



Kenya, Zimbabwe Ink Key Cooperation Agreements
Kenya and Zimbabwe have agreed to enhance trade and investment in both countries, even as they signed agreements to boost some of the major sectors of the economy.
On economic and trade cluster, the two countries signed four MoUs which include between the KEBS and SAZ to establish a framework for exchange of scientific and technical knowledge

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News >> Sakaja: I Have No Differences With Gachagua, He Is A Respectable Man

P. 8. Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has refuted claims of a dispute between him and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

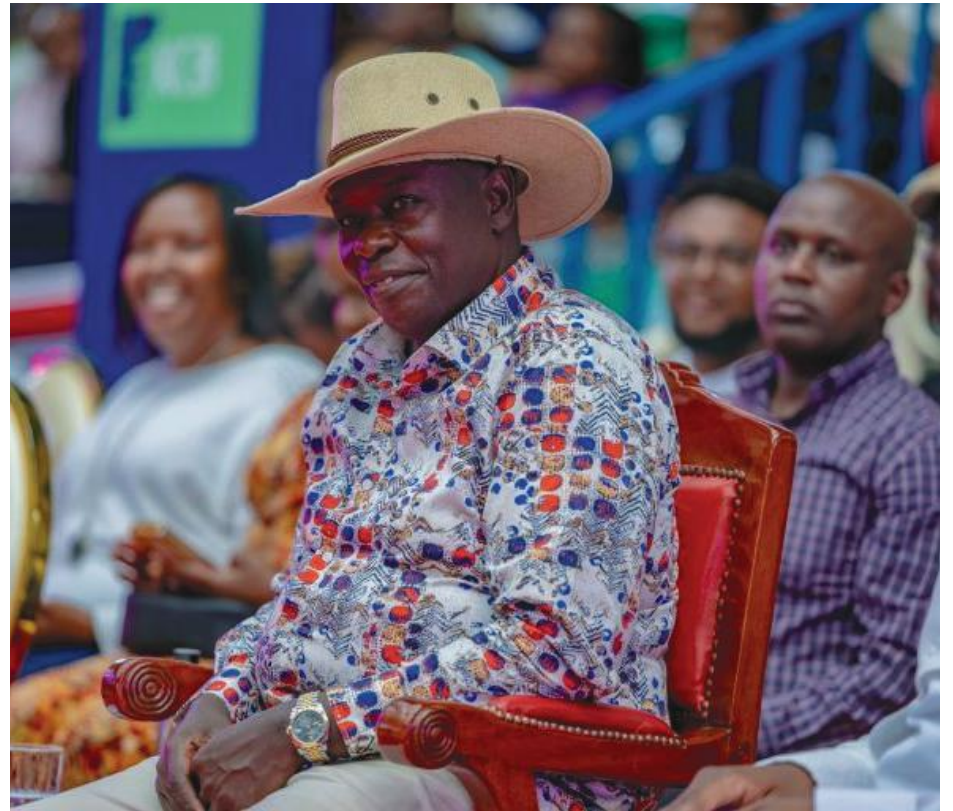


News >> Kiambu Deputy Governor Launches Community Foundation For The Empowerment Of Families

P. 12. Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has commended the Deputy Governor of Kiambu, Rosemary Kirika, for the bold step of starting a community foundation aimed at empowering the people living within the 60 wards in the area.

Rigathi Visits Floods Victims in Nairobi

The government has intensified distribution of food and non-food items to families affected by floods as part of the key response interventions of saving lives as enhanced rains continue across the country. Speaking yesterday when he led a relief exercise at Valley Bridge Primary School, in Mathare, Nairobi County, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said State Agencies in Collaboration with other partners are working to support displaced persons.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Agriculture And Livestock Committee Concludes Public Hearing On The Alleged Substandard Fertilizers

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- The members also established that the NCPB did not stock enough fertilizers and some farmers failed to plant at the start of the planting season now risking getting low yields on top of using substandard fertilizer.
- Mr. Titus Keino the NCPB IT in-charge told the members that registration of farmers who took the NPK:10:26:10 is ongoing for purposes of compensation with either top dressing or another brand of planting fertilizer for those who have not used the fertilizer.



Lawmakers being taken through the process of certifying the actual weight of the fertilizer



One of the farmers making his contribution during the public hearings.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock has concluded public hearings on the alleged substandard fertilizers across the 16 food basket counties in the country. On Saturday, the committee visited the Kamwosor NCPB depot in Elgeyo Marakwet, the Mosoriot depot in Nandi, the Homabay depot and the Muhoroni depot in Kisumu County. The North Rift team was led by the committee Vice Chair and Konoin MP, Brigh-

ton Yegon. The farmers in Kamwosor told the delegation that the NPK: 10:26:10 they bought from the NCPB had a mixture of stones pebbles, red soil and goat droppings. "I bought NPK: 10:26:10 that I used for planting potatoes which withered immediately after germination. The potatoes that I planted without any fertilizer are doing good," Peter Kiptanui a farmer in Keiyo South told the delegation.

The members also established that the NCPB did not stock enough fertilizers and some farmers failed to plant at the start of the planting season now risking getting low yields on top of using substandard fertilizer. Mr. Titus Keino the NCPB IT in-charge told the members that registration of farmers who took the NPK:10:26:10 is ongoing for purposes of compensation with either top dressing or another brand of planting fertilizer for those who have not used the fertilizer. At Mosoriot depot the delegation learnt that the NPK:10:26:10 weight varies from 46-48Kgs and did not reach the indicated 50Kgs. The farmers also called on the NCPB to stock fertilizers on time and make their depot a one-stop shop where they can also purchase planting seeds. While assuring the farmers of the Committee's commitment to get to the bottom of the scandal, Hon. Yegon admitted that the last-minute rush to stock fertilizer by NCPB creates loopholes for cartels. "Now that we have completed our fact-finding, we will write a report and recommend very stringent actions against unscrupulous suppliers. All the affected farmers must be compensated at the cost of the suppliers," Yegon said.

At Homabay County, the records from the NCPB indicate that 23,000 bags of fertilizer were dispatched to Homa Bay depot and 31,840 bags to Muhoroni. Among these, 170 bags identified as GPC were deemed substandard at the Homabay depot. Nyando MP and the leader of the delegation noted that only a few farmers had reported the issue of getting substandard fertilizer so far. The farmers advocated for an ongoing registration process and increased awareness about available fertilizers, to be facilitated by Ward Agricultural Officers. During the meeting, the delegation recommended that farmers receive compensation equivalent to their expenditure from planting to the application of the substandard fertilizer. "Farmers should not only be compensated for the cost of the purchased fertilizer but also the damages incurred during planting. This compensation should encompass the entire planting process," said Okello. After concluding the public hearing, the committee will now write a report and make recommendations that will be tabled before the House.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



A weeklong power outage in Masalani town, Ijara Sub-County, has disrupted vital services, including the hospital and water supply. Medical Officer Dr. Abdimalik Ibrahim reported that the prolonged power failure has caused machines to become dormant, affecting laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures. Kenya Power Company operations manager Hezron James said there was a breakdown at the Malindi power station due to flooding, causing several power poles to go down near the Sabaki River. Residents are calling for the immediate opening of a power substation to address the recurring power problem in the area.



Bomet County has purchased 50 acres of land for a software factory aimed at creating jobs for thousands of youths through digital platforms. Governor Hillary Barchok announced that the county government, in collaboration with the Information and Communication Authority, will reward winning digital projects to motivate the best innovators in the ICT world. The factory will provide a platform for ICT graduates to exercise their coding skills and create award-winning programmes for national development. The county government also initiated a County Technology and Innovation Forum, which will create global digital networks to connect youths, local businesses, and organisations to share knowledge, resources, and opportunities in technology and innovation. The forum will conduct workshops on technology and entrepreneurship, encouraging youths to start online businesses and participate in e-commerce. The first forum will be held in May, and the governor encourages partners to support the youth in realising their full potential.

Garissa residents are facing supply shortages due to flooding caused by ongoing rains, leading to the closure of the Garissa-Madogo highway. The four-kilometre stretch has been paralysed, making it impossible for people and vehicles to enter or exit Garissa town to Nairobi. The road is the gateway to the larger North Eastern region, and all travellers to Wajir and Mandera through this route are also stranded at Madogo town. This is the third time this road stretch has hampered movement in the area since the road was destroyed by El Nino rains in December last year. The affected areas include the Tana River bridge surroundings, Mororo, and Kona Punda, where temporary diversions have been set awaiting full repairs. The Kenya National Highway Authority has announced the closure and warned citizens to be cautious and wait for the waters to subside before crossing.



Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a has called on the Ministry of Education to extend the school opening date due to the prevailing rainy weather. She believes that the opening date for the second term is too soon due to heavy rains and floods in several parts of the country. Ng'ang'a, along with Kikuyu MP and National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, has requested that the reopening date be delayed by at least one week to avoid risking the lives of learners returning to their schools. Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang has stated that schools will reopen this week, but parents from Thika have called for the reopening date to be postponed until the rain subsides. They argue that children in rural areas cross rivers and streams on their way to school and that other schools, especially in flat areas, are flooded, making reopening unrealistic.



Governor Stephen Sang has expressed concern over rising suicide cases in the County. The County Boss is urging parents and guardians to help their children cope with the pressure they face to minimise cases. He suggested that allowing children to express themselves freely before parents would reduce suicidal cases and that the National and County Government of Nandi have made significant progress in addressing social challenges.



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Nairobi Too Important To Be Left Without Deserving Services - DP

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- Mr Gachagua said the Ruto Administration has no challenge in collaborating with opposition leaders in intensifying service provision to the people.

- “We will work with everyone irrespective of their political parties. This is the time to serve the people of Kenya. We will work with Esther Passaris (Woman Representative), Phelix Jalang’o (Lang’ata MP), Elachi (Dagoretti North MP), I am also looking for Babu Owino (Embakasi East MP), Tim Wanyoyi (Westlands MP) and we will work with all of them,” said the DP.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at Nyayo Stadium on Saturday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is taking a keen interest in the development of Nairobi County as the national government intensifies efforts to ensure the City regains its glory.

Speaking on Saturday at a fundraiser for Langata constituency’s Women Empowerment Programme at Nyayo Stadium, Nairobi, Mr Gachagua said the City is too important to be left without deserving services.

“I am going to take keen interest in the development of Nairobi because it is the capital city and the seat of government. It is the business centre of East and Central Africa. The President and I will make sure everything is okay here,” he said.

The Deputy President said Nairobi is critical to the nation’s socio-economic growth and development.

“It is too important to be left just like that. We must restore the glory in the green city in the sun and make sure residents get services as required. We are all stakeholders of this city,” he added.

Further, the DP said the country’s leadership is working with all leaders to develop the City adding that they do not have a problem with those on the other side of the political divide.

Mr Gachagua said the Ruto Administration has no challenge in collaborating with opposition leaders in intensifying service provision to the people.

“We will work with everyone irrespective of their political parties. This is the time to serve the people of Kenya. We will work with Esther Passaris (Woman Representative), Phelix Jalang’o (Lang’ata MP), Elachi (Dagoretti North MP), I am also looking for Babu Owino (Embakasi East MP), Tim Wanyoyi (Westlands MP) and we will work with all of them,” said the DP.

The DP noted that Nairobi ought to regain its stature as the green city in the sun promising to give more attention to the development programmes in the county.

“Every leader who is elected is our partner in development and we will

work together to make this city shine like it was before,” he said.

The Deputy President also said the Government is providing assistance to residents affected by the floods caused by heavy rains experienced in the city recently.

“We are going to support all the affected. The multi-agency response is going on as directed by the President,” he said.

At the same time, the DP said they are deliberately rolling out programmes to empower women for the good of the nation.

“If you want to develop a society or a nation, empower women. This is what we are doing as a government,” he stated.

Mr Gachagua also praised Mr Jalang’o for his leadership and decision to work with the government to develop the constituency.

“He is organised and visionary. He will raise the profile of the constituency. We will work with him to take Langata forward,” he said.

The DP was accompanied by host MP Phelix Odiwuor Jalang’o (Lang’ata), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Ann Wamuratha (Kiambu County MP), Esther Passaris (Nairobi County MP), Japheth Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North), Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North), Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North) Benjamin Gathiru Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central), Maryanne Kitany (Aldai), Robert Basil (Yatta), Caroli Omondi (Suba South), Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta County MP), Jane Kagiiri (Laikipia County MP), Betty Maina (Murang’a County MP) and Mukunji Gitonga (Manyatta) and MCAs, among others.

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Sakaja: I Have No Differences With Gachagua, He Is A Respectable Man

By: Michelle Atieno

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has refuted claims of a dispute between him and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Speaking during an interview on Saturday, Sakaja said DP Gachagua is his senior and described him as a good leader who should be respected. "I have no differences with the deputy president. He is a senior man who is respected, he has been in politics, and even though he got us by politics after us, he came in and became popular. He is a good leader who should be respected," he said.

Sakaja added that he respects Gachagua as a leader.

"I've never spoken ill of him. I have never mentioned him. I respect him as our leader, vice president, and deputy party leader," said Sakaja.

There have been claims of friction between DP Gachagua and the Nairobi governor over his recent bid for the United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

party chairmanship in Nairobi.

The governor previously dismissed claims that he was asked to drop his bid by some of the ruling party's officials.

During an interview on April 25, Sakaja maintained that he is still in the race, and he shall not succumb to pressure.

"I'm not a leader who succumbs to pressure. If there was pressure, I would not have been governor of Nairobi and I don't know where they assume it is coming from... I have heard the rumours," he said speaking to Inooro TV.

He announced his bid on April 19 during a meeting with UDA Members of the County Assembly (MCAs).

"I want you to get this from the horse's mouth; I'm vying for the Nairobi chairmanship position in the United Democratic Alliance party," Sakaja said then.



A side-by-side image of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (L) and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja during past functions. | FILE.

Murkomen Urges Caution On The Roads As Schools Set To Re-Open

By: Edward Chweya

Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has urged road users to exercise immense caution on the roads amid the heavy rains pounding most parts of the country.

In a statement, Murkomen particularly urged road users and parents to take into consideration the re-opening of schools this week, saying everyone needs to be vigilant.

"This new term coincides with heavy rains, creating hazardous road conditions due to flooding and damaged infrastructure. Road users should not underestimate the dangers of heavy rain and flooding, as even shallow pools can hide deep potholes or deep currents," Murkomen said.

Further, the CS warned that drivers who endanger other road users by

driving careless and those who ignorantly cross dangerous waters will be prosecuted.

Murkomen further urged parents to take the lead in ensuring their children's safety as they return to school, adding that they should liaise with school administrations for smooth and safe transportation of students.

His sentiments come amid heavy rains that have led to flooding, which has claimed over 80 lives in the country.

The most recent is the flooding in Mathare area of Nairobi where homes were swept and several residents drowned.



Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary (CS) Kipchumba Murkomen.

Rigathi Visits Floods Victims in Mathare, Donates Relief Supplies

By: DPCS

The government has intensified distribution of food and non-food items to families affected by floods as part of the key response interventions of saving lives as enhanced rains continue across the country.

Speaking yesterday when he led a relief exercise at Valley Bridge Primary School, in Mathare, Nairobi County, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said State Agencies in Collaboration with other partners are working to support displaced persons.

“The Government is doing everything possible to ensure no more lives are lost and no property is destroyed. We are working with all the partners to ensure effective response,” said Mr Gachagua.

The Deputy President added that respective agencies have been instructed to assess and repair infrastructure destroyed by the rains to support response to emergencies, besides a return to normalcy.

The DP said the Kenya Urban Roads Authority is repairing 26 bridges in



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua distributing relief supplies yesterday.

Nairobi to avoid disruption of learning as schools reopen this week.

“The construction works have started because we want our children to go back to school without any difficulties,” he revealed.

The Deputy President also said the National Youth Service had been activated to help in opening up clogged drainages and clearing up blocked roads among other needed services.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health

is working with the health facilities to ensure availability of medicine to avert outbreak of diseases that could further put at risk the lives of those in various camps.

The DP also bought new books and

reading materials for children who lost theirs to the floods.

“We are grateful for the work done by volunteers who rescued hundreds of people from flooded areas. They did a good job and we truly appreciate them,” he added.

He also called on Kenyans not to put themselves at risk by attempting to cross flooded roads and rivers, saying it was unfortunate lives have been lost due to such daring acts.

“I appeal to the people of Kenya not to dare nature. We have seen incidents where some have put themselves in danger and we have lost lives. I ask them not to compete with nature,” he added.

At the event, the DP was joined by East African Community and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Peninah Malonza, Principal Secretary ASALs and Regional Development Harsama Kello, UN Resident Coordinator Stephen Jackson, UNHCR Representative Caroline Van Buren, Nairobi County MP Esther Passaris, Embakasi North MP James Gakuya, area MCA Joseph Ndung’u, MCAs, among others.

NEMA Calls For Closure Of Quarries In Murang’a As Heavy Rains Persists

By: Bernard Munyao

@themkenyatimes

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has written to the Murang’a county security committee to suspend operations of stone, sand and clay quarries, even as the ongoing heavy rains put them at the risk of collapsing.

In a letter written by the County NEMA director Sarah Waruo, Chiefs, their assistants and members of Nyumba Kumi have been directed to inspect quarries at their areas of jurisdiction and consider suspending operations so as to save lives of artisanal miners working there.

Murang’a County has many quarries in different sub counties and in the recent past the region has been receiving heavy downpour.

In the second week of April, one quarry at Maragi area collapsed injuring two miners who were admitted at Murang’a level 5 hospital for



Some parts of the county have also witnessed mudslides, which have blocked sections of local roads and destroyed some farms.

Waruo noted that due to the wet conditions, some quarries are at the risk of collapsing, thus the need to suspend their operations until the rains subside.

“Murang’a county has several

counties. The quarries are excavated either mechanically or manually by artisanal miners. With the current heavy rainfall there is the likelihood of quarries collapsing due to wet conditions.

This therefore is to request the county security committee to be on the lookout for any of the quarry at risk of collapsing and the same should be

of lives in the event of a collapse,” read part of the letter.

At the same time, Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) last Friday ordered for the closure of a section of Murang’a-Kiriani road.

This was occasioned by a mudslide, which has hit road at Gaturi ward leaving motorists exposed to dangerous ditches in parts of the area.

More than 10 sections of the road have also been partly blocked by debris and boulders that have been dumped on the road as heavy rains continue pounding the area.

The authority on its social platforms ordered closure of sections between Murang’a post office and Mugeka after the collapse of a road embankment.

It urged motorists to use alternative routes to their destinations as the Central Region KeNHA Engineer Francis Kimata said the affected sections of the road will be repaired.

“The Murang’a – Kiria ini road is critical and was recently allocated to KeNHA from Kerra,” said Kimata urging motorists to divert to St Mary- Gitugi – Kiriaini and Gakonya- Mukurwe ini roads to access parts of Kiharu, Mathioya and Othaya.

In the past two weeks, residents served by the road had raised concerns after mudslide incidents, especially near the Mathioya river bridge.

Communications Committee Visits KIMC And MCK Eldoret Branches

By: PSCU

The Communication Information and Innovation (CII) Committee embarked on a fact-finding mission to oversee the operations of the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC) and the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) Eldoret Branches.

The committee delegation led by Nandi Hills MP Bernard Kitur was aimed at inspecting land designated for the construction of KIMC's new Eldoret Branch; a project estimated at 558M.

Situated strategically, the proposed site is poised to bring development and positively impact to the local community.

Expressing their concerns, KIMC officials said that the current rigid legislative framework is an obstacle hindering their growth due to prohibiting them from engaging donors, thereby constraining their expansion efforts.

Consequently, they heavily rely on government support, which leads to operational challenges and potential setbacks for students when funds are not released in good time.



Some of the committee members during the visit.

Acknowledging the transformative potential of KIMC in the region's creative economy, lawmakers challenged the institution to devise a framework to ensure content creators receive adequate returns on investment (ROI).

Kitur emphasized the need for proactive measures, urging KIMC to enhance community engagement and

explore innovative projects.

"We were unaware of the existence of a KIMC branch in Eldoret. Your lack of visibility is hurting your institution. While you may possess the necessary resources, there's a noticeable absence of proactivity," challenged Kitur.

During their visit to the MCK Eldoret Branch, officials outlined their

vision of providing a conducive space for accredited journalists to unleash their creativity and maximize their services.

However, lawmakers noted inefficiencies in the existing setup and recommended collaboration with stakeholders to enhance resources and amenities.

Jematiah underscored the impor-

tance of creating an appealing environment to attract diverse talents and foster creativity. Emphasizing the need for cutting-edge facilities and innovative outreach programs, lawmakers encouraged MCK to capitalize on opportunities for growth and address current challenges.

In response to these insights, Jematiah emphasized the significance of strategic planning and engaging young upcoming talents to unlock their full potential. She stressed the importance of aligning initiatives with global standards to remain competitive and relevant in the ever-evolving media landscape.

"How you start it, how you package yourself is also what will determine how you grow. Young people are wild thinkers, engage them and unlock their potential.

We want to compete with the rest of the world but what is before us isn't adequate," she said

Despite facing challenges such as resource limitations and infrastructure gaps, both institutions are committed to overcoming obstacles and leveraging opportunities to drive innovation and excellence in media and communication.

TVETs Team Up To Rehabilitate Degraded Water Towers

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Students from Technical institutions in the Mount Kenya Region have partnered with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to rehabilitate degraded water towers through an afforestation programme.

The initiative aims to plant 350,000 tree seedlings this year, starting at Tumutumu Hills in Nyeri County, where they have so far planted over 20,000 trees.

The initiative targets hills that have been degraded due to invasion by charcoal burners and illegal harvesting of trees for wood fuel and timber.

One of the hills targeted is Lusoi Hills in Laikipia County, which was once a wildlife habitat with numerous water springs but was degraded and left bare following invasion by residents of the neighbouring Solio

Settlement Scheme.

The students plan to plant 30,000 indigenous trees to restore the hill to its original status as a water tower and turn it into a wildlife conservation site.

The KFS Director in Charge of Laikipia, Paul Ng'ang'a, said that the government is expected to plant 37 million seedlings annually in Laikipia County.



Students posing for a photo after planting trees

Why UDA Election Is A Matter Of Do-Or-Die For DP Gachagua?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



UDA Election Board Chairman Anthony Mwaura and party chairperson Cecily Mbarire at the press briefing.



Worth Noting:

- The 'handshake' was the stick that broke the camel's back. Ruto took advantage of the fallout with his boss to launch the second phase of his campaign that catapulted him to seat of power.
- Back to UDA elections, reports have indicated that Gachagua is fronting Embakasi MP James Gakuya to take up the position of Nairobi UDA chairmanship as opposed to Governor Johnson Sakaja.
- If this is true, then it means Gachagua's lost it out in the first round. The media report suggested that he had hatched a plot to stop Sakaja from voting. The governor however managed to maneuver his way and he finally voted.

The ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party kicked off its grassroots elections a few days ago.

Reports indicated that Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was leaving nothing to chance in his bid to plant his loyalists to the positions being contested.

One can understand where he is coming from.

As the second in command he believes he is just a heart-beat away from becoming the President of this country.

For this reason, he has to use all means to defend his territory.

This brings me to the question. Does he stand a chance of having his way?

I know one of his key strategy is to follow the footsteps of the current President William Ruto.

As we know, Dr Ruto, then deputy president, started to lay his political foundation during the first term of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

He was however more strategic. He would take advantage of Uhuru's absence and visit all parts of the country to represent him. This was during the launch and commissioning of mega development projects.

He would take advantage of this to front himself as the best suited candidate to succeed President Kenyatta.

As a result, Dr Ruto managed to build political stamina. Come the second term, he had enough foot soldiers. So he would not fear taking on his boss head-on.

The 'handshake' was the stick that broke the camel's back. Ruto took advantage of the fallout with his boss to launch the second phase of his campaign that catapulted him to seat of power.

Back to UDA elections, reports have indicated that Gachagua is fronting Em-

bakasi MP James Gakuya to take up the position of Nairobi UDA chairmanship as opposed to Governor Johnson Sakaja.

If this is true, then it means Gachagua's lost it out in the first round. The media report suggested that he had hatched a plot to stop Sakaja from voting. The governor however managed to maneuver his way and he finally voted.

The bid to block Dagorreti MP John Kiarie from voting also failed to bear fruits.

In his reaction, Sakaja noted that is hard to manipulate the UDA elections. This is because President William Ruto, who is the party leader, is committed to a free, fair and democratic elections.

With this, it looked like Gachagua's game-plan had started on a wrong footing

The polling exercise will culminate with the National Delegates Conference (NDC) scheduled in December.

As stipulated in the constitution of UDA, the delegates will undertake two major activities. One, election of 39 new national office bearers.

Two, the amendment of the party constitution.

Going by the latest political discourses, I would expect the following two key proposals to be tabled on the floor.

One will seek to fast-track and entrench the two-thirds gender rule.

When he flouted this proposal, President William Ruto, who is the party leader, stated. A time has come for the UDA to live up to our word.

During the campaigns we promised to implement the constitutional imperative of two-thirds gender rule to the letter and spirit.

Going forward, this would be my proposal. If the party nominates a man to be the presidential candidate the running

mate should be a woman or vice versa.

The other proposal that I know would generate a heated debate is that seeking to amend Article 24 of the UDA constitution.

This Article creates the positions of one party leader and three deputy party leaders.

The allies of Deputy President (DP) Rigathi Gachagua are now smelling a rat. They aver that the Article is designed to clip the political wings of DP.

We will push for its amendment and the new clause would read. There shall be one party leader, who is the President and one deputy party leader who is deputy President.

We have nothing to do with other positions. You can create as many as you want, an ally was quoted as saying.

One can understand where their fear is coming from.

The media reports indicated that Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, who is widely perceived to be Gachagua's arch rival, was poised to take up one of the deputy party leader slots.

The two would share the same power and portfolio.

Having said this and with due respect to Gachagua and his allies, I want to ask.

First, I tend to believe that they fully participated in the entire process of writing the constitution of the UDA. Why did they allow Article 24 to be entrenched in its present form?

For now, this is water that had already passed under the bridge. If, for instance, their strategy of amending Article 24 will not bear the fruits, they will have to blame themselves.

The talk that Mudavadi was being favored by President William Ruto does not hold any water.

The President has been reprimanding

and distancing himself from the leaders engaging in succession politics. I have no time for these premature and empty debates. My eyes and ears are trained on fulfilling the pledges I made during the campaign, he once said during a development tour of Western Kenya.

He was responding to claims by Kakamega Senator Bonny Khalwale that he will pass the baton to Mudavadi in 2032.

The President reiterated this position during his recent development tour of Kikuyu land in Mountain. I'm not here to do politics. I'm here to launch and commission development projects which will transform the lives of our people in a big way.

In Mount Kenya, the allies of Deputy President are also following and monitoring closely the political activities of Kirinyaga Governor Ann Waiguru and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro. They believe that the two poses a real threat to DP bid for Mount Kenya kingpin and riding on this wave to succeed Dr Ruto in 2032.

If the DP loses the kingship, this will cost him dearly. The prerogative of picking a running mate squarely lies with the President.

So, if that happened, Dr Ruto was likely to drop him and pick Ndindi or Waiguru.

The latter would stand a high chance if the proposal to create a male-female lineup sails through.

In 2022, the mountain voted as a bloc for President Ruto. Dr Ruto's prayer and wish is to rally this region behind him in 2027 polls.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Kiambu Deputy Governor Launches Community Foundation For The Empowerment Of Families

By: OSDP and MKT
Correspondent
@themkenyatimes



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi (in grey) with Kiambu Deputy Governor Rosemary Kirika (in orange) during the launch of the Rose Kirika Foundation at the MPESA Foundation Grounds in Thika, Kiambu County on Saturday. They are together with (from left) Deputy Governors Stephen Munania (Murang'a), Warui Kinanire (Nyeri), Christine Kilalo (Taita Taveta), Reuben Kamuri (Laikipia), Evangelist Lucy Wangunjiri, and Njoroge Muchiri (Nairobi). Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

- Kirika is a renowned large-scale poultry farmer for many years, and the five working steps of the foundation, vision of Shabikia Talanta Yako range from pre-assessment to continuous mentoring, coaching and monitoring with the aim of total transformation of members of the community. It also includes empowerment of families to avoid the youth from falling into alcoholism and drug abuse.
- “This foundation will be founded on family values, and the support we have witnessed today of the DG, by her spouse, Mr. Kirika is commendable. Thank you for backing this great woman. I tell people, when you see a woman standing, confident and looking beautiful, there is a man beside them, not behind, because we were removed from their side (the rib),” said Pastor Dorcas.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has commended the Deputy Governor of Kiambu, Rosemary Kirika, for the bold step of starting a community foundation aimed at empowering the people living within the 60 wards in the area.

During the colourful event of the Rose Kirika Foundation at the MPESA Foundation Grounds in Thika, different leaders from the county governments of Kenya, national government and faith-based organizations lauded the spirit of giving back manifested in that action of reaching out to the vulnerable through the foundation.

“A leader is known when they can make a difference. A leader is known when they become a solution to the questions in a society has. A leader able to bring families together is doing a great work; because it starts with the family to the church, communities, nation, and the world,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Kirika is a renowned large-scale poultry farmer for many years, and the five working steps of the foundation, vision of Shabikia Talanta Yako range from pre-assessment to continuous mentoring, coaching and monitoring with the aim of total transformation of members of the community. It also includes empowerment of families to avoid the youth from falling into alcoholism and drug

abuse.

“This foundation will be founded on family values, and the support we have witnessed today of the DG, by her spouse, Mr. Kirika is commendable. Thank you for backing this great woman. I tell people, when you see a woman standing, confident and looking beautiful, there is a man beside them, not behind, because we were removed from their side (the rib),” said Pastor Dorcas.

She also added that the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua was her number one fan over the years of their union.

“The Deputy President has been standing by my side. He is my greatest fan, in my ministry and championing the work of the boy child, and every work I do in the office,” she said.

Referring to the interconnectedness of the foundation agenda to that of her office, Pastor Dorcas spoke of the transformation brought about by the work of lifting others, and urged others to support such a dream in all ways.

She, however, warned that her stand against alcoholism had made her not have many friends of those in the business of alcohol but it was a cost worth paying for the welfare of others.

“Let us be the mouthpiece of the

voiceless, and endeavor to live a dignified life as a community and as a people,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Earlier during the event, different Deputy Governors paid their tribute to their counterpart and her family for the great show of philanthropy to the people through the launch of the foundation and years of past work impacting communities.

Present were Deputy Governors, Stephen Munania (Murang’a), Njoroge Muchiri (Nairobi), David Warui Kinanire (Nyeri), Reuben Kamuri (Laikipia), Christine Kilalo (Taita Taveta) and Philomena Bineah (Trans Nzoia), and clergy from different denominations.

Kinanire said the county government of Nyeri was solidly behind the fight against alcoholism by closing the bars, and licensing afresh those who

met the standards of operations.

Kilalo congratulated the Kiambu Deputy Governor for being in the frontline in establishing such a transformative foundation that will address societal ills.

The Kiambu Governor, Kimani Wamatangi also runs a foundation affiliated to his name, Wamatangi Foundation where he distributes water tanks, provides community vans for weddings, funerals, and other social events, and also runs computer colleges.

Earlier in the day, Pastor Dorcas had attended the wedding of Alex Maina, a staff in her office, and Gillian Kogei. She congratulated the couple for their marriage, and as the boy child champion encouraged such unions for the promotion of family and societal values.



Choromai Calls For Citizens Support In Fighting Illicit Brews And Drugs

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki Choromai has called on Kenyans to fully support the government in fighting against the consumption of illicit brews and increasing forest cover across the country.

Choromai said the fight against illicit brews, which was being spearheaded by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, was already yielding fruits as most of those earlier affected had started carrying out meaningful economic activities.

He noted that youth were becoming more productive than in the past when such illicit drinks were readily available.

Speaking when joined Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) at Mugaka and Kiambogo churches in Kieni West Sub-County, Choromai during the youth fellowship services, he called for intensified crackdown on

those behind the illicit drinks and outlawed drugs saying their consumption have been a major impediment to the country's development.

He further encouraged the locals to plant trees during this rainy season in support of William Ruto's initiative of planting about 15 billion trees in the next few years.

A few days ago, the philanthropist through his Choromai Foundation started an initiative with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) that has so far seen over 22,000 trees planted in parts of the vast Kieni constituency.



John Kariuki Choromai addressing PCEA faithful yesterday

The Mt. Kenya Times



Khadicha Sulaymanova, The First Female Lawyer In Uzbekistan



Made a great contribution to the development of the legal system of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is no exaggeration to say that our compatriots are few. One of them is a famous scientist, doctor of legal sciences, professor of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR Sulaymanova. Khadicha Sulaymonovna will be the member. It is in the history of Uzbekistan. She is the First female lawyer and judge.

First of all, to the scientific and cultural heritage of Khadicha Sulaymanova and the development of science. We think it would be appropriate to highlight his contribution. In 1938, due to her interest in science during her student years, Khadicha Sulaymanova joined the Department of Soviet Criminal Law at the Moscow Law Institute as a graduate student. It is from this year that he begins his scientific career. On July 20, 1945. In Moscow, the first "Uzbekistan during the period of military intervention and civil war. After defending her dissertation on the topic of "Criminal Laws of the SSR", she went to Tashkent will return as a candidate of law sciences. It is fair to say that Khadicha Sulaymanova was the first to receive a scientific degree in the field of jurisprudence was a woman. In 1948, she entered the Law Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences. She was sent to doctoral studies, and two of her articles were published in a short period of time: "Emergence of the Soviet criminal law in Uzbekistan" and "Uzbekistan History of establishment of Soviet courts in the SSR". In 1950, Khadichha Sulaymanova defended her doctoral thesis and received the scientific title of professor.

In addition, it is the Soviet criminal law and legislation of Uzbekistan, as well as Soviet became the first jurist to create the history of the court. The needs of that time taking into account, she was the first to the Criminal Code of the UZSSR gave a perfect description and the socialist

nature of the code together with the interpretation of its special features, that is, in the region Sociology and social work in the 21st century current problems cause of crimes, ways to prevent crimes and justice clarified the order of punishments. In 1954, it was shown above "In the Uzbek SSR" by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the UzSSR for his initiatives is deemed worthy of the honorary title of "honorary scientist". And in 1956 Sciences of the UzSSR for great services in the development of legal science is elected a real member of the Academy. During his scientific career, Khadicha Sulaymanova managed to create the following legal works. Khadicha Sulaymanova is legal along with the development of legal science. She also began to establish the state. Her primary target is women to ensure their rights, as well as in their state offices was to create conditions for their activities. As you know, in the atmosphere of that time women's rights are not recognized by society, gender equality not provided and many women suffer from violations and crimes they were forced to live by smoking. And Khadicha Sulaymanova wants to put an end to them entered First of all, it is a Tashkent Soviet building named after Jahan Obidova and legal. After graduating from the Faculty of Law of the Institute, at the age of 22, he started working as a judge. During his tenure as a judge, he committed several offenses and to study the causes of crimes and to be fair to criminals tries to apply punishments. Because of her youth, Khadichha Sulaymanova. She has been engaged in scientific activities for many years and tries to gain experience.

Despite her short life, she is very numerous to do meritorious deeds and to be respected by her people managed to in particular, it is related to the creation of the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the creation of a fair legal environment in the region, the science of jurisprudence made a great contribution to the development and ensuring the well-being of the society. In the memory of our people, the first jurist is a scientist, a statesman and a great woman as a coach.

Juraboyeva
Mahbuba Asqarbek
qizi
Student of
Tashkent state
university of law



IN THE DUNGEON!

In hither, the criminalized innocent
Relished the loneliness with
The prevailing overusing stench
That made my wish and sue,
I resented the bloating stomach
Having dined
In no complaint.

In it, I yearned for liberation
In vain and I abhorred the stench
In because I had
A bloating stomach
And never did my "good master" care,
As he went on to make lawsuits
That the moron in his air-conditioned
Room with heavenly comfort,
Read to me the red letter sending me
Here where I do donkey's work
Under whips and insults of my guilt
And as the sun is born to light my bald,
I am a liberal poet writing in the dungeon
But a "no man's kinsman!"

Labass Sebastian Degro,
A passionate poet
Residence: Jhanda district for now
contacts(0799133179 on WhatsApp)
email: sebastianlabass@gmail.com

Legal Analysis Of Gafur Ghulam's Story "Action Taken".

Despite the small size of the story written by Academician Gafur Ghulam, "Action taken", its content is very broad. As it is said, "The truth of life is fully depicted in works of art," this story also fully and openly reflects the legal problems of that time. Not only at that time, but also now in some places, similar situations occur. So, what is the story about? Let's take a look together. In general terms, this story is about unfair tax payments from citizens due to the abuse of their official duties by the officials of the state power, their neglectful approach to them. At the beginning of the story, in order to demonstrate to the public how meticulously and carefully tax officials perform their work, it is assumed that dozens of employees work even in the smallest branches. They work only for human eyes. The writer explained the essence of the story by describing such situations in a humorous way. As an example of accuracy in the apparatus, the following is cited: one of the agencies that went to the villages for the tax list clearly registered the farm of Rahmat Hikmat's son, but as a result of not writing the word Rahmat Hikmat clearly, several people tax forms are sent, or another person is unable to spell the name of the village, i.e. the word "Kashkurgon" correctly, so tax forms are sent to several more villages. Such situations lead to problems and difficulties for people, but they are still doing their work carefully in front of them. This experience is very useful and leads to the collection of taxes from one person, if not from another. This is open theft. In another such case, due to the fault of the taxpayers, the individual tax written to Ibay Zafarov goes to

the name of Ubay Zufarov. Ubay Zufarov explains to the district executive committee that the payment was written to someone else, not to him. "Take action" is written very vaguely and incomprehensible. The village council, not knowing how to understand, found that Ubay had behaved inappropriately and ordered to search his house. If this situation continues, the workers who come to inspect the district council will end up falling into the hands. What punishment would be applied if this situation were present? Relevant articles of the criminal code for employees of the tax apparatus: abuse of power or official authority, cold-hearted attitude to the office, professional fraud, that is, malice of an official of a state body, an organization with state participation, or a self-government body of citizens. Knowingly entering false information and records in official documents for financial or other interests, falsifying documents or knowingly creating and presenting false documents causes a large amount of damage to citizens' rights or interests protected by law, public interests. Such persons harm not only one person, but also the state and society. In conclusion, I would like to say that the same officials who were in the previous era are unfortunately encountered in the present era. Prevention of such a situation is not only duty of the relevant civil servants, but also ours!

Juraboyeva Mahbuba
Asqarbek qizi
Tashkent state university of
law

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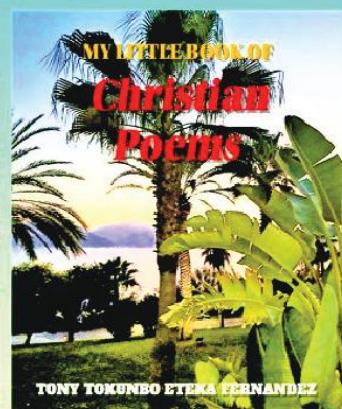
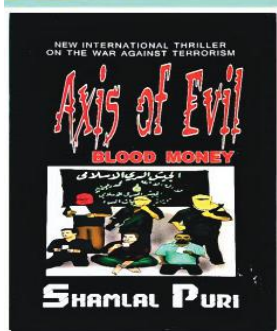
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Legislators Pledge To Support The Expansion Of The CDA Mango Plant In Tana River

By: Sadik Hassan
@themkenyatimes

The Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Regional Development has promised to support the expansion of the Coast Development Authority (CDA) Integrated Fruit Processing Plant in Tana River County to curb post-harvest losses.

The Committee, led by Kabuchai legislator Majimbo Kalasinga noted that with the operationalization of the plant with a capacity to crush more than 1,200 tons of mangoes per year, the livelihood of farmers has significantly improved.

The main overarching goal of the plant is to improve the living standards of coastal small-holder farmers and create employment for the youth.

The Kabuchai MP said the government is keen to enhance value addition to increase farmers' earnings.

The plant, he said needs to be expanded to increase the capacity of the machine to satisfy the market. Tana River is one of the major mango-producing counties in Kenya.

"As a committee, we should see what best we can do for this plant to move from 1000 litres per hour to



The Vice Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Regional Development Majimbo Kalasinga (Centre).

3000 litres per hour to absorb more mangoes from the market," said Kalasinga during a tour of the plant in Hola, Galole constituency.

He urged CDA to offer farmers competitive prices to discourage them from selling their mangoes to exploitative brokers. He was accompanied by Mwago Amos (Starehe), Mwalimu Kombe (Magarini), Peter Nabulindo (Matungu), Paul Abour (Rongo) and Major (Rtd) Dekow Barrow (Garissa)

The Magarini MP said they were satisfied with the plants progress, urging farmers to supply mangoes

for continuous pulp production in the plant.

"They harvest immature mangos thus contributing to loss. I advise farmers to put more effort by increasing farm acreage of mangoes and to be careful during harvesting to avoid losses," said Kombe, adding that the plant will improve the economy of the Coast region.

CDA Managing Director Mohamed Keinan said the factory was established primarily to cushion mango farmers in Tana River, Garissa, Lamu and Kilifi counties against any post-harvest loss.



Mangoes being sorted out.

"To our satisfaction, we installed a one-ton-per-hour capacity crushing machine which produces pulp. The pulp is the puree that will sell to juice makers," said MD Keinan.

"Because Mango is a seasonal production, there are certain months that we are not able to make mango production. In that case, as an institution we were able to place a water processing line," he added.

Deye Salim, Vice Chairman of Galole Mango Farmers' Cooperative Society said they will continue to supply mangoes to the plant as CDA offers competitive prices.

"There is direct impact although there are some gaps which must be addressed to move in the right direction. In the past, mangoes used to

mature well but brokers made farmers harvest immature mangoes," said Salim.

Through teachings from CDA, he added, farmers are now enlightened and farmers who do business with CDA have improved their lives. He urged CDA to increase the plant capacity to benefit more farmers.

Jamey Ayu, a Mango farmer said they have started to reap the economic benefits of the plant as farmers.

"I have educated my children up to the university level. We want the plant to be expanded to crush more mangoes and create employment to improve our livelihoods," she said.

Security Committee To Oversee Implementation Of Enhanced Emergency Response

By: Fatma Said
@themkenyatimes

In response to the unforeseen severity of the flooding, the National Security, Defence, and Foreign Relations committee has pledged to ensure that the government swiftly mobilizes additional emergency funds to mitigate the adverse effects and implement effective rescue operations.

Acknowledging the unexpected nature of the flooding, respective leaders are adjusting their strategies to address this evolving national disaster comprehensively.

Speaking during the standing committee on National Security, Defence, and Foreign Relations retreat, Senator Tom Ojienda, a member of the committee said that the gov-



ernment is actively engaging with relevant stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources in devising effective flood management strategies.

These efforts include a multi-agency approach, including having emergency response teams, enhancing coordination on the ground, and deploying resources to the affected

regions promptly.

"I would like to highlight that the insufficient preparedness is because nobody could foresee this flooding severity that is causing a lot of damages and distractions in the country," Ojienda said.

However, he went on to note that as a committee of National Security, they are going to put in all measures

to ensure that the government prioritizes the enhancement of emergency response plans as they have records of more than 20 counties being greatly affected.

Ojienda said that as custodian of National Security, they shall oversee that counties effectively utilize the emergency funds that they are all equipped with for emergency issues like the ongoing floods to rescue the people and offer relief supplies.

"It is crucial that we plan strategically to utilize the flood water also for crucial purposes such as irrigation and provision of water during the drought periods in the country. Dams like Maisinga are breaching and this is an issue of the security of our people so it is important we find ways to effectively manage the floodwaters," he said

The Kisumu County Senator said that among other issues they dis-

cussed in the meeting included the protection of government buildings which he referred to as crucial installations, banditry, and the framework of law that deals with fire brigade within the country to ensure each county has an effective fire department.

Prof. Ojienda noted that the framework for the fight against banditry is very clear, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Administration gazetted notice to declare certain areas to be bandit-prone and that the government is taking action.

"We have seen a lot of success and the CS must be lauded for the effort that he has made, he has done so much including the Shakahola investigations and exhumations because he has dealt with violations of human rights," he said.

Cisco Launches Its First Security Technology Experience Centre In Africa

By: Kenya News Agency

Cisco has launched its first Cyber-security Technology Experience Centre in Kenya at the University of Nairobi.

The centre, in collaboration with the ICT Authority (ICTA) and the University of Nairobi, is part of Cisco's Country Digital Acceleration (CDA) global programme.

The centre aims to build sustainable, secure, and inclusive communities powered by ethical and innovative technology solutions.

With more than 1,600 active or completed projects in 50 countries, it is creating new value for participating countries, their industries, and their residents.

ICT and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary, Eng. John Tanui, stated that the Centre will offer Cyber Security Training and help build strategic in-country Cyber Se-

curity capabilities and expertise.

The Centre will leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality (VR) tools to deliver a cyber security awareness experience to government officials and industry across the continent.

Cisco's involvement in Kenya's digital transformation journey extends beyond mere partnership; it embodies a shared commitment to advancing strategic priorities and realizing its vision for a digitally inclusive and prosperous nation.

The partnership between Cisco and ICTA invites the government, educational institutions, private sector organisations, and entities committed to Kenya's cyber security infrastructure and digital transformation to engage in this landmark initiative.



ICT PS John Tanui, University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Kiama Gitahi and other officials during the launching ceremony.

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Kenya, Zimbabwe Ink Key Cooperation Agreements

By: PCS

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “The objective of the MoU is to enhance cooperation between the two institutions and to strengthen economic, technological and investment relations. The MoU will also facilitate exchange of information on investment potentials and promote bilateral foreign direct investments in the two countries,” the Ministry added.

- The fourth agreement was on bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock development, which seeks to enhance food security through technological development, transfer, research and training.

- “On this cluster, we agreed to continue advancing negotiations on pending instruments in the fields of trade and investment, air services, maritime and shipping, exploration, mining and metallurgy, renewable energy, water and irrigation, customs administration and mutual assistance,” read the statement.

Kenya and Zimbabwe have agreed to enhance trade and investment in both countries, even as they signed agreements to boost some of the major sectors of the economy.

On economic and trade cluster, the two countries signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) which include between the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) to establish a framework for exchange of scientific and technical knowledge as well as enhance capabilities of the two institutions.

According to a statement from Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs ministry, also signed was an agreement in the field of Transport and transport infrastructure.

“The objective of the MoU is to enhance cooperation in development of road transport infrastructure and promote private sector investment in infrastructure development,” the statement on JPCC meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe said.

Others agreements are between Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA).

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On the social cluster, the meeting reached agreement on three MoUs in the field of Basic Education, Training and Research.

“The MoU addresses higher and tertiary education training, skills and human capital development, science, technology and innovation, TVET and collaboration between Councils for Higher and Tertiary Education of Zimbabwe and Kenya,” the statement indicated.

The two countries also signed agreements in the health sector, which aims at facilitating cooperation in the area of professional education and technical training of health professionals.

Another signed was between the Public Service Commission of Zimbabwe and the Kenya School of Government (KSG) in the field of capacity development in the public service.

The MoU will enable the two institutions to enhance human capital development and management, including capacity development, joint research and public service transformation.

The meeting also agreed to advance pending negotiations in affordable

housing and promotion of appropriate building materials and new technologies, culture and arts, twinning arrangements between counties in Kenya and provinces in Zimbabwe, urban and metropolitan development, labour and employment, training of cardiovascular perfusionists between Parirenyatwa group of Hospitals from Zimbabwe and Tenwek hospital from Nairobi.

The Ministers also agreed to bolster implementation of instruments signed in 2022 which include, youth affairs and promotion of women empowerment.

To keep track of decisions agreed on, the fourth JPCC stressed the need of not only signing instruments but also ensure their operationalization.

To this end, the two countries agreed on the implementation modalities of the finalized and existing MoUs.

The two countries will be expected to form Joint Technical Committees that will develop a comprehensive framework for their regular monitoring and evaluation.

Kenya will convene the next session of the Midterm Review (MTR) of the fourth session during the first quarter of next year.

In line with the proposal to bolster bilateral engagement from JPCC to a Bi-national Commission, Kenya will host the Inaugural Bi-National Commission in the first quarter of 2026.

They also agreed to accelerate implementation of instruments signed in 2022 which include, cooperative development, tourism and wildlife conservation.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ending The Harmful Practice Of Female Genital Mutilation: Understanding Its Effects And Promoting Change

In several cultures around the world, female genital mutilation (FGM), commonly referred to as female circumcision or cutting, is a deeply embedded cultural practice. Even though FGM is no longer medically necessary and is considered outdated, it is still practiced, mostly in regions of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. There is a need for coordinated measures to end this dangerous behavior because it has far-reaching physical, psychological, and societal effects for those who engage in it.

FGM can have serious, long-lasting bodily repercussions. The surgery may result in acute problems like excruciating pain, bleeding, infections, or even death, depending on its extent. Long-term effects of FGM may include persistent discomfort, urination

issues, irregular menstruation, difficult childbirth, and an elevated risk of infections, such as HIV.

Beyond the physical suffering, survivors of FGM have severe psychological distress. Feelings of guilt, terror, worry, and melancholy might result from going through such a violation of one's body. These psychological wounds can negatively impact a person's relationships, mental health, and sense of self-worth for the rest of their lives.

FGM upholds inequalities among communities and detrimental gender norms. FGM is frequently viewed as a need for marriage and social approval in societies where it is practiced. It's possible for women who have not had FGM to experience stigma, prejudice, and marginalization. Furthermore,

because female family members and community members frequently perform FGM, the practice feeds vicious cycles of abuse against women.

A multifaceted strategy including community involvement, legislative reform, education, and lobbying is needed to put an end to the practice of FGM. Comprehensive education regarding the health hazards and implications of female genital mutilation for human rights is important. Educators, legislators, healthcare professionals, and impacted communities should all be made more aware of this. It is imperative that laws that specifically forbid FGM be passed and upheld. Legal frameworks that criminalize the practice, protect survivors, and hold offenders accountable can be effective strategies for bringing about change.

In order to confront the cultural norms that support FGM, it is essential to interact with grassroots organizations, religious leaders, and community leaders. It can be quite successful to give local advocates the authority to spearhead change-related efforts in their areas. It is crucial to provide survivors with access to high-quality healthcare services, including as counseling, medical care, and support. In order to recognize and treat the psychological and physical effects of FGM, healthcare professionals are essential. Ending FGM requires advancing gender equality and giving women and girls the freedom to make decisions about their bodies. It is possible to change society views and norms by supporting women and girls' leadership development, economic opportunity, and education.

The damaging practice of female genital mutilation breaches the human rights and dignity of women and girls. Governments, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, and impacted communities must work together in a concerted effort to end FGM at the local, national, and international levels. We can work toward ending FGM and guaranteeing the health, safety, and rights of every person by promoting awareness, pushing for legislative change, interacting with communities, and empowering women and girls.

Salome Mbuvi (Media Student Rongo University).

Kenyans To Take Floods Warning Seriously

Kenya started experiencing rains in mid-March, but in the past few days the rains have increased in intensity. Officials and humanitarian agencies have called on the population to avoid flooded areas, move to higher ground and avoid driving when it rains heavily. We must heed warnings issued by relevant authorities and ensure we are well prepared to mitigate against the effects of the oncoming El Niño rains. The Kenya Red Cross and the Kenya Meteorological

Services have stated that even though there have only been sporadic rains recently during a period associated with seasonal rains, those who live in flood-prone areas or regions associated with mudslides cannot afford to be skeptical and dismiss flood warnings.

The two agencies have advised that preparations to protect families and ensure Kenyans are safe must be hastened. The laxity in preparations has largely been precipitated by the

fact that by midweek, only few sections of the country were receiving light showers. Except for storms in sections of the Coast and Garissa which experienced some flooding, the showers in Nyeri, Kisumu, Kisii, Kakamega, Homa Bay, Tana River, Isiolo, Kericho and Meru were quite light. Nevertheless, the meteorological department has warned that a deluge associated with the El Niño phenomenon is imminent and in response, the government has es-

tablished a multi-agency team to deal with potential disasters. The team, being coordinated by National Disaster Operations Centre, will comprise units from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Kenya Red Cross, the ICT Ministry, and other agencies.

For example, many of those who live in flood-prone areas have complained they are often advised to move from their homes to higher ground, but say land is never set aside for their relo-

cation. These are the sort of impractical solutions that should be avoided when we are faced with emergencies. Therefore, flood warnings should be taken seriously by residents and relevant state agencies.

Elijah Nyongesa And Marion Kioko (Rappan) Communication Students At Rongo University.

Tree Planting Season

By **Stephen Ochieng**

The rainy season provides ample soil moisture, which is crucial for the successful establishment and growth of newly planted trees. The moist soil helps the tree roots to easily penetrate the ground and access the necessary water and nutrients.

Planting trees during the rainy season reduces the stress on the young saplings, as they do not have to cope with the drier conditions and higher

temperatures of other seasons. This allows the trees to focus their energy on establishing a strong root system and adapting to their new environment.

The favorable weather conditions during the rainy season, such as increased rainfall and moderate temperatures, greatly improve the survival rates of newly planted trees. This is especially important for areas with harsh climates or limited water

availability.

Trees planted during the rainy season require less frequent watering and maintenance, as the natural precipitation provides the necessary moisture. This can save time, labor, and resources for the tree caretakers.

Planting trees during the rainy season contributes to the overall health and resilience of the local ecosystem. The trees help to regulate the water cycle, prevent soil erosion, and pro-

vide habitats for various flora and fauna.

Newly planted trees during the rainy season can start absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, contributing to the mitigation of climate change.

The lush, green growth of trees planted during the rainy season can enhance the aesthetic appeal of the landscape and provide recreational opportunities for the local commu-

nity.

The rainy season offers the ideal conditions for planting trees, maximizing their chances of survival, growth, and the subsequent environmental, economic, and social benefits they provide.

Stephen Ochieng, Media Student Rongo University.

First Phase Of Thwake Multi-Purpose Dam To Be Commissioned By Year End

By: Patrick Nyakundi
@themkenyatimes



Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Julius Korir and other officials during the tour of Thakwe dam last Friday.

Water and Sanitation PS Julius Korir has disclosed that official commissioning of the first phase of Thwake Multipurpose Dam will be conducted in December this year.

Speaking during a site inspection and appraisal tour on implementation of the dam's civil works and other related activities, Korir said that he was contented with the progress, noting that President Dr. William Ruto is expected to commission the multi-billion water reservoir by the end of this year.

"As a Ministry, we gave a commitment to the Head of State that the Embankment section of the dam will be completed by May. So far I am extremely satisfied that we are even ahead of schedule because the section will be completed in the next few days," he said of the facility, which currently stands at 92 per cent completion.

Consequently, the PS noted that the dam's critical paths have progressed well with the embankment expected to be completed in the next 20 days, before the Contractor allows it to

settle and start working on the bridge and the electromechanical area.)

During the tour last Friday, Korir assured the contractor that the government was committed to providing funds to ensure completion of the dam within the stipulated period.

Speaking during the same tour, Water Secretary Eng. Samwel Alima, who is also the Project Engineer, reiterated the government's commitment to logical finalization of the mega dam that had so far recorded remarkable progress.

On his part, Makueni County Com-

missioner Henry Wafula urged the contractor to hasten works and ensure the project is completed as scheduled.

The Government of Kenya through the State Department for Water and Sanitation, with funding from African Development Bank (AfDB) is implementing Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program Phase 1.

This is a flagship program under Vision 2030 of the Government of Kenya, whose overall objective is to fulfill the long-term country's development ambition in the areas of

water, energy and agriculture and a key project under the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

It is envisaged that upon completion, the project will provide the much needed regulation of flows on River Athi downstream, aimed at effecting both flood control and drought mitigation measures.

The program, under which the project is being implemented has four phases namely construction of an 80.5 m high multi-purpose dam with a storage capacity of 688 million cubic meters of water and associated

preliminary works, located one kilometer downstream of the confluence of Thwake and Athi Rivers.

This will also involve a concrete-faced embankment dam covering an area of 9,217 acres.

The second phase comprises development of hydropower generating system, with an installed capacity of approximately 20 Megawatt.

The third phase will be development of Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Water Infrastructure to supply estimated at 150,000 m³/day of treated water to approximately 1.3 million people drawn from the rural areas of Kitui and Makueni Counties and Konza Techno City in Machakos County.

This will then see development of an Irrigation Scheme to ultimately irrigate 40,000 hectares (approximately 100,000 acres) of land in the country's Lower Eastern region.

Meanwhile, the contractor's scope of works entails construction and installation of concrete faced rock fill dam including main and emergency spillway, low level outlet, intake tower, access roads, hydro mechanical plant, electrical and mechanical plant and an access road over the dam connecting Kitui and Makueni counties.

Residents Asked To Move To Safer Grounds Because Of Landslides

By: Geoffrey Satia
@themkenyatimes



Nandi County Commissioner Caroline Nzwili

Nandi County Commissioner Caroline Nzwili has called on residents living in landslides prone areas in Tinderet Sub-County to move to safer grounds as the region continues to experience enhanced rains according to the meteorological department report.

Commissioner Nzwili warned that the locals should not wait for disaster to happen but comply with government directive and keep off hot spot landslide hills in the Sub-County.

Speaking during public participation on the affordable housing draft at Kapsabet High School, the County Commissioner insisted that chiefs and their assistants have been directed to ensure residents in land-

slide prone areas are moved to safer locations.

"Let us comply with our chiefs and take necessary actions as the region continues To receive heavy rains," Commissioner Nzwili said.

She also asked parents to ensure the safety of children as they open schools, especially those using makeshift bridges to reach their schools across the county.

The County commissioner said the

County Government disaster preparedness team, National Government Administrative Officers are closely monitoring landslides prone areas, flush floods along rivers, water fill up mines and quarries as areas of urgent attention as the schools open this week.

While speaking on Friday at the launch of County Bursary Fund in Aldai, Nandi County Stephen Sang said residents living in landslide prone hills in Tinderet Sub-County will receive avocado and coffee seedlings to make those farms productive as they locate to safer zones, Sang said.

"We are going to ensure those Tinderet Hills known for landslides remain avocado and coffee rich areas for the locals even though not fit habitation"

Both leaders pleaded with locals to be careful even though the county hasn't experience damages caused

by rains as the case in various parts of the country.

On the affordable housing draft, the county commissioner asked those attending the public participation forum to enrich themselves with affordable housing information and pass it to the locals who have little or no knowledge at all.

Nzwili asked the locals to support the affordable housing agenda since some locals had secured employment working on Emgwen Constituency affordable housing project with proposed 220 units when they are completed in September.

Officials from affordable housing Nairobi had met county housing stakeholders, chiefs, church representatives, civil society groups and marginalised groups in Kapsabet Boys School hall to discuss and give their deliberations on the proposed affordable house draft.

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EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



Forum Closes With The Launch Of A New Report Highlighting The State Of Digital Rights And Inclusion

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- On his part, the Director General of the Ghana Cyber Security Authority (CSA), Dr. Albert Antwi-Boasiako pointed out that a key pillar of digital inclusion is guaranteeing an affordable internet that is accessible to all segments of the society. “In Ghana, initiatives such as the National Broadband Infrastructure Project, Girls in ICT Programme, and the free Wi-Fi for senior high schools programme has helped to expand access to the internet in under-served communities and bridge the digital divide,” he added.
- Also launched at the event were the organisation’s digital toolkits, Ripoti and Ayeta. Delegates also had a chance to watch the organisation’s fourth film, *Undersight*, which will premiere in May 2024.



A new report by a pan-African organisation, Paradigm Initiative (PIN), spotlighting the state of digital rights and inclusion in 26 African countries has been released.

The 2023 Londa report, which was released during the just concluded Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) in Accra, Ghana, highlights issues cutting across Internet shutdowns and disruptions, data protection, disinformation during elections, online gender-based violence, cybersecurity, surveillance, digital divide, access to Universal Service Fund (USF), freedom of expression and access to information which arose in countries across the continent.

The three-day event, which took place between April 23rd and April 25th, 2024, brought together hundreds of delegates from 61 countries and provided a platform to shape conversations on digital policy in Africa, debate policy directions and forge partnerships for action. The event incorporated a blend of panel sessions, launches, tech demos, prevent workshops, lightning talks and exhibitions under diverse tracks in-

cluding digital rights, digital inclusion and digital security. There were over 80 sessions hosted and more than 1,000 registered delegates.

Speaking at the event, Paradigm Initiative’s Board Vice Chair, Dr. Aida Opoku-Mensah, said, “We hope that the insights gained and connections forged during the forum will inspire tangible action and positive change in pursuit of a more equitable and just digital future.”

On his part, the Director General of the Ghana Cyber Security Authority (CSA), Dr. Albert Antwi-Boasiako pointed out that a key pillar of digital inclusion is guaranteeing an affordable internet that is accessible to all segments of the society. “In Ghana, initiatives such as the National Broadband Infrastructure Project, Girls in ICT Programme, and the free Wi-Fi for senior high schools programme has helped to expand access to the internet in under-served communities and bridge the digital divide,” he added.

Also launched at the event were the organisation’s digital toolkits, Ripoti and Ayeta. Delegates also had a chance to watch the organisation’s

fourth film, *Undersight*, which will premiere in May 2024.

The Londa report notes that 2023 was a progressive year with countries such as Nigeria and Malawi enacting and passing data protection laws. However, it raises concerns regarding online gender-based violence, which is a barrier to women’s inclusion on online platforms.

It further reveals that in 2023, there were information disorders, with the election period breeding disinformation in countries such as Nigeria. Another major finding in the report is that last year, there were internet disruptions in five out of the 26 countries monitored. Mauritania and Ethiopia had blatant internet shutdowns, while Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Senegal had varied degrees of internet throttling and partial shutdowns on mobile internet networks. In Sudan, internet access disruption was caused by power outages. Tunisia had notable progress in expanding internet access and connectivity through initiatives such as ‘the national education network, satellite internet trials, and efforts to bridge connectivity gaps in margin-

alised communities.

Given the wide digital divide still being experienced on the continent, the report examines the implementation of the Universal Service Fund (USF) aimed at addressing national access to universal services to bridge the divide. The failure of governments to disclose the amounts available under USF, the report adds, is a masking veil on transparency, showing gaps in good governance practices.

The report lauded the long-awaited adoption of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention), which came into force on June 8, 2023, following Mauritania’s ratification in May 2023.

“An area for advocacy is calling for African states to accede to the treaty. This will ensure commitment across the continent to foster data protection practices that enhance trade and cross-border data flows guided by regional cooperation on universally adopted and respected data protection principles,” it adds.

Another development witnessed in 2023 was the adoption of a resolution urging African states to refrain from deploying targeted mass communications surveillance to attack vulnerable groups such as human rights defenders and the media, promoting freedom of expression and right to privacy.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights adopted Resolution 573 on the deployment of mass and unlawful targeted communication surveillance and its impact on human rights in Africa at the 77th Ordinary Session, which was held from 20 October to 9 November 2023.

Partner organisations that worked with PIN to host DRIF24 in Ghana are E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA), University of Media, Arts and Communication—Institute of Journalism, Media Foundation for West Africa, Inclusive Tech Group, Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter, and Human Security Research Centre (HSRC).

Event sponsors include Wikimedia, African Digital Rights Network, Ford Foundation, Luminare, Google, Kingdom of The Netherlands, Mott Foundation, Open Technology Fund (OTF), Internews, Small Media, International Justice Clinic UC Irvine School of Law, among others.

Problems Encountered In Learning A Foreign Language And Their Solutions



By: Oydinova Malika
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

The difficulty characteristic of the majority of Uzbek students is that they add the sound [ə] before the suffixes in their pronunciation when adding plural or tense adverbs: books [bu'kəʊs], happened [hæpə 'nʌd]. Apparently, by adding such an unnecessary sound, they are also changing the position of the word stress. Not being able to read the transcription is a particular problem. It is necessary to teach the correct pronunciation of words and symbols representing sounds. When it comes to grammatical difficulties in teaching English, it is safe to say that many difficulties can be encountered. If a person knows all the words in the language, but does not know the connections between sentences and words, he will have difficulty understanding the content of the speech.

Annotation: This article discusses difficulties in learning foreign languages and solutions to avoid these problems.

Key words: *learning process, problem, grammatical difficulties, teaching, learning, foreign language.*

Today, it is very important for everyone to know foreign languages. The world is becoming more and more globalized, and knowing two or more languages is not just a hobby, but a need of the hour. Of course, everyone wants to achieve a certain goal by doing something. Along with this, new language learners who start learning English, French, German or any other Eastern languages aim to achieve a certain goal and result by learning these languages. Unfortunately, some language learners make mistakes at this step and face a number of difficulties later in the language learning process.

However, learning foreign languages is a more responsible and complex process. Difficulties in learning foreign languages are observed not only in young children and schoolchildren, but also in older learners and university students. It is known that English and Uzbek languages belong to different families, and language learners face phonetic, lexical and grammatical difficulties. Including:

- Almost all students have difficulty learning the sounds [th] and [ð]. The reason for this is the lack of interdental sounds in the Uzbek language. Our language has not developed the skills to pronounce these sounds.

- Since the English pronunciation of the sound [r] is different from the

Uzbek r, students also have difficulty in pronouncing this sound.

- The pronunciation of the sounds [t, d] is also not the same in both languages. Therefore, their pronunciation is difficult for some young people.

- [w] sound does not exist in Uzbek either. They also have some difficulty in pronouncing this sound correctly. When pronouncing it, they confuse it with [v] in Uzbek language.

In order to teach the correct pronunciation of the above-mentioned sounds, the teacher should clearly explain to the children the location of the tongue as much as possible, check it regularly through repetition exercises, and pay special attention to the students' pronunciation in each lesson. Difficulties in sounds are also eliminated.

It also creates phonetic difficulties in the following cases:

- the letter e is not pronounced at the end of the word — apple, Pete;

- the letter combination gh cannot be read in the middle of a word — eight, night;

- the letter k is not pronounced before n at the beginning of the word — knock, knee and a number of other difficulties can be observed.

The difficulty characteristic of the majority of Uzbek students is that they add the sound [ə] before the suffixes in their pronunciation when adding plural or tense adverbs: books [bu'kəʊs], happened [hæpə 'nʌd]. Apparently, by adding such an unnecessary sound, they are also changing the position of the word stress. Not being able to read the transcription is a particular problem. It is necessary to teach the correct pronunciation of words and symbols

representing sounds.

When it comes to grammatical difficulties in teaching English, it is safe to say that many difficulties can be encountered. If a person knows all the words in the language, but does not know the connections between sentences and words, he will have difficulty understanding the content of the speech. That's why learning grammar is so important. If he does not have good grammar skills, he will not be able to express his opinion properly. Difficulty in speaking, writing and translating.

-Article problem. This is arguably the biggest challenge in learning grammar. When we talk to many English language learners, almost all of them say that the most difficult part of learning English grammar is the articles and tenses. In fact, since the Uzbek language does not have an article word group, it is difficult to use and translate it.

Article rules should be memorized. However, the many exceptions to the rules make learning difficult for learners. If the translation is taught more precisely, they will not have much difficulty in using the article. For example, it is possible to teach that the indefinite article is translated as one, some kind of one, and the definite article is translated as that, yet.

-Another difficulty in mastering English grammar is prepositions. In the Uzbek language, prepositions are expressed by agreement suffixes. In English, conjugations are expressed through prepositions. For example, the place-time agreement in Uzbek can be expressed in English with the prepositions in, on, at. For example: in - in January, in 2015, in a week on - on Monday, on January 15, on

birthday

at - at the weekend, at 10 o'clock
As for the lexical difficulties in teaching English, they are as follows:

-Almost all words in the English language have different meanings. That is, one word means more than one. According to M. Norova, one word in English has a maximum of 23 meanings.

-The fact that a certain part of the vocabulary of the English language came from other languages;

-The wealth of idioms of the English language and several others.

In addition, students do not and cannot always follow the rules learned in the training. After the lessons, they do not try to learn new words by practicing pronunciation and writing essays. It is no secret that one of the biggest disadvantages is that when mistakes are corrected, students often think, "This is not my language." This has a negative impact on learning a foreign language.

Excessive use of the mother tongue in the audience:

Learners learn another language best when they are forced to use it. The teacher should require students to communicate in the language being studied. Only in this case, the level of achievement in language learning and fluency in pronunciation will increase. Learning a foreign language will be successful only if it is strictly required and restrictions are imposed during the lesson.

Dependence of students on the teacher:

Independent work on oneself, independent problem solving and research serve to master any subject well. The fact that the student turns to the teacher for every small problem indicates his dependence. This reduces the student's ability to work on himself.

A number of ways can be listed as a solution. The problem is that independently watching foreign language films and videos adapted to language teaching serves as a bridge, at least partially.

In conclusion, as every job has its own difficulties and hardships, there are many problems in learning foreign languages, but there are ways to overcome them. All this is done through the curiosity of the learners and their serious approach to the work they have started, and their further research.

Oydinova Malika student of Uzbekistan State World Languages University of English faculty of Foreign Languages and literature

Vaccination Is Key In Containing Blackquarter Disease: Experts

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Experts have swung into action to reiterate the importance of routine vaccination in a bid to control contagious diseases, especially blackquarter. Citing an example where cases of blackquarter was identified in the Winjo area in Muhuru ward of Nyatike, Migori County, experts led by... Dr Orimbo, the County Director of Veterinary Services, Migori...implored upon farmers to embrace vaccination. In that area, some farmers are counting losses after the Black Quarter disease reportedly claimed 15 cows.

“Blackquarter is one of the Clostridial toxoemias diseases caused by Clostridium bacteria. These bacteria are widespread in nature, such as soil, organic matter and as natural inhabitants of the intestines of livestock. Infections with these organisms are usually harmless, however, following improvement in nutrition or tissue damage, they can multiply rapidly

in the infected livestock and produce significant quantities of toxins and cause the diseases. These diseases can occur world-wide, usually in areas used regularly by livestock, e.g. paddocks, pens, permanent grazing and around water holes and wells. Vaccination is usually used to control these diseases and is recommended for livestock of all ages.

Blackquarter is caused by Clostridium chauvoei. It is an important cause of cattle death in tropical areas. It usually occurs in areas or farms with a known history of the disease. Therefore, regular routine annual vaccination of cattle is often carried out in these areas.”

Dr. Orimbo was also quick to caution farmers to avoid slaughtering the sick/ dead animals because doing so poses a greater health risk and can aggravate the spread of the disease.

“I’m urging farmers not to slaughter the animals. Instead, they should dispose them off by burying six feet deep or burn them. NEVER try to open the carcass, because When carcass is opened, the bacteria forms spores in soils and pasture which can later be activated to cause disease.”



Dr. Eric Orimbo is the County Director of Veterinary Services, Migori

Police Reveal Reason Behind Altercation With KDF Officers At Likoni Channel, Say One Person Was Injured

By: Edward Chweya

Police have now revealed that one person was injured during an ugly confrontation between Kenya Navy soldiers and police officers manning the Likoni Ferry channel on Saturday.

In a report made at the Likoni Ferry Police Station, police say during the altercation, a private security officer by the name Wilson Obege was injured.

The report reveals that the scuffle ensued when the said KDF soldiers arrived at the Likoni channel and blocked it with their tactical military land cruiser.

Obege, the private security guard manning the lock tried to ask the KDF soldiers to open up the way, something that triggering the altercation that ensued.

It is at this point that Obege sought the help of the police officers manning the lock, whereupon approaching the KDF soldiers to reason with them, they harassed them further.

A police officer was assaulted alongside the security guard as seen in viral videos circulated online.

The incident triggered massive reaction among Kenyans, prompting KDF to issue a statement saying it would take action against the soldiers involved.

“To establish the circumstances leading to the incident, Military Police and requisite investigation agencies are currently handling the matter,” read a statement issued on Saturday evening.



Screenshots of the officers engaging in a brawl.

Blinken Heads To Saudi Arabia On Gaza Truce Bid

By: AFP

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken flew out Sunday to Saudi Arabia on a new bid to work with Arab leaders to reach a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas as public pressure grows.

Blinken will meet Monday with leaders of Gulf Arab states including Qatar, which along with Egypt has been mediating a plan to halt the Gaza war and release hostages, with Hamas promising a response on Monday.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken will work on ceasefire efforts but added: "It is Hamas that is standing between the Palestinian people and a ceasefire."

President Joe Biden is facing rising pressure at home over his support including military aid to Israel, with pro-Palestinian protests sweeping universities.

The Biden administration, while backing Israel, has repeatedly voiced alarm over the heavy toll on civilians in the Gaza offensive and has pressed Israel to hold off on an assault on Rafah, the southern Gaza city where



Relatives and supporters of hostages taken captive by Palestinian militants in Gaza during the October 7 attacks, hold placards and wave national flags during a demonstration calling for their release, in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv on April 27, 2024, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the militant Hamas group. (Photo by JACK GUEZ / AFP)

more than one million Palestinians have taken shelter.

Speaking in Riyadh on Sunday, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said, "We appeal to the United States of America to ask Israel to stop the Rafah operation because America is the only country capable of preventing Israel from committing this crime."

It will be Blinken's seventh trip to

the Middle East since October 7 and his first since the long shadow war between Iran and Israel escalated into direct conflict.

Blinken will "emphasize the importance of preventing the conflict from spreading and discuss ongoing efforts to achieve lasting peace and security in the region," he said.

Before Hamas on October 7 carried out the deadliest attack ever on Isra-

el, Saudi Arabia had been discussing normalization with Israel -- a landmark step by the guardian of Islam's two holiest sites.

The United States hopes to dangle the prospect of normalization to encourage moderation by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a longtime opponent of a Palestinian state.

Blinken will discuss "a pathway to

an independent Palestinian state with security guarantees for Israel," Miller said.

The Biden administration has promised to work on a roadmap to Palestinian statehood but the United States recently vetoed a Security Council bid for the Palestinians to receive full-blown status at the UN, which would amount to recognition of statehood. The US said any recognition needs to come after negotiations with Israel.

Gulf Cooperation Council countries meeting in Riyadh include Qatar, which has been spearheading months of talks aiming to halt the deadly Israeli offensive in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in return for the release of hostages.

In Saudi Arabia, one of the world's top oil exporters, Blinken will also attend a special session on energy of the World Economic Forum, the gathering of the world's business elite that meets in January in Davos, Switzerland.

Miller said Blinken will promote efforts to fight climate change, a key priority for President Joe Biden and sharp contrast with his election rival Donald Trump.

'I Heard Monkey Noises': Bilbao's Nico Williams Abused At Atletico

By AFP

Athletic Bilbao forward Nico Williams said he was racially abused by "stupid people" during his team's 3-1 defeat at Atletico Madrid on Saturday in La Liga.

Williams spoke with the referee after hearing the alleged abuse when he was preparing to take a corner in the first half, and play was held momentarily as supporters were warned.

The Spain winger scored shortly afterwards and celebrated by tapping his arm, indicating the colour of his skin.

"I went to take the corner and I heard monkey noises," Williams told DAZN.

"There weren't many of them. There are stupid people everywhere... I hope this changes bit by bit."

Williams said his celebration was a response to those who insulted him.

"It was with a bit of anger, it's not normal to be insulted for the colour of your skin," he added.

Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke offered Williams "support and strength" after the game.

"In our society there is no place for people who insult like that," said Koke.

"Atletico Madrid and all our fans are in favour of Nico and against these situations, which should not happen in a football stadium or in society.

"It can't happen in the year we're in or the society we're in."

Spanish football has suffered a spate of racist incidents in recent years, many of which have been aimed at Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior.

Athletic, fifth, are now six points behind fourth place Atletico Madrid in the race for Champions League qualification with five league games remaining.



Athletic Bilbao's Spanish forward Nico Williams shows his skin color as he celebrates scoring his team's first goal following alleged racist insults during the Spanish league football match between Club Atletico de Madrid and Athletic Club Bilbao at the Metropolitan stadium in Madrid on April 27, 2024. (Photo by OSCAR DEL POZO / AFP).

Sports >> *Mauricio Pochettino claimed VAR has damaged the Premier League after Chelsea had a late goal controversially disallowed in their dramatic 2-2 draw at Aston Villa on Saturday.

'VAR Has Damaged Premier League' Says Pochettino After Chelsea Drama



Referee Craig Pawson gives a yellow card to Chelsea's French defender Benoit Badiashile due to an argument after the goal Chelsea's French defender Axel Disasi was disallowed due to an offside position at the end of the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Chelsea at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on April 27, 2024. Aston Villa and Chelsea equalised 2 - 2. (Photo by Darren Staples / AFP)

By AFP

Mauricio Pochettino claimed VAR has damaged the Premier League after Chelsea had a late goal controversially disallowed in their dramatic 2-2 draw at Aston Villa on Saturday.

Pochettino's side trailed to Marc Cucurella's early own goal and a Morgan Rogers strike before half-time at Villa Park.

Rather than capitulate as they did in Tuesday's humiliating 5-0 loss at Arsenal, the Blues dug deep to rescue a gritty point thanks to goals from Noni Madueke and Conor Gallagher.

But Chelsea thought they had won it deep into stoppage-time when Villa keeper Robin Olsen turned Axel Disasi's effort into his own net, however, to Pochettino's fury, the goal was disallowed for a Benoit Badiashile foul.

"They didn't see a foul on the pitch and then VAR changed the

decision of the referee. For me that was a normal challenge.

"It is painful as it has damaged English football. Villa's players and their fans didn't understand why the goal was disallowed.

"For me it damaged a little bit the Premier League. If we want to be the best league in the world it should be protecting the spectacle and the decision."

The draw was a blow to Villa's hopes of holding off Tottenham in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top four finish.

Villa are seven points clear of fifth-placed Tottenham, who host Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday in the first of three games in hand on Unai Emery's side.

Although Villa, who last finished as high as fourth in 1995-96, remain favourites to clinch the lucrative Champions League berth, they might feel a little nervous if Tottenham win the north

London derby.

"We wanted to play Europa League last year and now we have a new challenge which is to play Champions League," Emery said.

"Chelsea today showed the power. But to draw at the end is a very good result. I want more, of course."

The under-fire Pochettino reportedly retains the backing of Chelsea's ninth placed squad, which has been assembled for over £1 billion, despite a difficult campaign that included an FA Cup semi-final loss to Manchester City last weekend.

They proved that point by refusing to surrender against a Villa team that flew at them in a vibrant start.

Chelsea refuse to surrender

In the fourth minute, Lucas Digne poked a low cross into the Chelsea six-yard box, where John McGinn's scuffed shot was

deflected into his own net by Cucurella.

But Villa's momentum had stalled and they suffered a setback when Belgian midfielder Youri Tielemans limped off injured.

Nicolas Jackson was inches away from equalising with a close-range header from Cucurella's cross that glanced off the post.

The much-maligned Jackson should have buried that chance and Ollie Watkins almost made him pay with a powerful drive that Djordje Petrovic saved at his near post.

It was a warning Chelsea failed to heed as Rogers doubled Villa's advantage in the 41st minute.

Matty Cash's pass picked out Rogers and the 21-year-old, given too much time and space on the edge of the area, swept a perfectly-placed strike past Petrovic for his third goal since his January arrival from Middlesbrough.

Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez was forced off with an injury at half-time and his replacement Olsen had to pick the ball out of the net in the 62nd minute.

Pau Torres carelessly lost possession, with Gallagher's touch reaching Madueke, who slotted a fine finish past the Swedish keeper from 10 yards.

Madueke almost completed Chelsea's fightback, but his flicked effort was parried by Olsen.

The winger wasn't left to rue that miss as Gallagher rescued a deserved point for Chelsea in the 81st minute with a superb curler into the far corner from the edge of the area.

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Guinness Treats Football Fan To An Epic Live Football Experience In The UK



By: **William Craig Oloo**

One winner of the Guinness Clean Sheet competition is today, on his way to the UK to catch all the action between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspurs live in London this weekend.

Courtesy of Guinness, Christopher Omungala who showcased his football knowledge prowess at Guinness' recent Matchday events, has won an all-expenses paid trip to the UK to experience football fandom at its best.

Joining him are 2 friendly faces from Guinness' Matchday Committee, Chief Entertainment Officer, Lotan Salapei and Chief Snack Officer, Nana Owiti who have been partnering with Guinness to create Epic Live Football viewing experiences that thou-

sands of fans across Kenya have enjoyed this season. Lotan & Nana have been carefully curating a once-in-a-lifetime itinerary for this trip and the excitement doesn't stop at the football pitch. Thanks to the Chief Entertainment Officer the fans will enjoy a private tour of iconic London Landmarks as well as a scenic boat cruise along the River Thames and an immersive tour of the Emirates Stadium, whilst Nana, The Chief Snack Officer has lined up an array of London's best eateries for the fans to enjoy whilst sipping on a perfectly chilled Guinness.

"Guinness and football go hand-in-hand and we have long been celebrating the true heroes of Matchdays, the fans themselves." Says Guinness Marketing Manager, Henrietta Reed. "I am thrilled

that as part of Guinness' Matchday experience we have been able to take our celebration of the fans to the next level and treat them to an unforgettable experience crafted just for them, that we hope they will cherish forever. We have planned this trip in collaboration with the Guinness Matchday Committee meticulously to create a football fueled adventure fit for our fans and we can't wait to see the excitement and joy it brings."



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Human And Human Rights Protection



By: Lazzat O'tkirova
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Worth Noting:

Human rights are a concept that describes the legal status of a person in relation to the state, opportunities and complaints in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres. One of the main characteristics of a democratic state is that people can exercise their rights and freedoms without any pressure or threats. In this place, "Ensuring human rights and freedoms is the highest goal of the state. The state ensures the constitution and freedoms of man and citizen." (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 54) we can cite as a clear example. Human rights are divided into two types of rights. These are: relative and absolute rights.



ANNOTATION: This article describes the concepts of human and human rights. Examples are cited from articles on human rights and freedoms. Information about human rights institutions operating in our society is given.

KEY WORDS: human, protect, live low, human rights, freedom, education, republic, relative rights, absolute rights.

When a baby is born, the state, along with the mother, takes care of its protection. Gradually, as a person grows up, he recognizes his rights and freedoms. No matter how many laws a person knows, their protection remains one of the highest goals of our society.

Human rights are a concept that describes the legal status of a person in relation to the state, opportunities and complaints in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres. One of the main characteristics of a democratic state is that people can exercise their rights and freedoms without any pressure or threats. In this place, "Ensuring human rights and freedoms is the highest goal of

the state. The state ensures the constitution and freedoms of man and citizen." (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 54) we can cite as a clear example.

Human rights are divided into two types of rights. These are: relative and absolute rights. Absolute human rights - right to life; the right not to be subjected to torture and violence, treatment or punishment that destroys human dignity and dignity; includes the right to privacy, the right to keep personal and family secrets, freedom of conscience, legal protection and fair trial rights. All other human rights are relative and may be limited or suspended when a state of emergency or martial law is imposed. In a democratic state, Absolute Human Rights cannot be temporarily suspended or restricted under any circumstances.

According to information, there are currently about 400 international documents on human rights, the most important of which is the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" adopted by the resolution of the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948. The declaration forms the core of the Constitution

of the Republic of Uzbekistan, like all other countries in the world. For example: Article 3 of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Article 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "The right to life is an inherent right of every person. Attempting to kill a person is the most serious crime." It is marked as In addition, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates that everyone can receive free education and free medical care. "Everyone has the right to maintain health and use qualified medical services. Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to receive the guaranteed volume of medical care at the expense of the state in accordance with the procedure established by law." From Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

"Everyone has the right to education. The state ensures the development of the continuous education system, its various types and forms, state and non-state educational organizations. The state creates conditions for the development of pre-

school education and upbringing. The state guarantees free general secondary education and primary professional education. General secondary education is compulsory. Pre-school education and upbringing, general secondary education are under state control. From Article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In moral, a person lives a life directly related to laws and obligations from birth to death. He starts a business based on the laws, he works with a conscious awareness of his own and other citizens' rights.

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