



North Rift Mps Want A Fund For Banditry Attacks Victims Set Up

A section MPs from the bandit-hit North Rift region want a fund to be set up by the government for compensation of victims who loose lives and property to banditry attacks. Led by Tiaty MP William Kamket, the leaders complained that despite President William Ruto promising compensation, nothing has been effected.

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

For Adverts & Sponsorship

email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards
Daily ePAPER

Monday, April 15, 2024

No. 01023 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themtkenyatimes) [i](https://www.instagram.com/themtkenyatimes) [t](https://www.twitter.com/themtkenyatimes) themtkenyatimes



News>> Tharaka-Nithi County Recalls Health Workers On Leave

P. 8. Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, has directed all health workers in the county who are on leave to resume duty today save for those on medical leave.



News>> Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, Isaac Mwaura, John Mututho Among 26 Honoured In Eldoret For Their Work

P. 12. Pastor Dorcas Rigathi was among 26 leaders in the church and community who were recognized during the Heroes and Heroines Awards 2024 held in Eldoret Town last Friday.

Ruto Vows to Prioritize Long-Term Benefits Over Popularity

President William Ruto has emphasized his administration's dedication to making decisions based on long-term benefits rather than short-term popularity. Speaking on Sunday at St. Peter's ACK in Nyeri during the retirement service of Mt. Kenya West ACK Bishop Joseph Kagunda, Ruto highlighted the importance of leadership over popularity. "In our country, there's a tendency for leaders to prioritize decisions that make them popular. In my administration, we will continue to make tough decisions that will yield positive results in the future, even if they are initially unpopular. We were elected to lead, not to seek popularity," Ruto stated.



President William Ruto at Anglican Church of Kenya, Diocese of Mt. Kenya West at St Peter's Cathedral in Nyeri town, during the retirement service for Right Rev Joseph Kagunda, the Diocese's second Bishop.

STORY ON PAGE 9

MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE
CIRCUIT!
SARIT EDITION
28-30 JUNE, 2024
8:00AM - 5:00PM



VENUE

SARIT CENTRE
NAIROBI - KENYA

GALA DINNER

JACARANDA
HOTEL NAIROBI



THEME:

"BEYOND BORDERS: EXPLORING GLOBAL BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES"

PARTICIPATING ENTERPRISES BENEFITS:

- Strengthen Your Professional Network Connections;
- Stay Ahead of Industry Trends and Competition;
- Level up Your Existing Skills;
- Gain Insights From Keynote Speakers;
- Benefit From Different Perspectives and Fresh Ideas;

+254 724 439 949 / +254 720 918 828
+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 103 040

business@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

<https://businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Gov't Ready To Support Families Affected By Floods

By: Fatma Said
 @themtkenyatimes



Dr Isaac Maigua Mwaura

Worth Noting:

- “This has been a continuous project where we had over 100,000 households affected, and so we need the nation to be assured that we have the matter under control and we shall take the necessary measures,” Mwaura said.
- He noted that the ongoing heavy rainfall has posed several challenges, besides the displacement of whole communities, and added that the government is prepared to address them proactively.

The Government has affirmed the provision of emergency housing and comprehensive support services to families displaced by the extensive flooding affecting several regions in the country.

This initiative underscores the Government's proactive approach to addressing the immediate needs of affected communities and ensuring their safety and well-being during this challenging period.

Addressing the nation from Sarova Whitesands, Government Spokesperson, Isaac Mwaura highlighted the government's vigilant stance in monitoring the ongoing long rainfall season.

Mwaura said the government is mobilising veterinary services and emergency feed supplies to support the affected pastoral communities, who are likely to lose

large numbers of livestock.

Acknowledging the onset of heavy and persistent rainfall alongside severe storms, as predicted by meteorological department forecasts, Mwaura emphasised the government's proactive approach to tracking these developments closely.

“This has been a continuous project where we had over 100,000 households affected, and so we need the nation to be assured that we have the matter under control and we shall take the necessary measures,” Mwaura said.

He noted that the ongoing heavy rainfall has posed several challenges, besides the displacement of whole communities, and added that the government is prepared to address them proactively.

“We are witnessing and preparing for

substantial damage to roads, bridges, educational institutions, health facilities, and residential buildings. The government has put rapid response teams on standby, to conduct repairs, and maintenance and to ensure continuity of essential services,” Mwaura said.

He further acknowledged that the livelihoods of many Kenyans, especially those in the agricultural and information sectors, are at risk. The government is initiating relief measures, including financial aid and resources to support affected individuals and families.

The Spokesperson said that large acreages of farmland are also under threat of submersion, which could ultimately impact food security, but he assured that the Ministry of Agriculture is deploying strategies and resources to mitigate

these effects, including the provision of flood-resistant crop varieties and farming advisories.

Mwaura also delved into various pressing issues affecting the country, notably the ongoing doctor's strike, where he urged the health workers to prioritise the welfare of citizens by demonstrating compassion and ending the strike.

Emphasising the importance of dialogue, he called upon all stakeholders to engage in constructive negotiations to resolve the impasse effectively.

He also addressed the surge in passport applications and collection, assuring that the government will double the number of passports it targets to issue this year to at least one million and three million digital national identification cards during the same period.

The new targets are set to be part of a new ambitious drive to make it easier for Kenyans to access these documents. Currently, there has been a backlog of 700,000 Kenyans who have been waiting to acquire passports and a similar number of IDs.

“The government is also working to raise the revenue generated from its services, which is collected on the E-Citizen digital platform at a daily average of Sh1 billion,” Mwaura highlighted.

He explained that this is important to enhance the efficiency that will get rid of corruption and gridlocks and ensure the resources are ploughed back to uplift the lives of Kenyans.

The government believes that these are realistic targets based on strategic improvements.

“Also targeted for a major boost in generated revenue is the issuance of Electronic Travel Authorisation (eta) that replaced entry visas to the country, with the government hoping for at least 5 million visitors in the medium term,” he said.

Editor's Desk



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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
 P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

28-30, JUNE 2024

MT KENYA BUSINESS

CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Organizer: Exponential International

VENUE:



Sarit Centre Nairobi - KENYA

GALA DINNER



Jacaranda Hotel Nairobi

Book Your space
NOW



- +254 724 439 949
- +254 720 918 828
- +254 713 318 438
- +254 721 103 040



business@mountkenyatimes.co.ke



<https://businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

THEME

**"Beyond Borders:
Exploring Global
Business
Perspectives"**

NEWS IN BRIEF



Police in Meru and Isiolo Counties are working tirelessly to combat transformer vandalism, a growing issue that has been disrupting electricity supply in the two counties. A security team, led by Mount Kenya Regional Manager Ariel Mutegi, has arrested three suspects, including Daudi Muithi Aritho, Vincent, and Isaack. Daudi was arrested in the evening after running off from Meru town, and the team later arrested Isaack Mureithi Kirema in a setup to buy transformer oil from an informer. The two suspects are being held at the Meru Police Station awaiting prosecution. The team also conducted a raid on Bernard Thiuru M'mbogori's house in the Igoki area, apprehending him before he could escape. The team recovered aluminium conductors, a Kenya Power 16mm service cable, and two vandalised transformer earth rods. The team is committed to arresting Vincent, suspected to be the mastermind behind the syndicate, and plans to conduct further raids on identified premises.



The government has closed down KEL Chemicals Factory in Thika town following reports of the company's involvement in the production of fake fertiliser. Agriculture Cabinet Secretary, Mithika Linturi, announced that the company's license had been revoked pending further investigations into the distribution of counterfeit fertiliser to farmers. The factory premises were declared a crime scene, and KEL will not receive payment for the bags of fertiliser they have already provided in the country until the investigation is concluded. KEL company officials have acknowledged a production mistake, indicating that 3,000 bags of fake fertiliser were manufactured from March 5 to March 10, 2023. The closure of the powder section at KEL Chemicals has led to the suspension of operations that involved mixing fertiliser, causing 150 out of the 275 employees at the company to lose their jobs. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) found that the Kelphos plus, Kelphos Gold, and NPK fertilisers produced by KEL Chemicals were found below the required standards during testing. CS Linturi emphasized the government's dedication to providing farmers with quality agricultural inputs and emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring food security.



The Government Spokesperson, Isaac Mwaura, has announced plans to double the number of passports issued this year to at least one million and three million digital national identification cards. The aim is to make it easier for Kenyans to access these documents, as there is currently a backlog of 700,000 Kenyans waiting to acquire passports and IDs. The government is also working to raise revenue from its services, collected on the E-Citizen digital platform, with a daily average of Sh1 billion. This is crucial to enhance efficiency, eliminate corruption, and ensure resources are used to uplift Kenyans' lives. Mwaura believes these targets are realistic based on strategic improvements. Additionally, the government is targeting the issuance of electronic travel authorisation (eta) to replace entry visas, aiming for at least 5 million visitors in the medium term.



The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Party has announced that it will conduct free, fair, and credible party nominations for the first phase of the primaries on March 26. Party Secretary General Cleophas Malala confirmed that the elections will be conducted electronically to ensure transparency and verifiability. He emphasised that electronic voting is a milestone in Kenya's democratic journey and called on those aspiring to be leaders to use the nominations as a platform for nurturing their ideas on leadership. Malala encouraged supporters to continue registering as members of the UDA Party, which he described as an all-inclusive national outfit. The party has also constituted the Elections Disputes Resolution Committee to resolve any disputes that may arise from the elections. The committee will listen to any disputes and come up with an amicable solution.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Ex-Governor Mwangi wa Iria Aborts Mumias Tour as EACC Pursues Him Over Ksh.140M Fraud

By: Mary Muoki



Former Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria

Worth Noting:

The DPP has recommended that the eight be charged with “a conspiracy to commit an offence of corruption in contravention of section 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, Abuse of office contrary to section 46 as read with section 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, and Unlawful acquisition of public property against section 45 (1) (a) as read with section 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act.”

Other charges preferred against the eight include “conflict of interest, dealing with suspect property, and money laundering contrary to section 3 as read with section 16 of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act No. 9 of 2009.”

Former Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria narrowly escaped arrest by EACC detectives yesterday following his interdiction alongside 7 other former county officials by the DPP over a 140 million shilling procurement fraud between 2015 and 2016.

The EACC detectives sought to arrest the former county boss in Mumias where he was attending a function with other Azimio leaders, but Iria failed to disembark from the chopper, opting to return to Nairobi instead.

On Saturday, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to charge the former county boss and seven others over irregularly awarding tenders

worth 140 million shillings.

The tenders were awarded to Top Image Media Consultancy Limited and Value View Limited, contrary to procurement laws in the Financial Year 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

The DPP has recommended that the eight be charged with “a conspiracy to commit an offence of corruption in contravention of section 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, Abuse of office contrary to section 46 as read with section 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, and Unlawful acquisition of public property against section 45 (1) (a) as read with section 48 of

the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act.”

Other charges preferred against the eight include “conflict of interest, dealing with suspect property, and money laundering contrary to section 3 as read with section 16 of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act No. 9 of 2009.”

Mwangi wa Iria has dismissed the charges as trumped-up allegations meant to intimidate and breach his rights, vowing not to be cowed by the interdiction.

He maintains that his administration followed due diligence in awarding the tenders in question.

However, Iria was not able to join his fellow leaders at the next leg of the western tour, as they got wind of his imminent arrest when they touched down in Vihiga.

This prompted him to remain aboard the chopper and fly back to Nairobi to avoid arrest.

Azimio leaders Eugene Wamalwa and Kalonzo Musyoka criticized the attempted arrest of the former governor, accusing the government of a political witch hunt.

They warned the Director of Public Prosecution against using intimidation tactics to silence the opposition from speaking against the fake fertilizer scandal and the ongoing doctors' strike, which the opposition has indicated it will join if the government fails to address it.

“Eugene Wamalwa, DAP-K Leader, stated, ‘Today we are seeing the government resorting to threats. Our friend, the first Governor of Murang'a, Mwangi wa Iria, wanted to come here to Vihiga to pray with the Christians of PAG, but we received information that they wanted to arrest Mwangi wa Iria.’”

“Kalonzo Musyoka, Wiper Leader, added, ‘What we have seen from those in authority clearly amounts to abuse of office. They are starting to misuse their authority and bring threats. Threats cannot build a nation.’”

The leaders also warned Police Inspector General Japheth Koome against interfering with the planned demonstrations by doctors, emphasizing that it would be a disregard of the constitutionally guaranteed freedom to picket.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

NOW
OPEN

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Tharaka-Nithi County Recalls Health Workers On Leave

By: David Mutwiri and Christine Ngitori
@themkenyatimes

Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, has directed all health workers in the county who are on leave to resume duty today save for those on medical leave.

Speaking at his office in Chuka town on Saturday, Njuki disclosed that the nature of the health sector at the moment requires the presence of all the medical practitioners, hence the need for those on leave to resume work at their stations.

The governor further disclosed that a court order had suspended the strike notice by the doctors and clinical officers in Tharaka Nithi, and those who had been on a go-slow should have resumed their normal duties by Friday.

“We have instructions to take all the necessary disciplinary actions against any of the striking doctors and clinical officers who have not resumed duty by Friday, the 12th day of April 2024,” said the governor.

Njuki said the government has not received any recognition agreement with any union for Laboratory technicians, and therefore any of them who is out of duty over a purported industrial action is ill advised.

He disclosed that he has asked his officers to advertise the vacant positions of any clinical officer or lab technicians who had not reported to duty by Friday’s deadline in order to replace them with others who are willing to work under the current conditions.

The governor further disclosed that the government does not have any recognition agreement with any union for Nutritionists and Dieticians and anyone of them who will go on strike after the counterfeit union’s threat date will be considered to have absconded duty and will be replaced.

He asked the residents of the county to continue seeking medical attention in the public health facilities and to desist from following the misleading information that the health workers are on strike.



Tharaka Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki addressing the media

KMPDU, Lobby Groups Threaten To Sue IG Koome Over Doctors’ Strike

By: Joseph Wakhungu

Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) together with a number of lobby groups are now threatening to sue Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome over the ongoing doctors’ strike.

The organizations have demanded an apology from the IG following his directive to police to deal with the striking medics “firmly and decisively for becoming a public nuisance and posing a threat to public safety and security.

In a Demand letter signed by lawyer Ochiel Dudley, KMPDU, Law Society of Kenya, Katiba Institute, The Institute for Social Accountability, Kenya Human Rights Commission, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and Africa Centre of Open

Governance among others, have vowed to sue the IG for issuing the directive.

The groups argue that the directive by the IG was unconstitutional.

The group further demanded that Koome retract his directive and issue a public apology latest by 6:00 pm Sunday or he will be held personally liable for harm caused by the police to the striking and picketing medics.

Koome had earlier ordered County Police Commanders to “deal firmly and decisively” with doctors and clinical officers engaging in street demonstrations in various parts of the country.

In a statement, Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome lamented that the doctors and clinical officers have become a public nuisance.

The police directive came as the doctor’s strike enters its 5th week, eliciting varied reactions from Kenyans.



Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome .

Ruto Vows To Prioritize Long-Term Benefits Over Popularity

By: Josphat Mwangi
 @themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has emphasized his administration's dedication to making decisions based on long-term benefits rather than short-term popularity.

Speaking on Sunday at St. Peter's ACK in Nyeri during the retirement service of Mt. Kenya West ACK Bishop Joseph Kagunda, Ruto highlighted the importance of leadership over popularity.

"In our country, there's a tendency for leaders to prioritize decisions that make them popular. In my administration, we will continue to make tough decisions that will yield positive results in the future, even if they are initially unpopular. We were elected to lead, not to seek popularity," Ruto stated.

He pointed to past decisions, such as removing subsidies on petrol and maize flour, which faced public backlash but ultimately led to price reductions.

"When we removed subsidies on these commodities, we faced criticism, but now Kenyans are benefiting from lower prices. This illustrates the value of mak-

ing difficult decisions for the greater good," Ruto explained.

Accompanied by Deputy Rigathi Gachagua and other top officials, Ruto reaffirmed his government's commitment to tackling issues like fertilizer scams, promising strict legal action against offenders.

"Those involved in these corrupt practices will face the full force of the law. We will not allow them to undermine our efforts to feed the nation," he declared.

Gachagua echoed Ruto's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of combating illicit brews despite opposition from some traders.

"We cannot allow our children's future to be jeopardized by these harmful substances. We will continue to crackdown on those who endanger public health," Gachagua asserted.

Additionally, Gachagua urged individuals contesting the replacement of Bishop Kagunda to withdraw their cases, emphasizing the clarity of the church constitution.

Kagunda, who served as the Bishop of Mt. Kenya West for two decades, was honored for his dedicated service during the retirement ceremony.



President William Ruto with ACK church leaders in Nyeri on April 14, 2024. /PCS.

DP Gachagua Urges Peaceful Transition in Mt Kenya's Anglican Church Succession

By: WANGECHI PURITY
 @themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called for the withdrawal of lawsuits halting the succession process at the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Mt Kenya West Diocese following the departure of Archbishop Joseph Kagunda.

Speaking in Nyeri county on Sunday, Gachagua emphasized the importance of a peaceful transition, warning that discord during this period would only breed division among worshippers.

"I urge those who have taken legal action, now that the Archbishop is overseeing the transition, to withdraw their cases and allow for a smooth process in appointing a new Bishop," he appealed.

According to Anglican Church of Kenya protocols, 16 representatives,

selected by the governing council consisting of the House of Bishops, the Clergy, and the Laity, are tasked with electing the next bishop.

The court intervention came after a church member challenged the transition process, arguing that the leadership failed to initiate the required steps for electing a new bishop, which should have occurred by April 15, 2024, following Bishop Kagunda's retirement after two decades of service.

Bishop Kagunda previously faced controversy after a legal dispute involving three priests suspended over alleged homosexuality in 2018. They were later reinstated by court order, with the bishop instructed to assign them to various parishes in Othaya and compensate them with Sh6.8 million.



President William Ruto, his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders at a church service in Nyeri on April 14, 2024. /PCS.

Accessing More Grace Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

I believe we are in a season when God desires the Church(His children/ His saints): to access more grace. This is a season God is opening the treasures of grace; His riches abundantly upon the church. This will cause the rising of remnants, for ordinary people to rise to become extra ordinary people in all the mountains of influence in society. I believe those who will tap into the riches of God's grace, God is going to help them do the extra ordinary. This, do NOT miss this season of accessing more grace in your life. The time we are living in has so many challenges, but it is the grace of God that will cause us to rise above these challenges, to DEMAND AND COMMAND SUPERNATURAL FRUITFULNESS

in our lives: praise the Name of the living God. Our God is unlimited, He is able to do what He desires despite what is surrounding us, no matter the circumstances: when the enemy comes in like a flood, our God is able to lift a standard against the flood of the enemy.

I believe we will all access the treasures and riches of grace: the grace for purity, the grace of holiness: and we'll not compromise, and we'll be able to rise against the flood of wickedness that has been poured by the kingdom of darkness. We'll be remnants and completely trust God to overcome.

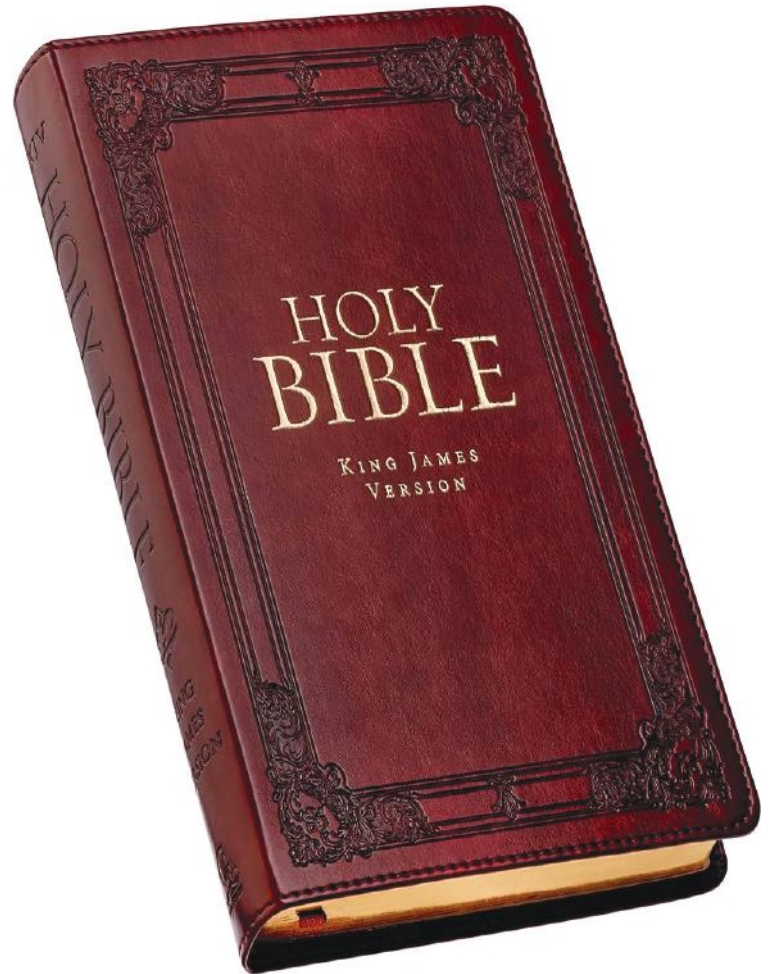
The Bible says in Zechariah 4: 6-7 "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the Lord of hosts. 7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel(Ev. Eric Musa/ you) you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone; With shouts of "GRACE, GRACE TO IT!"' no matter the opposition, no matter the resistance, God's grace is sufficient for us: say, 'I know no defeat, I know victory, I am a remnant, because Christ Jesus is the cap-

tain of this office if grace. Therefore it is important to know where you have grace and where there is a deficiency so that you can continue seeking the grace of God.

HALELUJAH, BLESSED BE GOD WHO REFRESHES AND SUPPLIES ALL GRACE.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.



Prophets In Islam

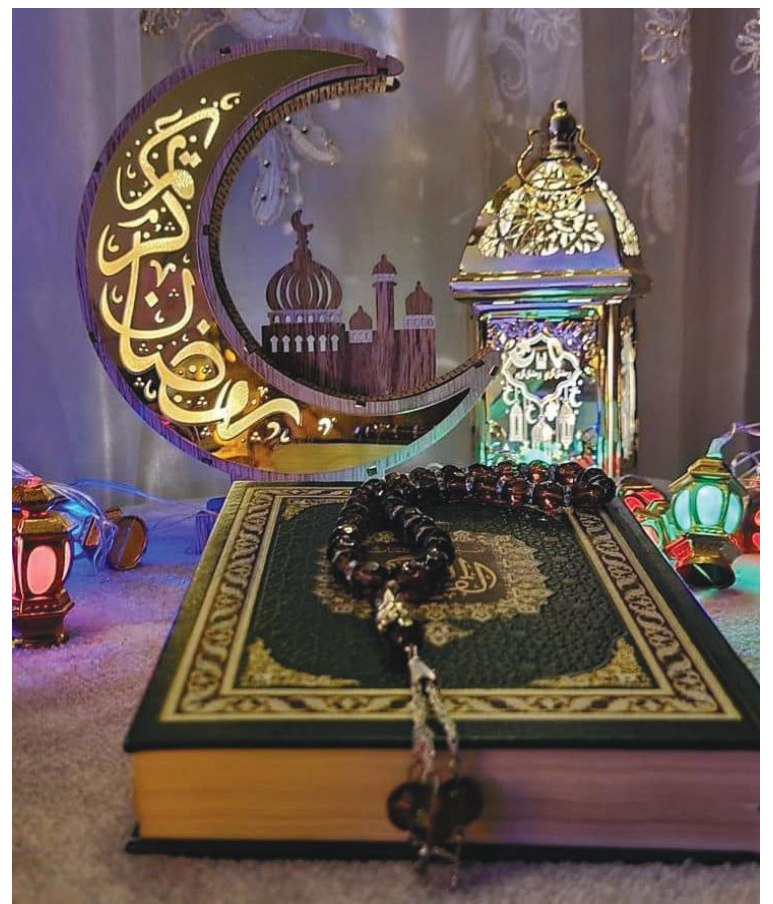


By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
@themtkenyatimes

Some sources say they are 124,000. Adam, Idris, Noah, Hud, Saleh, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Yusuf, Lot, Ayyub, Zulkifl, Yunus, Moses, Harun, Shuaib, Elijah, Alyasa, David, Solomon, Zachariah, Yahya, Jesus and Muhammad Names of Prophets are mentioned. The names of most of the Prophets are also mentioned in the Torah and the Bible. Adam (as) is the first of the prophets, and Muhammad (pbuh) is the last. Prophets are considered free from any sins. In the Qur'an, the name of Muhammad was revealed 4 times, the name of Moses 136 times, the name of Jesus 25 times, and the name of Noah 43 times.

[Kholturayeva Ugiloy daughter of Urol]

"I miss my brothers," said Prophet Akram, and when the companions heard this, they asked, "Are we not your brothers, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "You are my friends, my brothers did not leave Islam even when they faced the severe trials of the end times." he answered, "thousands". Again, the words to his companions, "You are living in such a time that the one who leaves one tenth of the commandment will perish, but the time will come when the one who fulfills one tenth of the commandment will also be saved" also belong to the Prophet of the end times. ...



Why A New Petition Challenging Ruto's Affordable Housing Plan Is Doomed To Fail?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto Launches The Mavoko Affordable Housing Project in Machakos County

Worth Noting:

- The judges did not however see this as a serious anomaly and that is why they allowed the government to continue collecting the levy. The court also gave the national assembly time to review and address the grey areas.
- This was done. In exercise of constitutional power conferred, the President Ruto consequently assented to the new law.
- This is the law that Omtata group is challenging. I would not expect them to succeed. Reason? The judiciary cannot turn around and denounce their earlier decisions.
- If they do this, they know Kenyans will further lose trust and confidence in judicial processes.

President William Ruto's affordable housing plan is facing new legal hurdles.

A petition filed by 22 senators led by Okiya Omtata and 7 activists seeks to overturn a new housing Bill that Dr Ruto assented to recently.

The main ground cited by the petitioners is that the Commissioner-General of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) is not legally mandated to collect the new tax. This brings me to fore the question. What is role of the head of KRA? The other question is. How come Omtata did not cite this ground in his earlier petitions?

My understanding of the law is that the holder of office of KRA is allowed to collect all taxes/levies introduced by the national government of Kenya.

The housing levy is not exception but here I stand to be corrected.

Yes, it is true that a three-judge bench of the High Court had earlier faulted the law enacted previously.

The judges did not however see this as a serious anomaly and that is why they allowed the government to continue collecting the levy. The court also gave the national assembly time to review and address the grey areas.

This was done. In exercise of constitutional power conferred, the President Ruto consequently assented to the new law.

This is the law that Omtata group is challenging. I would not expect them to succeed. Reason? The judiciary cannot turn around and denounce their earlier decisions.

If they do this, they know Kenyans will further lose trust and confidence in judicial processes.

When President Ruto assented to the new law, one of the mainstream print media houses published a story titled 'Ruto has his way'.

I'm sure many would agree with me that this headline was totally misleading.

It is the people of Kenya who had won but not President William Ruto.

Let me explain why? The plan to roll-out affordable housing was one of the key highlights of Kenya Kwanza manifesto.

During the campaigns, Dr William Ruto, the coalition's presidential candidate, minced no word in assuring Kenyans that he would implement this plan to the letter and spirit.

If Kenyans were opposed to this plan one would not have expected them to elect Dr William Ruto.

The new Bill had been enacted by parliament as required by the law. The State had earlier scored big after it managed to convince the benches of the High Court and Court of Appeal to struck out the petitions filed by those opposed to the Housing plan.

This had demonstrated the commitment of President William Ruto to walk the talk. His fidelity to the constitution has up to date remained beyond reproach.

As law making body, parliament kicked off the process by conducting public participation. After collecting and collating the views of the public, the relevant house committees drafted the bill. The bill later sailed through. Of 199 members present, 141 voted in support of the bill while 66 rejected it.

As required by the law, the bill has since been forwarded to the Senate for concurrence. It is now a new law after the President assented to it. The same Omtata group has reinstated the case. How do they expect to win?

Just like his predecessors, President William Ruto is leaving nothing to chance in building and unveiling his legacy projects.

There is no doubt that the affordable housing plan is his signature legacy project.

The President had earlier blamed political opponents for trying to throw the spanners in the work. They are hellbent on sabotaging and derailing my development agenda.

The corrupt judicial officers were helping them to have their way after bribing and compromising them.

Their machinations are bound to fail.

A few days later, the President held a meeting with Chief Justice Martha Koome and Speaker of national assembly Moses Wetangula. The Speaker joined them later.

Sources indicated that the President

took unprecedented move when he declassified some intelligence reports which he shared with CJ. He disclosed that corrupt judges were working hand in hand with corrupt and rogue lawyers.

As the CJ, the buck stops with you. The people of Kenya expects you to tame members of your team. The corrupt riddled judges must be shown the door.

On his part, the President assured the CJ of his commitment to eradicate corruption in the executive.

I had earlier listened to President William Ruto's interview when he hosted journalists from different media houses at State House Nairobi. The President minced no word in responding to all the issues and questions raised.

One of the journalist told him. You rode to power on a platform of promising to respect and uphold the constitution and other laws of the land but today you are doing the opposite.

He cited the housing levy. The court declared this law unconstitutional but we have been hearing you maintaining that the levy is there to stay.

The President told him. What you are saying is not true. I have been walking the talk in terms of respecting the constitution and decisions of the courts.

On housing levy, you the people of the media are to blame for misinterpreting that ruling. The problem of unconstitutionality was indeed created by you.

That is not what the bench of the three judges stated. The bench only took issue with what they termed as discriminative aspects of the law.

This is because it is only employed people whose salaries were being subjected to a deduction of 1.5 percent.

The Judges heard our prayers and allowed the government to continue collecting the levy until January next year. This will give you an opportunity to review and align this law. You would not have expected the judges to do this if the housing levy is unconstitutional.

When the judges delivered the ruling, President William Ruto stated. We believe in the rule of law. So, my government will fully comply with the orders issued.

We will take the necessary steps to ensure this law is aligned. Dr Ruto reiterated this during interview. He said that the majority leader Kimani Ichungwah have already drafted the bill and presented it to parliament.

The president further stated. The housing plan is a noble idea whose time has come. As I speak, It has created 120,000 jobs. The job opportunities are set to increase to 200,000 and 500,000 in coming days.

The mega project resonated very well with Ruto's concept of bottom up economic model. It is designed to address two main challenges: joblessness and lack of decent houses.

The President announced that 250,000 affordable housing units will be constructed in the first phase.

At one point during a visit to Busia county, he told the 'hustlers'.

The housing project is being opposed by those employed who received a payslip every month.

They do not want 1.5 per cent to be deducted from their salaries.

The same case applies to the top leaders of the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Opposition coalition.

Each one pockets a pension of more than 1 million from the National Treasury every month.

These are the same personalities who say they love you and were ready to die for you. Really, do they?

When they oppose a deduction of 1.5 percent from their payslips, what message are they sending?

They don't care. They want you to continue being poor and to live in a state of desperation and hopelessness.

The earlier law had excluded the 'Hustlers' (those without a payslips). The judges however concurred with petitioners that this is discriminatory.

President Ruto has been reiterating the affordable housing plan is a game-changer. For the first time in our history, the sons and daughters of the hustlers will own decent houses.

This will elevate them to the class of the wealthier and rich families.

Initially Ruto's critics wanted Kenyans to believe that he was forcing the levy down their throat.

I totally disagree. The president had no legal mandate to pass this proposal into law. This power is exercised by parliament.

Constitutionally, the role of Parliament is three pronged: Legislation, oversight and representation.

The President was in fore front of drumming support for Finance Bill 2023. Does this amount to overstepping his legal mandate? No.

I would have expected Raila to be the last person to oppose this proposal. Why? During the campaigns, the house plan proposal stood out as one of his main election pledges.

If elected President, I will roll out a massive affordable housing plan. Majority of our people, who migrated to urban centers, were living in poor and highly deplorable conditions in slums. 'My government' will build decent houses for them. This is a commitment I have given to you.

Raila would add: A huge chunk of money to build these houses will come from our pockets. He would single out those employed, civil servants, state officers and other workers. The Government will deduct 1.5 per cent from the payslip of each. President Ruto's administration is collecting the same amount.

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

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, Isaac Mwaura, John Mututho Among 26 Honoured In Eldoret For Their Work

By: OSDP



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi receives her certificate and award of Transformative Leadership from the Chair of the Award Bishop Dr. Stanley Michuki (brother to the late Minister John Michuki), Bishop Dr. Eli Rop, and The Ag. DVC - Academic Affairs Rev. Prof. Diphus Chemorion. Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

- “I am struggling to imagine what would have happened in our nation if Hon. Mututho would not played his part in fighting alcoholism. Let us change our language and give our children in the streets and those lost in alcoholism better names,” she added.

- Former MP John Mututho was also recognized for his efforts in fighting alcoholism in the nation, leaving behind a legacy of ‘Mututho laws’ and ‘Masaa ya Mututho’, which most Kenyans identify with as fighting excessive drinking hours.

- “75 times in the Holy Bible, and 17 times in the Holy Quran, we are told not to take something alcoholic. 92 times in the two Holy Books, we are told to observe the Mututho hours,” said Mr Mututho.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi was among 26 leaders in the church and community who were recognized during the Heroes and Heroines Awards 2024 held in Eldoret Town last Friday.

Pastor Dorcas upon receiving the ‘Transformative Leadership Award’ told of her years’ commitment advocating for the vulnerable, and initiating initiatives to change their lives.

“I decided that I would make God bankrupt by reaching out to the vulnerable. I know we cannot make Him bankrupt, but He tells us, that He will owe debt to anyone who helps the widow, orphans and the vulnerable, and I decided to be one of them,” said Pastor Dorcas in her acceptance speech.

She also acknowledged the 22 years of support of the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua over her work since she became an ordained minister.

“I am struggling to imagine what would have happened in our nation if Hon. Mututho would not played his part in fighting alcoholism. Let us change our language and give our

children in the streets and those lost in alcoholism better names,” she added.

Former MP John Mututho was also recognized for his efforts in fighting alcoholism in the nation, leaving behind a legacy of ‘Mututho laws’ and ‘Masaa ya Mututho’, which most Kenyans identify with as fighting excessive drinking hours.

“75 times in the Holy Bible, and 17 times in the Holy Quran, we are told not to take something alcoholic. 92 times in the two Holy Books, we are told to observe the Mututho hours,” said Mr Mututho.

She pledged her support for the Boy Child Program against alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse. “Pastor Dorcas is slaying a seven-horned dragon, pray for her. I support her work. And I am also establishing a 1,000 bed capacity rehabilitation centre,” he added.

Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura was also present, and honoured for his tireless efforts in fighting for the rights of those with disability, especially those with albinism.

Spokesman Mwaura acknowledged the tireless efforts of Bishop Dr. Stanley Michuki in organizing the first of such awards in the country, honouring men and women of faith.

“You have shown great tenacity and brilliance just like your brother the late John Michuki. I faced rejection from my father from birth, when he said ‘in our family we do not have children who look like a pig’. But I had grandparents who spoke into my life because I was very talkative, and believed I would become a leader,” said Spokesman Mwaura.

He retold of his past experiences fighting for those with albinism, and their education, unawares that he would rise to become the face of government communication.

Others honoured were Archbishop Arthur Kitonga of Redeemed Gospel Church who has preached for 64 years across Kenya and in more than 100 countries of the world. He received the ‘Long Serving and Faithful Ministry Award’.

Bishop Margaret Wangari (famously known as Wangari wa - Banana)

was also recognized and awarded the ‘long serving and faithful ministry award’. She has also ministered in Kenya and other countries, and is among the most sought after preachers with Kenyans flocking her church in Banana, Kiambu County.

Others who were honoured were Bishop Dr. Henry Mulandi, Bishop Dr. Washington Ngede, Bishop Dr. William Tuimising, Bishop Dr. Wilson Mamboleo, Hon. Dr. Silas Yego, Bishop Dr. Patrick Mungai, Rev Dr. Macmillan Kiiru, Dr. Grace Manjao, Bishop Dr. Gerry Kibarabara, and Bishop Dr. Armstrong Chege.

Bishop Dr. Isaac Wawire, Prof. Dr. Nathan Kahara, Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba, Bishop Dr. Eli Rop, Bishop Dr. Stanley Michuki (Chair of the Awards), Prof Charles Mully, Apostle Kimani William, Bishop Dr. Zablon Malema, Rev. Dr. Mary Njaramba, Rev. Dr. Judy Mbugua, and Bishop Dr. Jackson Kosgei.

All Set For UDA Party Nominations

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Party has assured of free, fair, and credible party nominations slated for later this month.

Party Secretary General Cleophas Malala said all was set for the first phase of the primaries slated to commence on March 26, which he assured will be above board

He said the elections will be conducted electronically to ensure transparency and verifiability.

“These are going to be the first grassroots elections to be conducted on a digital platform in all the polling stations,” he stated.

Speaking in Embu County at the 62nd edition of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festivals contest, Mr. Malala said electronic voting was an achievement and a milestone in the journey of democracy for Kenya.

“That should be celebrated, and peo-

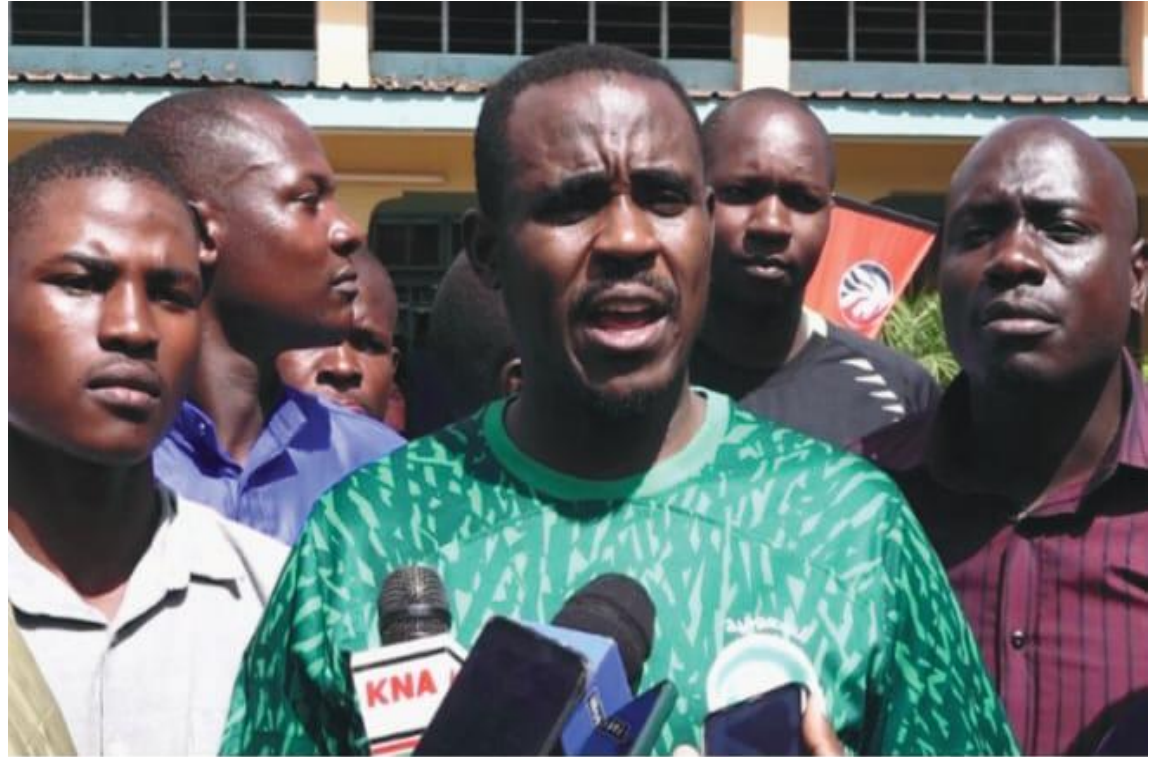
ple should be confident that we are going to conduct credible grassroots elections,” Malala said.

He called on those aspiring to be leaders to use the opportunity of the nominations as a platform for nurturing and incubating their ideas on leadership.

The UDA SG encouraged their supporters to continue registering as members of the UDA Party, which, he said, was a national outfit that is all inclusive and not ethnic-based.

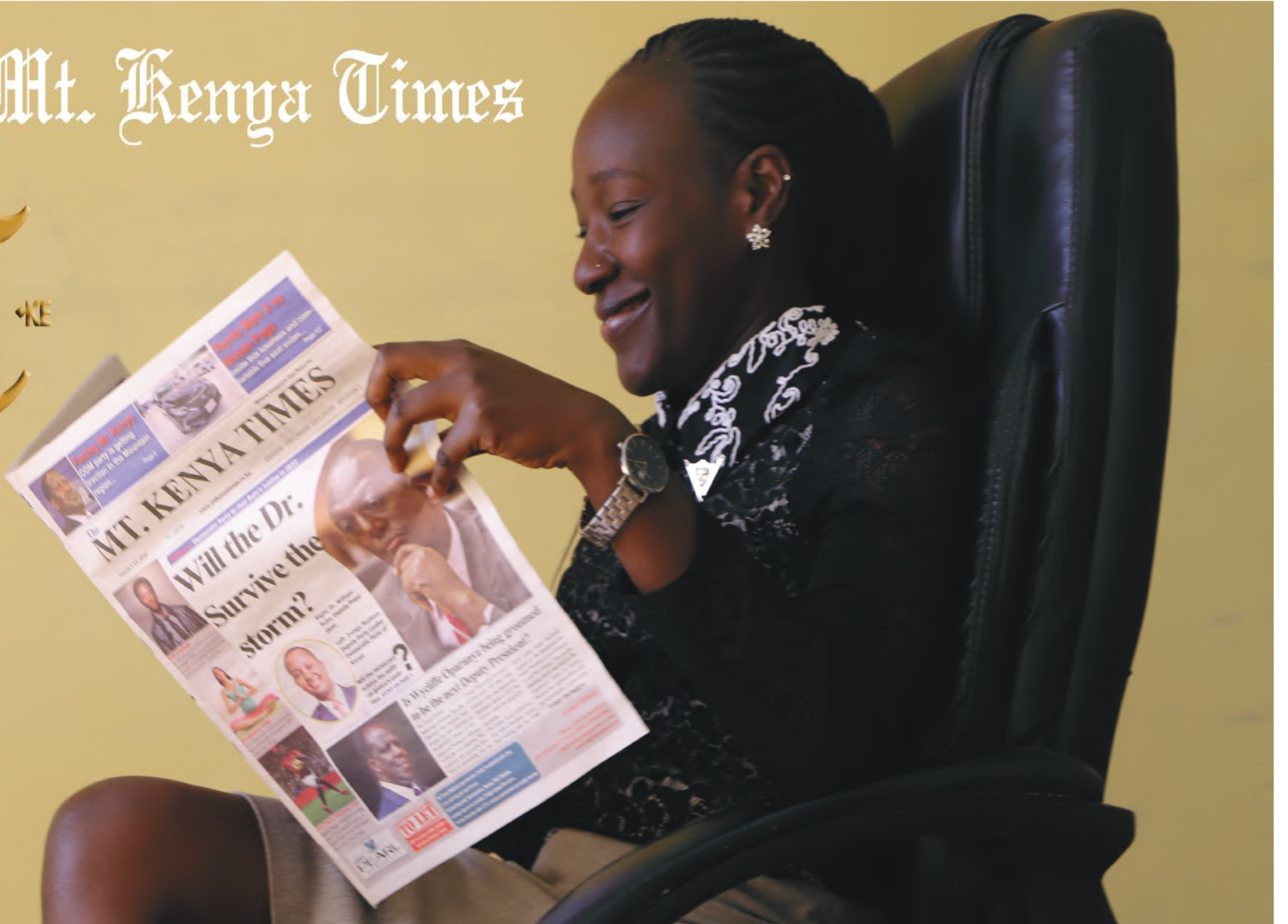
Additionally, Malala said they had constituted the Elections Disputes Resolution Committee to amicably sort out any disputes that may arise.

“It is a quasi-judicial organ in the party that will listen to all disputes that may arise out of the elections and come up with an amicable solution,” he stated.



Party Secretary General Cleophas Malala .

The Mt. Kenya Times



Sparks Of Hope

I love writing poetry from the heart,
 Inspiration is from a good heart.
 So that my poems may be lovely,
 I ask from the flower, from the clouds.
 My heart is lying on a white paper,
 My eyes rejoice when I write a poem.
 Like my teacher, Miss Zulfiya,
 I love my people.
 My hopes are opening up,
 Lovely heart, heart to write poetry.
 The pleasure of creativity is happiness
 itself,
 I need to justify this feeling.

Shodiya Otanazarova



Creative



The heart of a creative person is very
 delicate
 The words on his tongue are slurred
 Ice melts from warm words
 There is love in his heart

Don't think it's easy, people of creativity
 It's a pain in the ass
 Being humble and polite
 He has a fiery passion in his heart

The garden of the creative mind is calm
 There is no room for hatred in him
 Eternal joy in the garden

The artist does not allow grudges

There is a wide world of creative people
 Diamond fields and crystal stones
 It is valued as equal to gold
 Every tear from his eyes

Every drop that flowed from the eyes of
 the artist
 Dwarf stars in the garden of the heart
 Life is worth giving
 Zulfiyakhanim's blessed footprints.

👉 Husnida Olimjonova

Husnida Olimjonova is the daughter of
 Abdulaa

20312. in 2005. I was born in Jamashuy
 Township, Mingbulok District, Namangan
 Region.

I know English and Turkish. My poetry
 books "Shukrona" and "Farishtam Onam"
 have been published.

I am taking a course in English at the
 educational center "Ta'lim Yöli".

Unforgettable Moment



English. I had difficulties at the beginning,
 I got a little bored and a headache
 because I read so hard. I was afraid
 that I would not be able to justify my
 parents' trust. Finally, the time of the
 exam has come. I passed my tests.
 When I left, my parents and relatives
 were waiting outside. Finally, the answer
 came out, I became a certificate holder
 with 53 points, and at that time there
 was no one happier than me, and it was
 the happiest day of my life.

Suvonova Munisa Abrorovna.
 He was born on January 6, 2006 in the
 city of Navoi, Navoi Province. Multilevel
 certified. He is very interested in
 recording. Expressive reading of
 poems, monologues, stories is a hobby.
 The city is an active participant and
 winner of 2nd and 3rd places in many
 competitions held in the regions "Poetry
 Manifestations". Social networks:
 Freelance creator with his own audience
 and followers on Instagram, Telegram
 and Facebook.

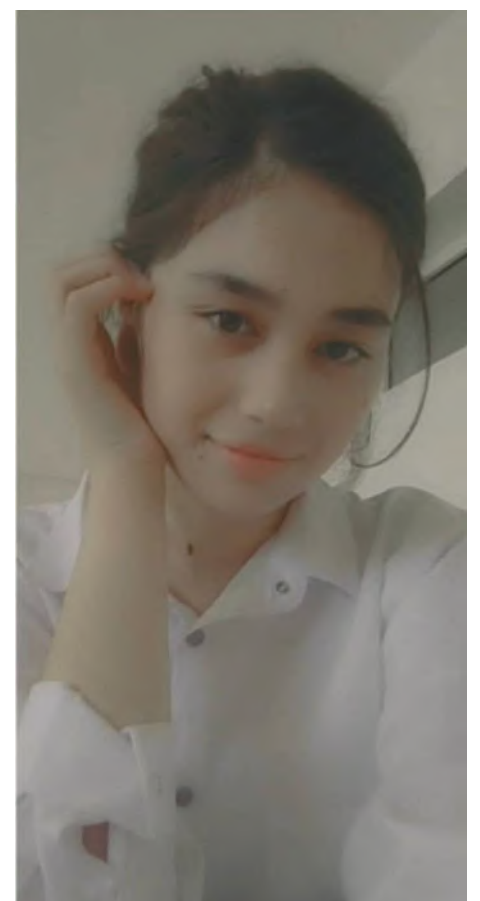
It was when I was studying in the 10th
 grade. I realized that I was spending
 a lot of time on my phone because I
 was so attached to it. One day, I looked
 around and saw that all my peers were
 reading books, participating in some
 online contests and getting various
 achievements. I really wanted to be
 like them. suddenly my way opened and
 I started making friends with them. I
 read books, if I used the phone for other
 purposes before, now I have a habit of
 spending it on more useful activities.
 And I found out that many students
 have already started preparing for the
 institution of their choice in the future. I
 also chose one of the universities. And I
 started studying to get a certificate in

Coincidence

Man gets closer to himself in every trial
 and every journey. Meetings become
 part of the pen. Therefore, each meeting
 connects the story of the trials. Someone
 comes into your life at an unexpected
 place and at an unexpected time, someone
 leaves your life. And you are on your
 way to your own story. You will realize
 that the path full of chance and trials is
 working for you. In this world, not even a
 leaf moves without a reason, even the
 wind has something to say to you. Only if
 your heart is calm and you are ready to
 start life!

Samarkand region, Urgut district, Kenagas
 neighborhood.

Nasimova Rukhshona Sanjarovna, 1st
 year student of the Faculty of Uzbek
 Language and Literature of Tashkent
 International Financial Management and
 Technologies University
 We wish them great success in their
 future endeavors!



DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

BUSINESS

KEPSA Launches Carbon Market Guidebook For Kenyan Enterprises

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Wandaka also noted that KEPSA acknowledges the recent legislative amendments and international agreements geared towards bolstering the country's engagement in carbon markets. Notably, is the 2016 Climate Change Act that underwent amendments last year to integrate carbon markets into the mainstream.
- KEPSA has played a pivotal role in spurring green investments through initiatives such as co-chairing the Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals (P4G) national platform with the National Treasury. Through this platform, the organization has facilitated the implementation of 14 partnerships aimed at promoting sustainable practices, including the Partnership for New Plastics Economy in Kenya and Sustainable Special Economic Zones (SSEZs).



Ms. Susan Maingi – Chair, KEPSA Trade & Industry Sector Board; Mr. Stephen Odua - Director of Business Environment, Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry; Dr. John Wandaka - Vice-Chair of KEPSA Environment, Water & Natural Resources Sector Board; H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo - Chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Council of Governors; and Mr. John Elungata - Secretary for Administration, State Department of Environment and Climate Change during the launch of the Carbon Market Guidebook for Kenyan Enterprises by KEPSA and the World Bank at Radisson Blu Upper Hill, Nairobi..

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), in partnership with The World Bank, yesterday launched the Carbon Market Guidebook for Kenyan Enterprises at a stakeholder-engaging event in Nairobi.

The guidebook aims to provide step-by-step guidance for Kenyan enterprises in various industries including; agriculture, waste environment, forestry, trade, banking, insurance, manufacturing, energy, transportation, construction, and hospitality to navigate the complex and fast-evolving landscape of carbon markets.

“Carbon markets offer an alternative financing avenue that can empower enterprises struggling to access traditional climate finance,” noted Dr. John Wandaka - Vice-Chair of KEPSA Environment, Water & Natural Resources Sector Board during the launch while adding that funding constraints hinder their ability of Kenyan enterprises to contribute meaningfully to climate action.

Dr. Wandaka also noted that KEPSA acknowledges the recent legislative amendments and international agreements geared towards bolstering the country's engagement in carbon markets. Notably, is the 2016 Climate Change Act that underwent amendments last year to integrate carbon markets into the mainstream.

KEPSA has played a pivotal role in spurring green investments through initiatives such as co-chairing the Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals (P4G) national platform with the National Treasury. Through

this platform, the organization has facilitated the implementation of 14 partnerships aimed at promoting sustainable practices, including the Partnership for New Plastics Economy in Kenya and Sustainable Special Economic Zones (SSEZs).

In his remarks, H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo - Chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Council of Governors, lauded the timely release of the Carbon Market Guidebook, noting that it aligns with the urgent need to address climate change. Governor Ottichilo added that by engaging with local governments and aligning with na-

tional climate objectives, private enterprises in the carbon markets space can contribute to emissions reduction while also fostering economic growth and community resilience.

While commending the partnership between KEPSA and The World Bank, Mr. Isfandyar Khan - Lead Financial Sector Specialist at The World Bank, noted that KEPSA provides a special linkage to the enterprise. He also pointed out the ongoing digitization efforts in Kenya and in the global market where more companies are now using digital technology in the carbon market space.

The event brought together key

stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to discuss opportunities and barriers that Kenyan enterprises face when engaging in carbon markets. Other speakers at the event included Mr. Stephen Odua - Director of Business Environment, Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry; Mr. John Elungata - Secretary for Administration, State Department of Environment and Climate Change among others.

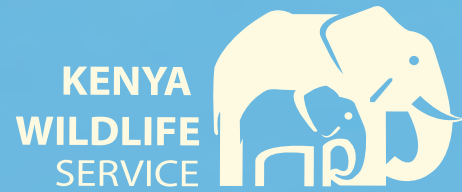
Other leaders from KEPSA who attended the event included Mr. Victor Ogallo - Deputy CEO; Dr. Jackson Koimbori - Senior Circular Economy & Climate Change Coordinator at KEPSA; Ms. Emily Waita - Chair of the Environment, Water & Natural Resources Sector Board; Ms. Susan Maingi - Chair of Trade & Industry Sector Board; Mr. John Kalungi - Vice Chair, Lands and Housing Sector Board; and Mr. Ben Roberts - Chair, ICT Sector Board.

The event also provided an opportunity for exhibitors to showcase innovative carbon market-related solutions. It also featured panel sessions on creating a policy-enabling environment for carbon markets in Kenya; and challenges and opportunities in the carbon market for Kenyan enterprises.

The Carbon Markets Guidebook provides credible information about regulations in understanding carbon credits as a way to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Find a copy of the guidebook here.



The launch of the Carbon Market Guidebook for Kenyan Enterprises by KEPSA and the World Bank at Radisson Blu Upper Hill, Nairobi.



Lake Nakuru National Park

A Beautiful Wildlife Haven



EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE • CONSERVE

   Kenya Wildlife Service | www.kws.go.ke

Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

North Rift Mps Want A Fund For Banditry Attacks Victims Set Up

By: Muraya Kamunde

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The MPs were speaking when they appeared before the Hassan Adan Yussuf-led National Assembly Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee where they made proposals aimed at amicably resolving the unending skirmishes in the bandit-prone North Rift region.
- They said that senior security officers were using banditry as a cash cow as they were minting millions of shillings in allowances from money meant for operations to counter attacks by criminals.
- Kamket said the government should forcefully drive residents from the troubled area to seek education as one way of eradicating illiteracy and banditry.
- Turkana Women Representative Cecilia Ngiti and Samburu MP Naisula Lesuuda supported the need for locals to go to school, noting that illiteracy has hindered efforts to end banditry in the region.



Tiaty MP William Kamket

A section of MPs from the bandit-hit North Rift region want a fund to be set up by the government for compensation of victims who lose lives and property to banditry attacks.

Led by Tiaty MP William Kamket, the leaders complained that despite President William Ruto promising compensation, nothing has been effected.

“The government should establish a fund where money for compensating people who lose lives and property and incur injuries following attacks by bandits would be drawn from,” said Kamket.

They pointed out that business people have also lost money and their stock to security officers who loot during operations.

The leaders questioned why the government was compensating people who lose lives through calamities such as floods and fire among others, leaving out those who suffer in the hands of bandits.

The MPs were speaking when they appeared before the Hassan Adan Yussuf-led National Assembly Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee where they made proposals aimed at amicably resolving the un-

ending skirmishes in the bandit-prone North Rift region.

They said that senior security officers were using banditry as a cash cow as they were minting millions of shillings in allowances from money meant for operations to counter attacks by criminals.

Kamket said the government should forcefully drive residents from the troubled area to seek education as one way of eradicating illiteracy and banditry.

Turkana Women Representative Cecilia Ngiti and Samburu MP Naisula Lesuuda supported the need for locals to go to school, noting that illiteracy has hindered efforts to end banditry in the region.

“If I had not gone to school, I would probably be the wife of a bandit. If we manage to educate our people we would make positive strides in the fight against banditry that has contributed to the region lagging behind in development,” she added.

Lesuuda noted that burning of schools by bandits has affected academic progress of many young people.

She asked security personnel to protect learning institutions from attacks.

Marakwet East MP Bowen Kagogo said the government was not committed to the fight against banditry.

“Security officers deployed in the area to deal with bandits were selling bullets to criminals,” he claimed.

Baringo Women Representative Sergon Jemitia said that deployment of inexperienced security officers to the area to tackle hardcore bandits showed lack of seriousness by the government to end the vice.

We have experienced situations where members of the community had to rescue such officers from the hands of the bandits,” she added.

Charles Kimuren (Baringo South) claimed that senior security officers were pocketing allowances meant for their juniors who are deployed to deal with bandits.

“Such demoralised officers’ result in selling bullets to bandits to get money for their survival in the hardship area,” he alleged.

The MPs also want a legislation that will safeguard the National Police Reservists Unit, remodel the unit, define their roles and enhance their training.

In an effort to deal with marginalisation of the region, Members resolved

that a ministry dedicated to issues of North Rift region equivalent to the Ministry of Karamoja Affairs of Uganda should be established.

The meeting also proposed that fire arms should be regulated through issuing of G3 guns to government security officers and NPRs to distinguish them from illegal gun owners.

They wanted borders of constituencies and counties clearly defined to avoid conflicts due to uncontrolled grazing.

Yussuf said the Committee was seeking partnership with donors and State Agencies to fund strategies aimed at getting a lasting solution to banditry in the region.

He commended the MPs for their input during the meeting that was useful to efforts to deal with conflicts that hampered peaceful coexistence and cohesion.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Stop Ethnic Politics In Higher Learning Institutions

Months after ethnic politics were witnessed in Moi University, leading to its closure for some weeks to stop violence among students, Rong'o University students' elections and campaigns have also based on tribal lines upon the official opening of the campaign period. That is similar to the general elections and campaigns in Kenya which also major largely on tribe rather than basing on individuals' capabilities and ideologies.

Students from Bantu community that is the Agikuyu, Akamba, Gusii, Embu, Meru and Luhya formed one coalition being led by the aspiring students leaders from those communities

driven by the slogan, "going back to Zaire" which means, going back to Zaire which is the cradle land of the Bantu community.

The Bantu community's students' leaders in Rong'o University helped in electing specific students leaders to view for various seats in different schools in the university who will contribute to the election of one of them from the Luhya community at the senate level as the students' president. An idea which is very critical as it led to conflicts with other students from the opposing Nilotes side, which compose of the Luos and Kalenjin communities who believed that be-

cause Rong'o University is located in the Luo territory, then the president should also come from the Luo community. Not accepting defeat in anything is also a culture perpetuated by students from by the Luo community in Rong'o University.

The community neighboring Rong'o University also took part in controlling the students elections and encouraging the election of a student from the Luo community to the higher seat, that is the students' president. Outsiders were also caught by security officers at various voting stations in possession of fake Identification cards and admission letters trying to vote.

The chaos and destruction of the school property upon the announcement of the election results made the school administration in collaboration with the outgoing students leaders settle on the agreement of suspending all students away from the university premises.

After a few days, the school communicated to students through a memo on resumption of studies upon fulfillment of certain outlined conditions, one of them being 100% fee payment.

That is evidence that despite living in a country that literary bled as a result of tribalism during the 2007 post-election violence, the youth still

don't understand the meaning of togetherness as a country and not as a tribe. Also, we were born in the tribes that we are referred to not by choice but by default.

It is high time that students in higher learning institutions should be educated on the importance of unity as a country and not as a tribe as a way of promoting national unity among students as they grow up into older and useful members of the society.

*By Carene Musungu.
Student at Rong'o University.*

Journalism Students Should Be Exposed To More Practicals In Universities

Journalism students should be exposed to more practicals, while theoretically knowledge is important, Practical experience is crucial for preparing students into the real world challenges they will face in the field of journalism. Journalism is a hand on profession that requires a diverse range of skills. Skills such as conducting interviews, research, writing, editing and multimedia Though engagement of practical exercises students can develop and obtain the skills under guidance of experienced professionals.

Practical exposés students into the

real world. Assignment provides the students with a taste of what the real world of journalism looks like. Practical allows students to navigate deadlines, work under pressure and to also adapt to different situations. This experience helps them understand the practical challenge and also work out the ethical considerations they may encounter in there career

Practical assignment provide opportunities because they often involve collaboration with media organisations, professional and fellow students. These interactions provide valuable networking opportunities

allowing students to build connections that can potentially build lead to internship or job offers in the future.

Practical allows journalism students to receive feedback and mentorship from experienced journalists and professors. This feedback helps the students improve their skills, identify their weaknesses and strength, Though this they are able to identify their areas of growth and gain insight into the industry best practices.

Practical assignment provide students with tangible work samples that help them in building up their portfolio. These samples demonstrates their

abilities to potential employers and increase their chances of security internships or entry level position after graduation.

To ensure effective implementation of practical, universities should invite Guest lectures and workshop by industry professionals to expose students to different aspects of journalism. They should Also arrange for collaborative projects with local media organisations to provide real world Internship programmes that allow students to work in newsrooms and gain hands on experience. There should be student run newspaper,

Radio station or online platform that offers opportunities for practical application of journalistic skills.

In summary, practical plays a vital role in preparing journalism students for realities of their profession. Through introduction of practical into universities students can develop more skills and gain exposure into the real world.

*Devina Adhiambo.
Rong'o university Writers club.*

Job Wangila

What is Rape?

It's the unlawful sexual inter course or any other sexual penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth of another person, with or without force, by a Sex organ, other body part or foreign object, without the consent of the victim.

The above description alone is more than enough for us to ask ourselves the big question why? why? why?

Sexual assault and rape are crimes

motivated by a need to control, humiliate and harm. The aftermath of this ugly and painful experience is extremely difficult to explain. The victim(s) is/are left traumatized with negative long term emotional, psychological and psychosocial pain not to mention the short term physical pain inflicted by the perpetrators of the dreadful acts. My question again is ... why? Why? why?

What has happened to society that we are behaving worse than animals.

Why do we let our female relations go through all these? By the time someone doing this act, the above is what you are doing to someone's mother, daughter, aunt, cousin.

There's this video trending people speaking in Kipsigis and I have seen people making fun of it...(sorry can't share the video)

The five men are seen laughing and talking in kipsigis as the lady screams in pain.

This breaks my heart.

It's shameful! It's traumatizing.. Five men raping a lady as she screams for help with no one helping her.

As a cop and a dad of three beautiful daughters, I will not sit down and see boys destroy lives of our sisters, daughters, mothers..

THEY MUST BE ARRESTED..

Hj Kipsigis Renaissance Network-(KRN)

The Kericho Renaissance Network. This happened in Bomet County,

Chepalungu Sub County, Sigor..

Kindly anyone with information where we can find the lady inbox me. These five Men should be arrested and prosecuted.. If we don't arrest them, they will do this to your daughter, wife, sister, mother, Aunty, grandmom or your friend.

Gone Are The Days When We Would Spend Hugely To Feed Our Curiosity



By: Peter Aowa
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Some of the most influential business people in the global economy have spent millions of dollars to feed their curiosity. A typical example is the founder of Microsoft Bill Gates who in 1994, before becoming world richest person, purchased Leonardo's da Vinci's "Codex Leicester" for \$ 30.8 million. That's approximately Ksh. 4.5 billion for a 72 - page document.

- American writer Rose Wilder Lane describes curiosity as the hunger of the human mind. This to me, is the most perfect description of the noun 'curiosity'

- Like the human body, so is the mind and while we feed the body when we run out of energy so should be the case with the mind.



Curiosity

Fujisankei Communications Group in 1989 paid Ronald Reagan, US 40th president \$ 1 million per speech. The Japanese company also requested the Ex-president to come to the country and tour. Reagan gave two speeches while there as well as speaking at media outlets and giving interviews. From the two speeches, Reagan earned \$ 2 million making him one of the World's most expensive public speakers.

In 2006 and 2007 respectively, The Learning Annex, an American education company paid Former US President Donald Trump \$1.5 million per speech for a 17-seminar conference.

These are just a few examples of some of the most expensive public speakers globally; a justification to how much an individual can pay to have their curiosity fed.

Some of the most influential business people in the global economy have spent millions of dollars to feed their curiosity. A typical example is the founder of Microsoft Bill Gates who in 1994, before becoming world richest person, purchased Leonardo's da Vinci's "Codex Leicester" for \$ 30.8 million. That's approximately Ksh. 4.5 billion for a 72 - page document.

American writer Rose Wilder Lane describes curiosity as the hunger of the human mind. This to me, is the most perfect description of the noun 'curiosity'

Like the human body, so is the mind and while we feed the body when we run out of energy so should be the case with the mind.

Most of us feed their mind just like they feed their body but the difference is in what we feed the mind. A highly nutritious food will yield a strong healthy body. On the contrary, unwholesome food will lead to a weak and unhealthy body. That's how it works with the mind.

Time when we would spend money in great proportion to learn and to unlearn is long gone

Like Alvin Tofler puts it, the illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

The new media has bridged this century gap and an individual, no matter what social class, proximity or religion is able to meet with the world's greatest men.

How would it be possible for a middle class individual in the Sub Saharan to book an appointment with Jack Ma or Warren Buffett? How

much would he spend on the flight? What about the accommodation? How much would he afford to pay for the minutes Warren Buffett will be spending to meet him?

It is without doubt, very impossible to see such a dream come to a reality. But guess what, it will cost you less than \$ 10 to have an audience with Warren Buffett through his autobiography The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life in which Buffet shares his life experience through Alice Schroeder (the writer of the book)

Platforms such as Amazon connect you to some of the world's greatest literature works. This is in addition to global networks which provide free PDF books.

In education, an individual is able to attain great skills at the comfort of their homes. Some of these skills are earned from global education networks like the Google Academy, Alison, Coursera and many others.

Coursera for example, networks learners to some of the most reputable universities in the world. An individual is able to pursue a certificate course, a Diploma Certificate or Bachelor's degree from any university globally.

One is able to vouch for financial

support upon which the individual undertakes the course to completion and is awarded a certificate without paying a coin.

YouTube has made it possible for those who learn accurately through visuals to feed their curious mind. In fact, some of these individuals have gone further to earn money from these networks, once they feed their curiosity; they share with the global village of the nuggets through these platforms.

If you ever equated ignorance to lack of good financial muscles, this is the time to summon yourself and see the opportunities that lie before us.

Make your digital living fruitful, feed your curiosity. That's the greatest way to self-growth.

Peter Aowa

A seasoned freelance journalist with deep interest in feature writing, opinion articles, analytical writing and current affairs. He holds a Diploma in communication from St Paul's University and a certificate in Corporate Strategy from The University of London

MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE

CIRCUIT!

SARIT EDITION



28-30 JUNE, 2024

8:00AM - 5:00PM



VENUE

SARIT CENTRE
NAIROBI - KENYA



GALA DINNER

JACARANDA
HOTEL NAIROBI



THEME:

"BEYOND BORDERS:
EXPLORING GLOBAL
BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES"

PARTICIPATING ENTERPRISES BENEFITS:

- Strengthen Your Professional Network Connections;
- Stay Ahead of Industry Trends and Competition;
- Level up Your Existing Skills;
- Gain Insights From Keynote Speakers;
- Benefit From Different Perspectives and Fresh Ideas;

+254 724 439 949 / +254 720 918 828
+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 103 040

business@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

<https://businessconference.mountkenyatimes.co.ke>



EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



Audit Report Flags Six Counties For Financial Mismanagement

By: Ayub Abdikadir

A report by the Auditor General has exposed financial mismanagement in six counties, revealing diversion of funds meant for service delivery, inconsistencies in financial statements, and irregular payments leading to the loss of billions of shillings in taxpayer money.

The 2022/2023 financial year report on county executives highlights incriminating findings against these devolved units.

Among the counties implicated is Tana River, where financial statements showed inaccuracies, undisclosed bank balances, stale cheques in the cashbook, and unsupported legal costs and travel expenses.

Similarly, Kiambu County faced accusations of financial discrepancies, including improper payments for undelivered goods amounting to Ksh 16,590,010 and an unexplained balance of 11,116 bags of fertilizers

worth Ksh 14,117,320.

The county also recorded an over-expenditure on appropriations-in-aid totaling Ksh 195,038,188.

Baringo County was named for irregularities such as payment of salaries, unsupported fuel, oil, and lubricant expenditures, inaccuracies in medical equipment lease rentals, and unsupported construction of roads.

Narok County also came under scrutiny for unconfirmed purchases of motor vehicles, unreconciled cash equivalents, non-compliance with guidelines on pending bills, and irregular retention of staff.

Nyamira County's financial statements exhibited inaccuracies related to cash equivalents, unreconciled transfers from the County Revenue Fund, and unsupported purchases of pharmaceuticals.

In Nairobi City County, misclassification of expenditure, inaccuracies in cash equivalents, and irregularities in project implementation were highlighted.

Additionally, the report raised concerns about Isiolo County's failure



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu during a past function. PHOTO | COURTESY.

to fully automate its revenue system and irregular payments from the emergency fund.

Mombasa County faced challenges with bank balance inaccuracies, un-

explained voided transactions, unauthorized payments, and outstanding imprests.

Marsabit County was cited for irregular transfers and lack of an audit committee, while Bungoma County

was flagged for irregular engagement of workers and failure to provide project status updates.

Hundreds Of Families Across The Country Displaced As Floods Submerge Homes

By: Laura Otieno

Hundreds of families have been displaced and scores of others marooned in flood-stricken houses in different parts of the country following the ongoing heavy rains.

Roads across Bomet and Migori counties have also been rendered impassable as floodwaters have carpeted crucial infrastructure.

This comes even as the weatherman issued a heavy rain advisory affecting 43 counties, cautioning Kenyans to remain vigilant.

Yesterday morning, floodwaters from the rain that pounded the area for the better part of the week engulfed houses in Kapuotho village, Kisumu Central.

"More than three hundred families have been marooned in the floodwaters, as they were unprepared for the

dramatic rise in water levels on Saturday night," said Maureen Adhiambo, a resident of Kapuotho. "There's nowhere even children can sleep right now.

Cooking is a challenge because you need firewood, and sometimes you don't have money for charcoal, and if you have money for charcoal, you have to cook outside because the house is flooded."

In Chimwabei village, Bomet County, the strong winds that accompanied Saturday's rain plunged the area into total darkness as electricity poles were knocked down.

"My house collapsed on one side, including the toilet, and my neighbors also suffered. There's a neighboring shop and the Catholic Church that incurred losses; the wind tore off the roofs, and many people in my village were affected," explained Stephen Gibore, a resident of Litein.

Similarly, in Migori County, access to Aneko village was cut off as flood-



waters destroyed the road, causing losses especially for fishmongers in the area. Jessica Achieng', a fish vendor in Aneko, lamented, "We are not getting any business at all.

The little money we make, we have to pay bodaboda riders to transport the fish to our customers."

"People are dying because of bilharzia, people are dying because of

amphibias, and yet we are Kenyan citizens. We demand that the President takes action on this matter because we are taxpayers," emphasized Brian Ochieng', a resident of Aneko.

The destruction comes a day after the Kenya Meteorological Department released a five-day forecast of heavy rains across 43 counties.

The coastal area is expected to experience enhanced rainfall of up to 50 millimeters a day beginning Monday. The Kenya Red Cross has also mounted a rescue operation in Konkona, Tana River County, where floods have wreaked havoc.

Legal Threats, Hardline Stances Mark Day 32 Of Doctors' Strike

By: Victoria Rubadiri



File image of doctors on strike in Nairobi on March 22, 2024. PHOTO | COURTESY.

Worth Noting:

- Kimtai stated, "If you are a parent who has taken your child to study to be a doctor, let them know we expect them to report back to their assigned stations in 14 days."
- If not, that is an individual who is no longer interested in continuing their studies in medicine."
- KMPDU Secretary General Davji Atallah responded to the situation by highlighting the demands related to the pay and posting of medical interns during the ongoing strike.
- In 2017, KMPDU signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) requiring interns to be paid Sh206,000 per month in salaries and allowances.
- However, the Kenya Kwanza government offered a Sh70,000 monthly stipend that the Union rejected.

Day 32 of the ongoing doctors' strike was laden with threats of lawsuits and ultimatums, with both the government and medics maintaining their hardline stances.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Health gave intern doctors 14 days to return to their duty stations, as announced by Medical Services Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai.

However, the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union (KMPDU) dug their heels further into the ground on the matter. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome is facing a possible lawsuit over comments he made about the doctors' strike, which has drawn the attention of the Law Society of Kenya and other civil society organisations.

As the standoff between doctors and the government spills into a second month, both sides show no signs of ceding ground.

Kimtai stated, "If you are a parent who has taken your child to study

to be a doctor, let them know we expect them to report back to their assigned stations in 14 days.

If not, that is an individual who is no longer interested in continuing their studies in medicine."

KMPDU Secretary General Davji Atallah responded to the situation by highlighting the demands related to the pay and posting of medical interns during the ongoing strike.

In 2017, KMPDU signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) requiring interns to be paid Sh206,000 per month in salaries and allowances.

However, the Kenya Kwanza government offered a Sh70,000 monthly stipend that the Union rejected.

Speaking in Chuka on Sunday, Council of Governors health committee chairperson Governor Muthomi Njuki emphasised the need to renegotiate the 2017 CBA and warned striking doctors that action would be taken after the courts declared the strike illegal.

"There was a court order, so for the doctors in Tharaka Nithi, if you are not back to work by tomorrow, Monday, then I have no choice but to replace you." He said.

Ndindi Nyoro, National Assembly Budget Committee chairperson, appealed to striking doctors to return to work while negotiations continue. He acknowledged their grievances but emphasized the country's challenging situation.

Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome's remarks were less conciliatory as he addressed the striking doctors, terming them a "public nuisance" and cautioning them "to refrain from infringing on the rights of others while demonstrating."

KMPDU Secretary General Dr. Davji Atallah criticized the IG's threats, stating they undermined the doctors' right to demonstrate and present their petitions.

Additionally, the Law Society of Kenya, Katiba Institute, Kenya Human Rights Commission, and other

CSOs demanded that IG Koome apologize and withdraw his remarks by 6 pm Sunday.

LSK President Faith Odhiambo warned that "should any unreasonable use of force be meted against doctors," the lawyers' body would take legal action to hold the Inspector General personally liable.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Union of Clinical Officers condemned the IG's comments and urged the Council of Governors to expedite collective bargaining agreement negotiations for clinical officers.

For now, the wards in public health facilities will remain empty as medics continue to fill the streets.

Fuel Prices Down By Sh10 In Kenya, Easing Burden On Cost Of Living

By: Capital News

It was reprieve for Kenyans after the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) declared a decrease in fuel prices, effective midnight Sunday until mid May.

In the new prices that effectively eases burden on Kenyans, Super Petrol, Diesel, and Kerosene will see reductions of Sh5.30, Sh10.00, and Sh18.68 per liter, respectively.

This adjustment brings the retail prices to Sh193.84, Sh180.38, and Sh170.06 per liter for the coming month.

EPRA's official statement on X page states, "During this period, the maximum allowable petroleum pump prices for Super Petrol, Diesel, and Kerosene decrease by KShs.5.31, KShs.10.00, and KShs.18.68 per liter, respectively." The prices include the 16% Value Added Tax (VAT) as per the Finance Act 2023, the Tax Laws (Amendment) Act 2020, and revised excise duty rates adjusted for



inflation according to Legal Notice No. 194 of 2020.

EPRA made the announcement hours after President William Ruto

hinted at a significant decrease in the cost of living, with fuel price reductions of up to Sh10.

"Today, maize flour was nearing

Ksh.200, now close to Ksh.100. The dollar was Ksh.160, now it's a hundred and twenty-something, and still dropping. Oil prices, as you have

seen, have dropped by Ksh.10 today," he said during a church service.

Pragmatic Approach Towards Fighting Alcohol

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Mwea Member of Parliament Mary Maingi has underscored the need to pragmatically deal with the issue of illicit alcohol.

Speaking in Inooro TV Kiririmbi show, the MP noted that there are several considerations she is preparing to table on the floor of the house in a bid to tame the menace.

"One of the proposals is to make sure that the methanol being imported into the country is denatured to see to it that it cannot be of any use in the manufacture of alcohol for human consumption. Another one, is to make sure the vehicles transporting methanol are clearly earmarked to make sure they can be tracked onto how they are maneuvering

Mwea Member of Parliament Mary Maingi .

.....
.....
.....
.....



KTB To Market Kenya As A Sports Tourism Destination At Boston And London Marathons



By: Bernard Okumu

Kenya Tourism Board, KTB, is set to ramp up activities marketing Kenya as a premier sports tourism destination at the forthcoming two marathon majors in Boston and London. According to KTB CEO June Chepkemei, the high-profile marathons and at which Kenyan runners excel propel Kenya into the international spotlight thus presenting an opportunity to showcase the magical spirit of Kenya as demonstrated by athletes

on the courses.

For the Boston and London marathon slated for 15th and 21st April 2024 respectively, KTB has pitched camp at the marathon Expo's as it seeks to promote Kenya's diverse tourism experiences besides sports. "This year KTB will be at the marathon expos to interest marathon enthusiasts to sign up in some of the marathons hosted in Kenya like the Standard Chartered which also takes place in the city of Nairobi. This will allow them to come run with the champions and savour some of the tourism offerings Kenya is endowed with" said the CEO. KTB has also partnered with KQ and

other players to also extend a holiday trip to Kenya for the lucky winners during stand activations at the expo booth. The US and the UK are key source markets for Kenya's tourism and the two destinations have big sports fan bases which we have to target and a supportive diaspora base. In the review period between January and November last year, The United States emerged as the leading source market to Kenya with a market share of 14% and a total of 241,581 arrivals. This represented a significant 28% growth compared to the previous period last year of 188,463.

The United Kingdom also recorded a strong performance, with an 8% market share of 140,763 arrivals. This represented a 7% growth compared to the previous year's arrivals of 131,526. KTB CEO said Sports tourism has become an important niche market for Kenya, and these iconic marathons are global platforms to highlight our country as a must-visit destination for athletics enthusiasts and adventurous travellers looking for an unforgettable holiday experience. According to UN Tourism, sports tourism is a rapidly growing industry, generating around 10% of the world's expenditure on tourism. It has an esti-

ated growth rate of 17.5% between 2023-2030. With Kenya aiming to welcome 5.5 million visitors annually by 2028, sports tourism provides a significant opportunity to achieve this goal and spread the economic benefits of tourism to communities across the country.

Sports >> *Arsenal's Premier League title hopes suffered a massive blow as Aston Villa struck twice in the closing stages to boost their top-four bid with a dramatic 2-0 win at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Arsenal's Title Bid Rocked By Villa Loss



Arsenal's English midfielder #10 Emile Smith Rowe (L) and Arsenal's Japanese defender #18 Takehiro Tomiyasu (R) react to going two goals behind during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium in London on April 14, 2024. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP).

Arsenal's Premier League title hopes suffered a massive blow as Aston Villa struck twice in the closing stages to boost their top-four bid with a dramatic 2-0 win at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

Mikel Arteta's side would have gone back to the top of the table with a victory, but instead, they surrendered the initiative to Manchester City after conceding two goals in the last six minutes.

Leon Bailey put the visitors ahead and Ollie Watkins doubled their lead as Villa boss Unai Emery enjoyed a second sweet win this season over the club that sacked him in 2019.

Arsenal's first defeat in 12 league games leaves them in second place, two points behind City, while third placed Liverpool are behind Arsenal on goal difference.

With just six games left, champions City are closing in on an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League crown.

City's rout of Luton on Saturday

had knocked Arsenal out of first place.

But the Gunners should have been on a high after Liverpool suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Crystal Palace just half an hour before kick-off in north London.

Instead, Arsenal produced a spluttering display that could prove fatal to their challenge for a first English title in 20 years.

It has been a dispiriting week for the Gunners, who were held to a 2-2 draw by Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday, setting up a tricky trip to Germany for the second leg on Wednesday.

After blowing an eight-point lead in the title race last season, Arsenal are in danger of squandering the advantage yet again.

Villa had moved up to fourth place without kicking a ball after Tottenham's thrashing at Newcastle on Saturday dropped them below Emery's men on goal difference.

And Villa's second win in six

league games moved them three points clear of Tottenham, who have a game in hand in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish.

Arsenal had started brightly and Kai Havertz's low drive was palmed away by Emiliano Martinez before Gabriel Jesus headed into the side-netting from Bukayo Saka's cross.

Accelerating onto Martin Odegaard's pin-point pass, Saka aimed from inside the area, but couldn't test Martinez from an acute angle.

- Jubilant Villa -

Watkins should have put obdurate Villa ahead when he was allowed to break into the Arsenal area unimpeded for a low strike that cannoned back off the post and ricocheted along the goalline to safety.

Just seconds later, Arsenal were repelled by Martinez's superb reflex save after Leandro Trossard met Jesus's cross with a

close-range shot that appeared destined for the net until the Argentine keeper stuck out a foot to block it.

As Arsenal's pressure mounted, Saka curled narrowly past the far post from 12 yards.

But superbly organised Villa remained resolute, reaching half-time on level terms before Youri Tielemans was inches away from giving them the lead on the hour.

Robbing the careless Zinchenko 20 yards from goal, Tielemans unleashed a blistering shot that hit the bar, then bounced onto the post before cannoning to safety.

Martinez pushed away Jesus's shot from the edge of the area, but Arsenal were labouring to unlock a Villa defence expertly marshalled by Diego Carlos.

The Emirates crowd grew increasingly frustrated as Villa pushed Arsenal back in the closing stages.

And their fears were confirmed in the 84th minute when Emery's men snatched the lead.

Lucas Digne's low cross eluded Arsenal defenders, William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes, leaving Bailey with the simple task of slotting into the empty net from close range.

Two minutes and 26 seconds later, Watkins delivered the knockout blow, stealing the ball from Emile Smith-Rowe and clipping a delicate finish past David Raya for his 10th goal in his last 11 league games.

Emery celebrated with a jubilant jig on the touchline, while Arteta stood ashen-faced as Arsenal faced up to a catastrophic loss.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Abdi Nageeye improved his own Dutch record to 2:04:45 and Ethiopia's Ashete Bekere clocked 2:19:30 to win the Rotterdam Marathon, a World Athletics Gold Label road race held yesterday.

Nageeye And Bekere Win Rotterdam Marathon



Abdi Nageeye improved his own Dutch record to 2:04:45 and Ethiopia's Ashete Bekere clocked 2:19:30 to win the Rotterdam Marathon, a World Athletics Gold Label road race held yesterday.

In the men's race, Olympic silver medallist Nageeye regained the Rotterdam Marathon title he first won in 2022, improving his own national record of 2:04:56 set in that race by 11 seconds. He won by five seconds ahead of Ethiopia's Amedework Walegn, while Ethiopia's Birhanu Legese was third in 2:05:16.

That trio had formed part of a group that followed the pacemakers through 10km in 29:06 before 15km was reached in 43:48. A pack of nine athletes forged

ahead and reached 20km in 58:31 and the group was seven strong as 30km was passed in 1:28:09. At 35km, reached in 1:42:54, four athletes remained in contention to battle for the three podium places – Nageeye, Walegn and Legese joined by Kenya's Kenneth Kipkemoi. But Kipkemoi was unable to maintain the pace and he dropped back as the leading trio clocked 1:58:12 for 40km. From that point, Walegn and Nageeye dropped two-time Tokyo Marathon winner Legese, with Nageeye tracking Walegn. Nageeye looked to be waiting for the perfect moment to make a final move and as he kicked, Walegn could not respond – Nageeye claiming a clear victory

in 2:04:45.

In the women's race, 2019 Berlin Marathon winner Bekere was joined by her compatriot Sisay Meseret Gola and Kenya's Selly Chepyego and Viola Kibiwot as 10km was reached in 32:42. They remained on course record pace as they passed 15km in 48:48, 20km in 1:05:11 and 25km in 1:21:23, with Bekere a stride ahead of her rivals. Bekere forged ahead and she had created an eight-second advantage by 30km, passing that point in 1:37:48. Maintaining that momentum, she reached 35km in 1:54:25. While she slowed in the latter stages of the race, passing 40km in 2:11:52, she had done more than enough

to hold on to victory, winning unchallenged in 2:19:30 ahead of Kibiwot (2:20:57) and Chepyego (2:22:46).

Prior to the race, a minute of silence was held in honour of world record-holder Kelvin Kiptum, who died in February. Kiptum had been due to run in Rotterdam, where he was hoping to become the first man to break two hours for the marathon on a record-eligible course. Bib number 1, which had been assigned to Kiptum, was not used on Sunday and many athletes wore black ribbons in his memory.

KBC

SPORTS NEWS

- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS

Backpage



GUC Diploma In Law Student Breaks International Public Speaking Record In Cape Town- Cape Town, South Africa

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- She spoke about the importance of making books that are worthwhile and resonates with the community not just books that do not make a difference.
- She further emphasized education is important for authors and that School like GUC open doors for youth and any other tertiary institutions as authors must be empowered.
- She said education and well written grammar and spelling draws the attention of sponsors and book lovers, she emphasized the importance of inviting Embassies and governments to such gatherings as their involvement can help uplift the book campaigns and encourage awareness campaigns and also help with grants for authors.

Shofar Books which is a publishing company in Cape Town hosted the Inaugural Cape flats literary cape flats awards in Krystal beach in Somerset West at Cape Town on 6th of April 2024.

Dr Paula Omphile Moira OTUKILE of Gaborone University College of law and professional studies doing diploma in law was invited as a guest speaker at the event.

Dr Otukile is not a newbie in the literature fraternity as she is an author of more than 52 books and an international award winning author and motivational speaker, a literary consultant having won Best literary consultant award in Ghana December 2023.

She spoke about the importance of making books that are worthwhile and resonates with the community not just books that do not make a difference.

She further emphasized education is important for authors and that School like GUC open doors for youth and any other tertiary institutions as authors must be empowered.

She said education and well written grammar and spelling draws the attention of sponsors and book lovers, she emphasized the importance of inviting Embassies and governments to such gatherings as their involvement can help uplift the book campaigns and encourage awareness campaigns and also help with grants for authors.

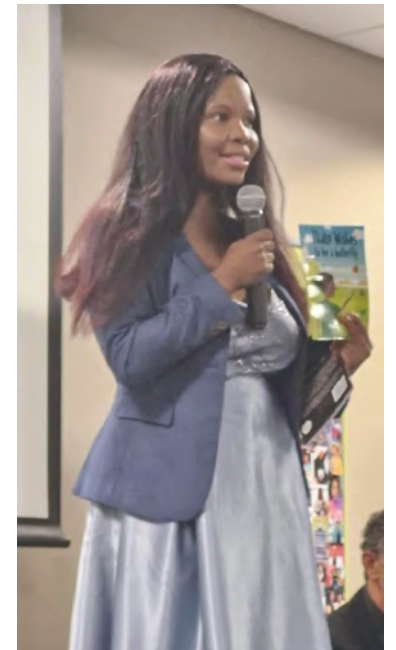
Dr Otukile said she could have not done it without her support system which includes her University direction or chairman Dr Anton who sponsors her initiatives and encourages her now and then.

She further applauded Mrs Haroldene who hosted them to continue empowering youth and commended the city of Cape Town for the partnership and national library and said if the government and ministry of education support the project it is hard for a project to fail.

She further prompt African leaders to invest in amazing and progressive youth projects to grow the economy and reduce juvenile delinquency.



Dr Otukile, host Mrs Haroldene, OTSILE Pule the Mulher Forte African literature assistant.



GUC law student-Dr Otukile and literature consultant.

