



Rains of Ruin: A Nation Drowning in Neglect
 "When the rains blattered on the roof of corrugated iron sheets, it was music to the villagers and a harbinger of good tidings to come." So begins Ngugi wa Thiong'o's classic novel Weep Not, Child. But for many Kenyans today, the relentless deluge has been a death knell, a brutal reminder of their vulnerability in the face of forces beyond their control.

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News>> Over 500 Addicts Have Graduated In Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Rehabilitation Initiatives

P. 8. Over 3,000 drugs and illicit drinks addicts from different parts of the country are undergoing rehabilitation with about 500 having graduated so far, courtesy of Spouse of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

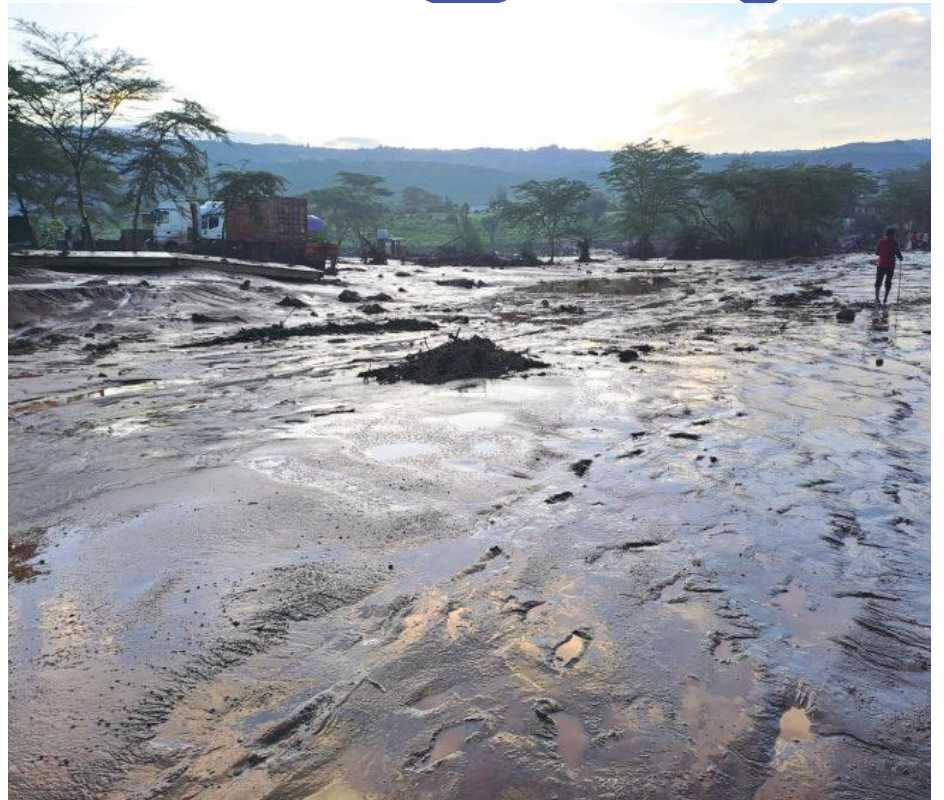


News>> Kwale Launches Tree Planting Campaign To Mitigate Climate Change

P. 12. Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani has launched a tree planting campaign to improve human and environmental health across the coastal county as part of climate change mitigation efforts.

48 Dead In Mai Mahiu Tragedy

48 people have been confirmed dead after heavy flash floods wiped out several homes in Kamuchiri Village in Mai Mahiu, Nakuru County. According to Naivasha OCPD Stephen Kirui, 17 children are among the dead. There are fears that the death toll could rise significantly with dozens unaccounted for following the 4 am incident that caught many asleep.



Floods wiped out several homes in Kamuchiri Village in Mai Mahiu, Nakuru County

STORY ON PAGE 9

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EAC Working To Tackle Budget Challenges

By: Fatma Said
 @themtkenyatimes



East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Cabinet Secretary, Penina Malonza

Worth Noting:

- The committee and government delegation also reviewed the performance of the East African Community over the past year. Key priorities included boosting Kenyan involvement and enhancing bilateral relations with partner states.
- Emphasising her pivotal role in emergency response management within the country, she underscored the swift and effective action taken by the government in addressing the needs of the affected counties. Notably, the response efforts extended to areas such as Machakos and Nairobi, where urgent assistance was promptly delivered.

The Integration Committee has affirmed the government's pledge to enhance active participation in the East African Community (EAC) to help curb budgetary challenges crippling the regional bloc.

It has been noted that EAC has been struggling with its budget because they have been working with irregular remittances due to the financial instability of some member states.

Speaking before the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Integration held at Serena Mombasa, East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Cabinet Secretary, Penina Malonza highlighted the primary focus of their discussions, central to their agenda was the examination of integration-related matters, with a particular emphasis on budgetary considerations.

Malonza emphasised the importance of acknowledging and evaluating the contributions made by partner states within the East African Community. She said this strategic approach underscores their commitment to fostering deeper regional cooperation and realising the collective aspirations of all member states.

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Emphasising her pivotal role in emergency response management within the country, she underscored the swift and effective action taken by the government in addressing the needs of the affected counties. Notably, the response efforts extended to areas such as Machakos and

Nairobi, where urgent assistance was promptly delivered.

She highlighted that she is in charge of emergency response in the country and that "we were able to respond to some of the affected counties, including Machakos and Nairobi."

"We had to send boats to Machakos to rescue people, and from the report I got from the County Commissioner, the mission was successful, we also sent food-stuff to Machakos."

She said that the Nairobi operation was led by CS Moses Kuria, who stepped in and was able to make significant strides to efficiently deliver essential supplies and food to Mathare, Mukuru kwa Njenga, and Kibera, as she was in Arusha for the consideration of East Africa's Budget meeting.


"We have discussed Kibera's agenda

with the Nairobi Governor, and he said that they have already given out notice for the people who have built on riparian land to evacuate," she noted.

The CS highlighted that they have taken proactive steps to activate a multi-agency committee jointly overseen by the Deputy President to actively formulate solutions and foster collaboration with humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and the World Food Program. Through collective efforts, she assured that she would make a meaningful impact.

She said that they also activated the National Disaster Operation Centre and are now releasing updates daily at 3 p.m..

Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has expressed concern over the ongoing floods in the country, stating that some Kenyans are losing lives due to their daring nature and lack of caution. Mwaura added that the government is issuing constant reminders to everyone to be observant of any danger, particularly flash floods and mudslides. He added that schools have been severely impacted by adverse weather conditions, and learners from some schools are unable to conduct activities due to the severe nature of floods. Therefore, the Ministry of Education has postponed the opening of primary and secondary schools by one week to May 6th, 2024, to safeguard the lives of learners and staff in affected areas. The Kenya Meteorological Department has alerted the public about persistent heavy rains, and the government advises residents to keep an eye out for flash floods and poor visibility.



The Kenyan government has suspended private speed boat operations in the flooded Kona Punda area of Madogo, Tana River County, following a tragic boat accident along the Garissa-Nairobi highway. Tana River Deputy County Commissioner Andrew Mutua stated that stern action will be taken against anyone found defying the order. The search team retrieved three bodies and rescued 22 people, while 23 are still missing from the ill-fated boat with close to 45 people on board. The only boats allowed are those searching for bodies or survivors. The DCC, along with Tana River Deputy Governor Mahat Loka and the county security team, is still looking for the rider who was riding the boat at the time of the incident. Garissa Governor Nathif Jama called for the arrest of all unlicensed boat operators while blaming the KeNHA for neglecting the section of the road destroyed by El Nino rains. Hundreds of people were displaced after their houses were submerged by the river floods.



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki has ordered an immediate inspection of all water reservoirs and dams in response to the ongoing floods. The County Security and Intelligence Committees will conduct the exercise within 24 hours and provide recommendations for compulsory evacuation and temporary resettlement. The government is concerned about the loss of life and destruction of public and private property. Kindiki has also warned of risky behaviour by motorists and pedestrians, as well as casual treatment of weather forecasts and voluntary evacuation advisories. He has ordered enforcement teams to deploy enforcement officers to urban and rural roads prone to storm water or where water has breached bridges. Kindiki has also ordered security personnel to prevent the transportation of passengers across flooded rivers or storm waters by unsafe canoes or boats and arrest inexperienced and unscrupulous individuals taking advantage of the situation.

Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr. condoled the families of those who lost their loved ones in a drowning accident while trying to cross the Muatineni River. He emphasised that the tragedy could have been avoided if the bridge was constructed to the required standard and if people were patient enough to allow the water level to subside. 10 people were as of yesterday confirmed died, 14 have been rescued, and four are still missing. The county government has waived postmortem fees for the dead and will support families in purchasing coffins to lessen the financial burden associated with burial.



The Kapenguria-Lodwar Highway in West Pokot County was severely damaged by floods between Lous Market and Kambi Karaya. West Pokot County Commissioner, Abdullahi Khalif, expressed regret for the destruction and called for patience among road users. Traffic police from Marich Police Station were dispatched to guide motorists. The county is working tirelessly to explore solutions and restore connectivity. Khalif warned against becoming impatient during the ongoing heavy rains and assured the public that prompt updates on the affected highway would be disseminated as the situation unfolds. The highway serves South Sudan and is often used for transport activities. The gully on the road is so massive that no one can risk crossing it.



Six people, including two adults, a youth, and three minors, died in a landslide at Kiganjo village in Gitugi ward, Mathiopia Sub County. The landslide affected three homes, destroying land of about three acres. The rescue exercise was hindered by heavy downpours, and the incident occurred a few metres from where another incident occurred four years ago. Kenya Red Cross officials have called on residents to move to safer areas as the region continues to receive heavy rains. County Red Cross coordinator Immaculate Iteba advised locals to take refuge at the nearby Mutito Polytechnic compound until the rain subsides. Gitugi MCA Edwin Mwangi said he was working with the County government to move residents in landslide-prone areas to safe places and prevent more loss of lives.



Three bodies have been retrieved in a flooded area within Kona Punda along Garissa-Madogo Road, where a boat carrying 41 passengers capsized last evening. The tragic incident happened at around 6:30 p.m., making it hard for the rescue team from the Kenya Red Cross, Garissa, and Tana River counties to operate as it was getting dark. They, however, managed to rescue 22 people. The three bodies are among the 23 passengers of the ill-fated boat that had been reported missing. Due to the closure of the affected road section connecting Madogo and Garissa, the people resorted to using boats, which were charging Sh 1500 for the short distance, which is normally charged Sh 30 by public service vehicles. At the time of the accident, the boat was reportedly overloaded with at least 45 passengers. Police in Madogo have already condoned the area, completely restricting people from accessing the flooded area. The Tana River has broken its banks following the heavy rains pounding most parts of the country. The Garissa-Nairobi highway was cut off by the raging floods at Madogo, leading to a booming boat business.



NEWS PAPER

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Rainfall To Continue Through The Week With Warning Of More Landslides

By: Judith Akolo

1 FORECAST FOR 30 APRIL TO 6 MAY 2024

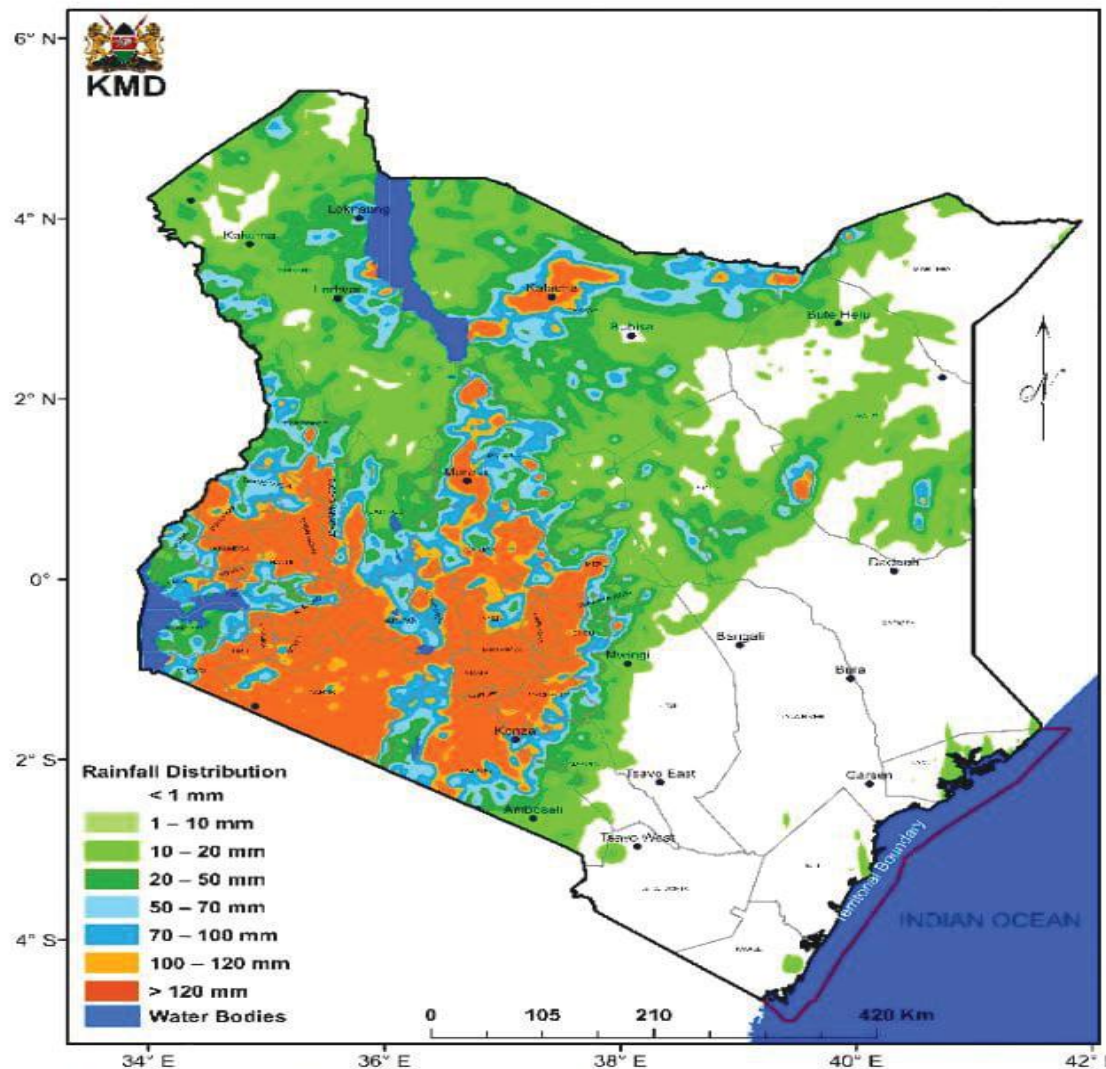


FIG 1: FORECASTED SEVEN-DAY TOTAL RAINFALL FOR 30 APRIL TO 6 MAY 2024

Worth Noting:

- In the seven-day forecast, the Weatherman says the expected heavy rainfall is likely to be accompanied by strong winds, thunder and lightning.
- “The public are advised to avoid sheltering under trees and metallic structures to minimize exposure to lightning strikes,” says the Director of Meteorological Service and urges the public to be cautious since the forecasted strong winds may damage roofs, uproot trees and bring down billboards.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has said the current rainfall being experienced across the country is set to continue over several parts of the country.

“Heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the Highlands East and West of the Rift Val-

ley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the South-eastern lowlands, North-western and North-eastern Kenya,” says the statement released by the Director of Meteorological Services, Dr. David Gikungu.

The Weatherman is warning that flooding is expected in low-lying ar-

reas, those in flood plains as well as in urban areas with poor drainage, “The public is advised to avoid driving through or wading in fast moving water,” says Dr. Gikungu and adds: “Those living within flood plains should remain alert as flood waters may appear even in the absence of

rain.”

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“The public are advised to avoid sheltering under trees and metallic structures to minimize exposure to lightning strikes,” says the Director of Meteorological Service and urges the public to be cautious since the forecasted strong winds may damage roofs, uproot trees and bring down billboards.

The Weatherman is further warning of landslides in areas with steep slopes where soils become saturated, he says that, visibility is likely to be reduced during heavy rainfall events and is advising road-users, aviators and boat operators to exercise caution as large waves and strong winds may affect marine activities.

Among the counties expected to receive heavy rainfall include, Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, Nyamira, Kisii, Narok, Kajiado, Nyandarua, Kiambu, Nairobi, Machakos, Embu, Meru, parts of Tharaka Nithi, Samburu, Kirinyaga, Murang’a, Laikipia, parts of Marabit County around Kalacha and along Lake Turkana in Turkana County.

Most parts of the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya are expected to have high average daytime temperatures of more than 30 degrees Celsius while much of the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley and the South-eastern lowlands much of the Highlands will experience average night-time temperatures of between 10 degrees Celsius and 20 degrees Celsius.

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Over 500 Addicts Have Graduated In Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Rehabilitation Initiatives

By: Charles Kinyua
@themkenyatimes

Over 3,000 drugs and illicit drinks addicts from different parts of the country are undergoing rehabilitation with about 500 having graduated so far, courtesy of Spouse of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

According to Dorcas Rigathi foundation Mount Kenya regional programmes director Bishop Barnabas Kinyua, major rehabilitation centres are in Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Kilifi and Kericho among other counties.

He spoke yesterday at Kiamariga Health Centre in Mathira constituency while receiving a donation from Tana Water Works Development Agency for the purchase of tree seedlings to be planted by the rehabilitees at various public places.

The agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka urged the foundation to

continue with its humble work of reclaiming a generation threatened by the drugs, alcohol and substance abuse.

He further called upon elected leaders to support the Deputy President's Spouse initiative as the same generation being reclaimed are their voters.

"Every elected leader should play a significant role in the war against illicit brews though it may be unpopular but right," said Gathaka.

"Corporates and individuals should chip in this noble cause whose fruits we've started witnessing as most youth today are looking for jobs including mjengo", adding that in the past most young men iddled in shopping centres waiting for handouts.

During the occasion Bishop Kinyua received a Ksh300,000 cheque promising that the funds will be well accounted for.

He also disclosed that the foundation is getting overstretched as the menace is widespread in the country and needs a concerted effort.



Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka handing over the cheque to Bishop Barnabas Kinyua yesterday.

KEMRI Set To Establish Research Centre In Eldoret

By:Kiptanui Cheronu
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) is set to establish a new research centre in Uasin Gishu County.

Speaking at the County Headquarters during a courtesy call, KEMRI Board chairperson, Dr. Abdullahi Ali revealed that a budget has already been set aside to ensure that a research centre is immediately established in Eldoret.

"Being a regional leader in researching human health, we cooperate with other organisations and institutions on research and training. Eldoret is a key component of interest as it stands as a centre for athletics and sports development; hence, issues concerning doping must be considered in research. Eldoret also hosts many institutions of higher learning and has a high cosmopolitan population, factors that set precedence for health



research," said Dr. Ali. Uasin Gishu County Secretary Edwin Bett, who received the delegation on behalf of the County Governor, Dr. Jonathan Bii, assured them that the county government, under the leadership of Dr. Chelilim, was

prepared to give land for the establishment of the research centre, as this would benefit the residents immensely. "We are the central reference point in the medical sector in the North Rift and Western regions. We host

the second largest referral hospital in Kenya, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, MTRH, and also a host to a large population from the Informal sector, including Langas, Huruma, Maili Nne, Kapsoya, and other highly populated areas that require attention

to incidences of disease outbreaks such as cholera and Rift Valley fever, among others," noted Mr. Bett.

County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development Dr. Janeth Kosgei took the team on a site visit to four parcels of Public Utility plots for the KEMRI team to identify the best-suited parcel for the project.

"We are keen to see that the research centre is given priority; hence, we are looking at the best location that meets all its requirements, including a densely populated site, an area with readily available electricity, sewerage connections, and adequate road networks," she noted.

CECM Health Services Abraham Serem appreciated the initiative, noting that the benefits that will come along with the research centre will be beneficial to the residents and that the project implementation will include the construction of a health facility within the research institution.

48 Dead Among Them 17 Children After Dam Bursts In Mai Mahiu

By: KBC Digital

48 people have been confirmed dead after heavy flash floods wiped out several homes in Kamuchiri Village in Mai Mahiu, Nakuru County. According to Naivasha OCPD Stephen Kirui, 17 children are among the dead.

There are fears that the death toll could rise significantly with dozens unaccounted for following the 4 am incident that caught many asleep.

The incident occurred after a seasonal dam burst its banks sweeping away people and homes.

As a result, sections of the Mai Mahiu-Suswa/Narok highway and the Mai Mahiu-Naivasha Road have been closed.

Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) and County officials are clearing the debris.

Teams from the Kenya Police, County Disaster team, Kenya Red Cross and community members are at the scene.

Motorists plying the affected routes were advised to look for alternative routes after the rains rendered the road sections impassable.

The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) alert on Monday stated that traffic was at a standstill around Mai Mahiu centre after heavy rains in the catchment areas of Kinale and Kijabe led water courses to experience an upsurge which has led to the washing away of debris and several houses.

“The following road sections are now impassable:- Approximately 700m from Mai Mahiu towards Naivasha and Approximately 1km from Mai Mahiu towards Suswa/Narok. These areas are heavily affected, with road blockages reported. Currently, traffic is at a standstill around Mai Mahiu centre” warned KeNHA.

The Authority is mobilizing efforts to clear the road and assess damages.

“Motorists are advised to expect high traffic congestion around Mai Mahiu. Road users are expected to plan their routes accordingly and exercise caution when travelling through the affected areas. Further updates will be provided”, it added.

Over 100 people have been rescued and treated at Mai Mahiu health facility with 32 cases referred to Naivasha sub-county hospital for specialised treatment.



Worth Noting:

- The incident occurred after a seasonal dam burst its banks sweeping away people and homes.
- As a result, sections of the Mai Mahiu-Suswa/Narok highway and the Mai Mahiu-Naivasha Road have been closed.
- Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) and County officials are clearing the debris.
- Teams from the Kenya Police, County Disaster team, Kenya Red Cross and community members are at the scene.
- Motorists plying the affected routes were advised to look for alternative routes after the rains rendered the road sections impassable.

The Doctrine Of God States: Put Him First



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

God wants you, a born-again believer, to respond to Him the way He says. He wants you to put first things first. You will never build a church for God that will be successful until you come to the place where you will SPEND ADEQUATE TIME PRAYING IN FRONT OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

What is the doctrine of God? Matthew 15:8 states: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." THE DOCTRINE OF GOD STATES: PUT HIM FIRST. If you will put first things first, you can walk in the peace of God. If you want to know God better, find some friends who know Him better than you do and hang around

them. Watch the company you keep. You may have some friends you need to move away from.

The devil works heavily with doctrines of men throughout the human race. It seems as if the "colder" the church, the more people they have! I used to love to attend a cold church. I was not required to do anything. Forget doctrines of men and come to God as yourself, as an individual. The Spirit and the Word agree.

God created everything; therefore, He created Satan. Originally, the devil was a very beautiful being. As far as I can find out, he probably was created before anything else. Certainly, he was created before the earth and man. We do not have as much information as we might like to have on the devil, but God gave us all that we need to know.

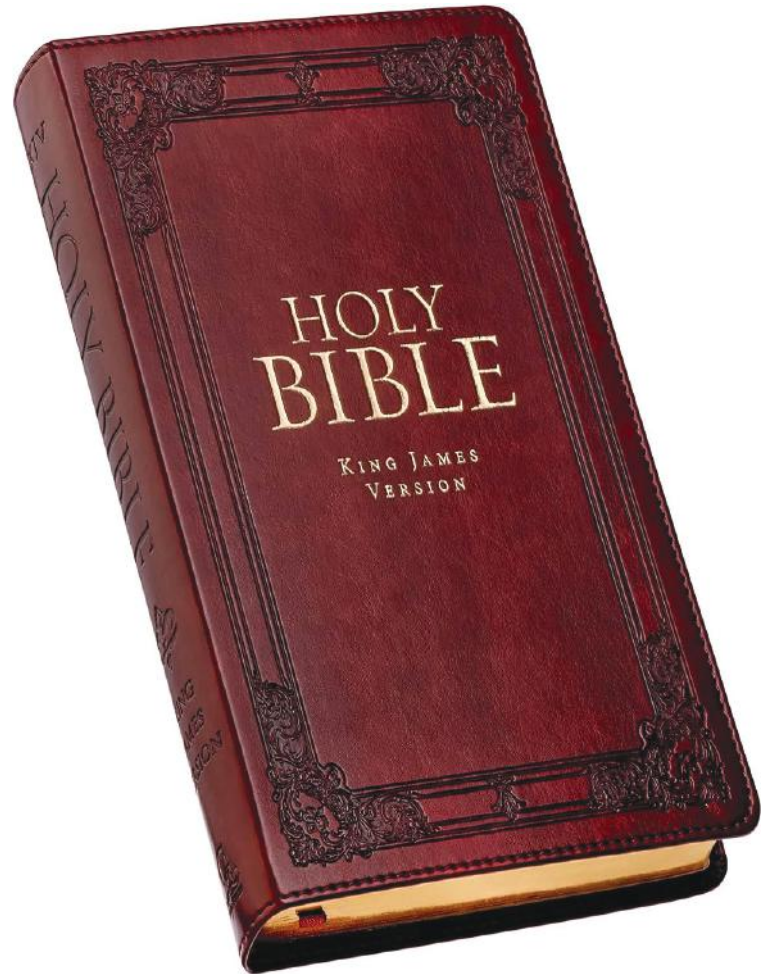
Well, God has written us a book called the Bible, and it has in it everything we really need to know—not everything we might like to know. Therefore, everything we need to know about the devil is in the Bible. If God created the devil, and God can never create anything that is not good

and perfect, what caused him to fall? He fell on account of his beauty. He developed pride, and that led to self-will, to lustful desires and greed for power. Then he moved into rebellion against his Creator. And that process is the same one human beings take (Look at Ezekiel 28).

GLORY, HONOR AND POWER BE UNTO THE ALMIGHTY GOD.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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



NEWS

Death And Destruction As Floods Sweep Through Kenyan Villages

By: Lillian Muli
@themkenyatimes

Relentless downpours in various parts of the country have inundated homes and displaced families, leading to significant losses for hundreds across different regions.

Heavy floods persistently ravage properties while also causing damage to roads and infrastructure, disrupting transportation services in numerous counties.

In Muranga County on Sunday night, under the cover of darkness, a landslide buried homes in Kiganjo Village, resulting in the tragic deaths of six individuals, including two adults, a youth, and three minors.

Stephen Kimani, a resident of Kiganjo, expressed shock at the events, emphasizing the unprecedented nature of the tragedy.

The relentless rains continued to pound other parts of the country



throughout Sunday night, leaving behind a trail of death and destruction in Nyandarua.

Isaac Muraguri, a resident of Nyahururu, recounted being summoned around six o'clock yesterday by a young man seeking help for his parents who were buried under debris and trees. Despite efforts to rush them to the hospital, they succumbed to their injuries before arrival.

In Machakos County, floods persist in causing havoc, displacing many families from areas like Kwa Muswii, Kwa Mangeli, Kwa Nzomo, Jua Kali, Kinanie, and Lukenya, totaling over a thousand displaced individuals.

Bennadette Kalekye, a resident of Machakos, highlighted the need for heightened vigilance, especially concerning children's safety in

schools amidst overflowing streams. John Kilonzo, CEC for Gender, Sports, Youth, and Social Welfare in Machakos, mentioned the collapse of eighty-two houses due to rain in Katelembo, prompting immediate government intervention.

Infrastructure has also suffered, with transport in Turkana County paralyzed after the Kapenguria-Lodwar highway was submerged by

floods. Motorists and passengers faced extensive delays on Monday, with disruptions extending to business activities between West Pokot and Turkana counties.

Mohammed Waswa, a driver from Kitale to Turkana, lamented the deteriorating condition of the road, likening it to a route to Sudan.

Peter Ibuya echoed concerns over the deteriorating road conditions, indicating potential communication breakdowns between Lodwar and Kitale if immediate action is not taken.

In Homa Bay County, severe flash floods over Sunday and Monday resulted in fatalities and property destruction in Sindo Town, Suba South Constituency. Four people are confirmed dead, while search and rescue operations continue for the missing individuals.

Numerous households were washed away in the disaster, with substantial agricultural losses reported.

Kudos To Gachagua For Leading Efforts To Rescue The Victims of Flood



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- The committee which have since been working closely with the county governments embarked on the following; resource mobilization, setting up quick response teams, unclogging the drainage system and mapping out the hotspots areas.
- I have heard the leaders of the opposition outfit Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition alleging that the government was not doing enough to help the affected Kenyans.
- I disagree. You would not expect the success of 100 percent even if it is Azimio which is at the helm of power.
- The truth of the matter is that this time the situation is being exacerbated by Mother Nature.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua comforts a floods victim at Maai Mahiu

As a Principal Assistant to President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is this time leaving nothing to chance. He is undertaking the latest assignment that his boss has given him with vigor, passion and precision. He is personally leading the efforts to rescue Kenyans affected by flood. We have been seeing him visiting the victims and coordinating rescue operations and evacuations. He would also distribute food and non-food items to them. President Ruto had earlier rolled a raft of interventions. As a government, we have put everything else on hold. The lives of our people are precious and hence more important than anything else. So, all our eyes are now trained on rescuing those affected by flood. We have also allocated more financial resources to deal with this menace. The Government spokesperson had at around the same time disclosed that a number of Kenyans have lost their lives and hundreds of others displaced. Most of the victims were swept by rag-

ing floods. Others succumbed to mudslides and after their houses were marooned and submerged in waters. The situation could have been worse if the government had not put in place elaborate measures to deal with the disaster. Before the ongoing heavy rainfall started, President William Ruto had set up National Disaster Management Committee and assigned his deputy to steer the multi-agency team. The committee which have since been working closely with the county governments embarked on the following; resource mobilization, setting up quick response teams, unclogging the drainage system and mapping out the hotspots areas. I have heard the leaders of the opposition outfit Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition alleging that the government was not doing enough to help the affected Kenyans. I disagree. You would not expect the success of 100 percent even if it is Azimio which is at the helm of power.

The truth of the matter is that this time the situation is being exacerbated by Mother Nature. I want to give an example of the flooding of Thika Super Highway. As we know, this road had been built by the world's renowned Chinese contractor. We have also seen the water in Masinga dam and Kiambere spilling over. The people living around this area had already been asked to vacate. In Thika road, The motorists had no option but to spend the night on road. Some of the stalled vehicles were submerged in water. Kenya is not the only country that has witnessed this phenomenon that is attributed to negative effects of climate change. In some countries, the magnitude of these disasters would be worse. Hundreds of the people would lose their lives and thousands would be displaced. Besides losing valuables, their houses would be destroyed and flattened by the floods and strong wind. As a result, the humanitarian crisis

would reach unmanageable level. Here in Kenya we have not reached there. Since the rains started, Dr Ruto has been receiving daily briefings from members of National Disaster Management Committee and National Security Intelligence. This would help him to coordinate and fast-track the mitigation efforts. He has been calling on members of Multi Agency team to pull up their sleeves further. Let us use all means available to save the lives of our people. Notably, the role of disaster management is not only confined to the national government. The counties are also required to play an active role. As we now, the national government allocate money to the counties' disaster and emergency kitties. One would therefore expect the governors to immediately release the money to mitigate the effects of floodings.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Political Analyst Based In Nairobi

Kwale Launches Tree Planting Campaign To Mitigate Climate Change

By: Hussein Abdullahi

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The coastal county boss underscored that the trees would reduce carbon emissions, mitigate the effects of flooding and severe droughts, support wildlife, and play a significant role in climate change.
- Governor Achani noted that the initiative would not only restore the lost value of nature in Kwale but also remedy the mismanagement of the environment and create a positive impact for posterity.
- “I urge the people of Kwale to take advantage of the current rainy season and plant more trees, and I promise my full commitment to this noble cause,” said Achani, adding that the tree planting initiative was geared towards a clean, green, and better environment for all.



Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani has launched a tree planting campaign to improve human and environmental health .

Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani has launched a tree planting campaign to improve human and environmental health across the coastal county as part of climate change mitigation efforts.

Launching the tree planting campaign at the Kwale main GK prison, Governor Achani said the devolved government targets to plant 29 million trees by 2032 across Kwale.

Accompanied by Lady Justice Adraya Dena of Kwale Environment and Land Court and Kwale County Commissioner Stephen Orinde, Achani disclosed that in the past one and a half years, her administration has successfully planted over 600,000 trees.

The Governor and the environment and land court judge led county and judicial officials, respectively, in planting 1300 trees as a means of tackling environmental issues.

“This initiative is in line with President William Ruto’s directive to plant 15 billion trees by the end of 2030 in order to mitigate the negative effects of climate change,” she said.

Achani stated that the tree planting programme would involve a wide range of tree species, including indigenous and exotic varieties suitable for Kwale’s ecological zone.

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that the trees would reduce carbon emissions, mitigate the effects of flooding and severe droughts, support wildlife, and play a significant role in climate change.

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“I urge the people of Kwale to take advantage of the current rainy season and plant more trees, and I promise my full commitment to this noble cause,” said Achani, adding that the tree planting initiative was geared towards a clean, green, and better environment for all.

Achani, who emphasised the importance of the environmental conservation initiatives in the country, said the devolved government would intensify the push for the national tree planting initiative.

Lady Justice Deya, who used the occasion to sensitise members of the public on court procedures and processes, said the focus of the tree planting exercise was also to enhance dialogue on land and environmental justice.

Justice Deya urged the residents to report cases involving land disputes and those involved in destroying the

environment as a way of protecting the trees that are being planted by the county government.

She said there is a dire need to enlighten the people on the dangers of deforestation or the felling of trees, especially those living close to forests and parks.

Deya said the indiscriminate cutting down of trees could spell doom for the environment if remedial measures were not put in place to stem forests from depletion and degradation.

“In Kwale court cases involving environmental matters, the numbers are very low. You want to tell me people are not destroying our environment? Don’t we see people digging quarries arbitrarily? These cases are there, but we tend to keep quiet,” she said, noting that the judiciary would be raising awareness on climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, pollution, and waste.

Deya promised the residents that the land and environmental court will collaborate with all the stakeholders involved in environmental matters in order to sensitise the public on the importance of understanding the law against land and environmental cases.

She urged the residents to actively support the ongoing greening efforts across the country by planting and conserving trees to secure a greener

and brighter future for all.

The judge called on all and sundry to support the environmental programme by planting trees in their homes, educational institutions, and communities, noting that every tree counts in the fight against climate change and global warming.

She stressed the judiciary’s commitment to environmental sustainability and proactive measures to protect and enhance the country’s natural resources.

Commissioner Orinde, on his part, underscored the critical role trees play in mitigating the impact of climate change and noted the critical need to preserve the environment for the well-being of humanity.

Orinde called on the residents to desist from cutting down trees indiscriminately for charcoal and embrace the culture of replacing lost trees for the protection of the environment.

The administrator warned that the loss of tree cover and other types of woody vegetation will lead to increased scarcity of a wide range of forest products, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity.

Pastor Dorcas, MP Passaris Distribute Relief Supplies To Flood Victims In Mathare

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi made a return visit to Mathare, one of the hardest hit areas in Nairobi County by the heavy rains and floods.

She, together with Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris and area DCC Jeff Maina distributed foodstuffs, solar lamps, kitchen utensils, and sanitary towels to families affected by the floods.

The families are living at the Mathare 4A Primary School where they have found shelter after their homes were affected by the floods.

Many lost their belongings in the flood waters, and are struggling to get food, clothing and other essentials.

Truckloads of food were distributed to hundreds of people through the assistance of the National Youth Service (NYS) and security officers.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi also condoled with families who lost loved ones during the Old Kijabe tragedy that killed 45 children and adults yester-

day morning.

"I apologise I was late arriving here, but this was because another disaster hit our country in Naivasha. I want to say, God loves us," said Pastor Dorcas.

MP Passaris asked Kenyans not to fight the floods seeing the devastating effects they had caused the country.

"Do not fight the floods. This is a natural disaster that - we have seen carry away people, vehicles and property. Be very careful," said MP Passaris.

She, however, said that woman representatives in the country received only one million shillings allocation for disasters, which was very small considering the demand.

"We appreciate the kind gesture by Pastor Dorcas because she lives in Nairobi, and has come to our aid," said MP Passaris.

DCC Maina said the floods had caused untold loss in the area.

"We have come here because of the flooding disaster that has hit our area. We appreciate the support to the residents, and urge all of us to be patient because we have enough food," said DCC Maina.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi during the food distribution exercise at Utalii Ward in Mathare, Nairobi County to families affected by the floods yesterday. This was during her second visit to the area, one of the hardest hit by the floods in Nairobi County, and was together with Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris and DCC Jeff Maina. Photo/OSDP.

The Mt. Kenya Times



14 POEMS

Can You Love Me Like Me? 🙄



Will you be my guarantor on the Day of Judgment?

My sky is as blue as the clouds
A hut is my place to sleep
Even if it is not enough for you, I have unlimited possibilities
Tell me, my dear, can you love me?

If I love you, tell me, can you love me?
Are you alone in my life?
Do you have mercy on my heart?
Tell me, my flower, can you tell the truth?

When I was drunk with the magic of love
When I was special in the eyes of the world
Today or tomorrow when I get the truth
Can you recite over my grave?

What is love, when you love,
After burning like fire in Yor Hajr.
Love, after taking off the king's robes,
Can you be my love in the world?

Thankfully, this is my heartbeat for now
Come on, my weak eyes are blind
My heart asks you, not me
Can you take my place in my heart?
O Mirza, put your sorrow behind you
Enjoy this life and live happily
Love is unchanging, that's what it is
Can you love someone in your life?!

Sometimes I'm sad, sometimes I'm happy
At least not yet
When you are by my side, the Merciful will take care of us
Can you remind me?

Just tell the truth, please
He never...
Can you love someone in your life?...

If my opponents are hurt, slander with a stone
My loved ones are a hundred years old
If I love and build with you, the happiest family

Author: Komron Mirzo

A Leaf A Vine Can't Detach...



With human mechanisms.

As a passerby,
I devour to water thee
When the sun burns
And my ill son -home
Must ingest amounts
Of your juice when we pound
To boost his brains
For as you were a pivotal whit in
Our ages, so must he follow
This path,
A long which a passerby observed and
Learnt life lessons from a
Leaf a vine can't detach!

Like a chameleon
With its camouflage,
So must a vine do
To adopt climate change in the summer
To keep thy chlorophyll with life
As thy stoma exchange gases.

Labass.S.Degro,
Is a real life poet brought to earth
In a local kitchen. All glory to God
+256700133179.
Poetry isn't dead.

Let thy vine keep thee
Lively attached to score during
Photosynthesis in which you
Must manufacture and store starch
In the pre and post activity of-
Manufacture and storage.

In winter,
Let the master to the vine
On whose branches you attach,
Take cautious policy to protect thee

My Love Is Gone, Beautiful



My dreams are always disturbed,
Life is still going on without you.
Hijran hurts my heart every moment,
I'm sorry, Zeba.

Sleep does not come to my eyes,
This feeling never leaves my heart,
Was it a dream, oh, so many dreams,
My love is gone, O Zeba.

You made me feel like a mountain today,
You cried a lot about love today,
An inseparable knot from my heart,
My love is gone, O Zeba.

Author: Jalaluddin Yoriyev

You were so rich in the light of love,
For example, you were a full moon in the sky.

You were a beautiful flower in the garden of my heart,
Zeba, my love is gone.

Years Later, This Day Has Come



We have become friends with you
Here are the latest tracks
Goodbye classmate girl

I can't escape by pulling your hair
I can't open your notebook
I can't escape by splashing water
Goodbye classmate girl

Sultanov Lazizbek, 9th grade student of "Namangan Qalkan special group" NTM, organized under school 23, Uychi district, Namangan region, Republic of Uzbekistan

It was a windy day
It's hard to say, but today
Goodbye classmate girl

We agreed with you

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Kakuzi Plc Clinches Top Award In Occupational Safety And Health Practice

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Listed agri-business firm Kakuzi PLC emerged the Overall Winner in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Practice in the Agricultural Sector at the National Annual Occupational Safety and Health Awards 2024.

The farm secured the award during the World Day for Safety and Health at Work Celebrations held at Nyayo Gardens in Nakuru County. Organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services, this event aimed to recognize companies that have excelled in mainstreaming occupational health and safety at their workplaces.

The award comes after an assessment done by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services on the set cri-



teria assessing occupational safety and health programs. This covered, workplace risk assessments, workplace hazard identification and control, accidents and incidents prevention, control, management and reporting and the general workplace safety culture among other criteria.

Competing with other players in the agricultural sector, the farm's success in promoting occupational

safety and health is attributed to its employee's commitment to embracing safety practices, joint workplace inspections and promoting a safe workplace through active joint safety and health committees.

Chris Flowers, Managing Director of Kakuzi Plc, expressed enthusiasm at this significant milestone, stating, "With a workforce of over 3500 employees, our commitment to

developing employee safety remains steadfast. Today's award reaffirms our dedication to prioritizing this cause. As we observe the risks of extreme weather conditions, especially in Kenya where heavy rains and floods are prevalent, we urge all to exercise caution and keep safe. Our aim is to continuously develop working practices that safeguard ourselves and others from injuries

while promoting productivity and technology in our workplaces."

The theme of this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work, "Impacts of Climate Change in Occupational Safety and Health," underscores the pressing need to address emerging challenges in workplace safety amid changing environmental conditions. "I urge all organisations and businesses to prioritize the safety and well-being of all individuals at workplaces. This way, we will build a climate-resilient staff and foster a sustainable workplace," noted Dr William Kiprono, Secretary of Administration at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Kakuzi has implemented targeted measures to achieve its 2024 OSH targets, such as revitalizing its Safety and Health Policy, conducting training and capacity building, conducting workplace inspections, acknowledging safety champions, tracking and monitoring accident and incident trends, and organizing an OSH Week campaign.

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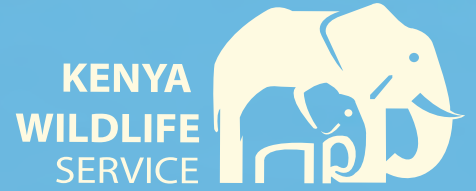
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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Rains of Ruin: A Nation Drowning in Neglect



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Across the country, a mass Exodus is underway as thousands flee the advancing waters. Pitiful convoys of the displaced trudge along submerged roads, carrying what little they could salvage from their inundated homes. Disease, hunger, and exposure stalk them at every turn. Many are children, elderly, or infirm - the most vulnerable left to fend for themselves.

- The shortcomings of the official disaster response have been painfully evident. Despite stern rhetoric about “robust contingency plans,” the authorities have been caught flat-footed, their efforts hamstrung by a lack of funding, equipment, and training. Local populations have been left to improvise their own flood mitigation and rescue efforts with scandalously inadequate support.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at Maai Mahiu where floods swept an entire village.

“When the rains blattered on the roof of corrugated iron sheets, it was music to the villagers and a harbinger of good tidings to come.” So begins Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s classic novel *Weep Not, Child*. But for many Kenyans today, the relentless deluge has been a death knell, a brutal reminder of their vulnerability in the face of forces beyond their control.

The apocalyptic scenes unfolding across the country are a damning indictment of years of negligence, poor planning, and a catastrophic failure of leadership. From the informal settlements of Nairobi to the rural heartlands, a perfect storm of inadequate drainage infrastructure, haphazard urban planning, and the escalating climate crisis has conspired to unleash untold misery.

In Kibera, Nairobi’s notorious slum, the flooding has once again laid bare the abject squalor in which thousands of Kenyans are condemned to live. Rickety dwellings have been submerged, teeming pathways transformed into roiling rivers of sewage and detritus. Yet the cries for help from this wretched corner of the capital, as always, fall on deaf ears.

The situation in the low-lying Tana River County is nothing short of apocalyptic. Vast swathes of land have disappeared beneath the churning brown waters, entire villages cut off and inaccessible. Those unlucky enough to remain stranded cling desperately to their few remaining possessions, marooned on tiny islands in an inland sea. The death toll mounts

with each passing day.

Across the country, a mass Exodus is underway as thousands flee the advancing waters. Pitiful convoys of the displaced trudge along submerged roads, carrying what little they could salvage from their inundated homes. Disease, hunger, and exposure stalk them at every turn. Many are children, elderly, or infirm - the most vulnerable left to fend for themselves.

The shortcomings of the official disaster response have been painfully evident. Despite stern rhetoric about “robust contingency plans,” the authorities have been caught flat-footed, their efforts hamstrung by a lack of funding, equipment, and training. Local populations have been left to improvise their own flood mitigation and rescue efforts with scandalously inadequate support.

The hard truth is that flooding on this scale was both predictable and predicted. Decades of scientific data highlighted the risks faced by many communities. Flash flood alerts were issued days in advance. And yet the institutional inertia, a toxic combination of complacency and incompetence, ensured the worst-case scenario became reality.

The devastation we are witnessing today can be directly traced back to the ingrained culture of impunity and lack of accountability that has calcified over decades of misrule. Hyper-partisan political interests and rampant corruption have consistently trumped rational urban planning and investment in vital infrastructure. The

concept of a holistic, sustainable National Drainage Strategy remains an unfulfilled pipe dream.

But the crisis engulfing Kenya transcends mere governance failures and institutional rot. It is the latest salvo in an existential war being waged by an increasingly hostile climate. The disruption of established weather patterns, the increase in extreme precipitation events: these are the opening salvos of a new age of ecological turmoil. Yet our leaders remain inexplicably resistant to acknowledging the scale of the threat, let alone taking concrete action to address it.

In the wake of each extreme weather event, the same weary cycle plays out: crocodile tears from politicians, lofty promises of comprehensive action, fundraising appeals from NGOs. Then the waters recede, the news cycle moves on, and the status quo of complacency and neglect is restored. When will this tragic pattern be broken? When will our leaders demonstrate the vision and fortitude to get ahead of the climate curve, rather than perpetually playing catch-up?

The rage and despair felt by Kenya’s citizens in the face of official apathy is wholly understandable. They have been tragically failed by a political class that prioritizes personal enrichment over public welfare. As they survey the wreckage of their homes and dreams, their cynicism towards the system deepens with each empty reassurance. When will the rhetoric of “putting the people first” be matched by tangible improvements to their se-

curity and quality of life?

Despondency, however justified, offers no refuge. Ordinary Kenyans from all walks of life must channel their anger into a sustained civic movement for climate accountability and resilience. They must demand basic standards of Urban planning, integrated disaster mitigation strategies, and concerted environmental stewardship. The likely response from the political elite will be indifference and obstruction. But as Kenya’s swelling population and urbanization collide with intensifying climate volatility, the very viability of their cities and towns is at stake. Radical reform is quite literally a matter of survival.

The rising waters are sounding a piercing clarion call. How much more death, displacement and interminable human suffering will be required before heed is paid? The stakes could not be higher - and the consequences of further inaction too horrifying to contemplate. Let the haunting refrain of Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s words ring out across our nation: “Weep not, child. Weep not, my land.”

Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo is a lawyer and legal researcher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Protecting Our Students: The Agent Need For HIV/AIDS And STDs Awareness On Campus

The risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among students is a silent but serious threat that lurks in the busy halls of universities and colleges, amid the flurry of academic pursuits and social interactions. Institutions of higher learning promote development and progress, but they also act as havens for dangerous actions that can have far-reaching effects. To prevent our students from such infections, we must raise awareness of this problem and prioritize the prevention strategies. The picture that the statistics paint

is disturbing. A large percentage of new HIV infections globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports, occur in young people aged 15 to 24. Unprotected sexual activity is a common way for HIV infections to spread. In addition, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like syphilis and gonorrhea

In order to stop the spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS among students we have to educate our students. Inclusive sexual health education, including instruction on safe sexual practices, condom use, HIV testing, and

inform the students to attend to STDs screening test. Additionally, organizing projects, training sessions, and awareness campaigns can be powerful channels for educating people and promoting ethical behavior. Access to medical care is yet another vital element of proactive measure. Confidential and neutral stance sexual health services, such as HIV testing, counseling, and STI treatment, should be provided by campus health centers. Furthermore, it's important to make sure that students are aware of the community organizations and

off-campus resources available to them for support and guidance on issues concerning sexual health.

In addition, stopping the spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS requires implementing a culture of respect and consent. Initiatives aimed at preventing sexual violence and fostering healthy relationships need to be given top priority in universities and colleges. Students can engage in safer practices and less risky sexual behavior if we create an environment of mutual respect and communication. In the end, reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS

and STIs among college and university students demands a lengthened strategy that includes health promotion, education, healthcare access, and removing stigma. It is crucial that we as a society prioritize the health and well-being of young people when it comes to their sexual health. Together, we can increase awareness and put into practice practical preventative measures to shield the next generation from the deadly virus.

Salome Mbuvi (Machakos County).

Postponing The Opening Of Schools: A Wise Decision Or A Band-Aid Fix?

The government, through the Ministry of Education, has decided to delay the reopening of schools by one week due to the unrelenting downpour that is currently engulfing our area. Even though this choice seems to put safety first, it really calls into question both its efficacy and the underlying problems it seeks to solve.

Without a doubt, the safety of the staff, teachers, and students must always come first when making decisions about how to run the school, particularly when bad weather is forecast. The choice to postpone the start of classes shows a certain amount of caution and care for the welfare of

people involved in the educational system. It also begs concerns about the infrastructure's wider readiness to face such difficulties, though.

Delaying the start of classes may provide a brief relief from the risks associated with heavy rains, but it accomplishes nothing to deal with the underlying causes of the issue. Our educational institutions remain exposed to the effects of bad weather due to inadequate drainage systems, shoddy school building construction, and inadequate disaster preparedness measures.

Furthermore, given the increasing unpredictability and extremeness of

weather patterns, the one-week delay might only offer a temporary reprieve. Long-term, sustainable solutions that increase the resilience of our educational infrastructure against natural disasters are desperately needed, as opposed to band-aid fixes.

Concerns regarding possible disruptions to the academic calendar and the continuity of students' education are also raised by the decision to postpone the opening of schools. There is a chance that academic progress will be hindered and educational disparities will widen with every extra day spent away from the classroom, especially for vulnerable populations

where access to alternative learning resources may be limited.

We must take a comprehensive approach to addressing the systemic vulnerabilities in our education system as well as the immediate safety concerns as we navigate the difficulties brought on by the continuous rains. This means making significant investments in resilient infrastructure, putting strict safety measures in place, and giving disaster preparedness and resilience-building top priority.

To sum up, even though the decision to postpone school openings may have been made with good in-

tentions, it serves as a clear reminder of the necessity of taking preventative action to protect our educational system from the effects of natural disasters. We can guarantee the safety and uninterrupted learning for every member of our educational community, irrespective of the weather, by tackling the fundamental problems that lead to our susceptibility.

Perpetual John, Peninah Kyalo And Veronica Stella.

Rongo University Media Students.

HIV And AIDS Cases Surge In Our Universities

Rongo University Grapples with Alarming Increase in HIV and AIDS Among Student Population. As it is known for its vibrant student life and academic excellence, is facing a serious health crisis as the campus witnesses a sharp rise in HIV and AIDS cases among its students. With infection rates on the rise, university authorities, health officials, and student organizations are joining forces to tackle the issue head-on.

Rongo University Student Health Center has reported a disturbing increase in the number of HIV-positive and AIDS-diagnosed students over the past year. This alarming trend has raised concerns among both students and faculty about the lack of awareness and preventive measures. In re-

sponse, the university administration has initiated a comprehensive HIV education and prevention campaign.

The university's HIV and AIDS Task Force, comprising healthcare professionals, counselors, faculty members, and student representatives, have been working tirelessly to develop a multi-faceted approach to address the issue. The task force has identified various measures that will be implemented to combat the spread of the disease and provide support for affected students.

One of the key initiatives is the establishment of a peer education program, whereby trained student volunteers will disseminate accurate information about HIV and AIDS prevention, transmission, and treat-

ment. These peer educators will interact with their fellow students through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to promote safe practices and dispel misconceptions surrounding the diseases.

Additionally, the Student Health Center will be offering free and confidential HIV testing for all students on campus. The center aims to remove barriers to testing by ensuring privacy and providing counseling services before and after the results are disclosed. Regular testing is crucial in identifying cases early and preventing further transmission.

The university administration recognizes that the fight against HIV and AIDS requires a comprehensive approach and acknowledges the im-

portance of condom availability. As a result, they will be taking steps to ensure that free, easily accessible condoms are provided in residential halls, and health facility.

Furthermore, counseling and support services will be expanded to provide emotional and mental health assistance to students affected by HIV and AIDS, as well as their friends and families. Confidential support groups, individual counseling sessions, and online resources will be made available to those seeking guidance and understanding.

Rongo University is determined to turn the tide against this increasing epidemic on its campus. Through a combination of education, testing, prevention, and support services,

they are committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of their students. By addressing the challenges head-on, they hope to create a safer and more inclusive environment that promotes both physical and mental well-being.

If you or someone you know is struggling with HIV and AIDS-related issues, please contact the Student Health Center or connect with the dedicated support services available on campus. Together, we can fight against this health crisis and create a healthier campus community.

Elijah Nyongesa And Daisy Moraa Communication Students Rongo University.

LSK Joins Reforms Groups in Push for Police Accountability

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Yesterday the Law Society of Kenya, through the representation of the able President Faith Odhiambo attended the National Policing Conference organized by a coalition of Reforms Groups. The main aim of the Conference was to discuss opportunities for enhancing police reforms, accountability, and oversight. Faith Odhiambo the President of the Law Society of Kenya observed:

“The Police are a significant stakeholder in the administration of justice, and it is therefore imperative that we ensure maximum professionalism, integrity, and dedication to serve within the National Police Service. Through Public Interest Litigation, the LSK has played an integral role in checking the actions of the Police including acts of impunity, abuse of power, excessive use of force, and extrajudicial killings. We will continue to put our best foot forward to ensure that nothing unlawful is done in the name of enforcing the law. We join other stakeholders in urging our

police to uphold the best standards of practice in delivering their mandate to the people of Kenya.” She added, “The Law Society of Kenya joins other stakeholders here today with regard to concerns it has heard over a period of time, looking at the challenges within the police sector. We have seen that the Inspector General has continued to be involved in areas that he ought not to. We have raised concerns previously with the IG being seen as partisan particularly these current strikes by the doctors. and we note also with greater concern, that we are not seeing his office acting independently to ensure and secure the safety of Kenyans particularly in the floods disaster currently being witnessed. We acknowledge that disasters do happen but what is expected is that security must and ought to be provided to the people of Kenya. Further, the concern that we continue to see is when we have the inspector general encouraging his police officers to abuse their powers, we note with concern that we need also to see the courts pronouncing themselves. we saw during the doctors’ strike their leader was shot at by a police officer but unfortunately, we are not seeing that police officer be-



Faith Odhiambo, President LSK in the midst of Reforms Groups Actors in a press conference .

ing brought to book. If we enlist several cases that we have heard over a period of time, the Kianjokoma boys, Willy Kimani Case, it is evident that police have continued to abuse their powers. When the courts have done their parts and pronounced them-

selves, we fail to see any tangible police reforms. The law society had also joined together with Amnesty International, having done extensive research, and compounded a report on the maandmano cases. Today we have failed to see IPOA tabling a

report on what action will be taken next particularly, against those police officers.”

The Need For Immediate Action And Cooperation In Kenya’s Rainy Season Crisis

By: Perpetual K. John
@themkenyatimes

Kenya is dealing with a complex crisis that necessitates quick attention and coordinated action as the rains continue to devastate different parts of the country. The effects of the ongoing flood are evident, ranging from tragic events like the boat seizure on the Garissa-Madogo Road to the heartbreaking loss of life and property in Makueni’s Kwa Muswii River.

We have seen the nation’s communities devastated in recent weeks by nature’s unrelenting wrath. There have been fatalities, broken families, and ruinous livelihoods. The destruction scenes serve as a sobering reminder of how susceptible our infrastructure is to disasters and how urgently we need to implement robust disaster preparedness and response plans.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation and coming together

as a country to tackle the problems caused by the nonstop rain is essential. Although natural disasters are frequently out of human control, we can control how we respond to them. The security and welfare of every member of the public, especially those residing in the most vulnerable areas, must be our top priority as a society.

To lessen the effects of the current rains and give impacted communities immediate relief, the government must act decisively first and foremost. This includes sending out emergency response teams, giving those in need food, shelter, and medical attention, and thoroughly evaluating infrastructure vulnerabilities in order to avert more tragedies.

Enhancing long-term resilience against upcoming natural disasters also requires a concentrated effort. To do this, money must be spent on solid infrastructure, sensible land-use planning policies must be put in place, and neighborhood-based disaster readiness programs must be



Deadly floods wreak havoc in Kenya’s capital.

supported. We can lessen the financial and human costs of future disasters by taking a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction.

Government action, though, is insufficient on its own. To protect our communities and environment, each and every Kenyan has a part to play. In order to mitigate the effects of climate change and lower the likelihood of catastrophic flooding, we must

give environmental conservation efforts—such as reforestation and watershed management—priority.

Additionally, we need to promote a culture of support and unity for individuals impacted by the rain. We can all meaningfully contribute to lessening the suffering caused by this crisis, whether it is by volunteering, making monetary contributions, or just lending a helping hand to our neighbors

who are in need.

A nation’s true character is demonstrated by how it responds to hardship. Let’s step up to the plate with empathy, fortitude, and resolve. We can weather this storm together and come out stronger, closer, and more equipped to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

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Sports >> *Kenya Rugby Union Chairman Sasha Mutai has lauded Kenya's Chipu technical bench for "remarkable team work" as the team clinched the Rugby Africa U-20 Barthes Cup on Sunday in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Sasha Mutai Hails Teamwork Behind Chipu's Barthes Cup Victory



FILE: Kenya Rugby Union Chairman Sasha Mutai when KBL announced its sponsorship to the Kenya Rugby Union in support of the forthcoming Victoria Cup and Safari Sevens tournaments at EABL Head Office in Ruaraka on November 08, 2023. Photo/SportpichaSA

Kenya Rugby Union Chairman Sasha Mutai has lauded Kenya's Chipu technical bench for "remarkable team work" as the team clinched the Rugby Africa U-20 Barthes Cup on Sunday in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The Kenya U-20 side came from 10-0 down to exact sweet revenge against hosts Zimbabwe 28-13 at Harare Sports Club.

Chipu lost to Zimbabwe twice last year, going down 28-7 in the Barthes Trophy final, and 64-10 in the fifth place play-off in the

World Rugby U-20 Trophy at the Nyayo National Stadium.

"There was great effort from the entire technical bench before the team departed for the tournament. The players were dedicated and determined to win the competition, and the victory is a sign of good things to come," said Mutai.

Mutai has also outlined plans to adopt a uniform technical playing style and philosophy for all the national rugby teams in the country.

"We have put on the best plans to have our teams play the same style of rugby, that is why the entire technical bench is working hand on hand so that we have smooth transition from the junior team to the senior team," Mutai added.

The KRU boss is also hopeful Kenya will star at the forthcoming Paris Olympics.

"We have plans for the ahead the games with the little resources we want the make sure the team is ready for the competition and

hopefully we get more resources to make sure we have a successful outing in Paris," Mutai stated.

Chipu have little time to rest, as focus now turns to the 2024 World Rugby Under-20 Trophy set for July 2 to 17 this year at the Edinburgh Rugby Stadium, Scotland.

Citizen Sport

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Sports >>> *Manchester United winger Antony says criticism of his spluttering form this season is fuelling

Antony Fuelled By Critics Amid Difficult Season At Trafford



FILE PHOTO-Soccer Football - Premier League - Manchester United v Nottingham Forest - Old Trafford, Manchester, Britain - August 26, 2023 Manchester United's Antony during the warm up before the match REUTERS/Phil Noble/File Photo..

Manchester United winger Antony says criticism of his spluttering form this season is fuelling his desire to prove his worth at Old Trafford.

Antony scored his first Premier League goal this season in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Burnley.

But United's difficult campaign suffered another blow as the lowly visitors grabbed a late equaliser through Zeki Amdouni.

Signed from Ajax for a fee that could rise to £85 million (\$108 million) in 2022, Antony has yet to live up to that hefty price tag and has come in for criticism from fans and pundits.

The 24-year-old has only made 14 league starts this term. He is

struggling to convince United boss Erik ten Hag to hand him a regular place in the starting line-up.

Despite his issues this term, Antony is convinced he can eventually establish himself as a key figure for United, with the doubters only driving his determination.

"It's been a very tough year for me and the team. The results are not ones we have expected," he said.

"I am someone who takes criticism very well and I want to work on it, and I think we all have to focus on finishing the season the best as we can.

"We still have a few Premier League games and the (FA Cup)

final, but then we need to focus on the next season and not commit the mistakes we've committed this year."

Antony's slow first season at Old Trafford and his troubled second campaign - in which he has faced allegations of domestic abuse that he strongly denied have led some to brand him an expensive flop.

But the Brazil international is unconcerned by outside perceptions of his time at United.

"(The transfer fee) doesn't really impact me because I know my worth. The money is the money and obviously everyone speaks about it, but no one would if the performances of everyone and myself were at the top," he said.

"So, it's something that is just a way of working harder, knowing I can get better, I know my worth and I will.

"As I said the critics are going to exist, and it's something that makes me want to work harder, prove to myself first.

"I'm going to keep working, giving everything for the group because it's most important to have a good mentality and to be focused."

AFP

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Zulfia Is A Symbol Of Loyalty!



By: Tuliyeve Sarvinoz
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Worth Noting:

A talented poetess and writer, a keen connoisseur of the human heart, she created works in various genres: epics, ballads, elegies, prose poems, stories, essays, journalistic articles and newspaper reports. "He was called Farhad.", the author of lyrical and lyrical-epic epics such as "Sunny Pen", "Khotiram Sinikari". He translated samples of the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Nekrasov, L. Ukrainka, V. Inber and many other poets into Uzbek. Alhamdullillah O'qituvchi: He also wrote librettos for operas by Uzbek composers, for example, the libretto for the opera "Zaynab and Amon". At the same time, she also wrote a fairy-tale-stage work based on the theme of the epic "Semurg" written by her husband Hamid Olimjon.

Abstract: The article covers the life and creative ways of Zulfiyakhanim, the national poetess of Uzbekistan, a well-known public and statesman, journalist, translator and Hero of Socialist Labor, on the occasion of the 109th anniversary of her birth.

Key words: poetess, creativity, Hamid Olimjon, sufferings of Hijran, loyalty, feelings.

Zulfiya Isroilova was born in 1915 in the ancient Degrez quarter of Tashkent city. First of all, she studied in elementary school, then in a women's educational institution. After that, she was the editor-in-chief of the women's magazine "Saodat", widely distributed in our republic, in various publishing houses, between 1936 and 1980. The poet started artistic creation very early. At the age of seventeen, he published his first poetry book called "Life Leaflets". During his long creative life, he created about thirty poetry collections and more than ten epics. The poet writes poems about situations that make everyone think and are angry with everyone. That is why his writings are liked by many.

Zulfiyakhanim Israilova is married to Hamid Olimjon. However, when they were living a life full of dreams, Hamid Olimjon passed away on July 3, 1944. Zulfiya was beset by a terrible tragedy. The poem once again touched the heart of the poetess,

who was torn by the pain of separation and emigration. Poems about emigration and devotion occupy an important place in Zulfia's work. This is a natural state. After all, he lived for two people throughout his long life, experienced fifty-two years of separation, and became a singer of emigration, a symbol of loyalty. There are no feelings of hopelessness, hopelessness, ingratitude, and the captivity of endless sorrow in the poems of the poetess, which reflect the endless pain of separation. Her emigration poems reflect the feelings of a happy woman who loves, is burning with love, but can see the light in life and is grateful for seeing it. In poems such as "Days of Hijran", "Bakhtiyar sevgi kulyardi zizim", "Ne baloga kerdyng mubtalo", "Sen haydasan yurigim", the complex human feelings of a faithful friend sounded melodiously. Zulfia's poetry is filled with passionate love for nature and humanity, its integral part and highest peak. In his poems, nature is embodied in light colors, bright colors and symbols. The poet's poems such as "In the Moon", "Without You", "Heart", "Falak", "Spring came to question you", "Don't steal my pen for a day", "Bum-bosh kalibdi ir varaka koz", "My son, there will be no war" are among the people. His poems such as "Mushoira" are famous.

A talented poetess and writer, a keen connoisseur of the human heart, she created works in various genres: epics, ballads, elegies, prose poems, stories, essays, journalistic articles and newspaper reports. "He was called Farhad.", the author of lyrical and lyrical-epic epics such as "Sunny Pen", "Khotiram Sinikari". He translated samples of the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Nekrasov, L. Ukrainka, V. Inber and many other poets into Uzbek.

Alhamdullillah O'qituvchi: He also wrote librettos for operas by Uzbek composers, for example, the libretto for the opera "Zaynab and Amon". At the same time, she also wrote a fairy-tale-stage work based on the theme of the epic "Semurg" written by her husband Hamid Olimjon. The poetess was awarded many state awards for her literary and social activities. Zulfiya's poetry is unique in its emotional appeal, originality of the emotions, and the uniqueness of the observation and expression. In particular, it is still relevant to discover the universality and modernity of his work, and the fact that feelings of loyalty and loyalty in his works have risen to the level of the main criterion of humanity. Zulfia founded the poetic school of female poets of 20th century Uzbek literature, standing at the origin of women's poetry of the new era. In short, the

life and work of Zulfiyakhanim is an example for all women. After all, his hard work in life, his constant striving for progress, his faithfulness in love, his unceasing pursuit of artistic creativity, his persistence in facing life's difficulties, and the fact that he does not lose himself in the face of achievements, arouse envy in the heart of any girl or woman.

*Tuliyeve Sarvinoz
Uzbekistan. Born on November 8, 1999.*

Graduated from Alisher Navoi Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature (2023). The winner of the state award named after Zulfia (2019). Participant of the Zomin workshop of young artists (2019). She is the author of the poetry books "Song of Peace", "I am a Girl of Truth", "Morning Poem". Author of the creative collection "Nurli Izlar". About 100 creative works have been published in republican and foreign newspapers and magazines.

His creative works and articles have been published in Russia, Turkey, Germany, USA, Kenya, Great Britain. Teacher of native language and literature at Shaikhontohur District Vocational School, Tashkent.