



**Aggregation Programmes Key To Boosting Industrialization - CS Miano**  
 The government, in collaboration with counties and development partners, is keen to leverage on the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) programme to promote industrialization and boost GDP.

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**News>> Kenya Forest Service And Choromai Foundation In Kieni Constituency's Massive Tree Planting Programme**

P. 8. A programme aimed at assisting the Kenya Kwanza administration achieve the 15 billion tree



**News>> World Vision Launches "ENOUGH" Campaign To End Child Hunger And Malnutrition In Kenya**

P. 12. World Vision Kenya has embarked on a landmark campaign, ENOUGH, aimed at combating child hunger and malnutrition in Kenya. The initiative seeks to address the alarming prevalence of food insecurity, ensuring every child has access to nutritious food

# First Lady Launches Food Sufficiency Program

**The First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto, has officially launched the Enough Campaign by World Vision Kenya, a project aimed at boosting food sufficiency at the household level and ensuring every learning institution is supplementing learners' nutrition through a feeding program. This program, among others, will benefit over 4 million Kenyan learners who have been at risk of dropping out of school and missing a lifetime opportunity to change their lives.**



First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto

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# Senator Cherargei Constitutional Amendments Are Incurably Defective And Incoherent



By: Ndung'u Wainaina



Nandi Senator Kiprotich Arap cherargei .

**Worth Noting:**

- Senator Cheragei's proposals are incurably defective and incoherent. The incoherence arises from a fundamental misunderstanding of how a presidential system differs from a parliamentary system and the implications of those differences on what is possible or not possible.
- In fact, part of the reason why the 2010 Constitution has been so badly implemented is because this distinction and its implications are so poorly understood.

International Center for Policy and Conflict (ICPC) note that Nandi Senator Kiprotich Arap cherargei constitutional amendment proposals are nothing but continuity of the collapsed horrible BBI process in another form.

The constitutionally incoherent and unintelligent proposals are in furtherance of the political intra-elite accommodation rather than constitutional integrity.

Senator Kiprotich's insensitive constitutional amendment initiative is a political project whose sole object is attempt to capture and repurpose the Constitution for political self-interest not public good. It is a distraction from the core economic and debt crunch confronting the country. This is a reflection of the political leadership decay and disconnection facing the country.

The proposed amendments reaffirm the politicians' erroneous diagnosis of the

problems that bedevil Kenya to be arising from the structure of power within government and how that power is shared, and divisive elections and how these elections are politically managed. Since the mid-1990s until the BBI, Kenyan politicians keep complaining about "lack of inclusivity" in Kenya politics. Power-sharing has been the holy grail pursued by Kenyan politicians so that everyone is in the eating trough. Kenya politicians do not have a known standard definition or understanding of power-sharing.

Senator Cheragei's proposals are incurably defective and incoherent. The incoherence arises from a fundamental misunderstanding of how a presidential system differs from a parliamentary system and the implications of those differences on what is possible or not possible. In fact, part of the reason why the 2010

Constitution has been so badly implemented is because this distinction and its implications are so poorly understood.

To remove this confusion it is important to note that a presidential system is a dual mandate system. This means that the two political branches of government, the executive and legislature, are directly elected. Each has an independent electoral mandate. A Parliamentary system, on the other hand, is a single mandate system, only Parliament is directly elected by the voters. In a presidential system, the government is not in Parliament but in a parliamentary system it is. The 2010 Constitution provides for a presidential system. Consequently, this explains why you cannot have a Leader of Government Business in Parliament and that of an Official Leader of Opposition. Those offices exist in the Parliamentary system.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 com-

bins two institutional aims. The first aim is to constrain and limit the government. It draws boundaries of what is permissible and what is not permissible, to circumscribe government power. The second aim is core to the constitution's transformative promise. The government constitutionally required to facilitate political and economic opportunities for the people; that the state has a duty to secure some minimal level of human subsistence; that the state should aim to create a fairer society and that in the use of resources government must consider the unborn in a scheme of inter-generational equity.

*Ndung'u Wainaina Is The Executive Director; International Center for Policy and Conflict*

Editor's Desk

**The Mt. Kenya Times**

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

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## THEME

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The government has launched a campaign to reclaim the dilapidated Ol-Bolosat Forest, located within Gathanji Ward, and Lake Ol-Bolosat, which has dried up due to climate change and human activities. The Ol-Bolosat Forest and the Aberdare Ranges serve as the main water catchments that feed Lake Ol-Bolosat, but uncontrolled deforestation and increased human activities have led to most rivers drying up. The government plans to plant over 70,000 tree seedlings in the first phase of reclaiming the forest during this rainy season. The Community Organisation for Positive Impact, Care, and Development (COPICAD) is among the community groups involved in the initiative. COPICAD Chief Executive Officer, Rev. Joseph Nderitu, called for concerted efforts to raise awareness and sensitise local communities to the need to conserve and protect existing forests in the region. The tree-planting initiative is part of an effort to enable the government to plant 15 billion trees by 2032.



Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) has announced a plan to double international tourist arrivals to three million by the end of 2023 through a revamped diversification strategy. The Tourism Research Institute reported that in 2023, 1.96 million tourists visited Kenya, representing 31.5% of the 1.48 million that toured the country in 2022. However, the figures have yet to rebound to pre-Covid levels of 2,048,834. The sector has seen rapid growth and recovery post-Covid-19, with the USA, Uganda, Tanzania, the UK, and India as top tourist source markets. KTB CEO June Chepkemei aims to diversify its tourism attraction sites and enhance its marketing strategies to achieve three million international tourist arrivals this year. The country has also partnered with motorsport organisations and federations to tap into the adventure and leisure sectors to showcase Kenya's diverse sites. The "Tembea Kenya" initiative aims to promote domestic tourism and boost economic growth. The Kenya Tourism Board also aims to become a hub for adventure tourism, showcasing Kenya's deserts, coastal beaches, mountains, and other surreal terrains and landscapes.



The Kenyan government is piloting the Enhanced Liquefied Petroleum Gas Uptake Project (ELUP) to assist 5,000 public learning institutions, including secondary schools, TVETs, and Teachers' Training Colleges, in switching from firewood to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The project is being implemented in 20 learning institutions across eight regions, with actual work expected to commence by June this year. The State Department for Petroleum, led by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, aims to help Kenya increase its LPG consumption from 7.5 kg to 15 kg per capita per year and enhance LPG penetration from 24% to 70% by 2028. The project will support the installation of storage tanks, accessories, civil works, retrofitting of cookstoves, seed gas provision, and user training in identified institutions. The project will later cover other institutions, including Public Hospitals, National Youth Colleges, and Correctional Institutions. The project will also support the distribution of LPG cylinders to low-income households, execute and operationalize the importation of LPG through the Open Tender System Framework, develop common-user bulk LPG infrastructure, and develop a policy, legal, and regulatory framework. The project aims to reach 4.5 million low-income earners, addressing the issue of indoor air pollution from wood use.



200 youth in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, have participated in a 10-kilometre run to fundraise for a school feeding programme for learners in informal settlements. The initiative, dubbed 'One Child Fed', aims to ensure pupils in Majengo, Likii, and Kanyoni informal settlements have nutritious meals in their schools. The run, organised through sponsorship of the Licha project, aims to end hunger in classrooms, as most pupils from these settlements attend school while hungry, leading to poor grades, early teen pregnancies, and increased school dropouts. Local leaders, including Laikipia North Member of Parliament Sarah Korere, emphasise the need for collaboration among education stakeholders to ensure learners do not miss out on schooling due to hunger. The Licha project uses home-grown solutions like kitchen gardens in schools to address hunger among students and promote education.

The National Assembly Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity is calling on the Ministry of Education to double capitation for schools with students with special needs to address the challenges faced by teachers. The committee, chaired by Mandera East Member of Parliament, Yusuf Adan Haji, emphasised the need for special attention in schools for children with special needs. The committee also called for the development of a curriculum for schools with special needs and free healthcare for learners. The committee will also table a report in parliament to address the welfare of minorities, including the disabled, women, and caregivers, who will receive stipends from the National Government. The committee will also recommend risk allowances for teachers in special schools, as they are vulnerable to assault by their pupils. The committee will compile a report before tabling it in the National Assembly for debate. The Malaba Special School Head Teacher, Praxidies Ekisa, cited challenges such as a lack of adequate classrooms, a dining hall, a permanent water source, land for expansion, proper fencing, a lack of workshops, tools, and equipment for vocational training, and poor parental participation in fee payments.



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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# Kitale National Polytechnic Participates In PASET Conference

By: John Kariuki  
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

Kitale National Polytechnic is also one of the institutions actually the first National Polytechnic to be accredited by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority to award recognition of prior learning (RPL). We are currently recognizing the skills, of our colleagues in the jua kali sector, who are highly skilled but do not have papers. So we are offering them certificates and diplomas in various skills which such as electrical, mechanical, welding and fabrication, among other programs.



CS Education Ezekiel Machogu, Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi with Kitale National Polytechnic Chief Principal John Akola.

The Kitale National Polytechnic on Tuesday participated in the 6th PASET forum that is themed “Leveraging TVET in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa’s Industrialization.” The three-day conference, was officially opened by the Prime Cabinet Secretary (PCS) Wycliff Musalia Mudavadi on behalf of the President Dr. William Samoei Ruto. Sharing with Nation Media Group his insights about the conference, The Principal noted: “My name is Chief Principal John Akola from Kitale National Poly-

technic I want to say thank you very much for being invited to participate in this PASET conference. This is a conference that is actually important in leveraging TVETs in the acquisition of skills. Kitale National Polytechnic is playing a very special key role, in skilling of the youth of Kenya. Here we are currently tapping into innovation from the youth, who have done an innovation on remote patient monitoring where patients can be monitored from their homes, through the Community Health Workers, where the patient is able to test for

pressure, temperature and heart pulse, and relay the information to the community health worker wherever they are so that they can be able to monitor and advise the patient whether to be taken to the hospital, or to be given particular drugs. Kitale National Polytechnic is also one of the institutions actually the first National Polytechnic to be accredited by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority to award recognition of prior learning (RPL). We are currently recognizing the skills, of our colleagues in the jua kali sector, who are

highly skilled but do not have papers. So we are offering them certificates and diplomas in various skills which such as electrical, mechanical, welding and fabrication, among other programs. And we are encouraging the Juakali sector to come to Kitale National Polytechnic wherever they are, we can come to wherever they are so that we can assess their skill level, and award them certification. As Kitale National Polytechnic we are known as a Center of Excellence in Agriculture, and as such we are partnering with so many donor countries the Canadians, the Germans, to improve and innovate to make Agriculture more innovative more productive, but less costly in terms of producing our crops. We believe that in future Kitale National Polytechnic will grow to be a powerhouse, in Agricultural machinery, mechatronics in Kenya which we are currently running with the GIZ and we are currently training on dual system of training where the student takes part of his time in industry and Part of his time in the college, to do away with this issue of skills mismatch, which has been a problem in our nation for all those years where the industry is complaining that the people we are training do not match the job market. So through dual training method and the, competency based training, we are able to leverage on skills mismatch.”

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# Kenya Forest Service And Choromai Foundation In Kieni Constituency's Massive Tree Planting Programme

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

A programme aimed at assisting the Kenya Kwanza administration achieve the 15 billion tree planting initiative received a major boost in Kieni constituency following a collaboration between the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and a local philanthropist through his foundation.

The programme has in the last few days seen KFS and Choromai Foundation distribute more than 22,000 seedlings to thousands of farmers in the vast constituency.

The KFS through its Jaza Miti programme and the foundation through its patron John Kariuki Choromai has seen residents of three sub-locations of Endarasha, Watuka and EmBaringo receive assorted tree seedlings and Embaringo through the initiative that is primarily aimed at supporting the President William Ruto's goal towards increasing the country's forest cover.

Choromai said his foundation is



Kieni residents collecting seedlings, courtesy of Choromai Foundation

committed to increasing forest cover and promoting sustainable environmental practices in the constituency whose area covers 52 per cent of the entire Nyeri County lands area.

Further, Choromai added, the distribution of tree seedlings is aimed empowering local residents to actively participate in reforestation efforts, thus contributing to a greener and healthier environment for all.

The residents expressed their gratitude to the foundation patron for his continued support in various such courses which play crucial role their lives.

"These tree seedlings mark a significant investment in the future, not only for the residents of Endarasha, Watuka, and Embaringo but for the entire Kieni Constituency," said Peter Mwangi, a local resident.



Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki alias Choromai during a past church function..

# CS Zachariah Njeru Meets Ukambani Region MPs Discuss Water Priority Projects And Last Mile Connectivity

By: MoWSI

Cabinet Secretary for Water Sanitation and Irrigation Mr. Zachariah Njeru, yesterday held discussions with Ukambani region leaders of, Kitui Machakos and Makueni with issues of discussion coalescing around fast tracking of water projects in the water scarce counties.

The leaders included his counterpart, Cabinet Secretary for EAC, ASALs & Regional Development Peninah Malonza, and Principal Secretary -Devolution, Office of the Deputy President, Ms Terry Mbaika.

Other issues centred on prioritization of new projects to serve unserved and underserved areas and expansion of water and sewerage connectivity through Last Mile distribution projects.

MPS present included Honourable Vincent Musyoka Kawayo (Mwala) Rachael Nyamai(Kitui South), Joshua Mbithi Mwalyo Masinga) Nimrod Mbai(Kitui South) and Mwengi Mutuse Kibwezi West.

Tuesday's meeting was a follow up on the earlier meeting between Kenya kwanza Elected MPs and other Senior government officials from Ukambani region, hosted by President William Ruto at State House on 22nd April 2024 where discussion centred on the region's development priorities with focus on water ,infrastructure Education and Agriculture.

Principal Secretary State Department Water and Sanitation Mr Julius Korir, and water Secretary Eng SAO Alima participated in the discussions.



Cabinet Secretary for Water Sanitation and Irrigation Mr. Zachariah Njeru with Ukambani leaders..

# First Lady Launches Food Sufficiency Program Targeting Schools, Households

By: OPCS

The First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto, has officially launched the Enough Campaign by World Vision Kenya, a project aimed at boosting food sufficiency at the household level and ensuring every learning institution is supplementing learners' nutrition through a feeding program.

This program, among others, will benefit over 4 million Kenyan learners who have been at risk of dropping out of school and missing a lifetime opportunity to change their lives.

Speaking during the launch, Dr. David Githanga, Board Chair, World Vision Kenya, outlined the organization's commitment to eliminating hunger and malnutrition by contributing directly to food and nutrition security for 1.9 million children and 1.5 million adults in 2023.

World Vision Kenya has implemented integrated health programs in 21 counties to improve the survival and

protection of children under five years, as well as protect adolescents and mothers from infections and diseases in Kenya.

Ann Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Gender Affairs, noted that the majority of agriculture in Kenya is dominated by women, showing that despite the key role women play in nutrition at the household level, they are still disproportionately affected by hunger.

By addressing existing gender inequality will help reduce the risk faced by women and empower them to further.

Joseph Motari, Principal Secretary, Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, praised the launch of the Enough Campaign as a systemic solution to the hidden hunger and nutritional epidemic that have affected children in the nation.

The State Department is further implementing a pilot program aimed at improving the nutrition profile of children in their first 1,000 days across five counties through a cash transfer program.



First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto in white.

Mama Rachel Ruto further urged all Kenyans and organizations of goodwill to work with the Government to eliminate extreme hunger and malnutrition citing The Enough Campaign as a bold and ambitious commitment

towards a food sufficient Kenya.

Other leaders present at the launch included Halaqe Wako, the Deputy Whip of the Majority Party in the National Assembly; Babu Katelo, Director Administration, State Depart-

ment for Crops Development; Lilian Dodzo, Regional Leader of World Vision East Africa; and Gilbert Kamanga, National Director of World Vision Kenya.

# Azimio Calls For A Judicial Inquest Into Gen Ogolla's Death

By: Muraya Kamunde

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition has called for a judicial inquest into the helicopter crash that killed Chief of Defence Forces General Francis Ogolla and nine others last week on Thursday.

The coalition during a Parliamentary Group Meeting yesterday also opposed investigations led by the military that is closed to civilians. A team from the Kenya Air Force was dispatched to the accident scene on Friday to establish the cause of the air crash.

"On the death of General Ogolla, the Parliamentary Group shared deep condolences with his family and the families of those who perished with him. Further, the PG called for a judicial inquest into the accident and death as opposed to mere investiga-

tion led by the military that is closed to civilians," Azimio said.

The Raila Odinga-led Azimio la Umoja also demands that families of the victims be independently represented in the investigation and inquest.

The late General Ogolla died on Thursday last week after a chopper crashed in Tot, Elgeyo Marakwet County.

He was buried on Sunday at his home in Ng'iya Siaya County.



Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition leaders.

# Isiolo Residents Surrender Three AK-47 Rifles

By: Abduba Mamo and David Nduro  
@themkenyatimes

Police officers received three AK-47 rifles and four rounds of ammunition today, when herders at the Daaba Trading Centre in Ngaremara Ward in Isiolo County surrendered them to the authorities.



The rifle

Confirming the surrender, Isiolo Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Musango, said that two rifles and three rounds of ammunition were surrendered to the Multi-agency team, who were on operation in the area.

He said another AK 47 with one bullet and a Magazine were also surrendered by a young man to the Daaba Chief on Monday.

Mr. Musango attributed the isolated cases of insecurity in the area to the presence of firearms that are in the wrong hands, adding that those who are in possession of the weapons use them to steal animals and ambush motorists along the roads.

He added that the government would pardon those who would volunteer to

surrender the illegal firearms.

The administrator said the area lagged behind in development due to insecurity, and investors would not put-up businesses where security was a problem.

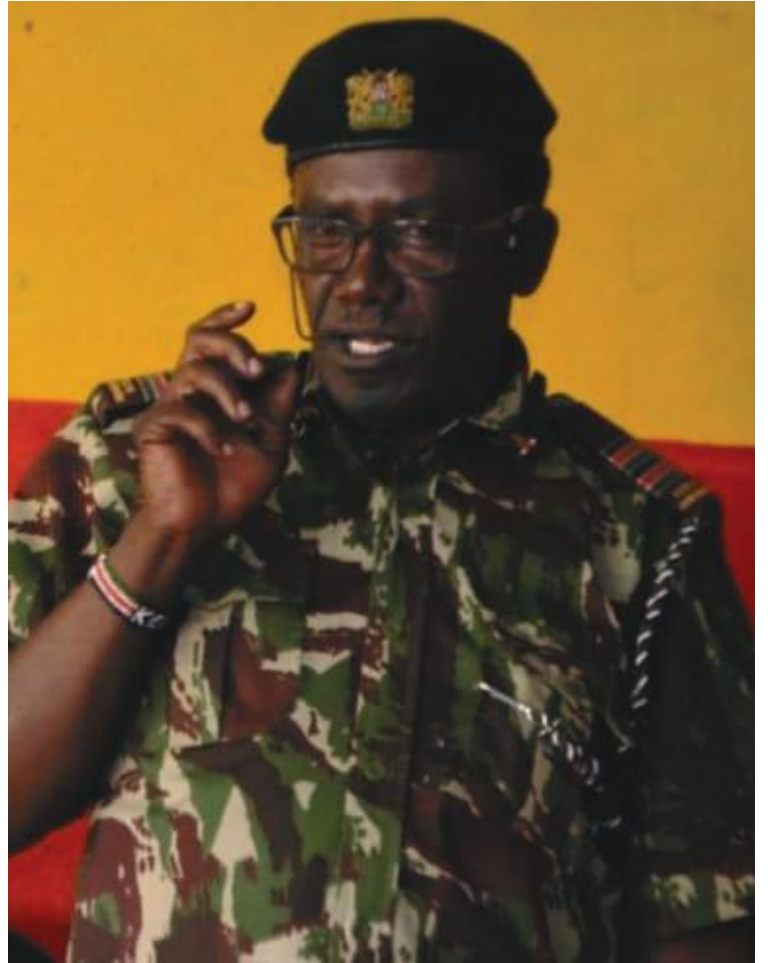
The DCC warned politicians who incited the youth to violence that the government would not spare them, since intelligence indicated that they were mostly responsible for creating unnecessary tension among communities.

Mr. Musango said the government has sealed all the loopholes used by

criminals to steal and free the animals, adding that 'maliza uhalifu' security operation was out to eradicate the vice.

He further added that five camels that were stolen two weeks ago, have been recovered in the Daaba area and handed to their owners.

The Administrator also said that the government would apply the 'Modogashe declaration' where criminals and their families would be forced to compensate theft victims four times the number stolen as a penalty.



# Mother Appeals For Help For Children With Sickle Cell

By: Absalom Namwalo  
@themkenyatimes

A family in Katelynyang village in Teso North Subcounty in Busia is appealing to Kenyans to help their three children suffering from sickle cell anaemia get specialised treatment to enable them to continue with their studies.

Emily Chebet, a devoted mother of three children diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia, has issued a heartfelt plea to well-wishers to assist her in buying drugs and getting blood transfusions urgently to save the lives of her kids.

"When God blessed me with my first-born son 11 years ago, I had a lot of hope in him. As a family, we knew he would be a normal child; this has never been the case since, after six months, he was diagnosed with sickle cell," she narrated.

Chebet, a mama mboga at Angurai Market, has seen her business col-

lapse after channelling all capital, family land, and other resources towards her children's medication, which turned out to be a drop in the ocean.

"All my three children take two tablets each day, with a single tablet costing Sh200. On a single day, I need Sh1200, which is beyond my means," Chebet added.

According to the family, regular blood transfusions and monthly admissions in various hospitals in both Kenya and Uganda have completely drained all resources in the family, pushing the family to live hand-to-mouth and face rejection as a result of begging from neighbours.

With the ongoing doctor strike, the three haven't had any drugs or medication for a month now, leaving them at the mercy of God.

Her sentiments were echoed by neighbours led by Denis Parapara Karani, who have also given their best to support the family, with the only hope being an appeal to all Kenyans to support the family foot medical bills and drugs.



"Based on the family's status, I want to ask all Kenyans to set aside even a shilling and support the medical bills

of these three children," Parapara said.

The family can be reached through

the KNA office in Teso North at Amagoro or through the area chief.

# Contrary To His Critics, Ruto's Austerity Measures Were Bearing Fruits



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



## Worth Noting:

- After assuming office, President Ruto faulted the outgoing 'handshake' government for harboring insatiable appetite and reckless borrowing of foreign loans.
- As a result, we have inherited the highest debts ever. There is no miracle when it comes to repayment. All of us are required to tighten our belts.
- The President would also enumerate other challenges that stood in his way. They included the biting drought rated to be the worst in 40 years; Russia-Ukraine war and Covid 19 pandemic. Kenya was recovering from these pandemic that had ravaged the whole world.
- After the President pronounced himself, the relevant arms of the government moved with speed to unveil a raft of interventions that would see budgets allocated for travels, accommodation of state officers within and outside the country drastically slashed.



President William Ruto .

I have in the recent past heard the critics of President William Ruto claiming that a raft of austerity measures that he had rolled out were not bearing the fruits.

To me, these arguments were speculative, ill-advised and malicious.

This is because they were not based on evidential based research and analysis.

A few weeks ago I read a statement released by National Treasury cabinet secretary Njuguna Ndungu.

He unveiled the new directive by President William Ruto to have the employees of all State Corporations and Parastatals be subjected to austerity measures.

The directive took effect immediately. This once again reaffirmed the commitment of the President to walk the talk.

As we know, Cabinet Secretaries (CSs) are nominated and formally appointed by the President to help him undertake and discharge his constitutional mandate.

As such, the CS minced no word in stating that all Kenyans including the President himself must continue to live within our means.

This is the only way we would steer and return our economy back on track.

After assuming office, President Ruto faulted the outgoing 'handshake' government for harboring insatiable appetite and reckless borrowing of foreign loans.

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The President would also enumerate other challenges that stood in his way. They included the biting drought rated to be the worst in 40 years; Russia-Ukraine war and Covid 19 pandemic. Kenya was recovering from these pandemic that had ravaged the whole world.

After the President pronounced himself, the relevant arms of the government moved with speed to unveil a raft of interventions that would see budgets allocated for travels, accommodation of state officers within and outside the country drastically slashed.

Subsistence and out-of-pocket allowances were also targeted.

Ndungu warned the top managers of

state corporations that stern action will be taken against those flouting the directives which had already been approved by parliament.

All budgets allocated for expenditures must be approved by the executive boards of directors of these public entities.

The members of boards have been properly briefed. When reviewing the budgets, they must give priority to the issue of austerity measures.

It is worth noting that the 'handshake' government of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his co-principal Raila Odinga regime had borrowed more than Sh9 trillion from the foreign lenders.

Dr Ruto assumed office at a time when loans' repayment schedule had started maturing

He knew the consequences of failing to abide by the terms of the repayment agreements were dire.

In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international development partners and lenders.

This explains why President Ruto did not take the matter lightly.

He has so far lived up to his word. This

is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.

This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign debts. President Ruto reiterated this recently when he attended a church service in Meru.

We are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for development and recurrent expenditures.

This is showed our economy is still not doing well.

But President Ruto has been leaving nothing to chance. He is working day and night in order to ensure our economy is back on track.

In a circular released earlier by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, the head of state banned the senior government officials from making unnecessary travels abroad.

The travels banned include those meant for benchmarking, training symposium and exhibitions.

The travels which are necessary will be approved by his office, he stated. He also reduced the number of the staff accompanying the officer on travel.

For cabinet secretary, one or two persons. For the others, one or travel alone.

The President issued this directive after it came to his attention that these travels were consuming a huge chunk of tax payers' monies.

During his tenure, former President Uhuru Kenyatta had rolled out some austerity measures. I'm sure Dr Ruto, who at the time was the deputy President, learn some big lessons.

Unlike Kenyatta, we know Dr Ruto is a hand-on President.

Given this scenario, I have no reason to doubt Ruto's commitment to ensure a strict adherence to the austerity measures.

For the officers who will make luxurious travels, there will be no reimbursements and per diems. They will have to cater for all the expenses from their own pockets.

As for the necessary and approved travels, the officers will not enjoy the luxury and comfort as it used to be.

The budgets for air tickets, accommodations and allowances have been drastically cut.

They will no longer use the Aeroplane's First Class.

While in the host countries, they will stay in less expensive hotels.

President Ruto is setting a good example. He has been avoiding attending unnecessary foreign travels.

He would only make trips that he knew would bore the fruits for Kenya. Kenyans would reap big and become the biggest beneficiary. When Dr Ruto visited the US recently, he came back with goodies amounting to billions of shillings.

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

# World Vision Launches “ENOUGH” Campaign To End Child Hunger And Malnutrition In Kenya

By: Aoma Keziah and Cynthia Masibo  
 @themtkenyatimes



From left, Vice President & Regional Director of World Vision International – East Africa, Mrs. Lilian Dodzo, PS, State Department of Gender & Affirmative Action, Hon. Anne Wangombe, PS, State Department of Social Protection, Hon. Joseph Motari, First Lady Rachel Ruto, National Director, World Vision Kenya, Gilbert Kamanga, Women Representative, Marsabit County, Naomi Waqo, Board Chair, World Vision Kenya, Dr. David Githanga

**Worth Noting:**

- “There’s no greater indignity than children attending school hungry. We’ve made significant strides, reducing stunting from 26% in 2014 to 18% in 2022. Overall, nutrition has improved. Yet, 847,000 Kenyan children under five face acute malnutrition, down 14.5% from 2023. We must unite to scale interventions in food security, health, nutrition, and finance to reach our goal of less than 5% childhood wasting by 2025.” H.E Rachel Ruto said.
- Dr. David Githanga, Board Chair of World Vision Kenya, said, “Our vision is a world where every child enjoys enough nourishing food. Despite advancements, the statistics remain staggering. Globally, up to 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, with Kenya bearing its share of the burden.”

World Vision Kenya has embarked on a landmark campaign, ENOUGH, aimed at combating child hunger and malnutrition in Kenya. The initiative seeks to address the alarming prevalence of food insecurity, ensuring every child has access to nutritious food for their well-being and development. The child-focused humanitarian organisation aims to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable children in Kenya through targeted interventions, reducing hunger in the most affected communities through the three-year campaign. Conflict, climate shocks, rising cost of living, and declining food production have all contributed to food scarcity and high food prices. According to the 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Kenya ranks 90th out of the 125 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2023 GHI scores. With a score of 22.0, Kenya has a level of hunger that is serious. Speaking during the launch, Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya Rachel Ruto lauded World Vision for the initiative, noting that advocating for enough nutritious food for every child, both at home and in school, through ethical and sustainable sourcing is commendable. “There’s no greater indignity than children attending school hungry. We’ve made significant strides, reducing stunting from 26% in 2014 to 18% in 2022. Overall, nutrition

has improved. Yet, 847,000 Kenyan children under five face acute malnutrition, down 14.5% from 2023. We must unite to scale interventions in food security, health, nutrition, and finance to reach our goal of less than 5% childhood wasting by 2025.” H.E Rachel Ruto said. Dr. David Githanga, Board Chair of World Vision Kenya, said, “Our vision is a world where every child enjoys enough nourishing food. Despite advancements, the statistics remain staggering. Globally, up to 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, with Kenya bearing its share of the burden.” He added that in 2023, World Vision Kenya invested over 13 billion Kenyan shillings, with more than half dedicated to projects directly contributing to food and nutrition security, benefiting 1.9 million children and 1.5 million adults. Through integrated health programmes, the organisation operated in 21 counties, focusing on child protection, and disease prevention. Additionally, humanitarian efforts provided vital assistance to 1.3 million individuals affected by emergencies, with over 780,000 children receiving life-saving aid. However National Director Gilbert Kamanga noted that more needs to be done to address the malnutrition challenge in the country. “No child in Kenya. Should die from hunger and malnutrition. We are intensifying our advocacy and collaboration efforts to

work with government, partners and communities to develop and implement sustainable solutions. We must prioritise awareness, community resilience, and long-term strategies to address the root cause of hunger.” Kamanga said. This is in line with the Government’s committed to enhance the school meals programme initiative by working with multiple stakeholders to find innovative and sustainable funding sources for school meals and expand the coverage from the current 1.9 million children to universal coverage by 2030. The Campaign also calls for im-

proved data collection, climate-smart agriculture, and policy reforms even as the Kenyan Government plans to establish a national policy on school meals by June 2023 as well as strengthen the efficiency and accountability mechanisms of the school meals initiative. In addition, World Vision Kenya believes that it takes comprehensive approach to ending hunger and malnutrition, which would take increased awareness to influence the public discourse and high level conversations around the topic of child hunger and malnutrition and strengthen community resilience and sustainable livelihoods and promote climate smart agricultural practices. The ENOUGH Campaign is a global initiative connected to Sustainable Development Goal Zero Hunger. Simultaneously, World Vision International launched the ENOUGH Campaign across Africa, committing US \$1.7 billion to address the escalating hunger crisis, targeting to improve the nutritional status of children in 27 vulnerable countries. World Vision is a child-focused Christian, humanitarian, advocacy and development organisation dedicated to improving the well-being of children, families and communities in Kenya. It also implements sustainable development projects in child protection, education, health, food security, economic empowerment, as well as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), while also providing emergency relief to people affected by natural or human created disaster.



First Lady Rachel Ruto

# Know Your Enemy



By: Eric Musa  
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

How would you as a parent like it if the KDF (Kenya Defence Forces) drafted your son at eighteen years of age, then immediately took him overseas and dropped him by parachute into some war zone? If the army did not put him through basic training, he would not know how to protect himself, how to fire a gun, or even how to dig a foxhole. He would not know how to do anything. If he were fortunate, he might live about three minutes.

Exactly the same thing will happen to you in different phases of your life if you do not know your enemy. You must know how to deal with him. Some people do not recognize their enemy in sickness and disease. They think those things are "God's will,"

or that God allowed those things to afflict them—or even put sickness and disease on them—to teach me a lesson."

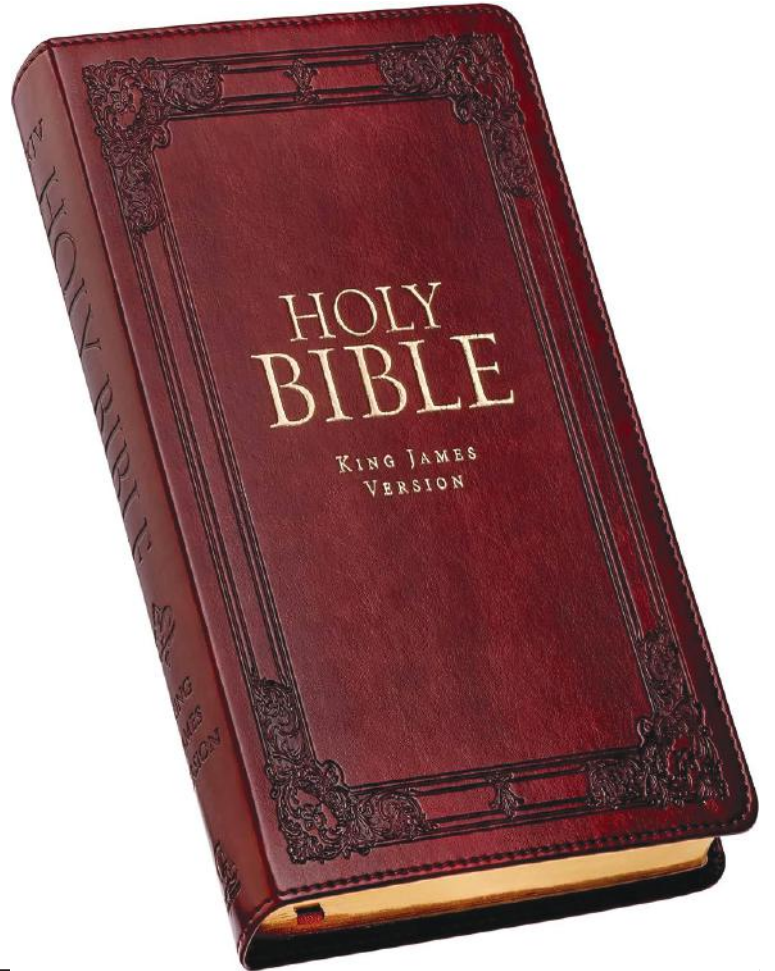
God does not do it. The Bible teaches that all good things that ever come to you come down from heaven from the Father of Life. All good things come from God, and all things that come to destroy you, to cause you harm or confusion, or to bring heartaches and trouble into your life come from the devil and his workers. Demons and foul spirits will oppress you if you allow it. They will possess you if they can. However, a devil can never possess you unless you participate with him or yield to his temptations. Begin participating in some sin, and he will have a foothold in you.

Satan deceives churches, and the Church, with religion: doing their own thing in their own time and by their own will, through their own way. God wants us to do His thing in His time and in His way.

**HALELUJAH, RECEIVE THE GRACE TO KNOW YOUR ENEMY AND OVERCOME.**

**Evangelist Eric Musa:**

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



# Blue Economy, Water And Irrigation Committee Meets To Plan Business For This Financial Year's Last Quarter

By: John Kariuki  
@themtkenyatimes

Members of the Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation Committee, led by the Chairperson Kangogo Bowen (Marakwet East), met Tuesday to plan the Committee schedule of business within the last quarter of this Financial Year.

Some of the key areas of focus will include stakeholder meetings to shed more light on a statement that was sought by Mwea MP Mary Maingi, regarding flooding in Mwea Irrigation Scheme and the surrounding areas.

Mary Maingi sought to know the measures the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation has put in place to assist the families affected, and the emergency response measures adopted to address flood-related challenges in her Constituency.

The Legislator also sought to know the regulatory frameworks the Government has put in place to undertake desiltation regularly and maintain water canals.

The Committee shall also consider the Supplementary Budget II for the Financial Year 2023/24, and the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/25, for the MDAs under its purview.

Mary Maingi, Mwea MP sought a statement on flooding in Mwea.

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



## My Mom



My mother is a talent on earth,  
What else do I need?  
A tulip opened in my heart,  
Mother is the meaning of my life.

Mom, my day is dark without you,  
My path is dark  
Tears rained down from your face,  
Mother is the meaning of my life.

My mother is like my soul in my body,  
Without them, there is no peace in my  
heart,  
Not even a moment without him,  
The soulless Mother in my body.

The morning dawned on my cradle,  
He thought of me more than himself,  
I can't stop looking for a cure,  
Thank you very much, Mom.

Author: Yuldosheva Marjona

Yuldosheva Marjona Nasrullo's daughter  
was born on December 9, 2001 in Pas  
Dargom district of Samarkand region. He  
is currently a student. He is interested in  
literature and is creative.

## Parallel Thoughts..



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  
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?

LabassSebastian.Degro  
+256700133179.  
Poetry isn't dead.

## I Am My Mother



He was blowing with every breath  
Eyes that looked at me with love,  
He is full of joy  
He stood up gently from my little hands.

He slowly smiles and laughs,  
I am kind beyond the limits of the world  
My mother is happy to have me  
My support is one piece in my life

My heart, my heart, my eyes are full  
I'm full of feelings that I can't tell you  
I am full of joy from every achievement  
My mother, my mother, my mother

Time has flown by for a while  
Can't we be small anymore?  
Pour it into your lap and start slowly  
We cannot cry because we are sad.

Years passed, we grew up for a moment  
We are just like you  
How difficult it was for you  
Slowly in our hearts, we learn.

I appreciate your courage  
The 3 lessons you gave are in my mind  
The right way you taught me is forever in my  
soul

My mother, my mother, my mother

Taking a little time  
Looking through your eyes,  
He says I love you  
Sorry, I couldn't tell you.

He slowly looked at my little eyes  
My daughter said happily  
Taking my hands and taking a step  
If I'm happy, laugh and be my companion.

My small achievement was recognized by a huge  
one  
I feel incomparable love for the world  
There is soul in my blood, Dad  
I just love you.

Everything went away from me when I stumbled  
I'm not sure if I'm wrong  
I am surrounded by fake people  
But you stayed in my difficult moment,

Was my career better than me?  
True friends are gone  
There is no way to stand up  
Dad, your presence is a great honor,

My mother made big mistakes  
You stood next to me, a huge support  
He says that I am always with you  
You filled my life with joy and happiness,

Illo, the trust you gave will be justified  
One day, this power will rise forever  
All the fertilizers you give are worth a dime  
He is destined to light my way.

So much loyalty, so much love  
Text message address rule  
The address is single, the father is like a  
mountain  
Be happy, always together.

Saidkulova Nozima Tolkin girl  
17021999  
Karshi city, Kashkadarya region  
Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics  
3rd grade student.

## Maa .. Let Us Live!



Mother Earth please stop weeping  
We hit your Womb by Drilling  
We cut your nerves by cutting trees  
I can see your feet Cracking due to  
Drought  
We are the reason for today you are sick  
Apologies, we even break Your Skin and  
Bone  
Your tears overflows by resulting glacier

melts  
Sea level raises -so my Fear of living  
Don't get angry, we are getting cyclones  
Don't be aggressive we are getting  
Thunders  
Be calm so we will not get Floods &  
Earthquake  
Forgive us more for our sins against you  
Love us even more as you always Do  
Be patient... I want you to rent my  
children  
I pity you for your unconditional love on us  
I can understand your agony  
I can Feel your Heart Beat beneath my  
Feet  
What about the Rainbows and Fresh Air  
Where are the Crows and Monkeys  
Why do we hurt you every Time..why ?  
Yes , Humans are the boon and Threat  
I wish we should never have been exist  
Mother Earth please stop Weeping..  
Dear Earth hold on your Breath!

Archana Karan

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

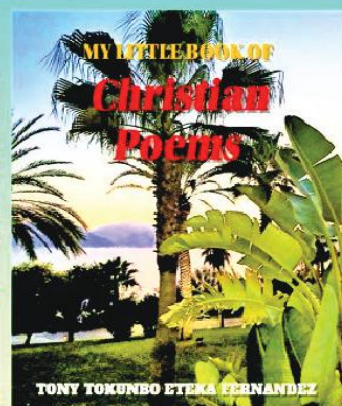
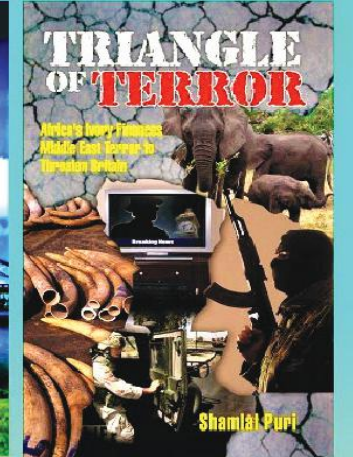
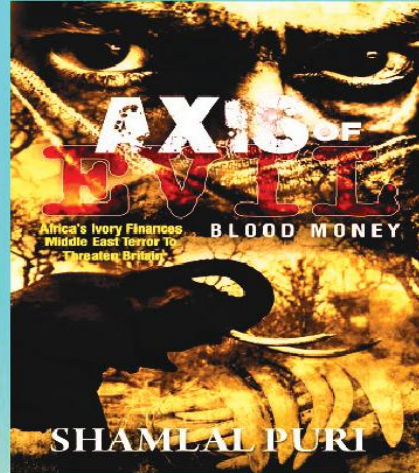
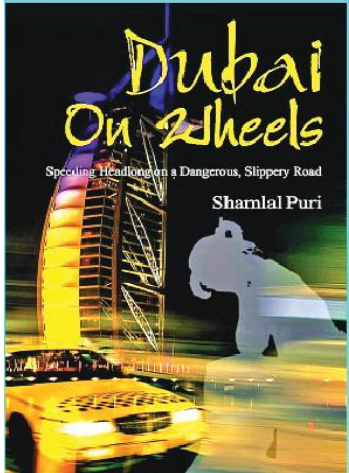
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# BUSINESS

## SC Johnson Honors Outstanding Achievements In Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program

*Event Celebrates Commitment To Education And Environmental Sustainability*

By: Cynthia Masibo and

Aoma Keziah

@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

The Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program, a brainchild of SC Johnson, is a multifaceted initiative designed to engage schools and students in activities that promote education and environmental awareness. From educational campaigns to recycling initiatives, the program encourages creativity, innovation, and a sense of responsibility towards the planet among young minds.

At the heart of the award ceremony were the remarkable achievements of participants, which showcased the incredible dedication and enthusiasm of students and educators alike. From small-scale recycling projects to large-scale community initiatives, each endeavor demonstrated the power of collective action in creating positive change. SC Johnson representatives expressed their pride and admiration for the participants' efforts, emphasizing the importance of collaborative initiatives in addressing global challenges.



Students shine bright as they receive awards for their outstanding achievements in the Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program, showcasing their commitment to education and environmental sustainability.

In a world where environmental consciousness and education are becoming increasingly intertwined, SC Johnson stands at the forefront, leading the charge with its innovative Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program. As a testament to its dedication to fostering both education and environmental sustainability, the company recently hosted a spectacular award ceremony to recognize and celebrate the exceptional achievements of participants in the program.

The event, held with grandeur and enthusiasm, not only honored the accomplishments of individuals and teams but also served as a platform to reaffirm SC Johnson's commitment to creating a brighter, more sustainable future.

The Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program, spearheaded by SC Johnson, has been instrumental in engaging schools and students in activities that promote both education and environmental sustainability. This initiative not only encourages creativity and innovation but also instills a sense of responsibility towards the planet among the younger generation.

The Kiwi Tin Promotion School Pro-

gram, a brainchild of SC Johnson, is a multifaceted initiative designed to engage schools and students in activities that promote education and environmental awareness. From educational campaigns to recycling initiatives, the program encourages creativity, innovation, and a sense of responsibility towards the planet among young minds.

At the heart of the award ceremony were the remarkable achievements of participants, which showcased the incredible dedication and enthusiasm of students and educators alike. From small-scale recycling projects to large-scale community initiatives, each endeavor demonstrated the power of collective action in creating positive change. SC Johnson representatives expressed their pride and admiration for the participants' efforts, emphasizing the importance of collaborative initiatives in addressing global challenges.

During the ceremony, the head representative of SC Johnson delivered a poignant address, highlighting the company's unwavering commitment to fostering education and environmental stewardship. He commended

the efforts of all participants and underscored the significance of empowering the younger generation to become environmental leaders of tomorrow.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to exceptional individuals and teams who demonstrated outstanding creativity, leadership, and dedication throughout the program. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as winners were announced and applauded for their remarkable achievements. Each award served as a symbol of recognition and appreciation for the participants' contributions to the program and their communities.

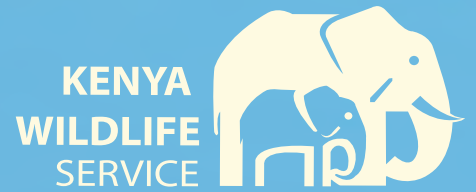
Moreover, the award ceremony provided an opportunity to showcase the impact of the Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program on participating schools and communities. Through engaging activities and educational initiatives, students not only learned about the importance of recycling but also developed a deeper understanding of environmental conservation and sustainability. The program's ripple effect was evident in the enthusiasm and passion displayed by par-

ticipants, inspiring others to join the movement towards a greener, more sustainable future.

As the event concluded, participants left with a renewed sense of purpose and motivation to continue their efforts in promoting education and environmental responsibility. The award ceremony not only celebrated past achievements but also served as a catalyst for future endeavors aimed at creating a brighter, more sustainable world.

In essence, the Kiwi Tin Promotion School Program award ceremony was not just a recognition of accomplishments but a reaffirmation of SC Johnson's commitment to empowering communities and nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards. Through collaborative efforts and dedication, participants have shown that together, we can make a meaningful difference in the world.

As the applause faded and participants departed with their awards, the spirit of collaboration and determination lingered, serving as a beacon of hope for a future where education and environmental sustainability go hand in hand.



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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

# Aggregation Programmes Key To Boosting Industrialization - CS Miano

By: Ekuwam Sylvester and Judy Too

[@themkenyentimes](#)

The government, in collaboration with counties and development partners, is keen to leverage on the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) programme to promote industrialization and boost GDP.

The immediate GDP from the manufacturing sector is expected to increase from the current 7.6 per cent to 15 per cent by 2027 and 20 per cent in 2030.

Speaking in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu, during the CAIPs monitoring and evaluation tour in the county, Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade, and Industry, Rebecca Miano, confirmed that the Aggregation and Industrial parks are up and running well.

The CS, accompanied by Governor Jonathan Chelilim, County Commissioner Dr. Eddyson Nyale, and other stakeholders from the private sector, visited the proposed export processing zone (EPZ) site at Simat-Kapseret ward, CAIPs at Moiben Sub County, and the RIVATEX Eldoret plant to check on the progress and discuss various challenges facing the projects.

Miano noted that the CAIPs programme is a joint collaboration between the national government and the counties, where the national government will contribute 50 per cent of the cost required to establish the parks while the other 50 per cent will be met by the county governments.

She acknowledged that the programme has experienced unexpected delays occasioned by unforeseen delays in the signing of the Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the Ministry and the county governments, but added that the issue has been resolved.

“After the assent into law in March 2023 of the County Government Additional Allocation Act 2023, there was further need to sign the intergovernmental agreement between the counties and the National Treasury. These frameworks were key to the modalities of implementation of the project and are now things of the past,” said the CS.

Miano said the CAIPs programmes are a game changer as they will offer aggregation for the various produce and products that are produced in counties, which include cooling facilities, processing facilities, and other common user facilities.

Noting that the counties will be an integral part of the export promotion programme because it is from there that the produce will find its market, she hinted that they have negotiated several economic partnership agreements in terms of preparing export promotion led by the president.

“We did negotiate and sign with the



Trade CS Rebecca Miano.

EU, and the EU parliament has already ratified. We have submitted the agreement to the National Assembly. We had a meeting with the National Assembly Committee in charge of Trade to just go through the economic partnership agreement with the EU in preparation for the ratification,” noted Miano.

“We have also signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the UAE; currently, we are discussing the renewal of the AGOA with the USA Strategic Trade and Investments Programme (STIP) with America and many other bilateral agreements,” she added.

The CS affirmed that the manufacturing sector plays a key role in economic development, employment creation, and the creation of new value-added products that bring foreign exchange to any given economy.

She further noted that the manufacturing sector contribution to GDP has stagnated at about 7 per cent over a couple of years, and despite Kenya being an agricultural-led economy, the export value added of agricultural and livestock products has stagnated at around 16 per cent.

The CS decried the challenges faced by the manufacturing sector, which include inadequate quality and quantity of agricultural raw materials for value addition, fragmented small-scale production leading to high costs in aggregation, and inadequate access to suitable land for setting up, among others.

She said CAIPs will not only propel manufacturing sector growth through Agro-processing industries but also create opportunities for employment creation for the youth, boost the forward and backward linkages to both the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, hence exploiting their full potential, increase the volume of value-added products, hence better income for our farmers, and increase foreign exchange as well as address

post-harvest losses.

Miano revealed that Eldoret is one of the cities and Uasin Gishu is one of those counties that they have earmarked to be the Centre of industrialization, noting that the town has been known for a long time as the hub of manufacturing industries like Rivatex, Kenit, CBC, Raymonds, and others which collapsed due to various challenges.

She affirmed her commitment to help Uasin Gishu revive its industries and become an ultimate investment destination since it is endowed with all the factors necessary to achieve its goals, like a good climate, good agricultural arable land, fertile soils, sufficient human resources, and other minerals. “But this is the time not to go back where we were but to just take off, learn the lessons that we have learnt along the way, and position this county as one of our centres of industrialization,” explained the CS.

“I want to confirm to investors that the creator endowed Uasin Gishu with everything that an investor will need, like a good climate, fertile soils, human resources, and others,” she added.

She expressed confidence that if they achieve their goals of making Uasin Gishu an industrialization hub, building the industrial spaces that are the CAIPs, putting up one of the flagship EPZ programmes, and all the industrialization ideas that they have, this will help create a lot of employment and improve the livelihoods of all people in the area.

The Industry CS encouraged all the counties to put their best foot forward in progressing this idea, noting that they are in discussion with the National Treasury and have been assured that there will be a release of funds for the CAIPs programme in a few weeks.

Uasin Gishu Governor Dr. Jonathan Chelilim expressed gratitude to the national government for their collab-

orative efforts in establishing the aggregation parks.

“The County Aggregation and Industrial Parks, along with the Export Processing Zone, will significantly contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Africa’s Agenda 2063, the Kenya Vision 2030, and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA),” said the Governor.

He affirmed that the CAIPs in the county is currently on track and is 45 per cent complete. He noted that they will play a key role in supporting the North Rift region economy, which solely relies on agriculture, and they will serve as a major commercial hub and key driver of economic growth.

The governor indicated that this is a timely move as they continue to engage farmers in smart agriculture and diversification.

“We are transitioning our agricultural activities towards horticulture, and we have launched campaigns to sensitise our farmers about diversifying their economic activities beyond maize and wheat farming,” he noted.

In addition, the county, through collaborations with stakeholders, is promoting the production and marketing of fresh beans, peas, strawberries, gooseberries, assorted herbs, pyrethrum, sunflowers, and mushrooms.

“Through the CAIPs, Eldoret International Airport will realise its full potential by enhancing exports and reducing imports. As an administration, we eagerly anticipate the launch and full operationalization of the same within our county,” said Dr. Chelilim.

Chelilim indicated that the initiative will position the county as the premier investment destination and attract investors to the EPZ and CAIPs. “To our farmers, let us continue striving diligently and make optimal use of the CAIP facility, which will address market challenges effectively,” he noted.

## Worth Noting:

- “After the assent into law in March 2023 of the County Government Additional Allocation Act 2023, there was further need to sign the intergovernmental agreement between the counties and the National Treasury. These frameworks were key to the modalities of implementation of the project and are now things of the past,” said the CS.
- Miano said the CAIPs programmes are a game changer as they will offer aggregation for the various produce and products that are produced in counties, which include cooling facilities, processing facilities, and other common user facilities.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Epilepsy

It is a bright afternoon; the sun is scorching the ground like it is the last day for it to shine, as I walk into the compound of Odongo Maduma. Two children are playing under a tree with toy cars that have been making out of oil bottles. It is almost midday and I can see smoke coming from the kitchen. Lunch is being prepared. Edward Okumu Adongo walks briskly towards me; he shakes my hand and invites me in.

As we walk towards the house, I catch a glance of toy cars, busses tractor and an excavator sitting under a tree, on top of a table. I stop midway to the house and ask, "Who makes these?" He laughs and says, "I make them". I change my mind about going to the house, now I prefer to sit at the shade and get a closer look at these toys.

I came looking for Edward as an epileptic patient, but from what I can see there am more I can get from him. His talent amazes me. I thought only mechanical students and engineers could make things like this but today I am surprised.

Edward narrates how he was diagnosed with epilepsy back in 2007 as he had just joined Arundo secondary

school. "I was 15 years old at that time, attending school as a normal student and looking forward to a bright future. I had dreams to be a mechanical engineer. I had always loved physics and I knew with hard work in my academics my dreams would come true." he has a nostalgic smile as he recall the days when he was going to school.

He had his first seizure in class," I don't recall what really happened. I remember waking up in a hospital bed. I had hurt my hand and I couldn't write for a few days. I had to stay at home and get better before I could resume my studies. The seizure reoccured while I was at home and I had to seek medical attention for my parents and I to know what was really happening. I was tested and diagnosed with epilepsy, from that day onwards my life would never be the same."

Edward could not go on with school due to his condition. He had had recurrent seizures and principal was forced to talk to the parents and ask him to leave school as his condition scared most of the students. Edwards's mother confirms that it was hard for her to accept that her son

would not go on with his education." I was devastated by what the teachers told me." My son, who is bright could not go on with his education and pursue engineering. The seizures would happen frequently and no warning signs would be seen.

Epilepsy has affected every aspect of Edwards's life. He has had to deal with the social stigma associated with the condition, which has made it difficult for him to make friends and maintain relationships. People often misunderstand epilepsy and associate it with mental illness or demonic possession.

The members of the community have secluded him and the family because they believe that the family is cursed, and it is one of the punishments that the family has to face.

Access to Edwards's healthcare is limited in many parts of Kenya, as few hospitals offer medical attention needed, which means that Edward has to travel long distances to get the medical attention he needs. He has had to travel to Migori, Rongo and Nairobi Memorial Hospital for his monthly checkup. It has been expensive to maintain his medical bills because Edward is under med-

ication, and he has to attend clinic every month, which has forced us to use all the money we have. "He needs to take medication daily to control his seizures; these prescribed drugs are anticonvulsants which are expensive." Mrs. Adongo says.

Edwards had to endure the physical challenges of epilepsy. Seizures can be unpredictable and can happen at any time, making it difficult for Edward to engage in normal activities. He shows me a picture of him taken back in 2006 while he was playing football. Edward had to give up sports and other physical activities, including his studies, which he enjoyed it before his diagnosis. The fear of having a seizure in public has also made it difficult for him to travel or attend social events.

He is talented in making toy cars and he says "If I get support to attend a vocational training institute, I would pursue mechanical engineering and add it to this talent that I possess. My wish is to work with a toy company regardless of my condition."

During his free time, he helps the local mechanics at Arundo to repair cars and bodaboda. Edward attends events to show case his talent hoping

one day he will get support from a well-wisher to improve his talent.

Despite the challenges, Edward remains hopeful and resilient. He has learned to live with his condition and has found ways to manage it. He has found a supportive community of people who understand his condition and offer him emotional support. Although few people support him, he feels accepted and normal when he is around them, this includes his immediate family and some friend's.

Edward is talented in making mini cars and buses out of Jeri cans and controlling them with a phonebattery to work just like the normal cars, which he finds therapeutic and fulfilling.

Epilepsy can significantly affect an individual's life, as it has done for Edward. However, with the right support and management, people with epilepsy can lead fulfilling lives. It is crucial to raise awareness about epilepsy and promote understanding on the condition.

By Beldine Anjeri

## From Campus Lectures To Commerce

In the bustling heart of Kitere Market, amidst the rhythmic orchestra of vendors and shoppers, two enterprising minds from Rongo University have found their niche, seamlessly intertwining academia with entrepreneurship. A many say campus dating is all about cohabiting, for them this not the case, they deeply sank into business. I Meet Sarah and John, ambitious students who have defied the conventional boundaries of campus life to embark on a journey of business ventures.

Sarah, a third-year Economics major, and John, a final-year Computer Science student, share a passion for innovation and a drive to succeed beyond the confines of textbooks and lectures. Their journey into entrepreneurship began with a simple idea –

to bring convenience to the bustling market scene while also creating a sustainable income stream.

"We saw a gap in the market," Sarah explains, her eyes sparkling with determination. "There was a need for quality stationery and basic household items, but accessibility was an issue. That's when we decided to launch our business right here in Kitere."

Their venture, aptly named "Campus Mart," offers a curated selection of stationery, household essentials, and even some locally sourced snacks. What sets them apart, however, is their unwavering commitment to customer service and their ability to balance their business endeavors with their academic pursuits.

"We knew from the start that bal-

ancing studies and business would be challenging," John admits, adjusting his glasses with a thoughtful expression. "But with proper time management and support from each other, we've been able to make it work."

Their typical day begins at the crack of dawn, with Sarah and John juggling classes, business meetings, and inventory management. Despite the hectic schedule, they emphasize the importance of prioritization and communication in staying on top of their responsibilities.

"Communication is key," Sarah asserts, nodding in agreement. "We constantly update each other on our schedules and make sure to delegate tasks effectively. That way, neither our studies nor our business suffers." Their dedication hasn't gone un-

noticed. Customers flock to Campus Mart not only for its convenience but also for the personalized touch that Sarah and John bring to their interactions. Whether it's recommending the perfect pen for a student or offering a warm smile to brighten someone's day, they've cultivated a loyal clientele who see them not just as vendors, but as friends.

As they reflect on their journey so far, Sarah and John are filled with gratitude for the opportunities that both education and entrepreneurship have afforded them.

"Being at Rongo University has equipped us with the knowledge and skills to excel in our chosen fields," John remarks, a sense of pride evident in his voice. "But it's our venture into business that has taught us

invaluable lessons about resilience, adaptability, and the power of determination."

Their story serves as an inspiration to fellow students, proving that with passion, perseverance, and a willingness to embrace challenges, anything is possible. As they continue to navigate the intricate dance between academia and entrepreneurship, Sarah and John remain steadfast in their pursuit of success, proving that the road less traveled often leads to the most extraordinary destination.

Story written by Athanus muindi .  
Rongo university student.

# Overhaul National Government To Drastically Cut Costs



By: Ndung'u Wainaina



The national and county governments derive their sovereignty, mandate and authority from the people of Kenya.

Both governments are established and instituted by the people to nurture and protect the well-being of the people and the country. They are expected to facilitate realization of human freedoms, equal opportunities for all citizens and equality.

Reviewing views of the Kenyans in the constitutional reform processes both in the Referendum Draft Constitution 2005 and in Committee of Experts Draft Constitution 2010, it is manifestly clear Kenyans wanted lean, effective, responsive and accountable government and shared democratic governance system.

The 2010 Constitution was response to longstanding grievances over the centralization of state powers and public sector resources, and regional disparities in service delivery and development outcomes.

This radical restructuring of the Kenyan state has three main objectives: devolving civic and political power, public sector functions, and public finances; ensuring a more equitable spatial distribution of resources between regions and communities; and promoting more accountable, participatory, and responsive government closer to the people.

When the 2010 Constitution was promulgated all National ministries, Departments and Agencies were supposed to be restructured, realigned and reordered to accord with and respect the devolved system of government. This was supposed to be done by the first government elected under the new Constitution (UhuRuto 2013 regime).

This so far has not happened. It has been business as usual. National government has been ballooning yet core public sector functions were devolved.

This fact led to overwhelm vote for the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The restructuring of the national governance system was to fundamentally alter the size and structure of the all national Ministries, departments, agencies and corporations to bring

them into compliance with devolved system of governance.

The 2010 Constitution is completely misunderstood by politicians, civil bureaucrats and security honchos.

Thus, it is badly implemented. The Constitution is not preservative. It does not maintain old traditions and practices. The Constitution is transformative and affirmative. It challenges longstanding practices and systems. It eliminates root and branch of the old system of governance and practices. Unfortunately the country still remained trapped and choked in old small minded political norms.

A recurring issue of wage bill persists not because solution is not known. It is for reason of maintaining power, prestige and wealth. Runaway Government expenditure is causing major economic and financial constraints. Why this? Two explanation stand out: first, the culture of state and public officials being paid enormous allowances almost double their salaries to do work they are appointed and or elected to do remains intact. This is why less than one thousand Kenyans consume more than 41% of total revenue.

Second, even with devolution, the national government has been expanding. Why this costly bloated, duplicated and overlapped parallel mostly unproductive government system? Holding conferences has not and will not cut costs. It is requires painful and radical political decision. It is what 2010 Constitution demands.

People of Kenyan voted for distinctively independent and accountable national police service and civil service accounting to the people and the Constitution. They outlive any elected government. They are provided with buffer institutions like National Police Service Commission and Public Service

Commission to ensure functional autonomy, and insulate from political interference of day-to-day politics dictates in order to serve, defend and protect national interests diligently, fairly and transparently.

Constitutionally, the provincial administration (now National government county administration) staffs are civil servants BUT NOT part of security organs. They fall under the purview of public service commission.

Reading reports of the Committee of Experts, the Committee leave no doubt that the Provincial

Administration had to be phased out systematically in restructuring process while the personnel are either absorbed into new devolved governance system, redeployed or retired. To remove any uncertainties, the

Committee stated categorically that the Provincial administration shall be 'restructured' to 'accord with and respect' the devolved system of government, exercising sovereign will of and accountable to the local population. Article 1(3)(4) of the Constitution reasserts and reaffirms this fact.

At the moment the National Government Administration is structured into 8 Regions, 47 Counties, 378 Sub-Counties, 982 Divisions, 3955 Locations, and 9045 Sub-Locations. This enormous bureaucracy has to be fully overhauled and restructured to accord with and respect devolved system of government.

Do not forget that each line ministry has maintained its structures and personnel from top to the village.

The Constitution identifies devolution of power, sharing of resources, managing ethnic diversity and addressing failures of centralized power as the value and principle guide to new governance system founded on three principles namely: the princi-

ple of distinctness; the principle of inter-dependence and the principle of oversight

A cardinal principle underpinning devolution is the need to devolving administrative, financial and political power to the democratically elected local government in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government. A devolved government allows greater citizen participation, accountability and inclusion in local development and permits the government to respond quickly to local needs thereby increasing public sector efficiency and transparency.

Apart from securing people centred devolved system of governance, the Constitution further secured the legal insulation and institutional independence of the Judiciary, office of Director of Public Prosecutor, civil service and National Police Service including security of tenure of top officers responsible for these constitutional state organs.

The National Executive has since 2013, been acting and behaving as if nothing happened and radically changed with promulgation of 2010 Constitution. It has remained business as usual. The net consequence is the economic and financial drain of the country. This has to fundamentally change.

The County Executive of the devolved system of the government is responsible for implementation of policies of county and national governments, supervision and coordination of county administration structure with full control of the County public service.

In order to restructure the Provincial Administration to 'accord with and respect' the devolved system of governance, the national government should only be represented in the county by national State Ministry technical officer with profession-

al technical units handling policy, operations, budget, personnel and legal affairs. This creates lean cost effective government with shared governmental processes and institutions.

The National State Ministry technical officer at the County level is responsible for coordinating and implementing affairs of the Ministry working in coordination, cooperation and consultation with their equivalents in the county departments. The functions of national government at lower levels at the county are carried out through the county governance and administration structure.

For instance, the national state ministry technical officer in charge of education will be the link between the county government and national government on education affairs at the County level. The technical officer will oversee the smooth running and implementation of the national educational policy at the county level through coordination and liaison with the county government education department,

Teachers Service Commission and Kenya National Examination Council.

The office of the President at State House will establish the office of the Intergovernmental Affairs with National Advisor to the President. The Advisor will facilitate the liaison between the Intergovernmental

Governing Council, Council of Governors, the Office of the Governor and the office of Cabinet Affairs on Devolved Governance. It would in turn advise President on policy and legal matters of Counties and Intergovernmental affairs.

The national police service shall establish an elaborate security, policing and law enforcement system in the County upto the lowest unit underpinned by philosophy of community-oriented policing service. The security architecture in the County should provide for a county policing and security policy organ chaired by the Governor and the county operational policing and security organ headed by County National

Police Service head to take operational decisions and action on the identified county security and law enforcement priorities. This calls operationalizing County Policy Authority and signing of County security and law enforcement deed framework between the Devolved Units and Internal security department.

*Writer is Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow @Ndungu-Wainaina*

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**Sports >>** \*Erik ten Hag says the media reaction to Manchester United's performance in the FA Cup semi-final against Coventry was "a disgrace", robustly defending his side's achievement in reaching a second straight final.

# Ten Hag Says Reaction To Man Utd FA Cup Win A 'Disgrace'



Manchester United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Nottingham Forest and Manchester United at The City Ground in Nottingham, central England, on December 30, 2023. (Photo by Darren Staples / AFP).

Erik ten Hag says the media reaction to Manchester United's performance in the FA Cup semi-final against Coventry was "a disgrace", robustly defending his side's achievement in reaching a second straight final. United surrendered a 3-0 lead at Wembley on Sunday and were saved from a humiliating exit in extra time only by a VAR intervention, which ruled out a goal for offside in the final moments. They eventually scraped through against the Championship side on penalties to set up a re-match of last year's final against City. Ten Hag admitted after the match his team had "got away with it" but played down any notion of embarrassment. But he has been widely criticised,

adding to speculation he is on borrowed time at Old Trafford. Former Premier League striker Chris Sutton said the performance would "cement his sacking". But Ten Hag was in defiant mood on the eve of United's Premier League match against bottom side Sheffield United on Wednesday. "You asked the question: 'Is it embarrassing?' No, the reaction from you was embarrassing," he told reporters yesterday. "It is the comments. Top football is about results. We made it to a final and we deserved it not only by this game but also the other games. "We lost control for 20 minutes, we also had bad luck, 3-2, 3-3. We were very lucky in the end, it is clear. Penalties was very good and

we made it to the final, it is a huge achievement. Twice, in two years, is magnificent. For me as a manager, four cup finals in four years. "The comments are a disgrace." United, winless in their past four Premier League games, are in danger of missing out on a European spot next season after a poor campaign. They are already realistically out of the race to qualify for the lucrative Champions League but still have the Europa League and the Europa Conference League to aim for. "We have to win every game, we know that," said Ten Hag. "That's what United stands for and that is our approach, go from game to game but we have to qualify for Europe and we now have two op-

portunities -- in the league and the FA Cup final." Ten Hag said he would work closely with newly appointed technical director Jason Wilcox to determine the future direction of the club. Wilcox, 53, has left second-tier Southampton to take up the job at Old Trafford with immediate effect. "We have to form a partnership, which is very important," said Ten Hag. "We are a little bit behind in the process so we have to catch up and we will go and speed up the process."

AFP

**SPORTS NEWS**

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# Ways To Strengthen Memory And Restore Lost Memories



By: Kholikova Marjona Usman  
@themtkenyatimes



Restore Lost Memories.

## Worth Noting:

Through memory, a person collects knowledge and uses it at the right time, it is impossible to imagine any skill without being consolidated in the memory of a person, directions of action methods cannot be realized without the participation of memory. In psychology, the following main types of memory are distinguished: memorization, storage, forgetting, and reproduction.

R.S. Nemov these processes are not autonomous mental abilities are formed in the activity and determined by it S.L.R. Rubinstein says about memorization: "the memorization of certain materials, the gathering of individual experience in life processes, the integration of images and images that appear in the mind, and the influence on the process, of perception of real objects and events are directly related to memory".

## ABSTRACT

The article will try to give brief information about how to improve human memory and how to improve it. Memory is an integral part of the human mind, and the reasons for memory loss due to strong stress and pressure are explained.

**KEY WORDS:** Memory, intuition, thinking, attention, feeling, voluntary and involuntary memory, image, imagination.

Memory is the mental process of remembering and retrieving perceived objects and events or past experiences. Memory remembers the best moments. It is one of the properties of the nervous system, and it is manifested in the ability to store information about the events of the external world and reactions of the organism for a long time, and to reproduce it in the activity of consciousness and in the framework of behavior and behavior.

Memory is the process by which an individual remembers, remembers, and later recalls his experience. Early scientific views on memory can be

found in Eastern thinkers and Greek philosophers Aristotle and others.

In particular, Farobi looks at memory as a component of the mental process of cognition, and emphasizes that memory is characteristic of not only humans, but also animals. Memory is usually understood as recollection, the preservation and later repetition of life conditions in human personal activity is memory. In it, Aristotle began to analyze the mental process in the IV century BC. Through science such as psychology, pedagogy, cybernetics, medicine, neurophysiology and biochemistry, we can know that memory ensures the integrity of personal development.

Any mental elements are held by memory to "join" one element with the next, even if it is a mistake. As E.S. Rapasevich noted, memory is a necessary condition for the unity of spiritual life, and man is the unity of his personality.

Through memory, a person collects knowledge and uses it at the right time, it is impossible to imagine any skill without being consolidated in the memory of a person, direc-

tions of action methods cannot be realized without the participation of memory. In psychology, the following main types of memory are distinguished: memorization, storage, forgetting, and reproduction.

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Mechanical memorization is memorization without understanding the relationships between material and things. E.S. Rapasevich says that "retention is an organelle in memory, that is, the preservation of traces and connections in the brain."

One of the first psychological theories of memory is the associative theory, which arose in the 17th century and was first developed in England and Germany in the 18th-

19th centuries. Based on this theory, the association G. Ebbinghaus.

G.Muller, A Pilscher and others developed the concept of communication between separate unique phenomena of the psyche. Based on this theory, memory is understood as a complex system of short-term and long-term association, which is stable in terms of similarity, temporal and spatial proximity.

Up to 60% of the information received during the first hour is forgotten, and after six days, less than 20% of the text memorized for the first time is retained. As a result of brain plasticity and quiet decline, memory performance declines, and sometimes a person becomes tired.

For example, elderly people get lost in their words. He forgets what he said before and says something else. Memory is an integral part of human consciousness. For everyone, memory is the most important factor in human consciousness. Memory is very important for a person because it is necessary to remember many things during a person's life. Constantly practicing memory. Exercise prevents memory loss in old age.