



Economic Inequality and Its Implications for Legal Rights: Examining the Role of Justice in Tackling Poverty in Kenya

As Kenya continues its steady economic growth, the specter of persistent and widening inequality casts a long shadow over the nation's development.

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News >> Government Establishes Mining Police Unit To Enforce Mining Regulations

P. 8. The government, through the Ministry of Mining, has established a mining police unit.



News >> Pastor Dorcas Rigathi In Kakamega County For A Series Of Activities

P. 12. The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi is in Kakamega county where she has lined up several activities in the Western Region.

Gov't Investing In Nurturing Talent For Youths' Full Exploitation

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked young people in the creative sector to capitalise on every opportunity to fully exploit their talents as he urged parents not to be an impediment to them in pursuit of excellence. The DP said the government is investing in nurturing talent in the creative industry to enable the young people to fully exploit their natural abilities.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu in Embu yesterday.

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Kenya To Fully Switch To Electric Buses By 2027

- CS Miano

By: Kenya News Agency



Industrialization Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano during roll-out of the country's first lot of electric buses, assembled in the country by BasiGo Company in partnership with the Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM) in Thika...

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the roll-out of the country's first lot of electric buses, assembled in the country by BasiGo Company in partnership with the Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM) in Thika town yesterday, the CS said the Ministry has launched the Draft National Electric Mobility Policy, that will mark the beginning of the journey.
- She said the policy proposes the establishment of incentives meant to increase the uptake of electric vehicles, including the reduction of excise duty on electric powered vehicles to 10 per cent, as in the Finance Act, 2023.

Industrialization Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, now says that the country expects to have moved fully towards the use of electric buses by the year 2027.

Miano said the move is in line with the government's agenda of transforming the transport sector, through the reduction of carbon emissions, to address the negative effects of climate change.

Speaking during the roll-out of the country's first lot of electric buses, assembled in the country by BasiGo Company in partnership with the Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM) in Thika town yesterday, the CS said the Ministry has launched the Draft National Electric Mobility Policy, that will mark the beginning of the journey.

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the reduction of excise duty on electric powered vehicles to 10 per cent, as in the Finance Act, 2023.

Other efforts, she said, are the revision of the Integrated National Transport Policy (2009), to accommodate electric vehicles and the requisite infrastructure, as well as the development of an Automotive Policy, to stimulate the assembly and manufacture of vehicles, with a specific focus on electric vehicles.

"The government recognizes the critical role that investment such as BasiGo plays in driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities and improving the livelihoods of our citizens. We have, therefore, prioritized the creation of a conducive business and investment environment, with robust policies, besides streamlining regulations and setting-up strategic incentives, aimed at attracting

and retaining investors," she said.

She added that the partnership between BasiGo and KVM, is Kenya's first dedicated, high-volume assembly line, for modern electric buses.

"By March this year, BasiGo's electric buses had driven over 1.5 million kilometers in Kenya, carried over 2.1 million passengers and side-stepped over 680 tons of greenhouse gas emissions," she said.

BasiGo CEO, Jit Bhattacharya, said the company intend to deliver 1,000 locally assembled electric buses in the next three years and create 300 green manufacturing jobs in Kenya.

"We shall be assembling 20 buses every month and the orders are many. We intend to work round the clock to increase the number, because the demand may rise with time," said Bhattacharya.

Among the electric buses that were flagged-off, today, are for Citi Hoppa and Super Metro bus Companies.

The Citi Hoppa CEO, Judy Thuo, welcomed the new buses, saying the fleet will improve the image of the Company and address customer demands of moving towards new technologies.

She welcomed the 2027 deadline of fully moving towards the use of electric buses, saying with the right policies, the timeframe is achievable.

"With the increased competition in the matatu industry, there is a need to rebrand and move with technology as demanded by the customers. We have ordered several electric buses and they will help us move the journey of customer satisfaction," said Thuo.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Community Road Empowerment (CORE-Kenya), a non-governmental organization in Kenya, is working to improve the status of Meru Youth by creating job opportunities and skills development for self-reliance. The project focuses on young people from underserved communities in Gitimbine, Mjini, and Majengo, who are improving 26 kilometers of access roads connecting the 23 kilometers of existing Eastern and Western bypasses. The first component involves capacity building and sustainability of labour-based road maintenance technology in the targeted communities. The project also aims to enhance livelihood opportunities, effective project and knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation. The Do Nou technology, which uses gunny bags with materials to improve sections of roads, is being used to rehabilitate access roads for underserved areas. The project aims to give confidence to the community and empower them to build their own roads.



Kiambu Holds First Youth Employment Summit
Over 400 youth from Kiambu participated in the first youth employment summit, organized by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and County Governance Watch (CGW). The summit aimed to address unemployment and socio-economic disparities within Kiambu County, fostering dialogue and collaboration between employers and government representatives. The event focused on strengthening key areas such as digital technology, entrepreneurship, innovation, green economy, and trade and investments. The County Executive Committee Member for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Osman Korar, echoed Osido's statements, stating that the summit will create an action plan to address the unemployment issue in the county. The event brought together over 80 employers and a panel of government representatives, community leaders, education institutions, and civil society organizations from various institutions. The summit aimed to empower young people and provide a platform for networking.



The Kiambu County Mau Mau Liberation War Veterans Association is requesting a name change for the Kirigiti International Stadium, citing its historic significance in Kenya's fight for independence. The association, led by Mau Mau veteran Gitu wa Kahengeri, argues that the stadium is an iconic site for the fight for independence. The association has petitioned the Kiambu County Assembly to consider renaming the stadium from Kirigiti International to Mau Mau Kirigiti International Stadium or Kirigiti Mau Mau International Stadium. The association cites the grounds as Kiharo Gia Thathi-ini, a cradle of resistance wars and freedom agitation against British colonialism in Kenya. The stadium, which has been fully funded by the national government at an estimated cost of Sh600 million, has a sitting capacity of about 15,000 and is currently 95 per cent complete.



Kenya's Electric Mobility Taskforce is finalizing the draft National Electric Mobility Policy, which aims to transition the country from Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles (ICEVs) to Electric Vehicles (EVs). The policy is in line with the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2023-2027, Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) 2022-2050, and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which targets a 32% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The Taskforce Vice Chairperson Jerotich Seii stated that the Coast region phase of public participation marks the penultimate drafting of the e-mobility policy. The policy will create a profitable and protective space for those transitioning from ICEVs to EVs, addressing range anxiety and affordability issues. The country has seen steady growth in the use of electric bicycles, motorcycles, Tuk-Tuks, and buses since 2018, with the total number of EVs registered in the country standing at 4047. The policy is part of a wider global commitment made by Kenya through the President.



The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has recovered a public parcel of land valued at Sh100 million in Nakuru and called for grabbers to voluntarily surrender more. EACC Deputy Director Erick Ngumbi said that the land that is now under transfer to the government was fraudulently acquired 30 years ago, with perpetrators having hived off land meant for the expansion of the County Commissioners offices. "We have recovered a half-acre piece of public land valued at Sh100m opposite the DCI offices, which was meant for expansion of the Nakuru law courts, labour and county commissioners offices. "This land has been recovered through court litigation, adding to other recovered properties valued at Sh4.2 billion within Nakuru. More cases are still pending before the Environment and Land Courts (ELC), with more expected to be returned on conclusion of court cases, to a tune of Sh9 billion," added Ngumbi. ELC Judge Antony Ombwayo, on March 15 this year issued an injunction barring the administrators and proprietors of Phelsey Enterprises Limited and their agents from dealing with parcel number Nakuru Municipality Block 5/251 that was public land. Ngumbi said the South-Rift EACC office has also recovered Sh3.6 million worth of property and cash money through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism, where perpetrators voluntarily surrendered the properties.

NEWS PAPER

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Atwoli Slams PSRA Director General Fazul's Directive, Sparking Debate on Workers' Rights and Union Autonomy

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Fazul Mahamed's directive, issued by the PSRA, instructs security firms across the country to halt the remittance of union dues to COTU, pending further notice from the regulatory authority. While the specific reasons behind this directive have not been fully disclosed, Mahamed asserts that it is necessary for maintaining regulatory oversight within the private security sector and ensuring compliance with existing laws and regulations governing labor relations. However, Atwoli vehemently opposes this move, arguing that COTU operates as an autonomous and independent trade union, free from regulation by PSRA or any other governmental body.



COTU boss addresses the media at sovereignty building in Gikomba.

In a recent development that has ignited controversy and sparked widespread debate within Kenya's labor sector, Francis Atwoli, the President of the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), has strongly condemned the directive issued by Fazul Mahamed, the Director General of the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA). The directive, which mandates all security firms to immediately cease remitting union contributions to COTU, has drawn sharp criticism from Atwoli and other labor advocates, raising significant concerns about workers' rights and the autonomy of trade unions.

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further notice from the regulatory authority. While the specific reasons behind this directive have not been fully disclosed, Mahamed asserts that it is necessary for maintaining regulatory oversight within the private security sector and ensuring compliance with existing laws and regulations governing labor relations.

However, Atwoli vehemently opposes this move, arguing that COTU operates as an autonomous and independent trade union, free from regulation by PSRA or any other governmental body. He asserts that workers have the fundamental right to freely associate and support their chosen trade union without external interference. Atwoli's criticism of the directive underscores broader concerns about the potential infringement on workers' rights and

the undermining of the collective bargaining power provided by trade unions.

The controversy surrounding Mahamed's directive has triggered a flurry of reactions from labor rights activists, who view it as a threat to the autonomy of trade unions and a potential setback for workers' rights in Kenya. Critics argue that such actions could weaken the bargaining power of workers and disrupt the vital role that trade unions play in advocating for labor rights and welfare. They emphasize the importance of preserving the independence of trade unions as essential vehicles for representing workers' interests and negotiating fair labor practices.

Moreover, the directive has raised questions about the legality and con-

stitutionality of PSRA's authority to intervene in matters related to trade union activities. Critics argue that PSRA's jurisdiction primarily pertains to regulatory oversight within the private security industry and does not extend to dictating the financial arrangements between employers and trade unions. As such, they call for a transparent and inclusive dialogue between PSRA, COTU, and other stakeholders to address concerns and find a mutually acceptable resolution.

As stakeholders await further clarification from PSRA and potential responses from COTU and other labor organizations, the fate of workers' union contributions remains uncertain. The ongoing debate over the legality and implications of Mahamed's directive raises important questions about the balance between regulatory oversight and union autonomy in Kenya's labor landscape.

The controversy has reignited discussions about the broader challenges facing the labor movement in Kenya, including issues of regulation, representation, and workers' rights. It underscores the need for constructive dialogue and collaboration between regulatory authorities, trade unions, and other stakeholders to ensure the protection and promotion of workers' interests in the country.

In conclusion, the directive issued by PSRA's Director General Fazul Mahamed has sparked a contentious debate over workers' rights and trade union autonomy in Kenya. As the debate continues to unfold, stakeholders are closely monitoring developments, with hopes for a resolution that upholds the rights and welfare of workers while respecting the autonomy of trade unions in Kenya's labor landscape.

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Government Establishes Mining Police Unit To Enforce Mining Regulations

By: Paul Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

The government, through the Ministry of Mining, has established a mining police unit. The unit will be used to crackdown on those conducting business without licenses.

The police unit should start its operations as early as Friday of this week. Over the years, the government has been losing millions of shillings due to the lack of proper implementation of the law in the ministry.

Speaking during the launch of mining committees from six counties; Nyeri, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Laikipia, and Tharaka Nithi – at The White Rhino hotel in Nyeri town, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Mining, Elijah Mwangi, stated that the work of the police unit is to clamp down on those who do not comply with Kenya’s mining laws.

If one is arrested, the fine will be 10 million shillings or a jail term of five years, and they may lose the eligible mineral and land.

The committee aims to formalize the activities of artisanal miners in the country. The government has established 246 cooperatives, which all artisanal miners should register with to obtain licenses. Through these cooperatives, miners can conduct their businesses freely.

The committee also aims to assist artisanal miners in obtaining licenses to eliminate illegal mining. “The government is giving everyone interested a pathway to get regulated, be it small-scale or large-scale mining. We believe that if everybody is regulated, we will experience a reduction in accidents,” said the PS. “This will be further supported by the training offered by the government through these committees and an increase in their day-to-day livelihoods.”

For those artisanal miners licensed through these cooperatives, the ministry has signed an agreement with the housing sector through the affordable housing program to provide them with a portion of supplies, especially in the areas of foundation stones, which are mainly produced in these counties.



Mining PS Elijah Mwangi during the interview at The White Rhino hotel in Nyeri town yesterday. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU

Coffee Worth Over KSh800M Sold At NCE

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Coffee worth more than KSh800 million was yesterday auctioned.

The sale at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) saw KSh 802,501,415 injected in the coffee farmers coffers after the sale of 19,804 bags of the commodity.

During the auction, one of the dealers; Alliance Berries Limited sold 41 bags of AA quality from Kianjiru coffee factory each at KSh48,972.

Another AA quality from the Iyego factory in Murang’a county, also sold by the Alliance Berries Limited was bought at KSh48,576.

In the market that had 11 local and international dealers, NCE Acting Chief Executive Officer Lisper Ndung’u said the marketers sold 4,121 bags of AA at KSh204.1 million,

while 7,403 bags of AB were bought at KSh308,369,022.

“The market is progressing well and hope more coffee will be delivered to the market as the demand for our produce remains high in the market,” said Ndung’u.

Kenyacof Limited, she said bought 4,382 bags for KSh175 million, followed by Louis Dreyfus Company who spent KSh162 million for 4,423 bags of coffee.

In the market, Kirinyaga Slopes delivered 7,198 bags of coffee that were bought at KSh286 million, while Alliance Berries Limited secured KSh235 million after the sale of 5,619 bags of coffee.

State backed New KPCU presented 3,305 bags at the auction which went for KSh135 million.



16th April 2024
SALE 25

| Broker | No. of Bags | No. of Lots |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Murang’a County | NO OFFER | |
| 2. Kinya Coffee | NO OFFER | |
| 3. Alliance Berries | 5,763 | 211 |
| 4. New KPCU | 3,305 | 129 |
| 5. Kiambu Coffee | 1,195 | 52 |
| 6. Kirinyaga Slopes | 7,198 | 284 |
| 7. Bungoma Union | NO OFFER | |
| 8. Baringo Kawa | NO OFFER | |
| 9. United Eastern | NO OFFER | |
| 10. Kipkelion | NO OFFER | |
| 11. Mt. Elgon | 370 | 34 |
| 12. KCCE | 2,205 | 111 |
| 13. Meru County | NO OFFER | |
| 14. Embu Coffee | NO OFFER | |
| 15. Meru South | NO OFFER | |
| 16. Minnesota | NO OFFER | |
| TOTAL | 20,036 | 821 |

Gov't Investing In Nurturing Talent For Youths' Full Exploitation

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu in Embu yesterday.

President. Mr Gachagua also said they will continue to invest in the Festivals promising to support a reward system that will see top performers financially awarded. "These Drama and Film Festivals allow us to identify, incubate and prune potential talent to the highest yields. It is the epitome of the CBC System, where a gifted student in the Creatives is supported to focus on strengthening their talent to full exploitation," he said. The Deputy President was accompanied Education Cabinet Secretary Cecily Mbarire, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, Senator Alexander Mundiigi, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, Mbeere South MP Nebart Muriuki, Runyenjes MP Eric Karemba, South Mugirango MP Sylvanus Osoro (also National Assembly Majority Whip), Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie, Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa, Lang'ata MP Phelix Odiwuor Jalango, Mumias East MP Peter Salasya, Chuka-Igambang'ombe MP Patrick Munene, UDA Secretary General Cleophas Malala, Area MCA Ibrahim Swaleh (Kirimari Ward), Members of County Assembly, among others.

Worth Noting:

- Mr Gachagua promised to sponsor a nationwide tour of a group that will come up with the best piece of the fight against the vices.
- "I look forward to great productions on these next year and I am willing to sponsor the performers to move around the country to spread the message on the effects of illicit brews and drugs," he added.
- While celebrating performers with disabilities, he said it was wrong for parents or guardians to keep the disabled children at home, saying they should be allowed to exploit their talents as well.
- "We must allow all our children, especially those abled differently, to be out and exploring their capabilities like everyone else," added the Deputy President.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked young people in the creative sector to capitalise on every opportunity to fully exploit their talents as he urged parents not to be an impediment to them in pursuit of excellence. The DP said the government is investing in nurturing talent in the creative industry to enable the young people to fully exploit their natural abilities. Speaking yesterday at the close of the National Drama and Film Festival at Kang'aru Girls School in Embu County, the Deputy President said the country is teeming with talent in many sectors, especially in the creative economy. "The creative economy is part of our Plan. We are working on spurring this sector for our youth to earn a living from it," assured Mr Gachagua. The Deputy President said the performances at the Festival had been electrifying, informative and thought-provoking, challenging the script writers and producers to consider delving into the subject of illicit brews and drug abuse. "The performances here on the drugs and substance abuse menace are illuminating. We want great productions on the situation we find ourselves in as a country on these vices. We must communicate to the Kenyan nation through drama, song and dance because they will understand us better through these," said the DP. Mr Gachagua promised to sponsor a nationwide tour of a group that will

come up with the best piece of the fight against the vices. "I look forward to great productions on these next year and I am willing to sponsor the performers to move around the country to spread the message on the effects of illicit brews and drugs," he added. While celebrating performers with

disabilities, he said it was wrong for parents or guardians to keep the disabled children at home, saying they should be allowed to exploit their talents as well. "We must allow all our children, especially those abled differently, to be out and exploring their capabilities like everyone else," added the Deputy



One of team that performed yesterday.

ACCESSING MORE GRACE Pt 3



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

In the current world we are living in, it is not easy to stand in the truthfulness of salvation, but God shall enable us by His grace. The bible says, ‘ Can a leopard change its spots! You cannot change your old nature, it is only by the grace of God this is possible. God sanctify our lives, we stand for holiness, not because we are ‘shujaas’ but because the grace of God is sufficient for us. This flood of evil that has been poured upon all earth, and the evil spirit of rejecting Christ Jesus, we refute it and destroy it/make it powerless in the mighty name of Christ Jesus: Amen.

You have to know and state, “ I am the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God lives in me.” The Bible say, “offer your body as a living

sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God (Romans 12).” The grace of purity, the grace of holiness is our portion. Let us be known for actions, not only words. Pray and desire continuously this graces, as you purpose to live a full Christian life build up in the most Holy faith.

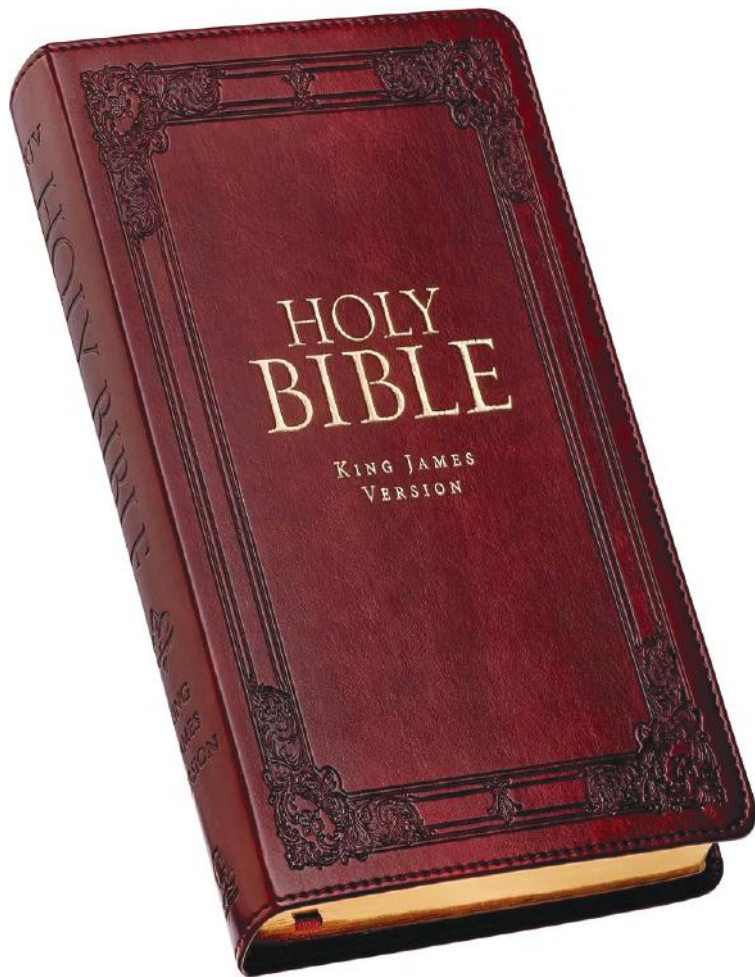
In Ephesians 3:2 the Word of God says “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given TO ME FOR YOU,”. One of the ways of receiving abundant grace is praying for that grace for the sake of others, not for self gain. The abundance of grace of God is released so it can be if great gain to many, one is just a steward/ house manager/administrator.

Ephesians 4:7 “ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” What differentiates even ministers is the grace of God upon them, and we know very well this grace can grow as it is written in 2 Peter 3:18 “ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory now and forever! Amen.” So desire to grow in the grace of God to

the best extent you can reach, so that you can reach your full potential and destiny.

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.



People With Disabilities Receive Donations

By:Steve Gatheru
 @themkenyatimes

Some 465 people with disabilities in the Eastern region and institutions helping them have received equipment and cash worth Sh15.2 million from the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya.

The Fund’s chairperson, Dr Christina Kenyatta-Pratt, kicked off the exercise in Embu by donating sewing kits, farming tools, mobility devices and salon equipment to individuals and cash grants to institutions that support persons with disabilities.

Some of the recipients who had asked to be assisted with livestock, such as cows and dairy goats, will be assisted to identify suitable animals.

Ms Kenyatta-Pratt thanked the national government for continuing to boost the funds through Treasury allocations, saying the money they have been receiving since the 2009/10 financial year had enabled the fund to give cash grants that institutions

used to build dorms, accommodation blocks and classrooms.

The chairperson, who was accompanied by Vice Chair Peter Nyakiamo, Fund CEO George Wachira and Trustees Anne Mugambi and Dr Mike Kiswili, said their mandate is to uplift the lives of those with disabilities and ensure they live dignified lives.

Eastern Deputy Regional Commissioner, Keffa Marube, urged those given donations and grants to use them prudently so that they uplift their living standards.

He urged them not to fall into the temptation of drinking excessively, saying excessive drinking had ruined the lives of many men aged 15 to 45 in the region.

Marube further urged the region’s citizens to join the war against illicit brews by providing information to government agencies.

During the ceremony held at Eastern Regional Headquarters, 29-year-old Patrick Njiru, who received a welding kit donation three years ago, said the donation enabled him to set up a business that has since grown to employ three other people.



Ruto Is Walking The Talk In Slaying The Dragon Of Corruption



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- The President had earlier reiterated the place of state officials stealing hard earned public taxes is in jail.
- During Devolution Conference held in Eldoret, he had fired a similar warning. He told governors of 47 counties. The national government has been allocating a huge chunk of taxpayer money. Kenyans want to see the value of their money. What most of you have done so far is below thier expectations.
- He spoke as some 8 current and former governors were battling charges of corruption, economic sabotage and abuse of of- fice in court.
- This reminded me of what happened in Ni- geria when the devolution was introduced. The pio- neer county bosses thought that it is time to eat.



President William Ruto

President William Ruto has reiterated the commitment of his government to fight and win the war against corruption.

Reacting to reports linking some government officials and unscrupulous businesspeople to fake fertilizer saga, the President declared that none of them would be spared. There will be no sacred cow.

We know this was a pure sabotage. These people were envious of my work. My resolve to subsidize farm inputs-fertilizer and seeds-remains on course. Each will now carry his or her own cross.

The President assured the farmers that there was no cause for worry. We moved with speed to address this problem.

As such, the ill-advised machinations of these people will not derail my plan on food security.

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He spoke as some 8 current and former governors were battling charges of corruption, economic sabotage and abuse of office in court.

This reminded me of what happened

in Nigeria when the devolution was introduced. The pioneer county bosses thought that it is time to eat.

Little did they know that then President was a non nonsense man. He was committed to walk the talk in slaying the dragon of corruption. He left half of them in jail when he retired.

Since he assumed office, President Ruto has remained consistent and focused in these endeavours. He always escalated the matters by calling on the heads of the anti-graft bodies to live up to thier oath of office. There are no sacred cows in my government. You have my full support.

Turning to elected leaders, he always reminded them that they were not above the law. You must be accountable to the electorates. If not, you are not worth to be called leaders. They did not elect you to steal thier resources.

The President's interventions have been resonating very well with the masses because this signaled a radical departure from Uhuru Kenyatta's presidency.

Uhuru was known for talking tough but without taking any tangible action.

There was a time he said that Sh2 billion was being stolen every day in Kenya but this matter ended there.

The head of public service Felix Koskei announced a few days ago that Ruto administration is in the process of setting an inquiry to look at this matter.

As of now, we cannot tell whether what the former President said is true or not.

Koskei further stated that a donor have agreed to fund the inquiry.

Having said this, I want to assure Kenyans that President Ruto is committed to win the war against graft. You can take this to the bank. Koskei, the head of public service spoke at the Bomas of Kenya where he was hosted by the civil society organizations involved in the fight against.

Back to Uhuru, he had earlier shocked Kenyans when he hosted the heads of anti-graft bodies at State House Nairobi.

Though one would have expected him to take on them for frustrating his administration's efforts to fight mega corruption scandals, he instead appeared helpless as he threw his hands in air. He posed: What do you want me to do? Kenyans interpreted this to mean they were on thier own.

President Ruto again took a bold move when he thwarted a plot to steal Sh3.7 billion from the Global Fund earmarked for purchasing and supplying mosquito nets to tens of thousands of downtrodden Kenyans.

He fired the senior officials at the Ministry of Health and Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) who had been adversely mentioned.

He also called for the prosecution of the culprits.

We also saw Koskei unveiling a raft of measures aimed at streaming the water works sector.

At Athi Water Works Development Agency, he announced the cancellation

of the contract of the Chief Executive Officer and anti-graft bodies to commence investigations against him.

At KFS, President Ruto endorsed the decision of the board to sack and send 29 managers and forest rangers packing. Those culpable should face the law.

Allow me to turn to the narrative of Ruto's well-known critics. They wanted Kenyans to believe that there was nothing to be proud of. Corruption is rife and President Ruto is just 'watching'. He is doing nothing to reverse the trend.

The top leadership of the opposition Azimio La Umoja-OKA coalition is the leading peddler of these claims.

The coalition is yet to prove these claims despite receiving a strong back-up from a section of the mainstream houses championing thier course.

The claims by Azimio leader Raila Odinga and his brigade were mainly politically motivated and geared towards settling political scores. Raila never believed that he can lose elections to Dr Ruto.

This is because he was enjoying the support 'Handshake' partner President Uhuru Kenyatta. This is the first time he enjoyed the backing of the outgoing President.

In yester years, Azimio leader Raila Odinga had curved a niche of being a whistleblower. He had indeed become a household during the reign of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

He had unearthed and exposed a number of mega corruption scandals.

But one thing remained clear. He would play this role when he was fighting and pushing these governments to succumb to his demands.

Once he had fought his way and occupied his seat at the high table where the national cake is being shared, he always become contented. He would no longer blow the whistle.

We know that Raila initially harbored a major grudge with the current President Ruto.

As such, he could have been in forefront of exposing the so called corruption scandals if they ever existed.

He would not dare to do this. Reason? He knew he would end up being embarrassed and ashamed because of peddling outright lies.

But many Kenyans believed those cooking these stories fully enjoyed his blessing.

Reason? This card was helping him to further his political course. By painting him in bad light, he hoped this would make Dr Ruto soften his stance and invite him for talks.

It has dawned on him that Dr Ruto is a hard nut to crack. He cannot succumb to these tricks designed to blackmail and intimidate him.

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

DP Witnesses Signing Of Contract Between NHC And Embu Artisans On Affordable Project

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says the government has contracted thousands of Jua Kali artisans who are playing a crucial role in the implementation of the Affordable Housing Project.

The Deputy President revealed that thousands of skilled youth were already benefitting from the multi-billion housing project being rolled out in various counties.

He spoke yesterday when he witnessed the signing of a multi-million-shilling contract between the National Housing Corporation and Embu Jua Kali Business Inclusivity Craft Workers Association for the fabrication and supply of steel doors and windows for the affordable houses at Majimbo area in Embu town.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua handing over a contract to Embu artisans official yesterday.

“The affordable housing project is important to this country. On top of decent shelter for our people, thousands of job opportunities are being

created for the youth as is evident here in Embu today,” said Gachagua. The contract is aimed at boosting the Jua Kali artisans based in Embu

town. They will supply the doors and windows worth Sh10.9 million for the Majimbo affordable houses.

Gachagua said the flagship housing project has been designed to benefit the millions of jobless skilled youth who have been deprived of work for years.

He said the project is playing a big role in the fight against illicit brews, drug and substance abuse as youth who had been sucked into the menace were busy in construction sites earning a living.

“The fight against illicit brews will not stop until we have fully dealt with the menace. The affordable housing project is helping us in the fight as many of our youths are fully engaged in this programme,” observed the DP.

The DP also challenged the youth who are already contracted at the site to ensure they acquire certificates for their informally-acquired skills saying the government has instituted

the Recognition of Prior Learning Framework to help them in certifying their knowledge.

“The Recognition of Prior Learning is critical as it will help you in formalisation of the skills and knowledge you have gained over years,” he said.

The Deputy President was accompanied Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, Senator Alexander Mundi-gi, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, Mbeere South MP Nebart Muriuki, Runyenjes MP Eric Karemba, South Mugirango MP Sylvanus Osoro, Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie, Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa, Lang’ata MP Phelix Odiwuor Jalango, Mumias East MP Peter Salasya, UDA Secretary General Cleophas Malala, NHC Chairman Yusuf Chanzu among other leaders and officials.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi In Kakamega County For A Series Of Activities

By: OSDP

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi is in Kakamega county where she has lined up several activities in the Western Region.

Pastor Dorcas who arrived in the region yesterday was received by the Kakamega County First Lady Prof. Janet Barasa, Deputy Governor Ayub Savula, and leaders from across the Christian and Muslim faith, whom she closely works with in following with the foundation of her office of ‘Chaplaincy, Outreach and Family Values’.

She started her day by attending an inter-faith meeting at the Serve International Church in Kakamega town where she shared her vision of dignifying the lives of the boy child, widows and orphans, and people

with disabilities.

She called on the involvement of church and muslim leaders in rescuing the boy child from the streets and addictions. She indicated that those seeking to reform were many in comparison to the rehabilitation centres available in the country.

“We have a medical camp here in Kakamega to screen those in addictions, and take those willing for rehabilitation. However, the rehabilitation centres are not enough, and this is why I ask religious leaders to open their places of worship so our boy children are transformed there. Some are rejected by their parents, but you can love and talk to them,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She also decried the imprisonment of boys and men following cases of alcohol, drugs, defilement and rape advocating for society to reach out to the boys and men for their reformation and change of mind.

“We have men as young as 25 years behind bars, and they are imprisoned

for 50 years or life imprisonment, and their life will come to an end in prison, which is very sad,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Her program for Kakamega County includes a medical camp targeting those in alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, a widows meeting, a people with disabilities meeting, and outreach program at the Shikusa Borstal Institution Outreach.

First Lady Prof Barasa welcomed Pastor Dorcas to Kakamega County and listed the societal issues affecting the people, which included drug and alcohol addiction, sexual and gender based violence, HIV/AIDs, teenage pregnancies, and a high widows’ burden.

Pastor Dorcas plans to spread her programs across the 47 counties of the country.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi attends an interfaith meeting at a church in Kakamega town yesterday. On her left is Bishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba, and County First Lady Prof Janet Barasa (in green). Pastor Dorcas is in Kakamega County for four days to implement her programs touching the boy child, widows and orphans, and people with disabilities, in collaboration with religious leaders and other county leaders. Photo/OSDP

From Cowrie Shells To Bitcoin: Is Time Ripe For Decentralized Currencies

By: Ndabari Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

Throughout human history, Man has to grapple with how best to exchange value. How does he best facilitate trade and commerce? From the Exchange of goods(Barter trade) to the introduction of metal coins, the concept of money has matured over time. However, perhaps no monetary system has been as controversial and prone to abuse as fiat currency and the time for change is nigh.

Evolution of Money

Salt, shells, livestock, and precious metals like gold and silver at one point served as forms of money. All of these commodities have one thing in common - intrinsic value and were widely accepted within their respective societies.

In monetary history, metal coins' introduction marked a defining moment, for their ability to provide a more con-

venient and universally accepted form of currency.

The Rise of Fiat Currency

As times progressed, and forms of governance tilted toward centralization, governments monopolized the issuance of currency, leading to the emergence of fiat money.

Unlike previous forms of money, fiat currency derives its value from government decrees rather than intrinsic worth.

While fiat currency offered governments greater control over monetary policy and economic stability, it also introduced numerous challenges and vulnerabilities.

These include:

Inflation crises: Governments have been notorious for manipulating fiat currency through money printing, eroding the purchasing power of individuals, and destroying wealth.

Debt reliance: excessive borrowing



Bitcoin

and debt accumulation, is what Fiat systems often incentivize leading to financial instability and economic crises.

Centralized control: Fiat currencies are subject to government whims be it censorship, surveillance, or even confiscation.

Solution

The emergence of decentralized cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, is challenging the dominance of fiat currencies by offering more democratic alternatives.

Cryptocurrencies: A Decentralized Approach

The pioneering cryptocurrency, Bitcoin introduced in 2009, represents a departure from fiat.

Its unique characteristics include:

Decentralization: free from control by any single entity or authority, Bitcoin operates on a decentralized network distancing it from fiat-centralized control

Fixed supply: With a 21 Million supply cap it ensures scarcity and protects against inflation, making it ideal as a store of value.

Resistance to censorship: The decentralized nature of crypto reduces the chances of censorship, and confiscation, thereby safeguarding users' financial sovereignty.

As the history of money continues, Decentralized currencies' unique attributes position them as solutions in humanity's quest for a more equitable and secure monetary system.



Effects Of Movies On Humans Psyche



Today, the number of films in the world is increasing day by day, which increases the interest of film lovers in the world of cinema. Nowadays, there are many types of movies. For example: there are fiction films, historical, documentary, romantic, fantasy and a number of similar types. People choose and watch their favorite and preferred movies from these types of movies.

So what is the importance of movies in people's lives today and how much influence do movies have on people's lives?

As we said above, you can't enumerate the types of films. Film directors write the scripts of series or films based on real life or fiction and put a general title to convey the main meaning of the film to the public. Basically, films have negative and positive roles, the main character and consists of episodes. Also, negative and positive roles can influence people's lives, just as negative roles can lead good people down a bad path or leave a bad impression on them. In some cases, people believe the negative roles played by celebrities and think that those famous people have the same behavior not only in movies but also in real life. On the other hand, positive roles can also affect people. That is, this role can change people for the better, or any positive roles will not leave a place in the audience's hearts. Perhaps the audience's love, attention and respect for actors or actresses who played a good role will increase. However, as there are two sides of a coin, there are negative and positive roles in films.

In addition, we mainly talk about the effects of movies in general on people's lifestyles. The main purpose of some types of movies is to be an example to people and some are to share good mood with people and inspire them.

There are also movies where the filmmakers make the movie so that people can understand things they don't know or learn something new through these movies. Other types of movies aim to relieve people from stress, make them forget their sorrows and give them motivation to live life. Movies based on life events can sometimes lead people to good and sometimes to bad, or romantic movies can sometimes inspire people or change their feelings; historical movies may seem boring to some people or interesting to others, besides bad events in feature films can leave an emotional audience in a state of stress for almost five or six days, as if they had lost a loved one or a close relative. So, it is known that the world of movies is one of the factors that have a great influence on the life of mankind.

Taking everything into considerations, serials and movies do affect people's psyche. But these thoughts don't mean people shouldn't watch movies.

This article written by Madina Ilhomova Yusupovna. 2024 years.

My name is Madina Ilhomova. Today I study in the 11th grade of school 24, Olot district, Bukhara region. I want to be sport journalist in future

Your Toxic Rejection



My words are kind, your smile is so bright,
But our age and caste are not right.
Together we are good, and between us all
are fine,
But still you said you couldn't be mine.

I felt my heart begin to break
But i knew its the right time to awake

Our caste are different, our path apart
And so i knew i had to restart.

For though i loved you more than life
I knew that we could never be husband
and wife.
The one who was before me was your
boyfriend,
the one who came after me was also
your boyfriend,
But I was the only one who was your
best friend not your boyfriend.

So thank you for your sweet rejection
It help me to find a new direction
And through we'll never be together
I will always cherish our time together.
— Abdul Hussain AB

ETERNITY



Our heart wants purity
Sweat from your work
Give your hand to the good ones
As life passes..

Don't tell secrets to the bad guys
Never deviate from the right path
Five days is a short time
Your name will remain forever.

Gaibullayeva, a member of the "Yosh kalamkashlar" club of the "Barkamol Avlod" children's school of the Romitan district.

Coordinator: Shahnaza Jamolova

Gaibullayeva Ibadat Khairullo
Gaibullayeva is the daughter of Ibadat Khairullo.

Romitan District, Bukhara Region
Alisher Navoi neighborhood
He was born on September 5, 2013
41 – IDUM 4th grade.
Member of the "Barkamol Avlod" Young Pen Writers Club

When it rains, it is full and full
Be a man without crying.
Sometimes the flowers wither.
As long as it rains.

Be suitable for food and fasting
Look good
Don't put a spot on a white face
Then you will be happy

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BUSINESS

Food Safety and Security Prioritized in 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative

By: Cynthia Masibo and
Wendy Keziah
@themtkenyatimes



Interior PS Raymond Omollo addressing agricultural stakeholders and veterans from different subcounties at Kenya School of Government

Worth Noting:

- In response to these challenges, several key strategies were identified as central to the success of the 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative. One such strategy involves the implementation of rigorous inspection protocols at every stage of the food production and distribution process. By conducting thorough inspections and audits, authorities can identify potential hazards and take immediate action to mitigate risks.

- Additionally, the initiative places a strong emphasis on enhancing public awareness and education regarding food safety practices and regulations. Through targeted campaigns and outreach efforts, citizens will be empowered to make informed choices about the foods they consume and take proactive measures to protect themselves and their families from foodborne illnesses.

In a proactive move to address the growing concerns surrounding food safety and security, the government has launched a bold and ambitious 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative. Led by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, this initiative aims to swiftly identify, address, and mitigate potential threats to the nation's food supply chain, ensuring the safety and security of consumers across the country.

The inaugural meeting of this initiative brought together key stakeholders from various sectors, including government officials, industry experts, and representatives from civil society organizations. Among the distinguished attendees were Permanent Secretary Omollo from the Ministry of Health and the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, both of whom emphasized the critical importance of safeguarding the integrity of the food supply chain.

During the meeting, participants engaged in a robust discussion on the multifaceted challenges facing food

safety and security in the country. From concerns about foodborne illnesses to the potential risks associated with agricultural practices and food processing methods, a wide range of issues were brought to the table for consideration.

In response to these challenges, several key strategies were identified as central to the success of the 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative. One such strategy involves the implementation of rigorous inspection protocols at every stage of the food production and distribution process. By conducting thorough inspections and audits, authorities can identify potential hazards and take immediate action to mitigate risks.

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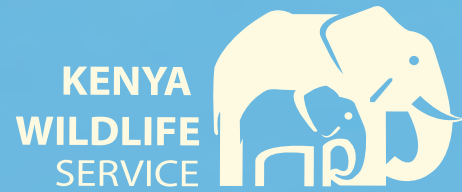
Furthermore, the 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative seeks to foster greater collaboration and coordination among government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and international partners. By working together, these stakeholders can pool resources, share expertise, and develop innovative solutions to the complex challenges posed by food safety and security.

Technology also plays a crucial role in the initiative, with plans to leverage digital tools and data analytics to monitor and detect potential threats to food safety proactively. By harnessing the power of technology, authorities can identify emerging trends, track foodborne outbreaks, and implement targeted interventions to safeguard public health.

Transparency and accountability are fundamental principles guiding the implementation of the 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative. To this end, provisions have been made for reg-

ular reporting and public updates on the progress and outcomes achieved during the 100-day period. By keeping citizens informed and engaged, the government aims to build trust and confidence in its efforts to protect the nation's food supply.

As the 100 Day Rapid Response Initiative gains momentum, stakeholders remain committed to its success and optimistic about its potential to enhance food safety and security nationwide. Through collective action and unwavering dedication, the government aims to build a more resilient and sustainable food supply chain that prioritizes the well-being of all its citizens.




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Economic Inequality and Its Implications for Legal Rights: Examining the Role of Justice in Tackling Poverty in Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction

As Kenya continues its steady economic growth, the specter of persistent and widening inequality casts a long shadow over the nation's development. While macroeconomic indicators may paint a picture of progress, the lived realities of millions of Kenyans tell a more complex story - one of deep disparities in access to opportunity, resources, and the full enjoyment of fundamental rights.

This troubling trend of economic inequality has far-reaching implications for the legal landscape in Kenya. The uneven distribution of wealth and power erects formidable barriers to marginalized groups seeking to vindicate their rights through the justice system. Meanwhile, the concentration of economic influence allows the wealthy and well-connected to shape laws and institutions in ways that entrench their privilege.

Confronting this crisis of inequality must therefore be a central priority for Kenya's legal community. By placing justice and human dignity at the heart of economic policymaking, the legal profession can help forge a more equitable and inclusive path forward. This article explores the nexus between economic inequality, legal rights, and the role of the justice system in alleviating poverty.

The Widening Wealth Gap and Its Impact on Legal Empowerment

Kenya's impressive economic growth has not translated into equitable distribution of wealth, resulting in a high Gini coefficient that reflects the stark income inequality in the country. This wealth disparity has serious implications for the accessibility of the legal system for low-income Kenyans. The exorbitant costs of legal representation, court fees, and navigating bureaucratic procedures create insurmountable barriers for the less privileged, effectively denying them access to justice. This systemic exclusion perpetuates a cycle of poverty and injustice, as those who need legal protection the most



Poverty in Kenya.

are unable to access it due to financial constraints.

The lack of legal literacy and awareness within marginalized communities further exacerbates the crisis of legal empowerment. Many Kenyans, particularly those in rural areas, are unaware of their legal rights and the procedures for seeking redress. This knowledge gap leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, as they are unable to navigate the complex legal landscape. The absence of legal support networks and community-based initiatives to promote legal literacy and awareness perpetuates this cycle of exclusion and marginalization.

The consequences of this inequality-driven justice gap are severe and far-reaching. Land disputes, labor violations, gender-based violence, and other critical legal issues disproportionately impact the poor, who often lack the resources to seek redress. This dynamic not only perpetuates poverty, but also erodes the social contract, as citizens lose faith in the ability of the law to protect their fundamental rights. The inability of the legal system to provide equal protection and access to all citizens undermines the legitimacy of the government and threatens the stability of the nation.

To address this crisis of legal empowerment, it is imperative to adopt a multi-faceted approach that includes legal education, awareness campaigns, and policy reforms. Law schools must take proactive steps to increase diversity within their student bodies and the legal profession as a whole, ensuring that the legal system reflects the needs and perspectives of all Kenyans. This requires bold action to recruit and support students from historically marginalized communities, including

education, policy reforms, and community-based initiatives, Kenya can bridge the justice gap and ensure that all citizens have access to the legal protection and support they deserve.

Leveraging the Law to Advance Socioeconomic Justice

In the face of this daunting challenge, the legal profession in Kenya must step up as a bulwark of socioeconomic justice. Lawyers, judges, and policymakers have a vital role to play in deploying the power of the law to address the root causes of inequality and poverty.

One crucial avenue for reform lies in expanding access to legal aid and pro bono services. By enhancing the availability of affordable, high-quality legal representation, the justice system can become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the poor. Innovative models, such as community-based legal clinics and technology-enabled legal service platforms, can help bridge the gap.

Furthermore, the legal community must champion legislative and policy changes that empower marginalized groups. This could include advocating for stronger labor protections, land reform measures, and social safety net programs that provide a dignified standard of living. Litigating strategic test cases that challenge discriminatory laws and practices can also catalyze systemic change.

Equally important is the task of reshaping legal education to imbue future generations of lawyers with a deep commitment to social justice. Curricula should incorporate coursework on poverty law, community lawyering, and the intersections of race, gender, and class. Experiential learning opportunities, such as clinical programs and internships with civil society organizations, can instill in students the skills and values needed to be effective change agents.

Beyond the courtroom and the classroom, the legal profession must forge robust partnerships with a diverse array of stakeholders - from grassroots community groups to policymakers and business leaders. By convening cross-sector dialogues and collaborating on innovative policy solutions, the legal community can help forge a more inclusive, equitable economic model.

Redefining the Role of the Legal Profession

Ultimately, the pursuit of justice in the face of economic inequality demands a fundamental reorientation

of the legal profession's purpose and priorities. Rather than serving as mere technocrats or guardians of the status quo, lawyers must reimagine themselves as champions of the public good, driven by a moral imperative to uplift the most vulnerable members of society.

This shift in mindset requires a deep reckoning with the legal system's own complicity in perpetuating unequal power structures. From the entrenched biases embedded in laws and institutions to the profession's historical role in advancing the interests of the elite, the legal community must acknowledge its flaws and commit to meaningful reform.

By doing so, the legal profession in Kenya can reassert its rightful place as a bulwark of democracy, a guarantor of fundamental rights, and a catalyst for equitable socioeconomic development. Lawyers, judges, and policymakers who embrace this vision will be the architects of a more just, inclusive, and prosperous Kenya - one where the full promise of the law is realized for all citizens, regardless of their station in life.

Conclusion

The scourge of economic inequality in Kenya poses a grave threat to the rule of law and the integrity of the justice system. As the country strives to fulfill its aspirations of shared prosperity, the legal community must be at the forefront of the struggle, wielding the tools of the law to dismantle the barriers that deny marginalized Kenyans their rightful access to opportunity and dignity.

Through innovative approaches to legal empowerment, strategic litigation, legislative advocacy, and collaborative policymaking, the legal profession can help forge a future where economic justice and human rights are indivisible. This is not merely a lofty ideal, but a moral imperative that will define the legal profession's legacy in 21st century Kenya. By rising to this challenge, Kenya's lawyers can demonstrate the transformative power of justice in the face of inequality - and inspire a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous path forward for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Balancing Dreams And Diapers

Nadia's journey on campus was not a smooth one. It was a path paved with sleepless nights, endless diaper changes, poor class attendance, and the unwavering determination of a young woman who refused to let an unexpected pregnancy derail her dreams.

The first hint came during her first week of classes, she was just a third-year student. A subtle shift in her body, a growing fatigue which signaled a life-changing revelation. She had to purchase a pregnancy test to confirm her fear. With trembling hands and anxious anticipation, she faced a positive pregnancy test, initiating a flood of emotions, uncertainty, and the weight of a ruined future. Thoughts of potential losses and demoralizing

decisions clouded her mind, with the overwhelming stress of contemplating abortion

Yet, amidst the initial panic, Nadia remained resolute in her commitment to education. She knew it was her key to a brighter tomorrow. "It never crossed my mind to drop out," she says, her voice laced with a quiet strength. "There was just a year left. I had to graduate." She pressed forward, undeterred by the obstacles that threatened to ruin her dreams.

The following months on campus were full of balancing motherhood and studies. Her tiny daughter, a constant companion, became a familiar face in the halls of academia. Friends offered support, watching the baby during classes. Despite relying on

the support of friends, the relentless demands of childcare often overshadowed academic pursuits, leading to missed classes and mounting concerns about falling behind.

"It was exhausting," she admits. Fatigue became a constant companion, while the guilt of sacrificing time with friends for childcare weighed heavily on her shoulders. "I couldn't rely on my friends all the time." Ultimately, the decision was made. During the last semester, Nadia left her daughter with her mother, a sacrifice made for academic focus.

Nadia's story isn't just about resilience; it's a testament to the unwavering support system that held her up. "My parents and friends have been amazing," she says. Their belief

in her, and their willingness to help, gave her hope. Through it all, Nadia's perspective on life transformed. Motherhood became a powerful motivator, a constant reminder of the responsibility she now carried. "Life is so different," she reflects. "You have a whole person, who depends on you completely."

For other young mothers facing the same, Nadia offers a message of encouragement. "Don't give up," she urges. "Having a child doesn't mean the end of your education." The rewards, she acknowledges, are subtle. The unbridled joy of a child's laughter, the quiet pride of knowing she's building a better future, these are the things that make the long hours and sleepless nights worthwhile.

Nadia's journey is far from over, but she's come a long way. As she looks towards graduation, a sense of accomplishment fills her. The most memorable moments, she whispers, are the simple joys of motherhood the first cry, the first giggle, the unwavering love that binds them together.

Nadia's story is a testament to the enduring life, a reminder that even amidst life's unexpected turns, dreams can still be chased, and goals can still be achieved.

By Grace Kubo
Rongo University

Email Us:

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Let's Conserve Water To Promote Peace As We Enhance Its Sanitation

Of late on 22nd of March this year, the world celebrated World Water Day. Generally, it is an annual United Nations (UN) observance day commemorated to create and raise awareness on the importance of fresh water. Moreover, the day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Focusing on this year's theme "Water for Peace" we learn that water is a vital resource that can promote

peace at the same time war.

Basically, scarcity of water creates a platform for eruption of war as people will be fighting for this scarce available resource. This majorly happens in regions that experience low rainfall. Equitable distribution of water creates peace. Despite that, we should all create culture of conserving water for future use.

Water security is a vital matter that can promote peace. According to UN, to achieve water security, we

must all protect vulnerable water systems, mitigate the impacts of water-related hazards such as floods and droughts, safeguard access to water functions and services and manage water resources in an integrated and equitable manner.

Water is critical for human, animal and plant life for survival.

Water is crucial for bodily functions like lubricating joints, delivering oxygen and preventing kidney damage. On a different note, focusing

on humans, contamination and poor sanitation of water can lead to transmission of diseases like cholera, diarrhoea and typhoid. These dreadful diseases put human life at risk; this is why water sanitation is essential before consumption.

We need to protect our generation by encouraging good water sanitation since millions of lives depend on it. Water is a life giving stream; therefore we protect water to protect lives.

It's unfortunate that many people are discriminated based on their ethnicity, socio-economic status and gender in accessing safe water. Such discriminations later causes incitement of war.

In conclusion, it's upon each and everyone to conserve water as a resource that's vital in shaping our interactions and lives.

Stephen Savatia.
Media student, Rongo University.

Live Within Your Means

There is nothing suitable like living a life that you can afford. Sometimes ones dreams can instigate this by faking life. With the advancement of social media has impacted many to build an image that covers their real struggles. Through this others who are innocent are easily persuaded to join the trend.

People in unlimited breaks are faking a lifestyle that is beyond their limits. This has compelled them to make decisions that terrorize them.

Young people are posting attractive and expensive items and soft life pressuring them to look special. Consequently, some have fallen into depression and others disregarding themselves as failures. This catches them in a wrong road when the reality hits them hard.

In an environment surrounded by unrealists, this has caught the innocent off guard. To use social media as a good definition, there are many easy ways of gambling that are ad-

vertised in all corners enticing its users to reach the limit. After endeavouring surprises are also huge and significantly many are bullied. All is because of trying to obtain nice things cheaply and copying the lifestyles showcased on this platforms.

It is important to emphasize this monster of gambling, which these days does not have boundaries whether man or woman. Young people are dying daily as a result of betting surprises, losing lots of money

which in that consequence the money is not theirs. Indeed the sweet mouth of advertising is not the real experience which needs serious restrictions away from addiction. Live within your means not mostly what others expect things to be.

The young people who are majorly influenced must learn and listen. Tasting is easier but leaving is hard. The youth must also understand that any information disseminated has a specified intention and impact to

make. They should sensitize any idea before indulging into it. Anything good lasts and then people must encourage using the small they have than being pressured to attain expensive life at inappropriately time.

By Abraham Ong'uti and Felix Onywoki, Rongo University.

BOBI WINE 'ARTIST' TURNED DEMOCRACY HUNTER; Music And Art's Role In Pursuit Of Freedom And Democracy

By: Robert Kigongo
@themtkenyatimes



Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu best known for his stage name 'Bobi Wine'

Worth Noting:

- Bobi Wine the People's documentary missed the top spot as a winner but being among the top five Oscar nominees is a great global opportunity to remind the world about confluence of music and art's role in the pursuit of freedom and affluence on democracy.
- Fortunately, the documentary enlightened the world about the neglected atrocities, brutality marred on journalists, gloss inequality gaps, gun violence on civilians and the plight of Ugandans demanding for change.
- Bobi Wine the People's President documentary showcases video-geographers and photographers using camera and digital tools as a deterrent to gun violence and brutality, shading light on broad day light political injustices and repression in Uganda.

In Oscars, 2024 annual awards, have been about the confluence of music and art's role in the pursuit of freedom and democracy through 'Bobi Wine the People's President' documentary.

Ideally, In my Opinion 'Bobi Wine the People's President' documentary should have won the Oscar category award, since its enlightening the World on the role of Music and art in fight for freedom and safe guarding democracy.

Unfortunately, Music and art is still regarded as mere entertainment, but I wish to remind Africa and the rest of the World that, there is much more to music than just eye sighting expeditions, showcasing posh life, singing and dancing.

Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu best known for his stage name 'Bobi Wine' is musician, an actor turned into an activist and democracy hunter whose music specifically has turned him into a better communicator against human rights violation, gloss inequalities, atrocities, corruption, oppression, suppression and repression of political activism in a seasoned authoritarian regime of 38 years that came to power in 1986 through gun violence and Military Coup.

Bobi Wine the People's documentary missed the top spot as a winner but being among the top five Oscar nominees is a great global opportunity to remind the world about confluence of music and art's role in the pursuit of freedom and affluence on democracy.

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change.

Bobi Wine the People's President documentary showcases video-geographers and photographers using camera and digital tools as a deterrent to gun violence and brutality, shading light on broad day light political injustices and repression in Uganda.

'Music direct effect on human behaviors starts with the 'Putamen' part of the brain that processes rhythm, regulates body movements and coordination of rhythmic music slogans';

For example, the 'People Power, Our Power' rhythmic thrilling slogan used by Robert Kyagulanyi's leading opposition party the National Unity Platform for political assemblies and coordinating young generations into charismatic participation.

The vibrant Ugandan opposition political leader is not the first to use the confluence of music and art but rather joins the prominent historical list of Miriam Makeba, Maseker, Semenya, Mama Mbulu, Tabane, Bahula among others.

Fear is one of the leading factors upon which authoritarianism springs to suffocate democracy.

However, Music sparks the minds of fearful populations to gain courage for protesting against authoritarianism and kleptocracy.

Scientifically, 'music triggers the 'Amygdala' part of the brain that makes a human being ready to fight back;

Bobi Wine's music genres has overwhelming sparked minds of young populations into meaningful participation in democratic processes amidst authoritarian orchestrated fear;

For instance, Bobi Wine presiden-

tial bid in 2021 registered an avalanche of young people into political spaces in Uganda with youngest legislator Frank Kabuye Kibirige at the age of 24 years joining 11th Ugandan parliament as a representative for Kasanda while SSejjemba Joseph as Mpigi District governor at the age of 24 years respectively.

Consequently, Bobi Wine's music minimised fear but rather instilled courage, today as a result young people are in local governments, central government and parliament dominating headlines and front line pages.

In South Africa, Mama Miriam Makeba's song titled Soweto blues gave courage to many underprivileged South Africans to overcome and push back the apartheid oppression.

Consistently, "if you play someone's favorite music the brain lights up for reaction".

Subsequently, Music and art has been the highest form of communication that composers use as an avenue for freedom of expression to deliver critical messages.

It's now crystal clear, the role and confluence between Music and art has been used in expressing political demands and catalyzing democratic leadership across the World.

In Bobi wine documentary art is used as a tool for personal reflection and fostering an understanding of people's desire for freedom and change of Museveni kleptocratic regime.

Bobi Wine's music and art has sparked other artists mind to become activists of a fair, a just and inclusive democratic society;

For instance, Jimmy Sentongo commonly known as 'Dr.Spire' a University professor is using Cartoon and drawing expressions in print media and social media to drive public discourse, change narratives, bridge diverse opinions, promote accountable governance in Uganda.

Dr.Spire Jimmy Sentongo's recent 11th Parliamentary exhibition exposed industrial scale corruption scandals in parliament, government wasteful expenditures of tax payer's money with gloss impunity.

Art without photographer, the confluence is not a complete concept in the pursuit of freedom and safe guarding democracy.

Wherefore, Isano Francis a prominent Next Media photographer is using the camera to shade light on political dialogues, public life and political liberation demonstrations.

However,authoritarians across the World are not blind about the affluence and confluence of Music and art;

Therefore, they are aggressively cramping down music spaces,Cyber stalking artists and musicians,introducing draconian laws and regulations;

As a result many political songs have been banned on airwaves while other coward musicians have subdued into being compromised with jobs,money,fancy houses to compose political campaign songs in support of dictatorships.

In Uganda,Robert Kyagulanyi has been banned on stage for now five years since 2018 while Jimmy spire Sentongo is receiving numerous death threats from kleptomaniacs respectively.

Regardless of the challenges music and art has the soft power and huge potential towards pushing back authoritarianism and kleptocracy.

In backsliding democracies as it's the case in Eritrea, West African countries music and art can be used to build trust,renew hope and construct critical masses that will reclaim freedom,democracy and good governance;

For example, Bobi Wine's Songs namely, Tuliymbala Engule,Ebibuzo and 'Freedom' that awakened of young populations into fighting against oppression.

The coloration between creativity and civic activism has amplified marginalised voices,paved way for new ideas,provided and maintained civic spaces open for debates not only just for political liberation but social cohesion,social justice,fostering unity,peace,spirituality and economic growth.

My appeal to Media, governments,United Nations,Regional Cooperation's,African Union,governance and all democracy global initiatives is to heavily invest in promoting arts and music in backsliding democracies to forge sustainable pathways for a democracy and just society.

Conclusively, as demonstrated by Uganda's hope Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu 'Bobi Wine' re-assures the world that musicians,artists,poets,-photographers,cartoonists,cinematographer are such a big force to reckon on for safe guarding democracy and keep Nelson Mandela's vision of 'Democratising Africa' alive.

Robert Kigongo is a Democracy deliverer supporting reformers and a sustainable development analyst.

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Current Situation Of Your Relationship

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

By: Dipa Sharma

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



Happy lovers.

Worth Noting:

- You might be wanting something deeper and more meaningful. Perhaps you're looking for more emotional engagement and a stronger connection in our relationship. You could be feeling like things have gotten a bit routine or lacking in excitement, and you're hoping for more passion and intimacy.
- They could be longing for a period of tranquility and harmony in the aftermath of turbulent times. This desire indicates a commitment to fostering a healthier relationship dynamic and a willingness to transition towards a more peaceful phase together.
- What seems to draw you both together is a deep karmic connection that repeatedly brings you back into each other's lives.

How do they feel about you?

Your person is feeling uncertain about the direction of their relationship with you. They're stuck between two options and are struggling to decide which path to take. This uncertainty is leaving them feeling confused and without a clear sense of what they want. They might even be avoiding facing this decision, hoping it will resolve itself. However, for the relationship to progress, they'll need to confront these feelings and come to a decision that provides clarity for both of you.

What are their true intentions?

Your partner's true intentions involve building a lasting and meaningful relationship with you. They're sure about their feelings for you and believe that both of you are deeply in love and committed to each other. They envision your connection growing stronger as time goes on. The foundation of mutual respect, emotional bond, and deep connection gives them confidence that your relationship can evolve and reach new heights.

What do you want from them?

You might be wanting something deeper and more meaningful. Perhaps you're looking for more emotional engagement and a stronger connection in our relationship. You could be feeling like things have gotten a bit routine or lacking in excitement, and you're hoping for more passion and intimacy. Essentially, you want them to be more present and emotionally available, to really invest in our relationship and make it more fulfilling for both of us.

What do they want?

They could be longing for a period of tranquility and harmony in the aftermath of turbulent times. This desire indicates a commitment to fostering a healthier relationship dynamic and a willingness to transition towards a more peaceful phase together. Their yearning for stability and harmony signifies a deep need for emotional security and a sense of balance in the relationship. It suggests that they are ready to actively engage in efforts to improve the relationship and create a more fulfilling connection with you.

What brings you together?

What seems to draw you both together is a deep karmic connection that repeatedly brings you back into each other's lives. This connection suggests that there may be a sense of destiny or purpose in your relationship, driving you towards one another time and again. If both of you approach your relationship with sincerity and moral integrity, you stand to experience greater harmony and a strengthened commitment to each other. However, it's important to note that this bond also carries a sense of accountability. If of you have been deceitful or unfaithful, the truth will eventually surface, and consequences will follow.

What pulls you apart?

Sometimes, you feel like the spark

in the relationship has dimmed a bit. It's like the fire isn't burning as brightly as before. But don't worry, it doesn't mean there's a big problem. It's just a nudge to add some fun and joy back into the relationship.

Take a moment to think about where you see yourself in the future, and if you imagine your partner there with you. If you feel like your partner isn't treating you the way you deserve, it might be time to think about your options. A good relationship should make you feel happy, like you've found your home, and it should bring energy and excitement to your life.

Energy around relationship

It seems like there's some tension between you both, maybe even a bit of defensiveness. It's possible that one of you has put up a barrier, making it hard to connect. You might be feeling drained by recent events, but you've both come to realize that relationships take effort.

You've made a conscious decision to work on your relationship, which is a great step forward. Love isn't just a feeling; it requires dedication,

compromise, and growth from both partners. When you're able to work together, despite your differences, and are willing to make changes for each other's sake, that's when a relationship can thrive.

Will the relationship be successful?

Your relationship has the potential to thrive. As you both grow and understand each other better, you might find yourselves connecting on a deeper level. This phase suggests that your relationship will evolve through a strong mutual understanding and an intuitive connection that goes beyond just words.

It's a time to cherish and nurture the subtle aspects of your relationship, like understanding each other's unspoken feelings and desires. This helps to create a bond that's not just emotional, but also deeply spiritual and meaningful. By valuing and embracing these intuitive bonds, you're laying a strong foundation for a successful and fulfilling relationship.



Huawei Launches Programme To Train Students In Universities And Colleges

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themtkenyatimes

Huawei Kenya has launched its “Seed for Future” programme for the year 2024 to cultivate talent and foster innovation in the field of ICT in various Kenyan universities and colleges.

The company, in collaboration with leading universities and technical and vocational educational training institutions in country will use the programme to ensure a sustainable future for technological advancement through training.

The initiative, which is Huawei’s globally- recognised Corporate Social Responsibility flagship programme, will use the training sessions, which are designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world industry demands, to equip students with the expertise needed to thrive in the digital age.

Universities and colleges earmarked to benefit from this year’s Huawei “Seed for Future” programme in-



clude University of Nairobi, United States International University (USIU), Strathmore University, Kenyatta University, Moi University, Egerton University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Mount Kenya University, Catholic University of East Africa, Technical University of Kenya, Muranga University, Kabete National Polytechnic, Nairobi Technical Training Institute, and Nyandarua

Technical Training Institute.

In a press statement sent to newsrooms, Huawei Kenya Media Director, Public Affairs and Communication Department Ms. Khadija Ahmed said the programme seeks to develop local talent, share knowledge, increase ICT sector awareness and enthusiasm, as well as foster digital community building.

“We are thrilled to kick off the 2024 ‘Seed for Future’ programme, which

represents Huawei’s unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of ICT professionals,” she said.

Ms. Ahmed noted that the collaboration with the top universities and colleges would enable Huawei to empower Kenyan students with the necessary tools and insights to drive innovation and shape the future of technology. The media director said the programme targets at least 1,000

participants.

The registration exercise for this year’s programme will run until April 30th, 2024, and Huawei Kenya has said that participating students who want to register would need a resume, a transcript that proves academic records, a cover letter, and/or a 3-minute personal video that reflects their objective to participate in learning, which should be done through the registration link.

This year’s programme offers students the chance to undergo a one-week digital training course in South Africa, as well as additional training opportunities.

In addition to the South Africa trip, selected students will have a one-week training on Huawei certification courses and another one-week local training in Nairobi and an opportunity to engage in global competition termed the ‘Tech4Good Competition, international learning and cultural exchange’.

In 2023, more than 2600 students from 102 countries participated in the programme.

There Is A Ray Of Hope For The Construction Of Bosto Dam

By: John Kariuki

@themtkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Zachariah Njeru, has said that the completion of the Bosto Dam Water and Irrigation Project in Bomet County will be a major milestone for the Kenya Kwanza Government in its efforts to enhance food security in the country.

Speaking at the Ministry’s Boardroom earlier Tuesday when he received representatives of Geo China Engineering and Hunan Engineering Group, the Cabinet Secretary said the multi-purpose dam, located in South West Mau Forest on the Kipsonoi River, will be used for electricity generation, agricultural irrigation and domestic water supply.

CS Njeru noted that the project is expected to provide water for irrigation for the drier parts of Bomet County

with approximately 100,000 acres put under irrigated maize and cassava. He added that the project will also provide clean drinking water to over 700,000 people in Bomet County and its environs and promised his support in addressing challenges that have delayed the commencement of the project.

The Country Manager (Kenya), Xu Tianzhao, who led the delegation in paying the courtesy call to the Cabinet Secretary, noted that a lot of progress has been made towards kickstarting the project adding that high level discussions on the same will be held on the sidelines of the China- Africa Economic and Trade Expo slated for Nairobi from 9th to 11th of May, this year.

The project to be implemented through the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NAHSA) had initially been planned to commence in 2018 and be completed in 2021.

Among those present at the meeting were: Irrigation Principal Secretary,



Water CS Zachary Njeru.

Principal secretary, State Department for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho; Irrigation Secretary, Eng. Vincent

Kabuti; and the Chief Executive Officer, National Water Harvesting and storage Authority, John Muhia.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Warns Against Destruction Of Families By New Generation Philosophies

By: OSDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi decried the rise of divorce, and separation among families in the country.

She also openly and fearlessly spoke against same sex marriages, saying that family was an institution created by God between a man and a woman.

This was during a prayer meeting held on Monday in Nairobi organized by Tuombeni Kenya, and attended by First Lady Rachel Ruto among other church leaders from across denominations.

“Today, families are under attack and family values are no longer esteemed. Families have no honour anymore. We have new generation philosophies of men marrying men, and women marrying women, and this we must say no to. The counsel of God shall stand,” she said.

She decried the rise in divorce and separation cases, and led the gathering in praying for families and

against sexual immorality.

“It is not the time for us to play around, God hates sexual sin. If there is anything that makes God destroy a people is sexual immorality. If we condone it, this God will not spare us no matter how good we think we are,” she said.

She also urged the church leaders to open their churches for the restoration of the boy child who is living in the streets and lost in alcohol and drug abuse.

“Conflicts are killing the boy child across Africa. There are also illicit brews, drugs and alcohol, and our sons have died. Africa and Kenya have a huge widow burden. Let us open our churches for the boy child to feed, clean and clothe them,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She expressed her concern of the high number of widows in the country, which underscored the high deaths of the men. She had observed the trend during different widows and orphans meetings she has held in different parts of the country that include Laikipia, Kilifi, Embu, and Meru among others.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi speaks at the Tuombeni Kenya meeting at the KICC on Monday. Photo/OSDP

The Government Must Own Up CBA And Stop Belittling The Medics - Dr Moses

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

A renowned Medic from Murang’a Dr. Moses Mwangi has shared his thoughts on the crisis, pitting the doctors, pharmacists, and dentists in the public health sector with their employer, the government of Kenya. It’s now more than one month since the doctors went on strike, and shortly after, the clinical officers followed suit and later followed the laboratory technicians and technologists from all public sector health facilities nationwide. The major reason for their strike is because of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that was agreed upon and signed in 2017. The CBA sought to terminate an industrial strike of more than 100 days under the return-to-work formula. The government, as the employer, ought to have honoured the agree-

ment. More than five years down the line, the government has not honoured some of the most important elements of the CBA. The interns who have already completed medical school are yet to be posted, and they require a one year post qualification internship in order to become certified registered practitioners. The government is offering the current crop a stipend of Ksh 70,000, whereas their previous colleagues were paid Ksh 206,000, which is as per practice hitherto and as provided in the CBA. It’s important for Kenyans to know that doctors have been very patient for more than five years, and in the eventuality, they had no option but to down their tools as it seems to be the only language that the government understands.

I don’t know whether the Government is waiting for the doctors to be on strike for a 100 days for them to initiate dialogue because the situation in public hospitals is dire –

many Kenyans are losing their lives because the medics are on strike. Most of the deaths could have been prevented, and the government must be held accountable for the innocent lives lost during the strike. The government should immediately initiate dialogue but first of all honour the 2017 duly signed CBA.

The government must own up and stop belittling the medics – because offering them a partly 70,000 instead of the hitherto payable salary of Ksh.206,000 is an insult to the doctors. Health is a very critical matter – so much so that it’s a matter of life and death. We would like to know what work the CS for health, Susan Nakhumicha, is doing? She has been quiet when a majority of Kenyans are suffering, triggering our concern as to what else does she prioritize, if not the health and well-being of Kenyans? I honestly opine that she should be relieved of her duties and replaced with another competent CS.



Dr. Moses Mwangi a renowned medic

Plans To Split A Water Body In Top Gear

By: **Isaiah Nayika**
 @themtkenyatimes

Nzoia Water Services Company (NZOWASCO) will soon be split into two, a move that has received approval from Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) and aims at ensuring efficient and effective service delivery, owing to the increased demand.

The process of splitting the company, which had the responsibility of providing water and sanitation services in Bungoma and Trans Nzoia counties, started two years ago following a joint proposal floated by the two counties to the regulatory body.

If fully implemented, the proposal will see each county have a stand-alone water company.

As revealed in a meeting bringing together WASREB representatives and the County Government of Trans Nzoia, the remaining part of the process entails sharing of assets, liabilities and the company's human



Stakeholders meeting..

resources.

The remaining activities are set to be completed before July 1, 2024, when the deal is expected to be formalized.

WASREB Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kigutu, who led the Board's delegation, urged the two counties to fast-track the process.

"We call upon the two devolved units to move with speed and ensure that the process of splitting NZOWASCO is completed as soon as possible," he said.

Trans Nzoia County Executive Committee Member In-Charge of Water and Sanitation Services, Sam

Ojwang, representing Governor George Natembeya, welcomed the move to split the water body, saying it would enhance service delivery besides ensuring that residents get quality and timely services.

He stressed the commitment of the county government to ensure the deal

crosses the line within the set timelines.

Water and Sanitation Chief Officer Dorothy Nyukuri, who was also present, echoed Ojwang's sentiments and promised to ensure that challenges facing NZOWASCO are not replicated elsewhere when the body is finally divided.

"We want to assure residents that they will receive better services in terms of service delivery. This process was initiated by the county government to counter concerns about poor service delivery," he said.

NZOWASCO has in the recent past faced leadership challenges and financial liabilities amounting to close to Sh8.5 billion, accruing from defaulted loans, pensions and creditors.

Accompanying Kigutu were WASREB Legal Officer, George Muluka and Licensing Manager, David Leleita.

Family Bank Clinches The Excellence In Customer Responsiveness Award At The 11th Edition Of The Connected Banking Summit

By: **John Kariuki**
 @themtkenyatimes

Family Bank has been awarded for Excellence in Customer Responsiveness at the Innovation and Excellence Awards East Africa during the 11th edition of the Connected Banking Summit.

Family Bank was recognized for its exceptional commitment to customer experience in the ever-evolving digital landscape and also its pioneering efforts in setting new standards for continued customer satisfaction.

"Our customers are at the centre of our growth and we are committed to identifying with and meeting their evolving needs through innovative products and refining our services to best serve their evolving needs.

This award therefore validates our customer-centric philosophy which has evolved to meet the demands of this technology-driven age, from seamless online banking platforms to cutting-edge mobile applications and personalized in-person customer interactions," said Family Bank CEO Nancy Njau.

The Innovation and Excellence Awards East Africa are organized by the International Centre for Strategic Alliances to recognize individuals and organizations at the forefront of banking innovation and excellence, paving the way for a more inclusive, efficient and secure banking future.

This accolade comes after the Bank was voted the third-best bank overall and the best tier-two bank in Customer Experience for the fourth year running in the Kenya Bankers Association 2023 survey.

Family Bank MD Nancy Njau.



Sports >> *As the Bundesliga and Saudi Pro League seasons near their climaxes, the title races in both leagues have intensified, promising thrilling showdowns and fierce competition in the coming weeks.

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Bundesliga Showdown: Leverkusen Surges, Dortmund Falters, Bayern Struggles



By MKT Reporter

As the Bundesliga and Saudi Pro League seasons near their climaxes, the title races in both leagues have intensified, promising thrilling showdowns and fierce competition in the coming weeks.

In the Bundesliga, Bayer Leverkusen has emerged as a surprise package, shedding their 'Neverkusen' tag and establishing themselves as dominant contenders.

Led by experienced campaigners like Granit Xhaka and goalkeeper Hradecky, alongside promising talents such as Florian Wirtz and Victor Boniface, Leverkusen boasts a well-balanced squad combining defensive solidity with attacking flair.

Under the stewardship of Xabi Alonso, expectations are high for Leverkusen to maintain their impressive form and challenge for

the title in the remaining fixtures. Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund, under Edin Terzic's management, has showcased their attacking prowess with players like Donyell Malen and Karim Adeyemi leading the goal-scoring charts.

However, defensive vulnerabilities have occasionally derailed their progress, especially against tough opponents like Leipzig, Leverkusen, and Borussia Monchengladbach.

To secure their position in the top three, Dortmund must address their defensive frailties and approach these upcoming fixtures with greater resilience.

Despite not hitting their usual heights, Bayern Munich remains a formidable force in the Bundesliga.

Spearheaded by the prolific Harry Kane in attack, Bayern's experience and depth provide them with a competitive edge over

their rivals.

As they gear up to face Koln, Union Berlin, and Borussia Monchengladbach, Bayern will be determined to defend their title and showcase their trademark style of football under the guidance of Thomas Tuchel.

In the Saudi Pro League, Al Nassr and Al Hilal are locked in a fierce battle for the title.

Al Nassr, boasting a potent attacking lineup featuring Cristiano Ronaldo and Sadio Mane, supported by midfield maestros Otavio and Anderson Talisca, has relied on their solid defense marshaled by Laporte and Alex Telles to propel themselves to the top of the table.

However, they face stiff competition from Al Hilal, who under the guidance of manager Jorge Jesus, showcase attacking flair led by Aleksander Mitrovic and Malcom, complemented by a well-organized defense anchored

by Koulibaly.

The upcoming clashes between Al Nassr and Al Hilal will be pivotal in shaping the outcome of the title race in the Saudi Pro League.

With both teams displaying depth and quality, tactical battles and individual duels will play a crucial role.

Injuries, such as Neymar's absence for Al Hilal, could sway the balance, underscoring the importance of squad depth and resilience in the final stretch of the season.

Moreover, the passionate fan bases of both clubs add an extra layer of excitement to the rivalry, creating an electrifying atmosphere for these crucial matches that will ultimately decide the fate of the league title.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Jurgen Klopp was headed for a glorious send-off in his final season at Liverpool just a few weeks ago, but talk of a potential quadruple is now long forgotten as the Reds have come off the rails.

Klopp's Liverpool Farewell At Risk Of Fizzling Out



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring his team fourth goal during the English League Cup quarter-final football match between Liverpool and West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on December 20, 2023.

Jurgen Klopp was headed for a glorious send-off in his final season at Liverpool just a few weeks ago, but talk of a potential quadruple is now long forgotten as the Reds have come off the rails.

Liverpool have a mountain to climb if they are to make the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday after losing the first leg of their last-eight tie at home to Atlanta 3-0.

Klopp's men were also dumped out the FA Cup by Manchester United last month as the Red Devils edged a thrilling tie 4-3 at Old Trafford.

Liverpool failed to learn their lesson from that defeat as they were held 2-2 by United three weeks later and then stunned 1-0 at home by Crystal Palace in their last two Premier League games to fall two points behind Manchester City in the title race.

We take a look at what has gone wrong to leave Klopp's fitting farewell at risk of fizzling out.

Slow starts

Liverpool's habit of fighting back from losing positions was lauded earlier in the campaign as a sign of the "mentality monsters" Klopp

has created throughout his time at Anfield.

They have amassed 27 points after falling behind in the Premier League alone this season, but saw their luck run out against Palace on Sunday after another slow start. In all competitions, Liverpool have conceded the opening goal 21 times this season.

"It's been the story of the last few games and that's why we have been punished," said left-back Andy Robertson on his side's sluggish starts. "We are struggling to keep clean sheets right now."

Wasteful finishing

To compound a run of nine games without a clean sheet, Liverpool's forward line has also gone off the boil come the business end of the season.

In their last six league games, the 19-time English champions have scored nine goals from a total of 149 shots, a conversion rate of six percent, which would be the worst in the Premier League over the course of a season.

Mohamed Salah has looked out of sorts since returning from a hamstring injury picked up at the Africa Cup of Nations.

And Diogo Jota, often heralded as the most natural finisher at the club, has only just returned from a two-month injury layoff.

Luis Diaz, Darwin Nunez and Cody Gakpo have combined to score 45 goals this season but all remain inconsistent in front of goal.

That trio have been labelled "scruffy" by former Manchester United captain Gary Neville in comparison to the Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane triumvirate that carried Liverpool to glory earlier in Klopp's reign.

"I think the nature of the players, it will always be a little bit like that in terms of the numbers we are looking at because of the way they finish and the type of players that they are," said former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher.

Fatigue

The quest for the quadruple could now be coming back to haunt Klopp as Liverpool look to have run out of steam.

They have already played 51 games this season and will have a minimum of seven more before the end of the campaign.

A number of academy graduates

stepped up during an injury crisis in the early months of 2024 and helped ensure Klopp did at least secure some silverware in his final season by winning the League Cup in February.

Yet, just as they are getting major players back with Alisson Becker and Trent Alexander-Arnold returning along with Jota in the past week, those that have been relied on most during the winter months are fading.

Klopp admitted after the Palace match that midfield duo Alexis Mac Allister and Wataru Endo are struggling due to the burden placed upon them.

"A couple of players had to play a lot and a couple of players always were interrupted — that's a bit the situation," said Klopp.

"We just have to make sure that we don't think about where we are coming from — whether they are injured or whether they are not — and make sure we find a way to beat the specific opponent in front of us. It's always like this."

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IPF Cites Discrepancies, Pending Bills as Bottlenecks to Development

By: John Kariuki
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Worth Noting:

I think that's another area we need to become more realistic in our budgeting, and also there is need for timely release of exchequer. So national treasury needs to release exchequer on time, because sometimes exchequer is released towards the end of the financial year, when we have a week or two weeks or a month to the closure of the financial year.

So you find that counties and ministries are not able to absorb the money. So the money is returned, we remain with pending bills. What is important and what has been highlighted by IPF here today, that as we review, as we discuss, our estimates and make recommendations to the House, we need to ask the crucial questions



James Muraguri - CEO Institute of Public Finance with Teso South MP Mary Emaase

The Institute of Public Finance on Tuesday released its fourth edition of the Annual National Shadow Budget themed; "Budgeting in an Era of Fiscal Consolidation: Protecting Key Priorities."

The report notes that the current discrepancies on budget allocations, low budget absorption rates, pending bills headaches and duplication of functions are impacting efforts by the government to achieve its fiscal consolidation strategies.

Gracing the occasion, Teso south Member of Parliament who is also the Vice Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee of the National Assembly shared with us her thoughts about the thorny issue of pending bills. This is what she had to say: "Pending bills is a problem recurring, accumulating year in year out we are concerned as legislators, we are concerned as a country.

The reasons we are being given do not justify delays or non-payment of pending bills. I think there is something we can do as legislators and as a country. One, since every institution or MDA must requisition for funding from the Controller of Budget, before making any payment, I think it would be prudent for us to amend the PFM to give the Controller of

Budget more powers, so that she is able to follow through the money from her office all through the way to the Commercial banks, or to the County Government. So that monies requisitioned for a specific project or item, must be used for that purpose, must pay that particular expenditure, so that these monies are not diverted. Secondly, we also must become more credible in our budgeting: so that we are not over-ambitious in our revenue projections because at the end of the day, we overprojected, we were too ambitious, we did not meet our expectations, so we end up with pending bills. Because we advertised, we procured, we engaged contactors, knowing that we have this budget.

I think that's another area we need to become more realistic in our budgeting, and also there is need for timely release of exchequer. So national treasury needs to release exchequer on time, because sometimes exchequer is released towards the end of the financial year, when we have a week or two weeks or a month to the closure of the financial year.

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important and what has been highlighted by IPF here today, that as we review, as we discuss, our estimates and make recommendations to the House, we need to ask the crucial questions:

How aligned are our budget estimates to the BPS? Key Government priorities, how aligned are they? Secondly, we also need to be keen on the value for money. A project has been proposed, we need to analyse, we have the capacity, we are advised accordingly by our Secretariat, we

need to see the value for money. And advise the MDAs correctly.

Our focus even as a Committee is that we must complete ongoing projects before we begin to fund new projects. So if a ministry, an agency, a county has an ongoing project can they first prioritize and put money for that project so that there is value for money for the Kenyans. And also we need to protect the vulnerable. We even look at how engendered the budget is.

We look at gender issues. How engendered is the budget? Especially the female members of Parliament in that committee we are very keen on health, how much money has been allocated to health? We are very keen on issues security because we are seeing what is happening in the country.

The banditry across the country, violence against women, young girls and children. What intervention programs has the ministry captured in the budget to mitigate against gender based violence, early pregnancies, health issues now that HIV is on the rise. Covid we've been told there is a new surge. Social protection on the elderly, we are talking about duplication.

Hustler Fund – what is the impact? We have told the Auditor General to do an audit and advise, women enterprise, youth fund, there are so many funds scattered. Probably if they are consolidated, they'd have a better impact in terms of value for money."



Teso South MP Mary Emaase