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Murang'a, Nairobi Counties Explore Partnership In Agriculture

By: Anita Omwenga
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Worth Noting:

- Dr Kiringai divulged that at production level, Nairobi county produces between 18 to 20 percent of its food and thus it is an end market of many regions, including Murang'a County which supply produce from their farming activities.
- "Nairobi serves as an end-market for many regions, with at least 30 out of 47 counties (Murang'a included) and four foreign countries supplying food to the city," he said adding that a food system is the intricate path that food traverses from production to distribution, processing and consumption



Murang'a and Nairobi County Governments are exploring modalities to partner in establishment of markets for agricultural produce in a bid to foster economic growth through market development, trade facilitation, and cooperative initiatives.

The Murang'a County administration has indicated that the move will ensure food for health sourcing partnership promotion and regulation of a sustainable and resilient food system for food and nutrition security.

Murang'a County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Kiringai Kamau has said the collaboration is motivated by a need to ensure the two counties build a sustainable food system that efficiently delivers food from source to consumer.

Speaking at Murang'a county headquarters after a consultative meeting with the Nairobi CEC Member for En-

vironment, Water, Food and Agriculture Ibrahim Nyangoya and other county officials, Dr Kiringai said the partnership seeks to discuss and reach mutual agreements on matters pertaining to the smooth, efficient and sustainable supply and distribution of food from Murang'a to Nairobi county.

Dr Kiringai divulged that at production level, Nairobi county produces between 18 to 20 percent of its food and thus it is an end market of many regions, including Murang'a County which supply produce from their farming activities.

"Nairobi serves as an end-market for many regions, with at least 30 out of 47 counties (Murang'a included) and four foreign countries supplying food to the city," he said adding that a food system is the intricate path that food traverses from production to distribution, processing and consumption

He said other suggested areas of partner-

ships include linkage to consumer market, types and quantities of food available for Nairobi market, branded food pharmacies, agroecology and organic food system policy among others which ensures food safety from farm to people.

"Through the study of our food systems, we are aware of a number of factors that imply that we must work with other counties through meaningful partnerships in order to ensure consistent food security for our people," he said.

On his part, Nyangoya lauded the move saying that Murang'a County underscores the significance of their partnership, given its pivotal role as one of their major food and water suppliers.

He divulged that the county's local food production is not sufficient due to competitive use of land forcing them to outsource most of their foods and produce to achieve food security in the county.

"The current population of Nairobi met-

ro area is 6.54 million and is growing at a rate of 4 percent which translates to growing rate faster than production," he said adding that the county has embraced a food system strategy to ensure food sustainability.

He said the strategy aims to achieve food security by increasing food production, ensuring stable food supply and incomes, reducing food losses, and enhancing the welfare of food consumers.

Murang'a Director for Policy and Strategy Daniel Gitahi said the proposed partnership on how the county can sustainably supply healthy food to Nairobi County is a positive indicator on a projection of the country's economic growth.

"The two counties will develop a working framework of action to ensure that we can organise our farmers into co-operatives to be able to supply specific markets for cereals, vegetables, coffee, milk among other produce that are grown sustainably to Nairobi," said Gitahi.

He divulged that the county has a digital platform dubbed IfoodSOS that integrates food systems that will ensure delivery of sustainable supply of healthy foods to Nairobi County

"We have already done mapping of markets in Nairobi County and we have characterised them in terms of supply and demand and pricing," he said, adding that the digital platform underscores the interconnections of the county's service delivery efforts.

The delegation, which comprised representatives from the Green Nairobi Sector and Murang'a department of Agriculture, visited Mukarara farm in Kangema, Murang'a Coffee Mills and Murang'a Co-operative Creameries in Maragua to witness production efforts of the county government.

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THEME

**"Beyond Borders:
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NEWS IN BRIEF

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board in Kenya has seized 200 cartons of medicines and inspected 400 premises in response to 25 Presidential Directives issued on March 7. The operation aims to audit regulated pharmaceutical entities to ensure compliance with Good Distribution Practices, with a particular focus on narcotic and psychotropic substances. The Board is mandated to regulate pharmacy practice and ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of Medical Products and Health Technologies. The exhibits seized are currently pending court proceedings and will be disposed of in accordance with applicable rules and regulations for pharmaceutical disposal. The Board's CEO Fred Siyoi emphasized the Board's commitment to curbing unlawful practices in the pharmaceutical sector, ensuring public safety, and upholding regulatory standards. Registered public and private healthcare facilities handling pharmaceuticals are notified to apply online for disposal of pharmaceutical waste or contact PPB regional officers.



Mwea Technical and Vocational College (TVC) and its surrounding residents will benefit from a borehole project, a partnership between Mwea Member of Parliament, Mary Maingi and Tana Water Works Development Agency. The project aims to provide water to the college and surrounding community through water kiosks at Misingo and Gathigiriri, which have been experiencing water shortages during dry seasons. The borehole is expected to be completed and functional by July, playing a vital role in facilitating agricultural practices in Mwea. The MP believes that Mwea TVC has huge potential that has not been tapped, and will invest as much as possible until residents benefit from the educational facility. The borehole will reduce the prevalence of water-related diseases in Mwea due to the consumption of contaminated water from rice canals that may have been mixed with herbicides. The Tana Water Works Development Agency's minimum water demand is 10 cubic meters per hour, and any excess will be used to expand the area covered by the supply.



The Women's Rights Ambassadors movement in Nairobi has warned of cartels attempting to steal women's land and property. The movement, an affiliate of the Public Service Governance (PSG) organisation, claims that these cartels are orchestrated attacks, threatening women and causing them to flee their homes. PSG president Amb. Esther Waringa stated that some criminals pose as police officers and arrest people without warrants. Waringa emphasised that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 protects women's rights, including property ownership and equal rights. The movement has reported land grabbing cases in Nairobi but has seen them happening across Kenya. Waringa called on President Dr. William Ruto to use his wisdom to eliminate the money-minded cartels. They also called for transparency and accountability in the police service. Women rights ambassadors are ready to dismantle cartels and have requested an audience with the President to highlight the suffering of affected women.



Chief Officer for Water Services David Maraka has stated that over 80pc of Kalemn'gorok's population in Turkana South Subcounty lacks access to water. To address this issue, the County Government has partnered with World Vision Kenya to revive and upgrade the Nabeye and Naoyaregae water sources, located between 10 and 15 kilometres away from the town. The local sources have saline water that is unfit for human consumption. The initiative aligns with Governor Lomurukai's priority agenda, which focuses on ensuring universal access to water for all residents of Turkana. The demand for water in Kalemn'gorok has outstripped the supply capacity of the existing project. World Vision Manager Tom Masinde pledged to support the development of a detailed design for the project based on the one they had implemented three years ago through the IMARA Project.



Governor Wisley Rotich has initiated a distribution of 12 metric tonnes of sorghum seeds in the Kerio Valley region in a bid to enhance agricultural productivity and increase income for farmers. The initiative covers over 3,000 acres of farmland. With an average yield of 8 bags per acre, farmers are poised to harvest approximately 2,160 metric tonnes of sorghum. The county government has partnered with East African Breweries Limited (EABL) to ensure a sustainable market for the produce, providing a steady source of income for the agricultural community. The distribution of sorghum seeds represents a tangible investment in the agricultural sector and a symbolic gesture of hope and prosperity for the farming community.

Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata has reaffirmed commitment to support farmers and local factories. The government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Joy Miller's Limited, based in Kagio, Kirinyaga County, in which Murang'a maize farmers will be selling their maize to the Millers. The governor noted that in the agreement 17,500 farmers from every ward will be recruited, where each ward will have 500 farmers who will be getting certified maize seed and also get subsidies for fertilisers from the county, as a way to boost maize farming in Murang'a County. He added that the county is targeting 35,000 bags from farmers, buying at Sh 3,500 for a 90-kg bag set at the minimum price. "Our farmers have been selling their maize at a very low price, but once this programme starts, farmers will benefit from their labour, which is why we have given a minimum guarantee," he said.



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Waiguru Assents To New Transport Regulations To Bring Sanity In Towns

By: MKT Correspondent

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Worth Noting:

- It gives the Executive Committee Member for Finance powers to establish the County Transport Management Fund that will be used in implementation and operationalization of projects or programme contained in the County Transport Plan, County Road Development Plan, or County Non-Motorized Transport Guidelines.

- The law provides that no public transport vehicle from an unlicensed Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (Saccos) or Company shall operate within the County.



Governor Ann Waiguru and other officials displaying the document containing the new law

Kirinyaga County Governor Anne Waiguru has assented to new transport regulations that seek to bring safety and order in towns.

The Kirinyaga County Transport and Parking Act, 2023 will facilitate the provision of adequate and accessible matatu terminals, parking, footways and roads for efficient public transport in the county.

Most of the major towns in the county have witnessed a surge in population and a rise in number of motorists which calls for better management of public transport system and roads.

Governor Waiguru said the Act will help the county bring sanity in towns.

Speaking during the signing of the bill in her office at the County Head-

quarters in Kutus, Waiguru said the Act will apply to County roads, public transport facilities and systems, taxicabs and vehicles-for-hire, transport, motorcycle transport, non-motorized transport, traffic management, parking, street lighting in the County.

She said the new regulations establishes a Directorate responsible for County transport, roads, and parking and the County Transport Planning Advisory Committee.

It gives the Executive Committee Member for Finance powers to establish the County Transport Management Fund that will be used in implementation and operationalization of projects or programme contained in the County Transport Plan, County

Road Development Plan, or County Non-Motorized Transport Guidelines.

The law provides that no public transport vehicle from an unlicensed Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (Saccos) or Company shall operate within the County.

To stop a cartel like tendency where some Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Saccos and companies use force, intimidation and threats to stop vehicles from other registered organizations from picking, dropping off passengers or plying a particular route, the County Government has imposed a fine not exceeding Ksh.50,000 or six months imprisonment.

To protect PSV users from unfair trade practices, all matatus will be re-

quired to display a visible fare guide inside the vehicle and the passengers shall not be charged more than the amount displayed.

Taxii operators shall be required to obtain a Taxicab or Vehicle-for-Hire Business Permit and those found operating without the permit shall pay a penalty of Ksh.5000.

The law also requires bodaboda operators to obtain a permit and be in a legally registered groups or SACCOs and each group shall have a distinct colour mark given by County Government.

Waiguru said her administration will help the bodaboda operators form Saccos that will also be used as channels for social economic support.

She assured that the law will also protect bodaboda operators from harassment and unnecessary arrest.

The County Government will be required to deploy Traffic Marshals to manage traffic flow on county roads, collect fees and charges set out under the Kirinyaga County Finance Act.

On parking, small vehicles will be required to pay a daily fee of Ksh. 50 and those who fails to pay will be charged a penalty of Ksh. 1500. Those found obstructing the free flow of traffic or pedestrians shall be charged a penalty of Ksh 5000.

The Act which has repealed the Kirinyaga County Omnibus Stations and Parking Act, 2016 also outlaws erection of sign, advertisement, or billboard on a road, reserve or a footway without approval and payment of a prescribed fee.

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UNHCR And CSs Absent From Crucial Parliamentary Committee Meeting On Refugee Settlements In Kenya

By: PSCU

Key government officials including the Cabinet Secretaries for Interior and National Administration, Lands Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, and representatives from UNHCR on Friday gave a Parliamentary Committee session a wide berth.

The session that was convened by the Departmental Committee on Regional Development took place at Garden Inn hotel in Machakos County.

The aim of the meeting was to address pressing issues concerning refugee affairs in Kenya.

The committee chaired by Peter Lochakapong (Sigor) constituency had gathered to engage stakeholders on various critical topics.

These included the management of refugee affairs, distribution ratios of refugees across camps, database management, resettlement, and voluntary repatriation.

Despite invitations extended to officials from refugee-hosting counties,

key representatives failed to attend.

Members expressed concerns about the operations of current refugee camps and also the need for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address existing challenges.

They voiced their disappointment over the absence of UNHCR and government officials saying that their reasons for non-attendance were flimsy.

Lochakapong reminded them of parliamentary rules regarding the presence of Cabinet Secretaries in committee sittings.

“Incase a CS does not make it to such a meeting you must have a clear communication through official channels and in the absence of a Cabinet Secretary, the Permanent Secretary should attend instead of lower-ranking officials, he said.

While the Interior Ministry was expected to be represented by the Principal Administrative Secretary, Mr. Njenga Miiri, and the Ministry of Land and Urban Housing by Secretary of Urban Development, Engineer B.K. Njenga, UNHCR indicated in a letter their intent to provide written responses rather than appearing before the committee.

Following deliberations, the com-



Members during a press briefing.

mittee resolved to summon stakeholders within one month to ensure their participation.

The committee mandate includes investigating, inquiring into, and reporting on all matters relating to the management, administration, and operations of assigned ministries and

departments, among other responsibilities.

Committee members present included; Kombe Harrison Garama (Magarini), Mawathe Julius Musili, (Embakasi South) Nabulindo Peter Oscar (Matungu), Maj. (Rtd.) Dekow M. Barrow (Garissa Township),

Maina Amos Mwago (Starehe), Tun-gule Charo Kazungu, (Ganze), Paul Abuor (Rongo), and Hon. Yakub Farah Salah(Fafi).

CS Njeru Tours Projects In Baringo County

By: MoWSI

The cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Zacharia Njeru accompanied by the Italian Ambassador to Kenya Roberto Natali made a tour of duty to inspect water projects in Baringo County.

The high level delegation was received by the Baringo County leadership led by the Governor Baringo Benjamin Cheboi and the Baringo County Commissioner.

Later on before proceeding to the field, the CS briefed the Media on the progress of the projects in the county of Baringo. He stated that Non Revenue Water is a menace not only in Baringo County but in the entire country. On his part, the Italian Am-

bassador revealed that Kenya has a long standing collaborative and cordial relationship, spanning for several years among the two countries.

Among the projects visited by the CS included Kirandich dam site and tree planting at the venue. The team inspected Kabasis/Kituro tanks. The groundbreaking of the construction of the pipeline works along the Kabarnet-Marigat Highway near Kapropita was launched.

The layout presentation of Chemususu Phase 2 and last mile connectivity program at Muserechi. The water will upon completion, will serve areas in Eldama Ravine, Mogotio and Rongai constituencies. All area Members of Parliament were in attendance including MPs Chebor, Reuben Kiporek and Sirma.



The Cabinet Secretary was flanked by the Water Secretary Eng SAO Alima, Chair CRVWDA Mathenge Nderitu and CEO Murei.

First Lady Urges Women To Catalyse Development In Nyanza Region

By: OPCS



Worth Noting:

- “By bringing all stakeholders together to support Nyanza’s tangible development, members of the association will be agents of inclusivity, women’s economic empowerment, and the development of the Nyanza Region,” he added.
- Speaking during the event, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, the spouse of the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, promised to work with the association to rescue our youth from the bonds of alcoholism and drug abuse, while leveraging our collective strength towards a drug-free society.
- Ann Waiguru, the chairperson of the Council of Governors and Governor of Kirinyaga County, confirmed the Council’s commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our nation’s progress.



The First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto, .

The First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto, joined the members of the Professional Association of Nyanza (PANY) Women to launch their strategic plan in Nairobi Friday. Professionals have a significant influence and responsibility within communities to effect positive change and promote empowerment. The First Lady praised the initiative for confirming the crucial role women play in accelerating development and paving the way for others to follow in addressing social, economic,

cultural, and political factors that have impeded development in the Nyanza region. Eliud Owalo, Patron of the Professional Association of Nyanza (PANY) and Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication, and the Digital Economy, appreciated the members of the association for taking a step to lead from the front in the social and economic empowerment of the nation. “By bringing all stakeholders together to support Nyanza’s tangible

development, members of the association will be agents of inclusivity, women’s economic empowerment, and the development of the Nyanza Region,” he added. Speaking during the event, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, the spouse of the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, promised to work with the association to rescue our youth from the bonds of alcoholism and drug abuse, while leveraging our collective strength towards a drug-free society. Ann Waiguru, the chairperson of the

Council of Governors and Governor of Kirinyaga County, confirmed the Council’s commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our nation’s progress. Aisha Jumwa, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage urged the association to partner with the Government to create awareness and appetite amongst the members of the various empowerment programs and initiatives currently being rolled out across the nation. Mama Rachel Ruto further described the Strategic Plan launched today as a pathway to address the pressing issues facing our women so as to create a more inclusive and equitable future. She described the association as one with the power to create a roadmap on how to profitably and sustainably use the resources and talents available in the Nyanza region. Other leaders present included Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary for Education; Florence Bore, Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection; Gladys Boss Shollei, deputy speaker and member of parliament for Uasin Gishu Constituency; and Lady Justices Joyce Aluoch and Effie Owuor, among other leading women professionals from the six counties of the Nyanza region.



The First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto, joined the members of the Professional Association of Nyanza (PANY) Women to launch their strategic plan in Nairobi Friday.

The 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa Addresses Critical Socio-Economic Issues

By: Cynthia Masibo and Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatomes

In a resounding call to action, the 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) convened to tackle pressing challenges facing the region. From education reform to healthcare crises and economic hardships, the Assembly addressed a spectrum of issues affecting communities across East Africa. One of the central topics discussed was the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) in the education sector. The Assembly emphasized the need for thorough implementation strategies to ensure the effectiveness of the new curriculum in equipping students with relevant skills for the modern world. Furthermore, the Assembly urged the government to dissolve any educational issues hindering the smooth execution of the CBC, emphasizing the importance of quality education in fostering national development. Turning its attention to healthcare, the PCEA called for urgent intervention in the ongoing strike by health practitioners. The Assembly empha-

sized the critical role of healthcare workers in ensuring the well-being of society and urged stakeholders to expedite negotiations to resolve the strike and mitigate its impact on public health services. Addressing economic concerns, the Church called for the disbursement of the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) to provide financial relief to vulnerable populations and enhance access to healthcare services. Additionally, the Assembly highlighted the soaring cost of living, stressing the need for comprehensive measures to alleviate the financial burden on households. In the agricultural sector, the Assembly voiced concern over the escalating cost of fertilizers, which poses a significant challenge to small-scale farmers. The Church called for government intervention to regulate fertilizer prices and support farmers in accessing affordable inputs to enhance agricultural productivity and food security. Highlighting the plight of youth unemployment, the Assembly underscored the importance of entrepreneurship in empowering young people and driving economic growth. The Church proposed initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among



Presbyterian Church of East Africa during a press briefing at PCEA St Andrews Nairobi.

youth, including skills development programs, access to financing, and mentorship opportunities. In a spirit of solidarity, the PCEA emphasized the importance of collaborative action in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing humanity. The Assembly called upon stakeholders

to work together in addressing social, economic, and environmental issues, recognizing the interconnected nature of global challenges. As the 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa concluded, its resolutions echoed a call for concerted efforts towards

building a more just, equitable, and prosperous society. With a firm commitment to addressing pressing issues and advocating for positive change, the PCEA reaffirmed its role as a voice for the marginalized and a catalyst for social transformation in East Africa.

Fasting And Virtue Of The Month Shavval



By: Kholaturayeva Ugiloy Urol
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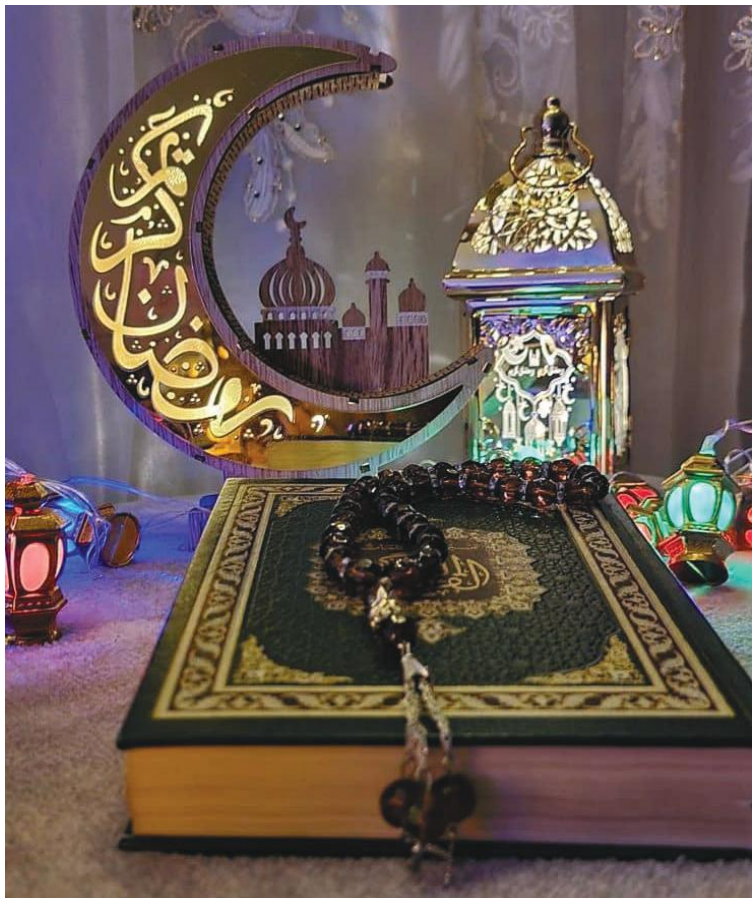
It is a wonderful virtue of the month of Shavval, and in this regard, the Messenger of Allah, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, blessed him like this: "He who fasts in the month of Ramadan and fasts six days in the month of Shavval in addition to it, will be fasting for the whole year. "It is the same as before," they said. (Reported by Muslim, Abu Davud , Termiziy).

It is known that a person who follows the recommendation given in the hadith every year will earn the reward of fasting for a lifetime. A person who fasts six days in Shavval after Ramadan fast is

given the reward of fasting for one year, because the reward of the performed prayers and obedience is defined as ten examples. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: "Whoever does one good deed, it will be returned to him tenfold. Whoever commits an evil, he will be punished according to what he did..." (Surah An'am , verse 160). After that, thirty days of Ramadan fasting will be replaced by 10 months, that is, 300 days. Ten times six days is sixty days, that is, two months. So, adding them together, a Muslim spends the whole year fasting. An example of fasting in Shavval after Ramadan is like snnah prayer after the obligatory prayers. Just as these Sunnahs are meant to eliminate possible defects in Fard, the Shavval fast is meant to make up for some of the mistakes made in the Ramadan fast. It also means that a Muslim does not get tired of fasting. Fasting for six days in the month of Shawwal is a mustahab act, and our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant

him peace, fasted himself and recommended it to others. It is good to keep this fast after the holiday, but it can also be done on other days of the month. The same reward is achieved by observing the obligatory fasts on these days.

[Kholaturayeva Ugiloy daughter of Urol]



How Kirinyaga Governor Is Walking The Talk As She Steers Her County



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Kirinyaga Governor Ann Waiguru .

Worth Noting:

- When signing the new alcoholic drinks control Act, the Governor reiterated her commitment to personally lead the war against illicit brews in Kirinyaga. We must win this war no matter what its takes.
- Deputy President (DP) Rigathi Gachagua is among the leaders who had attended the burial. He also minced no word in warning the brewers and traders of the killer alcoholic drinks.
- It is worth noting that more alcohol related deaths had been reported in other parts of the country.
- Governor Waiguru had a few days earlier undertaken two major activities leaving no doubt she was committed to walk the talk. This is in terms of fulfilling a raft of promises she made during the campaign.

Kirinyaga Governor Ann lived up to her word a few days ago when she assented to the newly enacted Kirinyaga Alcoholic Drinks Control Act.

She had earlier suspended the licenses of all bars and night clubs in Kirinyaga County.

Speaking during the burial of 17 people who had succumbed to brews laced with excess ethanol, she also minced no word in warning those selling killer brews that their days were numbered.

It is not going to be business as usual. My administration will carry out a massive crackdown and bring all the culprits to book.

She however assured those running genuine businesses that there is no cause for worry. If you are selling alcoholic drinks approved by relevant arms of my government and are fit for human consumption, you will definitely get back your operating licence after the vetting.

When signing the new alcoholic drinks control Act, the Governor reiterated her commitment to personally lead the war against illicit brews in Kirinyaga. We must win this war no matter what its takes.

Deputy President (DP) Rigathi Gachagua is among the leaders who had attended the burial. He also minced no word in warning the brewers and traders of the killer alcoholic drinks.

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Governor Waiguru had a few days earlier undertaken two major activities leaving no doubt she was committed to walk the talk. This is in terms of fulfilling a raft of promises she made during the campaign.

She had commissioned the project of distributing cooking gas cylinders to women groups in Kirinyaga county.

Speaking during the lunch at Ngariama, the Governor stated: During the public participation, you listed this as one of the key problems.

In many times, particularly during the rainy season, your children would go to school without taking breakfast.

This is because you were relying on rained firewoods to lit the cooking and body warming fire.

Lighting this firewood was not an easy task. Sometimes you got overwhelmed by the choking smoke and end up giving up.

The performance of the children in class was being affected negatively when they go to school without taking breakfast.

This would now become a thing of the past.

The Governor further reiterated that the initiative resonated with national government policy of greening Kenya.

President William Ruto has been in fore front of mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

Globally, he has earned a name of being the world's leading player.

To a large extent, cutting of trees, burning charcoal and firewoods contribute to the pollution of the air and environment.

My initiative is aimed at discouraging this.

During the commissioning, Waiguru was flanked by the leadership of Kirinyaga County.

This is the first time I saw county chief distributing cooking gas cylinders to the electorate.

A week earlier, Kirinyaga Governor had made history as the first county chief to give free complete sets of uniforms to Early Childhood Education and Development (ECDE) learners.

Speaking during this event at the county headquarters in Kutus, Waiguru reiterated the commitment of her government to fulfill all the promises she made during the campaign.

As you are aware, education of our children stood out as one of the key highlights of my manifesto.

As envisaged in the law, we have been undertaking public participation. Most of the parents and guardians always listed the issue of uniforms as a key challenge.

They averred: Some of us were unable to buy the school uniforms and this impacted negatively towards education of our children.

As you know, the principals and head teachers will not allow our children to attend classes with home attire.

For the governor, her message was therefore clear. I'm here to sort out this problem once and for all.

She was upbeat that the first batch of the uniforms had been sewed by County owned Apparel Factory.

The governor also promised to give the children leather shoes and roll out school feeding programme in coming days.

We are establishing industrial parks here in Kirinyaga and this is where the shoes would be made.

For the skin and hides farmers, the market for their products is now available.

Besides education, the Governor has made great strides towards matters of public health and commissioning key development projects.

She has also turned around fortunes of rice, coffee, tea, milk and fruit farmers.

It is worth noting that Governor Ann Waiguru is being touted as one of the leaders from Mount Kenya region eyeing the position of Ruto's running mate in 2027. Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro is also perceived to be training his eye on this seat. The position of DP is currently being held by Honorable Rigathi Gachagua. Legally speaking, he is senior-most leader. So, the question comes. Can Waiguru or Ndindi beat him? Well, you never know. Politics is a funny and unpredictable game.

Well, many believe that Waiguru stands a higher chance if the proposal by President William Ruto proposal will sail through during the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) National Delegates Conference.

Given her track record even before she become the governor, she can fit in that shoe.

Speaking at an event organized by United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Women Congress to celebrate the women who won the gubernatorial seats in 2022 polls, President Ruto minced no word in assuring the women of Kenya that his government was committed to full implementation of the constitutional imperative of two-thirds gender rule.

The previous governments failed to address this matter. I want to assure you this time the implementation will happen.

We can no longer bury our heads in the sand by ignoring the immense contribution of the women of Kenya towards the growth of the economy and uplifting the living standard of Kenyans.

Dr Ruto, who was reacting to the remarks by Kirinyaga Governor Ann Waiguru and former Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu, further asserted.

As a member of the UDA party, my proposal is that a time has come to amend our constitution. I hope majority of the members will support my proposal during the National Delegates Conference (NDC).

If this happens, a new clause would be

enacted and it would read. If the UDA party nominate a man to be the presidential candidate the running mate should be a woman and vice versa.

There is no cause for worry because "I have already discussed this with Riggy-G (Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua)".

We are yet to hear the DP disagreeing or contradicting the head of state. So, many Kenyans believe it is true that the two leaders had discussed this matter and reached a consensus.

In yester-years, Martha Karua of Narok was being touted as the iron lady of Kirinyaga county. She has since lost this title to Madam governor Ann Waiguru.

It is worth noting that the duo contested the Kirinyaga gubernatorial seat in 2017 polls.

Ms Waiguru wrestled her to the ground.

In the run-up to 2022, a number of people from Karua's home village of Gichugu shared this with me.

Her initial plan was to contest the governor's seat. She however feared facing Waiguru and getting embarrassed once again.

It seems she breathed a sigh of relief when the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta convinced Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga to pick her as his running mate.

Up to date, Uhuru and Karua have never confirmed or denied whether this is what happened.

Here are the other three reasons why Governor Waiguru stands a high chance.

First, I'm sure President Ruto's Plan A would be to once again rally Mount Kenya behind his candidature.

To retain this support, he needed to ensure that the slot of running mate remains in this region.

Thirdly, Ms Waiguru's track record on matters of development and good governance is there for all to see. As the chairperson of Council of Governors (CoG), she has been vocal in defending the Devolution. This include challenging the national government on timely disbursement of shareable revenue to the counties.

She is also well educated and believe in building a peaceful and united nation.

She had previously served as a chief executive officer of a number of corporates and financial institutions locally and internationally.

She also served the government of President Mwai Kibaki and that of his successor Uhuru Kenyatta with dedication and distinction. She was the pioneer of Huduma Centers that have reduced the burden that Kenyans shouldered when seeking critical services.

They now get them under one roof with a click of a button.

But Waiguru will need to come up with a workable strategy of tackling other competitors from other communities.

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

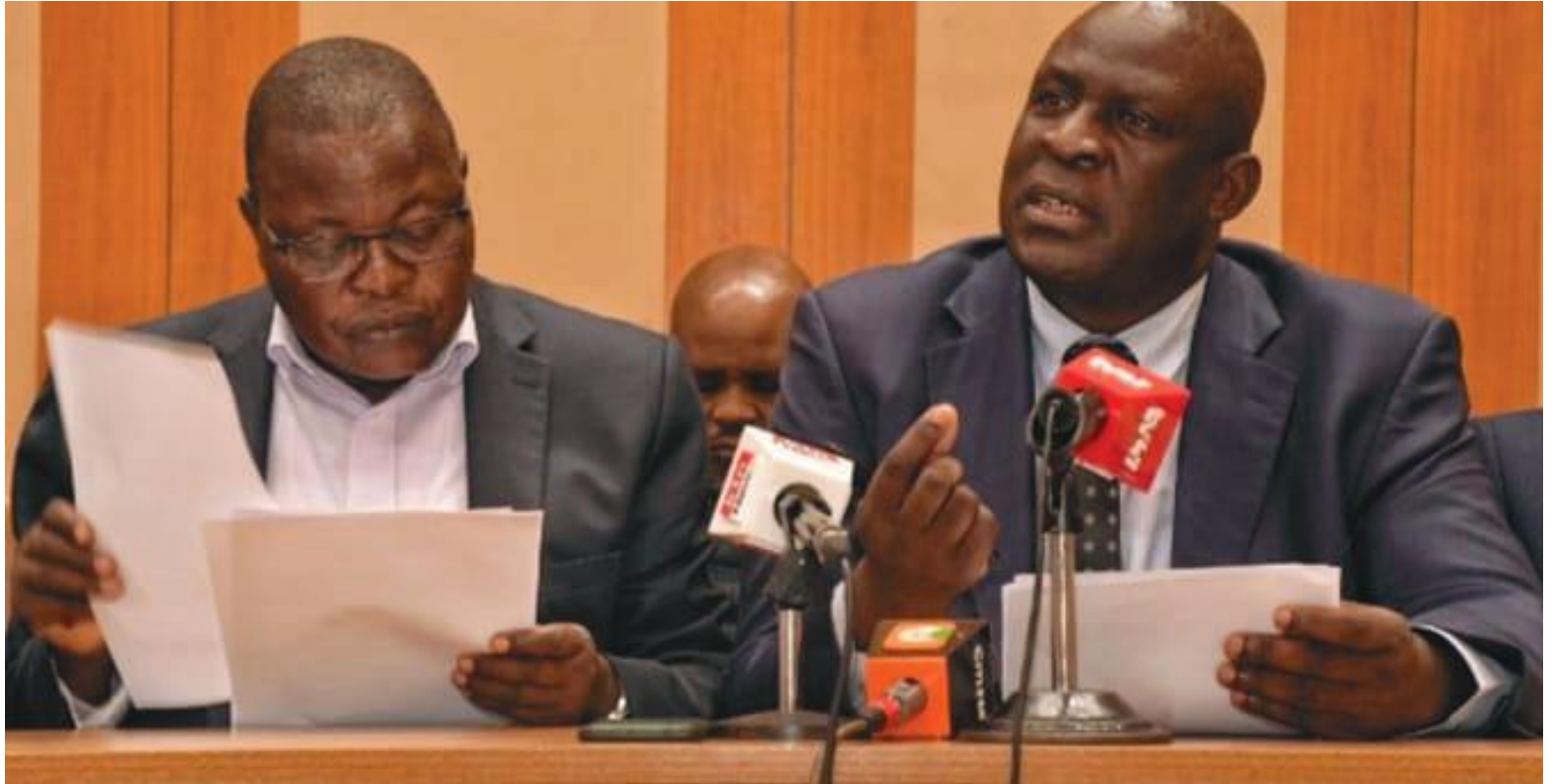
KUPPET Demands Promotion For Teachers Who Have Stagnated

By: Mabel Keya Shikuku
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- “Some 7,400 teachers on C4 were also left out of the 2023-2024 promotions allegedly because they had served in the current grade for less than three years. However, the grade was opened to them only two years ago following KUPPET lobbying, after they had stagnated in C3 and the previous Job Group L for many years and these too need to be promoted,” Misorì said.
- Specifically, KUPPET proposed the abolition of Teacher Scale C5 for post-primary teachers, so that teachers will move from C4 into senior administration. The union also proposed the opening up of non-administrative positions for senior teachers at D4, even if they do not become school principals.



Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) Secretary General (SG) Maurice Akelo Misorì (left)

Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) has voiced concern over non-promotion of over 50,000 teachers across the board who have stagnated for a long time.

During a meeting with the teachers' employer in the country; Teachers' Service Commission (TSC) in Naivasha on Thursday, the union petitioned the Government to release Sh1billion to TSC for urgent promotion of 30,000 teachers who are part of the 50,000 who have stagnated for a long time.

Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) Secretary General (SG) Maurice Akelo Misorì said the priority group will be the current C4 and C5 teachers who will move to C5 and D1 respectively, in order to open up opportunities for long-serving teachers who are still stuck in Grade C3.

“Some 7,400 teachers on C4 were also left out of the 2023-2024 promotions allegedly because they had served in the current grade for less than three years. However, the grade was opened to them only two years ago following KUPPET lobbying, after they had stagnated in C3 and the previous Job Group L for many years and these too need to be promoted,” Misorì said.

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posed the opening up of non-administrative positions for senior teachers at D4, even if they do not become school principals.

The KUPPET officials were speaking to the media in Naivasha after their meeting with the TSC whose main agenda was the resolution of the outcry from teachers over the recent promotions and the fate of over 50,000 teachers who have stagnated in their careers.

Misorì said during the meeting, the TSC committed to employ 20,000 new teachers for Junior Secondary and 2,000 primary school teachers in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas within this financial year after the union raised concern over understaffing in public schools. TSC will also in January 2025, convert all the 26,000 intern teachers recruited in 2023 to permanent and pensionable terms.

The KUPPET Secretary General also petitioned the teachers' employer to urgently confirm the Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers and include the teachers who are currently operating in the dark, in the new teacher Career Guidelines.

The TSC on its part also agreed to the union's demand to review the Career Progression Guidelines that have contributed to stagnation among teachers and to develop new career Guidelines through public participation. The union noted that the new Guidelines will fasten career growth by reducing the length of time taken

from the lowest to the highest scale within the service.

On the issue of the recent promotions of teachers which raised hue and cry even by their Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) counterparts, KUPPET said they had scrutinised the entire list and found that the promotions by TSC were above board. There were allegations that the promotions were not fair and that some teachers who had retired or died had been promoted in unclear circumstances.

In secondary schools, KUPPET demanded the conversion of all Board of Management (BOM) teachers into TSC employment, since the teachers are filling a gap created by the Commission's slow employment and that these teachers were poorly paid by their institutions; they had no medical care and could not be disciplined by the Commission yet they are serving in public institutions. To this end, the Commission expressed a willingness to manage the BOM teachers if funds are made available.

The union lobbied the employer over the high number of teachers acting in administrative positions without any compensation, but the parties did not agree on the compensation of teachers on acting appointments as TSC claimed that acting positions were abolished by Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) Circulars, and therefore were not compensable.

KUPPET maintained that the teacher employer was violating the law by

using acting administrators and not compensating them and noted that the union's legal team will consider instituting a legal demand to let the court pronounce itself on compensation for acting appointments.

KUPPET demanded the immediate implementation of new Group Life Cover, Group Personal Accident Cover and Work Injury Benefits (WIBA) insurance for teachers as part of the medical scheme and the Commission on its part committed to procure for the services within this financial year.

KUPPET also appealed to the Commission on bureaucratic delays in processing pensions for retired teachers where the commission stated that it was working jointly with the Department of Pensions on administrative action to quicken the pension processes.

The union on its part committed to work with Parliament in amending the People Living with Disability Act which requires teachers living with disabilities to renew certificates every five years.

Nyeri County Joins 47 Others in Malindi for KYISA Games

By: Paul Mwangi
@themtkenyentimes

A total of 64 players, both boys and girls aged between 18 and 23 years, will represent Nyeri County this year in the Inter-County Sports Association (KYISA) in Malindi, Kilifi County.

The national competitions are scheduled to kick off from Sunday, April 14th to 21st, 2024.

In Nyeri, the selection of the 64 players was conducted at the ward, sub-county, and ultimately at the county level. The selected team underwent a one-week training camp at Kiandu High School, Tetu.

Flagging off the Nyeri team, Governor Mutahi Kahiga expressed his government’s commitment to nurturing the sports talents of the youth across the county.

“I wish the teams, led by their captains, the very best. I further urge them to fly the Nyeri County flag high,” the governor said.

The governor was accompanied by his deputy, David Kinanire, and his Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services CEC, Esther Ndung’u.



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga flags off the Nyeri team to Malindi for KYISA games outside his office yesterday. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU



Uzbekim Girls

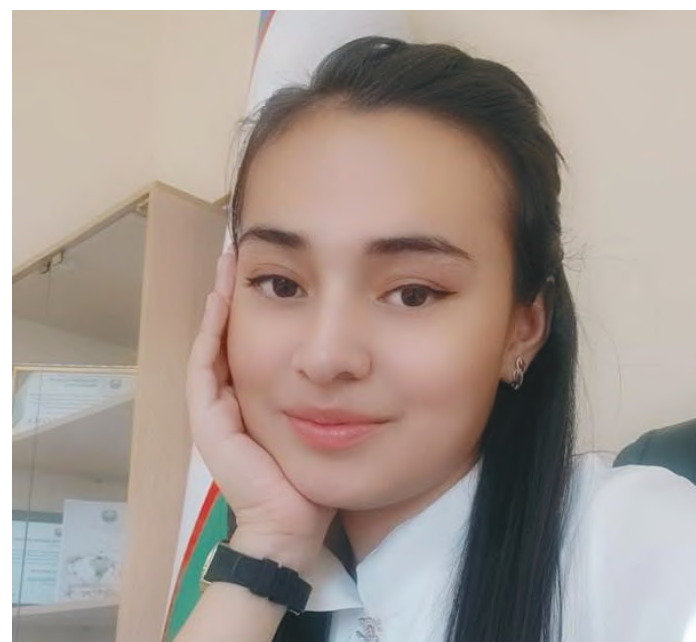
Successful in everything,
They're incessant winter and summer.
In science and craft,
They're ahead of everyone else.
Laughing faces,
Uzbekim girls.

They are famous in the world,
They always win in sports.
Day and night,
They think about their country.
They are strong,
Uzbekim girls.

Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's daughter from Uzbekistan. She was born on 22nd December of 2005 in Khorezm region, Khanka district. Presently, she studies at 41-school in Khanka.



Kindness Begets Kindness



Kindness is a quality that is often underestimated and undervalued in today's fast-paced world. With the constant hustle and bustle, people tend to prioritize their own needs and interests, often leaving behind acts of kindness towards others. However, what we fail to realize is that kindness has a ripple effect – it begets kindness. In simpler terms, when one person is kind to another, it leads to a chain reaction, ultimately spreading kindness to those around them. This small act of kindness has the potential to make a significant impact and bring about positive change in our society.

First and foremost, kindness is contagious. When we witness someone being kind to us or others, it automatically puts us in a positive mood and encourages us to do the same for others. Research has shown that when individuals are exposed to kindness, they are more likely to exhibit kind behavior themselves. It's like a domino effect, where one act of kindness leads to another, and the cycle continues. This is how kindness begets kindness.

Moreover, kindness has the power to alleviate negativity and promote a sense of unity and togetherness. In today's world, where division and hatred are rampant, small acts of kindness can go a long way in bridging the gaps and bringing people together. Even the smallest acts of kindness, such as a smile, a helping hand, or a kind word, can make a significant impact on someone's day. When we show kindness towards others, it fosters a sense of community and reminds us that we are all in this together.

Additionally, kindness is not just limited to actions but also words. The words we choose to use can either hurt or heal, and by choosing to be kind with our words, we can spread positivity and uplift

those around us. A simple compliment or a few words of encouragement can do wonders for someone's self-esteem and confidence. When we speak kindly, we create a safe and comfortable environment for others, making them more likely to pass on the same kindness to others.

Furthermore, kindness has a profound impact on our mental and emotional well-being. Numerous studies have shown that acts of kindness trigger the release of dopamine, a chemical in the brain that makes us feel good. It boosts our mood, increases our self-esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. By being kind to others, we not only spread joy and positivity, but we also improve our own mental and emotional state, creating a positive cycle of well-being.

Lastly, kindness has the power to create a lasting impression on others. A small act of kindness can leave a long-lasting impact on someone's life, and in turn, inspire them to spread kindness to others. It has the potential to create a positive ripple effect that can extend beyond our own communities and reach people we may never even meet.

In conclusion, kindness truly begets kindness. It has the power to create a positive cycle of compassion, empathy, and unity, ultimately making our world a better and happier place to live in. As individuals, we must strive to be kind to one another and make it a part of our daily lives. No act of kindness is too small, and it can make a significant difference. So, let us all be kind to each other, for kindness truly has the power to change the world.

Izzatullojeva Sevinch Nusratullojevna

With My Friend



In the light of a golden sun, we set out on our way,
A day with my dear friend, a memory to stay.
Hand in hand, we walked through fields of green,
Sharing laughter and stories, a bond unseen.

With each step, our hearts grew light,
As we reveled in the beauty of that day so bright.
We wandered through meadows, beneath the azure sky,
The world around us seemed to dance, as time flew by.

We found a hidden spot, nestled by a babbling brook,
A sanctuary of peace, where our souls could unhook.
We sat there, side by side, sharing secrets untold,
A friendship so precious, more valuable than gold.

We laughed till tears filled our eyes,

As silly jokes and funny anecdotes would arise,
We danced like wildflowers in the gentle breeze,
Embracing the joy of friendship with such ease.

We watched as the sun began its descent,
Colors painted across the horizon, a breathtaking event.
Whispering dreams and hopes for the days ahead,
We knew in our hearts, this friendship would never shred.

As dusk settled in and stars adorned the sky,
We held onto that day, not wanting it to pass by.
For in that moment, time stood still,
And I realized the power of a friend's goodwill.

One day with my close friend, a treasure to behold,
A bond so strong, a story yet untold.
Forever etched in my heart, that day will remain,
A testament to the beauty of friendship's reign.

by: Abdurasulov Nuriddinjon Sharofjon o'g'li

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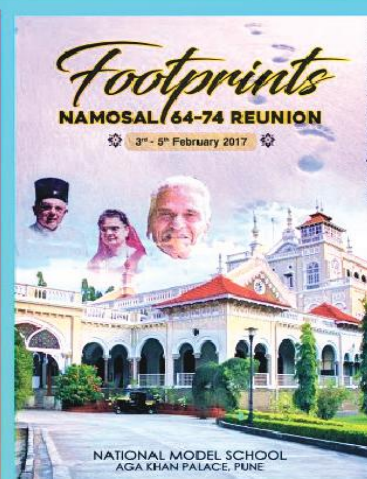
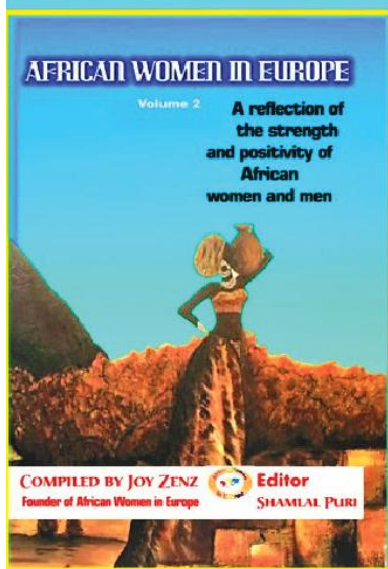
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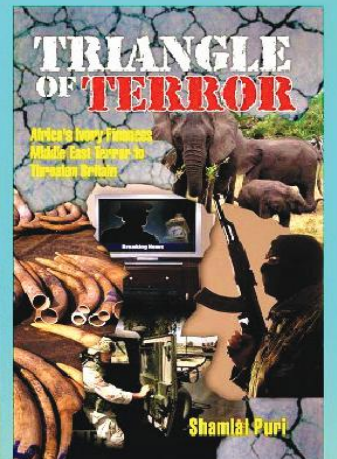
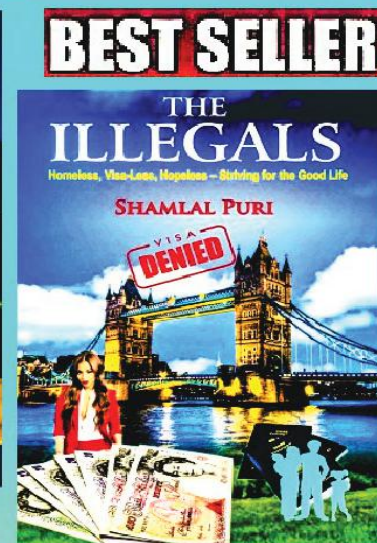
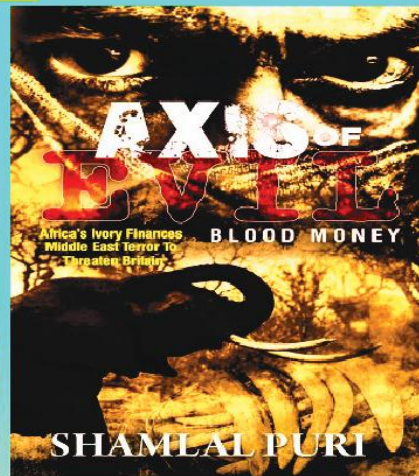
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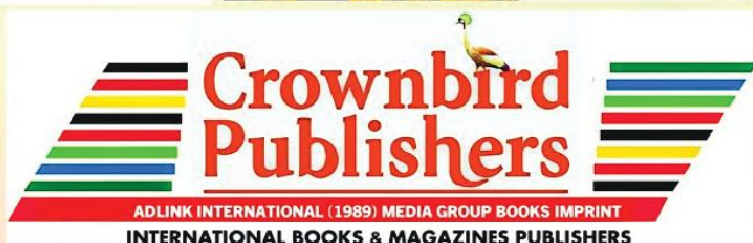
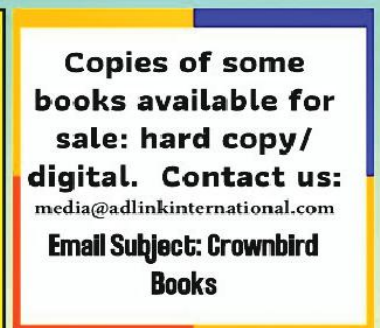
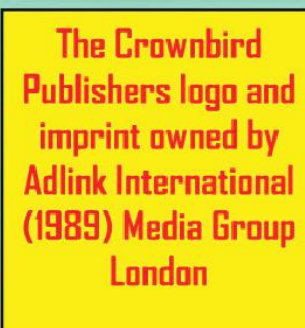
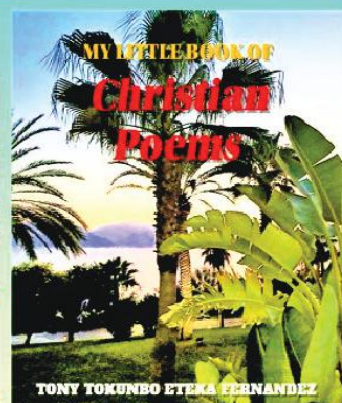
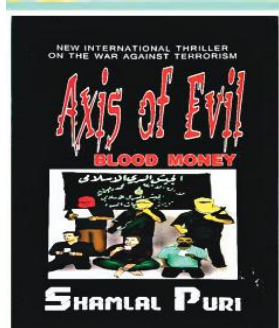
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Human-Wildlife Conflict

State Launches Compensation Scheme To Tackle Human-Wildlife Conflict

By: PCS

Worth Noting:

- “The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife should speed up the verification exercise and work closely with MPs to ensure that the remaining 7,000 families are compensated in the next 60 days,” he said.
- During the function, President Ruto presented a cheque of Sh 960 million for victims of human-wildlife conflict across the country.
- He said the process of compensation will in future be made easier, saying unnecessary bureaucracy will be eliminated.
- President Ruto pointed out that the partnership between the government, the private sector and communities is key in sustaining conservation efforts.



President William Ruto .

President William Ruto has launched a compensation scheme for damages arising from human-wildlife conflict.

The President said in 2022, the compensation claims stood at Ksh 7 billion for the period 2014-2023. The government has since paid Ksh 4 billion.

The compensation claims are for deaths, injuries, crop destruction, predation and damage of property caused by wild animals in six counties.

Speaking at Rumuruti Stadium in Laikipia County on Friday, President Ruto said the remaining Ksh 3 billion compensation claims will be paid in the next 60 days.

“The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife should speed up the verification exercise and work closely with MPs to ensure that the remaining 7,000 families are compensated in the next 60 days,” he said.

During the function, President Ruto presented a cheque of Sh 960 million for victims of human-wildlife conflict across the country.

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will in future be made easier, saying unnecessary bureaucracy will be eliminated.

President Ruto pointed out that the partnership between the government, the private sector and communities is key in sustaining conservation efforts. “We must involve the people in conservation because citizens being at the core of every plan ensures sustainability,” said President Ruto.

At the same time, the President announced that the government will erect electric fences 350km-long around national parks and game reserves in six counties.

He said Laikipia County will benefit from a 100km fence along Lariak Forest Wildlife Conservancy that he commissioned in an effort to reduce and eventually end human-wildlife conflict.

The President directed the ministry to map out all areas, which require fencing, including forests, to facilitate fencing in the next five years.

He said the government was implementing what it had promised the

people of Laikipia during the election campaigns in 2022.

Meanwhile, President Ruto said the government will not relent in the fight against insecurity in the North Rift region.

He said police now have new modern equipment that will help fight and eliminate banditry and cattle rustling.

President Ruto was emphatic that the government will do all that it takes to pacify all areas currently witnessing cases of insecurity.

“It is the government’s commitment that it will ensure peace prevails in Laikipia, Samburu, West Pokot, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Turkana, Isiolo and Lamu, among other parts of the country,” he said. “What is going on in these areas are the last kicks of a dying horse.”

The President urged the public to cooperate with security agencies by exposing the few criminal elements among them.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua took issue with the Laikipia County security team for failing to contain

illicit brews in Rumuruti.

“The Nation Administration officials and police here must eradicate illicit brews within the shortest time possible,” he said.

National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa said the government was implementing its agenda for the people of Laikipia by addressing human-wildlife conflict that has been a pain for long.

Governors Joshua Irungu (Laikipia) and Lati Lelelit (Samburu) said they will work closely with the National Government in the fight against insecurity in the region.

Cabinet Secretaries Alfred Mutua (Tourism and Wildlife), Rebecca Miano (Investment and Trade) and Soi-pan Tuya (Environment) and several MPs were also present.



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Guardians Of The Universe: The Untold Story Of The Kabiru In Ancient History



By: Erick Kamau Kahura

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The epic tale of the Habiru transcends conventional limitations of social class, embodying a spirit of resilience and ambition that defies societal constraints. Their names, reflecting a blend of diverse origins—West Semitic, East Semitic, Hurrian—underscore their cosmopolitan identity as trailblazers of cultural synthesis and enlightenment.
- Through the Amarna letters from the 14th century BCE, the Habiru emerge as multifaceted individuals—mercenaries, day-laborers, and servants—navigating the complexities of ancient Canaanite society. In these documents, their interactions with petty kings reveal a nuanced relationship marked by rebellion and negotiation, challenging established power structures and advocating for cosmic interconnectedness.



Rim-Sin I (1822 BCE to 1763 BCE).

Kabiru Guardians of Ancient Wisdom and Cosmic Enlightenment

In the vast tapestry of human history, few communities shine as brightly as the Kabiru, custodians of cosmic wisdom and spiritual enlightenment. Join us on an extraordinary voyage through time as we uncover the captivating saga of the Kabiru, also known as the Gikuyu or Habiru/Hebrew, and their profound impact on human civilization.

The term “Habiru” or “Apiru” evokes a legacy of exploration and conquest, transcending traditional labels of marginalization and lawlessness. In ancient history, the Habiru emerge not merely as outcasts but as intrepid explorers and pioneers of universal understanding, shaping civilizations across vast regions from Egypt to Anatolia.

During the reign of Rim-Sin I (1822 BCE to 1763 BCE), the Sumerians recognized the Habiru as a tribe of Aramaean nomads in southern Mesopotamia, known by the term SA.GAZ or “trespassers.” Over time, the Ak-

kadians inherited this term, rendering it as “Habiru” or “Apiru,” symbolizing a bold and enterprising people who defied conventional boundaries to seek greater truths beyond the horizon.

Amidst the tapestry of ancient societies, the Habiru distinguished themselves not merely as rebels or brigands, but as architects of cultural exchange and innovation. While some narratives depict them as outlaws, others reveal their role as diplomats and leaders. Figures like Idrimi of Alalakh exemplified the Habiru’s ambition, rising from a deposed king’s son to establish himself as a ruler through bold initiatives and strategic alliances, reshaping the landscape of their era.

The epic tale of the Habiru transcends conventional limitations of social class, embodying a spirit of resilience and ambition that defies societal constraints. Their names, reflecting a blend of diverse origins—West Semitic, East Semitic, Hurrian—underscore their cosmopolitan identity

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In historical fiction such as “The Conquest of Joppa” from around 1440 BCE, the Habiru are portrayed not as mere brigands but as embodiments of exploration and conquest. General Djehuty’s concern about his horses being stolen underscores their reputation for audacity and resourcefulness, emblematic of their quest for cosmic enlightenment.

The legacy of the Habiru or ‘Apiru extends beyond traditional historical narratives, symbolizing a relentless pursuit of greatness and expansion. As explorers and conquerors of the universe, they left an indelible mark on history, challenging conventions and reshaping civilizations across ancient lands, inspiring generations to seek higher truths.

The Kabiru Community: Custodians of Sacred Knowledge and Cosmic Lore

The saga of the Kabiru community is shrouded in mystique and cosmic insight, steeped in a reverence for ancient wisdom and guardianship of celestial realms. Descendants of a venerable lineage, they were esteemed as custodians of sacred knowledge, entrusted with preserving the wisdom of the cosmos for future generations.

Driven by ancestral wisdom and divine intuition, the Kabiru embarked on a quest for cosmic enlightenment, plumbing the depths of consciousness and unraveling the secrets of existence. Their journey was not merely a physical voyage but a profound spiritual odyssey that illuminated their understanding of life and the cosmos, fostering a profound connection with the divine.

Pioneers of Spiritual Custodianship: The Kabiru’s Role as Guardians of Sacred Relics

Beyond their cosmic pursuits, the Kabiru community assumed the sacred duty of safeguarding divine artifacts and relics of profound significance, embodying the essence of spiritual custodianship. Mythologies abound regarding their custodianship

of the Ark of the Covenant and the Tablets of Law, emblematic of divine communion and spiritual guidance.

The narrative of these relics’ journey to the hallowed heights of Mount Kenya mirrors biblical accounts of Mount Zion and the ancient colonization of Palestine circa 2000 B.C., highlighting the Kabiru’s reverence for sacred traditions and their commitment to preserving spiritual heritage amidst the cosmic expanse.

The Spiritual Odyssey: Mount Kenya and the Ark of the Covenant

Central to the Kabiru’s spiritual odyssey is the sacred pinnacle of Mount Kenya, an epicenter of cosmic energy and divine communion. Legends intertwine biblical narratives with ancient migrations, tracing the epic journey of the Ark of the Covenant and the Tablets of Law to the heart of Africa, symbolizing a convergence of spiritual legacies.

Mount Kenya emerges as a nexus of spiritual convergence, bridging ancient civilizations and cosmic realms. The Kabiru’s reverence for this sacred site reflects their profound connection with the divine and their steadfast commitment to upholding spiritual traditions, embodying the essence of cosmic enlightenment.

Celebrating the Kabiru Legacy: Embracing Courage, Unity, and Cosmic Wisdom

As we unveil the Kabiru legacy, we celebrate a community defined by courage, unity, and cosmic wisdom, inspiring future generations to embrace celestial insights and reimagine history through the lens of interconnectedness and reverence.

Join us on this extraordinary journey through the corridors of time as we honor the profound contributions of the Kabiru community—a testament to the enduring spirit of Africa and the richness of human civilization. Through reverence, unity, and a renewed sense of cosmic awareness, let us embrace the wisdom of our ancestors and pave the way for future generations to cherish and preserve their remarkable spiritual heritage.

In conclusion, the Kabiru community beckons us to reconnect with celestial consciousness and celebrate the interconnectedness of all life, casting aside shadows of materialism and embracing the profound spiritual essence of our collective journey towards enlightenment and cosmic wisdom.

Erick Kamau Kahura, Proud African Son

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Addressing The Alarming Rise Of Student Suicides In Universities



The issue of student suicide has become increasingly prevalent, affecting many students who find themselves in distressing situations that drive them to take their own lives. For instance, Brian Ongwae, a student at the Catholic University of East Africa, tragically ended his life after losing a bet worth 15,000, the money he needed

for school fees. These suicidal tendencies often stem from a variety of challenges students face while studying, including relationship break-ups, insufficient funds for their needs, inability to pay school fees, and involvement in gambling. These issues can contribute to depression, prompting individuals to con-

template ending their lives as a means of escaping their troubles. Institutions must take proactive measures to address this issue and reduce the reported cases of student suicides. This can be achieved through providing counseling sessions where students can openly express their problems without fear of judgment. By

doing so, many of the underlying issues can be promptly addressed by the school administration. For example, students struggling with school fees could be assisted through bursaries to clear their outstanding balances. Let us collectively raise awareness about the issue of student suicide to prevent further increases in the death

rate among young people.
*Ann Amollo and George Vanessa
Communication and Media Studies
Students, Rongo University.*

Addressing Kenya’s Healthcare Crisis: A Path To Recovery

Kenya’s healthcare system has been grappling with a crisis that has hindered its ability to deliver essential services to its citizens. This crisis, which has been escalating in recent years, has reached a critical point in 2024, impacting both healthcare workers and the public. However, amidst the challenges, there is hope for a brighter future as the government takes proactive steps to address the root causes and restore confidence in the healthcare sector. The healthcare crisis in Kenya has been multifaceted, stemming from various systemic issues such as inadequate infrastructure, understaffing, insufficient medical supplies, and poor working conditions for healthcare professionals. These factors have contributed to a strain on the healthcare system, resulting in long waiting times, limited access to quality care,

and overall dissatisfaction among both patients and healthcare workers. The burden of the healthcare crisis has been particularly heavy on healthcare workers. Overworked and underpaid, many have been forced to endure grueling conditions, leading to burnout and a mass exodus from the profession. This shortage of skilled professionals has exacerbated the strain on an already struggling system, leaving many facilities understaffed and unable to meet the growing demand for healthcare services. The ramifications of the healthcare crisis extend beyond the confines of hospitals and clinics, affecting the overall health and well-being of the population. Delayed or inadequate medical care has led to increased morbidity and mortality rates, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.

Furthermore, the lack of access to essential services has perpetuated health disparities, widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Recognizing the urgent need for action, the Kenyan government has unveiled a comprehensive plan to address the root causes of the healthcare crisis and rebuild the healthcare system from the ground up. Central to this plan is a commitment to investing in infrastructure, recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare professionals, and ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all citizens. The government has allocated significant funds to upgrade existing healthcare facilities and build new ones in underserved areas. This includes the construction of hospitals, clinics, and medical centers equipped with state-of-the-art technology and equipment to deliver quality care to patients.

In order to address the shortage of healthcare workers, the government has launched initiatives to recruit and retain skilled professionals. This includes offering competitive salaries, providing training and professional development opportunities, and improving working conditions to enhance job satisfaction and reduce burnout. The government is committed to ensuring that all Kenyan citizens have access to essential healthcare services regardless of their socio-economic status or geographic location. This includes implementing policies to reduce out-of-pocket expenses, expanding coverage under the national health insurance scheme, and implementing outreach programs to reach remote and marginalized communities. While the healthcare crisis in Kenya has posed significant challenges,

there is optimism that the government’s proactive measures will pave the way for a brighter future. By addressing the root causes of the crisis and investing in infrastructure, human resources, and access to care, Kenya has the opportunity to build a resilient healthcare system that meets the needs of its citizens and ensures the health and well-being of future generations. It is through collective effort and unwavering commitment that Kenya can overcome its healthcare challenges and emerge stronger than ever before.
*Stephen Ochieng, Venessa Ingahizu
& Sheryl Awino. Media Students
Rongo*

Will The Tragedy Accidents End?

It is so painful waking up each morning with death news and there is no any another way that people are dying but only through roads. The years assessment of lives lost in road accidents are now seen to repeat themselves or even be more than before. What is the problem with our roads, drivers or the KENHA? Thus is mean the assessment of vehicles that are meeting the full requirements are not assessed well. Or thus it mean some of the drivers that are on the road aren’t qualified and do

they normally show their original licence when they are asked by the traffic officers?. Where maybe the loop hole that is causing all this? Our roads must have full signs and speed governors to be fixed in all vehicles both public and private and they must be checked and if one is found not having the set requirements to be jailed. Let no one get any favour because of their connection or status. Lives are important mire than money. We may cry each morning and even request assess-

ment of all vehicles but we leave out the fact that corruption will still let others is the transport sector. The Matatu drivers asked to be assessed will not be only a solution when we forget that most of the accidents are now being caused by big vehicles. Let all of the drivers be assessed well for the better of our country and safety of the souls that are perishing mercilessly. All the traffic officers to be strictly governed by the law to avoid corruption happening each day.

We must also consider the quality if studies offered in all driving schools and if all if the students qualifying have the required skills. Some the school are not having the complete sets of vehicles for the field training, others are only giving logbook and driving licence after part-time students have done paper work exams and they don’t test their field skills and this is also one of the greatest cause of all this death. Can we maintain our roads also so that we do not only lament because

of the drivers forgetting that our roads are very poor.
We first start with our government and then come to the rest of this case.
*Jared Wafula and Elvis Nyongesa
RONGO University*

Waiguru Lauds Nyanza Women Professionals For Their Effort In Women Empowerment

By:MKT Reporter @themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- “We stand today, witnessing the fruition of that dream as they launch their strategic plan. This is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to uplifting grassroots women. What these women have achieved in such a short span of time is nothing short of remarkable,” she declared.
- She noted that the success of the Nyanza professional women is not just their own but a victory for all women across Kenya. At the same time the governor shared about the recently launched COG women G7 Strategy that is designed to empower women to take up leadership roles across the counties.



Governor Ann Waiguru

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has hailed Nyanza Women professionals for their effort in empowering women.

Speaking at a Nairobi hotel during launch of the group’s strategic plan, Waiguru who is also the Chair of the Council of Governors (COG), commended the remarkable journey by the body of professionals which she note has made tremendous achievements since its inception five months ago.

The Strategic Plan seeks to address critical areas of development in the region, with key priority areas including health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, networking, partnerships and institutional capacity in order to uplift the grassroots communities.

Waiguru praised the dedication and determination of the women involved in realizing the association’s vision, emphasizing the importance of unity and purpose in effecting meaningful change.

“We stand today, witnessing the fruition of that dream as they launch their strategic plan. This is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to

uplifting grassroots women. What these women have achieved in such a short span of time is nothing short of remarkable,” she declared.

She noted that the success of the Nyanza professional women is not just their own but a victory for all women across Kenya. At the same time the governor shared about the recently launched COG women G7 Strategy that is designed to empower women to take up leadership roles across the counties.

“The G7 Strategy is more than just a plan, it is a promise; a promise to support and empower women to deliver on the transformative potential of devolution and other sectors they lead,” she said.

She highlighted the strategy’s aim to enhance women governors’ political influence and leadership at both national and county levels, ultimately striving for a more inclusive and equitable society.

“Ultimately, the strategy aims at enhancing the Women Governors’ political influence and leadership at the national and county levels by serving as catalysts for the increased election of women into leadership roles. Our Clarion Call is G7 to

G24,” Waiguru stated.

The COG Chair emphasized on the G7 broader vision of extending support and resources to women leaders across all forty-seven counties of Kenya noting that such targeted efforts will lead to creation of a more inclusive and equitable society where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.

Speaking at the same event, the Chairperson of the Professional Association of Nyanza Women, Betty Adera, highlighted the significance of the strategic plan, emphasizing its role in driving positive change in the region and beyond.

“Today is about setting a course, defining our path and recommitting ourselves to a vision of progress and prosperity for everybody. It’s about harnessing our collective strength, passion and determination to create meaningful change in our communities.” She said.

She reiterated the association’s commitment to empowering women, youth, and people with disabilities, addressing the various challenges they face.

“We are here because we recognize the challenges that women, youth

and people with disabilities (PWDs) face from economic marginalization to limited access to education opportunities as well as healthcare and we are committed to addressing these issues head on,” she said.

Adera underscored the association’s achievements since its inception, including a membership of over 2,000 women from diverse professional backgrounds across the six counties of Nyanza.

“We have witnessed women become breadwinners and girls ignite change in their communities. Our efforts have focused on providing financial inclusion, education opportunities, and empowerment courses to grassroots women, thereby striving to achieve equilibrium in our society” she remarked.

Among the dignitaries who graced the event were First Lady Rachel Ruto, Spouse to the Deputy President Dorcas Rigathi, Cabinet Secretaries Eliud Owalo and Aisha Jumwa among others.

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JACARANDA
HOTEL NAIROBI



30 JUNE, 2024
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Tusker Cider Dazzles At Blankets And Wine 2024 Festivals

By: William Oloo
@themtkenyaintimes

KBL's premium apple cider, and Blankets and Wine festival official beer partner Tusker Cider lit up the 2024 edition of the live music festival with a delightful consumer experience at Laureate Gardens at Moi Sports Centre Kasarani on the 7th of April.

Blankets and Wine delivered an incredible music and fashion festival, with attendees showing up festival-ready with their shukas and folding chairs and in true Nairobi fashion serving looks and plenty of stop and stare moments.

Boyband Vijana Barubaru kicked off the line-up with a set of their fan-favourite hit tracks before passing the mic to Wanavokali who lit up the stage for guest performer, Nigerian RnB artiste Wurld. Fena Gitu delivered an ecstatic set joined by Okello Max, Kagwe Mungai and Muthoni Drummer Queen (MDQ). Blinky

Bill's set left revellers soaked but not enough to dampen their spirits or Chris Kaiga's electric set. Legend Eric Wainaina's set was an absolute crowd favourite and highlight.

Ecstatic revellers enjoyed the music and their favourite cider on tap. Tusker Cider hosted two experiential zones, one with a live DJ set manned by Shi Dj which also hosted headline act South African DJ and record producer Dlalala Thukzin, and the main arena complete with a glam station, sip and paint and photo-op areas and a live screen for revellers to enjoy performances from the comfort of their seats at the Tusker Cider lounge.

The Sunday festival was the first of a series of quarterly fetes by Blankets and Wine which is one of the biggest events in Kenya's entertainment and social calendar offering attendees the opportunity to unwind and connect in a picnic-style showcase of music, fashion and food.

Speaking at the event, Tusker Cider Brand Manager Brigid Wambua said, "The event has been a resounding success. Our consumers brought their slay and we matched their vibe.



Our intention was to bring a touch of our Tusker Cider sparkle to Blankets and Wine, and we delivered. Our consumers enjoyed the experience. We have absolutely loved partnering with Blankets and we look forward to curating even better experiences for our consumers on the next one."

Tusker Cider consumers enjoyed free face beats by the Tusker Cider glam team, complimentary merchandise for every purchase of Tusker Cider 6 pack, complimentary blankets for those who wanted to enjoy the festival from the grounds and a host of other experiences at the Tusker Cider lounge. The brand has been the official beer partner at the Blankets and Wine since 2023.

Today's Guidance

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

Today's Guidance

By: Dipa Sharma

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

Career

Today's guidance for your career suggests that you already have a clear vision of your financial goals and how to achieve them. Trust yourself when making financial decisions because you've thoroughly thought them through. You're proud of what you've accomplished so far, but you're eager to accomplish even more. This doesn't mean you're greedy or selfish; it just shows how determined and driven you are. You

genuinely love your job and are committed to reaching the top. Keep putting in hard work because your efforts are about to pay off. Today, expect your day at work to be peaceful and relaxing, allowing you to feel at ease and enjoy your time there.

Love

In matters of love, it's important to stay true to yourself and let your partner love you for who you are. They understand that you're not perfect, but they're willing to embrace and accept all your flaws. They deeply cherish and appreciate you as a person, and they're devoted to fulfilling your needs. Their care and affection for you run deep, and they believe you deserve nothing but the best in life. This person might just be the one you'll spend the rest of your life with.

Your relationship is currently in a wonderful place. Your partner sees you as the most important person in their life, treating you like royalty and showering you with love and affection constantly. They love you wholeheartedly and cannot imagine a future without you by their side. This could be the perfect time to consider

taking your relationship to the next level, perhaps even contemplating marriage.

Additionally, be open to embracing significant life changes, whether it's the arrival of a new family member or shared celebrations like birthdays or holidays. Allow yourself to welcome these experiences with open arms, as they contribute to the growth of your relationship and foster a stronger sense of family, not only with your partner but also with your friends. Remember, the love you give to each relationship is a vital part of your overall energy and contributes to the joy and fulfillment in your life.

Health

Today's guidance in terms of health advises you to pay extra attention to your well-being. If you're dealing with any significant health issues, it's crucial to strictly follow your doctor's advice. Consider taking proactive steps to secure your future health, such as opening a retirement account or adopting a new diet and exercise routine. While retirement might seem distant, planning for it now can ensure a more secure future.



Prioritize actions that will improve your quality of life both now and in the years to come.

By focusing on your health today, you'll not only feel physically strong and vibrant but also better equipped to handle your responsibilities at work and with your family. If you're involved in sports and have been sidelined due to health issues, you may soon be able to return to the field, ready to perform at your best.

relationships, know that I am with you. I understand the depth of your personal challenges, whether they stem from depression, anxiety, or grief.

But fear not, for my divine love shines upon you, illuminating your path to healing. Though there may still be obstacles to overcome, trust that a new beginning is on the horizon. Take solace in the knowledge that my love and guidance will lead you through this difficult time, bringing you peace and resolution.

Message from Lord Krishna

In the midst of your struggles, whether they be conflicts at work, financial hardships, or strained rela-

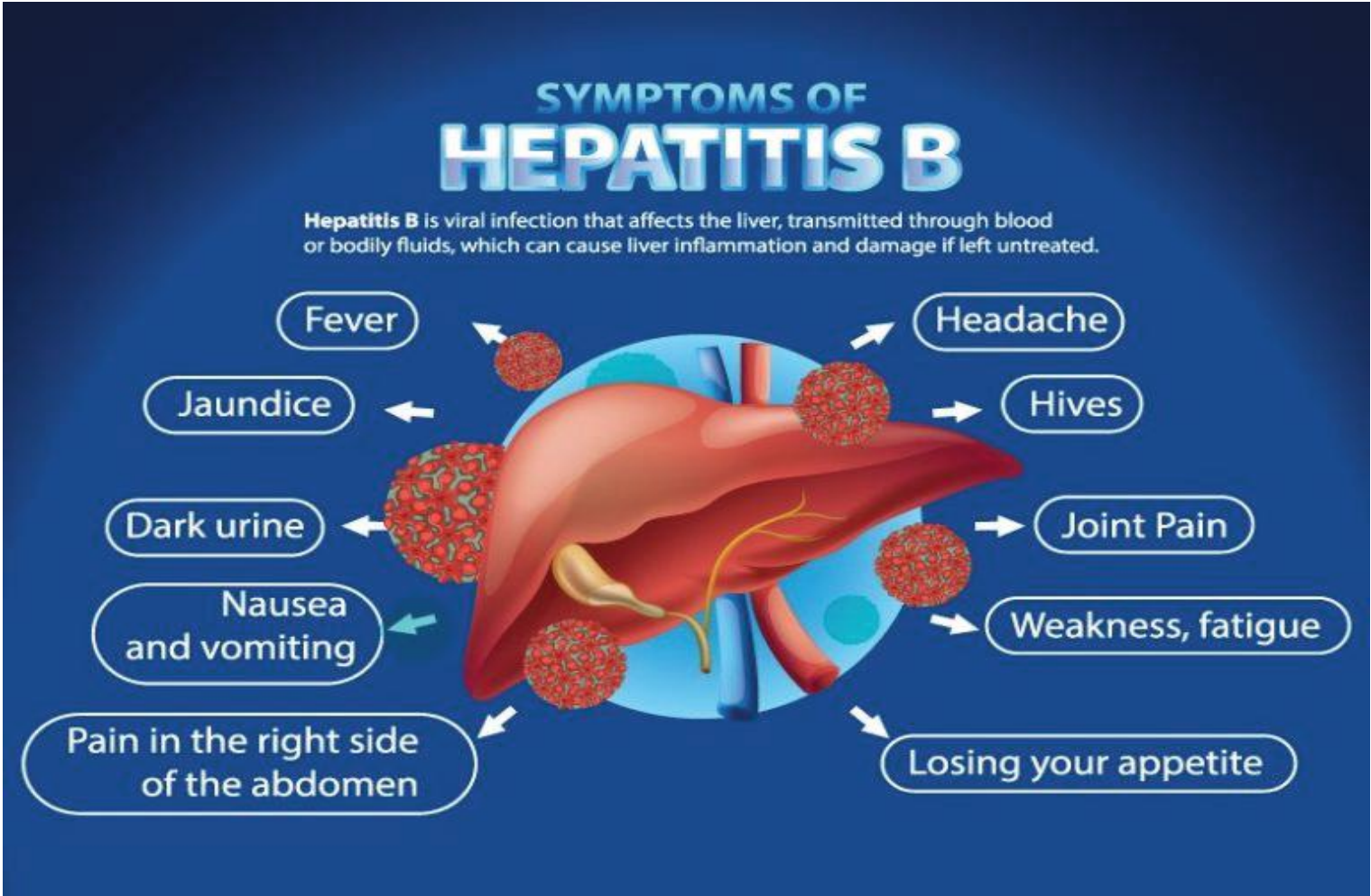
WHO: Viral Hepatitis Is The Second Leading Infectious Cause Of Death Globally

By: Beth Nyaga

Worth Noting:

The report outlines a series of actions to advance a public health approach to viral hepatitis, designed to accelerate progress towards ending the epidemic by 2030. They include:

- expanding access to testing and diagnostics;
- shifting from policies to implementation for equitable treatment;
- strengthening primary care prevention efforts;
- simplifying service delivery, optimizing product regulation and supply;
- developing investment cases in priority countries;
- mobilizing innovative financing;
- using improved data for action; and
- engaging affected communities and civil society and advancing research for improved diagnostics and potential cures for hepatitis B.



According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2024 Global Hepatitis Report, the number of lives lost due to viral hepatitis is increasing. The disease is the second leading infectious cause of death globally — with 1.3 million deaths per year, the same as tuberculosis, a top infectious killer.

The report, released at the World Hepatitis Summit, highlights that despite better tools for diagnosis and treatment, and decreasing product prices, testing and treatment coverage rates have stalled. But, reaching the WHO elimination goal by 2030 should still be achievable, if swift actions are taken now.

New data from 187 countries show that the estimated number of deaths from viral hepatitis increased from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022. Of these, 83% were caused by hepatitis B and 17% by hepatitis C. Every day, there are 3500 people dying globally due to hepatitis B and C infections.

“This report paints a troubling picture: despite progress globally in preventing hepatitis infections, deaths are rising because far too few people with hepatitis are being diagnosed and treated,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “WHO is committed to supporting countries to use all the tools at their disposal – at access

prices – to save lives and turn this trend around.”

Updated WHO estimates indicate that 254 million people live with hepatitis B and 50 million with hepatitis C in 2022. Half the burden of chronic hepatitis B and C infections is among people 30–54 years old, with 12% among children under 18 years of age. Men account for 58% of all cases.

New incidence estimates indicate a slight decrease compared to 2019, but the overall incidence of viral hepatitis remains high. In 2022, there were 2.2 million new infections, down from 2.5 million in 2019.

These include 1.2 million new hepatitis B infections and nearly 1 million new hepatitis C infections. More than 6000 people are getting newly infected with viral hepatitis each day.

The revised estimates are derived from enhanced data from national prevalence surveys. They also indicate that prevention measures such as immunization and safe injections, along with the expansion of hepatitis C treatment, have contributed to reducing the incidence.

Global progress and gaps in diagnosis and treatment

Across all regions, only 13% of people living with chronic hepatitis

B infection had been diagnosed and approximately 3% (7 million) had received antiviral therapy at the end of 2022. Regarding hepatitis C, 36% had been diagnosed and 20% (12.5 million) had received curative treatment.

These results fall well below the global targets to treat 80% of people living with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C by 2030. However, they do indicate slight but consistent improvement in diagnosis and treatment coverage since the last reported estimates in 2019. Specifically, hepatitis B diagnosis increased from 10% to 13% and treatment from 2% to 3%, and hepatitis C diagnosis from 21% to 36% and treatment from 13% to 20%.

The burden of viral hepatitis varies regionally. The WHO African Region bears 63% of new hepatitis B infections, yet despite this burden, only 18% of newborns in the region receive the hepatitis B birth-dose vaccination. In the Western Pacific Region, which accounts for 47% of hepatitis B deaths, treatment coverage stands at 23% among people diagnosed, which is far too low to reduce mortality.

Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam, collectively shoulder nearly two-thirds of the

global burden of hepatitis B and C. Achieving universal access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in these ten countries by 2025, alongside intensified efforts in the African Region, is essential to get the global response back on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations for accelerating hepatitis elimination

The report outlines a series of actions to advance a public health approach to viral hepatitis, designed to accelerate progress towards ending the epidemic by 2030. They include:

- expanding access to testing and diagnostics;
- shifting from policies to implementation for equitable treatment;
- strengthening primary care prevention efforts;
- simplifying service delivery, optimizing product regulation and supply;
- developing investment cases in priority countries;
- mobilizing innovative financing;
- using improved data for action; and
- engaging affected communities and civil society and advancing research for improved diagnostics and potential cures for hepatitis B.

Mega Growth Launches New Logo, Refreshed Afrocentric Pack And ‘Goodbye Hair Breakage’ Campaign

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyaticimes

Mega Growth, a leading innovator in hair care products and solutions, is thrilled to announce the launch of its exciting campaign, ‘Goodbye hair breakage’, that will help women aged between 25 to 45 years, avoid hair breakage and have their hair stay healthy from the scalp to the ends. This campaign is derived from deep believe that strong healthy hair is not just about external care but also about the internal bonds that make each and every strand. “Mega Growth is more than just a hair solution, it is a companion that understands and nurtures the unique needs of the African woman, and walks with her the journey to strong beautiful hair”

Speaking during the announcement event held at Argyle Grand Hotel, Hair Care Brand Manager, Margaret Muriithi, noted that the Mega Growth range of hair care products, containing natural oils and proteins, is research backed and is designed specifically to strengthen the African hair, protecting it against breakage.

“We understand the unique challenges faced by today’s African woman when it comes to achieving healthy and beautiful hair. That is why our scientists have been continuously researching to find out the causes of hair breakage and develop innovative solutions,” said Margaret. “That is why today we are excited to announce this new campaign centred around our range of Relaxers, Daily Break Free leave in strengthener, Deep Strengthening treatment, Oil and lotion products, all backed up by cutting edge research, and now in a new refreshed Afrocentric pack, that will help strengthen the beautiful African Hair, natural or relaxed, and avoid breakage.”

The campaign, “Goodbye Hair Breakage” will feature a new TV Commercial and key visuals aimed at communicating the functional attributes of Mega Growth. This message will be disseminated in various channels such as trade, OOH, salons countrywide, TV and digital media platforms.

Alongside the campaign, a brand-new logo for the Mega Growth brand and new refreshed packs for the range were unveiled. The new packs are Cleaner and Afrocentric, graced by



Mega Growth Models Maureen Wambui, Lydia Konjit, Teri Maina and Cynthia Mutai.

beautiful African girls. It is also crisp with reduced clutter that depicts clear variant differentiation and is proudly able to compete and stand out with contemporary competitors.

Margaret also noted Mega Growth’s commitment to providing quality products backed by research as a strong player in the hair industry.

The new Mega Growth collection will be available for purchase in

cosmetic shops, leading supermarkets and selected salons countrywide from mid-April 2024.

Africa Data Centres And DPA Southern Africa (SA) Breaks Ground On Solar Farm In Free State

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyaticimes

The objective of the Free State farm is to furnish renewable energy to Africa Data Centres sites, commencing with its cutting-edge, carrier-neutral data centre in Cape Town, the CPT1 facility

Africa Data Centres and DPA SA have broken ground on their solar farm in the Free State; The first phase will see power getting wheeled to its CPT1 facility; The second phase will see power being supplied to JHB1 and JHB2 once wheeling agreements with relevant municipalities conclude.

Africa Data Centres, a business of the Cassava Technologies group, is pleased to announce that it has broken ground on the construction of a

solar farm in the Free State in collaboration with DPA Southern Africa.

This announcement forms a crucial component of the 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) inked in March 2023 with DPA Southern Africa a joint company of the French utility, EDF. The objective of the Free State farm is to furnish renewable energy to Africa Data Centres sites, commencing with its cutting-edge, carrier-neutral data centre in Cape Town, the CPT1 facility.

According to Cassava Technologies’ President and Group CEO, Hardy Pemhiwa, “This initiative positions Africa Data Centres as a trailblaser in the data centre industry in responding to South Africa’s energy crisis through sustainable technology solutions. This is in line with a broader industry shift towards innovative, eco-friendly practices. The strategic use of solar power showcases technology’s role in pioneering solutions

for energy challenges and environmental sustainability”.

Furthermore, Tesh Durvasula, CEO of Africa Data Centres, underscores the commitment to powering all data centres with clean, renewable energy sources. “Today’s announcement represents a significant stride in our initiative to energise South African data centres sustainably, advancing our objective of achieving carbon neutrality. The first phase involves constructing the 12MW solar infrastructure to power our Cape Town data centre, with subsequent phases extending to our Johannesburg data centres.”

Nawfal El Fadil, the CEO of DPA SA, states, “Africa Data Centres, as a pioneer in the data centre industry, has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability, aligning seamlessly with our company’s values. We are thrilled and honoured to contribute to Africa

Data Centres’ mission of achieving carbon neutrality, beginning with the establishment of this solar power plant in the Free State to serve their data centre in Cape Town. At the heart of our collaboration lies a shared understanding that the path to carbon neutrality extends beyond infrastructure—it demands innovation, expertise, and collective determination to overcome challenges. DPA SA, backed by EDF’s legacy, brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record in delivering high-quality, sustainable energy solutions to this partnership.”

“We take immense pride in supporting Africa Data Centres on this journey, being among the pioneers in launching a wheeling solar plant, thereby paving the way for a greener, more sustainable future in South Africa,” adds Nawfal El Fadil.

This project is a key element of Africa Data Centres’ ambitious plans

to emerge as the most sustainable colocation provider on the continent. “Beyond procuring renewable energy, our commitment to an efficiency strategy has earned us the internationally recognised ISO50001 certification for the effective operation of our data centres,” Durvasula elaborates.

“Data centres worldwide face scrutiny for their reliance on grid power and renewables, and Africa is no exception. Africa Data Centres is actively addressing this issue by generating renewable energy, alleviating strain on the local grid. Additionally, our sustainability objectives encompass achieving net-zero status at all facilities, making this project another significant stride towards reaching that goal,” concludes Durvasula.

How Devolution Has Transformed Rongo Market

By: Ken Austine
@themtkenyatimes



Rongo Market .

Worth Noting:

- With the benefits of devolution, Rongo modern market has set a base for new investments. It's a small urban centre with all tar roads, cross-crossing the entire town. Financial institutions like Kenya Commercial Bank, Cooperative Bank have seen the potential. This was unlike before the devolved government whereby there were poor infrastructural services which hindered town services.
- For Benter Aoko from Kokuro village who is also a business woman at this market, she explains to me how her life has changed since the devolved government took part in investing in Rongo modern market. "Since I started selling here my life has greatly improved first, I have been economically empowered. Furthermore, I have been able to take my children to school as a result of my tireless efforts to this my small scale business of selling fish," Benter remarks.

Once a modest trading hub nestled a midst rural landscape, Rongo Market has undergone a remarkable changes on the face of devolution resulting to its rapid growth as a great commercial town.

As the first light of dawn breaks over from the eastern horizon casting the rays of hope and opportunity upon the bustling streets of this market, I get the opportunity to interact with several determined traders both group of men and women who refer to themselves as 'early raisers' since at this wee hours of the morning they have already open their shops at the same time, spreading their varied commodities on the open air market awaiting for customers with an aim to make their ends meet.

Dorothy Aluoch who has over 10 years of experience as a fish seller in this market narrates to me how they have been able to reap big from the fruits of the devolved government brought about by the promulgation of the new constitution of Kenya 2010. "Previously, we traders in this market underwent several challenges for instance, we could just sell on the open market whereby we were hit directly from the sun and being that some of the goods like fruits are highly perishable, we used to incur massive losses. Fortunately, today if you look around you're able to see the modern market stall which has sheltered many of us from the scorching sun and also rainfall," says Dorothy.

She adds that within the stall is very convenient and strategic since customers can easily locate the differ-

ent types of commodities with ease. Therefore, helping in minimising time wastage when looking for commodities to purchase.

With the benefits of devolution, Rongo modern market has set a base for new investments. It's a small urban centre with all tar roads, cross-crossing the entire town. Financial institutions like Kenya Commercial Bank, Cooperative Bank have seen the potential. This was unlike before the devolved government whereby there were poor infrastructural services which hindered town services.

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She adds by seconding her fellow's Dorothy's initial remarks by thanking the county government of Migori headed by his excellency governor Ochillo Ayacko for catering the needs of sellers by establishing market stall for them and in ensuring there is effective solid waste management in the market. "We are operating and selling our products in a very neat place since market cleanliness is ensured for us on a daily basis. Moreover, there is maximum

security in our working environment since this has been achieved through the installation of street lighting," Benter explains.

Joseph Ojwang, chairperson of Rongo modern market who has a vast experience in providing the market leadership and research says that for a long time they have had a good relationship between the local traders and the county government officials of which as a result of this good relationship, their grievances have been addressed accordingly by the officials from county government of Migori. Furthermore, he is pleased with the steps the county government of Migori is making in improving the condition of Rongo modern market. "The county government of Migori has ensured there is adequate and sustainable clean water supply within the market, this has boosted the level of sanitization within the town thus, freeing us from diseases such as cholera. In addition to that, unlike before devolution whereby the whole Rongo district had only one health facility which was Rongo District Hospital by then, today many health facilities privately owned have mushroomed within the town such as Royal, Ludopharma name them which serve the residents from the adjacent areas," denotes Joseph.

With the immense population increase within the town, many traders have opted in selling their products along the highways which is against the laws of National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA). Therefore, Mr. Joseph Ojwang is plead-

ing with the county government of Migori to allocate for them an alternative land which will encompass new traders to reduce trade along the highways as this will help in combating road carnages.

However, despite the benefits brought about by devolution, Dorothy Aluoch narrates to me how they have also incurred low sales and profits in the post devolution era. "Initially, when we started the business we could make large profits as compared to now. With the current hard economic situation in the country, the cost of production have gone much higher resulting into hiking prices of commodities. Nevertheless, the level of customers' income have decreased since the rate of unemployment is on the rise," says Dorothy.

The traders are pleading with the national government and county government of Migori to collaborate in ensuring there is adequate resources to ease the trade and in implementation of business ideas in time as this will attract many investors both from local and foreign. In addition to that, county government should aid in the provision of loans to traders in order for them to boost their businesses. The county government should also take part in lowering trade barriers subjected to traders. For instance, through lowering of taxes charged from small scale business people.

Ken Austine is a Student journalist, Rongo University

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The 5th edition of the Kip Keino Classic World Continental tour set for April 20th at the Nyayo National stadium, has attracted olympic and world medalists in both field and track events.

5th Kip Keino Classic Attracts Olympic And World Medalists



Absa Bank Kenya Consumer Banking Director Moses Muthui presents the KES. 40M sponsorship cheque for the Absa KipKeino Classic to the Athletics Kenya President General Jackson Tuwei (R). Looking on are 100m athlete Ferdinand Omanyala, State Department for Sports Principal Secretary Eng. Peter Tum (C), 800m athlete Mary Moraa and 400m hurdles athlete Wiseman Were at the Nyayo National Stadium set to host the championship on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Kenyan meet which will be the 2nd among this year's 11 series of the world continental tour gold label, will see a rekindled rivalry in the 100m between commonwealth champion Ferdinand Omanyala who will be out to defend his title against last year's 1st runners up and olympic silver medalist Kenneth Bednarek of USA.

The 5th edition of the Kip Keino Classic World Continental tour set for April 20th at the Nyayo National stadium, has attracted olympic and world medalists in both field and track events.

Sports PS Peter Tum who graced the event reiterated the government's commitment to make this year's edition a success.

"This event is important to the Ministry of Sports. From where I sit, the future of Kenyan sports is bright and that's why we want to support events such as these. We will continue to support the

Kip Keino Classic in a big way," the PS said.

Speaking during the launch Athletics Kenya President Jackson Tuwei revealed the plans to upgrade the Kenyan meet to a Diamond League, which if granted will be the second in Africa after Rabat's event.

"We are calling on everyone to come and watch the Kip Keino Classic. This is the only race of its kind in Africa. There will be fireworks in this place (Nyayo) on that Saturday as athletes compete. To organise an event of such calibre for five editions is not easy. I want to thank the organising committee for the hard work they have put in to make this event a success for the past five editions. A big thank you to the government for their support and the ideas they have provided us, which we have included in the planning for this competition," Tuwei said.

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The meet Director Barnaba Korir urged Kenyans to turn out in numbers to support local athletes.

"Those are the athletes who will be competing and we ask all Kenyans to come and fill the stadium so that we can have a memorable event even as we think of how to host bigger events in the future," Korir said.

"We have talked to World Athletics and they have said the track is in accordance with the standards and only needs minor repairs. That is what we are undertaking and then we will be good to go," Korir added.

Olympic 200m silver medalist Christine Mboma from Namibia, reigning world 800m champion Mary Moraa and world 800m silver medalist have confirmed participation.

2016 olympic javelin champion Thomas Rohler of Germany will battle African record holder Julius Yego while Olympics hammer throw champion Wojciech Nowicki will face the 2022 World hammer throw champion Pavel Fajdeck both from Poland.

ABSA bank Kenya committed sh 40 million towards the organisation of this year's event which is the 2nd in the world continental gold tour meetings after Croatia championship which was held on 15th February.

The bank's Consumer Banking director Moses Muthui said Absa's sponsorship of the event is in line with its longstanding passion for sports.

"Absa believes in supporting Kenyan sports. Over the past 10 years, we have invested over Ksh 1.2 billion in sports including golf, athletics and football, among others. We remain committed to this endeavour because we believe your story matters," Muthui said.

Kenyan meet is divided into three categories of national, discretionary and ultimate core events. The ultimate core events which will run from 2pm include 100m for men and women, 200m men, 400m hurdles women, 800m for both men and women and hammer throw for men and women.

This year's edition will be held at Nyayo Stadium since the first one in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kip Keino Classic is making a return to Nyayo stadium which hosted the inaugural edition in 2020 amidst the COVID 19 pandemic due to the ongoing renovations at Kasarani stadium.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Host Atlas Lions of Morocco began their hunt for a 3rd FUTSAL AFCON title in style after drubbing Angola 5-2 in group A match played on Thursday night at the Prince Mouley Abdellah hall in Rabat.

Morocco Outclass Angola In Their FUTSAL AFCON Opener



Host Atlas Lions of Morocco began their hunt for a 3rd FUTSAL AFCON title in style after drubbing Angola 5-2 in group A match played on Thursday night at the Prince Mouley Abdellah hall in Rabat.

Bouyed by the home crowd, the two-time champions demonstrated their grit to defeat the determined Angolans at the fully packed Prince Moulay Abdellah Hall, with Soufian Charraoui scor-

ing a hat trick to lead the reigning champions to victory.

Helber Garcia beat Abdelkrim Anbia with a well-taken goal to silence the home crowd before Hicham Dguig’s squad responded thanks to a low shot from Idriss Raiss El Fenni.

The home crowd erupted into loud jubilation after Soufian Charraoui put Morocco ahead six minutes before halftime.

After two minutes of the second

half, Anas El Ayyane made it 3-1 with a deft dinked effort over the charging Gabriel Domingos to score Morocco’s third goal.

Just outside the area, Soufian Charraoui toe-poked a goal to double his tally and increase Morocco’s lead.

Three minutes remaining, the Holland-born player completed his hat trick to seal the victory for the pre-tournament favourites.

The Atlas Lions will next face

Zambia on Saturday, 13 April at the Salle Prince Moulay Abdellah , after Angola’s crucial match against Ghana .

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SPORTS NEWS



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Thailand Senate Standing Committee On Social Development And Children Congratulates Kate & Kiddie

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- As for, the Parliament Building or The "Sappaya Saphasathan" edifice, home of the parliament. The notion of the three worlds in Buddhist philosophy served as the inspiration for the architecture, which was created to represent an ideal of Thai culture. In order to convey its Thainess and highlight the beauty of the Chao Phraya River, the building's top features Thai architectural design in the center of the main structure.
- Since 1932, Thailand has operated under a democratic system of governance, with the King serving as the Head of State and the Constitution as the ultimate law of the land. According to the constitution, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches comprise the three branches that make up the sovereign power's parliamentary form of state administration over the people of Thailand.

We are very proud of Ms. Supanida Paosatheanpan or Kate, a 13-year-old Satriwithaya school student and Ms. Suparada Paosatheanpan or Kiddie, a 12-year-old Saisumphan school student who received the Thailand Youth Awards 2024. Who Bring Fame to the Country Award in Arts, Culture and Music category in Year 2023 from the Mr. Wallop Tangkananurak, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Development and Children, Youth, Woman, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs. This is an amazing achievement and is testament to Kate and Kiddie's hard works, dedication and passion. The annual award ceremony was on 9th April 2024 at the Parliament Building (Senate Wing), in honour of Thai Family's Day.

As for, the Parliament Building or The "Sappaya Saphasathan" edifice, home of the parliament. The notion of the three worlds in Buddhist philosophy served as the inspiration for the architecture, which was created to represent an ideal of Thai culture. In order to convey its Thainess and highlight the beauty of the Chao Phraya River, the building's top features Thai architectural design in the center of the main structure.

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There are 500 members in the House of Representatives, 350 of whom are drawn from each province's constituencies and 150 of whom are members of political party lists. Members of the House of Representatives serve four-year terms beginning on the day of the election. The Senate is made up of 200 senators who are chosen from among people who are qualified, experienced, professional, have shared interests, or have worked in a variety of societal contexts. The National Council for Peace and Order advises the King in the appointment of the Senate's 250 senators. The Senate has a five-year term that begins on the day of the Royal Command.



Ms. Supanida Paosatheanpan or Kate and Ms. Suparada Paosatheanpan or Kiddie.