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News >> Gachagua Assures Nyahururu's Kia-Maina Squatters Of Title Deeds

P. 8. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured land-owners of Kia-Maina Village, Nyahururu town, Laikipia West Constituency of the government's readiness to process for them title deeds



News >> Relief For Murang'a County Parents As Over 500 Students Receive Bursaries Worth Sh5.2 Million

P. 12. Over 500 needy students from Murang'a county have benefited from bursaries worth over Sh5 million from the office of the local Women Representative.

Government To Fully Implement The Community Health Promoters Programme

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has promised the Government's full commitment to implementing the Community Health Promoters programme to help in detection of diseases and reduce cost of treatment for many Kenyans.

The Deputy President said the national government had already released the monthly stipend for the 107, 000 Community Health Promoters who have been deployed across the country to implement the programme.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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Kenya and Indonesia to Strengthen Mining Sector: MoU Implementation Underway

By: Wendy Keziah and Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes



Mining CS Salim Mvurya speaks as his Indonesian counterpart Dr Adriani Kusumawardani, among others, looks on after the signing of the MoU..

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the ceremony, CS Salim Mvurya emphasized the importance of cooperation in addressing common challenges and maximizing opportunities in the mining sector. He highlighted the need for sustainable practices that prioritize environmental conservation and community engagement, ensuring that mining activities benefit the local population while safeguarding natural resources.
- Dr. Adriani Kusumawardani echoed these sentiments, emphasizing Indonesia's commitment to supporting Kenya in its efforts to revitalize the mining industry. She underscored the significance of knowledge transfer and capacity building initiatives in fostering innovation and enhancing productivity across the value chain.

In a significant move to enhance cooperation in the mining sector, Kenya and Indonesia have initiated the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the state visit by the Indonesian president last August. The recent development was marked by a notable gathering where Kenyan Mining CS Salim Mvurya addressed the audience, including his Indonesian counterpart, Dr. Adriani Kusumawardani.

The signing ceremony, attended by key stakeholders from both nations, underscores the shared commitment to harnessing the potential of their respective mining industries. With Kenya's abundant mineral resources and Indonesia's

vast expertise in the sector, the collaboration holds promise for mutual growth and development.

The MoU signifies a strategic partnership aimed at leveraging technological advancements, knowledge exchange, and best practices to propel the mining sectors of both countries forward. As global demand for minerals continues to rise, this partnership seeks to position Kenya and Indonesia as key players in the international mining arena.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Mvurya emphasized the importance of cooperation in addressing common challenges and maximizing opportunities in the mining sector. He highlighted the need

for sustainable practices that prioritize environmental conservation and community engagement, ensuring that mining activities benefit the local population while safeguarding natural resources.

Dr. Adriani Kusumawardani echoed these sentiments, emphasizing Indonesia's commitment to supporting Kenya in its efforts to revitalize the mining industry. She underscored the significance of knowledge transfer and capacity building initiatives in fostering innovation and enhancing productivity across the value chain.

The implementation of the MoU is poised to usher in a new era of collaboration marked by joint research projects,

technical exchanges, and investment opportunities. Through shared expertise and resources, Kenya and Indonesia aim to unlock the full potential of their mineral wealth while promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Key areas of focus under the MoU include:

Policy Alignment: Harmonizing regulatory frameworks to create an enabling environment for investment and growth in the mining sector.

Capacity Building: Investing in training programs and skill development initiatives to empower local communities and professionals in the mining industry.

Technology Transfer: Facilitating the transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and promote responsible mining practices.

Environmental Sustainability: Implementing measures to mitigate environmental impact and promote sustainable resource management in line with international standards.

Market Access: Exploring avenues for market diversification and expanding export opportunities for mineral products to international markets.

The successful implementation of the MoU hinges on strong collaboration, proactive engagement, and a shared vision for the future of the mining sector. By working together, Kenya and Indonesia are poised to unlock new opportunities, drive economic growth, and create lasting benefits for their citizens and the global community.

As the partnership between Kenya and Indonesia gains momentum, stakeholders remain optimistic about the transformative impact it will have on the mining sector and broader socio-economic development agendas. With a firm commitment to mutual cooperation and shared prosperity, the journey towards realizing the full potential of their mineral resources has begun in earnest.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



World Vision's Kenya has provided Sh12 million in school fees subsidy to 358 learners in Kuria, Migori County, to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through education. The "World Vision Kenya Big Dream Programme" aims to create a friendly environment for girls, empowering them to eradicate FGM, teenage pregnancies, and early marriages. The program will complement government bursaries to accommodate more beneficiaries. Migori Deputy Governor Joseph Mahiri and Isebania Assistant County Commissioner Lillian Wabala emphasize the importance of education in ending these issues.



Kilifi Women Empowerment Cooperative Society (KWECOS) has launched KWECOS Sacco, a partnership with Kilifi County Government, to promote financial growth and empowerment among women. The society aims to instill a savings, borrowing, and investment culture among its members, with plans for recruitment and by-laws.



Kenya in unanimity with 14 other member states under the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) will present a joint position on Small Arms and Light Weapons at the Fourth Review Conference in New York in June this year. The conference aims to address the challenges posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region, in line with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The members who are currently attending the Regional Preparatory meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons at a Nairobi hotel have joined hands to combat the illegal movement and trade of small arms and light weapons. Presiding over the opening session of the two-day Regional Preparatory Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration Dr. Raymond Omollo reiterated Kenya's commitment to combat the illegal arms trade. Dr Omollo said the meeting is reviewing efforts such as the destruction of confiscated and obsolete firearm stockpiles and the marking of all state-owned weapons for enhanced traceability.



A cultural dancers' group from Kangema, Murang'a County is in dire need of a market for their organically grown farm produce, which they say is rotting in their farms. The Wanjerere cultural dancers' women group produces highland arrow roots, fruits, traditional vegetables besides sensitizing the public through their dances on the need to embrace organic foods devoid of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. The group's chairperson Elizabeth Muthoni observes that despite growing the best varieties of arrow roots, vegetables and fruits, their farm produce just rots away because there is no market. "When we are not performing cultural dances in functions, we do organic farming and teach our people how to grow health foods including arrow roots that do not necessarily have to be grown on the river beds," she says adding that highland arrow roots are easier to grow and manage. The women group says they are currently incurring losses because there is no market for their produce which is already in surplus.



The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) Homa Bay County branch in partnership with a Community-Based Organisation (CBO) dubbed 'Plant trees for a better environment' have launched a tree planting campaign targeting children in the County. According to SUPKEM Secretary Nuhu Masud, the two organisations under a programme titled "Back to school with a seedling programme", have an agenda of educating children on the importance of planting trees. "We want children to plant their trees, tend them and know the importance of the trees," he said. He said the programme also aimed at empowering each pupil to plant at least one tree in their schools. Masudi noted that this is also a strategy to meet the tree planting strategy of planting 50 billion trees by the year 2032. In addition, he said children should also be educated on climate change and its effect as a strategy for environmental conservation. He further affirmed that as a community, their objective is to promote and advance the well-being of the members of the community.



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Moses Francis Masika Wetangula has said that the National Assembly is in the process of harmonizing bicameral relations between the two Houses to ensure more effective collaboration. He said the Houses of Parliament (Bicameral Relations) Bill, 2023 currently before the National Assembly pending a Second Reading seeks to streamline the bicameral legislative processes between the National Assembly and the Senate which oversees the county governments. "This in our view will ensure that both Houses pass legislation touching on the functions of the county governments devoid of any disputes on the respective legislative mandates of both Houses," Wetangula said. The remarks were contained in a speech read on his behalf by the Ugenya Member of Parliament David Ochieng' who is also a member of the Speaker's Panel in the National Assembly during the Second Intergovernmental Relations Symposium organized by the Intergovernmental Relations Technical (IGRTC) in Naivasha on Monday.

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Register With IEK To Get Mentorship, Young Engineers Told

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Njeri spoke during a tree planting occasion to mark Worlds Engineering Day at Maragua Dam, an event that was organized by Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company (Muwasco) and which brought together students pursuing various engineering courses.
- She underscored the assistance the IEK provides to young engineers as they embark on securing employment locally and internationally.
- "The institution has helped many young engineers to secure jobs, and internships and also access professional litigation in arbitration of any case they may face in their line of work."



Institution of Engineers of Kenya, Central Kenya Branch chairperson Hannah Njeri planting a tree at Maragua dam on Monday as her colleagues and other stakeholders look on

Young graduates in various Engineering courses have been asked to register with the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) to get mentorship among other assistance to grow their careers.

The chairperson of IEK Central Kenya branch Hannah Njeri has observed that many graduates are yet to register with the institution, thus unable to access proper guidance and mentorship in their profession.

The institution, Njeri noted, currently has a membership of about 9000 and young graduates are shying off from joining the professional body.

She observed a section of young graduate engineers take a long before securing jobs, since they don't get guidance and mentorship about their

careers.

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She underscored the assistance the IEK provides to young engineers as they embark on securing employment locally and internationally.

"The institution has helped many young engineers to secure jobs, and internships and also access professional litigation in arbitration of any case they may face in their line of work."

"IEK also has a benevolent package for the members and for those willing

to work outside the country, we can connect them to engineers working in foreign countries." Explained the chairperson.

Njeri further challenged engineers to ensure they engage in programmes that are in tandem with their profession and that help Kenyans solve challenges they are facing in their daily lives.

"The work of engineers is to provide solutions. Let them engage in programmes that solve issues being faced by the communities such as climate change," she added.

On his part, Muwasco managing director Eng. Daniel Ng'ang'a promised that his firm would partner with the IEK and local universities to help in

mentoring young engineers.

Ng'ang'a observed that senior engineers have a responsibility to mentor younger professionals to ensure there is no gap in the future.

"Muwasco will enter into partnership with IEK and some local universities to help in providing internship and mentorship to students pursuing engineering courses. This will ensure those graduating have the right skills needed to spur the economic growth of this country," he noted.

During the occasion, more than 2,000 tree seedlings were planted on the banks of the Sh.800 million dam that will provide 18 million litres of water to Maragua residents daily.

When the rainy season starts later this month, Ng'ang'a said about 5,000 more seedlings will be distributed to farmers living near the dam and along the Maragua and Irati rivers that drain into the reservoir.

Muwasco, he added, operates a nursery at its Kandundu sewerage treatment plant that it uses to rehabilitate wetlands within its area of jurisdiction.

The water company took over management of the dam three weeks ago after President William Ruto made a decree that ended a four-year battle with Murang'a South Water and Sanitation Company (Muswasco).

Gachocho Senior Chief Eliud Chege appealed to the company to consider fencing the dam saying local boys have been spending their holidays swimming in it, especially during dry seasons.

"This dam borders Gachocho, Yamugwe and Gathera villages and is far too wide and deep. We don't want to see people jumping into it to commit suicide like with other dams," he stated.

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Gachagua Assures Nyahururu's Kia-Maina Squatters Of Title Deeds

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured landowners of Kia-Maina Village, Nyahururu town, Laikipia West Constituency of the government's readiness to process for them title deeds for their pieces of land in the next six months.

Speaking on Monday when he addressed residents of the village, the DP said President William Ruto's Administration is keen on ensuring they fully own their land and benefit from it.

"We are working on the title deeds for the residents here in Maina village because they have been asking for them for a long time. We want to ensure you have the title deeds in the next six months," said the DP when he interacted with the locals on his development tour of the County.

On top of the vital documents, the DP said roads will be tarmacked to

open up the village.

The DP also said the government is working on dealing with the human-wildlife conflict in the area to avert more destruction to the residents.

"We want the people to enjoy the fruits of their labour in their farms without the fear of losing their investments to the wildlife here," assured the DP.

On the fight against illicit brews and drugs abuse, Mr Gachagua promised the government's determination to free the region from the vices.

Gachagua also reiterated the importance of the region's unity behind President Ruto.

"We must remain united for the good of the region and our people," he said.

The Deputy President was joined Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, Deputy Governor Rueben Kamuri, Laikipia Senator John Kinyua, Laikipia County MP Jane Kagiri, Laikipia West MP Wachira Karani, host MCA Irene Wachuka (Igwami-



ti Ward), Nyandarua Senator John Methu, Kiambu County MP Ann Wamuratha, Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Emurua Dikirr MP Johanna Ng'eno, Molo MP Kuria Kimani, Subukia MP Samuel Gachobe, Ndaragwa MP George Gachagua and several MCAs and former Laikipia County MP Cate Waruguru among other leaders.

CoG To Collaborate With Counties To Ensure Food Security

By: Mutai Kipngetch
@themkenyatimes

The Council of Governors (CoG) has said their main goal is to ensure the Bottom Up Economic Transformational Agenda (BETA) goals are achieved.

The CoG Chief Executive Officer Mary Mwititi who is also a board member National Irrigation Authority (NIA) while speaking from Mwea Irrigation Scheme said they will collaborate with state agencies to understand the architecture, the County Integrated Development Plans and budget prepositions towards achieving BETA.

She singled out the Mwea Irrigation Scheme in Mwea, where there was already an existing collaborative framework between the County and NIA in rice production and day-to-day running of activities in the entire scheme.

"One thing we fundamentally need to understand is that we are working towards one goal which is the greater

agenda of BETA, President William Ruto's agenda, in terms of the use of arable land to achieve food security.

In so doing, we are cooperating with such agencies like NIA to understand how better it can be done," Mwititi said.

NIA's newly constituted board was on a familiarization tour in Thiba Dam and Mwea Irrigation Scheme led by Chairperson Eng. Gilbert Maluki and all other board members.

Eng. Maluki said the infrastructure put in by NIA is commendable and the progress of the entire scheme is in the right direction.

He added that the main agenda of the NIA is to reduce the rice deficit currently existing in the country.

The chairperson revealed that the upgrading of the first phase of canals covering an additional 5,000 acres is at a 64 per cent completion stage, with all others set to be completed by December to cover a maximum of 10,000 acres.

"We appreciate the infrastructure in Mwea being undertaken by the irrigation authority. The farmers have embarked on farming and the whole



The National Irrigation Authority chairman Eng. Gilbert Maluki addressing journalists in Mwea, Kirinyaga County yesterday..

idea is to reduce the rice deficit. We are at 64 per cent in construction of canals in 5000 acres and by December would have completed the task," the chair said.

Laban Kiplagat, a board member, said Kenya is known as an agricultural country but it is a shame some-

times to see people suffering from hunger.

He noted the government is putting up measures to ensure the production of enough food, especially in ensuring sufficient provision of water for irrigation through NIA and subsidized fertilizer.

On pests and disease control, the board will cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture to develop effective pesticides. In addition, the research on controlling invasive apple snails and quelea birds is in top gear.

Gov't To Fully Implement The Community Health Promoters Programme - DP

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has promised the Government's full commitment to implementing the Community Health Promoters programme to help in detection of diseases and reduce cost of treatment for many Kenyans.

The Deputy President said the national government had already released the monthly stipend for the 107, 000 Community Health Promoters who have been deployed across the country to implement the programme.

Speaking on Monday when he commissioned the newly constructed Mother and Child Unit at Nyahururu County Referral Hospital in Laikipia County, Gachagua said the CHPs have been properly kitted with requisite equipment to ensure its success. "The CHPs are doing a great job in providing promotive and preventive healthcare services. They are helping the people detect lifestyle diseases early," said Mr Gachagua.

He said the Government was work-

ing closely with counties to ensure the programme is properly implemented at the grassroots.

At the same time, the Deputy President said in collaboration with the Laikipia government, a new Outpatient Wing will be constructed at the Referral Hospital to ensure availability of more health services to the people.

"The national government and the county will make equal contributions to ensure the Outpatient facility is completed on time," he said.

Congratulating Laikipia leaders led by Governor Joshua Irungu and Senator John Kinyua and area MPs for working together for faster development, he challenged other counties to emulate their solidarity.

"All leaders elected must be united and focused as they serve the people. It is only the best way to ensure we move forward as a country," said the DP.

He said development projects encompassing roads construction, issuance of title deeds were being smoothly implemented in the County. "We found huge debts when we took over but now things have settled and we are implementing many projects in this County and across the coun-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Cabinet Secretary for Health Susan Nakhumicha Wafula and Laikipia County Women Representative Jane Kagiri with new mothers in Nyahururu on Monday..

try," he observed.

The Deputy President was accompanied by Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, Deputy Governor Rueben Kamuri, Laikipia Senator John Kinyua, Laikipia County

MP Jane Kagiri, Laikipia West MP Wachira Karani, Nyandarua Senator John Methu, Kiambu County MP Ann Wamuratha, Naivasha Mp Jayne Kihara, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Emurua Dikirr MP Johanna Ng'eno, Molo Mp Kuria Kimani,

Subukia MP Samuel Gachobe, Ndaragwa MP George Gachagua and several MCAs led by Igwamiti Ward MCA Irene Wachuka, former Laikipia County MP Cate Waruguru among other leaders.

Stakeholders Meeting On The Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project

By: MoWSI

Principal Secretary for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho convened a consultative meeting for the Galana Kulalu food security project. This follows a successful project under PPP, where the private party harvested an average of 35 bags per acre.

The consultative meeting involved stakeholders from State Departments for Irrigation, Water and Sanitation, Roads, Energy, Agriculture, Wildlife, Transport, Investments, Land and Physical Planning, Economic Planning, and the National Treasury.

PS Kimotho emphasized the facilitative role the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) play in scaling up food production from 538 to 20,000 acres in the short term and to over 350,000 acres in line with the presidential directive.

He urged the MDAs to support critical issues for the success of the



Department of Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho with other stakeholders after the consultative meeting.

project, including land lease, access to roads, power supply, special economic zones consideration, stable water supply, and other critical success factors.

In addition, Kimotho said that maize, being a staple food product in Kenya, has a growing deficit that distorts market pricing despite the increasing population and Galana Kulalu Project, once developed, has the potential to address the local maize

deficit, build agricultural exports, and attract approximately KSh45 billion million in Agriculture FDI. The project is designed to increase maize production by more than 12 million bags, as well as other crops, within the Galana Kulalu ranch.

Principal Secretary for Water Korir promised his support to the project through completion of the Thwake dam, which has Irrigation component and by its completion completion

helps in the sustainability of water flow to Galana dam.

PS Roads Joseph Mbugua promised to help in support of road infrastructure including the bridge, and access roads to ensure the project has the best road network

The project Engineer representing the PS Energy said they were committed to fast-tracking the installation of power lines and substations that will support the work at Gala-

na-Kulalu farms and will be supplemented with solar energy source.

Peter Njonjo, representing the private party underscored the critical role of the facilitative State Departments in catalyzing private capital into the irrigation space for large-scale farming of high-priority crops in GKFSP for food security, reducing imports of food items, and increasing forex earnings through exports in line with the Bottom UP Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). He emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogues and concerted efforts to advance the government's overarching goal of enhancing maize production and overall food sufficiency.

PS Kimotho further stressed the need for a steadfast commitment to timely delivery and effective implementation to ensure that the project not only meets but exceeds expectations, thereby contributing significantly to the nation's food security agenda.

Christ Jesus: The Breaker Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

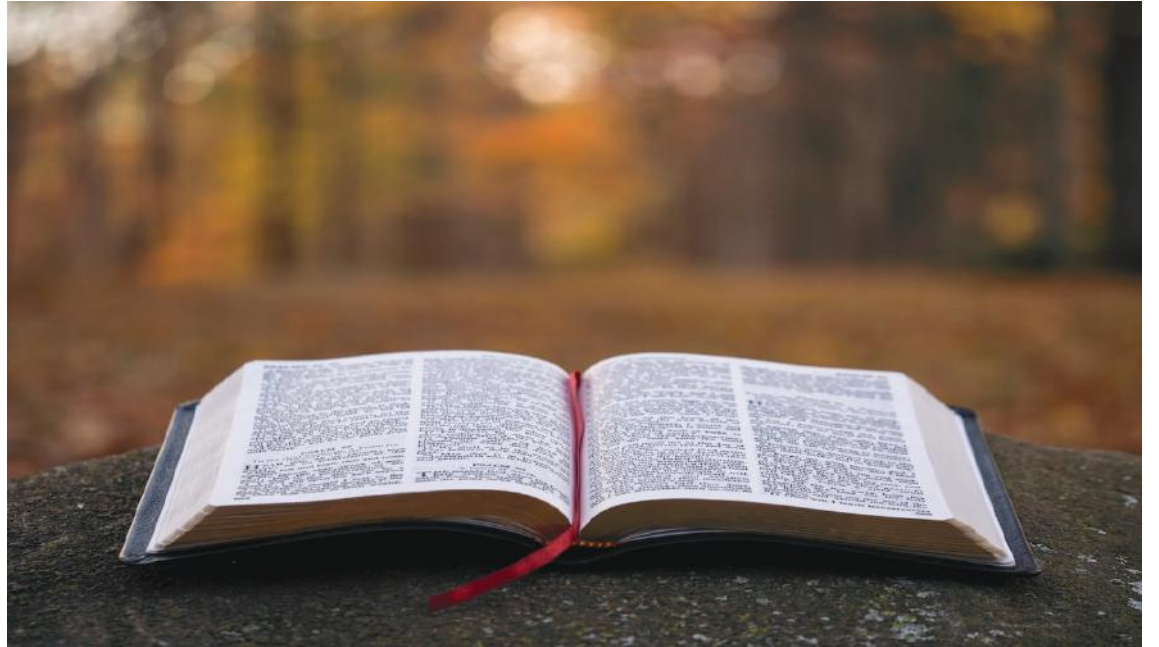
Our God has beautiful names, and they come through experiences/ encounter HE has had with men. For example He told the Moses to tell the Israelites that His is known: "I AM THAT I AM", this was to mean He was able to meet EVERY NEED. Indeed at that time He was able to break the chain of captivity.

Daniel 11: 32 "Them that know their God shall be STRONG and DO EXPLOITS." Apostle Paul said, 'I desire that I may know HIM, and the POWER that resurrected Him.' I desire to know Christ completely and deeply, not only that, in different ways.

Consider Genenis 16: 13 we see Haggai, the servant of Abraham wife Sarah, whence had run away, "She gave this name to the LORD who

spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." This is where we get the name ELOI (GOD WHO SEES ME). There is a God who sees everything you undergo. Also in Exodus 3:16 "I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt." Sometimes we may think God does not see what we undergo, the good deeds and the persecutions we undergo because of His Name. This means in my private life, we should know He sees in secret.

In Genesis 22:14, "so Abraham called that place THE LORD WILL PROVIDE. And to this day it said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided. "Here we get the name JEHOVAH JIREH (The Lord WHO provides). In Genesis 17:1-9 we see God introducing Himself to Abraham, "the Lord appeared to him and said, "I AM GOD ALMIGHTY (EL SHADDAI); walk before me and be blameless, You will be a father of many nations, I will establish an everlasting covenant, "This is a period you may say, God was talking to a discouraged Abraham, because



he was old, and he had no child, but we see God introducing Himself at length as WHO HE IS.

This is in essence WHO Christ Jesus is, and we see Him being revealed as Christ, THE BREAKER.

SELAH! TO GOD ALMIGHTY, BE THE GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day

of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.

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Ruto's Endorsement Of NADCO Report Has Finally Borne The Fruits



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com

A few days ago, members of parliament (MPs) concluded the debate on National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report and overwhelmingly adopted it.

As required by the law enacted to spearhead the process, the report was submitted to the Senate for concurrence.

This means a new bill capturing the proposals presented during the public hearings held at the Bomas of Kenya has been prepared.

The law requires the Speakers of the two houses to submit the Bill to the President for assent.

When the committee released the final NADCO report, the President immediately endorsed it.

Noting that we are a country governed by the rule of law and constitution, he termed this as a move in the right direction.

The ball now moves to parliament and expect members of parliament to expedite this process.

As your president, my wish is to see MPs adopting his report. This has come to pass.

As a writer and a political analyst, I wrote an article in this column soon after President Ruto endorsed the report. These were my observations.

Speaking during a Sunday service at Priesthood church in Kahawa West, Nairobi, President William Ruto expressed gratitude to the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) co-chaired by Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Majority leader Kimani Ichungwah for completing their job and presenting the final report.

I have read the report I want to say this. I totally agree with the recommendations.

As you know, the 10-member committee was set up to address the issues raised by other side. We are now reading from the same page.

So, having this report is a key milestone in fostering peace and unity of our country.

The recommendations will now be tabled on the floor of Parliament and senate for debate and adoption. This is in line with one of the clauses contained in an agreement unanimously passed by the two houses. It is worth noting the motion for establishing the bipartisan talks team had received massive support.

Thereafter, the two Captains-President William Ruto and Azimio La Umoja



National Dialogue committee co-chairs Kimani Ichungwa and Kalonzo Musyoka during the unveiling of the committee report in Nairobi. [Dennis Kavisu].

One Kenya Coalition Raila Odinga did not raise any objections. The duo immediately endorsed it.

Therefore, President Ruto's decision to support the final report did not come as a surprise.

He had all along supported this process. But as it turns out, the opinion is divided. I have been following with keen interest mixed reactions that the final report continues to elicit. This is good and healthy for our democracy. It shows that our democracy is maturing.

I would not expect Parliament to let down the President whose vision and mission is clear.

His main focus is to build a united and peace full Kenya and rid the country burden of foreign debts.

At Priesthood Church in Kahawa West, he was therefore happy to note that one of the recommendations in NADCO final report stated. The monies allocated for the local and foreign travels of the government officials should be cut by 50 percent and 30 percent respectively. For 50 pc cut, i have already done that.

For 30%, I have no problem. I wish they could have pegged it at 50%.

Notably, the recommendations had been informed by the views and memoranda submitted by the people of Kenya during the public hearings.

One of the issues agreed upon is the creation of the Office of Leader of Opposition. This is another key recommendation.

The bipartisan talks were being held at Bomas of Kenya. The opinion of the polls conducted by Trends and Insights for Africa (Tifa) had shown that majority of Kenyans supported the proposal by President William Ruto on creation of this Office.

This would leave no doubt that they rightly viewed President Ruto as a true democrat and statesman.

Dr Ruto, who had a week earlier addressed a church congregation in Meru, stated he had no doubt this would become one of the key recommendations. Reason? The proposal resonates well with the wishes of the majority of Kenyans who were rooting for a vibrant and

robust opposition.

Constitutionally speaking, parliament is a law making body.

During the demonstrations, Azimio leader Raila Odinga wanted Kenyans to believe that the MPs cannot be trusted to lead the talks. He would allege that this was because they were fighting for their own stomach.

He would mainly target those who belonged to his Azimio Coalition who changed the tune by opting to work closely with President William Ruto.

The position of these MPs would be clear. We are doing this for the sake of the people who elected us. They have been telling us the time of politics is over. They want us to roll out the development projects we promised them during the campaigns.

In our context, the government of the day plays a leading role when it comes to sharing of the public resources.

The President is the CEO of this great Nation. So you can only ignore him at your own peril.

This however should not be misconstrued to mean that the President had compromised and silenced us.

One of our assignments is to take on and correct the President and his administration when they go wrong. We are committed to this course.

But in some quarters Raila's turnaround would be interpreted as self-indicting and incriminating.

As we know, he had played a key role in clearing these people to run for their respective parliamentary seats and other elective positions on Azimio tickets. Does it mean he gave his supporters the wrong choices? If yes, then it means he is an enemy of the people. You never believed in the course that you wanted them to believe in.

I'm sure if Raila won the elections, he could have done the same thing. This is by reaching out and rallying members of Dr Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA) to support his development agenda inside and outside parliament.

In Meru, President Ruto reiterated that the opposition's role is critical in terms of providing checks and balances on the

government of the day.

We know some of the issues they raise were in good faith. So we will not hesitate to do the right thing.

It is worth noting Dr Ruto started rooting for a system of governance anchored on tenets of democracy and constitutionalism long before he become the President.

This is the first time in Kenya's history that the sitting head of state is rooting for the creation of the Office of Opposition Leader.

The previous administrations feared and were opposed to formation of a strong and vibrant opposition.

At a time, the government resorted to using crude and cruel means to counter and weaken the outfits.

President Ruto is rooting for the opposition that engages the government in a structured constructive and honest dialogue.

I remember a powerful speech he made at Chatham House in the United Kingdom (UK) in the countdown to the 2022 General Election.

He told his attentive audience who comprised political leaders, diplomats, scholars and professionals drawn from all parts of the world that he totally detested the system that was being embraced back home in Kenya.

As you are aware, the 'handshake' government of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner Raila Odinga was at the helm of power.

He described it as a mongrel kind of thing. This system lacked consistent, direction and focus. It is an animal that one cannot understand.

This system has caused a lot confusion and stagnated the progress and wellbeing of our people.

In a functioning democracy, the government and opposition are supposed to operate as distinct entities.

If I win the elections and become the President, I want to assure Kenyans that I will strive to provide leadership on this matter.

Initially Raila and his brigade had resorted to throwing the spanners in the work by holding bloody and destructive

demonstrations. He never wanted Ruto to succeed. He had previously used the same card to intimidate and blackmail presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

He hoped this card will work even this time. The strategy flopped because Dr Ruto stood his ground.

Besides, majority of Kenyans also realized that Raila was taking them for a ride. He did not believe in their course. He was just using them in pursuit of his selfish and personal gains.

Raila's endgame was to force President Ruto to share the rulling Kenya Kwanza government with him.

Dr Ruto remained firm telling Raila. I defeated you at the ballot. Accept the bitter truth that you lost and move on.

For now, your role is very clear. As an opposition leader, your job is to criticize my government.

Many Kenyans believe Raila was yet to accept the outcome of 2022 presidential election results because of one main reason.

He never thought he can lose because for the first time the outgoing President, the deep state and system was fully backing his candidature.

He however forgot this. Dr Ruto, his main competitor was on the other hand enjoying God's favor and support of the majority of Kenyans.

Raila's association with the outgoing President had been identified as his Achilles heel.

We know that Kenyatta's victories in both 2013 and 2017 were attributed to the popular support he had received from his strongholds of the Mount Kenya and Rift Valley regions.

He had already lost the two blocs and the voters were now rallying behind Ruto.

Dr Ruto had also raided and penetrated Raila Odinga's strongholds and he had managed to sway a huge chunk of votes to his side.

With this, where did Raila expect to get votes?

For Raila, there is always another day and chance. Try your luck in 2027. Put God first in all this.

The Good Lord is the one who blesses and anoints leaders.

Seek comfort in the Verses that saw David being anointed as a King of Israel.

This happened before his mother carried him in her womb.

David had been abandoned and despised by his siblings and his father.

Dr Ruto suffered the same fate. He had been abandoned by the outgoing President and his top state officials.

Raila, you were the root cause of this.

This is listed as another reason why you lost. If you dig a hole, the person you are targeting will not fall in it. It is you who will fall in it.

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

Relief For Murang'a County Parents As Over 500 Students Receive Bursaries Worth Sh5.2 Million

By: Florence Kinyua
 @themkenyatimes

Over 500 needy students from Murang'a county have benefited from bursaries worth over Sh5 million from the office of the local Women Representative.

The students drawn from vulnerable and underprivileged backgrounds will have their secondary and tertiary institutions education sponsored.

Speaking at Kimorori grounds, Kenol Township in Murang'a County yesterday, Women Representative Betty Maina observed that her office is committed to ensuring that all students from underprivileged backgrounds have an equal chance to education, which is a right for every Kenyan child.

"Today 506 students in colleges, tertiary institutions and secondary schools, including those with disabilities receive a total of Sh 5.2 million to cater for their studies," she said.

"Education is the key that will help them unlock all the doors of opportunities available to them," she added.

The Women Representative further



Murang'a County Women Representative Betty Maina with other stakeholders after disbursing bursary worth more than Sh5 million

implored on the students to work hard in their studies.

"Do not get into alcohol, drugs and substance abuse as that will derail your intention to transform your life and that of your families," she implored.

At the same time, Maina called on the Ministry of Education to ensure that the capitation meant for schools

gets there on time.

"We have witnessed the government releases a certain percentage for a school term and withholds the rest. The next term they release a certain amount for that term without clearing the previous terms capitation grant, which ends up being a burden on the school heads who have to run the schools" observed Maina.

One of the beneficiaries, Elizabeth Wamuyu applauded the women representative for the initiative noting that her child was able to remain in school despite the harsh economic times

"My child is in Karugia secondary school and has benefited through the bursaries after I was unable to pay her school fees at Kigumo girls high

school," she said

She continued "I am grateful that she will now be able to go on with her studies and realize her dreams"

Wamuyu underscores the need for the government to continue supporting the education as most of the men are wasting away in drinking dens as the women do menial jobs for survival.

"It is the children that suffer, but with such initiatives we have hope that they will be able to pursue their dreams and ambitions," she said.

On her part, Rose Mwhiki another beneficiary whose child is living with a disability said, "My child has cerebral palsy and had not joined school at the age of 12 because getting the finances to take him to a special school had proved futile."

But with the bursaries, he has joined a special school, added Mwhiki, while urging parents with special children like her not to shy away from seeking help and enrolling them for learning.

"Most of the children with special needs remain hidden due to societal stigma and I urge the government to ensure they also access education," she pleaded.

Kindiki Urges For People-Friendly Security Operations In Northern Kenya

By: Erick Kyalo
 @themkenyatimes

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki has urged Northern Kenya security forces to be friendly to local communities for support and information, potentially leading to the enemy defeat.

Speaking in Garissa during the commissioning of the newly created Shanta Abaq sub county, Prof. Kindiki said that there is need to make the public part of the security operations by making sure that people are not hurt or injured unjustly.

However, the CS thanked the security agencies for their continued dedication to their duty and ensuring that the country is safe at all costs, sometimes even at the expense of their own lives.

"Our special forces are doing a very good job because dealing with this

enemy is not a small job. We have even lost some of them in the line of duty and others have been seriously injured, but their spirits against the militants are still unmoved," he said.

The CS urged officers leading the war against terrorism to maintain friendly relations with the public to gather information that could aid in stopping the enemy and promoting peace.

Furthermore, Kindiki urged officers leading the war against terrorism to maintain friendly relations with the public to gather information that could aid in stopping the enemy and promoting peace.

The CS further reiterated that there is a need to change the way the public perceives security operations so that there can be a united front against al shabaab and banditry in the country.

Hence, the main agenda which he outlined, is to establish a direct relationship between security forces and Northern Kenya residents, enabling

information sharing and intelligence sharing in the ongoing war against terror.

To add on, he appealed to regional political leaders to support and understand how a safer country can achieve success through businesses, agriculture and other activities.

Recently, the CS revealed that the government had rolled out a Sh7 billion state-of-the-art security equipment to bolster safety measures in regions prone to terrorism and banditry.

The deployment is slated for areas prone to terrorism and banditry, with a focus on bolstering safety measures in regions like North Eastern, Upper Eastern and Upper Coastal areas.

Meanwhile, CS Kindiki has announced the recruitment and training of National Police Reservists (NPRs) starting next month, intended to complement the efforts of multi-agency security personnel in combating terrorism financiers and



Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki while in Garissa yesterday.

orchestrators.

At the same time, in a bid to tackle evolving security threats comprehensively, the government has unveiled a robust 5-year security

equipment modernization plan, with an estimated cost of Sh37 billion.

Government Issues 30-Day Notice For Borehole Operators

By: Hellen Lunalo
 @themtkenyatimes

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) has issued a 30-day ultimatum for landowners operating boreholes without permits.

According to the Authority, all owners and operators must renew their permits within the next thirty days.

Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi, WRA Chairman Mr. Donald Murgor instructed land owners with boreholes and wells to register and pay for operation permits.

The authority also warned landowners who fail to renew operation permits that they risk a fine of a maximum of Sh.1 million or a jail term not exceeding 2 years.

“WRA has established guidelines and procedures that are operational and therefore those seeking to make payments for their permits should be able to do so through the e-Citizen



Water Resources Authority chairman Donald Murgor with his Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Shurie during yesterday's media briefing.

platform,” said Mr Murgor.

He further urged landowners with non-valid or expired permits to visit designated WRA offices in their respective areas to renew their permits.

On his part, WRA CEO Mr. Mohammed Shurie while speaking on the

matter claimed that Kenya was a water-scarce country and noted that with competition for the scarce resource, there was a need for strict regulations.

“I want Kenyans to be aware that by law they cannot extract water anywhere without a permit. We have all

witnessed the change in weather patterns, with drought and warm weather being the major hurdles the country is facing which are creating challenges where water provision and consumption is concerned. We cannot afford to be careless with the sparse water

resources that we have. To avoid issues with the law, please procure the permit,” he said.

“Some permit holders, contractors, and borehole owners have failed to submit their permit renewal records to WRA as provided for in the Water Act 2016. Section 36 of the Act states that a permit is required for any of the water use purposes,” said Shurie.

The water authority classifies boreholes into several categories i.e. category A to D, based on water usage and its impact on the water resource. Category A boreholes refer to social water, while Category B and C cover private and economic boreholes.

Category D involves either international waters, two different catchment areas, or water that is of a large scale or complex in nature.

The directive comes after a spike in cases of non-compliance was reported, forcing the water agency to crack the whip on lawbreakers.

Call For Women Inclusion Ahead Of International Women's Day

By: Florence Kinyua
 @themtkenyatimes

The government in collaboration with Community initiative for Social Equity (CISE), Murang'a County has championed for concerted efforts towards women inclusion among the state, non-state actors and civil society groups.

This comes even as the world prepares to celebrate the annual International Women's Day marked every 8th March, dating back to over a century ago, firmly rooted in the global struggle for women's rights and gender parity.

The Murang'a County Gender Officer, Peter Muhia notes that this year's event will among other things, raise awareness on the paramountcy for women inclusion for societal growth and development.

“This year's International Women's Day will seek to inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion and advance the cause

for gender parity and women's and girls' empowerment, where women are not only included but also celebrated for their contributions and achievements,” he said.

The event will seek to highlight these barriers and advocate for tangible actions towards achieving gender parity and women empowerment, so as to ignite hope and possibility in women and girls worldwide, while serving as catalysts for change.

On her part, Joan Njeri, the CEO Community Initiative for Social Equity (CISE) underscores the need to celebrate women and girls' achievements, even as we advocate for policy changes.

The global population, she said, comprising half of the women, is still grappling with systematic barriers that hinder their full participation and inclusion in various aspects of life.

The CEO emphasized the need for policy changes and institutional reforms at the local, national, and global levels to promote gender equality and women's inclusion.



The event aims to raise awareness about women's inclusion, diversity, and gender equity, addressing violence against women and girls, particularly related to gender-related killings.

In Murang'a, the International

Women's day celebrations will take place at Ihura stadium and will seek to bring together women and youth representations from the county's 35 sub counties, thus more than 1000 people are expected to grace the event.

The theme for International Women Day 2024 is Inspire Inclusion with a special focus on investing in women to accelerate progress.

My Father Is My Wealth



My father is my wealth,
 My father is my life.
 I am cheerful with him,
 He is so kind to me.
 When he came to home,
 I ask him state of mood.

I say: "Be always with me"

And I wish him long life.

I pour water on his hand,

And receive his blessing.

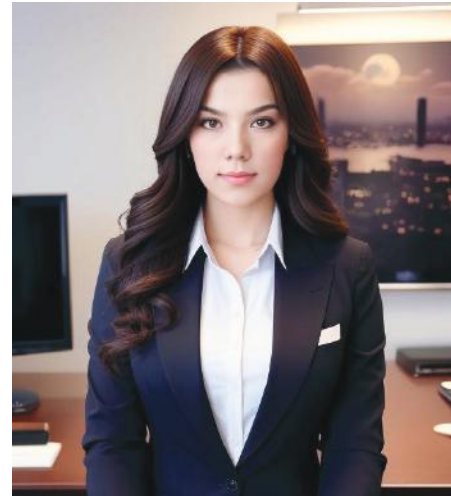
If he is not with me always,

I do not need anything!

Shonazarova Parizod from Uzbekistan.

She was born in 2005. Presently, she studies at 41-school in Khorezm region, Khanka district.

♥♥ Jewel Of My Heart ♥♥



You are my sun, my moonless mother,
 Thank you dear mother,
 The light of my life, my heavenly flower
 bed,
 Stay healthy, my only one.

My perfume is combed with rose
 perfume,
 My most beautiful line reflected in poems,
 It's all my heart, my letter to you,
 Munisam, mother, I'm not happy.

A bouquet of flowers will be laid at your
 feet every day.

I wish you a thousand and one souls,
 The world is blessed by your bright God,
 The jewel of my heart is without light in
 my eyes.

Without language skills, without honor,
 Without every moment that passed with
 joy.

I have a smile on my face, I have no life in
 my body,
 You are the jewel of my heart.

My dew on a rose leaf,
 My sensitive pen that wrote beautiful
 verses,
 I am unique in the world, my beautiful date,
 My dear, you are the jewel of my heart.

My words from my heart,
 My bright eyes,
 My cheeks are as red as apples,
 Mother, you have no equal in this world.

I can't find your definition day and night,
 There is no moon in the sky, or a bright
 star,

Or my flower, my beautiful spring,
 My elegant morning or my crisp dinner.

Smile, bright sun in the sky,
 Even the willow will raise its head,
 I don't care, there are tears in your eyes,

My soul is my world, my heart is without
 a gem.

Who liked me, who didn't like me,
 But I never closed the door of my heart,
 I saw many people, but I didn't find one like
 you.

Mehridarva is my language, my heart is
 without jewels.

My lonely jewel in my heart,
 I'm the only one I've taken care of
 My angel, my heaven, a piece of mine,
 My soul is unique in the world.

*

My dear: (My mother-in-law Saodat
 Samiyevna)

thank you
 My sweet word is you, my dear,
 Your service is great,
 Chakkonays are the beasts

Now put you on the throne,
 Let there be seven layers of blankets,
 Holding bitter teas,
 Honey, let your daughter serve you.

My mother is my mother,
 Koshanam is my flower, my flower garden,
 You are the only one
 My room is bright with you.

Say what you want
 Manti, lady, pilaf or somsa,
 Decorate the table in an instant,
 Soft as hot teas.

Don't think this lion is just saying
 Every word comes from the heart,
 Your love, honey,
 Awoylab wrote everything down.

Your beautiful face full of love,
 May it be full of laughter,
 Sweet candy for grandchildren
 May your warm, fluffy bosom be filled.

Makhzuna Habibova
 He was born in Zhondar district of
 Bukhara region. Student of Gulistan State
 University. His poetry collections have also
 been published.

Motherland Madhi



They ask what happiness is for you
 Every morning I say wake up in good
 health
 If you go away for a moment, it's your
 birthplace
 I say longing for the Holy Fatherland
 Pushing the soil he stepped on in my
 eyes
 I will glorify the value of Karagda
 I am writing the tariff of my country
 I can't give enough praise
 Thank you, it's so beautiful
 I am a dear child in a unique land
 Scientists are wise, great geniuses
 I love the country where I live
 I am proud to visit all destinations
 I have pride in my heart

The name Uzbek is known to the world
 I have a special meaning
 My love is endless to my dear friend
 Every line is decorated with courage
 It is a new amulet of Uzbekistan
 May there always be peace in our
 country

Mahkamova Maftuna Odiljon's daughter
 was born on February 20, 1995 in Baliqchi
 district of Andijan region. He graduated
 from the 41st general secondary school
 in Balzkchi district with excellent grades
 and entered the Chinabad Construction
 Vocational College. He graduated from
 college in 2013. And he started working
 in the college where he studied. In 2020,
 the Faculty of "Informatization of
 Industry" of the Namangan Institute
 of Engineering and Construction was
 recommended to students in the
 direction "Information Systems and
 Technologies". Until now, several of his
 poems have been published in regional
 newspapers. He was also awarded
 by the Minister of Higher Education,
 Science and Innovation in October 2023.
 Currently, she is working as a poetess, a
 student, and a young teacher at Baliqchi
 District Vocational School No. 1.

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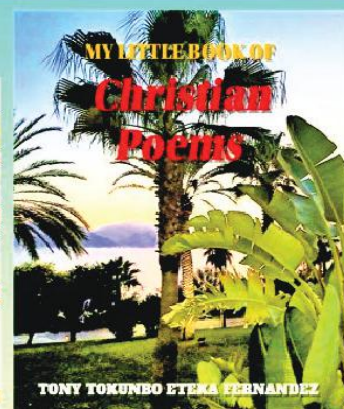
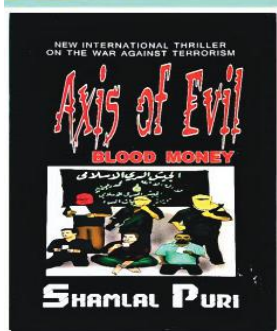
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BUSINESS

EABC- RSM Eastern Africa Outlook Shows East Africa's Economic Growth Is Projected To Rise To 5.1% In 2024 And 5.7% In 2025

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **The Chief Guest:** Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba, EAC Deputy Secretary-General: Customs, Trade, and Monetary Affairs stated that full admission of the Federal Republic of Somalia into the EAC crates new opportunities for business. She highlighted Tanzania is undertaking piloting and will soon announce full implementation of One Network Area on Telecommunication.
- EAC Deputy Secretary-General Annette Ssemuwemba stated that EAC's total trade with Africa continent continued to increase with the value of trade worth US\$ 5.2 billion in 2023 Q3, representing 24.8 percent of total trade. Trade with Africa grew by eight percent on a quarter-to-quarter basis. The intra-EAC trade was valued at US\$ 3.3 billion, accounting for 15.7 percent in 2023 Q3 having increased from 12.9 percent in in Q3 2022.

CEO Roundtable Meeting on East African Integration and Economic Outlook 2024 organized by the East African Business Council (EABC) in partnership with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya Association of Manufacturers, (KAM) and RSM Eastern Africa revealed East Africa's economic growth is projected to rise to 5.1% in 2024 and 5.7% in 2025.

Kenya's tax to GDP is at 14.3%, and Saving to GDP at 10.2%. Kenya recorded a positive trade balance with EAC Partner States of USD 408.3 said Mr. Ashif Kassam, O.G.W, Executive Chairman, RSM Eastern Africa.

Mr. John Bosco Kalisa, EABC Executive Director stated, "Share of Intra-EAC trade was at 15% in 2022, and major intra-EAC trade block is costs of non-tariff barriers."

He stated Governments of EAC Partner States should fully implementation commitments of the Single Customs Territory to offer Green lane for EAC originating goods.

In his remarks Jas Bedi, EBS, MBS, Chairperson KEPSA & Vice Chairperson EABC stated that the Stay of Application to the EAC Common External Tariff creates unlevelled playing field to manufactures in the region distorting the market making imports outside the EAC bloc cheaper.

The Chief Guest: Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba, EAC Deputy Secretary-General: Customs, Trade, and Monetary Affairs stated that full admission of the Federal Republic of Somalia into the EAC crates new opportunities for business. She highlighted Tanzania is undertaking piloting and will soon announce full implementation of One Network Area on Telecommunication.

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The panel session shared invaluable insights into the economic trajectory of the region, continent, and beyond.



Jas Bedi Chairperson KEPSA & Vice Chairperson EABC

Mr. Anonty Mwangi, CEO Kenya Association of Manufacturers called for the need to strengthen regional value chains integration, harmonization of standards and joint initiatives to maximize natural resources such as hydro-power and LNG in Tanzania make the EAC a center of green manufacturing in the globe. In her contribution, Ms. Susan Maigi, Chair Trade & Investment Sector Board of KEPSA stated EAC Partner States should complement comparative advantages, improve human capital, diversify supply chains in light of external shocks. On his part Mr. Charles Omusana, Principal Economist (Investment & Private Sector Promotion) East African Community Secretariat stated that investment policies in Kenya should offer preferential treatment to East African.

Mr. Kassam stated "tax should not act as a discriminatory factor discouraging cross-border trade in goods or services in EAC." These include unharmonized domestic taxes such as withholding taxes of 15-16% for professional service providers from other EAC countries and excise duties. The RSM Eastern Africa & EABC outlook reveals Kenya's economy grew by 5.9% in Q3 2023 compared to the same period last year. The growth was driven by a strong rebound in agriculture (+6.7%),



supported by favorable weather conditions. Other sectors like finance, information & communication, and tourism also saw significant growth. Kenya's real GDP growth is projected to remain strong at 5.2%. Inflation is expected to slow down further, averaging around 6.5% in 2024, bringing it closer to the Central Bank's target range. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is expected to keep the policy rate on hold at 13.00% over Q2-Q3 of 24, before cutting to 12.50% by year-end. Inflation will remain high over the first half of the year but will moderate sufficiently by the last quarter, allowing the CBK to begin monetary easing. The Kenyan government controls fiscal policy through various

new tax rates and levies have been introduced as a result of the Finance Act 2023 including a housing levy chargeable on personal emoluments. The VAT rate on fuel was standardized to 16%, and the capital gains tax increased to 15%. The infrastructure sector is expected to slow to 4.1% in 2023, due to low public infrastructure investment and high inflation. The panel session shared invaluable insights into the economic trajectory of the region, continent, and beyond. Illicit trade - counterfeit, Sub standards, High cost of doing business-electricity and transport and Currency depreciation are among the issues raised by the 50 business leaders during the CEO Roundtable.

Child Labour And Trafficking Still Rampant In Kenya

By: **Rop Janet**
 @themkenyatimes



International Labour Organization (ILO) Project Manager Grace Banya addressing journalists

Stakeholders in the child protection sector have called for concerted efforts in the fight against child labor and trafficking.

According to International Labour Organization (ILO) Project Manager Grace Banya, child labor and trafficking are still rampant in Kenya despite key interventions put in place by the government to curb the vice.

Banya revealed that poverty and cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are the main drivers of child labor and trafficking in Kenya.

“As a result of poverty, children are forced to work to supplement their families’ income. Cultural practices such as FGM also put the children at risk as the girls are married off after being cut and expected to do adult work,” she said.

Speaking during a Child protection stakeholder’s forum in Namanga, Banya noted that the most common cases of child labor in Kenya include: domestic work, street hawking, sand harvesting, herding, sexual exploitation, farm work, and

children working in the boda boda sector.

In Kajiado County, the most common cases of child labor include herding, sand harvesting, domestic work, and harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and child marriages.

Child trafficking is also on the rise with children being trafficked through the porous Kenya- Tanzania border to undergo FGM and to be employed as domestic workers.

The National Council on Children’s Services (NCCS) estimates that around 17,500 Kenyans are traf-

ficked annually for domestic work, forced labor, and commercial sexual exploitation, of which 50% are likely to be minors.

“Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in persons. Children and even adults are being trafficked from Kenya to Tanzania and from Tanzania to Kenya to work in farms, do domestic work, herd cattle, and for commercial sex exploitation,” Banya added.

She emphasized the need to strengthen advocacy campaigns as well as heighten awareness to ensure all children are protected.

Banya reiterated that enactment and enforcement of child protection laws in the country will also contribute to putting an end to child labor and trafficking.

Andrew Odete, ILO Engagement and Partnerships Officer, revealed that the International Labor Organization is supporting counties to enrich their child protection laws, policy agendas, and sensitization programs and to upscale rescue missions for victims of child labor and sexual exploitation through the County Child Advisory Committees.

Odete added that the ILO is also influencing county budgetary processes to channel adequate funds toward the enactment of laws, advocacy campaigns, and ensuring enforcement measures to end child labor, and trafficking.

Cosmas Karera from the Directorate of Children’s Services revealed that child neglect cases were on the rise in Kajiado County.

He noted that the children are forced into child labor to fend for themselves thus they end up being exploited.

Karera said the prolonged drought witnessed last year saw a surge in cases of child neglect, child labor, and trafficking.

The officer reiterated the need for

all stakeholders to work together to protect children adding that child labor causes physical and mental harm to the child and denies them from accessing their basic rights to education and health care thus depriving them of their future.

According to a report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, ‘Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward,’ the number of children engaged in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide, an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years, with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19.

In Kenya, data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that 8.5 percent of children, or 1.3 million children are engaged in child labor.

The highest child labor rates, at more than 30 percent, are in the Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties.

Arid and Semi-Arid counties were reported to harbor the highest number of children engaged in child labor at more than 30 percent with Samburu, Wajir, Kajiado, Mandera and Turkana counties in the lead.

THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!

The El-Tablaz Books, in partnership with Read-Us Africa and Literature & English Forum – Uganda, invite you to enter their 1st annual reading contest.

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?

Starting this year, 2024, a reading and writing contest known as The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest shall be held nation-wide for high school students in Forms 1-6. Students are asked to READ and REVIEW a given book, clearly explaining how the text affected them personally. Reviews shall be judged on national level.

How to enter the contest:

- * Buy and read the novel, *The Spirit Whisperer* by Nassur Tab’an El-Tablaz.
- * Write a review of the given novel (at least 2 pages, typed; Times New Roman, font 12, 1.15 line spacing)
- * Take a photo clearly showing you in your school uniform reading the given novel
- * Clearly indicate your full name and school

ENTRY LEVELS

Submissions are accepted starting 1st March, 2024. Prizes will be awarded in April, 2024, in each of the three competition levels:

- Level 1: Form 1 – 2 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 2: Form 3 – 4 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 3: Form 5 – 6 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)

Judges :

Judges will include teachers and teacher-consultants of the Literature & English Forum – Uganda from across the nation.

Winners
Ugx.200,000, + Gift hamper

1st Runner-up
Ugx.150,000, + Gift hamper

2nd Runner-up
Ugx.100,000, + Gift hamper

All participants
Certificates of participation at each level.

How to submit:

Send your typed review and photo to theelblazannualreadingcontest@gmail.com or **WhatsApp** +256 772 674 093.

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The Haze Over Nairobi: Navigating Long-Distance Challenges for Clearer Skies



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- Beth Elliot, a Communications Lead at the World Resource Institute, underscores the importance of journalism that not only highlights the problem but also champion's solutions. Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, this global partnership aims to foster locally tailored strategies to combat air pollution, thereby safeguarding human health and mitigating climate change.
- According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the transport sector in Nairobi alone contributes to about 60% of the city's air pollution. The study indicates that the high concentration of air pollutants, especially particulate matter, is due to the high number of vehicles on the roads, poor road conditions, and a lack of proper vehicle maintenance.



Prof Paul Njogu of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology addressing the media during Air pollution workshop in Nairobi

Air pollution stands as one of the most formidable threats to our health, economy, and the delicate balance of our ecosystem. In Nairobi, the vibrant heart of Kenya, the battle against this invisible enemy has reached a critical juncture. Studies reveal that the city's air quality has deteriorated alarmingly, with average annual PM2.5 levels soaring above double the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended limits (WRI, 2021).

At the core of Nairobi's pollution problem are the long-distance public vehicles, weaving through the city's arteries, laden with passengers and goods. These vehicles, integral to the city's bustling life, emit a cocktail of pollutants, significantly compromising the air quality.

John Mokuia, a seasoned long-distance driver, and his faithful truck, Simba, exemplify the personal stories intertwined with Nairobi's broader environmental challenge.

Over two decades, Mokuia has observed Nairobi's skies grow increasingly obscured by pollution, a testament to the city's explosive growth and the heightened demand for transportation services.

This surge in demand has led to a marked increase in emissions from various sources, not just trucks but also buses, matatus, and personal vehicles, weaving a complex web of pollution that hangs over Nairobi. The consequences are dire, with air pollution ranking as one of the top five risk factors for death globally.

In Kenya alone, WHO estimates suggest that 19,000 deaths annual-

ly can be attributed to air pollution, with Nairobi witnessing 260 deaths in 2024 due to this crisis. The financial toll is equally staggering, with air pollution-costing Nairobi approximately \$40,000,000 in the same year. Amidst this bleak landscape, initiatives like the Clean Air Catalyst program offer a beacon of hope.

Beth Elliot, a Communications Lead at the World Resource Institute, underscores the importance of journalism that not only highlights the problem but also champion's solutions.

Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, this global partnership aims to foster locally tailored strategies to combat air pollution, thereby safeguarding human health and mitigating climate change.

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of vehicles on the roads, poor road conditions, and a lack of proper vehicle maintenance.

The transport sector, as identified by Maurice Kavai, Deputy Director of Air Quality and Climate Change at the Nairobi City County Government, is the principal contributor to the city's air pollution, responsible for 45% of the total emissions. This is closely followed by waste and stationary energy sources.

Prof. Paul Njogu of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology emphasizes the lethal nature of PM2.5, the fine particulate matter that poses the greatest risk to human health globally.

Way forward

To chart a course towards cleaner air, Prof. Njogu advocates for stringent emissions standards for all vehicles, coupled with regular inspections and maintenance to ensure compliance

Additionally, he suggests incentivizing the phase-out of older, more polluting vehicles in favor of newer, cleaner models.

The path to reclaiming Nairobi's skies from the grip of pollution is fraught with challenges but illuminated by solutions that promise a healthier, more sustainable future.

Through concerted efforts across sectors, Nairobi has embarked on a journey towards clearer skies, setting a precedent for cities worldwide grappling with the scourge of air pollution.



Beth Elliot ,a Communications Lead at the World Resource Institute addressing the media during Air pollution workshop in Nairobi.

County Government Sensitizes Kirinyaga Residents On Financial Inclusion To Avert GBV

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Kirinyaga is carrying out community dialogues on financial inclusion as a way of reducing cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the county.

The forums that are targeting community opinion shapers across both genders ahead of the oncoming International Women's Day (IWD), are aimed at creating awareness among the county residents on how to better manage financial issues in families in order to avert conflicts that at times escalates to grievous levels.

Led by the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Gender and Youth, Millicent Nyawira, the forums delved into pressing issues surrounding financial inclusion, property succession, new economic opportunities, and the urgent need to empower and protect women.

The CECM said that the topics in discussion were in line with this year's IWD theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" since women in the county disproportionately suffer from financial inequalities in families.

"We have been speaking with both women and men on financial literacy emphasizing on matters such as economic empowerment, proper inheritance and succession planning to mitigate conflicts within families," the CECM emphasized.

She said that the forums have been teaching the importance of proper inheritance and succession planning by encouraging parents to dialogue with their children and be open about all the property they have as a family, and the best way to share it equally and fairly.

Evans Muriithi, an opinion leader and a participant in a public dialogue held in Ndia Sub-County, expressed gratitude for the initiative, stating, "We are happy about this exercise as we are getting knowledge and support on how to manage and invest our money to have stable homes," he said.

On succession disputes, Muriithi noted that in Mount Kenya, there are countless succession conflicts which are mainly due to ignorance and lack

of proper planning. He appreciated the County Government's effort for championing GBV issues in an inclusive manner that incorporated men.

The CECM said that Governor Anne Waiguru is committed to implementing sustainable interventions for GBV in the county.

She said that the County government is putting up a GBV Recovery Center at Kerugoya Hospital which will soon be commissioned. The governor has also been implementing an economic empowerment program-Wezesha Kirinyaga- that has been funding groups to undertake income generating activities for sustainable livelihoods.

The dialogues were organized in partnership with Rainforest Alliance, whose representative, Elizabeth Njenga said that it has heavily invested in empowering the community in understanding market opportunities available in the county and encouraging farmers to diversify their sources of income from tea and coffee farming to other agricultural ventures.

Njenga also shed light on the challenges faced by women, including



Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member for Gender and Youth Millicent Nyawira addressing the media

barriers to financial inclusion and succession due to patriarchal systems.

"The main issues affecting women include succession as the system is still very patriarchal, and it is mostly men who own the land, thus women find it difficult getting financial inclusion or even loans," she said.

Another leader, Jennifer Muthoni,

emphasized on the transformative potential of the dialogue, stating saying it would help families grow healthier financially. She noted that financial instability leads to restlessness and conflicts among family members while division of family properties lead to infighting in families.

Delegated Legislation Committee Assured Cybercrime Regulations Won't Harm Small Business

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Delegated Legislation Committee, chaired by Samuel Chepkonga (Ainabkoi), yesterday received assurance from Interior PS, Dr. Raymond Omollo that the new Cybercrime Regulations won't harm small businesses.

Dr. Omollo reassured the MPs while appearing before the committee to shed light on The Computer Misuse and Cybercrime (Critical Information Infrastructure and Cybercrime Management) Regulations, 2024.

During the session, the chairperson led the committee members in raising concerns about the regulations' potential effect on small enterprises.

"Will small businesses and start-ups be safe?" posed Chepkonga.

Omollo in response explained that the Ministry had ensured that the

regulations will make it easy for the small businesses to adjust to new technologies whenever a need arises.

"We have made it possible for small business operators to continue doing their work without being worried at how the big multinationals are operating," stated the Interior PS.

Dr. Omollo told the MPs that the regulations had been subjected to adequate public participation, with the team that developed the regulations visiting different parts of the country to collect views.

He revealed that they also benchmarked on the best practices with developing nations including Israel, United States, United Kingdom, Australia and India before coming up with regulations and also had an engagement with Google and Microsoft.

The regulations among other things seek to establish a robust framework for detecting and responding to cyber threats, while streamlining



The committee during yesterday's session..

reporting processes, with the establishment of dedicated cybercrimes

desks in every police station. Additionally, they are intended to address cybercrimes, protect Ken-

ya's digital assets.

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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 MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. CECILY MUTUA NGUNJIRI MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. DR. WANGUI KARANJA MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. DR. WYCLIFFE NGUNJIRI MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. WYCLIFFE NGUNJIRI MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. AEDH BHANU GACACA MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. SUSAN OMBIA MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. ANNE WANJIKU MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. AMANI BANTAOANG MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. JOSHUA WANJIKU MURURU GOVERNOR	 HON. WYCLIFFE NGUNJIRI MURURU GOVERNOR
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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



SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Preparations are in top gear ahead of the eagerly awaited 10-round World Boxing Foundation (WBF) Middle-weight title bout between Kenya's Rayton Okwiri and Tanzania's Meshack Mwankemwa.

Okwiri To Face Tanzanian Boxer Mwankemwa In WBF Title Fight



Tanzanian boxer Meshack Mwankemwa (left) and Kenya's Rayton Okwiri during a press conference ahead of their World Boxing Foundation middle-weight title fight on March, 23 2024 at KICC, Nairobi..

Preparations are in top gear ahead of the eagerly awaited 10-round World Boxing Foundation (WBF) Middleweight title bout between Kenya's Rayton Okwiri and Tanzania's Meshack Mwankemwa.

The fight will take place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Nairobi on March 23, 2024.

The winner of the inaugural Nairobi Fight Night organized by Solid Rock Promotion in collaboration with AiWex Sports and Kenya Professional Boxing Commission (KPBC) will secure a direct ticket for the world title this year.

Solid Rock Promotion official Mike Odongo on Tuesday said they are determined to stage a memorable main card bout that will kick-start their 2024 calen-

dar of events.

The promoter urged sponsors to come on board and help them make the five events they have lined up this year electrifying.

"Everything is set and the boxers are more than ready to show their prowess on the court. We urge fans to turn out in large numbers and support their boxers," said Odongo during the press conference at Quiver Lounge, Kangundo Road, Nairobi.

AiWex Sports CEO Willy Wex promised fans a good show from March 23, June 1, August 10, and October 20 to December 14.

Tickets are already on sale on the digital platform Mtickets with Regular, VIP and VVIP tickets retailing at Sh1000, Sh 2000 and Sh 5000 respectively.

Okwiri, who is an Olympian and African Boxing Union (ABU) ti-

tle winner, warned Mwankemwa to prepare for a difficult battle. He said the Tanzanian will be lucky if he goes past the first round.

"First of all, I want to congratulate Mwankemwa for showing his bravery and accepting the request to fight with me. However, he should be prepared for a thorough beating.

"I'm well prepared, I was to fight in Mauritius last month but it was postponed. That means I'm more than ready for this bout, I will manage him tactically. He will be lucky to finish the first round," a confident Okwiri said.

He continued: "My aim is to be a world champion before I celebrate my 40th birthday, so this fight gives me a perfect chance to achieve my dream."

But a bullish Mwankemwa told Okwiri to bring the game on.

"It's going to be a tough bout, but having beaten experienced boxers like Okwiri before, I am not worried about him at all. If I did well against top boxers from Europe, Russia and Kazakhstan, who is Okwiri to stop me? We are in Kenya on a mission," said Mwankemwa.

In his remarks, KPBC President Reuben Ndolo said they are looking forward to a top-class bout between the two rivals.

"This is a world title and runs up to December, we urge sponsors and partners to come on board and help us to ensure we stage a successful event," said Ndolo.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Jorginho believes free-scoring Arsenal are approaching the Premier League title race with more maturity than last season, when they faltered in sight of the finishing line.

Title-Chasing Arsenal 'More Mature' Than Last Season-Jorginho



Arsenal midfielder Jorginho celebrates after scoring the third goal in their 4-2 comeback victory over Aston Villa. (PHOTO/Courtesy).

Jorginho believes free-scoring Arsenal are approaching the Premier League title race with more maturity than last season, when they faltered in sight of the finishing line.

Mikel Arteta's men were at the top of the table for most of the 2022-23 campaign, but Manchester City overtook them in the run-in to secure their third straight title.

Arsenal have hit a purple patch since the turn of the year, winning all seven league games by an aggregate scoreline of 31-3 as they seek to become English champions for the first time since 2004.

The third-placed Gunners hammered bottom club Sheffield United 6-0 on Monday to move just one point behind City and two behind Liverpool, with 11 games to go.

"The performance of the squad (was great) and the mentality to start strong and carry on the momentum," Jorginho said after his side's dominant performance win at Bramall Lane.

"It was really, really good to see a team playing forward and want to keep going."

Asked what is different about the team this year compared to the one that just fell short last season,

the Italy international added: "I think the maturity.

"We are way more mature how we compete and how we manage the games. I think that's it."

Arsenal raced out of the blocks, racking up a five-goal lead quicker than any away side in Premier League history -- Declan Rice making it 5-0 in the 39th minute.

Ben White's second-half thunderbolt completed the rout, scoring the club's 10,000th goal on an evening when they became the first English league side to win three consecutive away games by five or more goals.

"We are pleased that we are doing

all this good stuff, but we need to carry on," Jorginho said.

"Because if we just think 'Oh yeah, nice, it's done'... no, we just need to put your head down and keep pushing, being humble and keep going.

"We need to not be just happy for what we are doing. Of course, we are happy but we want to keep being happy.

"So, to be like that we just need to keep pushing and working hard."

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Emotional Moment As Ex-KDF Officer Appears Before The Senate Committee On A Hospital Stretcher To Plead For Compensation

By: MTK Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A former Kenya Defence Forces officer yesterday moved a Senate Committee after he appeared before it in a hospital stretcher.

Ex KDF Officer Mr. Isaiah Ochanda appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations over non-fulfilment of court orders by the Ministry of Defence and non-payment of disability pension.

Mr. Ochanda whose state of appearance before the committee drew deep emotions among the Lawmakers and staff pleaded with Senators to intervene and push for his rightful dues as pronounced by the court.

He told the committee that in 1987 he sustained spinal cord injuries while in the cause of his duties, which left him paraplegic which later made him be discharged from duty in 1995 on medical grounds.

He revealed to the lawmakers that despite completing all the necessary clearance documents, he is yet to be paid his lawful dues attributing the failure to the Ministry of Defence

and the Office of the Attorney General.

The Petitioner earlier on filed a case in the High Court of Kenya, Civil Case No.1051 of 1996, and a judgment was made on 2nd March, 2011 with the court awarding him Ksh. 22.9 million.

“The Ministry of Defence and the Office of the Attorney-General (AG), did not obey the court order despite me making several follow-ups and appeals through various offices, including the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR),” he told the committee.

The Petitioner further went for judicial review and the ruling was delivered on 14th July, 2023, compelling the Ministry of Defence and the Office of the Attorney-General to satisfy the decree in High Court Civil Case No.1051 of 1996 to the Petitioner, and to which also they did not take action according to the petitioner.

Mr. Ochanda who was accompanied by his wife and son made a passionate plea to the committee to strongly come in and help him emphasizing that his only hope is now in the Sen-



A former Kenya Defence Forces officer yesterday moved a Senate Committee after he appeared before it in a hospital stretcher.

ate.

He said following the accident, he has remained bedridden with no contribution in the upbringing of his family due to inability to do anything.

He wondered why the Cabinet Secretary for Defence has not been arrested despite the court issuing a

warrant of arrest for failure to fulfil the court orders.

Under the leadership of the session chair, Senator for Kajiado County Seki Lenku, the committee resolved to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Defence to deliberate on the petition.

The Senators sympathized with the petitioner's state and assured him

that the Security committee will handle his petition keenly with the intention of ensuring that justice is delivered to him.

Other Senators present during the meeting were, Karen Nyamu, George Mbugua and Isiolo County Fatuma Dullo.

Women Parliamentarians Commit To The Implementation Of Two-Thirds Gender Rule

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Female lawmakers yesterday vowed to champion the implementation of the two-third gender principle in Parliament, aiming to increase the representation of women in the legislature.

This pledge emerged during the National Dialogue Forum on the two-thirds gender principle, which convened members of the Kenya Women Parliamentarian Association (KEWOPA) and the Multi-Sectoral Working Group (MSWG).

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Hon. Gladys Boss, speaking at the event, affirmed her unwavering support for ensuring women secure their rightful slots in Parliament.

“Our trailblazers have been talking

about this matter. We must find a way of resolving this matter even if it means dissolving Parliament,” said Hon. Boss.

KEWOPA vice chairperson Hon. Elachi (Dagoretti North) asked for support from their male counterparts in the assembly, emphasizing that their support is critical for the passage and realization of the two-thirds gender principle.

The MSWG presented a comprehensive report during the meeting, proposing legal, policy, and administrative measures to promote the implementation of the gender principle.

This includes amendments to Article 90 to accommodate changes to Articles 97 and 98, as well as amendments to the Political Parties Act to establish a Women Inclusion and Political Participation Fund.

Mrs. Daisy Amdany, co-chairper-

son of MSWG, urged commitment to practical solutions to bring the matter to a logical conclusion. “Let us commit to simple and predictable solutions already in operation,” she stated.

During discussions, it was highlighted that financial challenges during campaign periods often hinder strong women with leadership skills from succeeding in elections. The proposed measures aim to address this issue and ensure fair representation.

If adopted, the MSWG proposal would result in an additional 53 Women MPs in the National Assembly and 2 more in the Senate in the 13th Parliament. Additionally, the Gender Principle would apply to recruitment and career progression at various levels of government.



Dagoretti North Mp and Vice Chair of KEWOPA Beatrice Elachi.