



Towards A Resilient Workforce: Climate Finance As A Cornerstone For Labour Rights In Kenya
 Kenya, a country rich in natural resources and cultural heritage, faces a daunting challenge in the face of climate change. As temperatures rise and weather patterns become increasingly erratic, the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans are at risk, particularly those in agriculture and pastoralism.

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News>>Parliamentary House Committee Grills CAK Director General On Financial Expenditure

P. 8. The Parliamentary Public Investment Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA) met the CAK Director General Mr. David Mugonyi to justify financial expenditure by the Authority.



News>>Kiambu County Commemorates World Autism Day

P. 12. Kiambu residents have been called upon to learn more on autism disorder, understand it and also not shun those affected. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder of a diverse group of conditions.

Kenya, Ghana Sign Seven MOUs To Enhance Ties

Kenya and Ghana have signed seven agreements to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. President William Ruto said the MoUs, including some signed by business associations from Kenya and Ghana, will facilitate trade and investment between the two nations. The goal, he said, is to expand opportunities for business, the private sector and the people of the two nations.



President William Ruto in Ghana

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Mount Kenya University Sends First Cohort Of Nursing Apprentices To Work In German Partner Hospital

By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenyatimes



Some of the cohorts destined for German..

Worth Noting:

- “As a training institution, it is upon us to support the President’s initiative by actualising this endeavour. In this regard, MKU in partnership with the German university, aims to establish structures and processes that will prepare 5,000 Kenyans to work in Germany in various sectors,” Prof Jaganyi said.
- The 1st pilot cohort has successfully gone through the German language B2 Level of proficiency and completed preparatory course”.
- The partnership between MKU and Hochschule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences of Germany offers paid apprenticeships and jobs to young Kenyans.

Mount Kenya University has sent the first cohort of five students to Germany to offer healthcare services in the European country.

The graduates were presented with their work permits, visas, and air tickets on Saturday, all fully funded by Caritas Hospital (Germany), one of the project’s partner institutions in Germany. MKU entered into an agreement with Hochschule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences in Germany to provide German language and preparatory courses to Kenyans, preparing them for employment in Germany as apprentices.

Prof Deogratious Jaganyi, MKU Vice-Chancellor said the project aligns with the government’s quest to increase

opportunities for Kenyans abroad.

The government has signed bilateral labour agreements with different countries to allow the country to export their skills.

On May 25, last year, President William Ruto announced that Germany had opened doors for 250,000 Kenyans to work in the Germany.

“As a training institution, it is upon us to support the President’s initiative by actualising this endeavour. In this regard, MKU in partnership with the German university, aims to establish structures and processes that will prepare 5,000 Kenyans to work in Germany in various sectors,” Prof Jaganyi said.

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Level of proficiency and completed preparatory course”.

The partnership between MKU and Hochschule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences of Germany offers paid apprenticeships and jobs to young Kenyans.

Students interested in the opportunities are required to have German Language proficiency and pursue a preparatory programme in Nursing apprenticeship for German hospitals.

AG-Career Hub founded by Kenyan Professionals based in Germany will support the beneficiaries of this project to integrate with their new environment and culture as they commence their paid apprenticeships in the Germany to sup-

port the labour market. Expanding the job horizon for our people aligns very well with our motto of unlocking infinite possibilities,” said Prof. Jaganyi.

MKU has a similar partnership with Lebenshilfe Tirol of Austria that also enables nursing graduates from the Kenyan university to work in Austria. MKU expects to initially have 60 nursing graduates to travel to Austria. Graduates are required to have German language B1 Level.

MKU curricula is continuously reviewed to meet national, Regional and market needs of the industry and commercial sectors.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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THEME

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

NEWS IN BRIEF



The County Government, through the Agriculture Department, has trained women farmers in Naoros, Kang'atotha Ward – Turkana Central Sub-County, on agri-nutrition practices to improve household diet diversity and nutrition. The training, conducted by Concern Worldwide under its Mother to Mother program, targeted a group of 30 women linked to the local health facility for nutrition services. This initiative aimed to improve their farming practices to support nutrition and increase production. Turkana Central Sub-County Crops Development Officer (SCCDO), Eregae Ekai Peter, stated that the women received guidance on good agronomic practices, including scouting for pests and diseases, making compost manure, establishing sunken nurseries, and adopting proper watering regimes. “The training also included practical examples to help women farmers access food at the household level, enabling them to harvest fresh vegetables from their farms to supplement their diets,” said the SCCDO.



Parents raise funds for school infrastructure. Parents in Sokoke ward, Kilifi County, have resorted to raise funds for local school to bridge the shortfall of resources from the capitation funds. The parents have been holding Harambee funds drives to put up offices, classroom, and toilet renovations to improve infrastructure in public primary schools. The challenges facing the schools have been a long-standing concern, with dilapidated classrooms, leaking roofs, and inadequate sanitation facilities posing significant challenges to both pupils and teachers. For example, at Ziwani Primary School, one of the most affected schools in the area, parents were compelled to organize a fundraising ceremony and successfully raised over 400,000 shillings to complete a stalled classroom, repair the staffroom, and fix the leaking office of the headteacher, which had become uninhabitable.



Lodwar County Government plans to tarmac a 3-Km road from Cooperative Bank Roundabout to St. Kevin's Secondary School in Lodwar Municipality for the current financial year. The County Executive for Roads, Transport, and Public Works, Patrick Lokaimoe said when he handed over the site to the contractor. The project, costing KSh195 million, is anticipated to improve the overall perception of Lodwar Municipality and facilitate further development in the area. CECM Lokaimoe has requested the contractor to commence work immediately and ensure the project is completed within six months. “The contractor is obligated to start and finish work by October this year, as detailed in the project documents,” the County Executive for Roads said. He added that Engineers from the Department will be available on the site to ensure the contractor adheres to the required standards. The speaker was accompanied by Peter Akono, the CECM for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management, and the House Committee of the Turkana County Assembly on Roads, Transport and Public Works. Hence, to prevent potential harm during the construction period, The Roads Executive advised adherence to the project implementation plan on the provision of safety gear and protection of the construction area.



Property of unknown value was destroyed after a fire burnt down a 230 capacity dormitory last night in Masii Boy's High School in Mwala, Machakos County. According to police reports the fire whose cause remain unknown broke at around 7pm when students were in the dining hall taking their supper. Sub County Police Commander Nancy Jerobon said no injuries were reported during the incident. However, nothing was salvaged. Jerobon said members of the public helped put out the fire before a fire brigade from the County Government arrived. “It was reported by the Chief Principal Joseph Nzoka that a joint dormitory with a capacity of 230 students caught fire while students were taking supper,” read the police report. She disclosed that the school had closed but some students who performed poorly in their end term examinations had been left behind for tuition. The Sub County Police Commander said police have launched investigations into the incident.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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Students Urged To Embrace Research And Innovation For Income

By: Chari Suche and Nuru Soud
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In support of the research and innovation sector, the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) in collaboration with the Kenya Maritime Authority and the Swahili port hub launched its 5th multi-disciplinary conference and innovation week.
- The 5 day forum themed “from idea to impact: igniting cross sector innovation to shape a sustainable future” aims at encouraging students to turn their creative ideas into job opportunities.



Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Salim Mvurya interacting with Technical University of Mombasa students yesterday.

Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya has urged university students to embrace research and innovation in their studies saying it will be a great contribution in the country’s development.

Speaking at the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), Mvurya said that universities play a critical role in training experts noting that the government seeks efforts to ensure that industry and academia have a good blend where academic research and innovation become available for implementation by different government agencies.

He said the country has a large young population with the government hopeful that students studying at the university will go ahead and provide solu-

tions and technology that will not only provide solutions to Kenyan people, but also cut across the entire globe.

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The 5 day forum themed “from idea to impact: igniting cross sector innovation to shape a sustainable future” aims at encouraging students to turn their creative ideas into job opportunities.

In addition, the CS also announced five scholarship opportunities for the top marine students in the institution as a way of ensuring the maritime and blue economy sector becomes the new

frontier that will inspire the economy and also create new experts through training.

The sub-themes of the forum include, transformative education, business and entrepreneurship, health and food security, digital creative economy and contemporary societies, engineering, technology and sustainable environment and the blue economy and maritime affairs.

The CS noted that with the use of ICT, students will manage to run their projects smoothly via the government’s effort in enabling different parts of the country to access internet connection through the 100,000km of fiber optic cable and 25,000 free Wi-Fi hotspots.

On her hand, Professor Leyla Abubakar, the Vice Chancellor TUM said that the cross-sector innovation allows

students to liberate the unique strength of each sector to address complex challenges more effectively.

“For example, businesses can bring their expertise in technology and market driven solutions and the government can provide regulatory support,” she said.

She added that economic freedom is intricately tied to innovation and job creation thus the core to cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

“Our education system must nurture a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. We must allow our students to convert ideas into invoices. We do not want to bring out products who will now be job seekers instead of job creators,” she said.

The forum is set to end on Saturday.

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Parliamentary House Committee Grills CAK Director General On Financial Expenditure

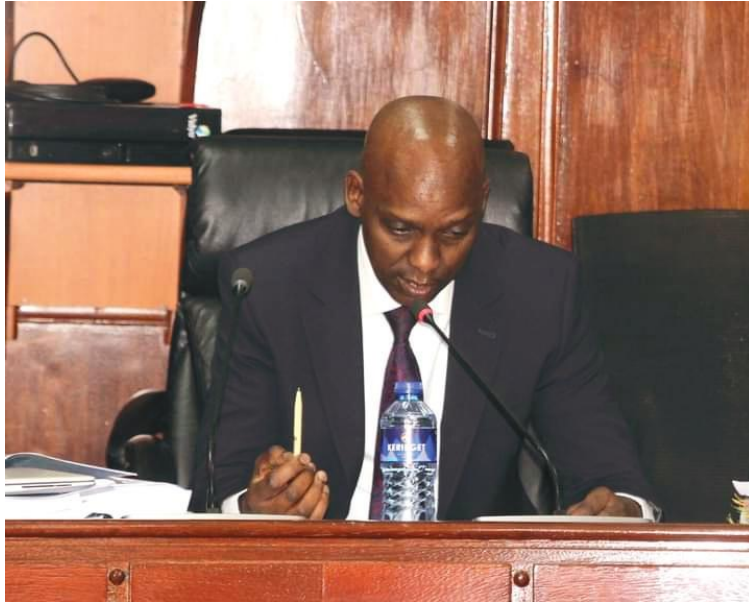
By: MKT Correspondents
 @themtkenyatimes

The Parliamentary Public Investment Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA) met the Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) Director General Mr. David Mugonyi to justify financial expenditure by the Authority.

The Emmanuel Wangwe-led Committee sought Mugonyi's response to audit queries emanating from the auditor's report for the Financial Year 2017/18.

The Committee demanded an explanation from Mugonyi of an unexplained and unreconciled variance of KSh2,753,219 from staff wages and costs.

"The statement of financial performance and the financial statements reflect an amount of KSh1,140,209,000 in respect of employee costs. However, a monthly analysis of employee costs gives a total sum of KSh1,142,962,219 resulting in an unexplained and unreconciled variance



ACK Director General David Mugonyi consulting his notes when he appeared before the parliamentary committee..

of KSh2,753,219," auditor's report read in part.

The report further indicated that: "In addition, bonus payments amounting to KSh9,589,055 made to staff or various reasons for which the basis of payments and the authority for payments listed below were not made

available for audit".

The Auditor General in the report indicated that the accuracy of employee costs of KSh1,140,209,000 for the year ended 30 June 2018 could not be confirmed.

In summary, the audit report reported the following discrepancies;



Members of the committee; Wambugu Wainaina from Othaya constituency consulting his Tetu counterpart Geoffrey Wandeto consulting during yesterday's proceedings..

The unreconciled variance of KSh 2,753,219 between the employee costs reflected in the statement of financial performance and the employee costs.

Lack of documentation and authority for bonus payments totalling KSh9,589,055, including lump sum payments and long service awards.

In his response Mugonyi said the cause of the variance in the payroll was due to long service awards paid

in payroll but charged to staff welfare vote.

"The lump sum payments were paid according to HCA policy clause 4.7.2 which states that Employees who have reached the maximum of their salary scales, with positive appraisal ratings, may be awarded a lump sum performance related bonus, equivalent to one or more annual increments, but not exceeding (3) increments per year," he said.

Committee Engages Western And Mt Kenya Residents On County Licensing (Uniform Procedures) Bill, 2022

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themtkenyatimes

Members of the committee on Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives conducted public hearings yesterday in Kakamega and Nyeri Counties to gather input on the County Licensing (Uniform Procedures) Bill, 2022.

The bill aims to standardize licensing procedures across county governments, promoting consistency and certainty.

At separate sessions held in Kakamega Social Hall and Nyeri Town CDF Hall, stakeholders expressed the frustration of obtaining multiple licenses, citing it as a key obstacle to conducting business.

Representatives of the Kenya Pharmaceutical Association while making their submissions before the Mary-Anne Keitany-led sub-committee re-

vealed that apart from paying for two levels of government, they also have to shoulder the additional burden of paying license fees to their professional body to operate chemists.

Keitany who is also the Aldai constituency MP led the team in Kakamega, while Robert Gichimu from Gichugu constituency led a sub-committee engaging residents in Nyeri.

In response to concerns raised by the public, committee members acknowledged the punitive nature of multiple taxation and advocated for business-friendly licensing regimes.

"We shall carefully review and consider all the feedback we have received from the public during the hearing," stated Keitany.

The committee will today conduct public hearings at Eldoret Town Hall and Talent Academy in Uasin Gishu and Embu counties respectively.



Some of the participants

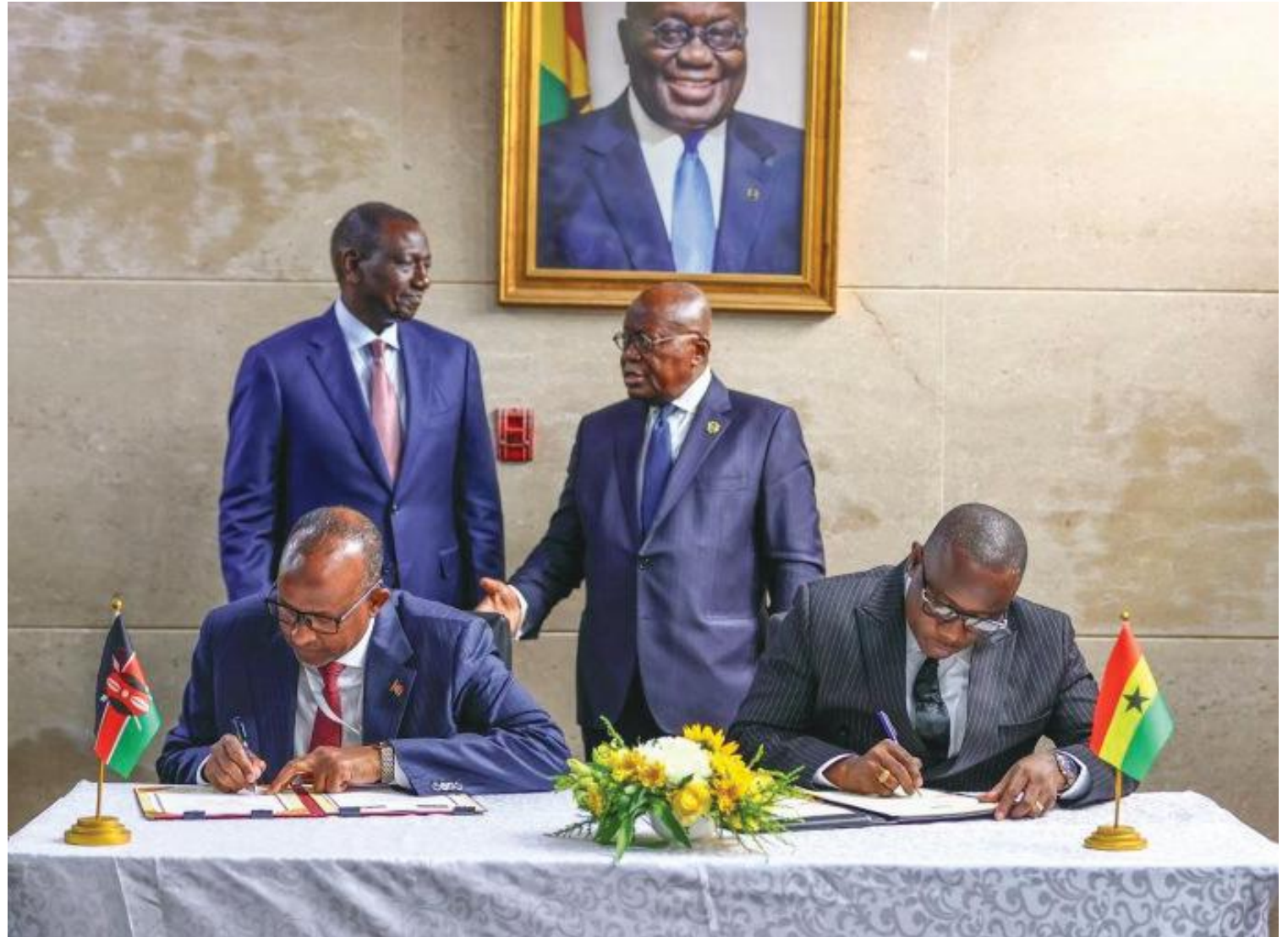
Kenya, Ghana Sign 7 MOUs To Enhance Ties

By: PCS



Worth Noting:

- “During my discussions with President Nana Akufo-Addo, we have noted that these agreements are significant in the evolution of our diplomatic ties, which stand on warm and cordial, dynamic and impactful historic collaboration,” he said.
- He made the remarks during a press conference at President Akufo-Addo’s office after the two leaders held talks during President Ruto’s State Visit to Ghana.
- President Ruto commended Ghana’s decision to remove visa requirements for all Africans by the end of the year, a move aimed at enhancing the continent’s integration.
- “This commitment aligns with one of the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area to create a single market in the continent and to drive economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication,” he said.



The two leaders held talks during President Ruto’s State Visit to Ghana.

Kenya and Ghana have signed seven agreements to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. President William Ruto said the MoUs, including some signed by business associations from Kenya and Ghana, will facilitate trade and investment between the two nations. The goal, he said, is to expand opportunities for business, the private sector and the people of the two nations. Other MoUs include cooperation in science and technology, tourism, education, governance and defence. “During my discussions with President Nana Akufo-Addo, we have noted that these agreements are significant in the evolution of our diplomatic ties, which stand on warm and cordial, dynamic and impactful historic collaboration,” he said. He made the remarks during a press conference at President Akufo-Addo’s office after the two leaders held talks during President Ruto’s State Visit to Ghana. President Ruto commended Ghana’s decision to remove visa requirements for all Africans by the end of

the year, a move aimed at enhancing the continent’s integration. “This commitment aligns with one of the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area to create a single market in the continent and to drive economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication,” he said. Kenya, too, did away with visa requirements for visitors from all countries in January this year. President Ruto pointed out that the free movement of people has contributed to growth in trade, investment and tourism between Kenya and Ghana. He said the two nations will use the opportunities provided by the Africa Continental Free Trade to further boost trade between Kenya and Ghana. “President Akufo-Addo and I are encouraged that under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, our two countries have taken bold measures to explore these opportunities,” he said. In October 2022, the President flagged off the inaugural shipment of Kenya tea from Nairobi to Gha-

na. “On 23rd September 2023, Kenyan-made Chloride Exide batteries worth about KSh9.3 million landed in the Ghanaian Port of Tema, while Little Cab, a taxi-hailing service from Kenya, is now also operational in Ghana,” he added. President Ruto said the two nations are determined to collaborate in tackling internal conflicts, wars, terrorism and violent extremism, aiming to safeguard peace and stability and thus promote regional development. “It has become clear in our discussions that we have to redouble our efforts to silence the guns in Africa as a vital condition for economic growth,” he said. The President said through the unity of African leadership, the continent stands a better chance of effectively implementing its climate action agenda. He said the first-ever Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi last September served as a platform for the African leadership to define a clear common position in the global climate action

discourse in the run up to COP28 last December and beyond. The two leaders also discussed institutional reforms at the African Union aimed at making the continental organisation fit-for-purpose and for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063. This includes the need to restructure the African Union organs, conclude the division of labour between the AU Commission Organs, Specialised Agencies and Regional Economic Communities, as well as the need to streamline the agenda of the Pan-African Parliament to cover strategic issues. President Akufo-Addo committed to support Kenya’s candidature for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission 2025-2028. At the same time, President Ruto assured Ghana of Kenya’s support for the candidature of Ms Shirley Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, for the position of Commonwealth Secretary-General for the period 2024-2029.

Medical Garment Production Facility Opened In Tatu City

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

A new medical garment production facility has been established in Tatu City, a 5000-acre mixed-use Special Economic Zone in Kiambu County.

FullCare Medical, a global medical garment manufacturing company, has started operations in Kenya, offering job opportunities to 1,800 individuals, with plans to hire an additional 7,000 in the near future.

Speaking during the launch, FullCare Medical founder Mr Lu Jianguo revealed the corporation's plans to utilize technology to enhance production efficiency in order to fulfil customer needs.

The FullCare Medical facility, a KSh400 million investment, demonstrates our commitment to collaborating with Kenya and Tatu City SEZ, fostering positive change through collaboration. The facility, using solar technology for environmentally friendly production, plans to export KSh800 million worth of medical products annually, meeting local market demands.

"The facility is a leading example of foreign direct investment in Kenya, showcasing the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Chinese companies in Africa," said Mr Jianguo.

On his part, Stephen Jennings, CEO and developer of Tatu City, emphasized that the investment would provide employment opportunities for a large number of Kenyans. Tatu City, Kenya's first mixed use Special Economic Zone, has secured KSh345 Billion in investment from over 78 businesses, including global players in healthcare, food, beverage manufacturing, call centers, and software development.

"The regional and global businesses that are operational or under development in Tatu City's business-friendly location, include CCI Global, Heineken, Dormans, Copia, Cooper K-Brands, Grit Real Estate Income Group, Twiga Foods, Freight Forwarders Solutions, ADVTECH, Friendship Group and Davis & Shirtliff. These companies are generating numerous employment opportunities for the Kenyan population, addressing a critical need for job creation in the region," added Mr. Jennings.



During the opening of the facility..

The International Finance Corporation, the investment arm of the World Bank provided KSh1.3 Billion in financing to Full Care Medical for its expansion into the African market. Lastly, the opening ceremony was

attended by Zhang Yijun, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi, as well as officials from the Kenyan government, with Mr. Zhang describing Full Care Medical as a symbol of the strong bond be-

tween China and Kenya as they work together towards the economic progress of both nations.

Sin



By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
@themtkenyetimes

Kabira (Arabic - big, large) is the biggest and most serious sin in Islam. The first and most unforgivable of Kabira is kufr (denying Allah) and shirk (associating something with Allah). There are many types of Kabira. For example, displeasing one's parents, taking someone's life unjustly, practicing magic, bearing false witness, slander, adultery, theft, usury, not performing obligatory prayers, eating forbidden things, etc. Sins other than extreme shirk and disbelief may be forgiven by God on the Day of Judgment or punished to a certain extent. According to the Sunni-Hanafi belief, a believer-Muslim who commits

any sin other than kufr and shirk does not become an infidel, but is considered a sinner.

The word "Gunoh" means "crime" in Persian and is actually a modified form of the Arabic word "Junoh - betrayal, sin". In Islam, it means a belief, work or action contrary to Sharia laws and religious beliefs. The concept of sin was used in ancient times in the sense of the action of an immoral person, violating various prohibitions.

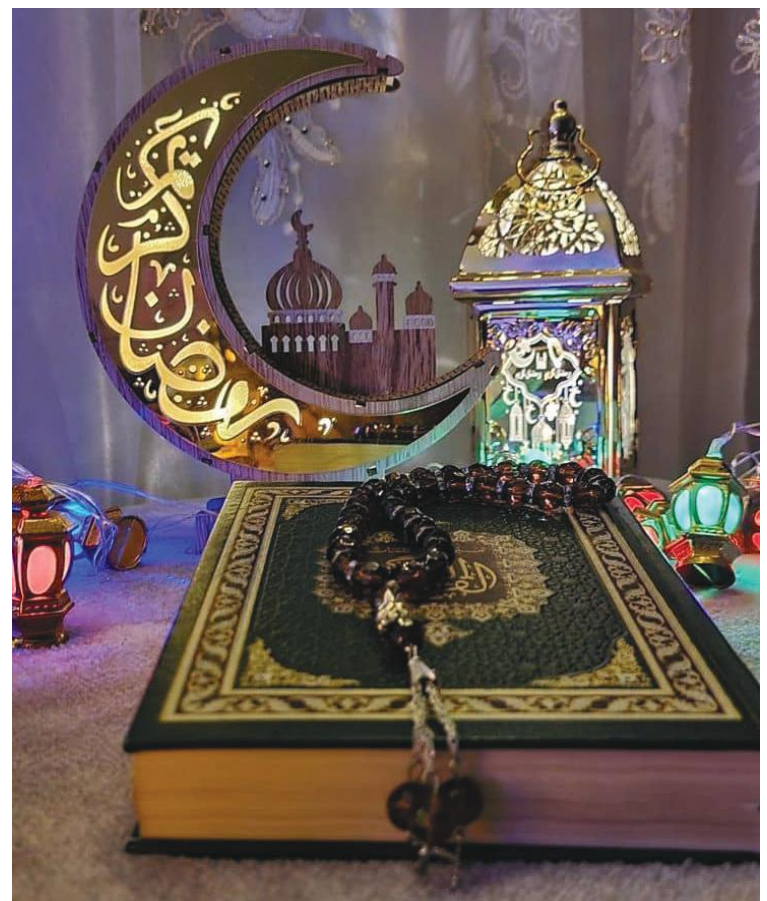
The concept of sin is common to all religions. In Islam, any form of crime, be it big or small, moral or material, is strongly condemned. Any form of crime is considered a sin and is commanded to be avoided.

It is narrated from Huzaifah ibn Yaman, may God bless him and grant him peace: "People used to ask Mr. Rasulallah about good things, and I was worried about what would happen to me, about bad things - sinful deeds. ...ImKabira (Arabic - big, large) is the biggest and most serious sin in Islam. The first and most unforgivable of Kabira is kufr (denying Allah) and shirk (associating something with Allah). There are many

types of Kabira. For example, displeasing one's parents, taking someone's life unjustly, practicing magic, bearing false witness, slander, adultery, theft, usury, not performing obligatory prayers, eating forbidden things, etc. Sins other than extreme shirk and disbelief may be forgiven by God on the Day of Judgment or punished to a certain extent. According to the Sunni-Hanafi creed, a believer-Muslim who commits any sin other than disbelief and shirk does not become an infidel, but is considered a sinner. [1], hadith 7084.

A Muslim should refrain from sins in every situation, and should not consider minor sins as minor. After all, as they say, little sins become a lake, even small sins can turn into huge sins due to their accumulation.

Najda ibn Amir (or Uwaymir) of Yamama was a believer in the sect of Abu Hanifa. He is the leader of the Khawarij (the misguided sect), who believe that there is no need for an Imam (Caliph or Amir) for the people. People themselves should be able to distinguish right from wrong and be able to manage themselves and the direction of society (Muhammad Abu Zuhra, "Al-Mazohib al-Islamiya", p. 33).



Implement Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act Now



By: Ndung'u Wainaina



Worth Noting:

- The Civil Society sector plays pivotal role as services provider, public interest advocate, employer, development partner, resources mobilizer, global governance participant and monitor and watchdog. Civil Society is a powerful partner in new global diplomacy.
- As per Kenya kwanza government manifestos civil society sector must be accorded a friendly and enabling working environment to operate. The Public benefits Organizations (PBO) Act which was signed into law by former President Mwai Kibaki on January 13, 2013 ensure a transparent and efficient regulation of civil space in Kenya.
- The law complies with the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, and with international best standards.

The Kenya Kwanza government Manifesto under Governance: Strengthening Leadership Accountability and De-Personalizing Politics commit to Operationalizing the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act, 2013, and expanding space for government-NGO partnerships and collaborations.

The Cabinet Secretary, Interior and Attorney General are yet to fulfill this promise.

Civil society sector also often referred as social sector is third sector after public and private sectors. It is an essential ingredient and building block for human development.

Civil Society is the space outside the family, market and state.

The Civil Society sector plays pivotal role as services provider, public interest advocate, employer, development partner, resources mobilizer, global governance participant and monitor and watchdog. Civil Society is a powerful partner in new global diplomacy.

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The law complies with the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, and with international best standards.

In spite of two court rulings ordering the commencement of the PBO Act, Civil Society in Kenya is still regulated by the restrictive frame-

work set up by the 1990 NGO Coordination Act.

The 1990 NGO Coordination Act is a retrogressive and archaic law inconsistent with 2010 Constitution. The Act was deemed repealed with signing into law of PBO Act and expiry of 14 days as set out in the Constitution for the new law to take effect.

All old order laws and regulations pre-existing before 2010 Constitution promulgation and whose timeline has expired need to be expunged and removed from statutes.

This includes the oppressive and repugnant NGO Coordination Act. The Parliamentary Constitution Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC) ought to conduct a comprehensive audit of such old laws and take appropriate actions.

The High Court orders in 2016 and 2017 declared that the decision by the Ministry to appoint a Taskforce to amend and or propose amendments to the PBO Act, before it became operational, was illegal and contravened Articles 10, 94, 116(2), 129, and 153 (4) of the Constitution. The two High Court judgments ordering the commencement of the Act were blatantly ignored by the Government.

This disobeying of court orders portray Government as rogue. Further, the Parliament rejected in total proposed amendments to the PBO Act. The PBO Act 2013, must be operationalized and implemented now to unlock the enormous benefits that the social sector bring to Kenyans.

The PBO Act was done through an intensive and long consultative

process. It reflects the joint commitment of different stakeholders to enabling environment for civil society sector. PBO Act represents a progressive piece of legislation which would comply with national and international standards and contribute to ensure a transparent, efficient and accountable self-regulating civil society sector.

The Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), an umbrella of international and national CSOs in Kenya which has been leading the consultation process during the preparation of the PBO Act, is currently at the forefront of leading new campaign for the implementation of the Act. CSRG avers that civil society organizations in Kenya remain subjected to an outdated legislation, and failing domestic and international standards on democratic civic space and freedom of association.

CSOs in Kenya are very vulnerable to harassment, smear campaigns, threats and abusive de-registration procedures, broken promises put human rights defenders at risk. It is urgent that the relevant Kenya Kwanza government authorities take necessary measures and improve the environment in which civil society organizations operate by immediately implementing the PBO Act. The delay in implementing PBO Act is adversely affecting not only working environment but equally important investment in strengthening the capacities of CSOs and funding opportunities that the sector brings into the country. With PBO Act in operation, Kenya will be a key leader and hub of regional think tanks and

NGOs with wealth of knowledge, expertise and resources.

By implementing PBO ACT, the Kenya government will put an end to the public stigmatization of human rights defenders and civil society organizations. It will publicly recognize the legitimate and crucial role they play as pillars of development, service delivery, democracy and watchdogs of the rule of law. Further by enforcing the High Court rulings of 2016 and 2017 will put an end to the current legal limbo concerning the regulations of NGOs and immediately implement the PBO Act of 2013, without any restrictive amendment that could undermine the principles enshrined in the Act as signed into law on January 14, 2013. It will create the new necessary institutions, such as the PBO Authority and the National Federation of PBOs, and allocate them the required human and financial resources so they can fully implement the Act.

The new call by CSRG to the Kenya kwanza Government to fully bring into operation and implement of the PBO Act 2013 as originally passed and signed into law is watershed for the CSO sector in Kenya.

The Writer is Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow @NdunguWainaina

Kiambu County Commemorates World Autism Day

By: Sylvia Wanjohi
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu residents have been called upon to learn more on autism disorder, understand it and also not shun those affected.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder of a diverse group of conditions.

It is characterised by some degree of difficulty with social interaction and communication affecting how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and also behave.

Agape Special Centre, a community-based organisation dedicated to helping the differently abled children in the community held an Autism Spectrum walk and Panel talk to educate and create awareness on ASD for Kiambu residents.

During the panel talk at the Kiambu Community Hall, Director of Agape Special Centre, Nancy Njoroge said it was important for the community and households to know more about ASD for early detection and also management.

She encouraged dialogue and proper initiatives between the caregivers and the County Government that



aims at enhancing the lives of those affected by autism through empowering them.

She specially urged the caregivers in Kiambu to assist those homes that have people affected by the ASD in seeking medical guidance especially once one has been diagnosed.

“I call on each and every one of you here, if you know someone who is suffering from Autism to persuade their caregivers to take them to a special needs centre where they will get adequate care from professionals instead of keeping them in the house,”

Ms Njoroge said.

Jacinta Bacha, Nominated MCA for Kiambu for people living with disability and who has been at the forefront of supporting them, lauded the centre’s efforts to educate the public on Autism and assured them of the county government’s support.

“As part of the County Government you have our support. In fact, there is a bill at the County Assembly Known as The Kiambu County Persons with Disability Bill, 2024 which is gaining momentum as an important legislation and if passed into law,

it would establish a framework to safeguard the rights of persons living disabilities in Kiambu County,” Bacha said.

Ms Bacha also added that she is in talks with the Safaricom Foundation to build a school for people living with disability in Kiambu County that will be fully equipped and cost friendly.

“I understand that special needs schools can be expensive, that is why I am in talks with representatives from the Safaricom Foundation to build a school for people living

with disability in Kiambu that will be cheap and fully equipped,” Bacha said

She further announced a modelling event for caregivers and people living with disabilities that will be held by the end of this year.

“I urge all caregivers to please come out in large numbers and participate in the event once it is announced. Let us come and celebrate with each other,” Bacha said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the prevalence of autism is estimated to be around 1 in 68 children but Autism Society of Kenya (ASK), a parent-driven organisation believes it could be up to 4 percent, or one autistic child for every 25 children.

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognised day marked annually on April 2, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about autistic individuals throughout the world.

This year’s theme is ‘Empowering Autistic Voices,’ which aims to provide greater support and empowerment to individuals with autism, enabling them to lead meaningful lives and pursue successful careers.

Budget And Appropriations Committee Considering The Budget Implementation For The Financial Year 2023/24

By: PSCU

On the first half of the Financial Year 2023/24, the total revenue received in the Consolidated Fund was KSh1.445 trillion, which is a 34 per cent performance against the total annual projection of KSh4.281 trillion.

This comprised of tax revenue, non-tax revenue, domestic borrowing, external loans and grants, and other domestic financing.

This emerged during a meeting held by the Budget and Appropriations Committee with officials from the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), as the Committee embarks on the consideration of the Budget Implementation for the Financial Year 2023/24.

Further, the Committee Members were informed that in the in the first six months of the Financial Year



Some of the committee members during the session

2023/24, the overall sectoral expenditure amounted to KSh950 billion, against a total sector allocation of KSh2.464 trillion, which was equivalent to 38.6 percent of the total sector approved budget in Supplementary 1.

The Committee was also briefed

on the revenue projections for the 2023/24 budget, whereby the administrative measures coupled with the revenue-raising measures contained in the Finance Act 2023, are expected to increase ordinary revenue collection from 14.1 per cent of GDP, at KSh2.042 trillion in FY 2022/23 to

15.8 per cent of GDP, at KSh2.571 trillion in FY 2023/24.

On the State of the Economy, Kenya’s growth is expected to remain strong amid domestic and global headwinds. This is based on the National Treasury’s estimates, where the economy is projected to expand

by 5.5 per cent in 2024, and above 6 per cent on average, in the medium term.

The growth is premised to be driven by the easing of the cost of living on account of improved agricultural output, including food production, and declining global prices.

In addition to that, global growth is projected to increase to 3.1 per cent in 2024, which is attributed to reduced inflation which is poised to support demand, and improved global trade. However, the geopolitical conflicts between Russian and Ukraine, and Israel and Hamas; remain a huge risk to global supply chains.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee will engage various stakeholders including the Controller of Budget, the Commission on Revenue Allocation, the National Treasury and Economic Planning, the Auditor-General and the Central Bank of Kenya in the coming days.

Gathoni And Babu Owino Vow To Impeach CS Nakhumicha

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

Githunguri Member of Parliament Gathoni Wamuchomba says she is ready to spearhead a motion to impeach health cabinet secretary Susan Nakhumicha once Parliament resumes from recess. In a news conference, Wamuchomba who was flanked by her Embakasi East Counterpart Babu Owino, Embakasi West MP Mark Mwenje, Starehe MP Amos Mwago said they are going to impeach Nakhumicha because of her inefficiency and casual way of addressing the health workers strike. Wamuchomba noted: "It's a pity that the Cabinet Secretary has been moving up and down in funerals instead of providing a candid and tangible solution to the ongoing industrial action. This is totally unacceptable and even if we shall just be ten members of Parliament, we shall table a motion to send her home," she noted.



Embakasi East MP Babu Owino addressing the media.

She added, "Nakhumicha is also a letdown to the womenfolk of this Nation. How many more women must die during childbirth because of lack of skilled attendants in health facilities before she acts? Our joy to have her as one of our own to head the crucial health docket has turned to sorrow," Wamuchomba noted. She at the same time said they are more than ready to continue calling out corruption in government, the

latest to manifest itself being the fake fertilizer scam. "We won't be cowed by threats of being arrested. Prison was built for people and not animals. We are ready to stand for the truth and Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Limturi must own up to the fake fertilizer scam and come out clearly because the buck stops with him," Wamuchomba concluded. On his part Embakasi East MP Babu



Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba vowed to impeach CS Health Susan Nakhumicha.

Owino threw his weight behind the censure motion for the removal of Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha on grounds of incompetence and gross violation of the Constitution. Babu intends to edge out the Health Cabinet Secretary for failing to avert the doctor's strike entering the third week on Thursday affecting millions

of Kenyans. "The CS has further failed to appreciate the seriousness of the strike and has failed to provide a lasting solution to settle the demands of the medics including the hiring of interns/trainee doctors and payment of salary arrears," he noted.

The Mt. Kenya Times



14 POEMS

When Women Gather



When Women Gather, The Topic Of Happiness Often Arises.

Some say their happiness lies in their work, while others find it in their children and family. Another person mentions that good living conditions bring them joy, emphasizing the importance of basic needs like food. As one listens to these diverse perspectives, it becomes evident that happiness encompasses various aspects.

Moreover, it is believed that making a woman happy does not necessarily require extravagant gifts, but rather the ability to express heartfelt words that resonate with her delicate heart. Our grandmothers seek to guide their daughters towards a path of beauty and happiness, emphasizing that traditional measurements and standards are inadequate in capturing a woman's true essence.

When we think of a woman, we are reminded of our beloved mothers, respected grandmothers, and cherished sisters. Despite our best efforts to shower them with attention and care, we acknowledge that it is never enough. This

sentiment is beautifully captured in a narration from Bakhz ibn Hakim, where the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) emphasizes the importance of showing kindness and respect first to one's mother, then to one's father, and finally to close relatives:

I asked, "Oh, Messenger of God, who should I do good for?"
 "To your mother," he said.
 "Then to whom?" I asked.
 "To your mother," they said.
 "Then to whom?" I asked.
 "To your mother," he said.
 "Then to whom?" - I asked.
 He said, "To your father and then to your close relatives."

Indeed, a woman has the power to illuminate the world with her grace and beauty.

Abdunazarova Khushroy was born on December 21, 2008 in Jamashuy town, Mingbulak district, Namangan region, republic of Uzbekistan. She is currently a 9th grade student of the 15th specialized school. Winner of republican and international contests, participant of the regional stage of the Zulfiya state award, ambassador to 5 countries, coordinator, volunteer, member of more than 10 international organizations, author of many poems. Many creative works have seen the world. Member of "Leader Ladies club". Winner of the 1st place in the interschool "Zakovat" intellectual game. Participant of the "Young Reader" contest. She wants to become a translator in the future.

A Learned Person Is Not Despised

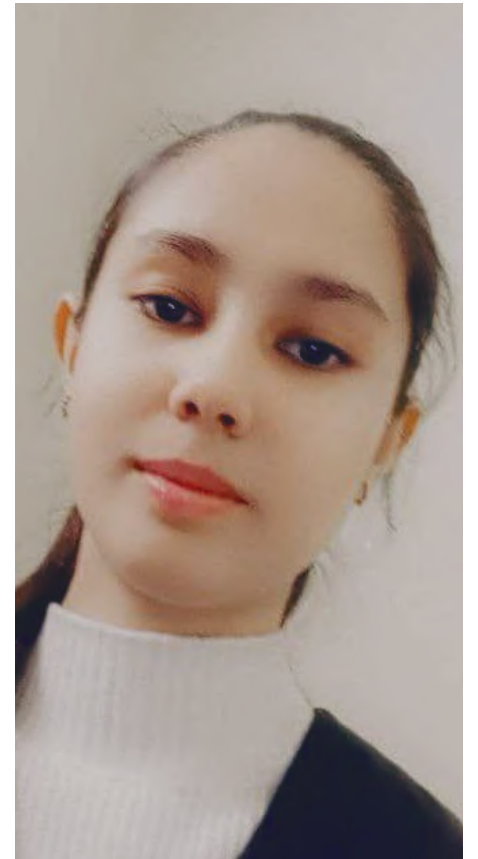
Learning remains the need of the times. Because the country needs qualified personnel. Learning is also necessary for a person himself.

Knowledgeable people have a wide range of thinking. They are needed for the future of the country. Such people can get out of any situation.

If we compare a person without knowledge and a person with knowledge, the thinking of a person with knowledge is strong. A person should read at least 10-20 pages of books every day. If we read books, our thinking will expand.

After all, they say, "A knowledgeable person will not be humiliated; he will not struggle for bread."

Kurolova Dilnura was born on 17th October 2009 at district of Khorezm region. I am currently studying in the 8th grade of school 30th Gurlan district.



Spring.. Came In With Its Unique Expressions



And made all hearts happy.

The purity of the sky, the soft chirping of birds, and the gurgling water flowing from the streams bring peace to one's heart.

The trees are budding, each branch is growing differently..

The grass on the ground is green. Well, if you don't know how beautiful our village will be with the arrival of spring, won't you tell me how special it is?

The holidays of this season are celebrated in a different way. For example, recently we celebrated the Navruz holiday in a cheerful spirit.. Children fly in the wide skies, and sumacs boil in doshkazans. The fun is in full swing. Everyone was happy with the music. This is why I love Spring!

Saidova Shahzoda Alisher's daughter. She was born on September 27, 2006 in Kattakorgan district of Samarkand region. She is currently an 11th grade student at the 66th General Secondary School.

Prince enjoys writing short stories and articles in his spare time. We wish them success in their future endeavors!

Butterfly



You fly in the flower beds,
 You hug the flowers well.
 A lot of playing in my gardens,
 You fly high

*
 butterfly butterfly,
 You got this beauty right.
 From the moon or from the sky
 Tell me you are so beautiful.

Live even if it's short,
 You fly proud.
 I wish you life
 More sparkly butterfly.

Ganiyeva Asila Otabek's daughter, I was born on August 10, 2006 in Altinsoy district, Surkhandarya region. I am currently a student of the 1st Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature of the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages.

Butterfly butterfly,
 Tell me you are so beautiful.
 Your colorful wings,
 They give you beauty.

**

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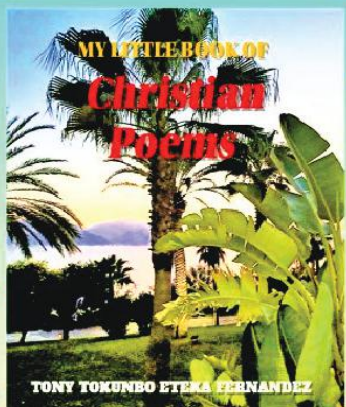
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Watu Credit Kenya and Boda-Boda Association of Kenya Host Financial Literacy Clinic for Motorbike Riders

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Watu Credit Kenya and Boda Boda Association of Kenya have partnered to host a series of financial literacy clinics for boda-boda (motorbike) riders.

These clinics will provide an opportunity for Watu Credit Kenya to directly engage and connect with its customers. By listening to their feedback and addressing their concerns, Watu aims to ensure timely loan repayments, reduce instances of repossessions, and ultimately empower riders to achieve financial stability and responsible financial practices.

The first round of the clinics, which aim to empower the riders with essential financial literacy skills to manage their finances effectively,



was held in Molo town, Nakuru County.

“We view our customers as partners, not adversaries, and we are not at war with them. We acknowledge the current tough economic times, and the clinic provided us with a platform to listen to our customers and assure them that we are here to support them in navigating and addressing any challenges they face,”

Erick Massawe Country Manager for Watu Kenya said.

“By investing in our customers’ financial education, we are confident in creating a ripple effect of positive change across the country fostering a culture of responsible financial behaviour and economic empowerment in line with the government’s bottom-up economic agenda.”

During the clinic, participants had

the opportunity to engage with the company representatives, share their challenges, and receive assurance of Watu’s commitment to working collaboratively with them. Beyond financial literacy, the event also served as a platform to advocate for the mainstreaming of the boda-boda sector, with a goal of improving the riders’ livelihoods and improving industry ethos and practices.

“With the support of the legislators, we aim to advocate for policies that promote the sector’s growth, improve safety standards, and cultivate ethical practices within the industry,” Victor Getenya, Watu Credit Kenya Sales and Marketing Manager said.

The boda-boda sector plays a crucial role in Kenya, supporting over 1.2 million individuals in accessing employment opportunities, transporting goods, and providing essential services.

“We believe that financial literacy is the cornerstone of sustainable economic development. Our partnership with Watu Credit Kenya empowers our members with financial knowledge. This is a sustainable way to create a positive impact within the communities,” Boda-boda Association of Kenya Chairman Kevin Mubadi said.

Watu Credit recognizes the significance of the boda-boda sector and is dedicated to supporting its customers beyond financial assistance. Over the years, Watu has undertaken various initiatives to support the bodaboda sector with the introduction of non-financial initiatives including, the introduction of electric motorbikes, the establishment of a boda-boda riding school (Watu Shule) to reduce road accidents, the development of charging and battery swapping stations and introduction of a pre-owned motorbikes.

CS Mutua Kick Starts Activities To Rejuvenate Tourism Sector

By: Hussein Abdullahi
@themkenyatimes

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua has launched activities that could revive the tourism industry to contribute immensely to the national economy.

Dr Mutua is spearheading a countrywide campaign dubbed “Utalii Fresh,” a strategic roadmap that seeks to uncover Kenya’s hidden tourism treasures and move the sector to the next level.

Speaking in Kwale County, the CS said his ministry is collaborating with the 47 devolved governments in the development of their rich tourism destinations and potentials.

Dr Mutua says his ministry is determined to revitalise the country’s tourism industry by investing in critical infrastructure like access roads, installing solar lighting along the beaches and strategic marketing to attract high spending tourists.

He says the campaign seeks to turn the tourism potentials in the counties into reality and promote tourism as a major foreign exchange earner and create jobs.

The CS was in Kwale County for his #UtaliiFresh county tours and announced that his visits will explore potential collaborations and partnerships to ensure that counties benefit from tourism opportunities. He noted that Kenya has a strong



comparative advantage in the hospitality and tourism sector because of its diverse cultural heritage.

CS Mutua termed the #UtaliiFresh campaign as a recipe for reviving sustainable and responsible tourism and repositioning it as a key sector in the national economy.

He says his vision is to unlock the untapped tourism potential of every corner of the country and take development to the grassroots.

“All around the world tourism plays an important role in the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage,” he said, adding that efforts would be made to ensure heritage sites and monuments throughout the country are preserved.

The CS accompanied by Governor Fatuma Achani visited a number of sites that the county intends to develop into attractive tourists’ sites in Diani.

Diani beach is the preferred holiday destination for both domestic and foreign tourists and each year it receives a record number of holiday-makers arriving to savour its beautiful scenery.

The resort town of Diani with its clear blue water and white sandy beaches have seen the South Coast town voted the best destination beach in Africa for six years in a row by the World Travel Awards.

The minister also held talks with tourism stakeholders and investors who presented their views on the challenges and opportunities in the tour, travel and hospitality sector.

Dr Mutua is asking the county governments to develop cultural experiences that would not only attract tourists but also benefit local economies and empower communities.

The Tourism CS says he has agreed with the Kwale County leadership

on several initiatives aimed at enhancing the coastal county’s tourism sector.

“Key commitments include supporting the rehabilitation of the Diani tourist market and the construction of the Kwale Heritage and Convention Centre,” he said.

He also announced the establishment of a modern recreation facility along the historic Kongo beach blending preservation of the area’s history with contemporary amenities.

Dr Mutua says Kongo Beach is renowned for its potential in Halal (Shariah compliant) Tourism development and noted that the government sees a potential market of foreign Muslim travelers, especially from the Middle East.

He says the national government has set its eyes on the Arabian travel markets as an important growth area for the coastal counties of Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Lamu tourism sector.

Mutua said the government will take steps to get a slice of the growing Muslim tourism market by participating in the Arabian Travel Markets.

He said Muslim customers from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Oman, Iran and Turkey specifically look for tour packages that can guarantee them to perform prayer five times a day during travel.

Mutua also noted that in terms of

food, they demand products that only use halal materials and are processed in compliance with Islamic rules.

Governor Achani says the devolved unit will set up a state-of-the-art conference facility in Diani and has already allocated Sh 40 million for the development of the necessary public services and utilities.

“Our discussions focused on strategies on possible partnership areas between the Kwale County government and the ministry of tourism to grow and bolster the tourism numbers in our county,” she said.

She says the national government needs to partner with devolved governments and other stakeholders if the tourism industry is to be properly harnessed.

The coastal county boss says Kwale will reposition itself as a top Halal friendly destination as the hospitality industry already has outstanding halal tourism infrastructure to cater for the Muslim travelers.

“As a Muslim it’s important to ensure that your travel arrangements including food and accommodation are Halal especially if you intend on travelling during the Muslim holiday seasons,” she said.

She urged stakeholders to offer tour packages with extended services such as allocating times for praying in the itinerary of Muslim tourists and offering halal food.

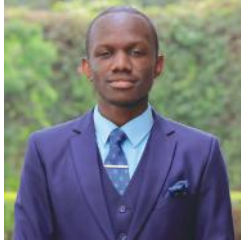


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Towards A Resilient Workforce: Climate Finance As A Cornerstone For Labour Rights In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Climate Finance .

Worth Noting:

- Compounding these challenges is the issue of climate finance, which refers to the flow of funds from developed to developing countries to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Despite being a signatory to the Paris Agreement and other international climate accords, Kenya has struggled to secure adequate climate finance, hampering its ability to implement effective strategies for protecting workers and building resilience against climate impacts.

- The lack of climate finance has far-reaching implications for labour rights in Kenya. Without sufficient resources, the government faces difficulties in providing essential services, such as vocational training and social safety nets, to support workers transitioning to more sustainable livelihoods.

Kenya, a country rich in natural resources and cultural heritage, faces a daunting challenge in the face of climate change. As temperatures rise and weather patterns become increasingly erratic, the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans are at risk, particularly those in agriculture and pastoralism. Addressing this crisis requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing not only environmental policies but also a comprehensive framework for protecting labour rights and ensuring equitable access to climate finance.

The Kenyan labour force is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Agriculture, which employs over 60% of the population, is heavily dependent on predictable rainfall patterns and favourable weather conditions. As droughts become more frequent and severe, crop yields decline, putting the food security and incomes of smallholder farmers at risk. Furthermore, extreme weather events such as floods can lead to displacement, disrupting labour markets and exacerbating poverty.

The consequences of climate change extend beyond the agricultural sector. Workers in industries such as tourism, fishing, and construction are also

affected by the changing climate. For instance, rising sea levels and coral bleaching threaten coastal tourism, while increased frequency of extreme weather events can disrupt construction projects and damage infrastructure. These impacts not only threaten job security but also compromise workers' rights to a safe and healthy working environment.

Compounding these challenges is the issue of climate finance, which refers to the flow of funds from developed to developing countries to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Despite being a signatory to the Paris Agreement and other international climate accords, Kenya has struggled to secure adequate climate finance, hampering its ability to implement effective strategies for protecting workers and building resilience against climate impacts.

The lack of climate finance has far-reaching implications for labour rights in Kenya. Without sufficient resources, the government faces difficulties in providing essential services, such as vocational training and social safety nets, to support workers transitioning to more sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, limited fund-

ing hinders the development of climate-resilient infrastructure, leaving workers exposed to the risks posed by extreme weather events.

Supplementally, the inequitable distribution of climate finance exacerbates existing socioeconomic disparities, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities and vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. These groups often lack access to resources and opportunities, making them more susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change on employment and working conditions.

To address these challenges, Kenya must adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach that prioritizes labour rights and climate finance. This approach should involve strengthening legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of labour standards and environmental regulations. By aligning labour policies with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, Kenya can create a conducive environment for sustainable and equitable economic growth.

Improving access to climate finance is a crucial component of this

approach. Kenya should actively engage with international financial institutions, donor countries, and the private sector to mobilize resources for climate action. These funds should be strategically allocated to support initiatives that promote green jobs, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, and provide social protection for workers affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Equally important is the need for capacity building and knowledge sharing. By investing in research and development, Kenya can enhance its understanding of the linkages between climate change, labour rights, and economic development. This knowledge can inform evidence-based policymaking and foster collaboration among stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, trade unions, and the private sector.

Alongside, Kenya should prioritize the participation of workers and marginalized communities in decision-making processes related to climate action and labour policies. Inclusive governance ensures that the needs and perspectives of those most affected by climate change are adequately represented, leading to more effective and equitable solutions.

Addressing the interplay between labour rights and climate finance in Kenya is not only a legal imperative but also a moral obligation. By protecting the rights of workers and ensuring equitable access to climate finance, Kenya can build a more resilient and sustainable future for its citizens. This requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, guided by the principles of social justice, environmental stewardship, and intergenerational equity.

In conclusion, the challenges posed by climate change to labour rights and climate finance in Kenya are multifaceted and complex. However, by adopting a comprehensive and inclusive approach, strengthening legal frameworks, mobilizing climate finance, promoting capacity building, and fostering stakeholder engagement, Kenya can pave the way for a just transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy that protects the rights and livelihoods of its workers.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Golden Disease



By: **Carolove Oyola**

In the lands of Kitere, Migori County, a silent battle rages beneath the surface alongside the pursuit of gold. Beyond the glimmering promise of wealth lies a stark reality. The toll of disease and hardship on the miners who toil tirelessly in search of fortune.

The miners of Kitere are no strangers to adversity. From the moment they set foot in the mines, they are confronted with a myriad of health hazards, ranging from respiratory illnesses caused by constant exposure to dust and fumes, to debilitating musculoskeletal injuries resulting from strenuous labor. The harsh working conditions, coupled with limited access to proper healthcare facilities, leave miners vulnerable to a host of ailments, with little recourse for relief.

The most unfortunate part is that most of the mining areas are not owned by the locals but are instead leased out to some foreigners who have owned most of the places hence the locals are forced to be nothing but miners who

work under unfavourable conditions without the maximum protection required.

Yes! Many of our colleagues have died in these pits. But that does not mean that we stop work. The game must continue at whatever cost since our stomachs also do not stop receiving food and our demands for basic things do not cease at any point," says a male miner Joseph who has been mining for the past 8 years.

Goldminers at Kitere gold mining area washing some sand to get gold.

In recent years, concerns have been growing over the health risks faced by people living around gold mining areas. Research has shown that these individuals are at a higher risk of developing a range of serious illnesses due to exposure to toxic substances like mercury and cyanide, which are commonly used in the gold extraction process.

Getting an opportunity to talk to the former health minister, Migori County, Mr Nyamita who happens to be a resident in kitere, he says that people

living in close proximity to gold mining operations are at a higher risk of contracting diseases like cancer, respiratory illnesses, and neurological disorders. These health risks are caused by exposure to toxic chemicals that are used in the extraction process and can leach into the environment, contaminating the air, water, and soil.

One of the most pervasive health challenges facing miners in Kitere is mercury poisoning, a consequence of the widespread use of mercury in the extraction process. As miners crush and grind the ore in search of gold, mercury is often added to the mixture to separate the gold from the surrounding rock. However, the toxic fumes released during this process can have devastating effects on the health of miners and their families, leading to neurological damage, kidney failure, and even death.

Cyanide is another hazardous chemical used in gold mining. It can cause severe respiratory problems, as well as skin and eye irritation. Exposure to cyanide can also lead to long-term health

problems, such as heart disease, neurological disorders, and cancer.

In many cases, people living around gold mining areas are not aware of the health risks they face. They may not have access to information about the toxic chemicals used in the mining process, and may not have the resources to protect themselves and their families from exposure.

The owners of the mining areas the Chinese are not taking care of their workers and sadly nothing can be done about that since the only people to work into that is the county government which they have never done anything about it, he added.

The miners have to suffer in silence with these diseases for all they want is to get money to feed their families in which at some point they end up using the money in treating the diseases they contract while mining and that gives a reason as to why however how much money they get, they do not have a chance to improve their livelihoods. For them, the risks are a part of daily life, a sacrifice made in pursuit of a

dream that remains just out of reach. Yet, amidst the darkness, there are glimmers of hope – grassroots initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the health risks of mining, and advocating for safer working conditions.

As the sun sets over the hills of Kitere, the miners return to their homes, weary but unbowed. Theirs is a story of resilience in the face of adversity, of courage in the midst of uncertainty. Though the road ahead may be fraught with challenges, they remain steadfast in their determination to carve out a brighter future for themselves and their community. For in the heart of Kitere, amidst the trials and tribulations of gold mining, the human spirit endures.

The big question is who is to be blamed for all this. Quitting for the miners is the last thing for them to even consider doing, is it that the government is not aware of their situations and come to their rescue or why are these foreigners neglecting the safety of their workers?

The Doctors Strike Eating Innocent Souls

Agony and pain for 21 days now, the warriors seem not to be tired of fighting. Kenyans are losing their loved one's every day and doom surrounds every patient all over the country.

They publicly display the bangles, 'the mortuary is doing well than the hospital'.

The sorrow and grief is expected to deepen as from doctors and clinicians

to lab technicians joining the battle to assist their cohorts to fight for their welfare and rights. The Health Director General on Tuesday night on an interview with local tv says the government has settled the Collective Bargaining Agreement, CBA, of 2017-2021 that is a majority hot cake in the ongoing Doctors strike. The statement is obnoxious to the

doctors, with the KMPDU Secretary general Dr Davji Atallah, claiming that no payment arrears to the doctors have been made.

The strike has now lasted for 23 days and still hot, the situation further seems to worsen with the lab technicians also joining the strike from today midnight. Where is the truth and lie here?.

It's a very difficult time for Kenyans seeking health services from public health facilities, since the doctors are nowhere but on the road. Where is the Cabinet secretary for health, where is the president, whom the medics say he is everything to end the battle. Kenyans are tired, weak and sickly.

Many lives are going just because of

the strike, hide and seek game has of doctors and the government has now turned into a disaster. Kenyans do not deserve this.

**Brian Barasa
Rongo**

Mosquito-Borne Disease Battle: Kenya's Ongoing Struggle And Strategies

By **Ruth Adhiambo**

In Kenya, the fight against mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever has been a long-standing challenge. Despite significant efforts, these diseases continue to pose a threat to public health, especially in rural and urban areas. This article explores Kenya's ongoing struggle against mosquito-borne illnesses and highlights the multifaceted strategies being implemented to combat them, ranging from preventive measures to community engagement initiatives.

Every year, the world commemorates "world mosquito day" on August by coming together to foster the groundbreaking discovery made by Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that identified the role of mosquitoes in transmitting malaria. This day not only raises awareness about the dev-

astating impact of mosquito-borne diseases but also emphasizes the importance of continued efforts in mosquito control and disease prevention. One country that has been significantly affected by mosquito-borne illnesses is Kenya.

Kenya, a country located in East Africa, has faced the challenges posed by mosquito-borne diseases for decades. Malaria remains one of the most prevalent health issues in the country, with Anopheles mosquitoes transmitting the Plasmodium parasite to humans. Despite extensive efforts to combat malaria, it still accounts for a significant number of illnesses and deaths in Kenya, particularly among young children and pregnant women.

Another mosquito-borne disease of concern in Kenya is dengue fever. While malaria tends to be more wide-

spread in rural areas, dengue fever has increasingly become a problem in urban centers. The Aedes mosquito, particularly Aedes aegypti, is the vector responsible for spreading dengue virus. Cases of dengue fever have been reported in different parts of Kenya, including Mombasa and Nairobi.

In recent years, Kenya has taken various measures to combat mosquito-borne diseases. These efforts include:

Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs): The distribution of ITNs to communities at risk has been a crucial strategy in preventing malaria. By sleeping under these nets, individuals can significantly reduce their exposure to mosquito bites during the night when Anopheles mosquitoes are most active.

Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS): In-

door spraying with insecticides helps to kill mosquitoes that come into contact with treated surfaces. This approach is particularly effective in areas with high malaria transmission rates.

Health Education and Awareness: Public health campaigns educate communities about the importance of eliminating stagnant water sources, which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. People are also educated about the signs and symptoms of mosquito-borne diseases.

Research and Surveillance: Ongoing research helps to understand mosquito behavior, disease transmission patterns, and emerging threats. This knowledge is crucial for developing effective control strategies.

Vaccination: The introduction of vaccines, such as the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine, has shown promise

in reducing the risk of severe malaria in children.

Community Engagement: Engaging local communities in mosquito control efforts, such as clean-up campaigns and waste management, can help reduce mosquito breeding sites.

In conclusion, World Mosquito Day serves as a reminder of the ongoing battle against mosquito-borne diseases. Kenya, like many other countries, continues to face the challenges of malaria and dengue fever. Through a combination of prevention measures, education, research, and community involvement, the country is striving to reduce the burden of these diseases and create a healthier future for its citizens.

Autism Rate By Country Ranks Kenya At No. 46 With More Boys Than Girls On The Autism Spectrum

By: Senator Crystal Asige
 @themtkenyatimes



Senator Crystal Asige

Worth Noting:

- Worse still, autistic persons are often targets of bullying, with autistic children especially vulnerable to kidnapping, getting lost and other physical harm as they are prone to wandering when out and about.
- With the right support such as speech and language therapy, occupation therapy, behavioural therapy, play therapy, dietary interventions, training on social skills, provision of alternative and augmentative modes of communication among others, persons with autism can lead full lives and participate in everyday activities.
- Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Bill Gates, Michaelangelo, Isaac Newton, Nikola Tesla, and Elon Musk are all on the spectrum and look at what they have done to shape our world.

Statistics show that approximately 75 million people worldwide are on the autism spectrum. While 1 in 88 children are diagnosed with autism, it is reported that more boys are likely to be on the spectrum than girls.

It is even more alarming to know that more children will be diagnosed as autistic than those with Cancer, HIV/AIDS, and Diabetes combined.

Every year, the world observes the United Nations World Autism Day on April 2 to raise awareness about the causes, symptoms and prevention of autism. This year the focus is to create a world where we support, champion and celebrate individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which is a growing global health issue.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), Autism Spectrum Disorders are a diverse group of conditions characterised by some degree of difficulty with social interaction, communication, and repetitive and restricted behavior. Due to these traits, ASD historically has been diagnosed as Schizophrenia.

In Kenya autism affects approximately 4% of the population, or 2.2 million people, at varying degrees across the spectrum, with Kenya ranked at number 46 globally. These populations, both children and adults, face multiple challenges

throughout their lives as a majority of them are minimalist speaking or non-verbal or do not identify social cues as easily as their neurotypical peers.

Worse still, autistic persons are often targets of bullying, with autistic children especially vulnerable to kidnapping, getting lost and other physical harm as they are prone to wandering when out and about.

With the right support such as speech and language therapy, occupation therapy, behavioural therapy, play therapy, dietary interventions, training on social skills, provision of alternative and augmentative modes of communication among others, persons with autism can lead full lives and participate in everyday activities.

Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Bill Gates, Michaelangelo, Isaac Newton, Nikola Tesla, and Elon Musk are all on the spectrum and look at what they have done to shape our world.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of supporting policies, training and infrastructure to integrate them into society from an early age (early intervention), persons with autism generally lag behind in education, employment, and ultimately socio-economics when they are adults. Currently, the country has estab-

lished a unit for autistic learners based at the City Primary School in Nairobi that opened in 2003, joining a host of private schools which have been offering this specialized learning. Learners with autism can now access education in facilities across counties.

However, with the ratio of institutions offering this specialised training being extremely low, they are only really attainable to those with financial means.

Those in contrary circumstances continue to face huge hurdles of access due to geography, poverty, poor health facilities, and difficulties in accessing easy to read and comprehend materials, low autism awareness and stigma. Many autistic learners are in 'traditional' educational systems where there is a dire need to ensure that non-disabled learners are taught to understand, accept, and not discriminate against them.

Although my Persons With Disabilities Bill (PWD) (Senate Bill no. 7 of 2023), for the first time gives provisions specific to persons with Neurodiverse disabilities, there is a need as a country for us to put in place budgets to train County Health Officers, teachers and parents of autistic learners on early intervention through the Ministry of Health.

My bill also mandates that government ministries put in place measures where therapy can be offered in schools rather than in hospitals alone.

In over-sighting hundreds of health facilities, parents and caregivers are forced to choose between going to work and taking leave off work as often as once a week, in order to take their children to therapy sessions. As you can imagine, these regular leave requests brew a quiet frustration with employers and become a covert excuse for dismissal, leading to more poverty in such families. A new clause in my PWD Bill on the tax exemption of parents and legal caregivers of persons with such conditions seeks to reduce the financial burden that goes into taking care of their loved ones.

The treatment of people with autism can also be improved by monitoring of autistic learners directly in schools and reporting cases of abuse expeditiously. Many autistic children face corporal punishment as their behaviour may be mistaken for indiscipline. Due to cultural and attitudinal barriers existing in society parents and caregivers with little knowledge of intervention may resort to religious exorcisms, beatings and isolation.

Current legislations seem to negate the fundamental principle of legal capacity, assuming that individuals with developmental disabilities are of unsound mind, and limit them from voting or being elected, freely entering into marriage, accessing financial services, and giving consent to sexual activity.

I implore Members of Parliament in the National Assembly entrusted to develop the national Budget Policy Statement, to issue more equitable allocations of resources that prioritise matters surrounding persons with disabilities - which are desperately underfunded - to improve our learning environments, train public servants and champion widespread disability awareness that educates Kenyans on the signs, symptoms and facts related to neurodiverse conditions.

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EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



Female Lawmakers Advocate For Implementation Of Two-Thirds Gender Rule

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) has today held a meeting with the Multi Sectoral Working Group (MSWG) and the chairperson for the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, Mr. George Murugara to push for the implementation of the two-thirds gender rule in Kenya.

Speaking during the meeting, KEWOPA's chairperson Ms. Leah Sankaire (Kajiado) expressed dismay over the initial exclusion of the two-thirds gender rule from the NADCO report and the failure to provide the Multi-Sectoral Working Group with a timeline to incorporate their suggestions promptly, instead of addressing the issue as an addendum.

"As Women in Kenya, we feel you made it deliberate and technical to dilute the weight of the two-thirds gender rule and that it doesn't go through," said Ms. Sankaire.

The association's vice chairperson, Ms. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti) ques-



Nairobi Woman Rep Esther Passaris.

tioned the disregard of the presidential memorandum on the same.

On her part, Ms. Esther Passaris (Nairobi) underscored JLAC's obligation, urging compliance to ensure gender equity in legislative representation.

"We aren't asking for things that aren't within our rights. Just comply with the constitution because you know what to do," remarked Passaris.

Also adding her voice, Ms. Milly Mabona (Suba North) emphasized

the need for proper coordination as Kenya Women Parliamentarians.

In response to queries, Mr. Murugara defended the decision to relegate the gender rule to an addendum to the NADCO report.

"An addendum is as good as the report itself", said Mr. Murugara.

He noted that the two-third gender rule was removed from the NADCO report and assigned the Multi-Sectoral Working Group to deal with and submit its findings.



Association Vicechair and Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi addressing the members..

JLAC's chairperson also took women lawmakers through the unpacking of the NADCO report and the status of the two-thirds gender rule stating that his Committee is in receipt of the report and shall soon be reviewing it. He also distanced himself from the notion that his Committee had already agreed on a formula for its implementation.

"We haven't agreed on the formula yet. We shall only adopt 1 out of the 3 submitted proposals," stated Mr. Murugara.

Acknowledging the critical role of political goodwill, the Multi-Sectoral

Working Group underscored the importance of Parliamentary compliance, warning of potential political ramifications.

"For as long as parliament isn't compliant, there are serious political consequences," said Ms. Daisy Amdany, a representative of the Multi-Sectoral Working Group.

In her closing remarks, Sankaire rallied women legislators to heed the call and support its implementation, stressing the potential to foster gender inclusivity and the creation of opportunities for women in the country.

Today's Guidance

What Is Weighing You Down?

By: Dipa Sharma

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

The current challenges primarily revolve around financial matters. Despite diligent efforts to maintain balance, unexpected expenses have significantly disrupted the financial stability. Some individuals are grappling with difficulties in securing investors for their projects, while others feel undervalued in their current employment. Additionally, concerns over debt accumulation and anxiety regarding savings are prevalent. Within relationships, there's a palpable sense of imbalance, leading

to potential feelings of resentment or dissatisfaction. Unequal power dynamics and feelings of indebtedness to partners further compound these issues. The overarching goal is to establish an equitable partnership where love, support, and resources are shared openly and fairly, nurturing a healthy and harmonious dynamic.

How can you address these issue/situations in healthy manner?

You can overcome these challenges by systematically pursuing your goals. This period requires dedication, commitment, determination, and effort. Your hard work will not be in vain, as your perseverance will eventually lead to benefits or the achievement of your objectives. Do not give up, even though it may feel tiresome, dull, or never-ending at times. You are on the brink of accomplishing significant successes. The skills you are cultivating now will serve you well throughout your life, and you will emerge from this experience with not only newfound self-awareness but also a sense of accomplishment and confidence in realizing your goals.

What action(s) can you take to prevent this situation/issue?

Ensure that your decisions are grounded in factual analysis rather than emotional impulses. Take into account all facets of a situation before reaching conclusions. Embrace constructive criticism as a means to foster personal growth and improvement, even if it may be initially unappealing. Uphold honesty and fairness as fundamental principles in cultivating healthy relationships, alongside empathy and emotional understanding. Clarify your values to discern what qualities and attributes you seek in a romantic partnership. Maintain independence and focus on your objectives, utilizing critical thinking and composure to navigate challenges without disruption. Establish clear boundaries and remain steadfast in not allowing others to provoke irritation or distraction.

What can you do to help lift some of the weight right now?

Embrace the pursuit of truth and justice, striving for clarity and honesty in every aspect of your life. This inclination may signal a passion for advocating a cause or asserting your

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes



rights. Approach the world with a fresh perspective, recognizing its abundance of new possibilities. Success awaits if you channel this energy into purposeful action, despite encountering occasional obstacles along the way. Maintain a positive outlook, knowing that with determination and insight, you can navigate through challenges with ease. Let your actions be direct and purposeful, reflecting the truth and wisdom you have acquired.

Krishna's message for you

In this auspicious moment of learning, I see the radiance of your dedication illuminating the path ahead. Your unwavering commitment and relentless effort are testimony to your divine resolve. With each step you take, you fortify the foundation of your journey, laying the groundwork for the glorious edifice of success that

awaits you. Know that every challenge you have faced has been a mere stepping stone on the path to greatness. Your perseverance has been your shield, and your faith has been your guiding light. Now, as you stand on the precipice of triumph, the fruits of your labor are ripening, ready to be savored. In our sacred collaboration, I shall forever stand by your side, offering guidance and support as you navigate the celestial currents of destiny. Together, we shall transcend the limitations of the mundane and soar to the sublime heights of spiritual fulfillment. Let your heart be filled with joy, for you are a beacon of divine grace in this world. Embrace the blessings that flow abundantly towards you, and know that your journey is blessed by the divine hand of providence.

Jakaranda Health Widens Management Team

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themtkenyatimes



Jacaranda Health, a leading multinational healthcare provider has taken a major administrative restructuring to cope with her ever expanding presence in the African continent with at least 1300 facilities in three countries.

The move comes after the group appointed the country director Cynthia Kahumbura to the position of Executive Director, alongside colleagues Nick Pearson and Sathy Rajasekharan who four years ago joined the team as the Director of Operations during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cynthia was instrumental in advancing the organization's scale trajectory from barely 100 to over 1,300 facilities across 22 counties, and three countries in 2024.

Her promotion to Co-Executive

Director reflects the new strategic positioning as a global organization, while affirming a continued emphasis on scaling nationally in Kenya.

In her acceptance speech following her appointment Cynthia explains that her new role was aligning with and driving forward the national Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda to ensure the programs were adopted within the wider health system for posterity.

She declared her resolve to advocate for the inclusion of women's voices in matters health and guarantee that their feedback translates to action at

the county level.

'We have the privilege at Jacaranda of giving people who wouldn't otherwise have a voice in the health system a channel to influence decisions right at the top,' she says.

Cynthia observed that feedback system through the PROMPTS was a game-changer in real-life improvements in a certain facility stories from our field team citing the mother 'Stories like a frontline nurse being trained on postpartum hemorrhage one week and then saving a life the next, or how a mother's feedback via It inspires me every day as our team



Cynthia Kahumbura

grew from 45 to more than 100 facilities but maintained a true on-the-ground presence" she said.

Currently at least 95% of Jacaranda's staff are based in Kenya, with five new Ghanaian recruits to spear-

head operations in the west African country where more than 70% of the management team are women.

Project Set To Improve Linkage Of Referral TB Patients Launched

By: Peter Gitonga

@themtkenyatimes

A new project set to improve the linkage of referral of TB patients and case identification and notification in Turkana has been launched.

The Department of Health and Sanitation senior management team participated in a county entry meeting for the Tuberculosis (TB) Implementation Framework Agreement (TIFA) project, which seeks to strengthen cross-border coordination of TB Control in Loima and Turkana West Sub-counties.

This project is funded by Jon Snow Incorporation (JSI) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to the Chief Officer (CO) for Preventive and Promotive Health services, Peter Lomorukai, the nomadic nature of the population along borders has led to challenges in ac-



The stakeholders team.

cess to TB treatment, follow-up of patients, and diagnostic services.

Lomorukai urged the project implementers, National TB Programme and Centre for Health Solutions Kenya, to utilise the community health

promoters.

The project will be using the 'One Health approach' to reach the pastoralists. The One Health method recognises that the health of people is closely connected to the health of

animals and the shared environment.

The project will therefore be offering additional essential health and veterinary services to complement the TB screening activities.

Representing his counterpart for

Livestock Development and Fisheries Evans Lomodei said that the department was committed to the One Health strategy as the key livelihood of the county, pastoralism, would be safeguarded.

In their recommendations, Director for Public Health, Alfred Emanman emphasised the need to conduct community entry engagement and include health promotion and public health in its implementation.

Dr Ekiru Kidalio, Medical Services Director, highlighted that the Targeted Universal Testing for TB strategy should be considered in the programme as it has proven to enhance TB prevention and control.

The County Tuberculosis Leprosy and Lung Diseases Coordinator, Dr Job Okemwa, presented the preliminary list of outreach sites which he said would be synchronised in the scheduled engagements with the sub-county management teams.

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Teaching Children The Importance Of Financial Literacy



By: Sylvia Achieng
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Explain your thought process and involve them in age-appropriate ways, such as letting them help with grocery shopping and comparing prices. Explain the money cycle, needs and wants as well as what it means not to have money.
- Saving is an important habit to instill in children from a young age.
- Each time you give them pocket money, encourage them not to spend it all, let them think about buying something they need, which could be a toy, a new tablet, or a phone cover case.
- This helps them set saving goals and understand that saving money now can lead to greater rewards in the future.



Financial knowledge for most of us while growing up was a rare discussion. It was simple, money was for grown-ups, period.

Over the years a realization dawns of the importance of financial literacy at an early age. Many of us might have made different choices if we had been equipped with the knowledge to make informed financial decisions early on.

Parents and learning institutions often focus on teaching children essential life skills such as reading, writing and curriculum courses.

However, one crucial skill that is sometimes overlooked is the knowledge required in decision-making regarding personal finances. Understanding the value of money and the importance of budgeting, saving, investing and managing debt are skills that can benefit one throughout their lives.

It is never too early to start teaching children about money. However, to get it right, make it fun to build interest through games and activities. Children can begin to understand basic concepts such as the difference between coins and notes. They can best relate to everyday situations to introduce these ideas, such as shopping and paying for a meal. As they

learn addition and subtraction in school, concepts like payment and change become more meaningful.

Children learn by example; it is important to model good financial habits. Let them see your budgets, savings plan and you making responsible financial decisions based on taking debts, loans and even credit cards.

Explain your thought process and involve them in age-appropriate ways, such as letting them help with grocery shopping and comparing prices. Explain the money cycle, needs and wants as well as what it means not to have money.

Saving is an important habit to instill in children from a young age.

Each time you give them pocket money, encourage them not to spend it all, let them think about buying something they need, which could be a toy, a new tablet, or a phone cover case.

This helps them set saving goals and understand that saving money now can lead to greater rewards in the future.

Budgeting is a fundamental skill for managing money effectively. Children can best relate when they can differentiate between a need and a want. With this knowledge, they

can prioritize their list when the time comes for them to independently make decisions.

Emphasis on what may seem like a need now, time to come, may not make much sense to them.

When explaining investing to children, use appropriate language for their age and level of understanding. For the younger ones, use simple terms and concrete examples.

For instance, let them imagine they have a magic jar where they can put some of their money. When they put money in the jar it is like planting a seed, you water the seed by adding more money over time. After a while, just like the seeds grow into beautiful plants, their money in the jar grows too.

It is making your money work for you and grow over time.

As they get older, you can introduce more complex concepts, such as stocks and bonds. Most importantly, explain the benefits of investing, like earning interest, or dividends. Explain how investing can help them achieve their financial goals faster and provide financial security in the future.

Teach children to be smart consumers by comparing prices, looking for deals and avoiding impulse purchases.

Especially with their exposure to online shopping, self-discipline is mandatory. Online shopping can be addictive hence there is a need for doing things in moderation.

Once the lessons have been taught, create environments for them to take on financial responsibilities.

Give them a small allowance and encourage them to budget it for their expenses. This helps them learn about the consequences of their financial decisions in a safe environment.

When they reach savings goals, or demonstrate responsible spending habits, celebrate their achievements. This helps to reinforce positive financial behavior and encourages them to continue managing their money wisely.

By nurturing financially savvy children, we not only prepare them for personal success but also contribute to a financially literate global community. Let us empower our children to thrive, one budget at a time.

Sylvia Achieng is a Crawford International School Physical Education, Business Studies and Economic Management Science Teacher

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *The WRC Safari rally once again delivered the ultimate adventure, as drivers enjoyed the speed thrills alongside breathtaking landscapes and wildlife in Naivasha, Nakuru county.

Safari Rally: The Ultimate African Adventure



Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT's Finnish driver Kalle Rovanperä steers his Toyota GR Yaris Rally1 Hybrid with Finnish co-driver Jonne Halttunen during the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally Kenya Special Stage 8 (SS8) in Gilgil, on March 30, 2024. (Photo by LUIS TATO / AFP).

The WRC Safari rally once again delivered the ultimate adventure, as drivers enjoyed the speed thrills alongside breathtaking landscapes and wildlife in Naivasha, Nakuru county.

Despite being dreaded by majority of the drivers as the toughest rally in the world due to its punishing rugged terrain, Safari is loved in equal measure as it's beautiful scenes and wildlife add to the extra adventure.

Toyota Gazoo racing have been super dominant in the Safari rally since it's return to the World Rally Championship and once again proved to be the most reliable team, as they claimed two podia through winner and de-

fending WRC champion Kalle Rovanperä and second placed Takamoto Katsuta.

Welshman Elfyn Evans of Toyota was destined for a podium finish too before suffering three punctures in consecutive stages in the penultimate leg but he for sure enjoyed another outing in the Safari.

"It's amazing to see year in year out the kind of support we receive in this rally. It's very important to the team and we are grateful for the warm welcome by rally fans here in Kenya and the beautiful wildlife."

M-Sport Ford secured their first podium in the Safari rally as Adrien Fourmax continued his

fine form of the season to finish third. Teammate Gregoire Munster suffered a nasty puncture on Saturday and retired for the day but was thrilled to be back in Kenya.

"It's not been a weekend we had hoped for but we finished strong and got some good points for Sunday. It's always amazing to come to this event, it's very unique (compared to other legs of the WRC)."

Racing in the vast virgin ranches of Naivasha, the drivers had a closer look of the magical wildlife as some even brushed feathers with Giraffes and Zebras rooming around.

Hyundai's Esapekka Lappi

missed hitting a Zebra by a whisker in the Sleeping warrior stage as a herd of Giraffes watch by.

Away from the unique aspect of wildlife, drivers and viewers across the world were treated to amazing sceneries including the full view of the iconic Lake Elementaita, the two hills of the sleeping warrior and the ever magnificent Mt Longonot.

For sure Safari served some amazing really beautiful sceneries and wildlife yet again and it attracted rally fans in their thousands from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and all over the world.

Citizen Sport

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Sports >>> *Newcastle manager Eddie Howe has yet to abandon a quest for a European place this season despite a mounting list of injuries.

Howe Still Chasing European Place Despite Newcastle's Injury Woes



Soccer Football - Carabao Cup - Round of 16 - Newcastle United v AFC Bournemouth - St James' Park, Newcastle, Britain - December 20, 2022 Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe talks to Kieran Trippier REUTERS/Scott Heppell.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe has yet to abandon a quest for a European place this season despite a mounting list of injuries. The Magpies increased their chances of a top-six finish with an astonishing 4-3 win over West Ham on Saturday, a game where they were 3-1 down with just 13 minutes remaining. Victory came at a cost, however, with Newcastle captain Jamaal Lascelles rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, an injury which could sideline him for up to nine months. Lascelles joined a growing injury list, but with Newcastle now five points off the top six, Howe was in defiant mood ahead of Tuesday's

match at home to a struggling Everton. "There was always that feeling that the season was alive but, of course, you have to win games and the more you don't win, the more the season slips away very quickly," said Howe. "We know the quality of the league and we know how difficult it is to win consistently, but that's what we're chasing now." Lascelles's setback came less than a fortnight after fellow central defender Sven Botman suffered a similar injury. Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope -- who is still sidelined - and frontman Jacob Murphy have dislocated shoulders.

Defender Dan Burn broke a bone in his back, Joelinton damaged a thigh tendon, Joe Willock sat out extended periods with hamstring and Achilles injuries and striker Callum Wilson is currently recovering from pectoral muscle surgery. Harvey Barnes, whose two goals after coming on as a substitute on Saturday did for West Ham, spent over four months out of action with a toe injury. But Howe said: "I always say the team is made up of the character of the players, and you could see the character shining through because I think without that, we were dead and buried and we wouldn't have come back in the manner that we

did. "The spirit is still there and that's the most important thing beyond anything. If you have spirit, you have a chance." Newcastle go into the Everton game with doubts over Tino Livramento and Miguel Almiron, who limped off at the weekend with ankle and knee injuries respectively, but are hopeful Kieran Trippier could return from a calf problem.

AFP

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Everyone Has Equal Rights In Uzbekistan, Even Unhealthy People



By: Qabilova Madina Sabir
@themtkenyatimes



Key words: Uzbek model, non-commercial organization, democratic reform, people with limited possibilities, citizenship, principle, commerce, comprehensive measure, practical strategy.

A lot of work was done under the leadership of the first President Islam Abdug'aniyevich Karimov. During the years of independence, the country carried out complex measures aimed at building a legal democratic state, a strong civil society, developing an economy based on free market relations and the priority of private property, creating conditions for the people to live a peaceful and prosperous life, and taking an appropriate place of Uzbekistan in the international arena increased.

"Five main principles of Uzbekistan's development" or "Uzbek model of development" of our first President Islam Karimov were of great importance in implementing these. Based on this model, the "Strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021" of President Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev was adopted.

This development program fully reflects the opportunities we provide to the youth of Uzbekistan. Even in this strategy, the theme of "Improving the state policy on youth" was raised. The purpose of this is to educate young people who are physically healthy, mentally and spiritually developed, who think independently, who are loyal to the Motherland, who have a strict outlook on life, to deepen democratic reforms and to increase their social activity in the process of developing civil society.

Since the period of independence, young people have been given great opportunities and privileges. In this case, we can mention social protec-

tion of young people, creation of decent housing and social and household conditions for young families as examples. In our independent Uzbekistan, great attention is paid to state-supported orphans, children left without parental care, and children with disabilities.

In our country, people with limited opportunities are provided with great opportunities, grants, and various moral and material assistance. All of them have the same rights and freedoms as ordinary people.

This is confirmed in Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which states: "In the Republic of Uzbekistan, all citizens have the same rights and freedoms, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, social origin, etc. they are equal before the law, regardless of their faith, personality and social position. Privileges are determined only by law and must be consistent with the principles of social justice.

Also, our state provides them with all kinds of support and assistance. For example, with the aim of creating wide opportunities for education for orphans, children left without parental care and blind people of the 1st group in full state support approved by law: special state grants for admission to higher education institutions determination, the opening of targeted admission quotas in certain areas in the region is approved.

In order to overcome their reading (hearing) difficulties, special books and training manuals have been developed for the blind and hard of hearing. Special methods are used in their education, and "home education" is introduced for children with limited opportunities. They are given gifts by the state on various holidays.

Discounts on transport are set for the disabled. On December 1, 2017,

on the eve of the International Day of Disabled Persons (December 3), the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the decree "On measures to radically improve the system of state support for persons with disabilities" and gave all the opportunities of our country to the disabled. It is a proof of his great attention. There are more than 600,000 disabled people living in Uzbekistan.

It is said that most disabled people face various difficulties in their daily life, which negatively affects their active participation in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country. In the official comment on the decree "On measures to fundamentally improve the system of state support for persons with disabilities".

In our country, all opportunities have been created for the safe and free operation of organizations supporting the disabled, and the activities of these organizations are not ignored. In particular, every year, important projects of a number of non-governmental non-profit organizations operating in the field of protection of the disabled are financed by the public fund for the support of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other institutions of civil society under the Supreme Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This also shows the great attention our country pays to such children [6]. However, there are some disadvantages here. We would like to make the following suggestions and comments in place of the conclusion: First, in our country there are no hotlines for people with disabilities and people with disabilities.

In the Russian Federation, since 2016, hotlines for disabled people and disabled children have been operational. As a result, they were given a lot of help from the state and their problems were solved. It would be a great convenience for them if such a hotline was launched in our country. Currently, many such people do not know what to do, where to turn.

Therefore, it would be easy to process their appeals if they have single hotline numbers. They would also be interested in this. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen the promotional activities of the disabled

society in Uzbekistan. Because it is this society that protects their rights and helps them morally and materially. Strengthening their promotion means strengthening their charity work, holding meetings with citizens about extending a helping hand to the disabled, holding various concert programs with them, etc.

It is only when these things increase that they feel that they are on the same page as other ordinary people. In our country, a state program was adopted with the goal of organizing the effective activities of state authorities and management bodies, educational institutions, youth and other organizations in the implementation of the state youth policy.

It is not wrong to say that the dreams and hopes of every young person are embodied in this program. Thirdly, we would like special attention to be given to disabled children in the "Improvement of State Policy Regarding Youth" section. This would be another factor to increase attention to children.

Among these young people, it is necessary to select the talented and educated ones, send them to study abroad while improving their talent, and increase their ability to attract them to the circles. They want to serve the Motherland like everyone else, of course. However, the future is in the hands of young people.

They can even do crafts, create new sites, create poems and works without leaving home. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: "We will continue the state policy on youth without deviation. We will not only continue, but we will raise this policy to the high level required by today's time as our most priority task." Together we will build a free and prosperous democratic country of Uzbekistan" So let's be worthy children of our country.

To sum up, the head of our country is making a lot of conditions. We know that everyone has equal rights in our country and that all people in our society are in the center of attention. Privileges and opportunities are being created and expanded for persons with disabilities. We can understand that the head of our state is a selfless person who lives for his people with these decisions.

Worth Noting:

- In our country, people with limited opportunities are provided with great opportunities, grants, and various moral and material assistance. All of them have the same rights and freedoms as ordinary people.

- This is confirmed in Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which states: "In the Republic of Uzbekistan, all citizens have the same rights and freedoms, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, social origin, etc. they are equal before the law, regardless of their faith, personality and social position. Privileges are determined only by law and must be consistent with the principles of social justice.