



News>> State To Distribute 12.5 Million Bags Of Subsidized Fertilizer To Farmers

P. 8. The government maintains its commitment to providing 12.5 million bags of subsidized fertilizer to farmers across the country this year ahead of the expected long rainy season.



News>> Post Bank Donates Posho Mill To Machakos Women Group

P. 12. Post Bank, Machakos Branch has donated a posho mill to Makandi Women Group in Makaveti, Kalama Sub-county, aiming to provide economic empowerment.

Koskei Alarmed Over Corruption, Nepotism In Counties

Felix Koskei, the Government Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, has raised concerns over persistent corruption and nepotism in employment in Counties thus affecting service delivery.

Koskei noted escalating corruption incidents, where politically connected individuals illegally acquire public funds through misuse of tendering, procurement, and revenue collection systems.



Felix Koskei, the Government Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service

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Government Unveils KEMSA-Kisumu Regional Distribution Centre

By: Christine Muchira



KEMSA Board Chairperson Irungu Nyakera.

Worth Noting:

- The facility is spacious enough to facilitate efficient supply and cold chain solutions for regular essential medical supplies and serve as an emergency buffer stock holding and Regional Distribution Center, aligning with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution's decentralization efforts.
- "This facility will receive medical supplies, process customer orders, and distribute them to customers in the Great Lakes Region. Initially serving 10 counties in Nyanza, Western, and North Rift Regions, it will gradually expand to serve 19 counties by the end of this year." Stressed Nyakera.

The government yesterday launched KEMSA-Kisumu Regional Distribution Centre, a milestone marked under the KEMSA Transformation Agenda.

This decentralization initiative aims to streamline order processing at the National Supply Chain Centre and reduce the Order Turnaround Time by approximately 40 pc.

Speaking during the launch of the facility, KEMSA Board Chairperson Irungu Nyakera noted that since its inception, the Kisumu Regional Distribution Centre has processed essential medicines orders from four counties valued at more than Kshs.120 million.

Additionally, an order of Ksh. 36M from Kisumu County has already been uploaded into the KEMSA LMIS system.

"Between 15th February and 29th February 2024, program items worth over Ksh. 200M have been picked and dispatched from this Centre." Said Nyakera.

He said the Kisumu Regional Distribution Centre represents a promise fulfilled by the Board and management to transform KEMSA into a more effective player in the health delivery system.

The facility is spacious enough to facilitate efficient supply and cold chain solutions for regular essential medical supplies and serve as an emergency buffer stock holding and Regional Distribution Center, aligning with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution's decentralization efforts.

"This facility will receive medical supplies, process customer orders, and dis-

tribute them to customers in the Great Lakes Region. Initially serving 10 counties in Nyanza, Western, and North Rift Regions, it will gradually expand to serve 19 counties by the end of this year." Stressed Nyakera.

While highlighting recent strategic transformation efforts that have been undertaken to revitalize KEMSA, Nyakera said: "Since the Board of Management was appointed in May last year, we have worked cohesively to address major shortcomings that were hindering the seamless distribution of medical supplies."

He said that in the last ten months KEMSA dispatched more than Kshs. 22,523,862,340 worth of Essential Medicines, and Medical Supplies (EMMS)

and National Health Strategic Programs (NHSP) supplies countrywide, in the last ten months.

Consequently, Nyakera noted that KEMSA has registered significant improvement in organisational efficiency underscored by the reduced Order Turn Around Time (OTAT) for hospitals.

"Order Turn Around Time (OTAT) currently stands at 15.8 days in Feb 2024 down from 16.6 days April 2023, while the Primary Health Facilities' OTAT currently stands at 16.4days down from 19.9 days in April 2023." Said Nyakera.

Adding that:"The Order fulfilment rate has gone up to 62pc from an average of 49pc last year march."

The Chairperson noted that the establishment of the KEMSA – Kisumu Regional Distribution Centre (RDC) marks a significant achievement in KEMSA's ongoing transformation agenda.

He said the idea of establishing a fully operational Regional Distribution Center in Kisumu was first conceived in 2016 as part of KEMSA's efforts to decentralize the distribution network in order to improve access to healthcare products in the region.

However, despite the initial plans, the project faced several challenges that included; logistical issues, funding constraints, and the need for extensive planning and coordination with various stakeholders, delayed its implementation.

Nyakera says by identifying and eliminating inefficiencies, the board seeks to instill a culture of operational agility at every level of the organization.

Noting that these strategic initiatives are essential for ensuring that KEMSA can fulfill its mandate effectively and continue to serve the healthcare needs of the nation.

Editor's Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Elgeyo Marakwet County Governor Wisley Rotich has announced that bars across the County will undergo a fresh vetting process, signaling a significant shift in alcohol regulation.

The Governor emphasized the urgency of addressing the County's alcohol problem, stating, "As a County, we are headed on the wrong path and we need to address it urgently before we start burying people as is happening in other parts of the County."

He further highlighted the prevalence of second-generation alcohol sales in many bars, stressing the need for immediate intervention to save lives.

The Governor's announcement coincided with the replacement of the County Alcoholic Drinks Regulations Committees, with a new team inaugurated to oversee the vetting process. Rotich also directed residents to participate in public forums to provide recommendations before new licenses are issued.



A woman found in possession of four litres of chang'aa fined Sh 5,000 or serve two months' imprisonment in default by a Kabarnet court. The court heard that on March 4, 2024 at about 9.30 pm at Kituro area in Baringo Central Sub-County, Baringo County, Precious Kipruto was found in possession of the said traditional drink in three 'dirty' plastic containers which does not conform to the requirements of Alcoholic Drinks Control Act.

The facts stated that on the material day police officers were on a routine patrol within the village when they got a tip from members of the public that there was a lady selling chang'aa within the vicinity and upon visiting her house and doing a search they managed to recover three bottles with chang'aa which did not conform with the Alcoholic Drinks Act in terms of packaging.

On appearing before Senior Principal Magistrate (SPM) Purity Koskey the accused pleaded guilty to being in possession of traditional drink contrary to section 27 (1) (b) as read with section 27 (4) of the alcoholic drinks control Act No.4 of 2010.

The accused who was treated as a first offender was convicted as charged by SPM Koskey who ordered her to pay a fine of Sh 5,000 or face two months in jail.



The fight against cancer has received a major boost after the County Government of Nakuru acquired its second high-tech diagnosis and treatment machine that employs a new radiation technique that not only increases efficiency but also reduces side effects from powerful rays.

The Linear Accelerator (LINAC) radiotherapy machine is designed to treat a broad spectrum of cancers and significantly enhance patient care.

The new equipment will offer high-energy X-rays through linear accelerators that help burn cancerous cells much faster compared to cobalt units, which have previously been in use.

According to the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Health services Ms Roselyn Mungai cancer patients will spend less time undergoing radiotherapy treatment following the installation of new technology that shortens the average session by half.

The new technology is said to have less side effects as it only targets the cancerous cells.



Taita Taveta County has received mobile grain dryers from the National Government to assist farmers in mitigating post-harvest losses. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary (CS), Mithika Linturi, while launching the dryers, said the equipment comes in handy to ensure efficiency in drying grains to prevent post-harvest losses, while enabling the government in realising its vision of improving grain value chains and achieving food security in the country. "As a ministry, our main mission is to curb post-harvest losses mainly occasioned by unfavourable weather conditions, poor storage, and inadequate drying facilities during harvesting time," said Linturi at Voi NCPB during the launch, stating that each dryer has a capacity to dry 14 tonnes of maize in two hours and costing farmers Sh 70 to dry a 90kg bag of maize. The CS who was accompanied by Taita Taveta County Governor, Andrew Mwadime, Crops Development PS, Paul Rono, Chairperson of the Agricultural Finance Corporation Board, Eng. John Mruttu, Taita Sub-County Deputy County Commissioner, Maina Ngunyi, among other leaders encouraged farmers to utilise the mobile dryers to ensure that their harvests are well dried and stored to avoid post-harvest losses.



Expecting mothers in bigger parts of Kambiti ward were relieved after a new maternity ward was commissioned at Mihang'o Health Centre.

The fully equipped ward that was commissioned by Governor Irungu Kang'ata will relieve the mothers from seeking maternity services from health facilities in Maragua, Kenol and Thika towns.

Kang'ata said the ward was built and equipped by the county administration as a way of taking development projects to the grassroots.

He noted medical officers will be increased in the health centre to ensure there is improved service delivery.

"The ward will spare our mothers from travelling to Maragua rural hospital or Murang'a Level-5 - 5 hospitals to access maternity services. The county government in the recent past has been commissioning maternity wards to health centres serving the rural population," he added.

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EAC Regional STI Policy and Intellectual Property Policy Launched

By: Cynthia Masibo and Wendy Keziah

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr. Machogu outlined Kenya's ambitious plans to allocate 2% of its education budget towards research, with a significant portion earmarked for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) and universities. This commitment underscores Kenya's dedication to nurturing a knowledge-driven economy and fostering innovation.
- Dr. Okoth underscored the significance of scientific exchanges and collaboration, emphasizing the role of the conference in facilitating dialogue and strengthening partnerships. Prof. Banyankimbona emphasized the transformative power of research, development, and innovation (RDI) in addressing collective challenges and improving livelihoods.



Dr. Sylvance Okoth, Executive Secretary, EASTECO; Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary, IUCEA, and Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, Director General of the National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI) launching the East African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2023-2033 & East African Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Policy 2023-2033..

The 3rd EAC Regional Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Conference has commenced marking a pivotal moment for advancing collaborative efforts in STI within the East African Community (EAC).

Hosted jointly by the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the conference aims to foster the exchange of experiences, best practices, and applications of STI outputs. The event, which will continue until Friday, 8 March 2024, gathers various stakeholders regionally and globally to strengthen collaborations, facilitate

regional integration, and enhance sustainable development.

Dr. Walter Oyawa, representing Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu, inaugurated the conference, emphasizing Kenya's commitment to expanding educational opportunities and research initiatives across its 47 counties. Notable dignitaries including Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of IUCEA, and Dr. Sylvance Okoth, Executive Secretary of EASTECO, highlighted the conference's theme: "Accelerating development and diffusion of Science, Technology and Innovation solutions for a green, in-

clusive and resilient East Africa."

Mr. Machogu outlined Kenya's ambitious plans to allocate 2% of its education budget towards research, with a significant portion earmarked for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) and universities. This commitment underscores Kenya's dedication to nurturing a knowledge-driven economy and fostering innovation.

Dr. Okoth underscored the significance of scientific exchanges and collaboration, emphasizing the role of the conference in facilitating dialogue and strengthening partnerships. Prof. Banyankimbona emphasized the

transformative power of research, development, and innovation (RDI) in addressing collective challenges and improving livelihoods.

A highlight of the conference was the launch of the EASTECO Regional STI Policy and Intellectual Property Policy. These policy frameworks aim to provide a structured approach to harnessing STI for sustainable development while protecting intellectual property rights across the region.

The conference serves as a convergence point for diverse stakeholders in the STI ecosystem, including policymakers, industry leaders, academics, researchers, innovators, students, and development partners. Representatives from EAC Partner States, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, civil society, business and industry organizations, academic and research institutions, and development partners are actively participating in the event.

In a hybrid format, combining face-to-face interactions and virtual platforms, the conference features high-level policy dialogues, plenary sessions, exhibitions, and a ministerial session. Special sessions tailored to youth engagement in future technologies and innovation, as well as entrepreneurship promotion through education, research, and development, are also scheduled.

The 3rd EAC Regional STI Conference stands as a testament to the region's commitment to leveraging science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development, economic growth, and shared prosperity. As the conference progresses, it is poised to catalyze transformative initiatives and pave the way for a more vibrant and inclusive East African community.

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State To Distribute 12.5 Million Bags Of Subsidized Fertilizer To Farmers

By: Hussein Abdullahi
 @themtkenyatomes

The government maintains its commitment to providing 12.5 million bags of subsidized fertilizer to farmers across the country this year ahead of the expected long rainy season.

Agriculture and Livestock Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi says the distribution exercise has kicked off in time for the farming season which has commenced in most parts of the country.

Linturi also announced that in a bid to reduce the overreliance on imported edible oil, for every purchase of subsidized fertilizer, farmers will receive free certified sunflower seeds.

He says the high-quality subsidized fertilizers will help boost food production in the country and enhance nutrition and food security.

“All the steps we are undertaking underscores the government’s dedication to bolstering agricultural self-sufficiency,” he said.

The CS accompanied by Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani and State Department of Crop Production Principal Secretary Paul Rono spoke during the flagging off of the subsidized fertilizer distribution exercise at the National Cereal and Produce Board in Kwale town.

He said the flagging off the distribution of fertilizers and seeds to farmers in the area as part of measures of the government to ensure bumper harvest by local farmers during this rainy season.

The minister at the same time inaugurated bulk mobile grain dryers aiming to support farmers in preserving their yields effectively.

He stressed the importance of utilizing the dryers noting the role they play in preventing post-harvest losses and ensuring the proper storage and drying of harvests.

The Agriculture CS urged farmers to register and redeem vouchers promptly as there is a sufficient supply of certified fertilizers.

Emphasizing oil crop production, especially in Kwale, Linturi says his ministry is providing complimentary



Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi

sunflower seeds to farmers alongside their fertilizers fostering agricultural growth.

Later the Agriculture minister inaugurated the Kwale PAVI Milling facility in Msambweni, Kwale County, he emphasized its role in increasing

farmers’ incomes in the Kwale PAVI (Kwale Pamba na Viazi) farmers’ cooperative through value addition.

He highlighted value addition for its positive impact allowing local farmers in Kwale to not only harvest their grain but also enhance its value.

Governor Achani says the mobile cereal driers can dry 110 bags of cereals in 2 hours and it comes as a major boost to Kwale smallholder farmers who had a bumper harvest in the last season.

KWS Exhibits Wildlife Protection Digital Innovations

By: Muturi Mwangi
 @themtkenyatomes

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) showcased digital innovations to promote wildlife conservation and eradicate human-wildlife conflicts.

The devised technological innovations are crucial in monitoring the movement of animals in the wild, and at the same time help to protect the endangered species from poaching.

The innovative devices which include tagging and collaring, camera traps, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and remote sensing have helped the government and conservationists to accurately monitor wildlife populations, their behaviors, and movement.

Kenya Wildlife Service director in charge of Mt. Kenya region Ella-ma Hapicha speaking in Nanyuki, Laikipia County during the exhibition on wild animal protection innovations, said that the use of technology in wildlife monitoring had significantly reduced human-wildlife conflict, poaching of endangered spe-

cies like Mountain Bongo and rhinos. “As KWS, we embrace the technology so that we can conserve wild animals by using camera traps, collaring and tagging to monitor animals that cause human-wildlife conflict,” said Hapicha, adding that digital technology had enabled them to track and protect the endangered species.

The digital innovation resonates with this year’s World Wildlife Day, ‘Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.’ The Amboseli-Chyulu sub-landscape coordinator Dr. John Kioko revealed that the government was exploring an array of digital innovations that were geared towards wildlife conservation aimed at making it easy for wild animals’ protection.

“It’s about digital innovations to conserve wildlife, sharing experiences on different technologies and ensuring they conform, make work easy for the rangers who are taking care of the wildlife,” said Dr. Kioko.

Laikipia Community Association CEO Peter Matunge said that, despite the concerted effort by the conservators, they were still facing a my-



Some of the stakeholders during the forum.

riad of challenges including climate change that had severely affected wildlife and called on for partnership from Kenyans protecting the wildlife heritage for future generations.

“Despite the benefits that we are getting from wildlife including contribution to the economy in the tourism sector, wildlife are still faced with a

lot of challenges that we all need to partner and support the government on conservation,” said Matunge.

On her part, Peregrine Fund Officer Faith Achieng decried that predatory birds were on the decline due to their prey poisoning by humans. The Peregrine Fund is an international organization keen on protecting endangered

predatory bird species. She noted that secretary birds, bateleur eagle, and tawny eagle were critically endangered and hence called for their protection including not cutting down trees.

Koskei Raises Alarm Over Wanton Corruption, Nepotism In Counties

By: Erastus Gichohi
 @themtkenyatimes

Felix Koskei, the Government Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, has raised concerns over persistent corruption and nepotism in employment in Counties thus affecting service delivery.

Koskei noted escalating corruption incidents, where politically connected individuals illegally acquire public funds through misuse of tendering, procurement, and revenue collection systems.

He raised alarm over illegal payments to duplicated works, where County governments' employees collude in paying for projects that have been undertaken by the National government.

Speaking in Naivasha during the ongoing Intergovernmental Relations Symposium, Koskei regretted the interference in the employment of unskilled, unqualified, and inexperienced staff in most Counties, which he noted has affected the quality of service delivery.

Consequently, he raised concerns

over the bloated workforce in Counties, which has seen most of budgetary allocations go to recurrent expenditures, at the expense of development that uplifts the lives of the residents.

"Increased corruption incidences have overrun Counties and all efforts are needed to tame the vice because it is unbearable", stressed Koskei. Hence, he urged county heads, to uphold professionalism, good governance, expertise, patriotism, and selflessness in their role to combat corruption for public good.

The Public Service Head pointed out some counties for failing to adhere to principles of ethnic inclusivity and diversity in their workforce with most counties drawing their workforce from one ethnic tribe.

"It is alarming that over 90 percent of employees in up to 40 Counties, come from one ethnic tribe where officers publicly use local languages in official duties," said Koskei.

Thus, failure to adhere to ethical standards in employing the right staff, systems, prudent use of resources, and political interference continues to drawback the expected successes of devolved units in the last decade.



Felix Koskei, the Government Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service.

According to the National Commission and Integration Commission [NCIC] 2023 Report on Ethnic and Diversity Audit in Public Service, over 80 percent of jobs in the country are dominated by only 10 tribes.

The Report which was released four months ago, indicates that the Kalenjin tribe leads by 15.83 percent, Ki-

kuyu at 15.77 percent, Luhyas at 11.6 percent and Luos by 9.81 percent while one percent of jobs represent 29 tribes.

On the other hand, the Report showed that only four minority ethnic groups Somali 4.3 percent, Maasai at 4 percent, Turkana at 1.92 percent, and Taita at 1.56 percent are most represented in County public service.

In addition, it merged in its findings that only 13 percent out of 47 Counties are compliant with the law on hiring including Narok, Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Embu, Busia, Trans Nzoia, Nakuru, Mombasa, Isiolo, Tana River and Nairobi.

PSC Urges Parliament To Deliberate On Ethnic Balance Issues

By: Christine Muchira and KBC Digital

Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairperson Amb. Anthony Muchiri has called upon parliament to address issues captured in the evaluation report on Status of Compliance with Values and Principles of Public Service 2022/2023.

The PSC Chairperson said this while appearing before Senate Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration at Parliament Buildings on 5th March 2024.

"Most of the issues concerning equality and ethnic balance in the public service are captured in evaluation report on Values and Principles of Public service report. Therefore, it is important for parliament to debate and adopt the recommendations in that report," said Amb. Muchiri.

He also noted that the Commission had made strides in ensuring equal representation, gender balance, and ethnic representation in the recruitment of officers joining the public service.

Further, Muchiri added that PSC has continuously evaluated the level of compliance with these national values and principles of public service in articles 10 and 232 of the constitution. And the evaluation report is submitted to the President and Parliament every year.

While agreeing with the Commission presentation, the Senate Committee Chairperson Sen. Mohamed Chute, welcomed PSC board for more engagements in future for purposes of creating a legislation framework to address equality question in the public service.

The Senate committee had invited PSC to make presentations on the equal representation in the recruitment processes in Kenya's state agencies.



PSC Board (right) Appearing before Senate Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration at Parliament Buildings on 5th March 2024.

Christ Jesus: The Breaker Pt 2



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

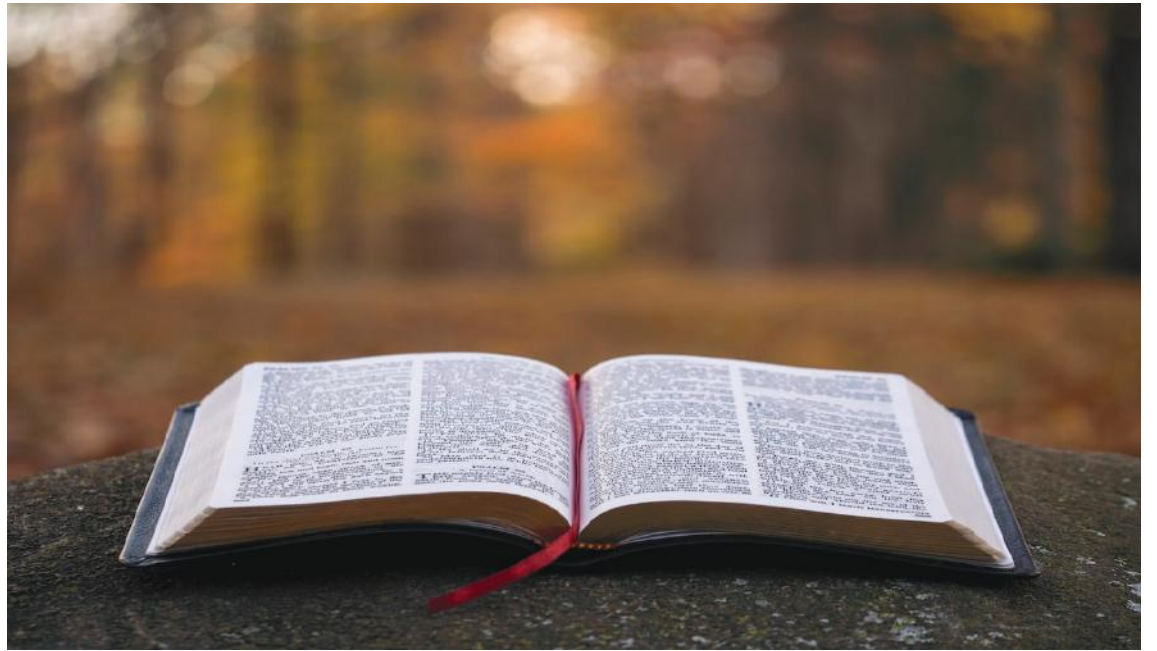
Now, when we talk about Christ Jesus, the Breaker, we should know that this reference to Jesus was prophesied way before, consider Micah 2:13, "THE BREAKER(THE MESSIAH: CHRIST JESUS) will go up before them. They will break through, pass in through the gate and go out through it, and their King will pass on before them, the Lord at their head." Micah same as Isaiah are prophets of around 700 B.C , who had clear description of Who, Christ Jesus was. Consider, Isaiah 53: 2-9 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,. He was despised and rejected by men, surely He was pierced for our transgression,. We all, like sheep have gone astray.."

In the new testament we see in 1 Peter 1:12, "...it was revealed to

them(prophets) that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told to you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

Christ today is our breaker, which is why when Jesus came Himself He said, "I will build my Church on this Rock, and the gates of hell will NOT prevail against it." Because the breaker will go before them and break the gates.

Psalm 24:7-8 "Lift up, your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle." Christ Jesus is our BREAKER today, His work is going ahead of you and destroying the ancient gates, where others were restricted or defeated, He paves the way for you, just as the word declares, "I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will BREAK DOWN gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron(Isaiah 45:2-3).">#MunguMbele.



That is why when we are saved, we should not only be satisfied that he forgives our sins. May you experience Him, as your Breaker. You should know Christ Jesus, as the ONE WHO goes before you, and breaks ancient gates. Jesus is my BREAKER. Pray and declare Christ Jesus is my Breaker, Who levels every mountain, Who breaks down

gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron. Receive that grace of Christ Jesus The breaker, and walk in this victory: AMEN, AMEN.

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 Sav-

our 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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Austerity Measures: Was the CoB Settling Political Scores with Ruto?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- I would have expected her to go beyond quoting the figures and support her claims with documentary evidence. Again, she failed to do so.
- This would bring me to the question. Was she out to settle scores with the President?
- Remember members of parliament aligned to the President had threatened to impeach her. She hails from the Kisii community. The local leaders saved her as they came out to defend her.
- I had earlier written an article in this column supporting the decision of President Ruto to unveil a raft of austerity measures. It goes; the just concluded 3-day National Executive Retreat and Parliamentary group meeting of the ruling party had elicited mixed-reactions.



President William Ruto .

I have read the latest statement released by the Controller of Budget (CoB) which was designed to cast President William Ruto in bad light.

This came hot on heels of claims she had made a few days earlier linking to the National Treasury to what she described as 'budgeted corruption'.

I would have expected her to prove these claims beyond reasonable doubt but she fell far short of this.

The allies of President Ruto did not take this matter lightly. She had alleged that her salary had been inflated. We challenge her to prove this claims by presenting documentary evidence.

Let her produce the two payslips showing the discrepancy between the initial amount she had received and the one showing how much was deposited in her Bank account.

Seemingly, the CoB chickened out as the matter rested there.

In the latest statement, the CoB alleges that President Ruto has failed live up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the top state officers adhered to the austerity measures contained in a circular released by the Head of Public Service and Chief of Staff Felix Koskei.

The budget for local and foreign travels had been drastically slashed.

According to CoB, the reduction had not taken the effect.

I would have expected her to go beyond quoting the figures and support her claims with documentary evidence. Again, she failed to do so.

This would bring me to the question. Was she out to settle scores with the President?

Remember members of parliament aligned to the President had threatened to impeach her. She hails from the Kisii

community. The local leaders saved her as they came out to defend her.

I had earlier written an article in this column supporting the decision of President Ruto to unveil a raft of austerity measures. It goes; the just concluded 3-day National Executive Retreat and Parliamentary group meeting of the ruling party had elicited mixed-reactions.

For the critics of President William Ruto, they would allege he was taking Kenyans for a ride.

He did not believe in the austerity measures he had earlier unveiled.

The retreat had gobbled up millions of shillings of taxpayers. They would not produce an iota of evidence to prove and substantiate their claims.

The National Executive retreat brought together the Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and other top government official.

It was Kenya Kwanza's second retreat. The first one was held in Nyanyuki and it was also chaired by President Ruto.

As the head of the Executive, the President had set the targets for each cabinet secretary. The latest retreat was meant to review and evaluate thier performance. I assigned you some duties. We are here to present our scorecards. If you have not met the expectations of Kenyans, you will have to go home. The buck stops with me. If my administration fails to deliver, Kenyans will not blame you, they will blame me.

The critics would not see the importance of this retreat. They would instead capitalize on sideshows.

Besides National Executive and Parliamentary group, the Judiciary and Center for multiparty democracy, an NGO known to mainly front the cause of the opposition, was also having their

retreats at Naivasha hotels.

In the latter forum, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka was the chief guest. Why would the critics only single out the cabinet retreat? This shows they were only playing politics.

Earlier, I had written an article when President Ruto unveiled a wide range of austerity measures. These were my observations. Dr William Ruto assumed office at a time when the country was facing five main challenges: Dilapidated economy, hefty foreign debts, drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russian-Ukraine war and in early stages of recovery from Covid-19 pandemic.

Noting that he was now behind the steering wheel, Dr Ruto immediately started to pull up his socks as he did not want to let Kenyans down.

He embarked on an ambitious process of laying out a strong foundation and to build on it.

His main goal was to ensure that his administration has made great and enormous progress in addressing these challenges within the shortest time possible.

But as it turned out, the going ahead was tough than he had anticipated.

The 'handshake' government led by President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner Raila Odinga had left the economy in a very bad shape.

The Uhuru regime had borrowed more than Sh9 trillion from the foreign lenders. Dr Ruto had no option but to start repaying the loans which started maturing immediately after he took over.

He knew the consequences of failing to abide by the terms of the repayment agreements were dire.

In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international development partners and lenders.

This explains why President Ruto did not take the matter lightly.

He has so far lived up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.

This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign loans.

The President reiterated we are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for development and recurrent expenditures.

In a circular released by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, the head of state banned the senior government officials from making unnecessary travels abroad.

The travels banned include those meant for benchmarking, training symposium and exhibitions.

The travels which are necessary will be approved by his office, he stated. He also reduced the number of the staff accompanying the officer on travel.

For cabinet secretary, one or two persons. For the others, one or travel alone.

The President issued this directive after it came to his attention that these travels were consuming a huge chunk of tax payers' monies.

During his tenure, former President Uhuru Kenyatta had rolled out some austerity measures. I'm sure Dr Ruto, who at the time was the deputy President, learn some big lessons.

Unlike Kenyatta, we know Dr Ruto is a hand-on President.

Given this scenario, I have no reason to doubt Ruto's commitment to ensure a strict adherence to the austerity measures.

For the officers who will make luxurious travels, there will be no reimbursements and per diems. They will have to cater for all the expenses from thier own pockets.

As for the necessary and approved travels, the officers will not enjoy the luxury and comfort as it used to be.

The budgets for air tickets, accomodations and allowances have been drastically cut.

They will no longer use the Aeroplane's First Class.

While in the host countries, they will stay in less expensive hotels.

President Ruto is setting a good example. He has been avoiding attending unnecessary foreign travels.

He would only make trips that he knew would bore the fruits for Kenya. Kenyans would reap big and become the biggest beneficiary. When Dr Ruto visited the US recently, he came back with goodies amounting to billions of shillings.

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

Post Bank Donates Posho Mill To Machakos Women Group

By: Anne Kangero
 @themkenyatimes

Post Bank, Machakos Branch has donated a posho mill to Makandi Women Group in Makaveti, Kalama Sub-county, aiming to provide economic empowerment.

Hillary Ng'etich, the Post Bank Manager, Nairobi South, said the Bank gifted the women group with the posho mill for being loyal customers of the Bank.

Ng'etich stated that the decision to gift the women with a posho mill, was influenced by their collective needs since 2015.

Speaking to the media at Makaveti Trading Centre when he handed over the posho mill, Ng'etich said the women will use it to produce chicken feed instead of buying from agro-vets which is costly.

He affirmed that the initiative is part of the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility, activities aimed at em-

powering women to be self-reliant. "Our aim as a Bank is to see you thriving and developing," he said, assuring the women group of the bank's full support and urged them to roll-out other projects and recruit more members for development and prosperity.

The Chairlady of the Group, Ms. Muthoki Mulinge, said the provision of the posho mill was timely as the group was in a dire need to produce chicken feed.

Ms. Muthoki said the group that comprises 70 women, will use the posho mill to generate chicken feeds, for themselves and sell the surplus to villagers, hence boosting their income.

She added that they have 1,500 chickens that require to be fed frequently with healthy meals, before they are sold mostly to hotels and households.

Florence Mwongeli, who has been a member of the women group for the past nine years, says the mill will make work easier in producing feed.



Post Bank officials handing over the Posho mill

"We were mixing the feeds manually and it requires a lot of labor, we are grateful for the posho mill because we used to use our hands to mix the chicken feed but from now we no longer need to and it will save so much time," said Mwongeli.

Kenya, UAE Companies Sign MoU On Mega Data Centre

By: KBC Digital

President William Ruto yesterday witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Kenya and the United Arab Emirates that will see the development in the country of the first-ever data centre powered by geothermal energy.

The agreement between Kenya's EcoCloud and UAE's G42 will see the construction of a 1GW mega data centre, thus propelling Kenya's digital economy to greater heights.

"By harnessing geothermal energy, we are not only meeting the region's data needs but also setting a new standard for eco-friendly infrastructure," said Amos Siwoi, CEO of EcoCloud.

UAE Ambassador to Kenya Salim Ibrahim Binahmed Mohamed Alnabqi also witnessed the signing cere-

mony at State House, Nairobi.

"This geothermal-powered data centre is a milestone towards realising Kenya's potential as a global digital hub and fulfilling our mission of making intelligence accessible to everyone, everywhere," said Peng Xiao, Group CEO of G42.

EcoCloud is a leading provider of data centre solutions, while G42 is a global leader in creating visionary artificial intelligence.

The project hopes to use Kenya's vast untapped geothermal potential by putting up an initial 100MW facility, which will be scaled up over the years.

At full capacity, the facility will reduce Kenya's dependency on fossil fuel, cut carbon emissions and contribute towards environmental conservation.



President of Kenya unveils green-powered mega data center in collaboration with the UAE.

Kenya Unveils Advanced Cancer Treatment System

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare and bolstering export market competitiveness, Kenya has acquired an advanced Cobalt 60 radiotherapy calibration system and unveiled a comprehensive Strategic Plan 2023-2027. These initiatives were launched at the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Headquarters, marking pivotal moments in the nation's pursuit of excellence in both healthcare and industrial sectors.

The Cobalt 60 radiotherapy calibration system, the first of its kind in East Africa, was procured through collaboration between KEBS and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This cutting-edge system is poised to revolutionize cancer treatment by ensuring precise radiation doses, thereby maximizing treatment effectiveness while minimizing associated side effects.

Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, who spearheaded the launch,



Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano.

hailed the acquisition as a significant advancement in healthcare. She emphasized the crucial role of precise calibration in administering cancer treatment, highlighting its impact on patient safety and therapeutic efficacy. Managing Director Ngari underscored the years of collaborative efforts with the IAEA, dating back to 2008, which culminated in the acquisition of the Cobalt 60 system. This

collaboration, she noted, has been instrumental in fostering innovation and capacity building in cancer treatment. Meanwhile, KEBS also unveiled its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, aimed at bolstering the competitiveness of locally manufactured products in the global market. Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, who launched the plan, emphasized the importance of adherence to qual-



Advanced Cancer Treatment System.

ity standards in penetrating international markets.

Miano highlighted the challenges faced by Kenyan enterprises in meeting stringent export market requirements, primarily attributed to non-compliance with quality control processes. She expressed optimism that the Strategic Plan would address these challenges, particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs), by providing a roadmap for standardization and enhancing their acceptability in regional and international markets.

In her address, Miano urged industries to strictly adhere to KEBS standards, emphasizing the pivotal role of quality compliance in driving industrialization and creating employment opportunities.

Violent Extremism Prevention Training Kicks Off

By: Hellen Lunalo
@themtkenyatimes

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) has conducted a training session on preventing and countering violent extremism in Kiambu County.

The campaign aimed at equipping the area National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) with strategies to raise public awareness about terrorism prevention.

Speaking during the event in Ruiru, NCTC Chief Executive Officer Njenga Miiri said the government with the help of stakeholders was creating systems that would counter factors that encourage the radicalization of members of the public, especially the youth into violent extremism.

“We have partnered with the ARIVE program, funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

Hence, the program aims to prevent

and counter violent extremism by promoting collaboration between government and non-governmental stakeholders and overcoming distrust between the government and marginalized communities.

“Additionally, the program also aims to amplify the voices of those who are most at risk of radicalization and recruitment, voices that have often gone unheard within the established forums, platforms and policies designed to enhance resilience against violent extremism,” said Miiri.

The initiative also aims at enlisting the support of stakeholders to be drawn from government departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, political leaders, communities and the media in order to create a safer and harmonious county.

ARIVE project manager Shukri Adan plans to boost government efforts by involving private sector implementation, fostering trust, enhancing security agency-community relationships, and involving women and youth in PCVE initiatives.



Some of the stakeholders during the forum

Stakeholders will devise strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable development and tackle socio-economic issues that may lead to extremist activities in local communities.

“We plan to utilize conflict resolution techniques, encourage constructive conversations, and establish community-led initiatives like

neighborhood watch programs to enhance relationships between security agents and communities,” said Shukri.


The project manager also suggested incorporating community-oriented events like sports and cultural exchanges to improve relationships and foster trust.

Thus, the program was initially

launched in 2021 covering seven counties of Mombasa, Lamu, Garissa, Wajir, Isiolo and Nyeri.


However, following its successful implementation, NCTC decided to expand to an additional eight counties including Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Nakuru and Kiambu.


14 POEMS




MR FAVOURED

MUSICIAN

 084 607 0694

 favoredpd@gmail.com

 Mr Favoured

ABOUT

Lufuno Mudau, also known as Mr. Favoured, is a born-again Gospel artist, songwriter, gospel promoter, and artist manager. He was born in Limpopo province and currently resides in Gauteng province, where he serves as a minister of the word. He has a passion for Gospel music and is the director of an NPO organization called Feed God's Children. In addition, he has a passion for radio presentation and is a well-known program director at events where he is invited. Ev. Mudau is a person who strives to see people progress and helps individuals of all ages.

MUSICAL BACKGROUND

Mr Favoured started his career in singing in year 2000 at churches, he had went on to be a recording artist as solo artist. He went on to start his own production company in 2018, in which he has three (3) Gospel artists under his company. The artists till date have all being nominated on various awards such as Ingoma and GGMA awards. In year 2020 he went to professional record his Ep that consists of 6 songs in which he got a nominee at Lama awards. During his time in Gospel musical stages he went on to share stage with Takie Ndou, Lombard M and more

KEY SKILLS

- Musician
- Promoter
- Songwriter
- Artist Manager
- Born Again Gospel Artist

Enough Words



Words are enough for heartbreak.
 Not a speck of dust remains in his tongue,
 There is no luxury in the heart, there are clothes.
 One who does not deceive others,
 Words are enough for heartbreak.

Summary years with tears,
 Hearts blaming each other
 Ignorant people do wrong to themselves
 Words are enough for heartbreak.

Abduqakhorova Ominabonu Oybek's daughter.
 A student of the 2nd stage of Applied Psychology at the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan

For some reason, it ended without suffering,
 Follow the habit of throwing stones,
 There are no sincere words, only sarcasm
 Words are enough for heartbreak.

They tell different tales than lies,
 Love is a pastime,
 Food for traitors

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

Spring



Boil sumacs
 Let the stones roll
 Good luck
 May evil flee from us.

Always this season
 My love is blooming
 Our hearts are happy
 From my peaceful lay.

 Raxmanova Xayriniso

Raxmanova Xayriniso Ikrom daughter was born on September 25, 2006 in the city of Urgench Khorezm region. She is currently an 11th grade student School no 14. She is very interested in poetry. She writes on various topics. There are so many dream goals.

Spring has come flower spring
 It makes the world glow
 Ours in the spring
 We have a national holiday.

Girls let's collect stones
 Let's sum it up
 Wash the stones clean
 Let's put it in sumac.

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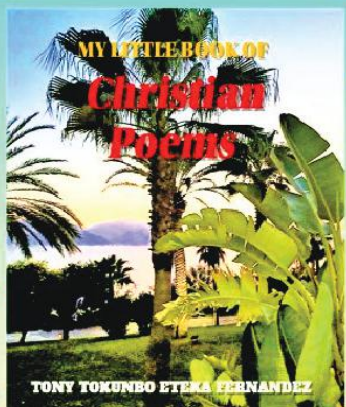
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BUSINESS

Kenya Cane Unveils New Look Pack At A Nairobi Extravaganza

Savara, Yaba Thrill Fans At An All- Night Performance

By: William Craig Oloo
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Breweries Limited (KBL) spirit brand Kenya Cane held a spectacularly vibrant night for the official launch of its new pack this weekend, 2nd March, at a consumer event in Ruai Gardens where revelers were treated to a one-of-a-kind experiential and musical extravaganza headlined by brand ambassador Savara, Prince of Rhumbacane Yaba and DJ Demakufu.

The event was hosted by the comic duo of MC Gathoni and Plumplum and also included Mugithi artiste Waitthaka Wa Jane, Artsyculture the Band and Sarakasi dancers. Entry to the event was by purchase of Kenya Cane 250ML for 1 ticket or 750ML for 3 tickets at the gate and revelers got a chance to interact with the new packaging which was available at the outlet.

The unveil moment of the new look was led by Kenya Cane Brand Manager, Davis Changalwa, Kenya Cane Shopper Manager Mercy Gitari, Eabl Shopper Marketing Manager

Spirits, Anthony Mwangi and Eabl Marketing Manager Spirits, Kennedy Mutula.

"This is a great moment for Kenya Cane, a brand that has stood the test of time and refreshing consumers 47 years down the line. It is a great honor to witness this moment which marks a new beginning for the brand. Our promise to our consumers is that, even as we transition to the new look, we have retained the authenticity of the liquid as they have always liked it. We will work closely with our distributors across the country to ensure that the new look Kenya Cane is available at their local outlets." Said Kenya Cane Brand Manager, Davis Changalwa.

The new pack celebrates the essence of Kenya Cane with its vibrant colors and dynamic graphics. The evolution reflects the dedication to staying true to the brand heritage while embracing the spirit of innovation.

The brand also recognized and rewarded Lilian Kisovilu and Nahason Momanyi selected from its Greats Toast Twice campaign activation to find Kenyans working towards their Greatness.



KBL official launch of its new pack.

Nairobi Hosts The 2nd Round Of Egypt-Kenya Business Bridge Forum

By: Billy Sabari and Kelvin Waribu
@themkenyatimes

Nairobi has played host to the launch of the 2nd Round of the Egypt Business Bridge Forum, with Kenya in collaboration with USAID Trade project in a bid to support the Egyptian exports for the Export Council for Building Refractory and Metallurgy Industries and the Chemical and Fertilizers Export Council.

The CIB Bank which is the largest private sector Bank in Egypt with more than 300 correspondents over the world, was responsible for holding the event that brought together all its clients who are both stakeholders and entrepreneurs in the trade industry.

The event included different business discussion sessions between entrepreneurs and all potential customers, and the exhibition set-up had

a variety of products that were free to sample by interactive buyers.

Speaking during the session, the Vice President (VP) of the CIB Bank African Desk, Ahmad Ahmud, said the forum along with many other forums the Bank is organizing with different export councils in Egypt focuses on trade finance between Egypt and Kenya.

"As long as we are part of COMESA, it gives CIB Bank the privilege to exchange products between Kenya and Egypt," added Ahmud.

He also noted that Egypt is the second largest importer of Kenyan tea, and the two countries have a trade volume of between US\$600 to US\$700 per year.

CIB Bank being the only bank with a branch both in Kenya and Egypt, the VP revealed that they plan on taking advantage and capitalizing on the event's discussions in terms of supporting Egyptian importers including coming-up with and in-



Parts of the delegates attending the conference.

venting their clients and local clients. Ahmud affirmed that Kenya can rely on the Bank to give credit terms to the local Kenyan companies, insisting that they should not worry of the payment as it will be secured through the Industrial Control Sys-

tem (ICS).

He termed this as value addition and sees it as giving an instrument of trade to finance itself.

The Assistant VP CIB Kenyan desk Sulman Lashar, stressed that all the instruments are to facilitate trade,

thus, the event provides the opportunity for different suppliers and buyers to build trust and relationships hence increasing trade between the two countries.

SIB Gets Retirement Benefits Authority Nod To Manage Pensions

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

Standard Investment Bank (SIB), has been licensed by the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) to manage retirement benefits schemes under the Retirement Benefits Act (1997).

This significant milestone reflects SIB's dedication to diversifying its service offerings and strengthening its position as the preferred wealth management partner in Kenya. The newly acquired license authorizes SIB to manage pension funds, empowering it to provide tailored investment strategies and holistic retirement planning solutions.

With this license, SIB is poised to provide a modern approach to pension management, offering competitive returns that align with the diverse needs of its clients. SIB's team of financial experts, supported by cutting-edge technology, is well-equipped to optimize investment portfolios, mitigate risks, and ensure sustainable, long-term financial



SIB Gets Retirement Benefits Authority Nod to Manage Pensions

the Retirement Benefits Manager license, which underscores our commitment to providing comprehensive financial solutions. We are now in a better position to diversify our services and meet the evolving needs of our clients, especially in the crucial area of retirement planning," said James Wangunyu, SIB's Founder and Managing Director.

On his part, the RBA CEO Mr. Charles Machira noted, "We congratulate SIB for their entry into the retirement benefits space which is testament to the growth of the entire industry. We are confident that this will provide pensioners with diverse and competitive investment options, fostering a more dynamic retirement's savings environment."

The Retirement Benefits Manager License not only signifies regulatory recognition but also demonstrates SIB's commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity in its operations.

Clients can trust that their pension funds are managed with the utmost care, based on SIB's track record.

growth.

This is the third license issued to SIB, coming after the Money Man-

ager license in 2018, which led to the formation of Mansa-X Fund, and SIB's investment manager license in

2003, both of which were issued by the Capital Markets Authority.

"We are thrilled to have obtained

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.

OLDONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK

Ultimate Panoramic Experience

Tullow Singles Out Kenya Oil Project As One Of Its Key Growth Area

By: MTK Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Tullow reiterated that it is on track to deliver production growth in 2024 and expects to deliver \$800 million in free cash flow from 2023 to 2025. This outlook puts the company on a solid footing to consider growth.
- The Full-Year Results statement and presentation show that Kenya remains a material option to drive value and growth for the Company. Last year, Tullow's contingent resource in Kenya doubled to 470mmstb, with Tullow now holding 100% of the licence and a Field Development Plan (FDP) under discussion with the Government.
- The increased interest provides Tullow with greater strategic flexibility.



Tullow Oil

Tullow Oil, the independent energy company building a better future through responsible oil and gas development in Africa, has announced its Full-Year Results for the year ended 31 December 2023.

In the results, Tullow reiterated the delivery of its plan, which is achieving targeted results and a much-improved business. During the year, Tullow continued to evolve and built a strong and unique foundation to create material value. Several significant milestones were achieved in 2023, including the start-up of Jubilee South East, which delivered material production growth. Tullow generated \$170 million of free cash flow, ahead of expectations, and reduced net debt by over \$250 million. Tullow also demonstrated its ability to access long-term funding through the \$400 million debt facility agreement with the United Kingdom's Glencore Energy.

Tullow reiterated that it is on track to deliver production growth in 2024 and expects to deliver \$800 million in free cash flow from 2023 to 2025. This outlook puts the company on a

solid footing to consider growth. The Full-Year Results statement and presentation show that Kenya remains a material option to drive value and growth for the Company. Last year, Tullow's contingent resource in Kenya doubled to 470mmstb, with Tullow now holding 100% of the licence and a Field Development Plan (FDP) under discussion with the Government. The increased interest provides Tullow with greater strategic flexibility.

According to Tullow Kenya BV (TKBV) Managing Director Mr Madhan Srinivasan, an updated Field Development Plan (FDP) to develop 470 mmbobe resources to produce up to 120 kbopd, was submitted to the Government in March 2023.

The firm, which plans to invest more than US\$10 million in Kenya this year, he disclosed, had received formal notification early this month from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) extending the review period of the updated Field Development Plan (FDP) to 30 June 2024.

While progressing the FDP, TKBV

Tullow, Madhan added, is also actively working with the Government of Kenya to develop options to accelerate production and cash flow to unlock value from the local asset. These options, he said, are being explored with the Government and will supplement Tullow's Full Field Development (FFD) plan for Project Oil Kenya.

"We are collaboratively working with the Government of Kenya as they evaluate the FDP. Once their evaluation is concluded, the FDP will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum for review before submission to Parliament for final approval. The development has been designed to be robust at lower oil prices, and we continue discussions with prospective strategic partners for this project," Madhan said.

Tullow Oil plc Chief Executive Officer Rahul Dhir described 2023 as a year of significant achievements and highlighted the firm's transformation in the past few years.

"Soon after I joined Tullow in July 2020, we implemented a plan to transform our business. This plan is

achieving targeted results, and since the end of 2020, we have generated over \$1.1 billion of free cash flow, reduced net debt by over 30% and taken the business from peak gearing of 3x to 1.4x net debt to EBITDAX.," Dhir said.

He added, "In line with our strategy, we continue to focus relentlessly on operational excellence, capital efficiency and investments to drive growth. This strategy is delivering material cash flow generation, and we are on track to deliver our target of c.\$800 million free cash flow over the 2023 to 2025 period. Given the quality of our resource base, the opportunity set ahead of us and a reducing cost outlook, we expect to maintain these levels of free cash flow generation in subsequent years. With a strong balance sheet and this sustainable free cash flow outlook, Tullow has a strong and unique foundation to create material value for our investors, host nations and stakeholders, and we confidently look to the future."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Embracing Challenges Through Education Paves The Path To A Transformative Journey

By: **Sena Dickson**

Abraham Lincoln once said that “upon the subject of education...I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as people may be engaged in. I as second year media at Chuka university student learnt that embraces challenges have a transformative journey. I can’t say that the journey has been tough but what I can tell is that a life with challenges makes a life better but not bitter. Trust the process and shall come.

I grew up in nomadic home where our source of food only depends on our livestock. It was not only nomadic but also polygamous. I am the son of third mother, a family of four mothers and thirty five children one father. I called it life because how do you imagine a father being depended by such a population. It is not actually easy.

In the nomadic life unloved children were taken to school since they do believe that education is a waste of time for the fool. What a shock! A father seems not to love me in that I was not born by him. This is where life begins, imagining where to start and how will I make it by the love of one parent. In

our nomadic life mothers don’t have anything to say when a father is still alive. You could have wonder how have you made, but through focus and God that is why am here today.

Eventually the father talks to mother and agree each other I alone supposed to go to school. The mother agrees since she can’t have anything to say in front of father. I take a silence and deep thinking about where to start but I recalled one thing that, challenges are not road blocks”; they are stepping stone that lead us to strength, resilience and discovery of our true capabilities.

It is an early morning in a village called Emala, Nasuaku a mother of eight children walk up to escort her son school. A father that doesn’t want to bother whether I have a pen or a book leave alone shoes. I remember clear tat the was thoughtful of hunger due to prolonged drought that caused death of several livestock in the community. A mother gave a cup of porridge that I took it but my mind was about school. The mother gave me a long t shirt which I used it as well as short to cover my body parts. There were some words of encouragement by the mother but above all ill never

forget one that she said my son I gave you but being born an original never die a photocopy.

I started a journey accompanied by my mother’s up to a 3 kilometers away from home. It was a one build structure that accommodates around 50 children in the community. The teacher did a short conversation with mother and agreed that I stay in school. I felt tears dropping in my eyes seeing my mother leaving me alone. She said to me to stay safe and take care.

The one structure was built of wood and the seats. we used to seat on stones. There were no materials and facilities in the school. We face a lot of challenges during the teaching sessions since the teacher did not a chalk to write on a black board. In fact he used a sharp white stone to write on it. The environment was unconducive since there was a lot of dust that sharp stone which the teacher uses produce a lot dust. This causes a lot of sneezing in class and led to health problem.

One day I felt sick due to long distance I used to walk and the coldness I felt during awakening of morning hours. It really interfere my studies since I stayed almost a term without

going to school. That time there was no hospital around so we use to take herbal medicine. This was difficult since the herbal medicine was found in the forest and father didn’t want to go to look for it. In fact he used to say unpleasing words “let him sleep he will fortunately not going to make”. These words just left us with mom crying. Unstoppable star will never be killed; my mother tried all her best until I get well.

I went back to school after a long period. The teacher was wondering what caused this. My mom explained it to him and I was allowed to go to class. Life was so hard, out of 50 students in a class only 10 could afford to wear shoes. The was no hygiene in the environment since there was shortage of water.

With the help of mother and good motivational teachers I tried until I did my national exam of primary education. Of which I scored 330 out of 500. this made me happy and good motive to the mother. The father didn’t even mind what I scored in fact he only uses his mocking words to mock me. That was the best time I leant importance of education. It reaches a time for me joining to the

secondary level of education. This was the difficult time I ever experienced since the father didn’t want to sell his cows for me to join high school. My lovely mother never loosed hope in me, in fact she went to his relatives asking help. God really deed. I got school fees and shopping and I join my high school which was a national school. Challenges were also there but we tried until we catch up with the environment. There was a time that my box was broken and everything was stolen, I really cried a lot imagining how do I tell my mother about it. I explain it to board master my situation luckily, he helped me.

I tried a lot until I made to do my final national examination where I scored a good grade of A. the world was happy, the community, the family and more so my mother. This is where I saw God when my father started expressing love to me. It is as if it was a doubt in me but it eventually came to be true. Such words of the father that “ I never regretted for taking you to school” really made to prove that embracing challenges through education paves the path to a transformative journey.

Prioritising Inflation

By: **Irfan Khan Tareen**

Undeniably, it is sublime imperative to cut out tough and imperative policies, regarding soaring inflation that poses miserable and harsh situations on the prosperous survival of out of pockets. There exists an alarming rate of inflation in the country on the account of political instability and capricious policies.

Surely, the living standard is falling down day by day that make a compulsive and unwanted state, i.e living from hand to mouth. Likewise, capability to essential and basic commodities has exhibited greatly harder.

Inflation, undoubtedly leads to a number of dreadful and unfavourable consequences. In such society, when each and every soul gets badly impacted by virtue of unhindered

inflation and abject poverty, there eventually comes up the despicable transgression of morality due to extreme hunger. Likewise, there an unimaginable rate in social crimes, starts increasing in the long run. Such scandalous conditions manifest in Pakistan since last few decades due to a number of reasons.

Similarly, economic field has partially hobbled because of the flying inflation that has unfortunately caused the expulsion of humanity and morality by means of boundless hoarding, adulteration and black marketing. Unluckily, bribery, as well as corruption, which plagues social wellbeing and overall economic development, looks up in every corner (every department and every office). In fact, employees retaining employment with lowest wages, emerge incapable to make

both ends meet as well as to cater food to family. Thus, inflation steers these individuals to work against legal rules in order to increase profits and get rid of financial constraints through foul means. In this way, social deformity prevails and country escapes towards undying backwardness.

Actually, inflation defuses from the bottom of the ladder to the highest level due to a number of factors.

First, inflation looks up on the account of rapid growth in population that creates a dearth in resources. Overpopulation consequently makes it deep elusive to get basic requirements easily.

Second, inflation upgrades when there emerges a massive surge in demand than supply. Significantly, preventing mismatch between exports and imports is extremely

requisite to die down the increasing prices of basic commodities.

Third, inflation exaggerates by virtue of of higher enforcement of taxes on necessary commodities such as fuel, sugar, flour etc. Moreover, receiving exorbitant foreign aids foils country’s economy and weakens government to formulate best economic policies to work for self-interest. In this way, a government gets incapacitated to break down the chains of upgrading inflation.

In short, to get rid of brazen and undesirable circumstances flourished by inflation, it is crucial to adopt substantial and constructive steps.

First of all, ensuring birth rate particularly demonstrates significant step. Planning family structure assists in obstructing the increment

surge in population. Second, avoiding massive imports, as well as exceeding the supply of exports surely appears constructive measures. These can remain quite helpful in maintaining budget resources.

In addition, mitigating heavy taxes on essential commodities ostensibly seems tangible measure to head off daily burden to some extent. Furthermore, the most important and desperate measure in this regard is to turn aside the excessive foreign funds, that apparently remain harder to payback in the long run. Indeed, more and more budget resources should be utilized in agricultural and industrial directions to aggrandize the exporting products.

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Let Us Join Hands To Save Our Youth



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Sports >> *World 800m champion Mary Moraa and 3000m steeplechase world record holder Beatrice Chepkoech yesterday secured tickets to the 2023 Africa Games after impressive performances during the trials held at Nyayo Stadium.

Familiar Faces Moraa, Chepkoech Punch Tickets To Africa Games



Commonwealth Games - Athletics - Women's 800m - Final - Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, Britain - August 6, 2022 Kenya's Mary Moraa celebrates after winning gold REUTERS/John Sibley..

World 800m champion Mary Moraa and 3000m steeplechase world record holder Beatrice Chepkoech yesterday secured tickets to the 2023 Africa Games after impressive performances during the trials held at Nyayo Stadium.

Brian Komen will fly Kenya's flag in 1500m after flooring 2022 World Indoor Championships bronze medallist Abel Kipsang in the final.

Moraa, who is also the 400m national record holder, eased to victory in the one-lap race.

The Commonwealth Games champion said she decided to participate in the 400m race in

order to build on her speed ahead of a busy season that also includes the Paris Olympics.

"I am ready for the competition in Ghana and I promise my fans that I'll be back with a medal. The race will help me ahead of the Paris Games and so it's very important for me to be in shape in Accra," said Moraa.

Fresh from winning bronze in women's 3000m at the ended World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glasgow, Chepkoech beat Mary Munanu and two-time Africa U20 silver medallist Sandra Felis Chebet to win the 5000m final.

"I feel that this year is going to

be a good one for me after shaking off an injury and my only target is gold in the upcoming Olympics but that means first I must do well in Ghana."

In men's 3000m steeplechase, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Amos Serem beat his younger brother Edmond Serem and Simon Koech to get the single ticket.

Hezborn Ochieng clocked 10:22sec to win 100m race beating 100m Africa record holder Ferdinand Omnyala's younger brother Isaac Omurwa, who finished second.

In the women's version, Esther Mbagari topped ahead of Doreen

Waka. Vanice Kerubo ruled the 400 meters women hurdles final.

The two-day trials were disrupted for many hours on Tuesday as athletes protested reduced quota of the athletes to jet out for the delayed Games.

Athletics Kenya later indicated that they were in talks with the government to add more slots.

Kenya National Sports Council (KNSC) reduced the slots from three to one athlete per discipline with some even getting zero representatives.

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Sports >> *Jude Bellingham has been suspended for Real Madrid's next two La Liga matches after he was sent off against Valencia last weekend, the Spanish football federation said yesterday.

Madrid's Bellingham Banned For Two Matches After Valencia Red Card

Jude Bellingham has been suspended for Real Madrid's next two La Liga matches after he was sent off against Valencia last weekend, the Spanish football federation said yesterday.

Madrid appealed against his red card but the federation's disciplinary committee dismissed their complaint that referee Jesus Gil Manzano made an "error" by dismissing Bellingham.

The England international, La Liga's top scorer with 16 strikes, netted moments after the referee blew for full-time in Madrid's 2-2 draw at Valencia.

Bellingham, 20, ran over to the referee insisting the goal should stand and was sent off, with Gil Manzano saying he showed an "aggressive attitude" and was "shouting".

The midfielder misses upcoming La Liga games against Celta Vigo and Osasuna.

Real Madrid lead the top flight by seven points ahead of Girona and are eight in front of rivals Barcelona, third.

AFP



Soccer Football - LaLiga - Real Madrid v Getafe - Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid, Spain - September 2, 2023 Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring their second goal REUTERS/Violeta Santos Moura.

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Anemia In Pregnancy And Its Types



By: Fayzullayeva Gulmira
Bakhodir @themtkenyatimes

Annotation: Anemia is anemia, which is more common in women during pregnancy. Anemic pregnant women are born with anemia due to lack of iron. I have looked into natural and drug treatments to prevent this.

Key words: anemia, hemoglobin, pregnancy, iron, folic acid.

Anemia - a disease characterized by a decrease in the number and quality of erythrocytes and hemoglobin in the blood. Anemia can be caused by a violation of the process of blood formation, the bone marrow, the main blood-forming tissue, cannot perform its function adequately. Anemia caused by iron and vitamin B12 deficiency is quite common.

Anemia is often observed in case of long-term bleeding, peptic ulcer or stomach and duodenal ulcer. Iron deficiency anemia is common in women with long and heavy periods. Anemia related to iron deficiency is caused by frequent pregnancy and long-term breastfeeding, because during pregnancy and breastfeeding, part of the iron reserve in the mother's body is transferred to the child. A decrease in the amount of hemoglobin in the blood, while the number of erythrocytes is slightly reduced or equal, is one of the main symptoms of anemia related to iron deficiency. The patient is discolored, often complains of rapid fatigue, headache, dizziness, blurred vision, hair loss, and brittle nails.

Sometimes it becomes difficult to swallow, the patient wants to eat things that are not usually eaten (chalk, lime, gilvata, etc.), likes spicy, salty foods. In the prevention and treatment of anemia related to iron deficiency, it is necessary to identify and eliminate possible sources of blood loss in time, achieve a certain level of planning of pregnancy and childbirth, and follow a balanced diet. Anemia caused by vitamin B12 or folic acid deficiency is much rarer.

This type of anemia has specific symptoms: sore tongue, signs of damage to the nervous system (funicular myelosis) when the disease is missed. In order to prevent this type of anemia, it is very important

Anemia in Pregnancy



Normal



Anemia



Worth Noting:

- In places where worms are spread, it is necessary to take measures to prevent infection from them, and when the disease appears, it is necessary to treat it in time. There are many types of hemolytic anemia associated with extensive destruction of erythrocytes.
- They can be hereditary or acquired, and are usually characterized by yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes, and a decrease in the number of red blood cells and hemoglobin. In all types of anemia, it is necessary to consult a doctor and get proper treatment in time.

to timely identify and treat chronic diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, especially those with diarrhea.

In places where worms are spread, it is necessary to take measures to prevent infection from them, and when the disease appears, it is necessary to treat it in time. There are many types of hemolytic anemia associated with extensive destruction of erythrocytes.

They can be hereditary or acquired, and are usually characterized by yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes, and a decrease in the number of red blood cells and hemoglobin. In all types of anemia, it is necessary to consult a doctor and get proper treatment in time.

There are many reasons to think about body changes during pregnancy. Although every pregnancy is different, there are a few things that most people may experience, including anemia in pregnancy, which most pregnant women experience. This condition, or anemia in pregnancy, is caused by a lack of red blood cells that deliver oxygen to your body's tissues.

Mild anemia can make you tired, but if it becomes too severe or is not treated in time, it can lead to serious risks. In fact, anemia during pregnancy increases the risk of premature birth, low birth weight, and

even maternal death. Knowing more about the types of anemia, common symptoms, and treatment methods will help you identify the warning signs of anemia early so that you can see a doctor in time to prevent complications.

Don't worry. Just tell your health care providers, doctors, about all your symptoms and they will help you along the way. Let's learn more about anemia in pregnancy through this article. You can get more information about the physiological and pathological changes that occur during pregnancy in the "Pregnancy" section. What is the cause of anemia in pregnancy?

Although mild anemia in pregnancy is common for many people, it can become a serious problem that requires more serious medical treatment if left untreated. If your body doesn't have enough red blood cells to carry oxygen, it affects your organs and body functions.

There are more than 400 types of anemia. It also has a variety of causes, but the most common ones relate to red blood cell production and general health. Also, physiological anemia is a normal process associated with pregnancy.

When the total volume of blood increases during pregnancy, the amount of fluid (or plasma) increases

more than the volume of red blood cells. As a result, a low percentage of erythrocytes in the total volume of blood occurs - this change is reflected in the blood analysis.

Iron deficiency anemia. Deficiency of iron stores before and during pregnancy leading to iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia. In this type of anemia, the lack of iron reserves leads to a decrease in the production of hemoglobin.

During pregnancy, your body works harder to provide your growing baby with the right nutrients, resulting in an increase in blood volume of about 45 percent. As a result, you may develop physiological anemia.

Your body supplies the baby with the iron it needs to make its own hemoglobin. The increase in blood volume and production of the baby's hemoglobin allows for more of the necessary oxygen and nutrients to be transported, but also increases the daily requirement for important minerals such as iron. Folate deficiency anemia.

Fayzullayeva Gulmira Bakhodir daughter was born on October 28, 2001 in Kosonsoy District of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a 5th year student of the Faculty of "treatment work" of the Fergana Institute of Public Health Medicine