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**News>> Dignified Future Football Tournament Against Alcohol And Drugs Enters The Semi Finals Stage**

P. 8. The Dignified Future Football Tournament against alcohol, drugs and substance abuse under the OSDP is gearing up for the semi-finals.



**News>> MKU Student To Attend The Global Huawei ICT Competition In China**

P. 12. Eighteen university students will represent Kenya during the Global Huawei ICT Competition slated for next month in China.

# Ruto Urges Global Players To Bet On Africa And Youth

President William Ruto yesterday officially opened the inaugural Connected Africa Summit 2024, which is taking place at Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony, President Ruto placed the African youth at the centre of the digital transformation agenda in the continent, noting that they are a fundamental constituency as builders and beneficiaries of a digitally-enabled society which will propel the success of everyone in the continent.



President William Ruto yesterday officially opened the inaugural Connected Africa Summit 2024

STORY ON PAGE 16

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# Tensions Escalate As Jimi Wanjigi Leads Charge Against Land Grabbing Allegations

By: Cynthia Masibo and Aoma Keziah

@themtkenyatimes



Safina party leader and former presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi during a past address.

## Worth Noting:

- “We have received many cases and helped many get out of remand,” Wanjigi affirmed, highlighting the breadth of his advocacy efforts and the tangible impact they have had on vulnerable communities.
- Central to Wanjigi’s crusade is the assertion that Ruto, whom he labels as an oppressor and colonizer, has leveraged his political influence to acquire land through dubious means. Wanjigi contends that the purported sale of land by Benjamin Kipkulei, the individual from whom Ruto claims ownership, lacks legal legitimacy, casting doubt on the veracity of Ruto’s claims and the integrity of the transaction.

In the tranquil environs of Ndabibi farm in Naivasha, a storm brewed on Sunday as politician Jimi Wanjigi and a cohort of local residents clashed with government authorities in a high-stakes confrontation over alleged land grabbing. What was supposed to be a peaceful thanksgiving prayer event turned into a chaotic standoff, underscoring the simmering tensions surrounding land ownership and political accountability in Kenya.

The saga began when Wanjigi, flanked by fellow leaders and supporters, arrived at the Ndabibi farm to partake in a ceremony meant to celebrate communal unity and gratitude. However, their plans were thwarted by a heavy police presence, which swiftly dispersed the gathering, leaving residents bewildered and incensed.

At the heart of the controversy lies Wanjigi’s steadfast commitment to addressing

the pervasive issue of land grabbing that has plagued countless Kenyan families. With a resolute determination, Wanjigi has pledged to champion the cause of justice, offering legal assistance to those embroiled in disputes over land ownership. His sights are firmly set on cases involving prominent political figures, notably William Ruto, whom he accuses of perpetuating the cycle of exploitation and disenfranchisement.

“We have received many cases and helped many get out of remand,” Wanjigi affirmed, highlighting the breadth of his advocacy efforts and the tangible impact they have had on vulnerable communities.

Central to Wanjigi’s crusade is the assertion that Ruto, whom he labels as an oppressor and colonizer, has leveraged his political influence to acquire land through dubious means. Wanjigi con-

tends that the purported sale of land by Benjamin Kipkulei, the individual from whom Ruto claims ownership, lacks legal legitimacy, casting doubt on the veracity of Ruto’s claims and the integrity of the transaction.

“It is a betrayal of the oath he took to protect the people,” Wanjigi lamented, decrying what he perceives as a gross betrayal of public trust by a figure entrusted with upholding the rule of law.

Moreover, Wanjigi sounded the alarm on what he deems as government overreach, citing the deployment of GSU officers to the Ndabibi farm as a brazen violation of court orders and an act of intimidation against rightful landowners. He cautioned against the erosion of constitutional safeguards and urged authorities to uphold the sanctity of legal processes.

The Safina Party member, who was

speaking in Naivasha, said he recently secured the release of locals who were arrested and charged for allegedly invading the land.

In addition, Wanjigi said he would transverse the country and flag an increase in land-grabbing cases in Naivasha, Kilgoris, Marsabit, Kajiado, Taita Taveta counties.

On her part, MCA Jane Gituku decried the continued oppression of locals whom she said have the right to claim ownership of the land.

She lauded efforts to ensure the land is returned back to the community.

According to former CAS Zack Kinuthia, the government’s deployment of over 500 police officers to guard the land is unconstitutional as it was illegally allocated to the President.

Kinuthia said he will not relent in fighting for the democratic rights of residents who have been subjected to detention without trial.

On his part, lawyer Ndegwa Njiru said he will fight for the accused in court until they get their freedom adding that the locals have faced oppression over their battle to win the land back.

The clash at Ndabibi farm serves as a microcosm of the broader struggle for land rights and political integrity in Kenya. It underscores the enduring legacy of historical injustices and the entrenched power dynamics that continue to shape the landscape of governance and resource allocation in the country.

As tensions escalate and battle lines are drawn, the fate of Ndabibi farm hangs in the balance, emblematic of the larger quest for justice and accountability. While Wanjigi and his allies remain steadfast in their pursuit of truth and restitution, the specter of political reprisal looms large, casting a shadow over the aspirations of ordinary Kenyans striving for a better future. Only time will tell whether justice will prevail in the face of entrenched interests and systemic inequities.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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## THEME

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

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya National Union of Teachers officials have urged the government to change its approach to ending banditry in the North Rift region, stating that years of unyielding fight against bandits call for a new solution. The First National Vice Chairman, Malel Langat, emphasised the importance of beefing up security and using local solutions to restore order. Langat emphasized the need for immediate reconstruction of schools and strengthening security to allow children to resume learning as schools are set to reopen in early May. The death of military officers, including the Chief of Defense Forces, was a turning point in dealing with banditry in the region. The government should reconsider its approach to end the menace and ensure the safety of children and teachers.



The County Director of Meteorology, Anthony Kinyua, has warned residents in landslide-prone areas in Murang'a County of the potential for mudslides due to saturated soils and steep terrain. Some parts of the upper zones have witnessed mudslides, causing significant destruction of property. Kinyua also noted that some areas have recorded above-average rainfall in April and warned of potential splash floods in urban areas. Lower areas of Murang'a are likely to experience floods due to swollen rivers and water spillage at the Ndakaini Dam in Gatanga Sub County. Kinyua called on motorists to exercise caution as some roads have witnessed mudslides with debris blocking sections of the roads. The county Red Cross coordinator, Ms. Immaculate Iteba, reported that three houses in Kiharu and one in Kangema subcounties have been destroyed by mudslides. A trained team from the Red Cross is monitoring the situation in villages and advising locals on precautions to take.



The Mombasa County Government is working on the restoration of gravesites in the area, which were previously unmanned and lacked perimeter walls, leading to unscrupulous traders setting up shacks. Deputy Governor Francis Thoya, who is also the County Executive Committee Member for Environment, Solid Waste Management, and Energy, is supervising the gravesite restoration. The restoration of Mbaraki Cemetery, a historical gravesite where the remains of First and Second World Wars soldiers are interred, has already been completed. Kongowea Cemetery, which was on the verge of being turned into a dumpsite by traders from the nearby Kongowea market, is now in high gear. County trucks are removing trash while construction of a boundary wall is starting. The government's intervention is timely as it will relieve the anguish of relatives seeing their loved ones' graves being slowly turned into a marketplace. DG Thoya pleaded with traders to remove their belongings from the gravesites lest they be forcefully evicted.



Kakamega County Deputy Governor Ayub Savula has assured contractors and suppliers that the county government is committed to clearing all pending bills. The current administration inherited over Sh1.4 billion from the previous regime, and they have managed to pay Sh900 million. The county government is committed to paying at least Sh100 million every month to clear the debts. The Deputy Governor also disclosed that the county reports progress made in clearing bills to the Senate. He urged traders in Kakamega to continue their businesses and encouraged suppliers and contractors to visit the county government to discuss their pending bills. Savula also urged teachers to engage in other income-generating activities, such as businesses, to supplement their monthly income.

Machakos County Chief of Staff Lawrence Ngovi has urged residents of Syokimau and Katani in the county to relocate to safer areas after their homes were submerged by flash floods due to heavy rainfall. The County government is digging trenches to drain the water and rescue the marooned families, collaborating with the National Government to ensure their safety. Athi River Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Mwangi, assured that the government would evacuate all families affected by the floods. Mwangi attributed the flooding to poor drainage and asked residents to relocate to safer grounds. The Multi-agency team has directed all affected households to evacuate from their premises due to the ongoing heavy rains to avoid any disaster. Ngovi also called upon well-wishers to donate both food and non-food items to help the affected families.



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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# NFDK Launches Coast Region Empowerment Programme

By: Fatma Said

@themkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the Coast Regional Commissioner's Office, Mombasa, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (NFDK), Kristina Kenyatta Pratt, said that the Fund strives to challenge the misconception that individuals with disabilities are either incapable of working or cannot be integrated into the workforce.

- Pratt highlighted the distribution of grants to eight educational institutions throughout the region, amounting to a total of Sh 1,600,000. Additionally, trade tools valued at Sh 724,040 were provided to disabled individuals from Nyali and Mvita sub-counties.



Leaders during a press briefing..

The National Fund for the Disabled in Kenya (NFDK) is sparking hope and opportunity in the Coast Region with their newly unveiled Empowerment Programme, which is set to ignite business start-ups and provide crucial educational grants to institutions supporting learners with disabilities.

NFDK has a mandate to enhance the social and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, achieved by supporting individuals with disabilities with assistive technology, as enablers of inclusion and economic empowerment.

The toolsets they offer serve to bolster the social and economic independence of disabled individuals. These livelihood opportunities play a crucial

role in dismantling both physical and attitudinal barriers associated with the capabilities of persons with disabilities.

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Nyali and Mvita sub-counties.

"The flagship of the NFDK has brought significant benefits to the Coast Region, with 18 institutions catering to learners with disabilities receiving projects valued at Sh 44,873,300. These projects encompass essential facilities such as dormitories, dining halls, ICT labs, and classrooms, enhancing the educational landscape and fostering inclusivity within the region," Pratt said.

During their visits to different counties, Pratt noted a concerning trend of parents concealing their disabled children, seemingly hesitant to expose them to public view.

However, she underscored the significance of the advocacy programme de-

signed to encourage parents to openly acknowledge and present these children, so that they can receive the necessary assistance and support.

"I want to appeal to all beneficiaries, as you receive the assistance you applied for, whether a grant, tool of trade, or assistive device, please use it for the intended purpose because we shall follow-up and monitor your progress in business or start-up, and for the institutions, you will be held accountable for the utilisation of the grants received today," she said.

The Coast Deputy Regional Commissioner, Mbogho Majioe, said the Government conducted thorough vetting to ensure that no imposters posing as disabled individuals benefit.

"We have implemented a robust monitoring tool to track and assess how those who have received assistance are utilising them to improve their livelihood," Mbogho said.

He encouraged parents to expose their disabled children to the support that the government is providing because many of the kids are disabled but very intelligent and talented.

Hellen Mwithana, one of the beneficiaries who received a salon business toolkit, expressed her gratitude to NFDK.

"This salon kit will greatly assist me in managing my livelihood, especially since I have been unemployed for quite some time," Mwithana said.

Although her knowledge of salon operations may be limited, she pledged to pursue further training to enhance her skills.

"My goal is to eventually open a salon and employ others, so we can mutually support each other in seeking sustenance," she concluded.

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# Dignified Future Football Tournament Against Alcohol And Drugs Enters The Semi Finals Stage

By: OSDP

The Dignified Future Football Tournament against alcohol, drugs and substance abuse under the office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) is gearing up for the semi-finals.

The Nairobi Chapter tournament that is taking place in Dagoretti South Constituency now has four teams that shall face off in the semifinals – The Bridge FC, Wazalendo FC, Slow Burn FC, and Sikai Sana FC.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi encourages boys and men in the country to engage in sports and games and keep off the psychoactive substances contained in alcohol, cocaine, heroine, cigarettes, and bhang among other substances.

“The man is the seed carrier. The boy child program, under my office, is engaging them in football to advocate against alcohol and drug abuse. This is a preventive measure, and a curative measure,” said Pastor Dor-

cas. The Bridge FC beat Kaa Sober FC 3 goals to two goals in an electrifying match that attracted fans to watch the reformed men in play. At the 90th minute the teams had a draw of 2:2 that was broken with Bridge FC’s goal in the extra time.

During the second match of the quarter finals, Wazalendo FC made a definite win, scoring 3 goals within the 90 minutes of play against Chiniya Mnazi FC. Wazalendo FC had an exciting first half when all the goals were scored with Stephen Juma scoring in the 16th minute, Amos Kimani 38th minute and for the third time, Wazalendo FC found the back of the net at the 40th minute of the game, a goal scored by Hesbon Irungu.

The game between Kirigu Reform FC and Slow Burn ended with no goals at the final whistle, and they were unable to break the tie of nil goals during the extra time. The teams went into penalties when Slow Burn FC beat Kirigu Reform FC with 5 penalties against 4 penalties.

The final game in the quarter finals was between Sikai Sana FC and Royal FC who also went into penalties,



One of the teams who played in the quarter finals. Photos/OSDP.

and Sikai Sana FC won with five of their penalties finding the back of the net against Royal FC 4 penalties.

The Dignified Football tournament semifinals will continue in the com-

ing days with the last four teams participating - Bridge FC, Wazalendo FC, Slow Burn FC, and Sikai Sana FC.

Some of those participating are part

of the boy child rehabilitation program under the OSDP.

# Schools In Laikipia Incorporated Fruit Tree Afforestation Campaign

By: Muturi Mwangi @themkenyatimes

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has partnered with education institutions in an afforestation campaign that will see some 500,000 fruit seedlings planted within a year.

NDMA Chairman of the Technical Committee, Koome Kiragu, says schools and tertiary institutions are targeted in this campaign supported by the European Union, which will see some 10 primary and secondary schools from semi-arid areas receive twenty 10,000-litre water tanks to support rainwater harvesting.

Koome, who was accompanied by NDMA CEO, Lt Col (Rtd) Hared Adan, spoke at Nkando Primary School, where some 5,000 mango tree seedlings are set to be planted in some 62 schools in Laikipia County, during the current rainy season.

“We have decided to grow fruit trees for the benefit of our schools in terms

of nutrient uptake among learners and also as a way of generating income. It’s now the responsibility of the schools to take care of the trees until maturity,” said Kiragu.

Adan revealed that NDMA has a target of planting five million trees, including fruit trees, by 2032, in order to implement the presidential directive of planting 15 billion trees in ten years.

“We have come up with an initiative to partner with institutions, including schools, to inculcate the culture of protecting the environment among young people. This will also ensure that by the time children are completing grade nine, they will have reaped the benefits of the fruit trees,” said Lt Col (RTD) Adan.

He said NDMA officials would be monitoring the seedlings after every three months to ensure their survival, citing this as the main reason why they have also distributed the water tanks for rainwater harvesting.

“If each household is able to harvest water that will support domestic usage and also grow trees, we encourage each family to plant at least five



Koome Kiragu planting a commemorative tree.

trees aimed at protecting our environment,” he said.

Beatrice Wachira, from the office of Laikipia County Director of Educa-

tion, said that school heads have been directed to ensure the survival of the seedlings.

She said the fruit trees would im-

prove nutrition uptake for the learners besides generating income for the targeted institutions.

# Special Groups In Kirinyaga To Receive NGAAF Support

By: David Wandeto  
 @themkenyatimes



Kirinyaga Women Representative Njeri Maina and other leaders during the issuance of the cheque

## Worth Noting:

- “We call on women, youth, and people with disabilities to unite and register in groups for them to benefit from the fund. We are going to distribute over \$15 million this financial year to different groups. As we support women, men are also part of the programme since we encourage 70 per cent to be women and 30 per cent be men,” Njeri said.
- Education bursaries amounting to Sh2.7 million were awarded to five hundred needy students in the county, each receiving five thousand Kenya shillings. She also disbursed a cheque of Sh832,000 to cover the full scholarship for 104 to complete the four-year secondary school course.

Kirinyaga Woman Representative Jane Njeri Maina, has launched the “Tupange Kesho Programme,” which aims to support the less fortunate while also empowering women, youth, and people with disabilities in the county.

The programme will be funded by the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

To date, the Tupange Kesho programme has distributed Sh3.6 million to different women, youth, and people with disabilities with the goal of empowering small-scale businesses.

“We call on women, youth, and people with disabilities to unite and register in groups for them to benefit from the fund. We are going to distribute over \$15 million this financial year to different groups. As we support women, men are also part of the programme since we encourage 70 per cent to be women and 30 per cent be men,” she said.

Education bursaries amounting to Sh2.7 million were awarded to five hundred needy students in the county, each receiving five thousand Kenya shillings. She also disbursed a cheque of Sh832,000 to cover the full scholarship for 104 to complete the four-year secondary school course.

Njeri said the bursary has been given only to needy students from deserving backgrounds.

She called on other elected leaders to be fully accountable for the funds they get from the national govern-

ment, saying that if the funds are used for the intended purpose, they can benefit the community at large.

“It’s my call to the national government to increase the NGAAF amount since there is a lot that needs to be addressed. We serve the whole county, thus making it challenging to touch all corners, but if the fund can be increased, there will be much impact to be seen,” Njeri said.

Njeri, also through NGAAF, gave 100 tents to 100 groups from all over the county. Saying the tents will come in handy to groups when they have functions in their villages and will help members save what they have been incurring to rent tents. She promised more social economic programmes through the “Tupange Kesho Programme,” saying that before the end of the financial year, Sh15 million will be given as grants to different groups to start income-generating activities.

She further donated 100 water tanks, which will be distributed to schools, to help them have adequate and clean water to be used in their day-to-day activities.

“Water is a basic need, said Tupange Kesho. We have given 100 water tanks to our schools as a way to help them store clean water and have water when there is a water shortage,” she said.

Benson Kaloki, head teacher of Kiangoma Primary School, a school set to benefit from modern ablution facilities, said the school has been in bad condition since they have been

using very old toilets, which has always been a challenge to learners.

“NGAAF is a game changer in our communities, and as the headteacher of a public school that is set to benefit from the fund, I can attest to that. Once we are done with the project, we expect there will be improvement from the learners,” Kaloki said.

Pauline Njoki, chairperson of a group of people living with disabilities from Mwea Constituency, said they were among the groups that benefited last financial year from the NGAAF, and from what they received, their lives have changed as members since they have a source of income.

“We got a hundred thousand from NGAAF through the office of the woman representative, and we were able to start layer farming, where she gave more than 200 active laying chickens. In the near future, everyone will be owning their own chicken. Personally, I can testify that I am not a beggar anymore; I pay for my own bills,” she said.

She called on other elected and non-elected leaders to help people living with disabilities and give them something to do since they can change their own lives if supported.

“We are not as disabled as you see, but we are differently talented; if given the chance, we can do just as well as others are doing,” she said.

Maxwell Ngungi from Gichugu Constituency, a beneficiary of NGAAF, said they formed a youth

group of 12 young men and women and approached the office of the woman representative, and they were among those given funds to start businesses where they started by making detergent and selling it locally.

He added that with time, they were able to change from detergent and graduate to making bar soap.

Ngungi said they have been able to employ themselves permanently in their company and create employment for others who supply their products in the local market.

“Through coming up together as youth, we were able to find something to do, and we have been able to help ourselves solve challenges the majority of youth are experiencing, like drug abuse, joining illegal groups, or even alcohol addiction. I can comfortably add that we have been able to go through different empowerment programmes from when we were making detergent to where we are now, where we have our own products,” Maxwell said.

He also echoed MP Njeri’s call for youth to come up with self-help groups, saying it is hard for an individual to be helped by the government, but once people come together and join the groups, they are easily assisted.

# Lamu County Waives Cess On Murram For LAPSSET Road Construction

By: **Amenya Ochieng**

@themkenyatimes

Lamu County Government has announced a waiver of cess collection on murram extracted by the Chinese Communication Construction Company for the LAPSSET project within the county's quarry sites.

This decision comes after a period of contention sparked by increased levies imposed on the transportation of murram, hindering the project's advancement.

The Lamu-Garissa Road, stretching across 257 kilometres, is a vital component of the Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project.

The road, undertaken by the Chinese Communication Construction Company, holds strategic importance in connecting Kenya to Ethiopia, facilitating trade and logistics through the Northern Corridor to the Lamu Port.

Last year, the county government



raised the cess levy on murram-laden lorries to Sh2,500, a substantial increase from the previous fee of Sh500.

This surge in charges led to operational slowdowns, with the contractor halting construction activities,

citing financial constraints and logistical challenges.

Speaking to the media yesterday, Salim Bunu, LAPSSET Regional Manager, emphasised the significance of the waiver in facilitating the timely completion of the La-

mu-Garissa Road and its subsequent benefits to trade and investment in the region.

According to sources close to the project, the road's completion had faced setbacks, with only 43 per cent accomplished by January of this

year.

Factors such as security concerns and the increased cess on murram had also contributed to delays, prompting a reassessment by the road contractor on the project continuity.

In his remarks, Lamu Governor Issa Timamy expressed his commitment to the success of the LAPSSET initiative, emphasising its potential to generate employment opportunities and spur socioeconomic development in Lamu County.

Additionally, he highlighted the road's role in enhancing security by improving access to the Boni Forest region, addressing challenges posed by sporadic Al-Shabaab attacks.

The Lamu-Garissa Road, with an estimated cost of Sh15 billion in budget, is a key component of the LAPSSET project, with President William Ruto affirming plans to upgrade it to bitumen status upon completion.

## Alice Kande Appointed

By: **Bernadette Khaduli**

@themkenyatimes

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) has appointed Dr. Alice Wairimu Kande as the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority for a five-year term.

Dr. Kande has been the acting Director General at KNQA since December 7, 2022, following the exit of Dr. Juma Mukhwana, who now serves as the Principal Secretary of the Department for Industry.

Before her appointment as Acting Director General, Kande served as Deputy Director in Charge of Planning, Research, Outreach, and Policy at the Authority.

In a press statement sent to newsrooms, the KNQA Council Chairperson, Stanley Kiptis, said Dr. Kande was the successful candidate out of the 12 shortlisted candidates who were interviewed for the position that had attracted a total of 36 applicants.

The position was advertised on November 28, 2023, and the interviews commenced on February 27, 2024, to

February 28, 2024.

"Following deliberations and careful consideration, the Council appointed Dr. Kande for the position," said Kiptis.

While congratulating her on the appointment, Kiptis expressed the Council's confidence in her leadership and hoped that she will steer the organisation as well as she did in an acting capacity.

Dr. Kande holds a doctorate degree in Business Administration in Strategic Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, a Master's in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Education both from Kenyatta University.

She has been instrumental in the development of various national policies at the Authority among them the recognition of the Prior Learning Policy that was launched in March this year by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, she coordinated the development of the Kenya Credit Accumulation and Transfer System; and the Registration and Accreditation Policy Framework.

## KNQA Director General



Alice Kande Appointed KNQA Director General

# Ruto's Repeated Call On Leaders To Shun Politics Of Succession And Age Limits Was Commendable



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto.

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking in presence of the chief guest, President William Ruto, investor Raval Nahendera, the proprietor of this Clicker plant, showered the President with praises and accolades.
- Mr President, you have been at the helm of power for less than two years and you have done a lot for the people of Kenya. He felt short of stating. Dr Ruto had achieved more compared to what his predecessors had achieved within the same period.
- Sometimes I lack words to describe your good leadership that has transformed the lives of the Kenyan people in a big way.
- 10 year is not enough to build and complete the strong foundation that you have laid out.

A section of the political leaders have in the recent past revived the debate on succession politics and presidential age limits.

An MP from North Eastern, who kicked this debate two years ago, had proposed that two five-year term limits should be removed and be replaced with age limit of 75 years.

This means a sitting President will be eligible to serve until when he or she reach that age.

The MP did not however come clearly on whether the holder of the top office in the land will be required to seek fresh mandate from electorate after every five years.

This debate was rekindled recently during the commissioning of a cement and steel factory in West Pokot.

Speaking in presence of the chief guest, President William Ruto, investor Raval Nahendera, the proprietor of this Clicker plant, showered the President with praises and accolades.

Mr President, you have been at the helm of power for less than two years and you have done a lot for the people of Kenya. He felt short of stating. Dr Ruto had achieved more compared to what his predecessors had achieved within the same period.

Sometimes I lack words to describe your good leadership that has trans-

formed the lives of the Kenyan people in a big way.

10 year is not enough to build and complete the strong foundation that you have laid out.

I, therefore, propose that you should govern this country for the next 25 years. MP David Pkosing, who was among leaders present, threw his fully weight behind the investor.

I'm ready to craft and sponsor a motion seeking an extension of the presidential term limit.

President William Ruto has up to date steered clear of this debate.

But as the President of this country, he knew he has a responsibility to guide the citizens. This explains why he has been repeatedly telling the leaders to shun succession politics and talk of presidential term limits. Our priority right now is to fulfill the pledges we made to Kenyans.

I had earlier followed closely President William Ruto's five-day development tour of Western Kenya.

This came hot on heel of a similar tour of the Mount Kenya region where he stayed for six days.

In Western, the President held a series of meetings with local leaders at Kakamega state lodge.

He also took the opportunity to roll out dozens of development projects and

commence the process of reviving the projects that had stalled and run down.

The plan for the revival of Mumia Sugar Company was very close to his heart. Addressing the residents of Mumias, the President assured them that he was committed to bring the sugarcane milling factory back to its feet.

I know the reasons why the efforts by the previous governments failed to bear fruits.

It is because this factory had been captured by sugar cartels, barons and brokers. For now, it will no longer be business as usual. The sugar cane farmers have suffered enough. This has come to end.

Those who have over the years been doing dubious and illegal businesses with Mumia company and thier sympathizers would not take the President's words lightly.

They included the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga whose family company, Spectre International, was reportedly getting raw materials from this company that were being used by thier Kisumu-based Molasses plant.

They would allege that Dr Ruto's 'talk' amounted to threatening the lives of the investors.

To me, the President's words were Biblical. When you resort to stealing and

destroying the livelihoods of the poor people, you should know that there is God in heaven. He is seeing you.

God is full of mercies but at a time he gets angry and His punishment can turn out to be lethal.

God gives life and He is the only one who can take it away.

President Ruto is a God fearing leader and his deeds and actions demonstrates he is fully aware of this.

Secondly, genuine investors would have no problem following the laws of the host country where they have invested.

So, the investor would not be scared when the government go for the so called investors who have broken the law of the land.

Listening to the tone of Dr Ruto's remarks, one thing was clear.

He once again proved that he is not a vengeful or vengeance. This is contrary to what his critics wanted Kenyans to believe.

After President Ruto wrapped up his tour of Western, Kakamega senator Bonny Khalwale claimed the issue of Ruto succession had been raised and discussed in one of the meetings held at Kakamega State Lodge.

According to Khalwale, the local leaders were upbeat after the President agreed to support a leader from the region to succeed him in 2032.

In a swift rejoinder, the President reprimanded Khalwale. He asked him to stop peddling falsehoods and cheap propaganda.

As of now, the talk of succession is a hot potato issue. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Chief Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi are perceived as the front-runners.

For President Ruto, the debate is disruptive, premature and untimely.

For now, my eyes are trained and focussed on initiating and rolling out the development projects and programmes that I promised the people of Kenyans during the campaign.

I'm also looking forward to unite and reconcile the Kenyan people.

Come 2027 polls, Kenyans will judge me based on my score-card. I know it will be impressive and they will re-elect me to serve my second and final five-year term.

Well, this is not the first time we are hearing sly politicians igniting the succession debate.

This debate featured prominently during the reigns of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

I totally agree with Dr Ruto. Politicians should keep off the debate and instead focus on helping his administration to fulfill election promises.

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

# MKU Student To Attend The Global Huawei ICT Competition In China

By: James Wakahiu  
@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Ochola says it began with curiosity and a drive towards evolving in the world of technology. During the South African regional finals, the MKU innovators faced teams from across the Southern Africa Region. “Our collective effort was rewarded with a second-place finish, just behind a formidable Nigerian team,” says Ochola.
- MKU official Mr John Kamau, Ochola has remained a focused student and it’s his first time to participate in the high level competition. “As MKU, we are proud to have produced a leading student to represent Kenya in the international arena,” said Kamau.
- The Huawei ICT Competition was initiated in 2015 as part of the Huawei ICT Academy, in a collaborative effort to enrich the ICT talent pool by transferring the latest knowledge from a global technology leader.



Daniel Ochola, a Bachelor Science in Information technology at MKU, Thika Campus, is heading to China next month for the final Global Huawei ICT Competition slated for next month in China. Photos: Courtesy.

Eighteen university students will represent Kenya during the Global Huawei ICT Competition slated for next month in China.

The students will be led by Daniel Ochola, a Bachelor Science in Information technology at Mount Kenya University (MKU) Thika Campus.

The 18 were picked to represent Kenya in May 2024 in the competition after they participated in the Southern Africa Regional Awards held on March 15, 2024. The event was graced by Education Cabinet Secretary, Mr Ezekiel Machogu.

Ochola, a student at the MKU school

of Computing and Informatics, emerged among the top three winners in the Southern Africa Regional Awards and was part of 6,000 students participating in the 2023/2024 competition. During the competition where students from 15 countries showcased their innovations, Kenya produced 18 winners.

A total 21 Kenyan students were awarded out of 6,000 who entered the 2023-2024 Huawei ICT Competition during the award ceremony held in Nairobi.

The students also got cash prizes and Huawei products whilst other

awards were given out for lecturers and women in technology whilst 21 students got internship and job offers.

Ochola says it began with curiosity and a drive towards evolving in the world of technology. During the South African regional finals, the MKU innovators faced teams from across the Southern Africa Region. “Our collective effort was rewarded with a second-place finish, just behind a formidable Nigerian team,” says Ochola.

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The Huawei ICT Competition was initiated in 2015 as part of the Huawei ICT Academy, in a collaborative effort to enrich the ICT talent pool by transferring the latest knowledge from a global technology leader.

According to Ochola, the announcement of a competition by the Huawei Talent ICT Academy, featuring tracks in cloud, computing, and networking, was a clarion call for him. He says the journey has been demanding, commencing with enrollment and independent study, succeeded by a preliminary examination in November 2023.

Ochola said his win is a chronicle of determination, support and technological passion that has propelled him onto the international stage. “It all began with a spark of curiosity and a drive to immerse myself in the ever-evolving world of technology,” he says.

“The cloud track, emphasizing cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and big data, aligned perfectly with my goal to pioneer technological advancements. MKU has been more than an educational establishment to me; it has been a cradle for my dreams,” he says.

Ochola praises the university’s cutting-edge facilities and progressive stance on ICT education for furnishing the ideal environment for him to refine his skills and gear up for the contest. The competition started with enrollment and independent studies, succeeded by a preliminary examination in November 2023.

“The national examination was a fierce contest, but with the wisdom and backing from my university, encapsulated in the motto “Unlocking Infinite Possibilities”, I secured the second position among the select few

chosen based on merit,” he said.

The Huawei academy representatives recognized the potential of the competitors and prepared them for the regional final examination in February 2024. “Training at the Huawei office in Lavington for two months was an incredible experience, providing a glimpse into the professional world and allowing us to interact with industry experts,” he says.

In Kenya, Huawei has established ICT Academies in over 50 universities and colleges, providing access to cutting-edge technology training in networking, cloud computing, 5G, and AI. Annually, these academies train more than 4,000 students, contributing significantly to the ICT skills landscape.

The Huawei hardware installation base in Kenya has been recognized by the Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youth Affairs, playing a pivotal role in nurturing Kenya’s ICT talent pool and supporting national development initiatives.

Meanwhile, Kenyatta University (KU) has hosted a Clean Energy Bootcamp that brought together university students and members of staff from four to collaborate in workshops to further develop their Clean Energy innovations. The forum brought together university students and members of staff from Uganda (Makerere University Business School), Kenya (KU and MKU), and Germany’s Albert-Ludwigs-Universität to collaborate in workshops to further develop their Clean Energy innovations.

According to Mr Donatus Njoroge, the Head of Innovation, Intellectual Property and community Outreach at MKU, during the Bootcamp held at Maasai Lodge in Nairobi, the innovators had the opportunity to further develop and sharpen their ideas in discussion with other innovators and entrepreneurs. “The students were given opportunities to work creatively with interested business stakeholders,” he said.

He said the aim was to expose the students to real world parameters. “We wanted to encourage and energize them so that they can meet their long-term goals by exposing them to the real world needs. We also let them pitch to the business community,” he added.

# Understanding How The Devil And Demons Operate Pt 1



By: Eric Musa  
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

The most important subject in the world is Jesus, and after that, the next most important is your enemy. You need to know where the devil comes from, where demons come from, how they operate, and who they attack. You need to know that demons operate through generations of the same family. Some people reading this book have demonic problems that have “run” (or shown up in person after person) in their families for generations. Demons are personalities without bodies.

A demon is desperate for a body, and the number one target is a human body. They will operate through animals to a certain degree, but they prefer to use the bodies of men and women. Mankind is God’s num-

ber-one prize creation, and demons hate God. Satan and thousands times thousands of demons are moving through the air. Many thousands of them do not have bodies in which to live. A third of the angels in heaven were thrown out when Satan fell. (Rev. 12:4,7-9.)

We do not know how many that was, but we do know it was a multitude. Briefly in this sermon and others to follow, I want to deal with the particular kind of demon—or the particular assignment of many demons—which is the primary way Satan deceives the Church. It has been taught in many churches around the country—and this may surprise many people—but there is more room for demons in full-gospel churches than in denominational churches!

Most churches do not know very much about the devil at all. All they know is that he is mean. Satan has so many ministers and so many Christians deceived! He is the number one deceiver on earth. He does not want you to see him as the devil. He wants you to think that whatever happens to you or whatever way you are is God’s

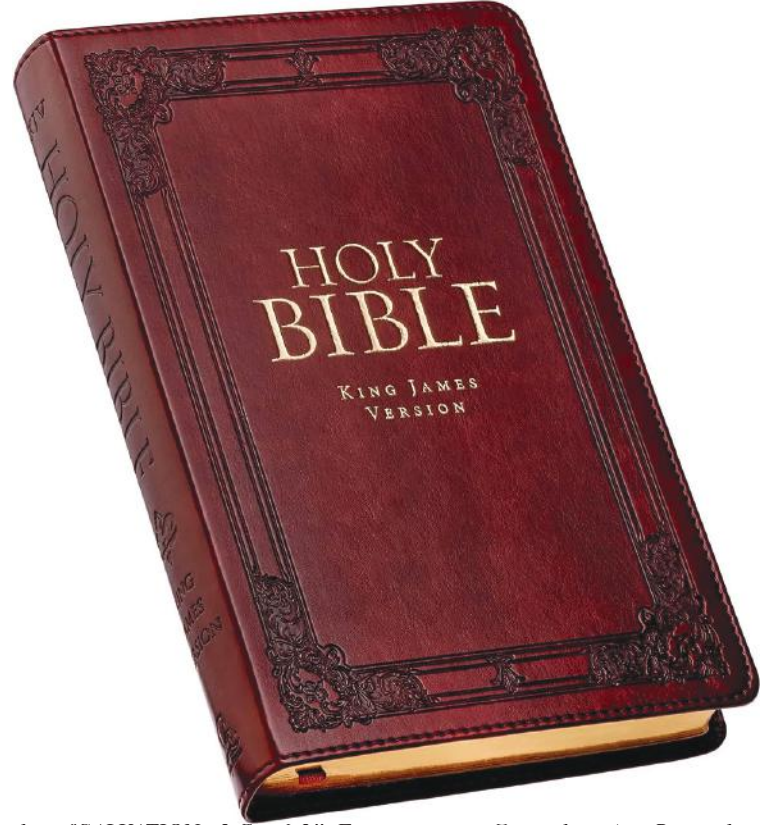
fault or your own fault. He does not want to be recognized. He wants to stay in the background and have you not talk about him or know that he is anywhere around. Have you ever heard someone get behind the pulpit and say, “I just want to talk about Jesus all the time? I don’t want to talk about the devil.”

That is exactly what the devil wants to hear you say. He does not ever want you to know he is operating in you or in your church. If you do not expose him from the Word of God and do not know what God says about him, you will never know your enemy.

GOD HELP US! GOD DELIVER US IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHTY NAME.

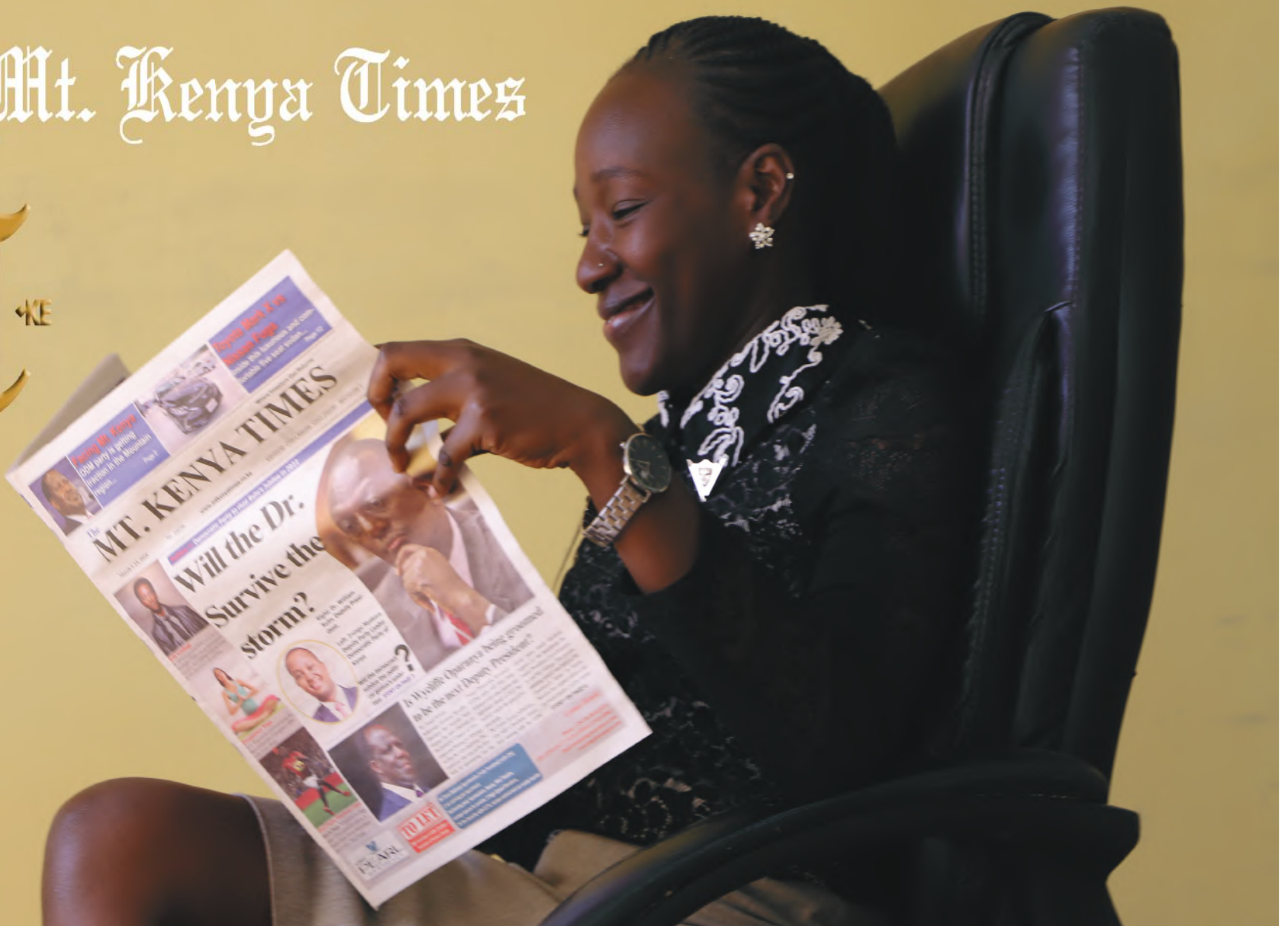
**Evangelist Eric Musa:**

*(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 *ericmusa@gmail.com*). Remember, prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 ( Email: EMEA. perfectly and forever.

## The Mt. Kenya Times



14 POEMS

# Phenomenon Remembers



Poems about life and soul  
Brings it to perfection, sharpens the mind.

I miss the beloved spring of genius  
Every year, every year, every year  
But from the breath taken by the original  
Hero  
At the same time, it is a dream not to get  
it.

I will always keep him in my heart  
After all, he is the embodiment of the  
original man.  
Abdulla Arif was excited  
May the "Wind of my country" always blow.

The son of Ulugbek Matkarimov Murodjon  
was born on May 29, 2004 in Baghdad  
district of Fergana region. Currently, he  
is a 2nd-year student of the Faculty  
of Economics of the National Research  
University of "Tashkent Institute of  
Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization  
Engineers". Many of his poems have been  
published so far. The winner of the "Student  
of the Year-2023" competition held at the  
university level "The most active creative  
student of the year"

It is possible to erase the traces of the pen,  
Instantly invisible black lines.  
But because he touched the paper  
All written words remain for a lifetime.

Life notebook written by the great poet,  
Ways of life, that's all  
Deleted, perhaps, from its owner  
Maybe there are no black ones left.

Absolutely! Bright rays of the phenomenon  
The Uzbek sky never leaves  
Droplet is alive, towards infinity  
The ocean of the heart yearns.

He is now with his first love  
He is watching his dear people.

# True Love



mesh,  
My love is not bound in the hearts of  
Flesh.

Then seek not, sweet, the "If" and "Why"  
I love you now until I die.  
For I must love because I live  
And life in me is what you give.

Let your heart swim in my care,  
Your pain, your imperfections, your  
challenges let me share.

Admitting your love means accepting the  
other without judgments,  
Thinking, wanting, needing each other  
constantly,  
Anchoring the relationship with love  
moments.

Bhavna Menda

My love, my soulmate

You have masqueraded your heart that I  
love so much,  
Show me the love you hold for me  
For my love for thee....  
Such a noble being, full of love,  
Can never bear anyone's feelings apart.

My love for thee, my soulmate,  
So pure and passionate,  
The spirit of my love is free from mortal

# Parallel Thoughts...

## The Secret Of Happiness...



If you have problems in life,  
Happiness is if you open your hands to  
prayer!

Shall I tell you a secret?  
Happiness is like a "magic lamp"  
Thanks in any case,  
As if it illuminates your path like a light!

Shall I tell you about happiness?  
Happiness is like health,  
It is not visible to your eyes,  
When he is not there, you say, "I wish he  
would come!"

Happiness is actually a bright world,  
Don't you see it with your own eyes?!  
Isn't it sweet what you found?

Look in the mirror for a moment,  
You have all the beauty, strength and  
will!

Turn around and look around  
Some people want what you have.

Without looking at anyone's hand,  
You're lucky if you can swallow the bite  
in your mouth,

Happiness is hidden in gratitude, in  
patience,  
So live in gratitude, my friend.  
I discovered the secret of living happily,  
Don't complain about life, my friend!

I am from Zebo Rakhmonberdiyeva,  
Namangan region, Chust district. I  
study in the 8th grade of the agency  
of specialized educational institutions  
Chust IM. When I study in the field of  
exact sciences, I am very interested in  
creativity and literature. That's why I  
wrote many poems, stories and articles.  
I like to learn languages. I am currently  
learning English and Turkish. In the  
future, I want to become a teacher and  
teach many languages.



But as you dance to the hymns of  
corruption,  
We are rehearsing karate  
Amidst pep talks to liberal youths  
For we think parallel,  
Dear friend.

We are waiting,  
To meet with thoughts at crossroads  
Where we must separate  
To let a new born swear to a new oath.

For a decade, you have been driven,  
You have attended luncheons,  
Thy children have attended international  
Colleges—all on our sweat  
Yet our children have gone to local  
Schools with devastated rooms,  
With poles staggering in muddy  
Halls for elementary education.

As you think of facing us again  
When rallying starts,  
Do you bet we are doing fine  
And blissful?

If I must say,  
Thy thoughts aren't mine,  
Then the nerve to wipe  
Thy Mercedes with mud,  
Smearing its dark panes  
With madness of thoughts,  
Has to welcome the storm  
Of teens in rags  
Amidst hue and cry!

A lost friend,  
I call you,  
But a found foe,  
I baptise thee  
In the name of parallel Thoughts.

Among your peers,  
You sit sipping Western grape wine,  
With your bulging stomach,  
A Budden to both parties

Labass Sebastian Degro  
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Poetry isn't dead.

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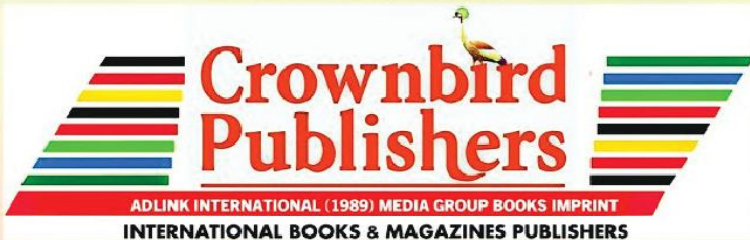
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# Ruto Urges Global Players To Bet On Africa And Youth

By: PCS



President William Ruto poses for a photo with delegates attending the Connected Africa Summit 2024 happening this week at Uhuru Gardens.

## Worth Noting:

- “With their brilliant minds, they are actively contributing to the growth of the global technology sector marking out Africa as an indispensable hub of technological innovation. They are a generation which has been socialized to internalize technology as a basic need and way of life that is essential not only for economic growth but also as a vital tool for solving the most pressing challenges of our time,” he said.

- The president further stated that through the Summit, the continent will lay a sustainable foundation of connectivity and empower its people to achieve the UN Sustainable development goals as well as the AU’s Agenda 2063.

President William Ruto yesterday officially opened the inaugural Connected Africa Summit 2024, which is taking place at Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony, President Ruto placed the African youth at the centre of the digital transformation agenda in the continent, noting that they are a fundamental constituency as builders and beneficiaries of a digitally-enabled society which will propel the success of everyone in the continent.

He noted that the young African talents, driven by their bold creativity and indomitable entrepreneurial spirit, are at the forefront of pioneering advances in Fintech, agri-tech, renewable energy and digital services.

“With their brilliant minds, they are actively contributing to the growth of the global technology sector marking out Africa as an indispensable hub of technological innovation. They are a generation which has been socialized to internalize technology as a basic need and way

of life that is essential not only for economic growth but also as a vital tool for solving the most pressing challenges of our time,” he said.

The president further stated that through the Summit, the continent will lay a sustainable foundation of connectivity and empower its people to achieve the UN Sustainable development goals as well as the AU’s Agenda 2063.

He however noted that the continent still has a long way to go in getting ready for the digital economy and the future of work noting that the continent’s internet penetration rate stands at 36 percent, which translates to 473 million users, in a continent of 1.4 billion people. The current pace of development, he said means the numbers are likely to increase by 300 million by 2030.

“We must therefore be concerned by the fact that our rate of connectivity is poorer than the existing potential: Despite these connections, fixed broadband penetration in Africa is only about 5 per cent, which leaves us far behind other regions of

the globe,” he said, adding that this reality carries dire implications to the continent’s ambition for connectivity and economic transformation through the digital economy.

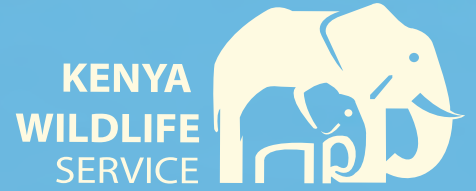
Under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the President said that Africa aims to harness Pan-African integration to expand the collective GDP from \$1.7 trillion to \$2.5 trillion by 2030.

“This ambition must be complemented by a strong commitment to bridge the huge digital divide which undermines our continent’s growth prospects. Globally, Africa’s digital infrastructure coverage, access, and quality lags behind other regions. Yet it does not have to be this way, because the most transformative interventions are a decision away,” he said highlighting the variances in connectivity amongst people in the region.

“Closing the digital divide is a priority in terms of enhancing connectivity, expanding the contribution of the ICT sector to Africa’s GDP and driving overall GDP growth which

will be attained through determined interventions to significantly increase access to broadband services, and to enhance both service quality and affordability which will intensify job creations and poverty reduction,” he added.

The Connected Africa Summit 2024, held under the theme, “Shaping the Future of a Connected Africa: Unlocking Growth Beyond Connectivity”, is a high-level international forum for key African Policy and decision-makers aimed at shaping the future of Africa’s Digital Economic Landscape. The week-long Summit will build on the achievements of the Connected Summit which has for the last 14 years convened top global ICT thought leaders and policymakers to champion innovative ideas and partnerships that leverage technology.






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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

# From Pyramids to Promised Lands: Reviving Africa's Spiritual Identity Through the Kabiru/Habiru/Hebrew Legacy



By: Erick Kamau Kahura  
 @themtkenyatimes



**Worth Noting:**

- The architectural marvels of Africa, including the iconic pyramids, reveal deeper connections to the spiritual insights of ancient communities like the Kabiru/Habiru/Hebrew people. Emerging research suggests that these civilizations possessed advanced knowledge of astronomy, mathematics, and sacred geometry, influencing monumental constructions.
- Africa's dispersed peoples carry within them echoes of ancient civilizations, manifested in cultural practices, languages, and spiritual beliefs. Despite centuries of dispersion and disconnection, these remnants serve as poignant reminders of our shared spiritual legacy across the continent.
- By acknowledging and exploring ancestral roots, we reclaim Africa's diverse spiritual heritage and reaffirm our cultural resilience. Through unity and collective acknowledgment of our shared spiritual connections, we honor the enduring spirit of Africa and the richness of our interconnected past.

## Introduction

The Journey into the depths of Africa's ancient past, where the mystical traditions and spiritual wisdom of the Kabiru/Habiru/Hebrew the present-day Gikuyu (Kikuyu) community have left an indelible mark on the continent's cultural tapestry. In this exploration, we unveil a legacy rich in spiritual insight and harmonious communion with nature. This narrative transcends conventional histories, offering a profound perspective on the interconnectedness of spiritual realms and the enduring wisdom encoded within Africa's cultural narratives.

### 1: The Mystical Wisdom of the Kabiru Community

The Kabiru community, also known as the Habiru or Hebrew people, embodies a deep spiritual heritage rooted in mystical practices and reverence for the divine. Legends surrounding figures like Solomon, believed to be of Kabiru origin, highlight their reputed command over spiritual entities and supernatural forces.

Ancient Kabiru traditions emphasize a harmonious relationship with nature and the unseen realms, showcasing a profound connection to the spiritual world. Stories of Solomon's ability to communicate with animals and command natural elements underscore Africa's rich tapestry of spiritual heritage, fostering a sense of unity with the divine.

### 2: Spiritual Insights and Architectural Ingenuity

The architectural marvels of Africa, including the iconic pyramids, reveal deeper connections to the spiritual insights of ancient communities like the Kabiru/Habiru/Hebrew people. Emerging research suggests that these civilizations possessed advanced knowledge of astronomy, mathematics, and sacred geometry, influencing monumental constructions.

The mastery of terraced agriculture by the Kabiru community reflects their profound understanding of land management, translating into innovative techniques for pyramid construction. By embracing Africa's pivotal role in shaping architectural marvels, we celebrate the spiritual wisdom embedded within these monumental structures.

### 3: Rediscovering Ancestral Roots and Spiritual Practices

Africa's dispersed peoples carry within them echoes of ancient civilizations, manifested in cultural practices, languages, and spiritual beliefs. Despite centuries of dispersion and disconnection, these remnants serve as poignant reminders of our shared spiritual legacy across the continent.

By acknowledging and exploring ancestral roots, we reclaim Africa's diverse spiritual heritage and reaffirm our cultural resilience. Through unity and collective acknowledgment of our shared spiritual connections, we honor the enduring spirit of Africa and the richness of our interconnected past.

### Section 4: Resisting Suppression

### and Distortion: Reclaiming Africa's Spiritual Narrative

Centuries of colonialism and Western hegemony have obscured indigenous spiritual narratives and perpetuated damaging stereotypes about Africa. It's imperative to resist these distortions and reclaim sovereignty in the preservation of our spiritual identity.

Education and awareness are essential tools in unraveling obscured spiritual histories, confronting distortions, and fostering a renewed appreciation for Africa's profound spiritual contributions to global civilization. By reclaiming Africa's spiritual narrative, we empower future generations to cherish and preserve our spiritual heritage.

### Section 5: Embracing Unity and Spiritual Identity: Breaking Barriers

The call for unity across African nations urges us to dissolve artificial barriers and celebrate our shared spiritual heritage. Let us facilitate free movement and cross-cultural exchange, bridging divides that have fragmented our spiritual unity and celebrating the diversity that defines us as a continent.

By breaking down spiritual barriers, we honor Africa's rich tapestry of spiritual traditions and histories, fostering a transformative journey toward unity and spiritual appreciation. Together, we pave the way for a brighter future rooted in spiritual unity and appreciation for Africa's profound contributions to humanity.

### Section 6: Rebuilding Africa: Embracing Our Role as Custodians of Spiritual Heritage

Africa's spiritual heritage is our sacred responsibility, and it's time to reclaim and rebuild our continent with reverence. As custodians of spiritual wisdom, we must safeguard and restore our spiritual legacy for future generations.

By embracing our shared spiritual heritage and guided by the wisdom of our ancestors, we pave the way for a brighter future rooted in spiritual unity and appreciation for Africa's profound contributions to humanity.

### Conclusion: Embracing Africa's Spiritual Legacy

This exploration invites readers to celebrate Africa's vibrant spiritual legacy and rediscover the profound spiritual contributions of ancient civilizations like the Kabiru/Habiru/Hebrew people. Through pride, reverence, and a renewed sense of spiritual unity, we rewrite the narrative of Africa's spiritual history and reclaim our rightful place as custodians of spiritual civilization.

By embracing our spiritual heritage and guided by the wisdom of our ancestors, we pave the way for a brighter future rooted in spiritual unity and appreciation for Africa's profound contributions to humanity. Together, let us unveil Africa's spiritual legacy and honor the enduring spirit of our continent.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Finding Home

By: **Murithi Christopher**

In Nairobi, a city teeming with activity, there lies a peaceful corner where hope blossoms amidst hardship. The Kamau family, refugees from a war-torn land, discovered unexpected sources of comfort and resilience. Mary Kamau awakens her children each morning as the sun paints the sky in golden hues. Their journey has been marked by adversity and perseverance, a testament to humanity's ability to endure and flourish against all odds.

As the sun rises, Mary Kamau wakes her two children, a boy and girl with curious eyes. Their journey has been full of hardship and resilience, showing that the human spirit can endure and thrive in difficult circumstances. The family started their journey in a small village torn apart by conflict where survival was uncertain. They fled from danger, faced many challenges while crossing borders, but hoped for safety and a better life in a new land.

The Kamau family's journey commenced in a small village ravaged by conflict, where survival necessitated ceaseless vigilance and unpredictabil-

ity. Escaping the horrors of war, they embarked on a hazardous excursion, traversing borders and encountering incomprehensible difficulties en route. Their only glimmer of hope was the assurance of safety and an improved existence in a faraway land. Upon arriving in Nairobi, they were greeted by a community of fellow refugees and empathetic locals who welcomed them with open arms. In the heart of the city's thriving refugee community, the Kamau family discovered a new sense of belonging and purpose.

Upon arrival in Nairobi, the Kamau family was greeted with open arms by a compassionate community of refugees and locals. Within the bustling heart of this refugee community, they discovered an unexpected sense of belonging and purpose. Through their newfound connections with other refugees who shared similar experiences and struggles, they established a supportive network that helped them persevere through even the most challenging times. Mary's children were finally able to attend school after years without access to education, creating new opportunities for a brighter future. De-

spite ongoing obstacles, Mary and her family remain steadfast in their hope and gratitude for each day they are given. Their journey has been marked by adversity but their resilience and determination serve as inspiration to all who hear their story.

In their new community, the Kamau family found a sense of belonging they never thought possible. They formed bonds with fellow refugees who shared similar experiences and struggles, creating a support system that helped them through the toughest times. Mary's children were able to attend school for the first time in years, opening up opportunities for a brighter future. Despite the challenges they still face, Mary and her family continue to hold onto hope and gratitude for every day they are given. Their journey may have been marked by adversity, but their resilience and determination serve as an inspiration to all who hear their story.

As I settled into Mary Kamau's unpretentious yet snug dwelling, she recounted their tale with a blend of fortitude and appreciation. "Each day is a gift," she professed, her gaze convey-

ing the agony of yesteryear and the optimism for what lies ahead. "We've endured significant losses, but we've also acquired an additional family here."

Their journey was not without challenges. From navigating a new culture and language to rebuilding their lives from scratch, the Kamau family faced obstacles that would have seemed insurmountable to many. Yet, through sheer determination and the support of their community, they persevered.

One of the defining moments of their journey was when the children, John and Amina, enrolled in a local school. With the help of dedicated teachers and mentors, they not only caught up on their education but excelled, showcasing their potential and resilience.

As Mary showed me around their neighborhood, pointing out the places that had become their new home—the bustling market where she sold her handmade crafts, the community center where they gathered for meals and support—I couldn't help but admire their strength and resilience.

Their journey may have been marked by adversity, but their resilience and determination serve as an inspiration

to all who hear their story. The Kamau family's experience shows that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for a better tomorrow. As we face uncertain times and unprecedented challenges, we can draw strength from their example and remember that we are all capable of enduring and flourishing against all odds. Let us strive to create communities where everyone feels a sense of belonging and purpose, where empathy and compassion reign supreme. Together, we can build a brighter future for ourselves and those around us.

As the sun sets in Nairobi, bringing pleasant warmth to the city, I leave the Kamau family feeling motivated and hopeful. Their story reminds me that even when we face difficult challenges, there's always a little bit of light guiding us back home.

*Murithi Christopher, a communication and media studies student at Rongo University.*



## Let's Cub Food Insecurity

By: **Lucy Macharia**

Matters of food insecurity have been greatly affecting our country in a greater percentage and at last affecting our economic status.

In most cases, you find that many Kenyans do not cherish farming activities nor do they put efforts in agricultural practices. As many values Urban lives and abandons their farms leaving them unplanted yet starving due to food shortage and strain much since they are forced to buy food stuffs on daily bases.

It all comes with various setbacks since most of people's salaries do not cater for all of their needs as many pay rent at end month, pay fees and cater for basic needs as per the requirements of their families. For instance, a farmer from central part of Kenya who abandons their farms causes great havocs to the country. This is because in central parts of Kenya, the climatic status favours the growth of many agricultural products and when left out with no treats a great loss is counted there-in.

In these parts they grow coffee, tea,

dairy production practices, maize farming, and vegetables among many others. If all people on these places can put efforts in rearing their farms they can contribute in atleast 70% in fighting hunger and food shortage.

On the other side, from western Kenya, large portion of maize production is greatly favoured. In some parts like Kitale and Uasin Gishu, it's well known of high maize production. But can this be so real if no efforts are done? The government through their initiatives should support them with usable and effective fertilizers, better

irrigation schemes, distributing seeds to farmers thus to encourage them in producing more. Those who prefer urban lives over the rural lives and do not have sustainable job opportunities should also stick in their rural areas and embrace farming.

In consideration of all these, you find many farmers with high production of products but do not know of best and preferred markets to take them. Whereby many do not have effective storage warehouses, this leading to wastage and destruction. This is due to high theft, destruction by pest and

finally leading to inevitable losses. Many potential farmers also deserves strong marketing strongholds whereby thru should be led loans at low interests and also have marketing personnel's where they take in their products at better prices. In regard of the rains we are receiving now, many should take an advantage of it and do more of farming.

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Lucy Macharia  
Rongo university  
Migori county*

## Embrace Proper Waste Disposal

*Tenants are disposing wastes on roads.  
Wastes pollute water resources around.*

Rongo University is a public university located on the hills of Kitere in Migori County. The institution is greatly growing due to increase in number of enrollment by KUC-CPS and has pleased many residents around to venture into constructing hostels around as their main business into focus.

In the environments of Kitere, there

lie many foundations of hostels, apartments and shops with no single space left freely for agriculture.

The idea to construct has both advantages and disadvantages as students are advantaged while the intimate residents disadvantaged.

At exactly 2PM, I met with Yvone Onyango 42, a resident of Kitere area who has been there before the university laid the ground into a higher learning institution. Yvone is a mother of three children 3 children and one grandchildren whose there main activities is farming and this is sug-

arcane.

The rise of hostels around has greatly impacted her farm and his health at hand. Yvone has noticed that there are no enough composite pits for tenants to dump wastes and this has created the courage to dump them at roadsides and to some nearby bushes left bare.

As this waste contains non-decomposing polythene bags, the floods Carrie's them to his farm and this has greatly affected his crops by hindering their roots penetration into the soil." I used to harvest 10 bag of

maize before but as per now I can only obtain 2 bags which is less to sustain my family both on fee and their upkeep,"Yvone narrated.

In the year 2017,the granny suffered a severe Typhoid due to wastes being washed by heavy rains into her borehole just located behind the house. At behind on the opposite site of the entrance to the compound, lies a huge hip of plastics, food leftovers and old clothes washed by heavy rainfall but later deposited at the place.

This has impacted her life as the old granny struggles to get clean water

and fresh cleaner environment for her family.

As the growth of institution is hiking, the number of hostels keeps on growing and this will still affects other residents apart from the granny alone.

The tenants must embrace on promoting a sustainable and cleaner environment.

*Feature by;  
Francis Muriuki*

# Beacon Of Transformative Progress At KSG

By: John Kariuki  
 @themtkenyatimes



*The Acting Director General / Chief Executive Officer at the Kenya School of Government Prof. Nura Mohamed.*

## Worth Noting:

- In collaboration with the various national, regional and international institutions, we shall implement an Ethical Leadership Program in the public service so as to realize the public service that is citizen-centric, efficient, effective and agile in service delivery. Further KSG will collaboratively deliver flagship programs geared towards efficient utilization of Government resources to realize economic empowerment of our citizens.
- In collaboration with various schools of Government in the region, we will see to it how the Kenya School of Government can be capacity building arm for the AU's ambitious programs some of which are propelled towards helping Africa achieve its agenda 2063 and for KSG in the long term to become The African School of Government. KSG has entered into an MoU with various Schools of Government in Africa including: Ghana, Rwanda, DR Congo, South Africa and Angola, Djibouti.

The Acting Director General/ Chief Executive Officer at the Kenya School of Government Prof. Nura Mohamed, is a man who is keen to put KSG on the World Map. The CS Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management appointed Prof. Nura Mohamed, Ph.D as the Ag. Director General of the KSG effective April 1, 2024. The appointment followed the expiry of term in office of Prof. Ludeki Chweya.

We caught up with this down-to-earth and very efficient gentleman in his office and he took some time out of his very busy schedule to share with us his brilliant vision of transformation:

"I'd like from the onset to thank the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Hon. Moses Kuria for this honors appointment in line with the recommendation of the Kenya School of Government Council. Upon taking the mantle of leadership at this key institution, I'm keen to use it as a leverage in pushing for the achievement of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda – as Spelt out in the manifesto of a uniform

in economic empowerment and transformation. Firstly, it's a critical thing to see to it that we upscale the realization of the public servants especially taking the services closer to the people of Kenya – wherever they are but most importantly the grassroots.

Prof. Nura alluded that he is taking a three-pronged approach for the transformation of the Premier institution that is one of the Government's strategic pillars in realization of the Vision 2030 and Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. Firstly, I intend to innovate ambitious capacity building programs geared towards reaching the lowest of the lowest in the society, that is, in villages, wards, constituencies. This will be the anchor to bring the much-needed change. One of such program is to collaborate with Ministry of Interior ..... to roll out programs targeting Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs to enable National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) to be trained and capacity-built on the Governments Transformative Agenda of the Bot-

tom Up under the vision of reaching to the unreached. This will build the capacity of the officers at the village level to economically empower citizens. It will act to transform the economy of the grassroots communities who will absorb services such as hospitality services at their down-most level.

Secondly, The Kenya School of Government (KSG) is positioning itself to partner and collaborate with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of State Corporations to take Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to the grassroots aimed at poverty alleviation and community empowerment such as Youth Empowerment Programs, Talent search and development, Community Engagement. This will work to ensure that vulnerable and socially insecure communities are cushioned from adverse economic hardships.

In collaboration with the various national, regional and international institutions, we shall implement an Ethical Leadership Program in the public service so as to realize the public service that is citizen-centric, efficient, effective and agile in service delivery. Further KSG will collaboratively deliver flagship programs geared towards efficient utilization of Government resources to realize economic empowerment of our citizens.

In collaboration with various schools of Government in the region, we will see to it how the Kenya School of Government can be capacity building arm for the AU's ambitious programs some of which are propelled towards helping Africa achieve its agenda 2063 and for KSG in the long term to become The African School of Government. KSG has entered into an MoU with various Schools of Government in Africa including: Ghana, Rwanda, DR Congo, South Africa and Angola, Djibouti.

Therefore, KSG and other Schools of Government within EAC will develop programs that will focus on the five (5) key Public Service transformation pillars namely: human capital development and management, transformative and value-driven leadership, fit-for-purpose public institutions, efficient, effective and Citizen-Centered service delivery and public sector productivity and Global Competitiveness.

We are also embracing best practices through collaboration with national, regional and international institutions. We are therefore committed to ensure we oversee a successful Digital Governance and Transformation in the Public Ser-

vice. This means that technology and ICT must be embraced, ICT and Artificial Intelligence as well as making use of the E-Citizen centric platform for efficient public service delivery. This will ensure public servants will be digitally competent for Africa to provide homegrown solutions.

Prof. Nura concludes with his mantra: "Tumewasikia na Tumewafikia" – we've heard you and we have reached you. Its time to make sure we improve the service delivery. We are in collaboration with Huduma Kenya Secretariat to launch Citizen Customer Service Excellence training program which will enable efficiency of public service delivery under a Citizen-Centric Public Service" approach. This will ensure Citizens will feel appreciated as we move along." Prof., Nura concluded.

Prior to his appointment, Prof. Nura Mohamed was the Director Finance and Administration at the Kenya School of Government, where he was responsible for providing leadership and direction on long-term, medium term and day-to-day management of Finance, Information Technology, Human Resource and Administration functions of the school. Prof. Mohamed holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Central University of Finance and Economics, China, Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance from University of Nairobi and a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance from the same University. Prof. Mohamed is a public sector transformation expert with over 20 years' experience in public sector transformation, Performance Management, finance, audit and planning. He possesses remarkable wealth of experience in providing strategic leadership in public sector reforms, finance, administration, Human Resource and governance in the public and private sector. While serving as the Director Finance and Administration (Deputy Vice-Chancellor-Finance and Administration) at Zanzibar University in Tanzania, he successfully spearheaded the university transformation processes. He is a consultant, researcher and adviser in the areas of Finance, economics, public policy and organizational transformation. Mohamed supported transition of the Kenya Institute of Administration to the Kenya School of Government as a flag-ship project of the Kenya Vision 2030.

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## EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



# African Education Ministers Meet For Science Forum

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a  
@themtkenyatimes



Education CS Ezekiel Machogu.

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking ahead of the conference, Education Cabinet Secretary Dr. Ezekiel Machogu said: "Africa's socio-economic transformation relies on its ability to develop relevant skills and promote scientific research and technology for industry and society."
- He added, "It is evident that our collective efforts are not only driving the advancement of science, technology, and innovation in Africa but are also laying the foundation for socio-economic transformation across our nations. I am in no doubt that the objectives we set to achieve in the 6th PASET Forum will be achieved."
- The Forum will discuss the nature and type of knowledge and skills required for Africa's industrialization, specifically the development and diffusion of digital technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and data analytics in the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the continent.

At least 12 African Ministers of Education will meet in Nairobi for the 6th Forum of the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET).

The Forum, to be held from today to Thursday brings together academia, industry, and governments across Africa to discuss the future of skills, education, and entrepreneurship on the continent.

The theme of the conference is "Leveraging Technical, Vocational, and Technical Training (TVET) in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa's Industrialisation."

The forum, to be held at Safari Park Hotel, will particularly discuss the role of African higher education in shaping the Continent's green economy and the future of work. More than 500 participants are expected to attend the forum.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Education Cabinet Secretary Dr. Ezekiel Machogu said: "Africa's socio-economic transformation re-

lies on its ability to develop relevant skills and promote scientific research and technology for industry and society."

He added, "It is evident that our collective efforts are not only driving the advancement of science, technology, and innovation in Africa but are also laying the foundation for socio-economic transformation across our nations. I am in no doubt that the objectives we set to achieve in the 6th PASET Forum will be achieved."

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Kenya's Ministry of Education is collaborating with the PASET Secretariat and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the Regional Coordination

Unit for PASET's Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), to organise the event.

Several PASET countries will share their experiences and expectations of how skills should evolve and prepare the continent's youth for the future of work and industrialization.

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) scholars, together with their mentors, supervisors, and other stakeholders in the higher education sector in Africa and abroad, will showcase their work addressing needs for the green economy and the future of work. This will include the contributions of sectors like food security and agribusiness, AI and data science, climate change, energy and minerals, mining, and materials sciences.

Chair of the PASET Executive Board based in Senegal, Prof. Aminata Diallo, said: "The need to fill the skills gap in applied sciences, engineering, and technology and foster socio-economic transforma-

tion in Africa is what has motivated African governments to implement PASET since 2013 with the support of the World Bank."

PASET is a unique Africa-led initiative, which focuses on building skills for key economic sectors that support Africa's socio-economic transformation, from the upper-secondary/TVET level to postgraduate education and scientific research.

Currently, the PASET programme has 12 members, which include the Governments of Rwanda, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Benin, Tanzania, Somalia, Burkina Faso, and Kenya.

It is governed by African Education Ministers, scientists, development experts, business leaders, and African academics and is facilitated by the World Bank.

# Blockchain For Academic Integrity

By: Ndabari Thuku  
 @themtkenyatimes

In a chilling twist, the recent remarks by Kenya's Deputy President during the conclusion of the National Wage Bill conference about government officials with fake academic certificates are not to be taken lightly. Yet, to my utter horror, everyone present giggled. The acknowledgement that he has a list presented by "Luthuli Road University chancellors" of individuals they've awarded these certificates to, amplifies the systemic failures within our government. The audacity of these perpetrators to preach to the deputy president is even more alarming. Coming from such a high-ranking official, it tarnishes our country's reputation on the global stage.

Addressing this epidemic is paramount to safeguarding the authenticity of our academic transcripts. Leveraging emerging technology like distributed ledger systems (DLT), known as the blockchain, offers a promising solution. DLTs are secure, transparent, and resistant to tamper-

ing, with no single point of failure. These time-stamped entries make forgery virtually impossible. Implementing this system in our educational institutions would ensure the integrity of academic records, as entries cannot be altered once recorded, and interested parties can verify the information.

Furthermore, as the Deputy President opined, recognizing alternative learning methods is a positive step. Excessive emphasis on certificates has spurred a frenzy of transcript accumulation through illicit means, undermining our societal well-being.

Ultimately it is not how many Certificates you have, but which skills you possess that can be of use to society. Therefore, prioritizing skills development within our education system is integral. Finally, Individuals who acquire skills through alternative pathways should be granted equitable opportunities for advancement. This inclusive approach fosters a culture of integrity and fairness.

Ndabari Thuku.  
 Blockchain Association Member  
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# Kenya-Somalia To Sign Miraa Trade Deal

By: Kamanja Maeria  
 @themtkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Mithika Linturi, has announced that Kenya will sign miraa deal with Somalia next month on May 8, to ensure steady economic benefits and provide a legal framework for the khat trade.

Mr. Linturi noted that the cash crop is the backbone of the economy in Meru, which contributes significantly to the livelihood of many residents in the county.

The CS was speaking at Thamaru Primary School in Igembe Central Sub-county during the burial of the two daughters of the Deputy Speaker of Meru County Assembly and Njia Ward member of the County Assembly, Ali Mwenda, who were involved in a grisly road accident on

April 2, which claimed the lives of the two angels and left their father on a wheelchair.

Linturi was flanked by the Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Kathuri Murungi, former Meru County Governor, Peter Munya; Igembe Central Member of Parliament, Dan Kiili; Meru County Deputy Governor, Mutua M'Ethingia; and several members of the Meru County Assembly, among other dignitaries.

The CS promised the residents that the Kenya Kwanza government is ready to support the cash crop fully and safeguard their interests.

The Meru County Senator and the Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Kathuri Murungi, urged NACADA to give miraa a clean bill of health as a cash crop, so as to benefit the residents who solely rely on the crop for livelihood.



# Silent Struggles: The Reality Of Menstrual Cramps

By: Daisy Cherono  
 @themtkenyatimes

In the quiet town of Bungoma, nestled within the lush landscapes of Kenya, a silent struggle persists among many young women. It's a battle fought every month, yet seldom discussed openly: menstrual cramps. Among those bravely stepping forward to share their stories is Giselle, a 23-year-old resident of Namilimo village, whose life is often disrupted by the debilitating pain that accompanies her monthly cycle.

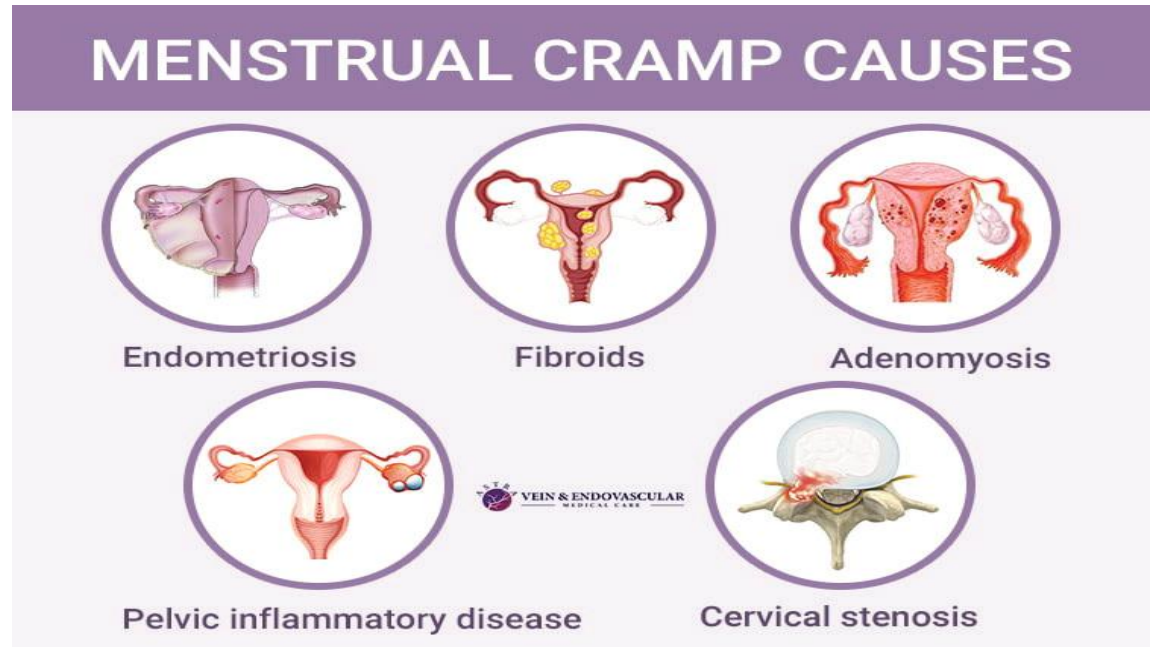
"I used to think it was normal to suffer like this every month," Giselle confides, her voice tinged with exhaustion. "But the pain is unbearable. It feels like knives stabbing into my abdomen, and no amount of painkillers seems to make it go away."

For Giselle, the onset of her monthly cycle brings with it a familiar dread. As she wakes each morning, she is greeted not by the promise of a new day, but by the throbbing ache that grips her abdomen with unforgiving

intensity. "It's like being trapped in a cycle of pain," she confides, her voice strained with weariness. "No matter how hard I try to push through, it's always there, lurking in the background."

Her struggle is not confined to the physical realm alone; it permeates every aspect of her life. As she goes about her daily tasks, the pain serves as a constant companion, casting a shadow over even the simplest of joys. "There are days when I can barely muster the energy to get out of bed," Giselle admits, her eyes reflecting the exhaustion that weighs heavily upon her.

In her quest for relief, Giselle has tried countless remedies, each offering only temporary respite from the relentless onslaught of pain. From over-the-counter painkillers to herbal teas and hot water bottles pressed against her abdomen, she has explored every avenue in search of solace. "Sometimes, the pain is so unbearable that I'm willing to try anything," she says, desperation creeping into her voice. "Sometimes I do use painkillers such as brufen and panadol. There is a time when those



painkillers don't work completely, the only option remaining is for me to lay on the floor without clothes."

Amidst the shadows, however, there are glimmers of hope. Dr. Kiprono, a dedicated gynecologist, stands at the forefront of efforts to shed light on this often-overlooked issue. With compassion and expertise, he offers guidance and support to those in

need, urging them to seek help without hesitation.

"Menstrual cramps should never be ignored or dismissed as 'just a part of being a woman,'" Dr. Kiprono emphasizes. "There are effective treatments available that can provide relief and improve quality of life. No one should suffer in silence."

"I believe that by speaking out

and supporting one another, we can overcome the challenges we face," Giselle affirms, her gaze unwavering. "Together, we can rewrite the narrative surrounding menstruation and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for all."

Daisy Cherono, Rongo University

# Government Urged To Pump More Resources Into The Education Sector

By: John Kariuki  
 @themtkenyatimes

The government has been called upon to pump more resources into the education sector by replicating CBC centers in all counties where if schools don't have the facilities they can go to common places in their areas to learn.

This was said by various education stakeholders during the launch of an AI center at Gravity CBC center in Nairobi which will help change the education sector in Kenya by use of games and play to learn.

Duncan Arimi the CEO of the center said, AI center is using a locally assembled super machine to motivate learners to learn in an enjoyable way.

He added they have a free expo the whole of this week for all school heads which will showcase the im-

portance of artificial intelligence in the education system.

Various school heads who attended praised the Center saying CBC is the best thing that happened since its molding children for the future.

Paul Wanjohi the board member of the center & also APBET schools leader challenged the government to retool teachers to enable them move with advancement of education.

Gravity CBC center .



# Law Society of Kenya

## LSK Demands Compensation for Farmers Amidst Allegations of Fraud in National Fertilizer Subsidy Program

By: Business Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

In a recent development, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has raised serious concerns over the implementation of the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program (NFSP). The program, aimed at supporting farmers across the country, has come under intense scrutiny following allegations of widespread breaches of duty, incompetence, and even fraud and corruption.

The LSK's concerns stem from reports indicating that farmers have been supplied with substandard or fake fertilizers, severely impacting their agricultural yields and livelihoods. Such allegations have sparked outrage among farming communities, who rely heavily on these subsidies to sustain their agricultural activities. Moreover, there have been accusations of mismanagement and malpractice within the NFSP, further exacerbating the situation. Farmers, who were promised genuine and effective fertilizers to enhance their crop yields, now find themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous practices within the program.

In light of these grave allegations, the LSK is demanding swift action to address the situation. They are calling for thorough investigations into the matter and are urging the relevant authorities to hold accountable those found responsible for any wrongdoing.

Furthermore, the LSK is advocating for compensation to be provided to affected farmers as a matter of urgency. They argue that these farmers have suffered significant losses as a result of the alleged fraud and incompetence within the NFSP and deserve to be adequately compensated for their losses.

The implications of these allegations extend beyond just the agricultural sector. They have broader implications for food security and economic stability in Kenya. With a significant portion of the population relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, any disruptions to the sector can have far-reaching consequences.

In response to the LSK's demands, the government is facing mounting pressure to take decisive action to address the situation. The public is eagerly awaiting concrete steps to restore trust and integrity in the NFSP and to ensure that farmers receive the support and assistance they desperately need.

As the investigation unfolds and the



LSK President Faith Odhiambo addressing the press.

true extent of the alleged fraud and corruption is revealed, one thing remains clear: the need for transparency, accountability, and justice in the administration of programs aimed at supporting Kenya's vital agricultural sector. Only through concerted efforts to root out malpractice and uphold the interests of farmers can the country hope to achieve sustainable agricultural development and food security for all.

The NFSP was introduced with the noble intention of providing much-needed support to farmers across Kenya, particularly small-scale and subsistence farmers who form the backbone of the agricultural sector. However, the recent allegations of fraud and corruption have cast a dark shadow over the program's effectiveness and credibility.

Farmers, who were promised assistance in the form of subsidized fertilizers to boost their crop yields and improve their livelihoods, now find themselves in a precarious situation. Many have invested their time, effort, and resources into their farms, expecting a return on their investment with the help of the NFSP. Instead, they have been left disillusioned and economically disadvantaged due to

the alleged misconduct within the program.

The LSK's intervention in this matter is significant as it represents a collective voice advocating for justice and accountability on behalf of the affected farmers. By demanding compensation for the losses incurred by these farmers, the LSK is seeking to ensure that their rights are upheld and that they are not left to bear the brunt of the alleged fraud and corruption within the NFSP.

Furthermore, the LSK's call for thorough investigations into the matter is crucial for uncovering the truth and holding accountable those responsible for any wrongdoing. It is imperative that the perpetrators of fraud and corruption within the NFSP are identified and brought to justice to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.

The government must heed the calls of the LSK and take decisive action to address the allegations of fraud and corruption within the NFSP. This includes conducting transparent and impartial investigations, holding those responsible accountable, and implementing measures to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

Additionally, steps must be taken to restore trust and confidence in the NFSP among farmers and the wider public. This may require reforms to improve the transparency, efficiency, and integrity of the program's implementation process, as well as measures to ensure that farmers receive the genuine and effective fertilizers they were promised.

In conclusion, the allegations of fraud and corruption within the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program are deeply troubling and demand urgent attention from the relevant authorities. The LSK's intervention in this matter underscores the importance of upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of the affected farmers. It is imperative that swift and decisive action is taken to address these allegations and ensure that justice is served. Only then can Kenya's agricultural sector truly flourish, and its farmers receive the support and assistance they need to thrive.

### Worth Noting:

In response to the LSK's demands, the government is facing mounting pressure to take decisive action to address the situation. The public is eagerly awaiting concrete steps to restore trust and integrity in the NFSP and to ensure that farmers receive the support and assistance they desperately need.

As the investigation unfolds and the true extent of the alleged fraud and corruption is revealed, one thing remains clear: the need for transparency, accountability, and justice in the administration of programs aimed at supporting Kenya's vital agricultural sector. Only through concerted efforts to root out malpractice and uphold the interests of farmers can the country hope to achieve sustainable agricultural development and food security for all.

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*King Mohammed VI sent a message of congratulations to the members of the national futsal team who won, on Sunday in Rabat, the Futsal Africa Cup of Nations

## King Mohammed VI Congratulates Morocco For Winning 3rd Consecutive CAF Futsal AFCON Title

By: Dismas Otuke

King Mohammed VI sent a message of congratulations to the members of the national futsal team who won, on Sunday in Rabat, the Futsal Africa Cup of Nations .

In this message, the King expresses to the members of the national futsal team His warm congratulations for winning the 7th Futsal Africa Cup of Nations, hosted by the capital of the Kingdom, with hospitality and unparalleled organization.

The Sovereign also expresses His great pride in the firm determination shown by the members of the national team to win, for the third time in a row, this continental title, driven by exemplary patriotism and serious commitment to promote Moroccan football and sport.

Reiterating His congratulations to the members of the national team and all technical and administrative executives of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, His Majesty the King prays the Almighty to grant them greater success and awards during the 2024 World Cup in Uzbekistan, and in their sustained efforts to climb the highest steps of the podiums on continental and international levels.



King Mohammed VI

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*The fifth edition of the Kip Keino Classic Continental Tour held last Saturday, April 20th, at Nyayo Stadium lived to the billing as six world-leading times were set in addition to another six meeting records.

# Kip Keino Classic Was A Thriller As Six Meeting Records Broken



By: **Dismas Otuke**

The fifth edition of the Kip Keino Classic Continental Tour held last Saturday, April 20th, at Nyayo Stadium lived to the billing as six world-leading times were set in addition to another six meeting records.

52 athletes attained their seasonal best and another 33 posted their personal best times.

Another outstanding performance that sent the almost fully packed Nyayo Stadium was world-leading times from Ndori Buyapo of Botswana in the 400m men, where he posted 40.11 seconds, as Kenyan Zablon Ekwam finished 4th with a personal best time of 44.69 to earn himself an Olympic Games ticket.

3000m world bronze medalist Abraham Kibiwott also sent a strong message as he won the 7 1/2-lap race with a world-leading time of 8:20.54 as Canadian Ethan Katzberg won the men's hammer throw, registering both a world lead and a meeting record of 84.38m as the only Kenyan Dominic Abunda could manage a 60.09m throw.



Reigning World champion over 800 metres, Mary Moraa eased past her opponents to retain her 2023 title in 1 minute, 57.96 seconds, a new meeting record at the Kipkeino Classic and a big morale booster as she heads to the Bahamas for the World Relays.

American Lindsay Courtney also achieved a world-leading time

in the 200-metre final, clocking 91.71, the same time as Botswana's sensational Letsile Tebogo, who was relegated to 2nd place.

Reigning World Junior in 1500m Reynold Cheruiyot was in his own class as he won with a world-leading time of 3:31.96.

800m world silver medalist Emmanuel Wanyonyi wrapped up the

spectacular day with a world lead time of 1 minute 43.57 seconds.

Despite the African fastest man in 100 metres, Ferdinand Omanyala, failing to retain his title and losing it to American Keneth Bednarek, the event was tantalisingly a worthy outing for family.

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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Regulation Of Direct Financial Investments In Uzbekistan And The European Union: Bilateral Investments



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## Worth Noting:

- Bilateral agreements are a convenient way to attract foreign investment. For this reason, countries pay more attention to the conclusion of bilateral agreements and the exchange of experience between the two countries.
- According to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, "If there is no investment, the economy will not develop." The increase of investment projects in Uzbekistan, the adoption of laws to regulate this sector, and the opportunities given to foreign investors to operate freely are a confirmation of our opinion. In this regard, in order to ensure the implementation of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. The decision "On formation of a unified register of preferences and privileges granted to local and foreign investors" was adopted.

Regulation of direct financial investments (FDI) in Uzbekistan and the European Union: bilateral investments (BITs)

In today's information age, countries see foreign investments as a guarantee for the development of their economy. Investment policy is a set of mechanisms and methods aimed at the development and support of priority sectors of the economy, the transition from the centralized investment process to the decentralized investment process, and the support of priority investment projects.

Direct investments are one of the most important factors in the development of the country's economy. According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Investment and Investment Activities", direct Foreign investments are investments of a foreign investor without government guarantees, at the expense of their own funds or debt funds under risky conditions.

The role of regions in the development of Uzbekistan's economy is extremely important. One of the main problems of attracting foreign investments in the national economy is their correct distribution in the regions. Regulation of international investment activities is carried out at three levels: national (domestic), bilateral (for example, bilateral agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of investments), multilateral regional (for example, regional

preferential investment part of trade deals) and universal levels.

Bilateral agreements are a convenient way to attract foreign investment. For this reason, countries pay more attention to the conclusion of bilateral agreements and the exchange of experience between the two countries.

According to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, "If there is no investment, the economy will not develop." The increase of investment projects in Uzbekistan, the adoption of laws to regulate this sector, and the opportunities given to foreign investors to operate freely are a confirmation of our opinion. In this regard, in order to ensure the implementation of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers No. The decision "On formation of a unified register of preferences and privileges granted to local and foreign investors" was adopted.

In accordance with this decision, starting from July 1, 2024, a single register containing the types, terms, procedures and responsible bodies of preferences and benefits granted to domestic and foreign investors will be maintained. The single register specifies the types of preferences and benefits granted to local and foreign investors, as well as the regulation and coordination of the activities of state bodies and organizations in this field. Since countries are competing with each other to attract the same type of investment, in order to attract foreign direct investment,

they have to provide transparency and openness for investment, as well as to protect the investment.

They also offer additional guarantees and measures. Such measures may include: free zones allowing duty-free import and export, direct subsidies, tax incentives. Similar benefits and preferences are introduced in order to attract more foreign investments to the state. Therefore, the maintenance of the "Unitary Register" in Uzbekistan is a large-scale reform in the field of investment.

It should be noted that in order to form the most favorable investment climate in order to attract full-fledged investments in our country, large-scale measures have been implemented to liberalize the economy, reform public administration, limit interference in the activities of business entities, reduce and simplify licensing and permitting procedures, ensure the free use of goods, improve the country's tax In particular, according to statistics, in January-December 2022, a total of 45,214.9 billion were allocated for the Republic of Uzbekistan. it was noted that foreign investments in the sum of fixed capital were mastered, in the structure of which foreign direct investments amounted to 37,006.3 billion. the sum was or 81.8% of the total, with the remaining 8,208.6 crore.

The sum, or 18.2%, was appropriated at the expense of other foreign

investments. This is considered a higher performance than in previous years. This is due to the fact that the conditions created in our country for foreign investors, as well as the creation of a favorable investment climate, have increased the volume of foreign direct investment.

Our conclusions and analyzes show that investment activity is the development and justification of new advanced innovative ideas, providing them with material and technical and financial support, meeting the requirements of the present time.

As a result of this, by financing the activities of the established industry, investors have the opportunity to achieve high profits. To this end, it is appropriate to highlight the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan.

In the 1st quarter of 2024, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers was approved in order to actively attract foreign investment to the sectors and regions of the economy, introduce modern technologies into production, further increase the production volumes of high - value-added export products, create permanent jobs, as well as ensure population employment.

The periodic publication of the ranking of states by international financial institutions of the country's investment sector is important for investment decisions of foreign investors. Therefore, in order to improve the system of assessment of investment attractiveness of industries and territories in our country, the use of a system of indicators representing it was based and ways of calculating these indicators were developed.

In conclusion, we must say that since July 1, 2024, the implementation of a "unified register", which includes the procedure for preferences and preferences given to domestic and foreign investors, is also a project aimed at attracting investors and occupies an important place in the regulation, systematization of the investment sector.

The great emphasis on the direction of national and foreign investments in promising areas of Uzbekistan serves as the basis for the development of our economy.