

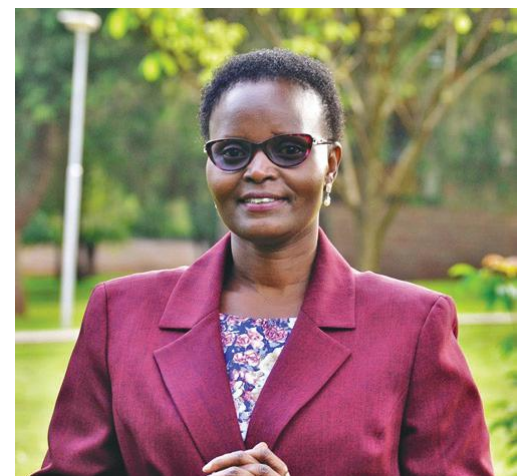
KSh1 Trillion Required To Provide Water To All Kenyans



P.9 *Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru addressing the conference on Friday evening*



News: Women Are Striving Towards Their Societal Reflections To Men **P.11**



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KSh1 Trillion Required To Provide Water To All Kenyans

By: MTK Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The National Government, County Governments and water industry players were brought together under the theme; “Accelerating Investments For Sustainable Access To Sanitation For All.”
- During a consultative engagement, the Water and Sanitation PS said the government’s tabulation of what is needed to cover the whole country is about 1 trillion Kenya shillings.



Water and Sanitation PS Julius Korir, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, Tharaka Nithi Water and Irrigation Chief Officer Loise Mutua, among other panelists during a water and sanitation conference at the KICC. The government says it’ll need a trillion shillings in the next 6 years to increase water access across the country.

The National Government now says it will cost about 1 trillion shillings in the next 6 years to ensure each and every household has water.

According to Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Julius Korir, the government would be leveraging on partnerships, including private and public partnerships to raise the money that would also be contributed by the two levels of government – the National and County Governments.

Water is a vital, yet scarce commodity in most parts of the country.

In some parts of the country, lack of water near homesteads has contributed to women and children walking for more than 10 kilometres, sometimes, in search of the commodity.

This issue becoming a major point of

concern at the Water and Sanitation Conference which took place at the KICC, Nairobi from Wednesday to Friday.

During the event, dozens of the sector stakeholders exhibited their prowess in various fields.

The National Government, County Governments and water industry players were brought together under the theme; “Accelerating Investments For Sustainable Access To Sanitation For All.”

During a consultative engagement, the Water and Sanitation PS said the government’s tabulation of what is needed to cover the whole country is about 1 trillion Kenya shillings.

This he said is by the year 2030

During the sessions, the National Government and the County Governments engaged development partners; one of

which was dubbed “Bridging The Gap In Universal Access To Water And Sanitation Services In The Counties”.

“There are several sources we have identified and we are looking at financing options,” the PS noted.

He also emphasized on the need for investment from a multi sectoral approach, calling for public/private partnerships, a view the council of governors is keen on, adding that there is no and there shall be no free water.

Tharaka Nithi County was used as a classic example of how public – private partnerships in water provision is working and plays into ensuring water provision.

Ms Loise Mutua, the County Chief Officer, Water and Irrigation – Tharaka Nithi County disclosed that perennial water

crisis in the area informed the partnership that is expected to ease the shortage and accessibility

In the partnership, the County government has partnered with eWater in a project that has seen the provider put up 54 water points in a pilot project in 3 wards where it is charging KSh5 maintenance fee for a 20 litre jerrycan of water.

The forum was told that the National Government is advocating for such partnerships.

The water and sanitation conference also sought to create a working framework that would bring partners and government to the table in efforts to find durable solutions to Kenya’s water problems.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kenya Medical, Practitioners and Dentist Council (KMPDC) has shut down 80 health facilities in Kajiado County over noncompliance to licensing regulations. An additional 3 facilities have also been partially closed for not maintaining stipulated standards. A total of 27 health practitioners operating at the facilities without proper licenses were also arrested in a crackdown conducted by both council officials and detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Speaking in Kajiado town Friday, KMPDC Chief Executive Officer David Kariuki revealed that a total of 368 out of the 428 registered health facilities had already been inspected and the exercise was still on going to ensure that all facilities have complied with the set standards. "Some of the facilities closed were operating below the stipulated standards, others were either unregistered or unlicensed, while others had employed persons that were unregistered or unlicensed," he said. Dr Kariuki emphasised that KMPDC stands firm in its mission to regulate medical practitioners and facilities to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to all Kenyans. He warned that legal action will be taken against health practitioners operating without valid licenses issued by the council. County Executive Committee Member for Health Alex Kilowua, reiterated the county government's commitment towards providing quality and accessible health care. Kilowua applauded KMPDC for conducting the inspection exercise adding that private health facilities operating without the required licenses and set standards were putting the lives of Kenyans at risk. "We have seen many people masquerading as licensed health practitioners and putting the lives of Kenyans at risk. We are happy with the ongoing inspection and will be keen to ensure that legal action is taken against them to deter others," he added. Kilowua further called for the inspection of public hospitals to ensure that they are compliant with health standards set by the council.



The Government will distribute food stuffs worth KSh123,052,000 to vulnerable Muslim households during the Ramadhan period, expected to start next week. Government Spokesperson, Dr. Isaac Mwaura, said the government started the initiative to have the vulnerable access nutritious meals, as a way to promote religious observance, reduce financial strain, encourage social inclusion, to demonstrate the government's dedication to fairness, empathy and unity among all citizens. Speaking at the Konza TechnoCity, during a press briefing, Mwaura said the foodstuffs to be distributed include 50 bags of Rice (32,640,000), 50 bags of beans (90M), 190 cartons of vegetable oil (76,000) and 28 boxes of sardines (336,000). The month of Ramadhan is expected to start on Monday. Ramadan is the Ninth Month of the Islamic Calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide, as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection, and community. The observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.

Among the bills that have been adopted include the Makueni County Sustainable Forest Management Bill of 2023, the Solid Waste Management Bill of 2023, Makueni County Environment Bill of 2023, and the Makueni County Forestry and Landscape Restoration Plan (FOLAREP) (2023-2032). The bills will be escalated to the County Executive Committee (CEC) chaired by the governor who will deliberate on the bills before they are taken to the Makueni County Assembly for enactment. The adoption of the bills was done at a hotel in Makindu Sub County in a meeting chaired by the Chief Officer Dr. Geoffrey Muthoka on behalf of the Lands, Urban Planning, Environment, Mining and Natural Resources Executive Committee Member (ECM) Mr. Nicolas Nzioka. The above bills and plan have been developed through the funding from partners like World Resources Institute (WRI), Reconcile, ICRAF and UK PACT Kenya among others. During the meeting, members said that the 10-year plan will help in the restoration of the ecologically and sensitive degraded lands of Makueni especially to ensure the county plants 335 trees million in accordance with the presidential directive of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. The two-day event was funded by the World Resource Institute. The county assembly has also been sensitized about the bills which have also undergone public participation.



The World Vision Kenya has put a smile to about 12,000 residents of Sololo town and its environs after it delivered two water projects bringing to an end an acute water shortage spanning for decades. The organization which also marked its 50th year of existence in Kenya has also extended support to the local Moyale Constituency bursary kitty with a donation of Sh9 million to enable needy students to continue with their education. World Vision country director Gilbert Kamanga said the project which entailed the sinking and equipping of two boreholes at a cost of Sh26 million was informed by the suffering that members of the community particularly women and children endured when sourcing for the essential commodity. Kamanga pointed out that the organization implemented the project in collaboration with the Moyale constituency development office and the Omeriye Foundation in line with the government's Vision 2030 development plan. He said during the commissioning of the project that would provide 976 households with potable water for both domestic and livestock use that the availability of the essential service would also enhance access to quality education for local children. On the same note, the country director advised local communities who are predominantly pastoralists against the practice of early marriages and to instead embrace education in order to accord their children a bright future irrespective of gender.



CARE International plans to train small groups in agri-nutrition health and economic empowerment in Nakuru county. Subsequently, the County Chief Officer for Gender, Social Services and Inclusivity Gladys Kamuren has held a meeting with over 20 Economic Empowerment Groups from Kaptombwo Ward.



The meeting centered on discussing CARE International's role as an economic empowerment partner. During the meeting, Kamuren urged women to fortify their groups by prioritizing accountability and transparency. This, she emphasized, would render the groups more sustainable and attractive to additional funding opportunities. Additionally, she pledged her commitment to collaborating with CARE International to achieve their shared mission of community empowerment and improve the livelihoods of women groups. However, a woman leader from the area, Monica Onsoti, urged the NGO to consider funding individual women who have businesses and find it difficult to operate in groups. Onsoti said such self-made women also require support to grow their enterprises, instead of being ignored by NGOs who purport to be supporting only groups, since growth is important and should be encouraged instead of always herding women together like sheep.

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Gov't To Implement Compensation Scheme Technology To Tackle Wildlife Attack Around Wildlife Corridors

By: Sharon Atieno
 @themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has launched a strategy to address human-wildlife conflict that affects people living in conservation areas in addition to rolling out a new improved Technology-driven Compensation Scheme for those affected.

The Ministry in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research and Training Institute, and the Nature Conservancy, Human-Wildlife Strategy (2024-2033), aims to increase space and connectivity for protected areas and to recognise wildlife conservation land use options through appropriate policy.

Further, the Ministry will also increase funding for prevention, response, and compensation while improving communities' attitudes and perceptions by handling their conflict incidents better and sharing benefits to offset costs.

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua noted that it is important to mitigate conflict by not only ensuring the safety of humans and wildlife but also to provide for those impacted.

Dr Mutua disclosed that Kenya is among 10 mega-biodiverse nations with over 35,000 species of flora and fauna with over 61 percent of wildlife in key landscapes declining since 1970 which emphasizes the urgency of effective intervention.

He admitted that the conservation is facing challenges due to diminishing space for conservation which results in increasing human population pres-



State Department for Wildlife Principal Secretary Silvia Museiya while addressing the forum..

sure, climate change, loss of migration and dispersal areas, and pressure from many other human activities.

The CS declared that the Ministry is taking a keen interest in the mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) since the challenges have increased and are affecting the wildlife conservation sector.

"We need to find ways of balancing human populations, development, and the spatial needs of wildlife, which is Kenya's heritage and life," stressed Dr Mutua.

He at the same time insisted that his Ministry needs a strategic direction that keys in new ideas and opportunities to address the issue of expansion of space for conservation to reduce Human Wildlife Conflicts.

Further, Dr Mutua added that the new Strategy marks a critical step towards achieving the balance, focusing on

long-term strategies that address the root cause of HWCs and promote a harmonious co-existence between communities and wildlife.

In a speech read on his behalf by the State Department for Wildlife Principal Secretary Silvia Museiya during the official opening of the Human-Conflict Strategic and the Human-Wildlife Conflict Compensation Scheme of the year 2024-2033, the CS stated that the government is keen to promote sustainable collaboration with communities, partners, and stakeholders in conservation including Ab Entheos, Minet and Pula who have played a critical role in strategic development.

"Wildlife plays a crucial role in the local and national economies with 80 percent of tourism revenue coming from wildlife and employment creation, making it a vital sector," said

Dr. Mutua, affirming that the scheme will leverage technology and improve community involvement for efficient reporting, verification and timely settlement of claims.

He added that the HWC has inducted all community wildlife conservation committees and compensation schemes which will be rolled out across the country to support the digitized compensation scheme in the targeted counties.

The CS reiterated that the Ministry is undertaking policy changes including the development of the integrated policy on Natural Resource Management that will address the cause root of HWCs and is also reviewing the legislative and regulatory issues that will support HWCs and Community Involvement in conservation and recruit 1500 rangers and officers who will improve response by Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS).

"Additionally, the Ministry will review the Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill of 2024 that will enhance input access and benefit sharing bill, 2024," he said.

According to the CS, the Ministry has also allocated resources to repair fences while erecting new ones around parks and national reserves while continuously engaging stakeholders.

Mutua also mentioned that the Ministry is improving education and awareness, and developing innovative technologies through research by Wildlife Research Training Institute and other research partners.

In her own remarks, Museiya stated that the Ministry has set to launch the strategy plan for the Ministry and Scheme Administration.

She challenged the partners who are

supporting the strategy and those who do not, to get out of training and conferences and visit the ground, insisting that the pilot compensation must work and be an example to the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Programme Director at Nature Conservancy, Munira Anyonge-Bashir believed that Nature Conservancy, that is, protection of wildlife and the well-being of communities are interconnected terming the collaborative initiative as a crucial step towards creating a sustainable framework for human-wildlife coexistence in Kenya.

"Nature Conservancy is actively participating in the development of the strategy to foster a future where both human and wildlife thrive together and it is also committed to the people and wildlife of Kenya by ensuring it extends beyond conservation," she explained.

Anyonge-Bashir revealed that the Human Wildlife Compensation Scheme will be administered by a private claims administrator comprising AB Entheos, Minet Kenya and PULA Advisors to leverage technology and involve the community for efficient verification and settlement claims.

The Director also acknowledged that the scheme will cover incidences of human death and injury, property damage, crop damage, livestock predation, and depredation as it will also benefit all Kenyan citizens in the 6 hotspot counties including Kajiado, Taita Taveta, Meru, Laikipia, Narok, and Baringo.

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Students From TVET Institutions Showcase Skills And Innovations In An Open Day Exhibition

By: Josphine Libala
 @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu National Polytechnic (KINAP) held its annual open day, providing a platform for students from various institutions to display their skills and projects creativity and innovation.

The two-day open day brought together public and private sector players who will benchmark on how to remodel technical training to meet the labour demands of technological innovation and flexibility.

It showcased a diverse range of talents, spanning art mechatronic department, the Mechanical automotive department, ICT and computer studies, the Hospitality department and the building civil engineering department.

Gracing the occasion, State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Dr Esther Thaara said that in the recent past there has been



a skills gap of youth leading to shortage of human resource to service and produce in local industries.

“This event comes at a time when the State Department for TVET has been at the front run to address issues of youth unemployment and need to have the right skills for the industry and labour market locally, regionally and internationally,” she said.

Dr Thaara explained that the Ministry of Education has revamped the education system in the direction that all levels focus on a competency-based curriculum which seeks to address the skills gap of this country.

More concern, she noted has been laid to the TVET institutions on having a training in skills that will address the socio-economic empowerment of this country.

Competency-based education and training, she emphasised is the best approach in TVETS in ensuring trainees are equipped with proper skills for the labour market.

The PS confirmed that the State Department has created a good collaboration in linking with industries and partnering with other countries that have empowered the TVET sector and this has created strong partner-

ships with industries therefore ensuring that the skills trainees in TVET acquire are precisely what employers are seeking.

“It has been proven that by collaborating closely with industries, has bridged the gap between training and employment, ensuring that our graduates are well-prepared for the workforce.

She reiterated that rapid change in technology and the industrial revolution require us to retool, rescale, and re-modify our training to be able to meet the demand of the required skills in the industry.

Dr Thaara noted that there’s need for government to have policies on importation of goods and services that can be made and offered by the youth in an effort to empower the skilled manpower being produced in the TVET sector.

“These regulations will encourage manufacturers to produce for the country’s economy using our very own TVET graduates. That Kenyans will buy products made in Kenya by Kenya increasing productivity in our industries,” she added.

The PS appealed to industry partners to open their doors to collaboration with TVET institutions saying that their active involvement in shaping the training programmes, offering internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship opportunities can make a profound impact on the future of the country’s industrialization agenda.

Edward Mwangi, a Lecturer in the hospitality sector from KINAP said the exhibition ensures that the community see the different skills that the students have acquired from their courses while high school students who also participate learn a lot on the different paths they can pick as they choose their future careers.

In attendance were different polytechnics and TVET institutions such as the Nyandarua National Polytechnic, Buru Buru Institute of Fine Arts, Mitungu Technical Training Institute, Rift Valley National Polytechnic and Moraga Technical Training Institute as well as students from Githunguri High School.

Gov’t To Transfer Police Officers Who Have Overstayed In One Station

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The government will embark on transferring police officers who have served in one station for more than three years.

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki has stated that the 3-year transfer policy in the National Police Service must be applied to curb conflict of interest.

Speaking on Friday when he met members of the Murang’a county security team at the county commissioner’s office, the CS noted officers who have overstayed in one station may have vested interests, thus frustrating efforts to curb criminal activities, alcoholism and drug abuse.

“Transfer of police officers who have stayed in one station for more than three years need to commence immediately. This will help to avoid conflict of interests. It has also been established that some of our security

officers have invested in the alcohol businesses and we want to stop this,” he said.

At the same time, the CS reiterated government’s commitment to end uncontrolled sale of second generation and illicit liquor, which has been rampant in some parts of the country. Kindiki remarked that the ongoing national crackdown to combat manufacture, sale, consumption and abuse of illicit liquor and narcotic drugs is a timeless operation that will be conducted until the menace is conclusively dealt with.

“Unlike past operations that were hampered by competing political and commercial interests, the ongoing exercise is a security operation to tackle a national threat devoid of politics,” he added.

The CS was on tour to all the counties in the central region, even as the government intensified war against illicit alcohol and drugs.

Since Wednesday this week, security officers in Murang’a have carried out a crackdown in various parts of the county and arrested scores of bar owners, found breaching liquor laws.



Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki with security officers from Murang’a County.

Waiguru Calls For Accelerated Action On Gender Equality As Ruto Announces Appointment Of 16 Women Diplomats

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes



President William Ruto with Embu governor Cecily Mbarire and her Kirinyaga counterpart Ann Waiguru in Embu yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “This day is a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and an acknowledgement of the remarkable achievement of women throughout history. Investing in women therefore means providing equal access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities and leadership roles,” said the governor.
- She said that the launch of the G7 Strategy by women governors’ caucus ahead of the celebrations was aimed at bringing women governors together.
- The strategy will be a guiding women governor in remaining relevant and responsive to the needs of the community and providing clarity and priorities for intervention. It was also a strategy of increasing the number of women governors from the current seven to at least 16 in 2027 general elections.

The Council of Governors (COG) chairperson, Anne Waiguru, has reiterated her calls for accelerated actions on gender equality.

Speaking during the International Women’s Day celebrations held in Embu, Waiguru said that there was need to implement strategies that will ensure women are not only nominated to positions in order to meet the gender thresholds but are also elected in big numbers.

She said that women are not just beneficiaries of development efforts but are powerful agents of change, catalysts for economic growth and pillars of societal stability thus the need to invest in their empowerment. “This day is a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and an acknowledgement of the remarkable achievement of women throughout history. Investing in women therefore means providing equal access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities and leadership roles,” said the governor.

She said that the launch of the G7 Strategy by women governors’ caucus ahead of the celebrations was aimed at bringing women governors together.

The strategy will be a guiding women governor in remaining relevant and responsive to the needs of the community and providing clarity and priorities for intervention. It was also a strategy of increasing the number of

women governors from the current seven to at least 16 in 2027 general elections.

“The G7 strategy is designed to empower and support the seven women governors in demonstrating efficient and strategic governance within the devolved structures with facilitating their retention, re-election and transition to national politics,” she said.

The COG chair also affirmed the county governments’ commitment and contribution towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls noting that many development projects and intervention in the counties have had an impact on women and girls.

She called on everyone to be agents of change and advocates for equality and women empowerment so as to accelerate progress and pave the way for a future where everywoman,

regardless of background or circumstance can thrive and shine.

At the same time, President Ruto who presided over the event announced the appointment of 16 women diplomats re-affirming his commitment to gender equality, signaling another reap for women in Kenya.

Ruto said that his government was committed to the implementation of legislative or any other measures including affirmative actions that will bridge the gender gap in leadership. He said that his government will fully facilitate the participation of women in decision making as well as leadership.

Waiguru thanked the president for choosing a woman-led county for the celebration of the International Women’s Day.

She also called for a holistic approach in addressing the alcohol

menace in the region saying that there was need for alternative entertainment and recreational opportunities such as sports activities to keep people away from getting hooked to alcohol.

The Deputy President supported the ongoing efforts by the President to actualize the two third gender requirement saying that women are accountable and reliable and they have been the major supporters of President Ruto.

During the event that was attended by all the seven women governors, women Cabinet and Principal Secretaries, Waiguru appealed to Embu people to support Governor Cecily Mbarire for two terms to her to realize fully her development agenda for the county.



Widows, In Migori Receive Millions On International Women's Day

By: OSDP

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi on Friday distributed cheques worth KSh4 million to widows groups in Migori County during celebrations to mark International Women's Day 2024 held at Rongo Showground.

In the event, attended by First Ladies Dr. Agnes Ochilo (Migori) and Alamitu Jattani (Marsabit), the 16 women groups received KSh250,000 and will establish fish ponds in different parts of the county.

"As the theme for this year states, 'investing in women: accelerate progress' it means we are tackling the economic disempowerment that mostly affects women in marginalized areas and women at the bottom of the economic pyramid where most of our women are, but things are changing," said Pastor Dorcas.

Pastor Dorcas also celebrated women for their selfless service to their families and humanity over the years.

"A mother carries a baby for nine months, gets morning sickness, and other funny cravings like eating soil, but she keeps steadfast until she

gives birth and sees their baby. And when she gives birth, she accepts the blessing God gives her. And she will take care of the baby whether the baby is unwell, disabled or unsound in mind, even if the father runs away," said Pastor Dorcas.

She, however, urged the women to treasure their husband, giving an example of her own life, saying, "Every woman must treasure their husband, and I treasure the Deputy President who has lived with me for the last 36 years."

She also told women across the nation to support each other and go against the stereotype that women do not support fellow women.

One way of this she said was through recognizing the single ladies whom she said need support, love and care.

First Lady Dr. Ochilo commended Pastor Dorcas for bringing her programs to Migori, saying that most times widows were forgotten, but through working with the office of the spouse of the Deputy President, widows in Migori had been empowered.

Deputy Governor Joseph Mahiri said the county would invest in the education of the girl child through scholarships and bursaries to help solve the problem of female genital



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi is received by First Lady Migori County Dr Agnes Ochilo at the Rongo Showground in Migori County where she attended the International Women's Day 2024 celebrations and distributed cheques worth KSh4 million to 16 widow groups to establish fish ponds in different parts of the county on 8th March 2024. Photo/OSDP

mutilation (FGM).

First Lady Jattani commended the deputy governor for speaking against FGM, noting that the practice is also prevalent in Marsabit. "FGM has no space in our times," she said.

Migori Women Representative Fatuma Mohammed urged the women

to pave the way for others, and support one another.

"I pave the way for you, and you pave the way for another, and together we pave the way for other women," said County MP Mohammed.

Others present were county CECs,

MCA's, wives of MCA's, and the national administration officers.

Widows and orphans is one pillar under the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP), the others being boy child, PWDs and on the foundation of Chaplaincy, Outreach and Family Values.

Dr Ekrah on Int'l Womens Day

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Chief Executive Officer of the German Institute of Professional Studies Dr. Ekrah Ndungu has added her voice on International Women's Day and wished fellow women well.

Dr. Ekrah is a living example of women who are breaking the glass ceiling and erasing the word "impossible" from their diction. She is a go-getter, and very hardworking, and once her blessed hands touch something, it turns into Gold.

Dr. Ekrah, a woman of substance, highlighted the importance of Closing gender gaps in leadership.

"This is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more so the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Empowering women and protecting the most vulnerable in society through the establishment of legal and

institutional frameworks that support equal participation, should be reinforced more so in a society where women still suffer from discrimination, physical abuse including sexual abuse, and being kept in the periphery when matters of national interests are discussed.

Dr. Ekrah also believes there's a need to structure development programs that take into account gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

"It is also imperative for us to tackle maternal mortality and high rates of teenage pregnancies, that have been hampering women from achieving the best," noted Dr. Ekrah

"To all women out there, I am wishing you strength, courage, and determination as you pursue your dreams and aspirations. Remember, you are capable of achieving anything you set your mind to." "May the women of today continue to empower the women of tomorrow, shaping a world where gender equality is not just a dream, but a reality. As the theme of this year is inspiring inclusion.

Dr. Ekrah Ndungu is the CEO German Institute of Professional Studies



Women Are Striving Towards Their Societal Reflections To Men

By: Abraham Ong'uti
@themtkenyatimes

During the International Women Day celebrations on March 8, women openly expressed on how despite being ignored in social positions they have managed to occupy significant areas in the society.

President Ruto while giving his speech for the Day, he confirmed writing a letter to the National Assembly for the implementation of the Two Third Gender requirement to enhance women inclusivity in representation and leadership. Additionally, the president stated that he has nominated 10 women ambassadors and 6 deputy ambassadors. Showing the determination of the government in empowering women.

It should not look as a competition between men and women, but women have emphasized on a phrase mostly used that, 'what a man can do a woman can do it better'. As a result in 2017, three women won gubernatorial



President William Ruto during the International Women Day celebrations.

seats which increased to seven in the 2022 general election, increase from 23 to 29 women MPs in the two elections respectfully. This reconfirms the capability of women involving themselves in leadership matters.

The Chief Justice Martha Koome overpowered men with her eligibility to be selected and lead the most powerful position of the Judiciary which is one of the three arms of government.

Despite some felt unrecognition of

women, women are now participants in the known producing fields like academia and science. They are PhD holders, teaching in universities and also women involvement in critical decision making boardrooms of up to international organizations.

This has made women be part and parcel of development sectors of the society. Women journalists were not left behind in observing the significance of the Women's Day. Cyberbullying mentioned as one of the concern directed to women journalists, also being profiled indelicately. These setbacks have not denied them strength to proof their credibility and capabilities.

An outcry has been amplified by both men and women in the curbing of the humiliations that women go through, some subjected to FGM and unusual deaths such as cases recently experienced in the Airbnb. The government has been urged to stop banditry which innocent women are prone into unsuitable conditions and their families and refugee.

Women being encouraged to share their special knowledge is a breakthrough to a future energetic balanced society. President Ruto recommended that it is better in the future a presidential candidate to have a woman deputy.

SGA Security Champions Inclusion During International Women's Day At A Rescue Home In Ruai

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

In line with this year's International Women's Day celebration, SGA Security has commemorated the day by supporting teenage girls who have been abandoned and sexually assaulted. The girls are hosted and cared for by the Wings of Hope Rescue Home in Ruai.

SGA Security donated essential food items and toiletries that will help in offloading the financial burden of the rescue home. The security firm also donated school bags made from recycled old guards' uniforms.

The home has been a beacon of hope for survivors, offering the girls a safe haven. The girls are rescued when expectant. They are then taken in and cared for until they deliver

and nurse their babies for 6 months, after which they are taken back to school to complete their studies.

Speaking during the celebrations, SGA Security, Group PR and Branding Manager, Josephine Wanjiru expressed their gratitude to the directors of the rescue home, for being a pillar to the vulnerable girls.

"As SGA Security, we recognize the good work being done by this home, by supporting survivors of sexual assault and helping them rebuild their lives. As we celebrate this year's International Women's Day, we are proud to see that this home has indeed inspired inclusion by ensuring that these teenage girls do not drop out of school but are incorporated and supported back to the community," said Ms. Wanjiru.

The director of the rescue home expressed her gratitude to SGA for putting a smile on the girls' faces through their support.

"Our rescue center depends on well-wishers like SGA Security to help our vulnerable girls. Our resources are overstretched, and with individuals and corporates like SGA Security coming to support and show compassion, our burden becomes lighter," said Ms Fransisca Kiiio

International Women's Day is celebrated to address pertinent issues that affect women such as gender equality, reproductive rights, violence and abuse against women and discrimination based on sex.

SGA Security Group PR and Branding Manager Josephine Wanjiru hands over a bag to Ms Fransisca Kiiio during a visit to Wings of Hope Rescue Home to celebrate International Women's Day.



Gov't To Connect 100,000 KM Optic Fiber Across The Country

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themkenyatimes

The government has reiterated its commitment to increase and fast-track broadband connectivity across the country, by constructing at least 100,000 kilometres of National Fiber Optic connectivity.

Government Spokesperson, Dr. Isaac Mwaura, said the Kenya Kwanza government aligned the Last Mile County Connectivity Project to its Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), with the aim of installing reliable, stable, affordable, and high-speed internet connectivity across the country.

"We have laid a total of 13,712 kilometers of fiber cable and increased the number of Public-Wi-Fi hot spots from 40 in 2022 to 1,222 in 2023. Cumulatively we have established a total of 1,262 Wi-Fi spots," he stated.

Mwaura said the BETA Blue Print also seeks to enhance the government service delivery, through digitization and automation of all critical government processes, as well as make 80 percent of government services available online.

He cited the connection of 247 digital hubs with the internet, training of 800 youths under the Presidential Digital Talent Program, the deployment of 12,087 virtual desktop infrastructure devices, and 136 Jitume sites, as some the government's achievements in the technology sector.

The Kenya Kwanza's Flagship initiative under the Jitume Programme targets to empower over 1 million youths in the country to access reasonable and sustainable income and to provide infrastructure and over 23,000 digital devices to centres among other activities.

The Government has to date distributed at least 13,488 devices to 176 digital lab institutions.

The Spokesperson who was speaking during a media briefing at the Konza Technocity in Machakos County, added that the government has to date connected at least 119,462 youths to online jobs besides onboarding a total of 74 government services.

Mwaura announced that the government through Konza Technopolis, intends to bring together industry, academic institutions, and other innovators to co-invest in emerging technologies, noting that the Technologies platform plays a crucial



Government Spokesman Dr Isaac Maigua Mwaura addressing the media on Friday.

role in accelerating the country's development in the digital era.

"The Technopolis is developing a smart city of international standards. It has attracted over 85 percent of both local and international investors," he said.

The investors are focused on academia, technology sectors, research and development in the areas of housing, hospitality, and conventions as well as in light manufacturing and logistics.

He added that the Konza Tech-

nopolis cloud is also providing cutting-edge solutions and enabling innovators, start-ups, and enterprises to reap the benefits of technology solutions' ability to scale the marketplace, improve efficiencies, and deliver services and solutions to people.

On health, Mwaura said, the government regards the sector as one of its priority pillars for national development and to make it provide the highest attainable standards, it has employed information and commu-

nication technology to better services delivery to Kenyans.

"Technology will connect all level 6 to level 2 public health facilities to all National Backbone Fiber Infrastructure (NOFBI) and implement local Area Network (LAN)," he added.

The government has so far connected a total of 135 public health facilities to NOFBI while LAN has been implemented in 57 public hospitals.

Murang'a Bar Owners Want List Of Licensed Alcoholic Brands

By: Kenya News Agency

Bar owners in Murang'a county have urged the government to provide retailers with a list of licensed brews they can stock in their premises.

This in a bid to support the state in its relentless fight against killer brews

The entrepreneurs who held a meeting at a Murang'a hotel said they fully support the continuing efforts by the government in the war against illicit brews, noting that one of the ways the government can make strides in eradicating the illicit brews is by providing them with a list of all alcoholic brands that have been tested and deemed safe for consumption in Kenya.

The patron of the bar owners' association in the county, James Waweru, said that they welcomed the move by the government to suspend the licenses of

all manufactures of second and third generation alcoholic brews saying it was a step in the right direction.

Waweru, however, said that as bar owners they want the government to go a step further and licence the various products independently, then share publically the list of all licensed brands.

James Waweru addressing the media



Breaking Barriers: Women Scientists Share Stories Of Resilience And Triumph On International Women's Day



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- During an on-line session celebrating International Women's Day, Dr. Margaret Karembu, Director of the International Service for the Acquisition of Biotech Applications (ISAAA) and Chairperson of African Women for Bioscience and the Africa Science Dialogue, highlighted the societal expectation for women to base their decisions on science.
- She expressed gratitude for the efforts of those employing affirmative action to facilitate women's advancement in science, including bioscience.
- Dr. Karembu emphasized the pivotal role of women in utilizing science in their daily activities, particularly in making decisions affecting family nutrition, underscoring the significance of the scientific choices they make.



International Service for the Acquisition of Biotech Applications (ISAAA) Director and also chairperson African Women for Bioscience and the Africa Science Dialogue Dr. Margaret Karembu.

As the world celebrates International Women's Day, women in the field of science are speaking out against societal barriers that have long discouraged them from pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses, traditionally considered male-dominated.

In academia, a silent revolution is underway as women challenge these outdated stereotypes and claim their rightful place in the scientific community.

In the bustling corridors of academia, a quiet revolution has been underway. Women in the world of science have decided it high time to confront the societal barriers that had long confined them to the sidelines of male-dominated fields. With determination in their hearts and voices raised in unison, they began to chal-

lenge the status quo.

During an online session celebrating International Women's Day, Dr. Margaret Karembu, Director of the International Service for the Acquisition of Biotech Applications (ISAAA) and Chairperson of African Women for Bioscience and the Africa Science Dialogue, highlighted the societal expectation for women to base their decisions on science.

She expressed gratitude for the efforts of those employing affirmative action to facilitate women's advancement in science, including bioscience.

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make.

Dr. Sylvia Mutinda, a renowned Researcher Scientists Kenyatta University, says that "Science knows no gender.

"We are all capable of making groundbreaking discoveries, regardless of our background or identity." She says.

She emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and creating environments where everyone can thrive.

Dr. Mutinda attributes her inspiration to her father, who mentored her from primary school to her Ph.D. level.

Dr. Mutinda asserts that women are groundbreakers and should challenge the stereotypes that portray science as a male-dominated field. She encourages women to step forward and make their mark.

Professor of Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology Addis Ababa University Dr. Adey Desta, highlights the significant role women play in food security.

She advocates for increased investment in women scientists to empower them and enhance their influence in agriculture.

Dr. Desta shares her personal journey, recalling the challenges she faced during her master's program but found inspiration from female scientists ahead of her.

Despite obstacles, she completed her Ph.D. in 2014.

National Commission for Science and Technology in Malawi Catherine Chaweza emphasizes the need to debunk stereotypes that deter women from STEM fields, urging society to support and encourage women's participation in these disciplines.

She notes that traditional gender roles often limit women's opportunities outside the household, hindering their potential in STEM.

Dr. Siboniso Moyo, Deputy Director-general of ILRI, stresses the importance of supporting young women in STEM education, acknowledging the additional burdens they carry.

Dr. Sylvia says that mentoring programs and encouragement at the secondary school level are vital in nurturing future female scientists.

Chaweza advocates for gender equality in STEM, striving to ensure that women have equal opportunities to excel and contribute to scientific progress.

Desta says that through mentorship and advocacy, they inspire the next generation of female scientists, paving the way for a future where science transcends gender barriers.

Chaweza challenges the media to provide platforms for women scientists to highlight their work, noting that they are often overlooked in favor of their male counterparts. She emphasizes the importance of giving equal space and recognition to women scientists in the media.

Their relentless efforts signify a shift towards a world where anyone, irrespective of gender, can pursue and achieve greatness in science.

According to United Nations 2024 International Women's Day global theme is 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress.' This theme underscores the importance of directing resources, support, and attention towards women to expedite positive advancements in various aspects of society.

Uzbeginim Boys



Uzbeginim boys.

They are loyal to the country,
They don't give it to anyone.
They always kiss their flag,
Uzbeginim boys.

I respect you boys,
I am always proud with you.
I wish you health,
Uzbeginim boys.

There is seriousness in the speech,
They are always lucky.
They are in service every moment,
Uzbeginim boys.

They live as the Motherland,
And they keep our peace.
They sacrifice their life,

Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's
daughter from Uzbekistan. She was
born in 2005.

Presently, she is student of 41 school in
Khorezm region, Khanka district.

Women Education



Today, it is one of the main tasks to ensure the education of women and girls in the whole world.

The education of women is very important. Because their education is of great benefit not only for themselves, but also for society. According to statistics, in the world 129 million girls are out of school, of which 32 million are in primary school, 29 million are in middle school and 67 million are in high school. There are differences. The first of these is related to the environment, family, society, worldview and immediate beliefs. In most families, due to the early marriage of a girl child, they cannot get an education, or due to gender inequality, the boy goes to school, but it is forbidden for a girl child. According to the above fact, the biggest indicator of girls who do not study is the proof of our statement that girls of high school age. Another reason for this is the inability to pay school fees. Some families do not have financial freedom, so they cannot allocate money for education.

There are certainly many conditions for people living in the city, but there may not be such opportunities for those living on the outskirts of the city. We know that the currently popular language courses and additional training, construction of vocational schools only in urban centers are significantly higher than in remote rural areas. The lack of educational materials in schools, the lack of places, and the lack of qualified specialists can make the educational process somewhat difficult.

Talented and learned girls who have achieved many achievements, have taken their place in life, become good specialists and entered the international arena, communicate with women

living in remote villages, give them training and learn how to improve in life. Telling the steps of those who have found their places and achieved success can motivate them and increase their interest in studying. And at this point, by talking to their parents and telling them that their daughters can get an education and international achievements, to discourage early marriage and have a place in life. can also mean that it takes.

As we mentioned above, when a girl child gets an education, it benefits not only herself, but also the whole society. An educated girl has her own personal opinion and the ability to make independent decisions is formed in her, the doors of the world will be opened and they will have the right to use many opportunities. If you educate a male child, you educate one person, if you educate a girl child, you educate half the society. A woman who knows how to read and write will certainly give birth to educated children. They will raise a mature and perfect person for the society.

Women and girls who have achieved high results will directly change the economy for the better. A woman who works on herself and is educated will definitely reduce the level of unemployment in the country.

Great opportunities are being created for girls and women to get an education in the world. The initiative to introduce special scholarships for girls who study with excellent grades and are in need of social protection will open the door of wide opportunities to thousands of our girls. Taking advantage of these opportunities and educating girls will greatly help to bring the economy to a new level and make adults in the society. , using all their opportunities, education has a great role to build the future they want.

Zayniddinova Parizoda, Kashkadarya Karshi city
1st stage student of the International Islamic
Academy of Uzbekistan

Raju Abbas- The Certified Author And UPSc Aspirant



Raju Abbas is a talented writer known for his poetry and profound insights into human nature. With a keen eye for detail and a poetic flair, he weaves intricate narratives that resonate with readers. His debut book, Shataka Kavanam, is a masterpiece that delves into the depths of the human experience, exploring themes of love, loss, and redemption. Through his evocative prose, Abbas invites readers on a journey of self-discovery

and introspection. With each page, he leaves an indelible mark on the literary landscape, solidifying his place as a rising star in the world of literature.

He is a 22 year young telugu poet and storyteller from Sircilla, Telangana. He has a bachelor's degree in Bsc physics from Satavahana University. He is a co-author of some well-known telugu books and published his own book named "Shataka Kavanam" which is a collection of his initial 100 poems.

He has written more than 300+ poems but added only his initial 100 poems which he has written in his 12th standard. After starting his graduation he embarked upon a career as a writer, and editor. Presently he is pursuing his post-graduation along with following his passion as a writer.

Oybek's Memory Lives Forever In Hearts



Abstract: Article about Muso Toshmuhammad's life, creativity, and events dedicated to his memory.

Key words: Oybek's life, indelible memory, creativity, works.

Introduction:

Oybek is a poet, literary scholar, and public figure. He is the national writer of Uzbekistan and an academican of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Oybek, an artist from a family of skilled tanners, was born.

Main Part:

Oybek, with his extensive knowledge of Uzbek history and Uzbek classical literature, has published numerous articles dedicated to the formation and development of our literature from ancient times to the 1960s in his literary and critical activities.

A significant part of these articles focused on the period of Alisher Navoi, the poet's life and creativity, and later formed Oybek's collection of articles titled "Navoiy Gulshani" (The Garden of Navoiy). Along with this, Oybek played a leading role

in organizing and conducting the 500th anniversary celebration of Navoiy as the Chairman of the Writers' Union and the Head of the Humanities Department of the Academy of Sciences.

Oybek, with his rich and diverse creativity and his role as a prominent public figure, contributed significantly to the cultural advancement of the Uzbek people. In 1980, a museum dedicated to the writer was established in his former home, and a statue was erected in his honor in one of the parks, streets, or metro stations in Tashkent.

After Oybek's passing, he was awarded the "Order for Great Services."

"The writer's life is not measured by years, but by the impact of his creative activity. Oybek did not waste a single moment of his 40-year career that is equal to 400 years. In this regard, Oybek continues to be a mentor for the present and future generations of literature. His works have further enhanced the international reputation of Uzbek literature. His mastery serves as an inspiration for young writers. Oybek's immortal works have solidified their place in our spiritual treasury and have become a heritage of humanity. In conclusion, Oybek is not only a talented poet and prose writer, but also a renowned scholar, statesman, public figure, critic, and translator. He has made works such as Pushkin's "Eugene Onegin," Lermontov's "Masquerade," examples of ancient Roman literature, and the Armenian epic "Sosunil Dovud" accessible through his translations.

Tohirova Husnora was born 14th November 2003 in Parkent district of the Uzbekistan. She is studying at Tashkent Textil and Light Industry Institute Textile Industry Technology Faculty 2nd stage student.

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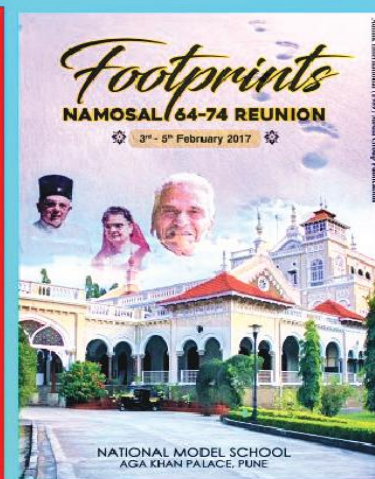
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AGRIBUSINESS

Farmers Urged To Adopt Innovative Seed Tech To Boost Productivity, Food Security



Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the AFSTA annual congress held at Pride Inn Paradise Resort, Mombasa, the CS acknowledged the hard work the association has put in place to drive harmonized seed regulations in Africa with various measures including, facilitating the safe movement of seed within Member States, in a transparent manner and without dissemination of any pest of quarantine importance.
- Stimulating the breeding and availability of improved seed varieties resulting in increased variety choices for all farmers and encouraging investment in seed business in Member states were also noted to be effective measures.
- The CS said that seed certification, variety testing and release regulations have tended to restrict seed trade within African Countries.

Agriculture Cabinet Mithika Linturi, has urged farmers to embrace the innovative seed technologies proposed by the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) to enhance productivity, ultimately bolstering food and nutrition security.

Mr Linturi noted that the Ministry is working towards the realisation of the government's Bottom Up Economic Agenda (BETA) goals and in particular the agenda on food and nutrition security.

"We encourage our farms to plant new, clean, and certified seeds, studies have shown that in cases where certified seeds are adopted and planted, yield increases by one and half times. This leads to poverty reduction, improved livelihoods in many cases as a farmer is able to have enough produce to meet domestic consumption and surplus to sell," he said.

Speaking at the AFSTA annual congress held at Pride Inn Paradise Resort, Mombasa, the CS acknowledged the hard work the association has put in place to drive harmonized seed regulations in Africa with various measures including, facilitating the safe movement of seed within Mem-

ber States, in a transparent manner and without dissemination of any pest of quarantine importance.

Stimulating the breeding and availability of improved seed varieties resulting in increased variety choices for all farmers and encouraging investment in seed business in Member states were also noted to be effective measures.

The CS said that seed certification, variety testing and release regulations have tended to restrict seed trade within African Countries.

The 3-day conference attended by more than 60 nationalities aims at increasing food security by advising farmers to buy from established agrovet seed companies instead of "fake seeds" to avoid disappointments.

However, he noted that coordination of the regional trade blocks seed regulations was completed through a consultative process with stakeholders in the seed industry in Kenya.

"The process is ongoing and it is important that all stakeholders in the seed industry are conversant with the harmonized seed regulations to enhance seed trade with the COMESA, EAC and regional trade blocks," Lin-

turi said.

He urged seed companies to take advantage of the synchronized seed regulations to widen and promote a competitive and sustainable market for crop seed within their regions.

"Challenges of cross border trade by seed companies have been an ongoing concern for a long time. This inhibits both creation of employment opportunities and also trade within the region," he noted.

He added that there have been numerous efforts to address this, including having a one-stop border post infrastructure but a lot needs to be done to build the capacity of the border personnel through training.

"To mitigate the challenge of climate change we encourage farmers to use drought tolerant crops, other early maturing crops and construction of water dams. My Ministry also proposes that farmers should undertake to diversify into other crops that will combat the realities of climate change such as drought, pests, floods, and heat," Linturi said.

The Chairman of the Seed Trade Association, Seed Co, Wellington Wasike said, "Any fake seed dealers

is our number one enemy and hence we encourage the government to continue the fight against the menace."

Wellington added that Seed Co is working with the government in a bid to lower seed costs through the fertilizer subsidy that was implemented by the President for the past one and a half years now.

On the issue of climate change, the chairman noted that seed stakeholders in Kenya are working in employing new technology that will bring about the production of climate-smart varieties of seeds that will work with or without enough rain.

On the other hand, Managing Director, Kenya Seed Company, Samuel Chepsiror said, "The meeting aims at reaching a better understanding between the challenges in the seed sector as well as the importance of good farming in the country."

The next congress is to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 3rd-6th March, 2025.

Call To Enforce Persons With Disabilities Bill Of 2021

By: KNA

Former Migori Women Representative Dennitah Ghati has called upon the national and county governments to act on enforcement of the Persons with Disabilities Bill of 2021.

The Bill is aimed at realizing the rights of PWDs in Kenya and outlines the societal responsibility to protect and promote them.

Section 19(2) of the Bill requires an employer to make adjustments during the recruitment process and the employment relationship.

In particular, the Bill seeks to oblige employers to reserve five per cent of their employment opportunities for PWDs both in the public and private sectors.

Ghati who was also a nominated Member of Parliament Representing People with Disability in the 12th Parliament said that by enforcing the five percent job employment meant for people with disability, the PWDs stand a chance to enhance their social and economic empowerment in the society.

She also added that the legal requirement for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to access 30 percent of Government Procurement opportunities has also not been met, especially among the PWDs.

Based on the latest annual report of 2023 by the Public Service Commission, Persons with disabilities constitute just 1.4 percent of all jobs in the public service.

The former legislator questioned both the two levels of government's lack of willingness to engage and enforce the five percent saying that PWDs were tired of living on hand-outs.

"We want to empower the disabled in our society to enable them to cater to the needs of their families", decried Ghati.

She added that what the PWDs need is employment and other opportunities presented to other normal persons both at the national and county levels but not sympathy from the public.

On the issue of defilement, Ghati called upon the local authorities to protect the PWDs from the social evils of rape and defilement to safeguard their dignity.



MP Dennitah Ghati addressing the meeting

She urged the local administrative units and the security agencies not to tolerate Kangaroo courts that the majority of communities were using

to address the PWD's defilement and rape cases. "Let those men that have engaged in the social evil by defiling our dis-

abled children face the full force of the law to give justice to the affected parties," bewailed Ghati.

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.

LIT & ENG FORUM

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READ, DREAM & LEAD

OLDONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK

Ultimate Panoramic Experience

The Mystery of Tropical Mints

By: Faith Maroko

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- As I listen to my friends' varied explanations, I find myself caught in a web of intrigue and uncertainty. What started as a simple purchase transformed into a quest for truth, leading me down a path of discovery about the mysterious world of tropical mints.
- Intrigued by the conflicting narratives, I embark on a journey to uncover the reality behind the sweet sensation. Armed with curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, I delve into research, seeking out experts in various fields to shed light on the true nature of tropical mints.



In the bustling corridors of university life, where friendships are forged and rumors abound, a seemingly harmless encounter sparked a whirlwind of speculation among a group of students. It all began on a crisp morning at 11 am when I was coming from class; I make my routine stop at a nearby kiosk after class.

As I reach for a pack of tropical mints to freshen up my breath, little did I know that my choice of confectionery would become the subject of intense discussion among my peers. Behind me, a group of male students erupted into laughter upon seeing my purchase, setting off a chain of curious remarks and theories.

Amidst the laughter and banter, Teresa, Brian, Millicent, and Obed each offered their own interpretation of the purpose behind my choice of sweets. Teresa whispered, "they are infamous for their alleged arousing sexual desires", while Brian boldly claimed "they are used for enhancing intimate experiences, they are commonly used in the bedroom by this young people. Gone are the days when we used to take it as a sweet but this generation is wicked.

We are moving at a high speed. New things are being introduced to us and

the youths are the first people to embrace them". Millicent chimed in, "I normal buy these sweets whenever am travelling for a long distance, they are a travel companion for long journeys", while Obed confidently asserted "they are effective in combating bad breath and even as a prelude to romance. These days they play a big role in bedroom matters. The youths have spoiled the game, this tropical sweets acts as a coolant more when the weather is hot, sometimes I chew them when I feel like drinking water but there is no any. Now I fear even going to the shop to buy them because the shopkeeper and anybody around will just make their conclusion that am going to make love. The youths are so much influential, they started this perception about tropical mints and it's all known".

As I listen to my friends' varied explanations, I find myself caught in a web of intrigue and uncertainty. What started as a simple purchase transformed into a quest for truth, leading me down a path of discovery about the mysterious world of tropical mints.

Intrigued by the conflicting narratives, I embark on a journey to uncover the reality behind the sweet

sensation. Armed with curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, I delve into research, seeking out experts in various fields to shed light on the true nature of tropical mints.

My investigation unearthed interesting insights into the origins and uses of these seemingly ordinary candies. From ancient civilizations to modern-day practices, I uncover a rich tapestry of cultural significance and scientific inquiry surrounding tropical mints.

Contrary to popular belief, I discover that tropical mints are not solely intended for romantic endeavors or travel companionship. While they indeed possess refreshing qualities that aid in combating bad breath, their reputation as an arousing or intimacy enhancer was largely a product of urban legend and speculation.

Through interviews with nutritionists, historians, and healthcare professionals, I learnt that tropical mints contain menthol, a compound known for its cooling and soothing effects on the respiratory system. Far from being a magic potion for romance, these mints are primarily designed to provide a burst of freshness and relief from oral discomfort.

Armed with newfound knowledge,

I confront my friends with the truth behind the tropical mints. As I debunk the myths and misconceptions, a sense of enlightenment washes over the group, replacing laughter with a newfound appreciation for the complexity of everyday objects.

In the end, I learnt that appearances can be deceiving, and the truth is often more fascinating than fiction. The mystery of tropical mints has been unraveled, leaving behind a lesson in critical thinking and the importance of seeking knowledge beyond surface-level assumptions.

As I bid farewell to the kiosk, I carry with me not just a pack of tropical mints, but a newfound sense of curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around me. And though the laughter of my friends may have faded into memory, the lessons learnt would stay with me for a lifetime.

In a world filled with uncertainty and misinformation, perhaps the greatest treasure of all is the truth, waiting to be discovered beneath the surface of everyday encounters.

Why Kenya Is Referred As African Silicon Savannah

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

Kenya is at the forefront of technological innovation in the East African Region as the government continues to invest in Information Communication Technology (ICT) which is the key contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura said the Government has already trained 390,968 youth on digital skills through the Jitume and Ajira programs in 2023/2024. The government had already established 136 Jitume sites. 192,462 young men and women have been connected to online jobs.

Access to ICT remains a major way of contributing country's economic growth as has been proven by the many services put online. Mobile money payments have become easy as Kenyans now save time that was initially spent on queues in the banking hall. This ICT potential has given the government the reason to expand internet coverage with the main aim being to enhance ease of business transactions and create employment for youth through online jobs.



Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura..

The government is undertaking to expand internet coverage and bridge the digital gap: the last mile of county connectivity. This project is set to connect county and national government offices in 47 counties with telephone service complete with handset video conferencing application and internet service.

With the completed three phases of the project Kenyans can enjoy intercommunication through uninterrupted voice services for browsing

video and call conferencing Zoom meetings as well as deployment of application services.

Phase four of the project is on course aimed to cover county headquarters. This entails connecting a total of 455 where 279 sites from the primary sites with active equipment and 176 sites to be served from the primary one. Upon full implementation, a total of 78 kilometers of fiber optic, 595 outdoor, and 138 indoor WIFI points will be enabled to serve

as public WIFI-spots.

"Phase 5 is the final stage of the last mile connectivity designed to connect government offices down to sub-country level. Kenya has trained a total of 800 youths under the presidential digital talent program. Cumulatively deploy a total 12,087 virtual desktop infrastructure devices." Mwaura said.

Microsoft and Amazon Web Service (AWS) centers have employed 500 and 100 soft engineers, cumulative-

ly laying 13,712 kilometers of fiber cable. Increase the number of public wifi by 40 in 2022 to 1,222 in 2023.

The government's main goal of Jitume is to empower 1 million youths in Kenya to access reasonable and sustainable income. Provide infrastructure and over 23,000 digital services to the centers. Facilitate Kenya's economic growth through digital technology initiatives.

On matters of universal health care digital technology and innovation have played a significant role in improving health care outcomes in Kenya by improving efficiency, cost saving, transparency, effectiveness, and seamless in delivery of health services. Applications like Tel-medicine, e-learning, electronic health records keeping and Mhealth have all contributed to making healthcare more accessible and effective.

The administration had further promised to strengthen Konza Technopolis to bring together industries academic institutions and other innovations to co-invest in emerging technologies. This is set to create high-quality jobs that leverage artificial intelligence robotics and other technologies thus enhancing regional and global competitiveness.

Medium Liquor Traders Association Dissatisfied With The Government Directive

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

The Medium Liquor Traders Association led by the able Chairman Mr. Francis Mbogo has expressed dissatisfaction with the Government directive to revoke licenses of legitimate business owners in the country. The association's sentiments come hot on the heels after the Government announced new far-reaching measures aimed at eradicating illicit brews, drugs, and psychotropic substance abuse in the country. The statement read:

"As an association representing legitimate business owners within the liquor industry, we fully support the fight for the eradication of illicit brew and drug abuse and pledge to work hand in hand with relevant government authorities and county agencies to win the war. Legitimate bars do not sell illicit liquor



Frank Mbogo Chairman MELTA.

or drugs, which is the real elephant in the room. Less we forget that the liquor, Food and Beverage (hospitality

industry) employs at least two Million employees directly in Nairobi alone and 10 times more are indirect beneficiaries

which include suppliers, service providers, boda boda's, cabs, and many more and also tremendously contribute to the

Country's economic growth.

We call upon our authorities to exercise soberness and fairness when calling for the withdrawal of legitimate licenses and enforcement of compliance since this will only lead to joblessness and insecurity crisis nationally.

As an association we are still in disbelief of how our leaders would wake up and without any prior warning give instructions to shut down legitimate investments of Kenyans paying taxes, rendering millions of young and old Kenyans jobless without any consultation with the stakeholders.

The remedy to the fight against illicit brew is not shutting down businesses but instead having a round table conversation with stakeholders on the industry's best practices, public civic education, and establishment of an appropriate framework for effective and realistic enforcement approach which helps in achieving remarkable compliance rate within the hospitality industry."

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

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Let Us Join Hands To Save Our Youth



Sports >> *.....

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Verstappen Tops Final Practice In Jeddah, Ferrari Stand-In Bearman 10th



Files: Third-placed McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri (R) celebrates on the podium with winner Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (L) and second-placed McLaren's British driver Lando Norris at the end of the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at the Suzuka circuit, Mie prefecture on September 24, 2023. (Photo by Kazuhiro NOGI / AFP)..

Max Verstappen topped Friday's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix third and final practice for the troubled Red Bull team after British teenager Oliver Bearman was handed a dramatic debut for Ferrari.

The defending three-time world champion clocked a best lap in one minute 28.412 seconds to beat Ferrari's Charles Leclerc by two-tenths as he again shrugged aside the controversy around the team, following Christian Horner being cleared of all allegations of improper conduct last week.

Bearman, 18, was called in by Ferrari to replace appendicitis victim Carlos Sainz – who had taken part in both of Thursday's sessions despite great discomfort – on Friday morning and delivered a calm performance to finish 10th.

Sergio Perez in the other Red Bull took third with George Rus-

sell fourth for Mercedes ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren, Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin, who was fastest on Thursday, and team-mate Lance Stroll.

Oscar Piastri was eighth in the second McLaren ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes and the cool and impressive Bearman.

The session began in hot conditions with an air temperature of 26 degrees and the track at 43 following the unexpected news that Bearman was being handed his competitive Formula One debut with Ferrari after Sainz was diagnosed with appendicitis.

Valtteri Bottas led the way as the lights turned green followed by Bearman. The Finn clocked 1:31.307 and Bearman 1:33.114, a very respectable effort.

"Take your time, take your

rhythm and build up from there," his Ferrari engineer Riccardo Adami advised him. "Copy," came the reply.

Hamilton joined the fray after nine minutes and went top before Bottas took control and then Bearman, on mediums, seized his moment with a lap in 1:30.277. He kept the initiative until Hamilton regained top spot on softs.

Russell then became the first man under 1:30 before Perez took over with a lap of 1:29.562. Leclerc then established Ferrari's pace in front with 1:29.206 on mediums, three-tenths clear of Perez.

- Red-flagged -

After half an hour, Verstappen delivered a lap on softs that put him in command three-tenths clear of Leclerc with Russell

third ahead of Alonso and Bearman, sensibly building his confidence, logged a solid number of laps.

Then with 13 minutes remaining, Zhou Guanyu lost control of his Sauber at Turn Five and smacked the barriers. He was unhurt and climbed out of his car, but the session was red-flagged.

After repairs, the session resumed with four minutes of high-speed qualifying simulation laps to leave Verstappen on top ahead of Leclerc and Perez.

For Bearman, the youngest driver to compete for Ferrari, it was mission accomplished and gave him a base from which to build and prepare for qualifying later Friday.

Sainz reported unwell on Wednesday, but took part in both of Thursday's practice sessions although he felt severely ill with stomach and abdominal complaints.

Bearman, the team's reserve driver, qualified on pole for Saturday's Formula Two race, but his Prema team has now withdrawn him to allow to focus on his new role driving Sainz's SF-24.

He is the first Briton to make his F1 competitive debut in a Ferrari since Derek Bell at the 1968 Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

Ferrari rarely uses 'rookies' and the last time the Italian team gave a chance to one was with Arturo Merzario at the 1972 British Grand Prix.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *KCB RFC Head coach Curtis Olago has said his team will not take anything to chance when his side takes on Kabras Sugar on Saturday in a Kenya Cup fixture at the Kakamega Showground.

Olago Makes Five Changes Ahead Of Kabras Showdown



KCB's Elvis Olukusi escapes a challenge from Strathmore Leos during a Kenya Cup match at the KCB Sports Club, Ruaraka on January 20. Photo courtesy of KCB Media.

By Agencies

KCB RFC Head coach Curtis Olago has said his team will not take anything to chance when his side takes on Kabras Sugar on Saturday in a Kenya Cup fixture at the Kakamega Showground.

The bankers will battle it out for bragging rights with their arch-rivals following match day ten results which saw second-placed KCB suffer their first loss of the regular season in the hands of Menengai Oilers.

A bonus win for the Thika-Road side under the tutelage of gaffer Curtis Olago will not be enough to secure the top position as the

playoffs edges closer. As it stands, KCB is perched second on 44 points.

“Kabras have been imperious throughout the season, and they always bring out the best in us. We need to work on our errors against the Oilers to ensure that we play well against the Kakamega side. We must tick all our boxes going into the weekend’s clash,” noted Olago.

In a notable change, captain Griffin Musila will start from the bench for the first time this season, expected to provide a burst of energy in the later stages of the game. James Ochieng will fill in at hooker, while Oscar Simiyu and

Wilhite Mususi retain their positions as props.

With Davis Chenge unavailable, Emmanuel Silungi steps in to partner with the impressive youngster Andy Cole Omollo in the second row. Kolian Persian takes over the number eight position following Steve Wamai absence, with Peter Waitere and Felix Ojow slotting in as flankers.

Experienced Michael Wanjala gets the nod at scrumhalf, replacing Emmanuel Opondo, while Brian Wahinya retains the role of fly-half. In the midfield, Bob Muhati and Trevor Odawa form a partnership once again, while Darwin Mukidza returns to the back

three alongside Festus Shiasi and Elphas Adunga, with Lionel Ajeliti making way.

The bankers cannot surpass Kabras in the standings due to the six-point gap between the two teams.

Nonetheless, they will be vying for bragging rights, aiming to improve their recent record against Kabras, having only secured two wins in their last five encounters.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Developing General Learning Skills in Junior High School Students



By: Odilova Chiroy
@themkenyatimes



General Learning Skills in Junior High School Students .

Worth Noting:

- As a result, educating primary school students is a multifaceted process that includes interactive learning, learning differentiation, the development of a positive learning environment, and systematic feedback. These teaching strategies support students' successful acquisition of academic content as well as their personal growth.

- One of the enduring issues in pedagogy is the topic of how to effectively structure a student's instructional activities. Its resolution frequently impacts the learning process's efficacy, a graduate's level of education, and the efficiency of a specific educational institution. When it comes to elementary schools, this issue becomes especially pertinent.

The issue of elementary school students' general education skill development is the focus of this article. Special focus is placed on tailoring instruction to the needs and traits of younger students in order to efficiently foster the core abilities required for successful study and social adjustment. Teachers dealing with primary school students and educational professionals developing educational approaches and programs can both benefit from the study's findings.

Primary school students' development of general education abilities is highly valued in today's educational system. The development of general learning skills is also significantly impacted by the establishment of a supportive learning environment. It entails setting up the classroom, making use of a range of teaching tools and technology, and preserving a supportive environment that fosters communication and engagement

between the instructor and students. Ultimately, students' learning skills are developed through systematic feedback and assessment, which enables them to identify their progress and grow from their errors.

As a result, educating primary school students is a multifaceted process that includes interactive learning, learning differentiation, the development of a positive learning environment, and systematic feedback. These teaching strategies support students' successful acquisition of academic content as well as their personal growth.

One of the enduring issues in pedagogy is the topic of how to effectively structure a student's instructional activities. Its resolution frequently impacts the learning process's efficacy, a graduate's level of education, and the efficiency of a specific educational institution. When it comes to elementary schools, this issue becomes especially pertinent.

Special attention is given to the development of general educational skills and different activity methods in the new primary general education educational standards. They are emphasized in a separate block at the level of minimum content and at the level of requirements for the level of preparation of students graduating from primary school.

For over ten years, pedagogical science and educational practice have addressed general educational skills. Nevertheless, the basic disadvantage of contemporary education, including primary education, remains linked to students' incapacity to learn.

It is still challenging for primary school instructors to concentrate on the new primary education objectives, which were developed during the modernization of the educational system's structure and content: teaching younger students how to learn and guiding their educational

pursuits. The mastery of knowledge, skills, and abilities remains the primary focus. Each of the instructional activity's component parts is ill-formed:

Self-control, comprehension of the learning process, rigorous adherence to instructions.

Younger students' increased activity and lack of educational independence are problems that the school administration and instructors are paying enough attention to address, but the current state of affairs is unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons. Let's give them names:

The administration and teacher only evaluate subject knowledge, skills, and abilities; the informational and reproductive content of educational subjects hinders the development of various human activity methods and does not support children's search behavior; the formation of general educational abilities and skills, methods of activity, has thus far been considered outside academic disciplines; even if it was "built-in" into an academic subject, it was poorly coordinated between individual subjects;

Inadequate oversight and assessment tools to monitor the development of general education competencies and activity methodologies.

There is only one way to address the problem of developing general education skills: multidisciplinary approaches. A single methodological system for all academic subjects—the study of which still needs a great deal of work—ensures the success of this work. The primary source is educational standards, which outline all required learning activities across all subject areas and suggest technological advancements.

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