down the messages and creates a music playlist to dance to.

By 6:50 am, Njogu arrives at his duty station armed with his reflector jacket and wooden stand ready to start his campaign.

"I take advantage of the morning traffic between 7-9 am and the evening rush hour from 4-6pm to pass my message to the motorists," says Njogu adding that during his free time, he fends for himself by taking up landscaping and fence trimming jobs.

His absence from the junction is also

not taken kindly as motorists plying the route have gotten accustomed to his presence.

Martin Muriithi, a boda boda operator at the Temple Road stage says, that whereas many may not appreciate what Njogu does, his presence on the road has played a part in restoring some semblance of sanity among motorists especially his colleagues who are notorious for flouting traffic rules.

"It is very rare to find someone that young who is that committed and courageous to take on such a huge task without any form of support. In fact, we normally get concerned when we don't see the young man at his usual spot. As a boda boda rider, I appreciate that he takes his time to remind us about road safety and I would urge the county government to support his campaign," says Muriithi.

But it has not been a bed of roses for Njogu. He says much as he finds fulfillment in his daily routine, his campaign has also come with its own set of challenges.

The greatest one being lack of finances to support his work. On most occasions, he is forced to dig into his pocket to afford stationery but on good days he receives tokens of appreciation from some of the motorists.

"I try my best to write fresh messages everyday so that I don't lose the attention of the readers. To do this, I need a manila paper, masking tape and a marker pen. The estimated cost of one message is Sh150. Since I don't have a

steady job, I have resorted to repeating some messages on several occasions especially when I can't afford the stationery," says Njogu.

Similarly, he has not escaped the wrath of first time motorist and pedestrians alike who have misconstrued his campaign for an attention seeking venture.

Njogu says that he has been yelled at and insulted on several occasions by people who thought he was a mad man.

"One of the biggest misconception that people had when they first saw me on the roadside holding a placard, was that I was under the influence of drugs. Some said I was mentally unstable but with time, some have comeback to apologise and to even support this campaign by giving me money and some donate reflector jackets to support this course," he says.

Njogu believes that aggressive road safety campaigns such as his coupled with support from the relevant government agencies such as NTSA and the Traffic Department of the Kenya Police could help change the situation on the Kenyan roads.

He says that even though he may not have data to prove the effectiveness of his campaign, so far he has positively impacted on Nyeri motorist who have encountered him.

"It is hard for people to forget about road safety and traffic rules when they have a daily reminder. What I do may not impact on all the road users, but I am sure I touch the heart of one or two motorists in a single day," he says.

# KWS Conducts Nanyuki River Clean-Up In Laikipia County

By: Muturi Mwangi  
 @themtkenyatimes

More than 200 volunteers participated in cleaning River Nanyuki in Laikipia County as part of activities to mark World Wildlife Day.

The volunteers who included university students and community-based environment conservation groups joined Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) officers in removing about nine tons of solid waste from the river.

World Wildlife Day is celebrated on March 3 every year to help promote the conservation of wildlife. The culmination of this week's celebration will be today when conservationists and community groups from counties neighbouring Laikipia will converge in Nanyuki Town for a street procession and later hold a daylong exhibition.

KWS Assistant Director in charge of Laikipia County Rose Malenya said river pollution was a major threat in the efforts to conserve water sources noting that they only managed to cover two kilometers in the clean-up

exercise.

"We only worked on two kilometers of the river and removed a huge amount of garbage. Suppose we were to cover the entire river? This shows how serious river pollution is serious in the country," said Malenya.

The 97 km long River Nanyuki is one of the major tributaries of River Ewaso Nyiro, a source of livelihood in semi-arid northern Kenya also supporting tens of wildlife species.

Most of the garbage collected from the river included plastic bottles and other non-biodegradable materials that blocked the free flow of the river.

Malenya said as part of celebrating this year's World Wildlife Day whose theme is "Connecting people and planet-innovation for wildlife conservation", KWS and other stakeholders had organized various activities throughout the week all geared to protecting two major water towers within the mountain region.

"We decided to clean the Nanyuki River since many people depend on it and wildlife downstream too. This is a clear message that the river is dirty. There is a need to conduct periodical clean-up exercises for the welfare of



Kenya Wildlife Service officers and other volunteers who took part in cleaning Nanyuki River yesterday.

the community and wild animals," she pointed out.

She said they have planted more than 4,000 trees in Mt Kenya and Aberdare forest and invited students to visit national parks and other wildlife-protected areas as part of a sensitization campaign on wildlife and environmental conservation.

Participants during the celebrations called for concerted efforts among conservationists, development partners, and government agencies in combating climate change whose adverse effects were taking a toll on livelihoods.

"It's important to conserve the environment and especially the water

sources because water is life. And remember that when you use river upstream, there is someone downstream," said Ms Silvia Chemtai Ruto, Dedan Kimathi University student and one of Nanyuki River clean-up exercise participants.

# Family Bank Wins The Battle Of The Banks Africa Competition

By: John Kariuki  
 @themtkenyatimes

Family Bank has been crowned winners of the 2023 Battle of the Banks Africa for the best-performing young bankers on the continent.

The Bank has also received special awards for the Most Aggressive Bank, Best Risk Managed Bank and Best Team Presentations. Battle of the Banks Africa is a simulated game by ICAP Training Solutions, in collaboration with the global Capital Markets Professional Services firm, Andile, where young bankers across Africa are provided with a unique platform to demonstrate their skills and knowledge through simulations that

imitate real-life situations.

"We are honoured to receive this award because it reflects our commitment towards investing in the personal growth, skills development, our expertise towards tackling challenges and managing risks and knowledge acquisition of our employees, who are the cornerstone of our growth," said Family Bank Chief Financial Officer Stephen Karumbi.

Family Bank submitted two teams in the competition: Risk Masters and The Money Team who successfully completed the 8-week business simulation programme. Rand Merchant Bank Namibia won second place while Tanzania Institute of Bankers and Andile tied for third place.

"Our human resource approach at Family Bank boldly involves investing in the train-

ing of our employees to create an internal talent pipeline, capacity development, foster learning and nurture our future leaders on different facets of management and leadership," he said.

The participants underwent a course training through weekly challenges, webinars and case studies designed to equip them with a comprehensive understanding of how to manage a commercial bank within a competitive and regulated environment.

In 2023, Family Bank was also awarded the Best Internal Customer Experience Bank at the 2023 Institute of Customer Experience (ICX) Service Excellence Awards for having comprehensive initiatives and strategies for improved employee experiences.



**14 POEMS**

# My Mother Is My Heaven

My mother is my heaven,  
My mother is my soul.  
I am happy with my mother,  
My mother is my everything.

If we are sick,  
She likes a moth to flame.  
She is sleepless at night,  
And also she gives love.

I listen to her advice,  
And always follow.  
My mother is my heaven,  
I understand! know.

Shonazarova Parizoda from Uzbekistan.  
She was born in 2005. Presently, She lives in Khorezm region, Khanka district.



# Liars...

They didn't know that I was walking quietly.  
Slanders rained down on my little heart,  
They injured my white wing.

you don't know what happened  
My heart is like a river.  
If I tell you my pains, there will be no paper left,  
I've been without friends a thousand times.

They stabbed me with lies,  
They walked silently like true friends.  
My heart still hurts  
They only make my eyes wet...

Isomiddinova Farahnoz Muslihiddinovna was born on March 28, 2010. She is a 7th grade student of Sariosia District, Surkhandarya Region, School 12.



I wish I could lie down, if I didn't come back,

If I do not live among the unfaithful.  
Sometimes it's hard to discriminate from a lie,  
Spring did not come to life because of you.

They fought over a trifle,

# Traffic Congestions Are Global Issue



Today, people are facing many global problems. There are causes and solutions to such problems. Today, the number of traffic jams is increasing day by day. There are many root causes and solutions to this problem. One of the first major reasons is that many different types of cars are produced by car manufacturing companies. Moreover, today almost every person has two or three cars. This is another reason for traffic congestion. As the number of cars increases, the chances of accidents and traffic jams are high. Also, toxic fumes from many cars have a strong impact on the environment and cause air pollution. Due to the increase in the number of cars, car accidents unexpectedly increase the number of deaths. During traffic jams, waiting for the road to open is a waste of time. The causes of this single global problem lead to multiple events. Another reason is that it is difficult for ambulances or fire engines to reach the destination. As a result of this incident, pedestrian crossings may be closed and pedestrians may not be able to cross

the other road.

But everyone is thinking about how the government reacts to this problem and what measures it is taking. The government can widen roads to prevent these traffic problems. But finding a solution to this problem is not only up to the government.

That is, there are circumstances that depend on people in the solution of this problem. However, the question "How?" is of course of interest to everyone. For example, if people use public transport such as bus, metro, train instead of their car, the number of traffic jams on the roads will decrease. That is, if ten people use one public transport instead of one car each, the number of traffic jams will be reduced. Another way to solve this problem can be walking and it is also beneficial for human health. That is, today most people even go to nearby places in their personal cars. If these actions are taken, they will solve all the problems. As a concluding point, there are obvious and various problems pertaining to vehicles overcrowding, but this situation could be solved by following the rules and guidelines.

This article was written by Madina Ilhomova.

My name is Madina Ilhomova. Today I study in the 11th grade of school 24, Olot district, Bukhara region. I want to be sport journalist in future

# I Miss You



My heart is sick every moment  
Ask me a question  
I gave flowers or a bunch  
Grandma, I miss you

Did you drink your tea peacefully?  
In one dream, all the children ate  
May you rest in heaven  
Grandma, I miss you so much

How many tests did you pass?  
You held my hand as my child  
Today you went to mahshar  
Grandma, I miss you

You were beautiful  
I finished the poem for you today  
I will say it again  
Grandma, I miss you

All your heart's content  
I begged for your mercy again  
You are sad in my mind  
Grandma, I miss you

My face is happy to see you  
I would throw it in your heart, my dear  
Now, I can't find any regrets  
Grandma, I miss you

From inside the house to the gate  
I still remember how you looked  
Today I realized that I am an idiot  
Grandma, I miss you

Khoshimova Begoyim Ravshan's daughter  
I was born in Bekobod district of Tashkent region  
Currently, I am a student of the 1st stage of the Tashkent Medical Academy

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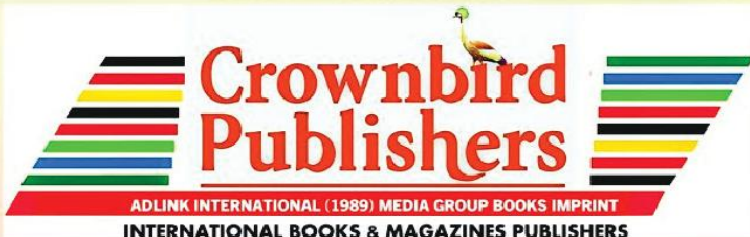
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# Gov't Assures Kenyans Of The Safety Of The E-Citizen Portal

By: Mabel Keya and Erastus Gichohi

@themtkenyatimes

The Principal Secretary for the State Department of Information, Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Economy Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui has affirmed that the government is in full control of the E-Citizen platform dismissing recent allegations that the system is privately run.

He said the system, which has been in development since 2013 and has been piloted through the support of the World Bank, was foolproof in supporting the digitization of government services where a total of over 15,000 services have been onboarded to date.

The PS said the government took over the running of the system last year after it entered into contractual arrangements with local innovators to ensure its interests are met adding that the process of standardizing the critical system is successfully achieved.

Eng. Tanui's assurance remarks come after Auditor General Nancy Gathungu raised concerns over private control of the e-citizen platform which she said could compromise the accountability of the billions of shillings processed through the plat-

form.

"The E-Citizen systems mark a huge milestone in the digital transformation agenda which has enhanced clarity, transparency and collection of revenue across government agencies," said the PS.

He was speaking in Naivasha on Saturday during a stakeholders' workshop and engagement of the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy and the National Assembly Committee on Communication, Information Innovation led by Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie Waweru who is also the chair of the committee.

During the engagement, it emerged that the State Department for ICT and Innovation has a high budget deficit of over KSh79 billion for the financial year 2023/24 with the department having been allocated only Sh29 billion to facilitate the government's digital transformation agenda.

Eng. Tanui said the digitization programme being championed by the Ministry is based on the Digital Master Plan 2022-23 which was estimated to cost Sh500 billion but it brings huge returns to the country by creating employment for the youth.

"To this end, we are looking for ways of involving donors in the digitization programme and the World Bank is ready to use support through

the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Fund and a Government Department of South Korea is partnering with the Kenya Government in funding the Konza technopolis. We are targeting to raise Sh1.9 billion through our internal collections with Sh782 million having been collected to date," he said.

Konza Technopolis is touted to be Africa's Silicon Savannah and is a key flagship project of Kenya's Vision 2030 economic development portfolio.

He said there is a need to establish a digitization fund to ensure the digitization of the over 74,000 institutions which have been mapped out is achieved and a committee comprising of various stakeholders was already working on it.

"We need funding to maintain, monitor the system and ensure the security of the digital superhighway and steady flow of the broadband," the PS said.

During the engagement, it merged that the State Department has a pending bill of Sh2.578 billion which the PS said has been committed to the pending bills review committee that seeks to establish if the bills were genuine, inflated or dubious before payment.

On the other hand, the PS said the ministry is championing the critical ICT Infrastructure Bill that will



Principal Secretary Eng. John Tanui making a point during the Saturday meeting.

give force to the protection and safeguarding of critical infrastructure from malicious damage, destruction and sabotage.

It's worth noting that the Government is on course to establishing 25,000 WiFi hotspots across the country as well as 1,450 digital hubs spread across all constituencies and the National Government -Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) will allocate three per cent of its monies towards infrastructural upgrades on this digital hubs initiative in the constituencies.

Digital hubs are physical spaces with access to superfast broadband alongside community and business-focused services.

Karie on his part said the engagement had been fruitful in reviewing

the progress made by the ministry in various sectors, challenges encountered and how the Parliament could help find solutions to the challenges and set new targets and budgetary allocations for the new financial year.

He was accompanied by committee members; Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South MP), Hamisi Kakuta Maimai (Kajiado East) and nominated MP Irene Mayaka.

The MPs praised the digitisation programme in the country terming it a game changer in terms of creating employment for the youth and vowed to come up with necessary legislation to support it.

# PWDs Decry Low Representation In Government Jobs

By: Victory Wangui and Muoki Charles

@themtkenyatimes

Westlands MP Tim Wanyonyi has decried the failure of the government to employ enough persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Public Service despite the legal requirement provided by the law.

During celebrations to mark Wheelchair Day at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) last Friday, Wanyonyi said only a few PWDs were working in the public sector.

He said the discrimination could only be ended if the law requiring representation of PWDs in employment opportunities was implement-

ed to the latter.

Wanyonyi proposed that all ministries and other organizations should have a disability policy on employment both in the national and county government to ensure their visibility.

He at the same time recognized the appointment of Isaac Mwaura, the government spokesman, saying it was a good step in recognizing PWDs in the society.

To ensure more visibility of PWDs, Wanyonyi proposed that the focus should be on appointive positions since elective positions were difficult to come by due to the challenges that they have as well as the nature of politics in the country.

"Focus more on appointive positions than elective positions as they are limited to help reach the consti-

tutional mandate of 5%," he said.

During the event, over 90 PWDs benefited from wheelchairs. Led by Gakure Njaria, the beneficiaries recounted the number of times they have gone for interviews unsuccessfully despite meeting the qualifications.

"Despite having fully qualified and being sure of doing well in interviews, jobs have been difficult to come by. The discrimination we face in appointments is saddening," said Njaria.

Dr. Mwangi Matheri, the JKUAT Wheelchair and Learning Centre project leader urged the beneficiaries not to sell the wheelchairs for financial gain but to maintain and utilize them for their benefit.

"We should ensure that as a country,



Westlands MP Tim Wanyonyi with other stakeholders during the forum

people don't only speak of disability mainstreaming but also inclusion within their societies, school, place

of work and other spheres of life," he said.

# Gendered Disinformation



By: Abigirl Phiri  
@themtkenyatimes

Many women are facing gendered disinformation especially influential ones. With the advent of technology this has exponentially exacerbated its spiteful effect on the life on the victim. Now some of these women their dirty linen is hung in the public eyes just to shame them. All this is in order for them to bury their heads in the sand like an ostrich. The pressure will be too hard to handle.

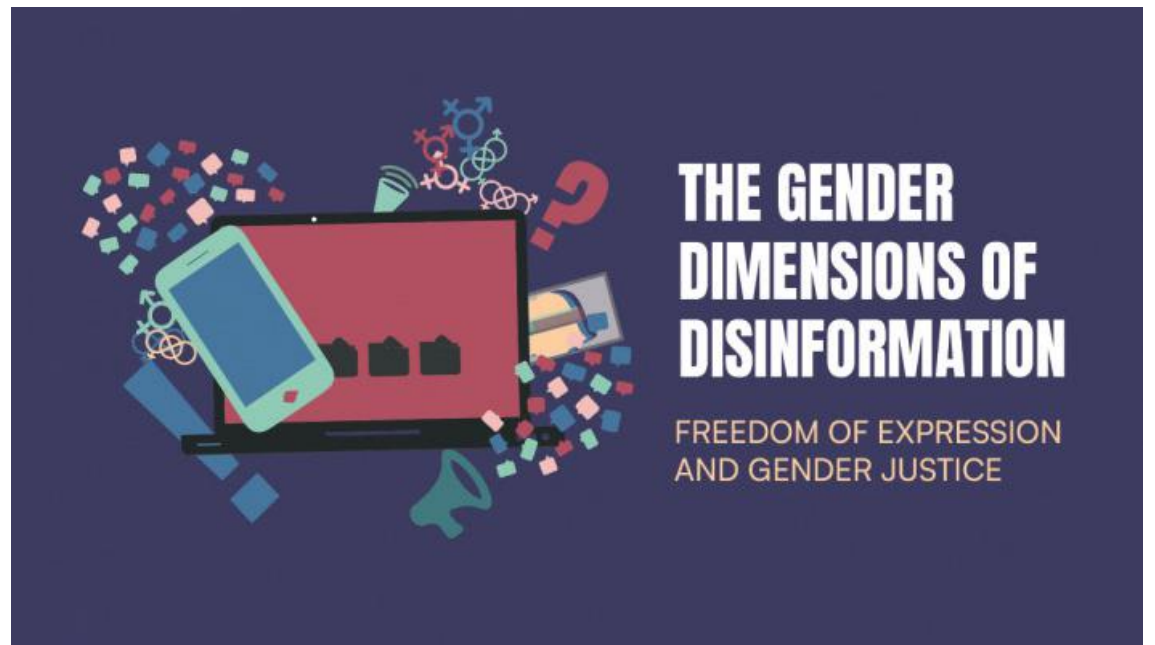
For others if worse comes to worst, nude pictures are engineered and splashed on the internet. Although for some they will be actual pictures of themselves without anything to do with the doctoring of artificial intelligence. It's not easy to face society when you have lost face in the public eye. It becomes a tussle to win back people's respect or trust after your name and reputation has been dragged in the muck. In other cases

their sex tapes are somehow shared on the social platforms in a way to shame them for eternity to come. This is because the internet never forgets. In fact, the history will always be there for all and sundry to see.

Whilst we are at it, women are facing gendered disinformation by being trolled on the internet. In particular, they are called derogative names that are belittling. Not only do these perpetrators do it alone but they also get support from other association crowds. In most cases they might be mob of men who do not want to see women taking senior roles in any faculty of their lives.

Yet the internet should be a safe space to do one's business without fear of victimization. Most women who undergo this emotional trauma resort to hiding in their shells. They become a pale shadow of their former selves afraid of the unknown. Worse for women in politics they are taken through hell for exercising their rights.

As a matter of fact, this is leading to some taking their lives unable to cope up with the pressure. Unfortunately, some women also participate in this heinous crime on downgrad-



ing their other fellow ladies. Instead of looking down upon such behaviors it's celebrated. But the big question is to what expense?

When you find pleasure in tormenting other people then something definitely is not right in your head. This is the making of sadists. A true human being should be led by compassion for the next person since most of us are Christians or Muslims who are governed their lives by ecclesi-

astic doctrines to feel for the next person. You do not gain anything in participating in shaming somebody. The fun won't last because in this fast paced world before you know it the world's attention will be caught up on something else.

Let's do right by others and support everyone in their individual endeavours. Needless to mention we are great as one than acting as islands. Thus no man is an island. Collective-

ly we need to teach each other good doctrines of living in harmony. Peace is all what we seek for especially in the month of March that celebrates women and looks down upon misogynistic doctrines that are vile in nature. Women can do so much if supported and celebrated especially by their male counterparts because like two halves these sexes complement each other. It is how it was meant to be as God created Adam and Eve.

# Tigerfishing A Phenomenon Of The Sanyati Gorge



By: Memory Phiri  
@themtkenyatimes

Tigerfishing is one activity that tourists look forward to when they visit the Sanyati Gorge. Apparently, the destination is defined by Matusadonha's eastern boundary. They say the bigger the better that is why this type of fishing always piques our interest.

Tourists always trip over themselves to reach this destination because we are literally talking about the home of Zambezi's Iconic Tigerfish. Transformative travel will never get better than this so it's advisable for every traveller to add this activity on their bucketlist. By the bye, fishing expeditions have opened the eyes of one too many a visitor.

Talk about the hook, line and sinker. Zimbabwe has many lakes for example Lake Cunningham in Filabusi which centers on fishing as part of its itinerary. However, that type of fish-

ing does not even come close to the mind blowing close encounters with the tiger fish.

Thus, the tourism industry has gone to the extent of having events that cater for the fisheries only like the highly acclaimed Tigerfish Tournament. Following this line of thinking, the tournament is done in a bid to minimise illegal fishing in a classic way. Lest we forget the Lake Harvest Marathon which is the brainchild of Kariba.

Hopefully, the tigerfishing tournaments will continue to be held annually in accordance to the water corridor that runs from the Sanyati Gorge, Bumi Hills, Mlibizi all the way down to Binga. To state the obvious, these fishing hotspots will encourage more tourists to partake in fishing making it a watertight safari package.

This time around tourists will find themselves unabashedly opening a cane of worms and fish rods will inevitably come in handy. For your own information, travel photography also thrives at these excursions because it is essential to record the whole scene as it unfolds before your eyes.

Up to date, tourists have been ren-



Goliath tiger fish.

dered speechless by catching some tigerfish that weigh up to nine kilograms, give and take. How about that dear readers? Come and bear witness to such a phenomenon that lies in the meandering water that flows incessantly along the great expanse of Zambezi. Interestingly, when all

this will be happening participants will be ensconced in the belly of the Matusadonha National Park.

It can be deduced that tourists are helping in protecting the waterway against extinction and illegal netting by paying a fishing fee. As a way of leading by example, the Law

Enforcement Department vigilantly put up a new tented Forward Operating Base which stands to monitor the spawning of the tigerfish twenty-four seven. Zimbabwe's wonders will surely never cease to amaze us.

# Meru Teaching And Referral Hospital Receives Drug Donation Worth Sh12 Million

By: Dickson Mwiti  
@themkenyatimes



MeTRH Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Leah Moriasi addressing the media after receiving the donations

## Worth Noting:

“The reason we are doing this is because we know right from the national budget, we cannot get enough resources to do everything that is needed in this country. So, what we are doing here is to support both the national and the county government with the little support so we can help them assist our people,” said Murungi. “As legislators, we know how the budgets are and the need for healthcare in this country is enormous. We are crying that this hospital should go to level six but to get to that level we need a lot of resources so that others can come to level five,” he added.

Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital (MeTRH) has received a consignment of drugs worth Sh12 million from Kamashinani in partnership with the EK foundation, which is a major health boost to the county residents.

Speaking during the donation ceremony, Kamsashinani Foundation Director who is also the Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi said it was a great honour getting a chance to get back to the facility after they donated computers, this time to donate drugs in support of the community’s health care system.

“We want to thank the County Government of Meru for accepting the support we are getting from our partners. Sometimes you can get partners to work with but then the administration can even reject or fail to support that cause,” said Murungi.

He added: “So, today we have come humbly with 2.4 million molecules of cetirizine and these drugs will cater for allergy issues in Meru for the next two years. I have talked to the administration and promised them that in case this allergy is much more in the County than expected, then they can come back for more support.”

He assured the county government they were not closing their doors and their partners were ready to give the necessary support.

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with the little support so we can help them assist our people,” said Murungi.

“As legislators, we know how the budgets are and the need for healthcare in this country is enormous. We are crying that this hospital should go to level six but to get to that level we need a lot of resources so that others can come to level five,” he added.

“So, we know there is a lot that is needed in the health sector and also we are happy the government has come up with a Social Health Insurance Fund so that everyone can be covered in getting the medical support,” said Murungi.

He thanked President William Ruto for the idea of coming up with the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), which he said will ensure that every Kenyan is covered medically.

“We are happy the President has also reduced contributions for the low earners up to Sh300 per person in terms of monthly contribution to the insurance fund and that those who cannot afford this will get free medical cover,” he said.

EK Foundation’s representative Mr Howard Miriti said they have been at the facility and made some other donations before and had previously promised to bring them drugs.

He appreciated the facility management’s willingness to receive the donation adding that as EK Foundation through the Kamashinani Foundation which cites and identifies the need, they were committed to providing or giving donations according to the need basis.

“We are looking forward to many

collaborations in the coming days and more drugs will be coming as we promised and will support the hospital, through Kamashinani Foundation, with more different molecules,” said Miriti.

MeTRH Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Leah Moriasi expressed her gratitude to the two foundations for honouring their request to assist them with drugs.

“They had visited us before and we cited the need to collaborate further in terms of any resource they have to support the hospital with and on this day, they heeded our call and were able to come and give us this needed molecule not only to us but to the rest of the facilities in the county,” said Dr Moriasi.

She said they were appreciative of the partners who supported the hospital in various ways including Kamashinani and EK foundations and the Senator who has been their partner and supporter in terms of health provision and in trying to reach the less fortunate in the county and supporting them to seek healthcare in the facility.

“We look forward to the support of both our Senator, Kamashinani and EK foundations, the county government of Meru, and all other partners who currently support and are willing to support us as we continue to provide care to the rest of the population of Meru and beyond Meru County,” said Dr Moriasi.

She said the hospital’s needs were usually great, and regarding medication only, they allocate to the pharmaceutical department about 25 per cent

of what they required.

“We estimate that as a facility, to be able to meet all our needs to provide care to patients adequately, we would require up to Sh1billion worth of medication in different departments from oncology to antibiotics to medication needed in theatre and all populations from paediatrics to adults,” said Dr Moriasi.

“Therefore, from the allocation that we get, we are able to provide barely 25-30 per cent in terms of both pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals and even just other services and therefore if we get partners who are willing to come and supplement both in the county government and other partners who come as their personal responsibility, it definitely goes a long way to breach that gap from the 25 to 100 per cent,” she noted.

Health Administration Director Dr Koome Muthuri said cetirizine is usually used to treat allergic infections and common colds and it’s a big plus for people of Meru. “According to our quantifications, the drugs will take us to around two years,” he added.

He appreciated the gesture saying that it would go a long way in helping Meru residents from the various health facilities as the drugs would be distributed across all the health facilities in Meru County.

“We look forward to such collaborations so that we are in a position to serve the residents better,” said Dr Koome.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Malnutrition Spares Rich Kids

The disease results due to impaired nutrient utilization. The body of a disease results due to impaired nutrient utilization. The body of a human being needs certain nutrients to maintain the tissues and many functions.

Lack of a single vitamin or mineral can have serious health consequences to your body. Again excess nutrients can also cause problems.

According to research the signs of the disease are low body weight, stunted growth, weakness, rashes, hair loss and blood pressure. Children from lowly families will not get highly nutritious food because their parents cannot afford them.

Malnutrition has its own causes one being limited financial resources, limited access to nutritious food, medical conditions that makes eating

difficult, mental health conditions that discourages eating and also eating disorder.

“Rich kids” as termed are lowly contacted by malnutrition due to the state they are treated and handled.

They get nutritional food like fruits and vegetables, fish, whole grains, legumes and dairy thus hard to contact the disease. To curb the disease we need to eat healthy and balanced

diet.

Let’s come together as one and end malnutrition by helping those contacted with the disease.

*Winnie Joy and Yvonne Wanyonyi*

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

[news@mountkenytimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenytimes.co.ke)

## Modelling Or Pageantry?

By: **Collins Omondi**

For many years many people have viewed modelling or pageantry as only to the work on runway and showcasing their talent in display of various models of attires and

They haven’t discovered that modelling is an art of creating simplified images of simultaneous to the real world systems of phenomenon. It aims in in developing behaviour, characteristics or relationships systems studied. This is done though poses of images of models on run-

way or on their photographs displaying different emotions and

The modelling industry is diverse as it involves series of activities including. Fashion modeling; this entails events on runway that goes hand on display of various regalia and their designs. This type of modelling the models tends to convince the audience about the new trends of fashion in the industry. Other models practice commercial modelling where they get in touch to various modelling agencies and brand to advertise various brands.



## Poverty To Godlessness



By: **Irfan Khan Tareen**

I was extremely shocked as well as greatly saddened while going to my academic institution after glancing a 10 years aged boy, stealing a sort of medium port from a shop beside the main road. Similarly, I was surprised and the question which arised in my mind was that what made this innocent soul compulsive to demonstrate such undesirable feat. This event influenced me badly and led me to a deep thinking as it was really disappointing moment.

After a long thinking, the leading reason that appeared to me for

this despicable feat was surely financial poverty. No doubt, the same boy, I saw in the company of street Arabs (without kith and kins), carrying loaded backpacks filled with plastics. Surely, such section of our society emerges wandering here and there, extending their hands for begging and running after the basic requirements of food to satisfy hunger. Likewise, they remain compel to put up silently the taunts of others and compulsive to make choices in life.

Another shocking story that I heard from one of my friends, regarding a car driver who was halted with a car on a midnight after thief appeared on road. The driver was frightened and threatened by pistol. The former was asked to take out, everything he had. The driver took out his earned amount of thirty thousand and handed it to thief. Luckily, Fifty thousand rupees was taken by latter and the remaining amount was

rendered back to driver with these shocking words “I am not thief, but poverty made me so; I ask your forgiveness, all that I did because my children have even not taken food since three consecutive days and everyone known to me, clearly refused to provide financial assistance.”

Those who can be recriminated for this undesirable activities are the bigwigs (Officials, Politicians) spending luxurious life but have kept people under harsh situation on the account of poverty and unemployment. From this point view, this happened feat can’t be regarded robbery; this was actually poverty and people’s miserliness (Rejecting financial help).

It is undeniably true that now-a-days, killing, robbery and stealing are the professions left for unemployed segment of population. These stated unfavourable activities seem ways for earning bread

and butter. These all take place on large scale on the account of abject poverty, rampant unemployment, unhindered corruption and soaring inflation.

Undoubtedly, poverty steers an individual to transgress the canons of morality and humanity. According to Prophet (PBUH) that poverty can lead a man to godlessness. For the purpose of satisfying hunger, it can make an individual compulsive to give up truth and adopt falsehood. This aforementioned illustrated Hadith is clearly true.

Inshort, it us sublimely requisite for the development of Pakistan and for the welfare of its citizens to fight against the chains of poverty. In fact, undesirable feats like stealing, robbery and killing (For money) can be hindered through taking substantial and desperate measures for the expulsion of poverty. In addition, unemployment that plagues

country’s overall development can mitigate by catering better jobs and employment opportunities. Besides, illiteracy that defuses individuals to despicable acts can cease by mounting literacy rate through dispensing adequate amount of budget for education facilities.

The Government should take imperative and proactive steps to steer the country out of the existing crisis, particularly poverty and unemployment that give rise to a number undesirable social vices, generating fear and panic in society.

Let us play our own role to assist those souls who unfortunately manifest as a fish out of water due to financial compulsions, so these souls may not divert to disheartening activities. Placing street arabs in employment (Hotels, Restaurants, Shops,etc) will be a great venture, if we lack capability in financial pursuits.

# The Art of Teaching English: Strategies for Effective Language Instruction

By: Sarvinoz Mamadaliyeva  
@themkenyatimes

Teaching English transcends the mere transmission of language rules; it is an intricate art that involves a delicate balance of methodologies, interpersonal skills, and adaptability. In this exploration, we delve into the key strategies that define the art of teaching English, creating a rich and rewarding learning experience for both educators and students.

**Understanding Learner Diversity:**  
One size does not fit all in language education. Effective teachers recognize the diverse backgrounds, learning styles, and motivations of their students. By tailoring their approach to accommodate various skill levels and fostering an inclusive environment, educators can create a space where every student feels valued and engaged.

## Cultivating a Positive Learning Environment:

The classroom atmosphere plays a pivotal role in language acquisition. Establishing a supportive and encouraging environment fosters open communication. Interactive activities and collaborative projects not only enhance engagement but also create a sense of community, making the learning experience more meaningful.

**on Communication Skills:**  
While mastering grammar and vocabulary is essential, effective

language instruction prioritizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Creating opportunities for authentic communication bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world language use, empowering students to express themselves fluently.

## Integration of Multimedia Resources:

In our digital age, harnessing the power of technology is crucial. Incorporating multimedia resources such as videos and interactive tools caters to diverse learning preferences. This not only supplements traditional teaching methods but also brings language learning to life, making it more engaging and relatable.

**Structured Lesson Planning:**  
Well-organized lesson plans are the backbone of effective teaching. Clear objectives and outcomes guide students on their language-learning journey. Infusing variety into lessons, with a mix of activities and approaches, ensures that students remain attentive and motivated throughout the learning process.

**Grammar in Context:**  
Teaching grammar in isolation often leads to disconnected understanding. Effective educators embed grammar rules within meaningful contexts and real-life scenarios. By using examples that resonate with students, teachers make learning more relatable, encouraging a deeper comprehension of language structures.

**Promoting Critical Thinking:**  
Language education goes beyond rote memorization; it encourages critical thinking. Engaging students in activities that stimulate problem-solving skills and analytical thinking fosters a deeper understanding of the language. Meaningful discussions become a conduit for intellectual growth.

## Constructive Feedback Mechanism:

Feedback is a cornerstone of improvement. Providing specific and constructive feedback guides students in refining their language skills. Encouraging self-reflection and goal-setting instills a sense of ownership in their language-learning journey, promoting continuous improvement.

## Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusion:

Language is inseparable from culture. Educators infuse cultural elements into lessons, providing a holistic language experience. Fostering an appreciation for diversity and cultivating an understanding of cultural nuances enriches the learning process, making it more nuanced and globally relevant.

**Continuous Professional Development:**  
The landscape of language education is ever-evolving. Effective teachers stay abreast of emerging methodologies and trends. Continuous professional development

through workshops, conferences, and ongoing learning ensures that educators remain dynamic and responsive to the changing needs of their students.

**Conclusion:**  
Teaching English is not just about imparting linguistic proficiency; it is about instilling a love for language learning. The art of teaching English lies in creating an environment where students not only grasp the intricacies of the language but also develop the confidence to wield it effectively in a global context. By embracing these strategies, educators can unlock the full potential of language instruction, turning it into a transformative and enriching journey for both teachers and learners alike.

## About the author

*Sarvinoz Mamadaliyeva, born on September 5, 2004, in the Tashlak district of Fergana region, is a dynamic and ambitious 19-year-old. Demonstrating her commitment to education, she is currently a 2nd year student in the Foreign Language and Literature Department at Namangan State Pedagogical Institute.*  
*Sarvinoz's journey is marked by passion for language and literature, reflecting her dedication to personal and academic growth. As she continues her studies, she embodies the spirit of promising individual poised to contribute meaningfully to her community and beyond.*



# The Write To Right



By: Meluleki Ncube  
@The Norton Times

Perhaps, just perhaps, International Writer's Day affords us, writers, time to write about us. Look, if we, writers, do not "write us", who will? All everyone else has time for is to always right us, as if we are always wrong. Yet we have never appointed ourselves as "righters" of their own wrongs. We are just writers of what has happened, mostly.

In informing readers what has happened, some of us have penned articles that have ruffled feathers, but that is not the intention. Attention has unfortunately focused on the result of what we wrote, instead of the rot we wrote about.

It has been said that the pen is

mightier than the sword, yet everywhere, this word, that it is mightier, is trampled upon by the mightier. Almighty God help us!

We have a right to write! What we write is right as it is. Noone is supposed to right it in any other way besides writing too! Ours should be a battle of pens. Not a battle of pains.

Someone may ask, What if writers mislead by the written word? Well, instead of "righting" them by the return sword, why not lead by the written word? If an eye for an eye makes the world blind, imagine what the silencing of each writer does? It make the world wordless. Right? Write! And a wordless world is not

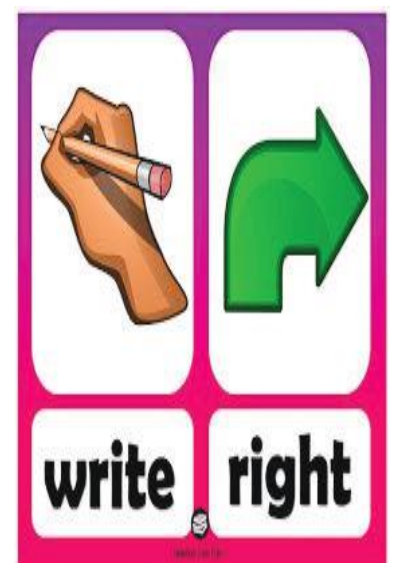
a world at all. Just a globe occupied by the voiceless!

It would be vain for me to conclude without writing what others have written.

Dear fellow writers, let us keep writing. We are right. The world needs every word we can write. And there is this one thing two biblical adversaries agree on, in The Word. It is right, and a right, to write!

In John 19:22, Pilate says "What I have written, I have written". The Christ he had just condemned had, countless times, said "It is written....." as he quoted the scriptures in response to enquiries.

May I get an Amen, writers!



# Managing Toothaches

By: **Dr Azeema Veljee**  
 @themkenyatimes

If you have experienced a toothache, then you know how excruciating that pain can be. It might rob your sleep and peace until the pain goes away. A toothache is pain in and around your teeth and jaw and can sometimes be accompanied by fever. Toothaches normally manifest as a sharp on and off or constant pain which can last for a few hours or even days. The pain which can be mild or extreme depending on the cause of the ache, can also be magnified by hot or cold food or drinks.

### Causes of toothaches

There are different causes of toothache. One of the minor causes of an ache can be from having food dislodged in between the teeth causing a mild pressure which can be a bit painful and uncomfortable. In serious cases, a toothache can be caused by a cavity that led to tooth decay, having a fractured tooth, damaged fillings, or a bacterial infection leading to an abscess which is a collection of pus at the end of a tooth or in the gums.

Unlike a toothache caused by pres-

sure from food being stuck between the teeth, pain from a tooth decay or an abscess is caused by inflammation in the innermost layer of the tooth which is made up of sensitive nerves and blood vessels.

### Treatment

The treatment of a toothache depends on the cause. The best cause of action when experiencing a toothache is to visit a dentist who will examine and sometimes conduct an x-ray to discover the root of the problem.

If a toothache is caused by food dislodged between the teeth, removing the stuck food will relieve the pressure therefore getting rid of the pain and discomfort. This can be done through flossing which helps in removing food that is lodged too deep. Flossing and brushing regularly helps in preventing the development of plaque which can cause serious teeth problems. A toothache caused by deeper factors such as cavities and infections require you to visit a dentist who will advise on how to get rid of it. At times a toothache may require total extraction of the tooth, filling the hole in the tooth or a root canal therapy.

To relieve the pain before you go to a dentist, you can do a simple

warm saltwater rinse. If the pain is extreme, you can take painkillers such as paracetamol. However, you should note that this only deal with the pain temporarily, it is important to visit a dentist who will help you figure out the cause of the ache and how to permanently cure it.

### Prevention

Good oral hygiene is the medicine for toothache. To help prevent experiencing a toothache, brush your teeth at least two times a day or after every meal. You should also floss regularly to remove plaque and any stuck food. Note that after brushing your teeth, avoid rinsing off the protective toothpaste.

It is also good for your teeth if you avoid taking lots of sugary foods or drinks that encourage the growth of bacteria in plaque and may lead to decay that can result in an abscess.

The most important preventive measure is to have regular checkups with your dentist who will deal with any arising problem before it escalates

*Dr Azeema Veljee, is a Consultant Dental Surgeon at Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi*



*Dr Azeema Veljee, Consultant Dental Surgeon at Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi*

# Upscale Or Downfall Abroad?

By: **Lowis Mengesa**  
 @themkenyatimes

Kenyan youth, day in day out, are faced with a siring unemployment rate. To counter these adverse conditions, travel agencies and embassies are packed with unending queues of youth applying for visas filled with hope for lucrative paying jobs and a better future. Unknown to them what to expect: the much anticipated greener pastures or situations turn haywire?

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) documented that unemployment rate among Kenyan youth has risen to 35%. Unemployment, often concomitant with the constant lookout for job opportunities has resulted in almost three million Kenyans whose job seeking efforts in the country proved futile working abroad.

Dwindling economic conditions leave them servile to any job at their disposal abroad in the name of greener pastures. Kenyan youth migrate to countries in the Middle East, Asia, Australia as well as other western countries such as London.

The ever-rising unemployment rate in

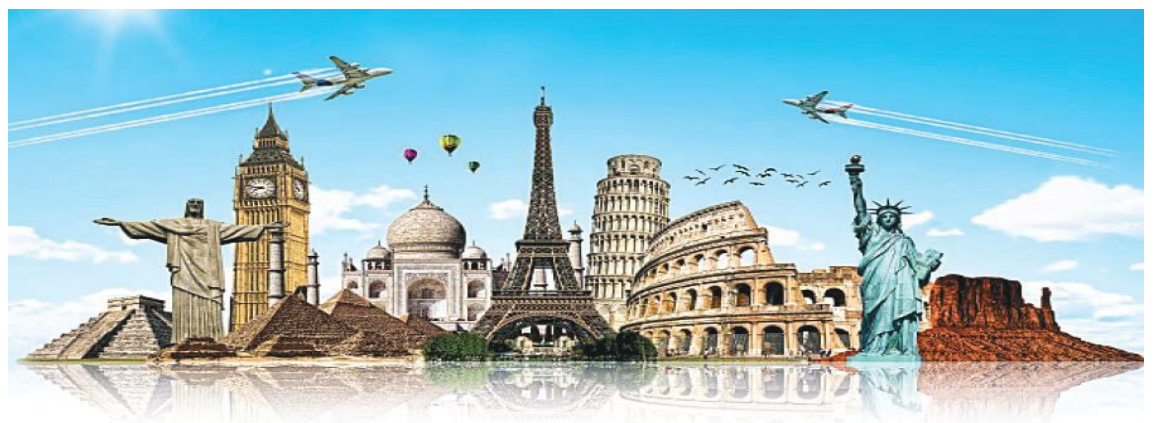
Kenya results in many people, especially youth, be willing to travel and do any job abroad including house helping, providing security, masonry, driving and janitor work as stated by Ann in Qatar.

She also said that whereas others undertake short online courses and qualify as teachers, secretaries and procurement officers, the majority remain as masons and janitors. "Many a time, Kenyan youth fly into Qatar as house helps and janitors but with time, an open mind and a positive attitude, they improve their work status to teachers and secretaries.

Personal security, a major concern in most countries, is utterly critical: possession of legal documents and adherence to a particular country's laws allow them to poodle and maneuver places in the country without hindrance or risk of deportation."

Most individuals abroad tend to improve their living standards and those of their kin due to the huge gap between currency values; 1 dollar amounting to Ksh 143.50, they call shots back in the country.

In addition to high value currency earnings, working conditions are much improved abroad, security and also the welfare of an organization's employees are given priority. Furthermore, modern technology is applied in all job sectors



making it easier to execute tasks. Corruption, a parasite in Kenya for decades, is very minimal in most overseas countries.

As others enjoy galore opportunities abroad, that is not always the case elsewhere. To begin with, escalating unemployment rate makes women and girls an easy target to mistreatment hulled at them. Kenyan ladies flying to Middle East countries encounter appalling experiences under their employers: coercion to breastfeed puppies, going days without food, slaughtering and cooking snakes and a constant beating all in the name of employment as narrated by

Maria Mboga who had gone to Saudi Arabia.

She added that their only means of communication is hampered that they do not inform anyone of their grievances. Moreover, they work for long periods without a salary amidst constant threats.

Anyone heading to the Middle East is like beheading yourself as countless youth who manage to escape their bosses end up on the streets, malnourished due to hunger and sleeping on the floors while seeking help from the government to be deported back to the country, added Maria.

In the case of deaths, which are rampant as lifeless bodies are found in rooms, they are stored until the latters' contract expires to be flown back to the country. This harrowing mistreatment bolsters despair, depression and ultimately death among employees.

Youth enjoy many privileges working abroad and many a time they improve their living standards as they experience very little corruption cases, a quagmire that has been pestering the country like a terminal disease, said Mathew in Australia.

# Thika: Where Bicycles Are More Popular Than Motorcycle-Boda Boda

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

Boda bodas are a popular means of transport across Kenya and they continue to gain popularity as they can evade traffic and access places where other traditional means of transport such as taxis and matatus cannot.

Official data shows that the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) registered 285,203 motorcycles in 2021 compared to the 186,434 registered in 2017. During the review period, the highest growth was recorded when 356,603 motorcycles were registered.

Most people cannot imagine that bicycles are still being used as boda bodas in some Kenyan towns.

However, in Thika, bicycles are a common means of transport. Walking through the town and its environs, you will see bicycles parked alongside motorcycles at the boda boda stages waiting for customers.

Kevin Maina, a bicycle taxi rider,

told journalists that bicycles as a mode of transport are more popular than the regular motorcycle boda bodas as the bicycle transport business is a source of livelihood for a majority of rural people who do not have the resources required to purchase motorcycles.

“For men like me who do not have any other sources of income, this business enables us to earn our daily bread. Besides, commuters prefer our services due to our prices that are significantly lower than those of the regular motorcycle boda bodas and we offer more security in terms of safety,” said Maina.

David Wanjau, a resident of Kisii Estate in Makongeni, Thika concurs that indeed bicycle taxis are safer compared to motorcycles.

“Going by statistics, there are quite a lot of accidents that occur frequently caused by motorcycles, and for this reason, most people here prefer to be ferried by bicycles. This choice is reinforced by the belief that motorcycle operators are careless and love speeding,” said Wanjau.



A bicycle rider with his customer in Thika.

Additionally, Wanjau noted that accidents from bicycles are minimal when they do occur, and do not cause as much damage.

Charles Kimani, another bicycle taxi operator said there were places bicycles could access that motorcy-

cles couldn't. He also stated that the fare was dependent on the distance and luggage.

“As Thika natives, we understand the terrain and we can very well access narrow routes that may not be possible for motorcycles. The fare is

also dependent on the distance and luggage. We charge Sh20 for short distances but the price can go up to Sh200 for longer distances. I make between Sh400-800 on a good day,” Kimani said.

# CONFERENCE: Kisumu Wins Bid to Host World Talent Conference

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kisumu County has been nominated to host the 24th World Talent Conference in August 2025, marking the first-ever occurrence of the prestigious event in Africa.

Governor Anyang' Nyong'o announced the upcoming summit during a courtesy call by the delegation from the World Talent Federation to the Lakeside County last Friday.

Prof. Nyong'o emphasized the significance of the biannual event which is expected to attract over 15,000 delegates from across the globe.

“Kisumu and Africa must prepare to receive the top world and African athletes, footballers, film actors, musicians, artists, and many more. This collaboration requires the support

of counties within the Lake Region Economic Block,” he said.

Highlighting Kisumu's readiness to host the event, the Governor emphasized the significance of collaboration between counties within the Lake Region Economic Block including Kakamega, Vihiga, and Siaya to accommodate the expected visitors.

“Already, a renowned U.K. Premier League footballer and top U.S.A. pop musicians have shown interest in attending, adding to the excitement surrounding the event,” Nyong'o said.

The governor noted that during the conference, researchers will showcase thought-provoking designs at World Talent Federation-approved talent clinics and pointed out that this cutting-edge technology allows predicting a child's career from an early age.



Kisumu county governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and other stakeholders making the announcement last Friday

# End Insecurity In Laikipia, Gachagua Tells Local Leaders

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Laikipia West MP Wachira Karani and County MP Jane Kagiri while in Laikipia yesterday...

## Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President said he saw no reason or difficulty for security officers failure to end attacks against the people there, recalling that he served in Ng'arua as a District Officer in 1998, at the height of ethnic animosity and attacks, but worked with the security agencies and the community, restoring sanity in the then troubled region.

- "We told the people that if they elected Dr Ruto President and Rigathi Gachagua as his Deputy, matters insecurity will end. We intend to keep that promise. We know the formula; it is possible. There is no room for discussion. It will not be good for any officer who intends to come in between our plan. There is no transfer of lazy officers," he said.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has directed security agencies in Laikipia County to end insecurity in the region warning that laxity will not be tolerated.

Speaking at Ng'arua Holy Family Catholic Parish after a church service and fundraiser in Laikipia West and at two security meetings, Mr Gachagua said the development potential of the county has been hurt by rampant insecurity and the Kenya Kwanza Administration will not allow this to continue.

He said President Ruto has to keep the promise he made during campaigns in 2022 of ending insecurity in the county.

The Deputy President said he saw no reason or difficulty for security officers failure to end attacks against the people there, recalling that he served in Ng'arua as a District Officer in 1998, at the height of ethnic animosity and attacks, but worked with the security agencies and the community, restoring sanity in the then troubled region.

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the formula; it is possible. There is no room for discussion. It will not be good for any officer who intends to come in between our plan. There is no transfer of lazy officers," he said.

Mr Gachagua said the people of Laikipia must enjoy peace and security as long as there is a government in place.

In an engagement with the public at Matuiku Township, Gachagua told the County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri and County Police Commander to flush our criminals harassing residents.

The two officers committed, publicly, to work and deliver as instructed. "We cannot allow the people to be harassed when you have weapons and other resources of the government. People must sleep peacefully, not keeping vigil over insecurity. We have a responsible government in place," the Deputy President said.

Mr Gachagua said the people of Laikipia are hard working, but insecurity continues to impede their work.

He said the government is investing in irrigation and other infrastructural developments for full realisation of the socio-economic potential of the people.

On the other hand, the Deputy President said the National Government is committed to ending Human/Wildlife conflict to avoid loss of lives and livelihoods due to stray animals from the Laikipia Conservancy.

"I ask the MPs to review the laws to allow for the National Police Service to complement the Kenya Wildlife Service in containing the wildlife," he said at the Ngarua Catholic Church.

The Deputy President also asked the security agencies to put more effort to eradicate illicit alcohol, drugs and substance abuse in the County. Principal Secretary for Defence Patrick Mariru said security agencies are under instructions to eliminate the criminals.

Leaders present called for unity behind President Ruto to enable him deliver development as promised to the people.

"We thank the Deputy President in ensuring insecurity has been addressed. We can see the positive strides that have been taken," Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu.

Emurua Dikirr Johana Ng'eno asked the Mt Kenya leaders to support the Ruto Administration fully.

"Let us give time for the President and the Deputy President to work for Kenyans and deliver on their mandate and stop unnecessary and premature politics.

The Deputy President also visited St Mary's Mwenje Secondary School and made a KSh5 million donation for completion of the school dining hall.

He said the Ruto Administration prioritises education and it will continue upgrading infrastructure to improve the learning environment.

Other leaders who accompanied the DP include Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Laikipia Senator John Kinyua, Laikipia County MP Jane Kagiri, Laikipia West MP Wachira Karani, Ndaragwa MP George Gachagua, Subukia MP Samuel Gachobe, Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara, Kiambu County MP Anne Wamuratha, her Nyandarua County MP Faith Gitau, Molo MP Kuria Kimani as well as the former Laikipia County MP Cate Waruguru, MCAs led by Joseph Gitahi of Githiga Ward, among other leaders.

Mr Gachagua later chaired a security meeting with leaders of the county in Nyahururu town.

# Rhoda Kabiti – A Woman of Substance

By: John Kariuki  
 @themkenyatimes

When you meet this humble, composed, intelligent, brilliant, and sharp leader, you automatically notice the radiance of her smile, the warmth of her heart, and the optimism, hope, and openness she radiates.

Rhoda Kabiti is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Society For Deaf Children. Kenya Society for Deaf Children (KSDC) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the rights needs and interests of hearing-impaired children in the areas of:- Education, Health General welfare.

The society was started in 1958 to assist hearing-impaired children develop their potential to facilitate active participation in productive activities within the society.

Rhoda, through her able leadership, has ensured that the voice of those with hearing impairment is heard loud and clear. She is proud to have nurtured this society and seen it

grow exponentially.

On Thursday the 29th of February, the Society Celebrated yet another significant milestone when it opened a clinic.

So focused and keen is Kabiti that on Thursday various leaders including senior Government officials showed up at the launch.

Kabiti thanked all stakeholders for their unwavering support in making sure the deaf child is given an equal opportunity with their able-bodied counterparts.

She at the same time hinted about the need for donors and well-wishers to join hands in a bid to see the dream of setting up a deaf school in Narok, on a 15 acres piece of land become a reality.

Some of the notable figures included the Hon MPs, Rahim Dawood, Esther Muthoni Passaris and Hon Muthoni.

Secretary Generals of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT – Collins Henry Oyuu) and his KUP-PET (Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers – Akelo Misori) were in attendance and pledged their support.



KSDC CEO Rhoda Kabiti (extreme right) with distinguished guests.

# International Womens Day

Theme: Inspire Inclusivity



Keynote Speaker  
 Amb. Dr. Stephen Karau  
 CKDN CEO



Guest Speaker  
 Ms. Ann Mathu  
 Vice Chair NACADA



Facilitator  
 Ms. Evaline Kibuchi  
 CEO, Stop TB  
 Partnership Kenya



Speaker  
 Ms. Carol Gathii



Speaker  
 Douglas Ndonga

Topic: **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AS A CURE FOR ALCOHOL ABUSE**

Time: 2pm  
 Date: 8th March 2024

Registration Link  
<https://bit.ly/ckdn-womens-day>





09/MARCH 2024 | KINORU STADIUM, MERU | 09:00HRS

Chief Guest  
**HON RIGATHI GACHAGUA,**  
 Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

**11 COUNTIES 66 CONSTITUENCIES**

GOVERNORS

 HON. MWALIMU MUTUA NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. CECILIA MUTHIKA NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. DR. WANJIKU KARANJA Nairobi Governor	 HON. DR. NJOKI NJIRU BAHATI Nairobi Governor	 HON. WYCLIFFE NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. AEDÍN BHANU-GACAY Nairobi Governor	 HON. SUSAN OMBIA Nairobi Governor	 HON. ANNE WANJIKU Nairobi Governor	 HON. AMANI BANTAOZI Nairobi Governor	 HON. JOSHUA WANJAU Nairobi Governor	 HON. WANDA WANJAU Nairobi Governor
 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi Governor
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP	 HON. MWANGI NGUNJIRI Nairobi MP
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Let Us Join Hands To Save Our Youth



# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Former Boston and Chicago Marathon champion Benson Kipruto led a Kenyan sweep at the Tokyo Marathon early Sunday morning, setting a new course record after clocking 2:02:16 as Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled to finish a disappointing 10th.

## Kipruto Leads Kenyan Sweep At Tokyo Marathon As Kipchoge Falter

Former Boston and Chicago Marathon champion Benson Kipruto led a Kenyan sweep at the Tokyo Marathon early Sunday morning, setting a new course record after clocking 2:02:16 as Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled to finish a disappointing 10th.

Kipruto lowered Kipchoge's course record of 2:02:40 set two years ago, as he led compatriots Timothy Kiplangat and Vincent Ngetich to a podium sweep.

Kiplangat clocked 2:02:55 to finish second while Ngetich was third in 2:04:18. Kipchoge, who was using the marathon to prepare for the defense of his Olympic Games title in Paris in August, clocked 2:06:50 to finish 10th, only the third time in his career that he has lost a marathon.

Bethwell Kibet finished sixth (2:06:26), Simon Kariuki eighth (2:06:29) while debutant Bedan Karoki was 16th (2:07:59).

Meanwhile in the women's race, Kenya's Rosemary Wanjiru was second, clocking 2:16:14 while



Benson Kipruto after winning the Tokyo Marathon. PHOTO/Tokyo Marathon/X

Ethiopia's Asefa Kebede won the race, clocking 2:15:55 to break Brigid Kosgei's course record.

In the men's race, all eyes were definitely on Olympic champion Kipchoge, who returned to the city where he won two years ago, and was looking for a sec-

ond title.

It all seemed to be going well for Kipchoge, as he stuck to the leading pack with the pacemakers taking them through the first 5km in 14:16.

He remained in the game after 20km, though this time, Kipruto

had started making his move and was on the pacers' shoulder as he went through in 57:14, Kipchoge just five seconds behind him.

But the rain started beating him as they approached the 30km mark, the gap starting to increase with Kipruto putting his feet on the gas pedals, and built an 11-second gap over Kipchoge.

The Kenyan former world record holder clearly seemed to be struggling, as even his movement on the road changed.

At the 35km mark, he was way off the leaders, who had built a three minute, and 17 second lead over him. He had dropped all the way down to 11th.

Kipruto upfield didn't show any signs of struggle as he commanded the race, and was running side by side with Kiplangat, Ngetich a few paces behind him.

With two kilometres to go, the former Boston champion went into business, opening up the gap with Kiplangat and with the finish line in sight, there was no doubt he would be crowned the new winner.



Benson Kipruto leading during the Tokyo Marathon. PHOTO/Tokyo Marathon/X

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*The 2024 NCBA Golf Series commenced yesterday at the NCBA Golf Series attracting 145 golfers eager to vie for victory across multiple divisions.

# Kenneth Mburu Triumphs In Division One At 2024 NCBA Golf Series Opener



NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora awards Kenneth Mburu, Division One Winner of the 2024 NCBA Golf Series at Kenya Railway Golf Club. Photo: Agencies .

**By Agencies**

The 2024 NCBA Golf Series commenced yesterday at the NCBA Golf Series attracting 145 golfers eager to vie for victory across multiple divisions.

In Division One, where players with handicaps up to 12 compete, Kenneth Mburu emerged victorious with a score of 38 Stableford points, playing off handicap 12. Following closely behind, John Kamenyi, with a handicap of eight, secured the runner-up position with 37 points.

Moving to Division Two, which sees players with handicaps ranging from 13 to 24, Ronald Wekesa claimed the men's category title with an impressive 43 points, playing off handicap 16. Among the ladies, Jane Ndirangu emerged victorious with 36 points, playing off handicap 22.

In Division Three, catering to

players with handicaps of 25 and above, Kimaita Magiri clinched victory with 42 points, playing off a handicap of 26.

Additionally, in subsidiary categories, Saruni Meely secured the win among junior golfers with a round of 30 points, playing off handicap 25. Meanwhile, Steve Mutungi claimed the Guest winner title with 40 points, playing off handicap 26.

Among the NCBA staff, Charles "Sirikal" Omondi, NCBA Group Acting Director for Retail Banking, took the Staff winner title with 33 points, playing off handicap 21.

Speaking at the event, Charles Omondi, NCBA Group's Acting Director of Retail Banking emphasized the transformative influence of sports in uniting people, fostering greatness, and nurturing enduring bonds. Reflecting on the day's proceedings, he expressed

optimism and excitement for the journey ahead.

Omondi highlighted the NCBA Golf Series as marking the beginning of an exhilarating golfing odyssey across East Africa and reaffirming NCBA Group's steadfast dedication to nurturing the growth and development of golf in the region.

"NCBA acknowledges the significance of offering platforms beyond banking services for engaging with our customers. The NCBA Golf Series provides a distinctive opportunity for us to connect with our customers and partners in a relaxed and enjoyable environment, strengthening bonds and cultivating a sense of community. Through initiatives like the NCBA Golf Series, we endeavour to demonstrate our commitment to supporting endeavours that hold importance to our customers, building trust, and creating mem-

orable experiences that extend beyond banking," Omondi said.

The 2024 NCBA Golf Series encompasses 23 qualifying events spread across East Africa, with 14 held in Kenya, three in Uganda, three in Rwanda, two in Tanzania, and one in Zanzibar. These events will culminate in a grand finale on November 29th at the Muthaiga Golf Club.

Six players, including winners from various divisions such as Division One Male and Female, Division Two Male and Female, Division Three Overall, and the overall Junior category, will earn qualification to compete in the prestigious grand finale.

The next stop for the series is the Nakuru Golf Club on March 24, 2024, for the second leg of this thrilling golfing journey.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





## Volunteers Are Ambassadors Of Goodness

By: Shokhijakhon Urunov  
@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- Everywhere they go, they carry with them a sense of hope, kindness, and a willingness to make a difference. It is this attitude and their actions that make them ambassadors of goodness. Volunteers serve as role models, inspiring others to do good deeds and create a ripple effect of generosity and kindness.
- They lead by example, showing that even the smallest act of kindness can make a significant impact. The world needs more of these ambassadors of goodness, people who are willing to put the needs of others before their own and who are driven by the desire to make the world a better place.



Volunteers Are Ambassadors Of Goodness.

Volunteers are individuals who selflessly give their time, energy, and efforts towards the betterment of society. They are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Often referred to as ambassadors of goodness, volunteers are the true epitome of selflessness, compassion, and empathy. Volunteering is the act of dedicating oneself to community service without any expectation of reward or recognition.

It is driven by a strong desire to make a difference and bring about positive change in the world. Volunteers come from all walks of life, and they work towards a common goal – to spread goodness and kindness in the world.

One of the significant roles played by volunteers is that of ambassadors of goodness. By giving their time and talents to help those in need, they are not only providing tangible support but also sending a powerful

message of love and compassion.

Everywhere they go, they carry with them a sense of hope, kindness, and a willingness to make a difference. It is this attitude and their actions that make them ambassadors of goodness. Volunteers serve as role models, inspiring others to do good deeds and create a ripple effect of generosity and kindness.

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needs more of these ambassadors of goodness, people who are willing to put the needs of others before their own and who are driven by the desire to make the world a better place.

Volunteers also act as bridges between different communities, cultures, and backgrounds. Their selfless service brings people together and breaks down barriers, fostering a sense of unity and harmony.

The compassion and empathy shown by volunteers towards others serve as a reminder that we are all part of one big human family, and it is our responsibility to take care of each other. Furthermore, volunteers are essential in addressing social issues and creating sustainable change in society.

They work on various projects ranging from environmental conservation to education, healthcare, and disaster relief. By being on the ground and working directly with the affected communities, volunteers understand the root causes of these issues and are better equipped to find solutions.

Their commitment and passion towards these causes make them powerful agents of change and ambassadors of goodness. Moreover, volunteers also play a critical role in advocacy and raising awareness about important issues.

They use their voices and platforms to bring attention to marginalized and underprivileged communities, shining a light on their struggles and needs. By doing so, they give a voice to the voiceless and bring about social change through education and awareness.

In conclusion, volunteers are the embodiment of goodness in the world. They go above and beyond to serve those in need, creating a better and more compassionate world for all. Their selfless service, compassion, and kindness make them ambassadors of goodness, spreading hope and making a positive impact wherever they go. It is our responsibility to support and appreciate these volunteers and their efforts as they continue to make the world a better place, one act of kindness at a time.

*Shokhijakhon Urunov is a Student of Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute*

