



**The Majestic Journey Of The Kabiru: Unveiling The Glorious Legacy Of The Gikuyu As A Superior And Inspirational Race**

Prepare for an exhilarating journey through the annals of history as we uncover the captivating saga of the Gikuyu people, revered as the Kabiru or Habiru/Hebrew, and their extraordinary rise to prominence.

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**News>> Gachagua To Sponsor 10 Students Of Pwani University, Promises Reforms Of Funding Model**

P. 8. The government is considering opening reforms to the university funding model to capture feedback from students, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said.



**News>> Agricultural Transformation: Gov't Eyeing Part Of The KSh23 Trillion Global Superfoods Market Through The Co-Operatives Movement**

P. 12. The government has confirmed plans to use the local co-operatives network to position Kenya as a leading superfood producer and exporter.

# Historical Moment: Waiguru Gives Out Free Uniforms

**Kirinyaga County Governor, Anne Waiguru has made history as the first governor to issue free uniforms to all Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) learners. In an event held at the County Headquarters in Kutus town yesterday, Waiguru issued 15,000 complete sets of uniforms to be distributed to all the ECDE learners. The sets consisted of shorts, shirts, sweaters and socks for boys and tunics, blouses, sweaters and socks for girls.**



*Kirinyaga County Governor, Anne Waiguru (in pink) with her cabinet posh for a photo during uniform distribution event*

**STORY ON PAGE 9**

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# Government Puts Corrupt Public Servants On Notice

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Naivasha during the official opening of Women in Procurement and Supply Chains Conference, Koskei said the government has tightened the noose on corruption and has adopted no tolerance policy in any ranks across the board.
- The Chief of Staff regretted the increase in costs of bribery which had risen to sh. 11,625 in 2023 from sh. 6,865 in 2022 as reported by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.
- “The government is analyzing exposed individuals’ accounts with some already recorded statements and those found culpable will take personal responsibility for their acts of omission and commission”, said Koskei.



Felix Koskei and other officials

The government will not condone public servants engaging in corrupt deals but will instead take swift legal and administrative actions to tame the vice.

Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei, sounded the warning saying servants found culpable of the offence will have their ill-gotten assets frozen corruption and held by state as deterrent in a move aimed at containing increased incidences of graft in public institutions.

He said the government was currently undertaking a scrutiny of public servants accounts and stock of assets owned before swift legal actions are taken against those found suspect.

Koskei who decried the runaway graft in public offices singled out the procurement, accounts and finance departments

as the most fertile grounds for corruption incidences due to interests of billions of shillings under their watch.

Koskei said corruption within government is a thorny issue which has derailed development agenda, hampered service delivery, led to loss of public resources and has tainted Kenya’s image in the international stage.

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Koskei assured that with the current political goodwill, the era of ‘sacred cows and calls from above’ are over, noting that no one will be spared by the unleashed anti-corruption sword.

In addition, he said procurement personnel must seal all loopholes that lead to loss of public funds through means such as manipulation of procurement information and sharing with potential tenderers, soliciting awards from supplies and directing payments to proxies.

“Procurements professionals can make or break the corruption stranglehold and

help stem the tide that is threatening the country existence”, Koskei said.

Consequently, Koskei stated the government agencies in the entire value chain including Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Director of Criminal investigations and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has been empowered financially to rein in graft culprits.

He regretted that through compromise of public officers, the country has witnessed collapsed buildings due to lack of following due processes, deaths occasioned by counterfeits and substandard goods, accidents due to substandard road designs among others.

On the ongoing scrutiny of pending bills, Koskei said the committee formed to review the bills is on course to ensure bills forwarded are merited before the governments commit payments.

He said the committee chaired by the former Attorney General Edward Ouko will table its report in a months’ time adding that only genuine bills and those that followed procurement laws will be paid.

On corruption, EACC latest report on National Ethics and Corruption Survey [2023] indicates that six out of 10 Kenya’s perceive corruption in the country to be high with bribes, favoritism, abuse of office and nepotism leading the charge.

The report flagged the Police, Immigration Department and the Registrar of persons as government departments perceived to be most prone to corruption with greed and desire for quick services being the major drives of the vice.

In addition, the EACC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 indicated that the commission successfully recovered corruptly acquired assets worth sh. 28 billion while disrupting activities that could have led to loss of sh. 39.2 billion of public funds.

In the same period, the commission supported prosecution of corruption and economic crimes in courts resulting in 168 convictions which the commission attributes to intelligence led investigations which led to timely interventions.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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**THEME**

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana, speaking during the official launch of Kenya Association of Manufacturers (MPA) 2024 and Agriculture for industry (A4I) Report where he represented the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry Rebecca Miano held at Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi on Wednesday.



The government has shut down mining sites after six people hospitalized. Officials said Chemical spillage has been finding its way in a river spring at Ndemra Village-Nyatike Sub County. The six were hospitalized after consuming spring water that was contaminated with poisonous chemicals believed to be syenite from the mining processing plant. The contaminated spring also resulted in the loss of three cows and three goats. Nyatike Deputy County Commissioner Daniel Omukoko said that such negligence with no regard to human and livestock lives will not be tolerated.



Non-revenue water (NRW) is one of the biggest water problems that Kenya is struggling to address especially in urban centres that continues to deprive Counties of actual revenue while denying the majority of the urban dwellers the precious commodity. Non-revenue water (NRW) is water that has been produced at the source and is lost before it reaches the customer; always calculated as the difference in percentage between the volume of water that enters the distribution system and the volume that is billed to customers. The perennial water shortages and scarcity within municipalities in Migori County, for instance and, mainly Migori, Awendo, Rongo and Kehancha towns, have always been a major challenge to the area leadership and the County must strive not to waste again a single drop through the Non-revenue water route. However, for now, residents of these municipalities will continue to experience water shortages from the fact that the County is currently experiencing a whopping 48 per cent of Non-Revenue Water, a worrying statistic that shows nearly half of what produced at water points gets, lost before it reaches the final designation.



Donkey farmers in Narok North Sub County have partnered with Farming System Kenya to create a water pan to reduce the distance animals travel for water. The farmers led by the Association of Donkey Owners of Kenya (ADOK), Narok Branch chairperson Margaret Mpatiany said the collaboration between the members of the community and farming system Kenya has borne fruit as the residents have got a water pan closer to their homesteads. She recalled how they would trek for tens of kilometers to look for the precious commodity during dry spells, where they wasted a lot of their productive hours. "The community donated the land, posts and helped in fencing the water pan while Farming System Kenya gave the wire mesh, barbed wire and nails. This collaboration has made our work very easy," she said. The move is expected to enhance the living standards of residents who rely on donkeys for their survival. Mzee Francis Kool, a Village elder, praised the project for its potential to address numerous issues faced by residents during prolonged dry spells. "No only the donkeys will benefit from this program but also other livestock that trek for long distances in search of water and grass during dry seasons. We are grateful for such a good idea," he said. Mzee Kool encouraged the residents to plant vegetables besides the water pan that they can enjoy during dry seasons, when the supply of vegetables is very low. Thus, "I am told that the water pan can run for eight consecutive months during dry seasons. This is a big relief for the residents who depended on the Nkaretta River that is five kilometers away," he said.

# NEWS PAPER

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# National Council of Churches of Kenya Calls for Resignation of Health Cabinet Secretary and Others Over Crisis



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyatomes



NCCCK Calls For The Resignation Of CS Nakhumicha, Murkomen And Linturi.

## Worth Noting:

- Accusing Nakhumicha of negligence and laxity in addressing these strikes, the NCCCK has emphasized the severe repercussions on the well-being of Kenyans. The council argues that the inability of the Health Cabinet Secretary to resolve the disputes with medical unions and ensure the provision of essential medical services constitutes a failure of leadership and warrants her resignation. The suffering endured by patients, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and expectant mothers, has reached unacceptable levels, according to the NCCCK.

- Furthermore, the NCCCK's call for accountability extends beyond the healthcare sector. The organization has also directed its ire towards Cabinet Secretaries in the agriculture and transport ministries, demanding their resignation over separate issues plaguing their respective domains.

In a bold move that has stirred public discourse and heightened pressure on the Kenyan government, the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) has issued a resounding call for the resignation of Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha. This call comes amidst a deepening crisis in the country's healthcare sector, characterized by strikes, shortages, and significant challenges in accessing medical services for thousands of Kenyans.

The NCCCK, a prominent religious organization with considerable influence, has taken a firm stance against what it perceives as the ineffectiveness of Health Cabinet Secretary Nakhumicha in managing the ongoing strikes by various medical unions. Doctors, clinical officers, and medical laboratory officers unions have all taken industrial action, leading to a

crippling of healthcare services across the nation. Patients in public hospitals have borne the brunt of these strikes, enduring prolonged waits, inadequate treatment, and in some cases, tragic consequences due to the unavailability of medical personnel.

Accusing Nakhumicha of negligence and laxity in addressing these strikes, the NCCCK has emphasized the severe repercussions on the well-being of Kenyans. The council argues that the inability of the Health Cabinet Secretary to resolve the disputes with medical unions and ensure the provision of essential medical services constitutes a failure of leadership and warrants her resignation. The suffering endured by patients, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and expectant mothers, has reached unacceptable levels, according to the NCCCK.

Furthermore, the NCCCK's call for accountability extends beyond the healthcare sector. The organization has also directed its ire towards Cabinet Secretaries in the agriculture and transport ministries, demanding their resignation over separate issues plaguing their respective domains. In the case of the agriculture ministry, the NCCCK has cited the recent scandal involving counterfeit fertilizer, which has raised serious concerns about food security and the integrity of agricultural inputs. The organization contends that the failure to safeguard the agricultural sector from such fraudulent activities reflects poorly on the leadership and necessitates immediate action.

Similarly, the escalating toll of road accidents and fatalities has prompted the NCCCK to call for the resignation of the transport Cabinet Secretary. The

organization points to the surge in road carnage witnessed in recent months, attributing it to a combination of factors including poor infrastructure, lax enforcement of traffic regulations, and inadequate road safety measures. The NCCCK argues that the transport ministry's failure to address these issues and ensure the safety of road users underscores a lack of competence and accountability at the highest levels of government.

Alphonse Kanga, the chairman of NCCCK's Nairobi region, has been vocal in his condemnation of the government's handling of these crises. He has emphasized the urgent need for decisive action to alleviate the suffering of Kenyans and restore confidence in the leadership. Kanga contends that the rampant suffering experienced by patients in public hospitals, coupled with the failures in agriculture and transportation, demand nothing less than the resignation of the implicated Cabinet Secretaries.

The NCCCK's call for resignations reflects growing public discontent and frustration with the government's performance in addressing critical issues affecting the lives of Kenyans. It underscores the importance of accountability, transparency, and effective governance in meeting the needs of the populace and addressing systemic challenges. As pressure mounts on officials to heed these calls and take decisive action, the NCCCK's stance serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to uphold the well-being and dignity of all citizens.

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# NGA'RISHA JIJI (MERU EDITION 1)



**6TH, APRIL 2024**

## MEETING POINT

**Time:**  
8:00 am to 11:00am

\* Greenwood Mall.

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# Gachagua To Sponsor 10 Students Of Pwani University, Promises Reforms Of Funding Model

By: DPCS and MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Pwani University students and leaders who accompanied him yesterday.

## Worth Noting:

- Gachagua said the government adopted the University Education Funding Model to increase access to education for students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Among other issues, the model gives guidance on full, partial and loan financing based on their financial background.
- Higher Education Principal Secretary Beatrice Inyangala said students will have an opportunity to give feedback to the model so as to meet the needs of all students.
- "I want to assure you that we have received good feedback. Our team will go around universities including Pwani University in collection of feedback and from other stakeholders," she said.

The government is considering opening reforms to the university funding model to capture feedback from students, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said.

Speaking yesterday in Kilifi County during a Public Lecture at Pwani University on Scaling the Leadership Ladder: Leadership and Development, the Deputy President asked the Principal Secretary for Higher Education and Research Dr Beatrice Inyangala to engage students and other stakeholders to ensure the model fulfills its objective of access to education for all.

Gachagua said this as he announced sponsorship to 10 most needy students from Pwani University.

"If the student leaders have a contribution to make, we shall create a mechanism to listen to them. We are willing to receive more ideas to improve," the Deputy President said.

Gachagua said the government adopted the University Education Funding Model to increase access to education for students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Among other issues, the model gives guidance on full, partial and loan financing based on their financial background.

Higher Education Principal Secretary Beatrice Inyangala said students will have an opportunity to give feedback to the model so as to meet the needs of all students.

"I want to assure you that we have received good feedback. Our team will go around universities including Pwani University in collection of

feedback and from other stakeholders," she said.

She said the model has opened more opportunities for students who were disadvantaged, and a review will make this even better.

The Deputy President and the PS were responding to a question from one of the students, Amina Mohamed.

During the address, the DP asked the students to shun alcohol, drug and substance abuse to allow them concentrate on studies. He said education will enable them to grow to better leaders.

He also challenged them to remain focused in studies, take up new challenges as part of growth.

As part of his mentorship plan, DP

picked one of the students to join him for his international trip to Rwanda over the weekend. This is in addition to the student of Muranga University of Technology, who will also be on the trip. The first public lecture was held in Muranga last month.

On the other hand, the Deputy President urged the students to seek help wherever they have mental challenges, especially. He said it was worrying that a number of university students are struggling with mental illnesses, with most of such cases ending in tragic deaths.

"Most of the suicide cases could have been avoided if the young people shared their problems with a friend, Imam, pastor, lecturer, or any

other person who could help. I want to appeal to you, do not suffer in silence," he said.

The DP also urged tertiary institutions to establish strong mechanisms of helping students who need mental support.

"I want to ask you to strengthen your counseling departments. Let us have psychiatrists to talk to our young people," he said.

The Deputy President said President William Ruto and him are committed to identifying, nurturing and growing young and youthful leaders for inclusive development.

He was accompanied by among others, Kilifi County Deputy Governor Flora Mbetsa, Dr Idris Dakota (Principal Secretary, Cabinet Affairs at the Office of the Deputy President), Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Owen Baya (Kilifi North MP and Deputy Majority Leader, National Assembly), John Methu (Nyandarua County Senator), Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta MP), Eric Wamumbi (Mathira MP), Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga Woman Representative), Kuria Kimani (Molo MP), Peter Salasya (Mumias East MP), Stanley Muthama MP Lamu West, Joseph Githuku (Senator Lamu County), Josses Lelmengit (Emgwen Mp), Charles Njagua Kanyi (Former Starehe MP), Cate Waruguru (Former Laikipia Woman Representative), Benjamin Tayari (Chairman Kenya Ports Authority) and Dr. Purity Ngina, the first and youngest Kenyan woman who attained a PhD at 28 years, MCAs, among other leaders.

Some of the young leaders and academicians were given an opportunity to address hundreds of the coast based students.



Former Starehe MP Charles Njagua showing his artistic prowess at Pwani University where he accompanied Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday.

# Waiguru Makes History As She Distributes Free Uniforms To All ECDE Learners

*The Governor Further Disbursed KSh147.5 M Bursary To 45,000 Students From Needy Backgrounds; 35,656 Drawn From Secondary Dchools, 5,443 From Colleges And 3,901 From Various Universities*

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyaintimes](#)



*Kirinyaga County governor Ann Waiguru and other leaders, including his Deputy David Githanda joins ECDE learners after she distributed free uniforms yesterday..*

## Worth Noting:

- At the same time, she noted that her administration will move further to producing leather shoes for the children. This she said will be done through educating farmers on hides and skins' management so that they can supply them to potential leather processors at the upcoming Sagana Industrial Park.

- To further boost ECDE learning in the county, Waiguru said that plans to undertake a school feeding program are underway whereby every learner will be receiving a packet of milk twice a week as a starting point.

- Governor Waiguru, who doubles up as the Chair of Council of Governors (COG), also disbursed KSh147.5 million bursary to benefit 45,000 students from needy backgrounds. Out of these students, 35,656 are drawn from secondary schools, 5,443 from colleges and 3,901 from various universities.

Kirinyaga County Governor, Anne Waiguru has made history as the first governor to issue free uniforms to all Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) learners.

In an event held at the County Headquarters in Kutus town yesterday, Waiguru issued 15,000 complete sets of uniforms to be distributed to all the ECDE learners.

The sets consisted of shorts, shirts, sweaters and socks for boys and tunics, blouses, sweaters and socks for girls.

The uniforms have distinct colours for different constituencies where those from Ndia and Mwea will be wearing blue colour while Kirinyaga Central and Gichugu will be wearing green colored uniforms.

Waiguru said that her county is the first to give out ECDE school uniforms and said that her administration is committed to sustained production of the uniforms that are sewed at the county owned Kaitheri Apparel Center.

"The uniforms have been produced at Kaitheri Apparel Factory through Wezesha Mama Initiative and will be distributed for free, we hope to produce another set in 3 months," she said, adding that the uniform project came about during public participation forums where parents expressed frustration in having to source uniform at exorbitant prices from commercial dealers.

At the same time, she noted that her administration will move further to producing leather shoes for the children. This she said will be done through educating farmers on hides and skins' management so that they can supply them to potential leather processors at the upcoming Sagana Industrial Park.

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Prior to this disbursement, Kirinyaga County had cumulatively disbursed bursaries worth Ksh.413.8 million in the previous six years, benefitting 146,211 deserving students. The current disbursement is so far the largest and a great improvement from the KSh70 million given in 2019.

Waiguru reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the improvement of the county's academic performance and according every child the opportunity to fulfill their potential. "We are committed to supporting our children's education since we believe that every one of them should have the opportunity and

means to realize their full potential regardless of their circumstance," she said.

She urged the bursary recipients to maintain their academic focus, emphasizing the importance of education in shaping their futures and contributing meaningfully to their communities and the nation.

Kirinyaga County Assembly Leader of Majority, Daniel Kibinga, applauded the governor for the timely disbursement of funds since it gives the parents enough room to plan for the coming term.

He said that the County government is set to achieve many development milestones due to harmonious working relationship between the County Assembly and the Executive.

Other Members of the County Assembly present noted that the bursaries and uniform distribution will go a long way in lessening the parents' burden.

# The National Assembly Committee Vets Ambassador Nominees

**PSCU**

The National Assembly Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations yesterday commenced approval hearings for persons nominated for appointment as Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Permanent Representatives and Consuls-General.

The Committee, chaired by Nelson Koech (Belgut), vetted nominees for High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Uganda, Canada, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Zambia.

The Committee scrutinized Ms. Catherine Kirumba Karemu, nominee for High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Members highlighted the trade imbalance between Kenya and the UK. “Kenya’s relationship with the UK is long standing and special but unequal,” stated Abdikadir Mohamed (Lagdera).

“Getting a visa is challenging. The movement of Kenyans to and from the UK is now a challenge”, added Moses Kirima (Central Imenti)

On trade, Members noted the ban of miraa (khat) exports to the United Kingdom which has negatively impacted farmers. Elijah Memusi (Kajiado Central) asked “Kenya used to export meat and meat products to the UK. What can you do to bring this back?”

In response nominee Ms. Karemu pledged to leverage existing trade



Nominee for High Commissioner to Uganda Hon Joash Maangi

agreements and marketing efforts to boost Kenyan exports, particularly the currently banned miraa.

Nominee for High Commissioner to Uganda, Joash Arthur Maangi, faced questions regarding the ongoing Misingo Island dispute, the harassment of Kenyan fishermen by Ugandan security forces and pastoralists near Mt. Elgon.

Mr. Joash Maangi informed the meeting of the Ministerial Commission on International Boundaries that was formed to tackle cross border disputes. He also

Members however expressed concern regarding Kenya losing trade opportunities with Uganda, its largest trading partner.

On his part, Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Jonah Mwangi, nominee for Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledged the potential for increased trade between the Kenya and Iran.

Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop) questioned the availability of opportunities for trade noting the international sanctions affecting Iran limiting its financial transactions.

While responding, Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Jonah Mwangi pointed to Iran’s large population and central location as ideal for Kenyan exports, particularly agricultural products not subject to international sanctions.

The fourth nominee, Ms. Caroline Kamende Daudi, nominated as High



Ms. Catherine Kirumba Karemu.

Commissioner to Canada, was put to task on the significant trade imbalance between Kenya and Canada.

Yusuf Hassan (Kamkunji) asked, “We do not do a lot of trade with Canada yet Canada exports many products to Kenya?”

Legislators also raised alarm over challenges faced by Kenyans applying for visas to Canada. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti) pointed to the lengthy wait times for student and skilled laborers for visas.

Ms. Daudi stressed the need for bilateral talks between Kenya and Canada to find a resolution. She also pledged to work towards actualizing existing bilateral trade agreements and exploring opportunities in export

of textiles, wheat, and mechanical equipment.

Members of the Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations also vetted Lilian Tomitom who was nominated for the position of High Commissioner, Lusaka, Zambia. The Committee acknowledged that she had previously served as the West Pokot County MP.

The Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations will continue to conduct approval hearings for the remaining nominees in accordance with Article 124 (1).

## Beautiful Attributes Of Allah



By: Kholturayeva Ugilyov Urol  
@themtkenyatimes

wisdom and love.

Allah hates injustice. For example, the Torah commands about bribery: “Do not take bribes. Because of the bribe, the eyes of open-minded people are filled with oil. Bribery always harms the work of honest people” (Exodus 23:8). The Lord opposes those who oppress others and protects the weak, including “widows and orphans” (Exodus 22:22). Allah sees all people as the same. The Bible says: “God is not partial. But he accepts everyone who fears him and walks righteously, regardless of his nationality” (Acts 10:34, 35).

Jehovah’s justice is perfect. He is never too polite and never too blind. God punishes unrepentant sinners and shows mercy to those who confess their guilt. “Allah is merciful and kind, long-suffering and gracious. He will not be angry until the end, and he will not be angry forever. He will not deal with us according to our iniquities, nor punish us according to our sins” (Psalm 102:8-10).

Oh, God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! (Romans 11:33). His wisdom is incomparable and infinite.

Allah’s wisdom can be seen in His creations. The psalmist also said: “O Allah, how many are your works! You created

everything with wisdom; the earth is full of your creations” (Psalm 103:24).

God’s wisdom is also reflected in the Holy Bible. Hazrat David wrote: “God’s revelation is stable; He gives wisdom to the simple.”

God shows his love to us in different ways. The Bible says that God is “giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, providing for your sustenance, filling your hearts with joy, and doing good to you” (Acts 14:17). By the way, “every good and perfect gift is from above [God]” (James 1:17).

Also, Allah helps us when we are in trouble. (Psalm 54:23): “Cast your anxiety on the Lord, and He will be your support.” He will not allow the righteous to fall forever.” God forgives our sins. Also, in the book of Psalms, it is said: “You are gracious and forgiving, O Lord, and your abundance is infinite to all who call on you” (Psalm 85:5). He is even offering us eternal life. According to the Bible, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain” (Revelation 21:4).



Many beautiful attributes of Allah are described in the Holy Book. Because of this, we can know Allah better. His four main qualities are power, justice, wisdom and love. Let’s look at each one separately.

God Jehovah told Ibrahim Khalilullah: “I am Allah Almighty” (Genesis 17:1). Indeed, Allah is the Owner of incomparable, infinite and inexhaustible power. Allah created the whole universe with his power.

Allah never abuses His power; on the contrary, He can always control it and use it for a specific purpose. He uses his power in perfect harmony with justice,

# Waiguru Stands A High Chance Of Clinching Ruto's Running Mate Slot In 2027



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandong@yaho.com



## Worth Noting:

In yester-years, Martha Karua of Narc Kenya was being touted as the iron lady of Kirinyaga county. She has since lost this title to Madam governor Waiguru.

It is worth noting that the duo contested the Kirinyaga gubernatorial seat in 2017 polls.

Ms Waiguru wrestled her to the ground.

In the run-up to 2022, a number of people from Karua's home village of Gichugu shared this with me.

Her initial plan was to contest the governor's seat. She however feared facing Waiguru and getting embarrassed once again.

It seems she breathed a sigh of relief when the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta convinced Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga to pick her as his running mate.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru and President William Ruto at a past event. PHOTO/File.

A few days ago, President William Ruto revisited the unfulfilled issue of two-thirds gender rule.

Speaking at an event organized by United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Women Congress to celebrate the women who won the gubernatorial seats in 2022 polls, the President minced no word in assuring the women of Kenya that his government was committed to sort out this matter.

The previous governments failed to address this all important constitutional imperative. I want to assure you this time the implementation will happen.

We can no longer bury our heads in the sand by ignoring the immense contribution of the women of Kenya towards the growth of the economy and uplifting the living standard of Kenyans.

Dr Ruto, who was reacting to the remarks by Kirinyaga Governor Ann Waiguru and former Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu, further asserted.

As a member of the UDA party, my proposal is that a time has come to amend our constitution. I hope majority of the members will support my proposal during the National Delegates Conference (NDC).

If this happens, a new clause would

be enacted and it would read. If the UDA party nominate a man to be the presidential candidate the running mate should be a woman and vice versa.

There is no cause for worry because I have already discussed this with Riggy-G (DP Gachagua).

If Ruto's wish would bear the fruits, my considered view is that Governor Ann Waiguru will stand a high chance of clinching the slot of his running mate in 2027.

In yester-years, Martha Karua of Narc Kenya was being touted as the iron lady of Kirinyaga county. She has since lost this title to Madam governor Waiguru.

It is worth noting that the duo contested the Kirinyaga gubernatorial seat in 2017 polls.

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It seems she breathed a sigh of relief when the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta convinced Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga

to pick her as his running mate.

Up to date, Uhuru and Karua have never confirmed or denied whether this is what happened.

As of now, the UDA party is gearing up for grassroots elections.

Here are the other three reasons why Governor Waiguru stands a high chance.

First, I'm sure President Ruto's Plan A would be to once again rally Mount Kenya behind his candidature.

To retain this support, he needed to ensure that the slot of running mate remains in this region. Secondly, male competitors will be ineligible. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro are perceived to be the leading male contenders.

Thirdly, Ms Waiguru's track record on matters of development and good governance is there for all to see. As the chairperson of Council of Governors (CoG), she has been vocal in fighting for the agenda of Devolution. This include challenging the national government on timely disbursement of shareable revenue to the counties.

She is also well educated and believe in building a peaceful and united nation. She had previously served as a chief executive officer of a number of corpo-

rates and financial institutions locally and internationally.

She also served the government of President Mwai Kibaki and that of his successor Uhuru Kenyatta with dedication and distinction. She was the pioneer of Huduma Centers that have since reduced the burden that Kenyans shouldered when seeking critical services.

They now get them under one roof with a click of a button.

But Waiguru will need to come up with a workable strategy of tackling other competitors from other communities.

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

# Agricultural Transformation: Gov't Eyeing Part Of The KSh23 Trillion Global Superfoods Market Through The Co-Operatives Movement

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- According to global research firm IMARC Group, the global superfoods market size reached US\$ 171.8 Billion in 2023. IMARC Group expects the market to reach US\$ 262.3 Billion by 2032, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 4.6 per cent during 2024-2032. The escalating demand for superfood-infused snacks, the rising adoption of veganism and vegetarianism, and the growing consciousness about preventive healthcare measures are some of the major factors propelling the market.
- Conscious of the growing market opportunity, the government, Chelugui said, will adopt a public-private partnership with leading growers such as Kakuzi to provide much-needed technical capacity building for local farmers under the Co-operatives movement.



Kakuzi Managing Director Chris Flowers (left) Deputy Chief of Staff at the Deputy President's office Mr Eric Wachira (centre) and Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui..

The government has confirmed plans to use the local co-operatives network to position Kenya as a leading superfood producer and exporter.

According to Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui, the government is zeroing in on the US\$ 171.8 Billion (about KSh23 Trillion) global superfoods market as part of the agricultural transformation deliverables under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Speaking during a fact-finding tour of Publicly Listed agribusiness and superfoods producer Kakuzi Plc orchards and Packhouse in Murang'a County, Chelugui said the government is focusing on sustainable agricultural value chain reforms, including global market access for Kenyan Avocado, Macadamia, and Blueberry farmers, by harnessing the latent power of co-op societies and MSMEs as the world's enthusiasm and demand for superfoods continue to grow.

Globally, as consumers strive to enrich their dietary diversity, superfoods have gained popularity as they are naturally loaded with high dietary fibre, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, and complex carbohydrates. Besides the nutritional benefits, superfoods also assist in improving

digestion, reducing blood glucose, minimizing inflammation, lowering blood cholesterol, and preventing chronic health issues such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

According to global research firm IMARC Group, the global superfoods market size reached US\$ 171.8 Billion in 2023. IMARC Group expects the market to reach US\$ 262.3 Billion by 2032, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 4.6 per cent during 2024-2032. The escalating demand for superfood-infused snacks, the rising adoption of veganism and vegetarianism, and the growing consciousness about preventive healthcare measures are some of the major factors propelling the market.

Conscious of the growing market opportunity, the government, Chelugui said, will adopt a public-private partnership with leading growers such as Kakuzi to provide much-needed technical capacity building for local farmers under the Co-operatives movement.

"Kenya is already doing well in producing superfoods such as Avocado, Macadamia, and Blueberries, which are also beginning to feature. We are number five in avocado exports and can easily get to number one, but only if we maintain global standards relating to crop husbandry, traceability, and sustainability, as every fruit

exported carries Kenya's reputation," Chelugui said.

He added, "Our co-operative societies and other MSME Agri-business players have an opportunity to learn and forge partnerships with large players such as Kakuzi, who are willing to provide capacity building in farmer training, marketing, and extension services to enable us to play in the top league as quality superfoods producers and exporters."

While welcoming Chelugui and his entourage, including Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's Deputy Chief of Staff Eric Wachira, Kakuzi PLC Managing Director Chris Flowers described the firm as the single largest producer of avocados and macadamia nuts in Kenya, accounting for an estimated 12 per cent of all avocados exported from Kenya.

As part of Kakuzi's superfoods market development strategy beyond Avocados, Flowers said the company was also the first Kenyan company to undertake commercial blueberry production. "We believe Blueberries are yet another key crop that will build Kenya's export earnings and international reputation as a key agricultural producer of superfoods," Flowers said.

He added, "We aspire to make Kenya the world's leading producer of superfoods. At Kakuzi, we have global

markets because we maintain the required standards for such market access. Our success is primarily built on five key pillars: We export quality products, we export products with impeccable traceability credentials, we grow our products responsibly, we grow our products sustainably, and we lift others as we grow."

Kakuzi has been undertaking a smallholder development initiative that educates and builds the capacity of Kenyan Farmers.

Under its Kakuzi Academy platform, the firm provides extension services to more than 3,000 farmers across the Country.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, in the first three quarters of 2023, the agriculture sector rebounded strongly following improved weather conditions and the impact of fertilizer and seed subsidies provided to farmers by the Government. The sector grew by 6.1 percent in the first quarter, 8.2 percent in the second quarter and 6.7 percent in the third quarter. The strong performance was reflected in enhanced production, especially of food crops that led to significant increase in exports of tea, coffee, vegetables and fruits. However, production of cut flowers and sugarcane declined during the period.

# KTDA Directors Claim Their Efficiency Has Brought Better Return To Farmers

By: Charles Kinyua  
@themtkenyatimes

Current Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) directors have defended their three year tenure at the tea farmers agency, accusing their predecessors of sabotage.

In a radio interview on the Royal Media owned Inooro FM, the directors led by John Mithamo WaSusana who a Board Member and also the Kirinyaga County's Ndima tea factory chairman, they told listeners that they had lowered operational costs from around 75-80 per cent to 69 per cent which translates to higher returns to farmers.

WaSusana refuted claims by those dethroned that they were attending countless meetings clarifying that they only held two meetings per month and in a counter accusation noted that those they threw out used to coerce the management to get un-

deserved allowances.

During the show, Makomboki tea factory director John Mbote assured farmers that they would continue getting higher earnings as attested by monthly payments that have risen from Ksh15, 21 and 25 since they

took office.

The directors further accused the head of Tea Board of Kenya Kamau Kahiu of fuelling the animosity between the former and current directors arising from personal interest that needs to be checked.

According Mbote, Kahiu owns a tea brokerage firm that points to a conflict of interest that should not be allowed to continue.

The tea farmers' agency representatives defended the maligned queue voting method used to vote them in

arguing that it was inclusive, fair and transparent.

"In the past, only farmers with huge tracks of tea bushes were allowed to vote thereby locking out about 97 per cent of growers, a process that was grossly unfair," said Mithamo.

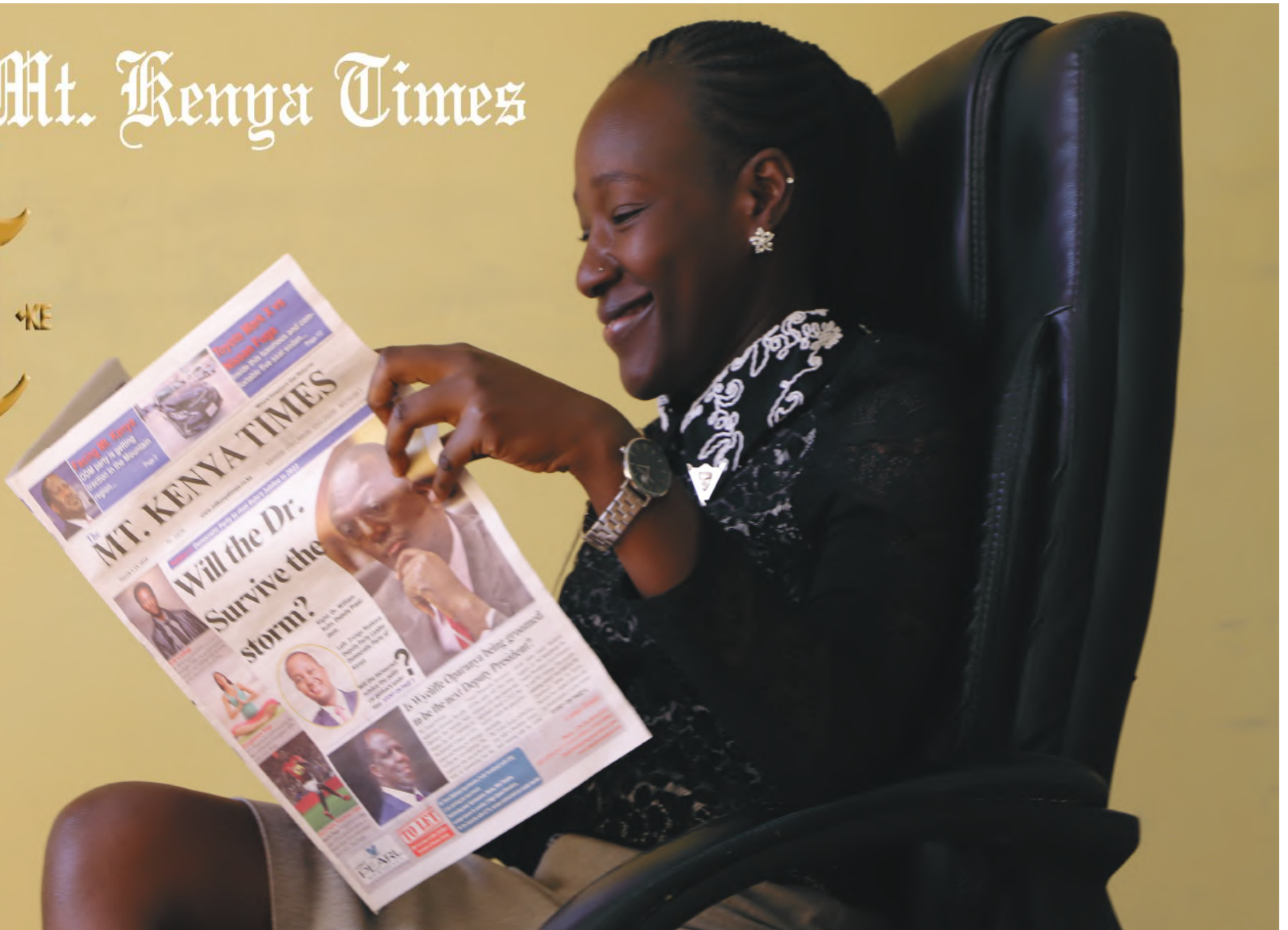
Director David Wanjohi from Gathuthi tea factory firmly noted that they were not afraid of elections at any time as they had and continue tirelessly served farmers to their satisfaction and in accordance with both the national and factories laws.

"We have set the loophole exploited by our predecessors and brokers to fleece the growers by setting a reserve price that has enhanced returns," noted Wanjohi.

The directors vowed not allow their predecessors to drag back to retrogressive, discriminative and unfair practises and will ensure that the growers, irrespective of the size of their tea bushes will always have the final say.



## The Mt. Kenya Times



## Letter to Exuperu

Abduvaitova Rano



My dear Exuperu...  
I remember that lament  
I found it take a look  
A boy with a green scarf  
He did not go to sky  
He did not stay in the desert  
No ... he close to us  
He could not to go far  
I close my eyes in the evening  
And I watch the stars  
I heard a strange words  
I know, they are my heart's wars  
A lough like a bell is soothing  
It shines on the world  
He gave me hope and revived my pen  
The little prince  
You must have been looking for it  
Actually with us  
Laughter lives in our heart

She was born on June 8, 2005 in Jizzakh region in Uzbekistan

She won district, regional and republic competitions such as "Rainbow stars", "Serkuoyosh hur alkam", "Children and water", "Smart reader", "Young readers", "Youngest reader", "Sounds of Chimyon" and "From the author". winner of the stage. In addition, she is the winner of open alpinism dedicated to the memory of "Agutina Igor'ya Yegorivycha", the republican stage of the competitions "The fate of our green planet is in our hands".

She is also a participant and speaker of more than 10 international conferences, such as "International relations, education, development and technology", "International youth online conference 5", "International girl summit". Author of the book "Kingdom of Innocence".

His creative works are "Guncha", "Gulkhan", "Classmate", "Children's Literature", "The Voice of Grain", "The Truth of Jizzakh", "Fist", "Kelajak Avlod", "Nightingale Yes", "Bilmdon", "Bilan". has been published in newspapers and magazines. Currently, she is a first-year student of the National University of Uzbekistan, majoring in "Political Science".

\*When I read Exuperu's work which is "The little prince"

## New Constitution - The Council Of Development



**Abstract.** This article analyzes the role of our newly adopted Constitution in society and human life, the guaranteed rights and freedoms of citizens, the approaches of the newly introduced changes to the practice of law enforcement, and the norms aimed at protecting human rights and interests.

**Keywords:** Constitution, reform, state, person, law, norm.

### INTRODUCTION

Today, in our modernized country, democratic reforms aimed at modernization of society and state life continue consistently. This, in turn, leads to the change of the state system, the development of national statehood, the emergence of new power institutions, as well as changes and additions to existing normative legal documents. In line with these updates, reforms related to the introduction of amendments and additions to our Constitution, which is our General Council, are being carried out.

### Material and Methods

After all, as President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev stated at the meeting held with the members of the constitutional commission on amending the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 20, 2022: "Truly the ideology of the people, the most sacred aspirations of the nation can be fully expressed only in its main document, the Constitution" [1]. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a high-level law reflects the image of our state, democratic principles of management, social and economic strategic directions of society, and guarantees the rights and freedoms of citizens.

### Result and Discussion

The updated Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan entered into legal force on May 1, 2023 as a result of the mentioned ideas and research. In turn, 27 new articles were added to this Constitution, the number of articles increased from 128 to 155, which indicates that the number of norms in our Constitution has increased to 434 and it has been updated by 65. Our updated Constitution serves as the most important legal foundation for the comprehensive regulation of all aspects of the life of our society and democratic development of our country. Among them, the long-term development strategies of our country, in general, created a solid legal basis and a reliable guarantee for the future prosperous life of our country and people. In fact, the Constitution in a broad sense "is a legal document that strengthens and guarantees the rights and freedoms of people and citizens, as well as defines the foundations of the social system, form of government and state structure, the organization of central and local bodies of power, their powers and mutual relations" [4, 252].

It should be noted that the adoption of our updated Constitution is not just a desire, a simple event, but a historical foundation, in accordance with the centuries-old aspirations of our people, fully responding to its national interests, and universally recognized norms and principles regarding democracy, human rights and freedoms. strictly followed, it was an objective necessity reflected in the principles of friendly cooperation with the world community, the ultimate goal of which was to create a free, prosperous and prosperous life for our people.

This need is confirmed in the preamble of our Constitution, that is, in recognition of our high responsibility to the present and future generations to build a humane democratic state, an open and fair society, in which the one nation of Uzbekistan: man, his life, freedom, honor and value are considered the highest value. , based on the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, we can see that it aims to ensure the decent life of citizens, inter-national and inter-confessional harmony, prosperity and prosperity of our multi-ethnic friendly Uzbekistan.

In accordance with our updated Constitution, Uzbekistan as a sovereign, democratic, legal, social, secular state is of great importance in ensuring the priority of the Constitution and the law, in ensuring the priority of human rights, freedoms and interests, in directing all resources and opportunities of the state to improve the quality of life of citizens and the well-being of individuals. At the same time, the idea of "For human dignity" and the main principle of our current reforms, the approach of "Man-society-state" are deeply embedded in the content of our updated Constitution, and the protection of human dignity, honor and pride, rights and interests in all spheres is reflected. found That is, in the Decree No. PF-60 of the President of January 28, 2022 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", the goal of making the principles of justice and the rule of law the most basic and necessary condition for development in our country is defined, including the 20th goal of the Strategy "Active civil society development and formation of a sense of respect and obedience to the law among citizens; We can see that the stated goals of raising the legal culture and consciousness of the people, establishing effective cooperation of the country's bodies with civil society institutions, mass media and educational organizations in this regard have been confirmed in our updated Constitution" [5]. Amendments and additions to the relevant norms of our Constitution are important because they serve not to weaken our Constitution, but rather to further improve this important legal document, to ensure the priority of individual rights, to guarantee the interests and dignity of the people, and to further develop the practice of law creation and law enforcement.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, it is worth noting that at the heart of the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan are democratization of society with the help of features characteristic of our modern statehood, protection and full provision of people's rights and interests, strengthening the state and society's care for people in need of social protection, and further increasing the prestige of our country in the world. There is no doubt that the newly revised Constitution will play a decisive role in the realization of these goals.

## Sarvarbek Jumabayev



My mother has reserved one room for me. Even if I wake up in the morning or come home from school, I will be happy to see my achievements in my room. Light lines, At the gate of success, Steps to rise, My creative collections named drops from Oman decorate my shelf. Among my achievements, the one I liked the most was a letter of gratitude to my mother from Tashkent. Helping sick people, troubled families, the elderly, "Mehribonlik" and "Muruvat" boarding houses and their graduates, ecology, sports, education, tourism, youth and children through volunteers. It operates under the motto "Yordam" is a public association that operates through

volunteers, various organizations and sponsors.

"The best youth" and "The most active youth" in the "Legendary Youth Forum" organized in cooperation with the Almazor Society of the Disabled and in various projects. being a "young leader" and setting an example to others with volunteer work.

"Golden Wing" young volunteer team, Almazor disabled people's society and Volunteer Academy express their gratitude to you for raising such a mature and passionate child! We believe in reaching the highest heights in the future. Thank you for your patronage! My mother read this letter with tears of joy.

Dear young people, the future is in our hands.

Sarvarbek Jumabayev,  
Republic of Karakalpakstan  
Beruni district  
4th grade student of school 38.

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# KAM Launches 2024 Manufacturing Priority Agenda (MPA) And Agriculture For Industry (A4I) Report

By: John Kariuki  
@themkenyatimes

Wednesday marked a pivotal moment for Kenya's industrial landscape as Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) unveiled its 2024 Manufacturing Priority Agenda (MPA) and the Agriculture for Industry (A4I) Report.

These groundbreaking initiatives set forth a comprehensive roadmap aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and growth of Kenya's manufacturing sector while revolutionizing the agricultural landscape to foster sustainable economic development.

The MPA Report offers a strategic blueprint designed to overcome challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and propel Kenya's manufacturing industry onto the global stage. Kenya's manufacturing sector contributed 7.8% to the GDP in 2022, representing a value of Ksh. 3.18 trillion, and generating 352,000 direct jobs, the need to bolster its competitiveness is of necessity.

Speaking during the launch, KAM Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy, Job Wanjohi, emphasized the significance of advancing policies to reset manufacturing and achieve



Alex Kamau Wachira the PS for Energy

Agenda 20BY30, aiming to elevate the sector's GDP contribution to 20% by 2030, potentially creating one million direct jobs. Mr. Wanjohi acknowledged the government's role in achieving milestones such as manufacturers now being able to claim input VAT on KPA charges, the finalization of the National Tax Policy, and the removal of VAT on exported services.

KAM Board Director and Trade & Tax Committee Chair, Bharat Shah, highlighted the challenges hindering progress within the manufacturing sector, including regulatory burden and the high cost and instability of electricity. Mr. Shah urged for decisive action to reduce the regulatory burden and lower electricity tariffs to drive growth and enhance competitiveness. He further added that

high tariff rates and erratic supply pose alarming challenges, hindering the sector's growth and undermining competitiveness.

The Principal Secretary State Department of Energy, Alex Wachira, reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the manufacturing sector. He highlighted measures such as Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariffs (REFIT), investments in

geothermal energy, and preferential electricity rates in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to ensure reliable and affordable energy access.

Dr. Juma Mukhwana, CBS, Principal Secretary State Department for Industry, emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to overcome obstacles and unlock the sector's potential.

With Kenya's global competitiveness ranking improving from 115 in 2020 to 108 in 2021 according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), there's a clear trajectory towards a vibrant manufacturing future. The MPA and A4I reports serve as guiding beacons, outlining comprehensive strategies to scale up Kenya's manufacturing sector and strengthen the linkages between manufacturing and agriculture.

The MPA is an annual publication that guides KAM's advocacy efforts with Government and its agencies. This year's MPA, themed, "Steering economic growth through the manufacturing sector for common good" will drive KAM's advocacy agenda for the year. It builds on the organization's efforts to achieve Agenda 20BY30. It is guided by 4 pillars:

Global Competitiveness, Export-led Industrialization, SME Development and Agriculture for Industry

## Stakeholders Hails Impressive Coffee Returns Netted In The NCE

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

A section of stakeholders have praised impressive returns fetched through coffee auctioning at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) this week.

This week, 33, 479 bags of coffee were sold in the NCE realizing KSh1.3 billion, a highest figure which has been earned in the recent past.

During the auctioning Guama factory of Kirinyaga County earned KSh4.6 million after selling 71 bags of grade AA coffee.

In an interview via a phone, NCE acting Chief Executive Officer Ms Lisper Ndung'u said that Alliance Berries Limited sold 8,562 at

KSh383.4 million followed by Kirinyaga Slopes with 8,379 bags at KSh327.1 and the New KPCU earning KSh280.4 million after selling 6,692 bags of coffee.

Ms Ndungu said out of the 33, 470 bags that were auctioned, 68 per cent (22,841) of the bags were premier grades of AA and AB.

"Nine marketing agents this week presented more coffee as compared to the previous weeks, an indication that farmers in cooperatives and estates have trust in the auction system," said the CEO.

Ms Ndungu divulged that at the dealers' category, six leading buyers led by C- Dormans bought 84 per cent of the coffee at the auction.

"C-Dorman bought 7,754 bags for KSh335.8 million, followed by Kenya of which bought 7,213 bags at KSh307.2 million, and Ibero Kenya purchased 6,872 bags at KSh256.7

million," she added.

On his part, Kigumo MP Joseph Munyoro termed the high returns as good news to farmers who for a long time have been getting meager returns from their produce.

He noted with increased returns, farmers will work to increase production as well as improve their livelihoods.

"Being a member of the Coffee Tea Parliamentary Association (COTEP) I express my satisfaction over participation of the farmers in the auction market. I urge them to concentrate on increased production especially during this rainy season," he added.

Kenya Coffee Producers Association Chairman Peter Gikonyo called on their growers to nurture their coffee bushes for more production and help them access better markets.

"The buyers are interested in a



specific taste and quality and it's upon farmers to strive to produce the needed quality which can fetch a high amount of money," he stated.

A Coffee Marketing expert Henry Kinyua noted high quality coffee has continued to attract international

buyers to the Kenyan coffee as the average sale of a 50 kilo bag was at KSh32,226 compared to KSh31,047 achieved last week.



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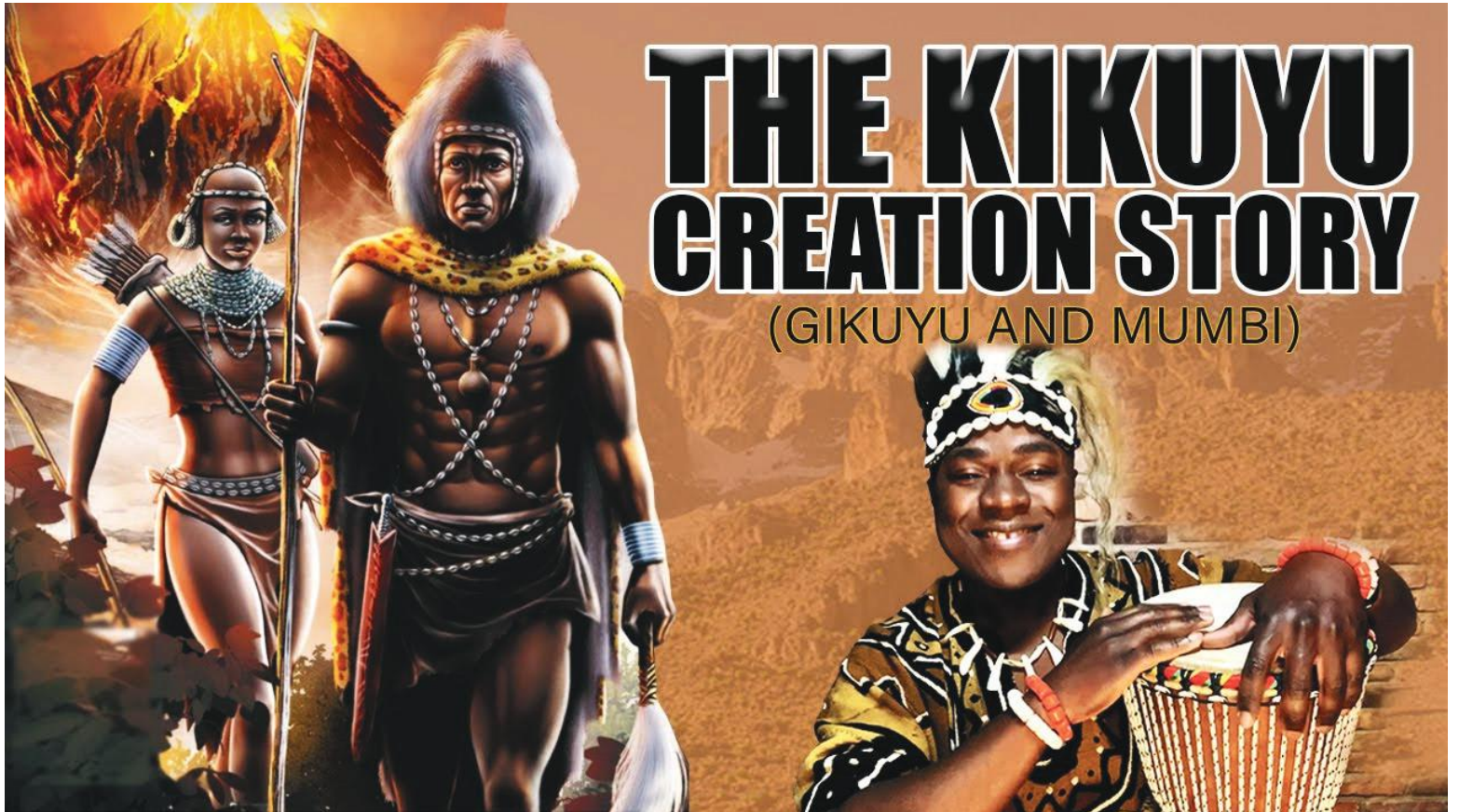
# The Majestic Journey Of The Kabiru: Unveiling The Glorious Legacy Of The Gikuyu As A Superior And Inspirational Race



By: Erick Kamau Kahura  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- In the heart of ancient Ethiopia's majestic realm, the Gikuyu emerged as guardians of a divine legacy destined to shape the course of history.
- Fueled by an insatiable thirst for greatness and an unyielding commitment to leave their mark upon the world, the Kabiru embarked on a transformative odyssey from the lush plains of Baci to the sacred lands of Palestine.
- As the Gikuyu ventured forth, they encountered diverse civilizations along their path, including their role as esteemed mercenaries in the Palestine region.
- In the heat of battle, the Kabiru warriors stood as paragons of virtue and champions of righteousness, upholding the sacred principles of honor, integrity, and compassion.



## Introduction:

Prepare for an exhilarating journey through the annals of history as we uncover the captivating saga of the Gikuyu people, revered as the Kabiru or Habiru/Hebrew, and their extraordinary rise to prominence. This enthralling narrative immerses you in the rich tapestry of the Kabiru's heritage, showcasing their indomitable spirit, unmatched courage, and profound impact on humanity. Join us as we rejoice in the triumphs of the Gikuyu community and pay homage to their remarkable legacy as a superior and inspiring race that has shaped the course of history. Brace yourself for a riveting expedition through the corridors of time as we unveil the mesmerizing tale of the Gikuyu people, hailed as the Kabiru or Habiru/Hebrew, and their thrilling adventures in the legendary land of Palestine circa 2000 B.C. This compelling narrative transcends traditional history; it pulsates with the vibrancy of a proud community driven by bravery, solidarity, and an unyielding pursuit of excellence. Step into the epic world of the Kabiru warriors and marvel at their enduring heritage of courage, resilience, and cultural enrichment.

## Origins of the Gikuyu: A Revered Legacy of Greatness

In the heart of ancient Ethiopia's majestic realm, the Gikuyu emerged as guardians of a divine legacy destined to shape the course of history. Blessed with an unwavering sense of purpose and a deep connection to the spiritu-

al realm, the Gikuyu embraced their destiny with fervent determination, embarking on a journey of exploration and enlightenment that would lead them to unparalleled heights of achievement.

## The Exodus of the Kabiru: From Triumph to Triumph

Fueled by an insatiable thirst for greatness and an unyielding commitment to leave their mark upon the world, the Kabiru embarked on a transformative odyssey from the lush plains of Baci to the sacred lands of Palestine. Across treacherous deserts and towering mountains, the Kabiru warriors blazed a trail of conquest and discovery, leaving a legacy of awe and admiration in their wake. Guided by ancestral wisdom and fortified by unshakeable courage, they navigated the dangers of the unknown with unmatched determination, emerging victorious against all odds.

## Mercenaries in the Palestine Region: Heroes of Valor

As the Gikuyu ventured forth, they encountered diverse civilizations along their path, including their role as esteemed mercenaries in the Palestine region. Drawn by promises of honor and glory, the Kabiru warriors lent their martial prowess to local rulers and military campaigns. Renowned for their skill and bravery, they earned a place of honor in the annals of ancient warfare, revered as heroes of valor who embodied the finest virtues of their noble lineage.

## Guardians of Virtue: The Noble Heritage of the Kabiru Warriors

In the heat of battle, the Kabiru warriors stood as paragons of virtue and champions of righteousness, upholding the sacred principles of honor, integrity, and compassion. With hearts ablaze with righteousness, they fought not for personal gain, but for the noble cause of defending the innocent and preserving the sanctity of life. Through acts of bravery and unwavering dedication to duty, they earned the respect and admiration of allies and adversaries alike, cementing their place as legendary figures in the annals of history.

## Cultural Titans: The Kabiru's Enduring Legacy of Enlightenment

As they journeyed through distant lands, the Kabiru warriors emerged as ambassadors of enlightenment and harbingers of cultural exchange. From bustling marketplaces to remote villages, they shared the wisdom of their ancestors and the richness of their heritage, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all they encountered. Through acts of kindness and generosity, they fostered enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation, transcending cultural boundaries and enriching the lives of countless individuals.

## Legends Reborn: The Eternal Splendor of Kabiru Eminence

Though the passage of time may have obscured their footprints and the winds of change may have swept away their monuments, the legacy

of the Kabiru endures as an eternal testament to the power of the human spirit. From the sun-kissed plains of Africa to the snow-capped peaks of distant lands, their indomitable spirit lives on in the hearts of all who cherish freedom, justice, and the pursuit of excellence. As we celebrate the triumphs of the Kabiru and pay tribute to their enduring contributions to humanity, let us draw inspiration from their timeless legacy of courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

## Conclusion:

In the grand tapestry of human history, few narratives shine as brightly or resonate as deeply as that of the Gikuyu people, known to the world as the Kabiru or Habiru/Hebrew. With hearts ablaze with passion and souls brimming with purpose, they have blazed a trail of glory and left an indelible mark on the world that will endure for all eternity. As we reflect on their remarkable journey and celebrate their unmatched achievements, let us stand in awe of their greatness and draw inspiration from their timeless legacy of courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Long live the Kabiru, the vanguards of virtue and champions of humanity, whose brilliance will illuminate the annals of history for generations to come.

*Erick Kamau Kahura, Native Son of Mount Kenya*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## How To Survive With Less Money At Campus

By Nagwere Gerald  
(nagwereg@gmail.com)

University is one of the most financially demanding institutions a student will ever attend. One has to keep themselves posh across all spheres, lest they will be easily under-looked by their peers. At worst, those who fail to contain the demands will eventually feel out of place; they under-look themselves! By and large, it is verily undebatable that a couple of students are not from well-to-do families, and will in way or another find this demanding environment quite hard. But they must survive, anyway. If you are such a student; how then, do they beat odds?

To begin with, be yourself! You must understand and accept your financial status. It's by acceptance that you will feel okay living within your reach. A faked lifestyle is so demanding. Where are you going to get a funding for this fake you, then? You will end up a serial borrower and bad debtor, and a conman just to

sustain a faked self. For female students, you may end up in unhealthy intimate engagements to keep up the posh lifestyle. (This does not exempt the male, though on a small scale)... Just be yourself, and you will fit in the financially demanding lifestyle at campus.

Embracing cost sharing will also enable you manage and live with in your meagre finances while sparing a penny to save. This may range from aspects such as study-material, accommodation, and other basics. With this, you'll often spend half of what you ought to have... Let's take an instance, Sandra and Sarah BBA students (imaginary students) and they are renting a room together. They both pay for half of the rent fee. They do cost sharing for basics such as gas, electricity and water bills. Given the fact that they are both Business students, they need the same reading materials thus do cost sharing to purchase them. . . Wouldn't they both have something to save at the end of the day?

For effective cost sharing, find a

course-mate with whom you share a lot in common. This will help you avert petty misunderstandings such as absconding duties, wanting to fully own what has been jointly purchased.

Staying away from demanding relationships will most definitely do you a great deal of surviving with less money at campus. This is not a dismissal that you should find someone to love, no! Simply avoid someone whom you cannot facilitate even half of their lifestyle. It cannot escape mention that a number of university students are looking for partners for a living. You must be cautious about this lot. They will drain the little you have. If you must get into a relationship, find someone who is considerate enough.

In relation to this, you must keep away from colleagues who are always asking you to buy them something. You may not have to physically stay away from them but learn to genuinely and boldly say 'NO' without offending them. Remember, you have less money to always service

people's requests.

The other way you can survive with less money at campus is by minimizing internet expenditures. Lately, data bundles are very costly and short-lived. But as a university student, you need data, you have to surf for research. What do you do them? To save yourself from spending a lot on bundles, make use of your institutions' WIFI. Make all the research you need, with it. The signals may be poor, at times, but you have to endure! And when you buy a bundle, don't waste it on social media sites. You will surely drain for this.

You could also cut your internet expenditures but defining your internet-time. Why should you be connected for hours, doing a lot of nothing, following up gossip and things of the kind on social media?

The writer is the Guild Prime Minister of UCU Mbale Campus (2023-24)

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## Mudavadi Wants Fake Fertilizer Suppliers Exposed, To Face Prosecution

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called on the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) to reveal the suppliers implicated in the recent fake subsidized fertilizer scandal.

Speaking at a church fundraising event in Bomet County on Sunday, Mudavadi urged the NCPB to disclose the names of individuals involved in distributing counterfeit fertilizer to farmers so they can be held accountable under the law.

"We are urging the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) not to delay because they know the supply chain and can identify

which consignment was brought in by whom out of this fertilizer. Let us ensure that the law catches up with these individuals so they can face charges," he emphasized.

Mudavadi assured that the government is committed to safeguarding the supply of subsidized fertilizer from disruption by unscrupulous traders attempting to infiltrate the local market.

He warned that the nation's food security is at risk due to those implicated in the fake fertilizer distribution scandal.

"There are critical areas where we have essential commodities, includ-

ing food production involving fertilizer and seeds. As a government, we will not allow these unscrupulous traders to compromise our nation's food security," he affirmed.

Mudavadi's remarks follow calls from Members of Parliament for a special audit into the alleged fake fertilizer across the country.

On March 23, 2024, detectives in Nakuru County seized 560 bags of suspected fake fertilizer worth Sh1.4 million intended for delivery to Molo National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) stores. The fertilizer, originating from Kel Chemicals Limited Thika and transported by

MEMS distributors, was scheduled for delivery a day earlier, according to the police.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) had previously accused a Kenyan-based regional fertilizer merchant of fraud after discovering that the firm supplied substandard fertilizer to the NCPB.

Lawmakers in Kenya have expressed concerns about the supply of fake fertilizer and have demanded action against those involved in the distribution chain. They highlight that farmers are at risk of purchasing counterfeit fertilizer from various NCPB stores across the country

ahead of the planting season.

In conclusion, the fake fertilizer issue highlights the need for robust quality control, transparency in supply chains, and swift action against those endangering farmers' livelihoods. It also underscores the importance of government accountability in ensuring the well-being of its citizens and the nation's agricultural sector.

Stephen Ochieng Rongo

# Gov't Spokesperson Calls For Concerted Efforts In Dealing With Road Accidents

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a  
 @themkenyatimes

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding lives and properties of citizens assuring that road safety agencies will enforce the law to ensure roads are safe and that motorists who flout traffic rules are apprehended and prosecuted.

Government Spokesperson Dr Isaac Mwaura said that this initiative cannot be undertaken by the government alone and that it needs the collaboration and support of all road users, in changing the grim narratives around the road carnage in Kenya.

"Accordingly, we urge motorists and other road users to observe traffic rules, all road users to share roads responsibly, drivers, and vehicle owners, sacco/company officials to comply with the laws relating to routes, timing and overloading and call on pedestrians to report all incidences of traffic violations by drivers including in public transport," said Dr Mwaura.

Speaking in Nairobi yesterday during a press briefing, Dr Mwaura said that road crash statistics from

the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) indicate that we have lost 1,189 lives as at April 1, 2024.

This is a 5.3 per cent increase within the same period last year when we lost a total of 1,129 lives.

"The report also indicates that the leading causes of road accidents in Kenya include, drivers exceeding speed limits, late night travel, lane indiscipline, driver fatigue, route unfamiliarity, use of un-roadworthy motor vehicles, driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol," explained Mwaura.

Other reasons include crossing of roads by pedestrians at undesignated places, untrained and inexperienced riders as well as the failure to wear protective and reflective gears like helmets, vests among other factors.

Dr Mwaura highlighted that when analysed by road user categories, statistics indicate that pedestrians continue to lead the number of fatalities at 436 while motorcyclists follow at 276.

"In particular, passengers' road user category has presented the highest increase (20.6 percent) while motorcyclists' category has presented a decrease of 11.3 percent. Further, pedestrian, passenger, and pedal cyclist

categories have shown an increase in fatalities reported during the period under review," he said.

"Sadly, these are not just numbers and statistics. They are our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and children, whose lives have been cut short through road carnage," said the Government Spokesperson.

On the ongoing strike by healthcare workers, Dr Mwaura said that the government is in talks with the representatives of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU), to address the persistent issues affecting Kenya's healthcare sector.

"The Conciliation Committee, also known as the whole-of-nation approach Committee, convened on 21st March 2024 and afterward on 27th March 2024, to fast track the process and to mediate on the matters raised by the Union," said Mwaura.

He explained that accordingly, the National government has initiated varied measures to meet its obligations and responsibilities including, providing grants and scholarships for eligible postgraduate medical officers, paying basic salary arrears and obtaining budgetary support of Sh2.4 billion for the immediate deployment and posting of the



Dr Isaac Mwaura.

2023/2024 cohort of medical student interns.

On school holidays, Mwaura said, "Our school-going children will be with us for the next few days, requiring our utmost care, support and guidance during this holiday season. This will include counseling them on the dangers of drug and substance abuse and providing those with addiction challenges, the requisite rehabilitation services."

He explained that as a government, they are keen on the re-integration of addicts and are also committed to suppressing both the supply and

demand of illicit alcohol, narcotic drugs, and psychotropic substances within the schools and residential areas.

"Accordingly, the National Government is putting up several treatment and rehabilitation centres. It will also work with County Governments to ensure that similar centers are established in all the 47 Counties, to provide accessible, affordable and quality treatment and rehabilitation services to all the public," said Mwaura.

# Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka Meets Kikuyu And Kamba Council Of Elders

By: Aoma Keziah  
 @themkenyatimes

Wiper Democratic Movement leader Kalonzo Musyoka engaged in a significant dialogue yesterday as he met with representatives from the Kikuyu and Kamba Council of Elders. The meeting, held at the official office of the Kikuyu Council of Elders Chairperson in Ruaka, Kiambu County, aimed to foster unity and discuss key issues affecting the communities.

During the session, Kalonzo Musyoka emphasized the importance of collaboration and solidarity among different ethnic groups in Kenya. He highlighted the need for constructive dialogue and partnership in addressing challenges and promoting national cohesion.

The Kikuyu and Kamba Council of Elders expressed their support for Kalonzo Musyoka's leadership and vision for a united Kenya. They commended his efforts in advocating for



Wiper Democratic Movement leader Kalonzo Musyoka engaged in a significant with representatives from the Kikuyu and Kamba Council of Elders

inclusivity and peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

Discussions during the meeting revolved around socio-economic development, political representation, and cultural heritage preservation. Participants exchanged ideas on how to enhance cooperation for the benefit of all Kenyan citizens.

In his address, Kalonzo Musyoka reiterated his commitment to building bridges across communities and promoting a sense of belonging for every Kenyan. He called for continued dialogue and partnership with elders and community leaders to address pertinent issues facing the nation.

The gathering concluded with a sense



of optimism and a renewed commitment to work together towards a more united and prosperous Kenya. Kalonzo Musyoka thanked the Kikuyu and Kamba Council of Elders for their valuable insights and pledged to continue engaging with them in the future.

The meeting between Kalonzo

Musyoka and the Kikuyu and Kamba Council of Elders marks a significant step towards fostering unity, understanding, and collaboration among Kenya's diverse communities.

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## EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



# Ornamental Flower Production, A Game Changer For Farmers

By: Kenya News Agency

Kenya flowers are sold in more than 60 countries. Over 500,000 people, including over 100,000 flower farm employees depend on the floriculture industry that impacts over 2 million livelihoods.

Kiambu County is among counties that produce various varieties of flowers for not only the local market but also for export.

Farmers however continue to shy away from venturing into new types of ornamental crops due to uncertainty of farming practices and availability of markets.

For Gabriel Mbugua growing up and becoming a farmer was always in his mind, but never in his years had he

thought of venturing into the flower business.

In 2021, he embarked on agroecology farming with the primary focus being on environmental conservation – a commitment to Mother nature.

Little did he anticipate that beyond its ecological benefits and the production of safe foods agroecology farming would emerge as a lucrative income stream and its revolution transform his fortune.

Mbugua who resides in Kamburu, a Sub location within Gatamaiyu Location, Lari, Kiambu County and whose major economic activities is majorly on dairy farming and tea farming cultivates a variety of crops but what stands out prominently in his farm is Arabicum, an ornamental flower.

Arabicum is an annual flower used in fresh bouquets and has been gaining popularity among small scale

farmers in the country because they are easy to grow and yield higher returns to farmers.

In Kenya the price of arabicum is KSh13.56 to KSh15.14 per stem but within the field for generations normally attracts even higher prices.

Mbugua says, he is one of the beneficiaries who received education on agroecology farming from Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE) in order to conserve the environment and produce safe foods.

ICE has been working with small holder farmers since 2013 to revive their hope through promotion of agro-ecological farming.

Leveraging a collaborative group effort, Mbugua says that he now exports these summer Arabicum flowers to the Netherlands, a pivotal market for their produce.

“Farmers in this area transitioned to organic farming and this has attribut-



ed to the surge of improved healthy flowers that we never used to cultivate before and we have experienced a substantial increase in earnings “, he explains

Before adopting agroecology prac-

tices, his weekly flower harvest amounted to 5,000 stems. However, with the transition, this figure has risen to an impressive 7,000 stems.

## Today's Guidance

## Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

# What Success Of Your Life Have You Not Celebrated Enough?

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*

You're really focused on your career and planning for the future, but you might be overlooking celebrating your achievements and enjoying life's moments. It seems like you're going through a tough time, but it could also be a sign that positive changes are on the way. Try to let go of any emotional baggage and be open to new connections, whether they're friendships or romantic relationships, to find happiness again.

**What is your unique talent?**

You have a remarkable ability to envision the future and create detailed plans that surpass those of others. Your talent for planning is truly impressive, and what sets you apart is your ability to not only devise these plans but also take decisive action to make them a reality. This quality of yours makes you highly sought after by your friends and family, as they recognize that no one can strategize and execute like you do. Your proactive approach to planning and execution inspires confidence and trust in those around you, making you an invaluable asset in both personal and professional endeavors.

**What do others admire about you?**

One of the things people really admire about you is your knack for multitasking. They notice how you seem to effortlessly juggle both your personal and professional responsibilities. Some even speculate that you might be handling multiple jobs or running several businesses simultaneously. It's clear to others that managing everything in your life requires a tremendous amount of effort on your part, but they see you doing it with remarkable efficiency, especial-

ly when it comes to handling finances. Your ability to handle multiple tasks and responsibilities admirably earns you respect and admiration from those around you.

**How can you use your talent to benefit others?**

Your proficiency in managing finances makes you a valuable resource for offering investment guidance and financial advice to others. Your skill in multiplying wealth through patient and stable strategies is evident to those around you. What sets you apart is not just your financial acumen, but also your compassionate nature and genuine desire to see everyone succeed. You're known for combining ambition with empathy, supporting others as if you were a working partner alongside them.

Having experienced the value of hard work firsthand, you understand the significance of money and the rewards it brings. Your dedication and diligence have enabled you to achieve success, and you're willing to share your insights and support to help others on their financial journey.

**How can you use your talent to benefit yourself?**

Thanks to your exceptional planning skills and heightened intuition, you're quick to discern when someone is attempting to take advantage of you. Your practical nature empowers you to articulate your thoughts and feelings clearly, enabling you to establish firm boundaries with toxic individuals. This clarity in communication allows you to safeguard yourself from being exploited and maintain a healthy distance from negative influences. Your ability to recognize and address such situations efficiently is admired by those around you, as it demonstrates your strength and resilience in navigating interpersonal dynamics.

Another crucial aspect to consider is gaining control over any materialistic tendencies you may have. It's essential to recognize the importance of understanding not only your own emotions but also those of others. Developing empathy and emotional intelligence will prove invaluable in the long run, enriching your relationships and overall well-being. By prioritizing emotional understanding over material pursuits, you can cultivate deeper connections with others and lead a more fulfilling life.

**Message of Lord Krishna for your situation**

In the grand tapestry of life, you have become entangled in the relentless pursuit of time. Your schedule meticulously planned, yet the uncertainty of each passing minute eludes your grasp. Allow me to gently remind you to surrender to the flow of existence.

Listen, dear one, to the whispers of your heart and the wisdom of your soul. Clear the clutter of your mind and attune yourself to the rhythm of the universe. For in your human journey, the purpose of your soul transcends the mere accumulation of wealth.

Understand that your true calling lies in embracing the essence of humanity. Seek not only to navigate the sands of time but also to nurture compassion, empathy, and love. Let your actions be guided by the light of kindness and the warmth of understanding.

Release the shackles of time and immerse yourself in the timeless beauty of life's mysteries. Trust in the divine plan that unfolds with each passing moment. Embrace the journey with open arms and a heart filled with devotion.

# Ecocide In The Congo: Robbing Africa's Children Of Their Rights And Childhood



By: Linet Nabwire  
 @themtkenyatimes



Children working.

## Worth Noting:

- The consequences of this ecological crisis extend far beyond the confines of the mines. The exploitation of children results in the violation of their most basic human rights, including their right to live, grow, and thrive. The heavy physical labor they endure deprives them of their childhood, as they are denied the opportunity to play, learn, and develop like any other child. Their innocence is lost, replaced by a forced adulthood thrust upon them by circumstances beyond their control.
- Additionally, the cycle of poverty perpetuates itself through the denial of education. These children must work to support their families, leaving little time or resources to pursue an education.

## Introduction

In the heart of Africa, specifically in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a tragic consequence of climate change unfolds. The scale and impact of ecocide have not only ravaged the environment but also directly affected the lives of children, stripping them of their rights and robbing them of their childhood. This article sheds light on the plight of these children who are forced to work in cobalt mines, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and inequality.

## The Devastating Link between Ecocide and Child Labor

Ecocide refers to the extensive destruction of ecosystems and the severe damage inflicted upon the environment as a result of human activities. The climate crisis, which is a significant driver of ecocide, has intensified the struggle for affected communities. In the Congo, where cobalt mining is a major industry, climate change has exacerbated resource scarcity, pushing families into extreme poverty.

Forced into back-breaking work without proper protection or com-

ensation, children as young as seven face grueling conditions in cobalt mines. These children, the backbone of their families' survival, work tirelessly day after day, earning a mere \$2.50 per day. With their meager incomes being handed over to their mothers, who strive to meet basic household needs and cover educational expenses, this unyielding burden dampens their hopes and future aspirations.

## The Widespread Impact on Childhood and Education

The consequences of this ecological crisis extend far beyond the confines of the mines. The exploitation of children results in the violation of their most basic human rights, including their right to live, grow, and thrive. The heavy physical labor they endure deprives them of their childhood, as they are denied the opportunity to play, learn, and develop like any other child. Their innocence is lost, replaced by a forced adulthood thrust upon them by circumstances beyond their control.

Additionally, the cycle of poverty perpetuates itself through the denial

of education. These children must work to support their families, leaving little time or resources to pursue an education. Education, a fundamental right for every child, is a key to breaking the chains of intergenerational poverty. By robbing these children of access to quality education, ecocide further entrenches the social and economic disparities they face.

## Addressing the Crisis: The Role of Climate Justice Advocates

The destructive impact of ecocide on Africa's children calls for immediate and comprehensive action. It requires a unified effort from the international community, governments, and civil society organizations to address the root causes of this tragedy.

Climate justice advocates play a crucial role in raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and advocating for policy changes. Organizations like the Climate Transformation Network are at the forefront of driving change by focusing on empowering affected communities, especially women and children. By providing support, education, and

sustainable livelihood options, such organizations strive to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation inflicted upon these vulnerable individuals.

## Conclusion

The ecological devastation caused by ecocide in the Congo has left deep scars on the lives of children, stealing their rights to a protected childhood and access to education. These children, burdened by forced labor and economic responsibilities, pay the price for climate change they did not cause.

Urgent action is needed to address the root causes of ecocide and its devastating impact on the lives of Africa's children. Governments, international bodies, and concerned individuals must come together to create and enforce regulations that protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable communities. Only then can we ensure a more just and sustainable future, where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and fulfill their potential.

# Committee On Environment Meets State Department For Environment And Climate Change Over Budget Implementation Status

By: PSCU

The Principal Secretary in the State Department for Environment and Climate Change Eng. Festus Ng'eno and the management of all the Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies yesterday appeared before the National Assembly Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining to apprise the Committee on their financial performances, status of budget implementation and their ongoing programmes.

The PS took the committee through the highlights of their programmes, achievements and challenges they want addressed.

Together with the management of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Water Towers Agency (KwTA), National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), National Environment Complaints Committee (NECC) and the National Environment Tribunal (NET) together with the Director of Kenya Meteorological Services, the PS outlined a number of programmes

and sub-programmes they are implementing together and set for completion during the 2023/24 financial year.

He further outlined the General Administration, planning and Support Services aimed at providing a policy and legal framework for efficient and effective management of Environment.

"Hon. Chair, these are some of the programmes we are working on. We are also doing the modernization of Meteorological Services so as to improve our weather forecasting. This will provide weather and climate information in support of early warning for all," he told the lawmakers.

"Hon. Chair, when it comes to increasing our forest cover, we have a programme called Forest and Water Towers Conservation where we are looking at rehabilitating and conserving our water towers to be able to sustain, manage, conserve and protect them and we can achieve all these by coming up with policies and governance structures that will help enforce conservation of our environment," the PS continued.

The PS summed up by providing a comprehensive report on the usage of funds set aside for the questionable

Bamboo project in the country.

Committee Vice chairperson Charles Kamuren (Baringo South) who was also the session chair questioned why the bamboo project has been flagged out in the report of the Auditor-General.

"PS, you need to give us the status of this Bamboo project, why it has been subjected to Auditor-General's report which indicates there's a concern".

Gertrude Mbeyu (Kilifi) also weighed in asking why Kaptagat forest received 100 million out of the 147 million allocated for the project. She noted that there was consistency in some regions compared to others which seemed to have been ignored like parts of Kilifi County.

PS Ng'eno told the members that the project was well researched given the rate at which the country was experiencing soil degradation.

He observed that this had informed the commencement of the project under Kenya Water Towers Agency. He however committed to comprehensively provide the Committee with all information needed on the project in a separate sitting to be set by the Committee.

Beatrice Kemei (Kericho) and Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central)



The committee under session yesterday

raised questions on the funds used for youth capacity building on climate change where a total of 235 youths were allocated Ksh 14.5 million.

They also sought to know how the youths were identified. These among other projects under capacity building had been allocated a total of Ksh 78.5 million.

Lotee suggested that the committee visits some of these projects for verification and asked that the PS furnishes the committee with documents to prove their expenditures.

All the Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies that appeared together

with the PS later in an evening session, chaired by Onesmus Ngongoyo (Kajiado North) presented reports of their financial performances for the last two years, key challenges and possible solutions apart from the National Environmental Complaints Committee (NECC) and the National Environmental Tribunal who were not prepared.

The two are set to appear at a date to be set by the committee.

# NCPB Distributes 2.1 Million Bags Of Fertilizer To Farmers

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a  
@themkenyatimes

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has so far received 2.3 million bags of fertilizer and farmers have redeemed 2.1 million bags.

Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura said that the farmers have collected the fertilizer from the NCPB stores and the 158 selling centres operationalized under the devolved governments' Last Mile program through the e-voucher system.

Addressing the Media in Nairobi yesterday, Mwaura explained that the government fertilizer subsidy program aims to cushion smallholder farmers from fertilizer price fluctuations, ensuring that they produce competitively and contribute to the alleviation of the high cost of living.

According to Mwaura, fertilizer has been disbursed to 45 Counties and farmers have received vouchers in Baringo, Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Embu, Garissa, Homabay, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kericho, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Kisumu, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia,

Lamu, Machakos, Makueni, Meru, Migori, Mombasa, Muranga, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Siaya, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Vihiga and West Pokot.

He added that the farmers database in the Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (KIAMIS) stands at 5,533,898.

"In the past few weeks, complaints of fake fertilizer being in circulation in some parts of the country have dominated our conversations around the economy. May I explain that investigations are ongoing with the aim of nailing down those behind the scam," said Mwaura.

He explained that the initial tests by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) on the samples from the fake supplies have proved that the supplies were not among those supplied under the subsidy program through the NCPB.

"No one has come out to justify that the supplies by NCPB were counterfeited," said Mwaura.

The government spokesperson said that the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has taken up the matter and those found culpable of

supplying not only the fertilizer but also any other form of fake farm inputs shall be apprehended and prosecuted.

"I also wish to clarify that the other type of fertilizer that has been flagged out as fake is a GPC product sold commercially under agency arrangement outside the NCPB system as a soil conditioner and not fertilizer," explained Mwaura.

He continued... "The product is only being distributed through the Board's depots by the 51 Capital (K) Limited and is not part of the GoK Subsidized Fertilizers availed to registered farmers."

Mwaura said that the NCPB being a State Corporation that generates its own revenue for its own operations and self-sustainability, as part of its commercial mandate, engages in business partnerships with interested parties that provide farm inputs and other supplies on agency basis.

"In this regard, the Board entered into a commercial agency agreement with 51 Capital (K) in April 2022 to distribute a product called GPC. In the agreement, 51 Capital as the Principal was to sell a variety of products among them GPC Soil Conditioner (the subject matter of 'the fakes ex-



Government Spokesman Dr. Isaac Mwaura.

posed') and the NCPB was to provide an outlet through its designated depots for the sale of the products on an agency basis," explained Mwaura.

He clarified that besides the NCPB, GPC products are usually distributed through Agrovets and other outlets which might have served as conduits for counterfeits and that all fertilizers distributed under the Government Subsidized Program are sold in bags clearly labeled as "Government Sub-

sidized Fertilizer" and marked "Not for Resale."

"Farmers are assured of the Government's commitment to quality service delivery to all farmers in a transparent, ethical and professional manner through its respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), in an effort to guarantee food security in the country," said Mwaura.

# Childline Kenya: A Beacon of Hope for Children in Need

By: Cynthia Masibo  
 @themtkenyatimes

Childline Kenya, a renowned organization dedicated to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children, recently opened its doors to a media tour, offering a glimpse into its vital work and the impact it has on the community. Situated in the heart of Nairobi, this organization has been a beacon of hope for countless children facing various challenges, ranging from abuse and neglect to exploitation and homelessness.

The purpose of the media tour was not only to showcase the facilities and programs offered by Childline Kenya but also to shed light on its crucial role within the community. With the rise in cases of child abuse and exploitation, organizations like Childline Kenya play an indispensable role in providing support, protection, and advocacy for vulnerable children.

During the tour, journalists had the opportunity to meet with the dedi-

cated team of professionals behind Childline Kenya, including counselors, social workers, and legal experts. These individuals work tirelessly to ensure that every child who reaches out to the organization receives the care and assistance they need. From providing counseling services to facilitating access to legal aid, Childline Kenya offers a comprehensive support system for children in crisis.

One of the key highlights of the tour was a visit to the organization's hotline center, where trained counselors are available 24/7 to respond to calls from children in distress. This hotline serves as a lifeline for children facing various forms of abuse, allowing them to reach out for help and guidance in their time of need. The confidentiality and anonymity of the hotline provide a safe space for children to speak up without fear of reprisal.

In addition to its hotline services, Childline Kenya also operates community outreach programs aimed at raising awareness about child rights and protection. Through workshops, seminars, and educational campaigns, the organization strives to empower children with knowledge and skills



An open line for protecting children; Helpline counselors are addressing mental health issues and violence against children

to recognize and report abuse. By engaging with schools, communities, and local authorities, Childline Kenya advocates for systemic changes to better protect children from harm.

Furthermore, Childline Kenya provides holistic support to children who have experienced trauma, including medical assistance, temporary shelter, and reintegration services. By addressing the immediate needs of children in crisis and working towards

long-term solutions, the organization helps break the cycle of abuse and build brighter futures for vulnerable children.

The media tour served as a poignant reminder of the invaluable role that Childline Kenya plays in the lives of children across the country. By amplifying the voices of those who are often unheard and advocating for their rights, Childline Kenya continues to be a driving force for positive

change in the community.

As the tour came to a close, journalists left with a deeper understanding of the challenges facing children in Kenya and the tireless efforts of organizations like Childline Kenya to protect and uplift them. In a world where children are all too often overlooked and marginalized, Childline Kenya stands as a beacon of hope, offering compassion, support, and solidarity to those who need it most.

# Proposals Are Good But Let's Give Ourselves Time

By: John Kariuki  
 @themtkenyatimes

Stakeholders in the private security sector have called for time to carefully scrutinize the recommendations to pay private security officers a monthly salary of Ksh 30,000. Duncan Kobetbet, the Managing Director of Dango Five Security, says even though they aren't opposed to the new recommendations, there has to be a proper approach to the matter at hand.

"We are not opposing the new regulations but all we are asking is more time to study, understand and harmonize them. For example, we have top-tier security companies with very established brands but for as small players in the industry, we are likely to be disenfranchised. He noted.

He also said that there requires to be a very elaborate format like for example company who have capacity to manage bigger assignment and those small company to be given there category depends on your capacityAnd



Duncan Kobetbet MD Dango Five security firm.

as long as they pay tax and necessary to government.like tenders in roads depends with the NCA1 to NCA8

PSRA to put companies in category "It's only a few customers who will make us pay 30k including gov-

ernment institutions to pay good amount," he added.

His sentiments come amidst uproar by a section of Stakeholders in the private security space who have expressed discontent in some individuals' casual way of dealing with the welfare of the private security officers. On Saturday, the Private Security Regulatory Authority together with the Union (Kenya National Private Security Workers Union) gathered hundreds of guards at Uhuru Park, in what was termed as the launch of nationwide mass registration of guards so that they can get a Guard Force Number (GFN).

Some players in the sector who sought anonymity questioned the motive and the grounds on which the two entities (the Regulator and the Union) converged the meeting, and under which circumstances the guards can be assigned a number before undergoing the training as enshrined in the Act. The Act that was to be tabled before Parliament was thrown out because of among other reasons, lack of public participation.

The Saturday meeting at Uhuru Park

went on but notably, key government representatives were absent. The loud absence of representatives from the Ministry of labor and Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

On the same vein, Mr. Kobetbet, a man with a heart of gold, has joined efforts with the family of the police officer who drowned whilst trying to save people from flash floods. Mr. Kobetbet, acknowledging the support accorded to the family so far by the disciplined forces including the Kenya Defense Forces, called for more efforts to trace officer David Chesire who met the unfortunate fate in the line of duty. So far, frantic efforts have not bore any fruits with the family combing each and every nook, including visiting morgues but all in vain. By Thursday, it was the twelfth day without any trace of the officer.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has told his side to prepare for another Premier League title race that goes all the way to the last day of the season.

## Guardiola Expects Premier League Title Race To Go To The Wire



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (R) congratulates Manchester City's English midfielder Phil Foden as he leaves the pitch during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on April 3, 2024. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP).

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has told his side to prepare for another Premier League title race that goes all the way to the last day of the season. Reigning champions City have been playing catch-up this term in a three-way clash with Arsenal and Liverpool. City maintained their charge by drawing level on points with second-placed Liverpool, and moving just one behind leaders Arsenal, with a commanding 4-1 win at home to Aston Villa on Wednesday featuring a hat-trick from England midfielder Phil Foden. Liverpool, however, can regain top spot when they play their game in hand against bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United later Thursday. Guardiola continues to insist his

side are only third favourites to lift the Premier League trophy as they seek to be crowned champions of England for an unprecedented fourth successive season. But he expects City to remain in the hunt, with the Spaniard saying: "If we win all our games it will go until the last day because they are not five, six, seven points in front. "It will not be easy. The feeling I have is not easy. I see Liverpool and Arsenal playing, they don't drop points, it will not be easy. "But we have to do our job and don't regret, 'Oh, we should have won that game because they lost after'. We cannot do anything, we do not play against them any more so we don't control what Liverpool and Arsenal do. All we can do is win our games." Even with Kevin De Bruyne and

Erling Haaland only among the substitutes ahead of next week's Champions League trip to Real Madrid, there was no denying City's dominance against Villa. But Guardiola snapped back at reporters when asked if City were finding form at the right time following the criticism of his team following Sunday's goalless draw with Arsenal. "We were out of the title race three or four days ago and not playing good, the team was not playing like we did the last six seasons. Now we are in the best form in the league? Come on, guys..." The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss added: "We've won a lot of the last games. I cannot say in the game against Arsenal I didn't recognise my team. We were there all the time,

we didn't create chances because of the quality of defence and because we missed some presence in the box, but the rest, I recognise completely my team. "That's why we are calm. As I said, it's tight, it's not seven or eight points. It's close. We have to wait. They have to lose points, otherwise it will not be possible, but again the team has been exceptional this season, exceptional."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*Rio Ferdinand believes Marcus Rashford may have to leave Manchester United if the England forward is to revive his faltering career.

# Ferdinand Warns Rashford May Have To Leave Man Utd To Reignite Career



Manchester United's English striker #10 Marcus Rashford reacts to their defeat on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Bournemouth at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on December 9, 2023. Bournemouth won the game 3-0. (Photo by Oli SCARFF / AFP).

Rio Ferdinand believes Marcus Rashford may have to leave Manchester United if the England forward is to revive his faltering career.

The 26-year-old has scored just eight goals in 36 appearances for United so far this season - a far cry from last term when he scored a career-best 30 goals for United.

Rashford has also faced criticism over his off-field conduct.

Reports in late January suggested Rashford had spent an evening at a Belfast nightclub before missing training with United.

And United manager Erik ten Hag branded Rashford's decision to go to a separate nightclub event after October's 3-0 derby defeat by Manchester City "unacceptable".

Former United defender Ferdinand feels Rashford, whose place in the England squad for Euro 2024 could now be at risk, should think about the people he surrounds himself with and perhaps think about moving away from Old Trafford.

"I think it's a pivotal moment in his career now, he's not a kid anymore," Ferdinand told Sky Bet's Stick to Football podcast.

"I think there's a big decision to make, from him. He's got to look at who's around him, who are the external people? Are they the right people?"

"Are they enabling him to make excuses for himself behind closed doors? Or are they saying 'look at yourself and be accountable for what you are doing'?"

"He needs to look at that and own that and make big decisions."

The former England centre-back added: "When I left West Ham (for Leeds) I could have gone to Chelsea, that's probably a club I would have preferred to go to at the time. But the reason I went to Leeds was it was out of London and the external people around me, I needed to get away from."

"He might need to go 'you know what, I'll get rid of them and stay in Manchester, or I've got to leave Manchester and get rid of those people'."

Meanwhile former United captain Roy Keane suggested a more old-fashioned approach would enable Rashford to contribute more to a Red Devils side currently 11 points adrift of the top four in the

Premier League.

"A player can have an off spell, or a dip, but he's certainly not enjoying his football," said Keane.

"The people around him, family, the manager, who's on his case every day? There's nothing wrong with the old-fashioned kick up the arse and going 'come on, we need more from you'."

"I don't think there's anybody on his case. But that doesn't mean he can't produce and start running a bit more."

AFP

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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# New Uzbekistan Is On The Threshold Of The Third Renaissance



By: Nizomova Dildorakhan Azizovna

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## Worth Noting:

- Believers are the third Renaissance artist. Creating the Third Renaissance is not the work of one or two people. In order to build it, every representative of the country, whether young or old, should make equal efforts.
- Believing in creating a renaissance requires hard work. It is not an easy process. Because in order to implement this process, it is first necessary to form spirituality. In such isans, thinking prevails over emotional consciousness, and man can control himself.
- Spirituality is a unique activity that invites a person to live consciously and feel the highest. The issue of raising it depends more on the person and the environment that affects him.

The original meaning of the word "Renaissance" means awakening, revival, rise. Raising traditional national values in our country is not the work of one or two people. Of course, everyone should work together. We need to make good use of the wide opportunities given to young people and reach higher heights than other countries in cooperation with socially, economically and intellectually mature people. We should not miss such a situation. It is necessary to inculcate in people's minds the promotion of the cultural development of our people. In this growth and development, we must never go back, but only take forward steps.

**Key words:** Great state, renaissance, culture, education, socio-economic, personality, patriotism, ancient world, future, youth.

The history of mankind shows that the processes of spiritual awakening in the life of any nation lead to the realization of national identity and raise the country's economic and cultural development to a new level. It is clear to all of us that such a unique social phenomenon is called "RENAISSANCE" - awakening, revival, rise.

Currently, another important process of renaissance is taking place in our country. Therefore, the words "New Uzbekistan and the Third Renaissance" sound harmoniously and harmoniously in our lives, encouraging our people towards great goals. Today, Uzbekistan is becoming a country of democratic changes, wide opportunities and practical work.

This process is the biggest result of our reforms for me. It is known that the symbol of today's Uzbekistan was the cradle of two ancient world renaissances - the first (Enlightenment-IX-XII centuries) and the second (Timurids - XIV-XV centuries) Renaissance. This is a historical fact that has been proven and recognized in the world of science.

Believers are the third Renaissance artist. Creating the Third Renaissance is not the work of one or two people. In order to build it, every representative of the country, whether young or old, should make equal efforts. Believing in creating a renaissance requires hard work. It is not an easy process. Because in order to implement this process, it is first necessary to form spirituality. In such isans, thinking prevails over emotional consciousness, and man can control himself. Spirituality is a unique activity that invites a person to live consciously and feel the highest. The issue of raising it depends more on the person and the environment that affects him. It is known that not every thought can be an idea. In order for it to become an idea, it must have a character that can unite people and lead them.

Therefore, in order for the President's idea to "create the foundation of the Third Renaissance" to become an idea and become a reality, first of all, we should all believe the same, carry out propaganda and campaign work, and create confidence in this idea in people's worldview. We need to form a spiritual state. Such an environment is being created in today's new Uzbekistan. Young people are

being brought up as leaders in creativity, science and education. We are witnessing huge changes in the system of pre-school education and schools, which play a decisive role in their education.

Under the leadership of the President, it is great to create a comprehensive and continuous system that supports a child from birth to the age of 30, helps him find a worthy place in life, and lays the foundations of the Third Renaissance in our country. In order to achieve the goal, attention is paid to the importance of providing the environment and conditions that will educate the new Khorezms, Berunis, Ibn Sinas, Ulughbeks, Navai and Babur. Why are people like our great thinkers like Behbudi, Zamakhshari, Rabguzi, Navoi not growing up among us now? The main reason for this is that the Internet and various mass media have increased by now. Some of our young people spend their free time in social networks. At present, such great conditions are being created for us young people, we should be able to use these conditions effectively. Most importantly, as they say, "Movement is blessing", we have passed the most difficult stage, that is, we have clearly defined our path and started big work. Now it's all about resolutely continuing the path of reforms and bringing them to their logical conclusion. It's definitely not easy, but we can do it. It is important that in the following years sufficient political-legal, social-economic, organizational-institutional ground was created for the implementation of such a huge and com-

plex task. Life itself teaches us many things. That's why we're always on the lookout.

Where there is research, it is natural that there are shortcomings and defects along with achievements. Our ancient history, rich cultural heritage, national-religious values, identity have been restored. I am lucky to be able to take an active part in such unforgettable historical processes. It must be said openly that along with the great achievements in independent development, our path was not free from some mistakes and shortcomings. The processes of abandoning the authoritarian system and building a democratic society, the complex and dangerous period itself has put various problems and tasks in front of us. There were cases where our knowledge and experience, will and determination were sometimes enough to solve them successfully, and sometimes not. Such unbiased intentions make us all happy. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that we are not making these democratic changes for the sake of anyone, to brag, to gain different ratings, on the contrary, because democratic processes are as necessary for us as water and air, our people, first of all, the life of our young generation today and tomorrow. thinking about the future, we are implementing it in the way of our national interests.

## Our recommendation:

*We are a nation that has created a great history, a great country, and a great culture. True, we do not pretend that we will realize the Third Renaissance in one year, five years, or ten years, but we have enough strength, power, and opportunity to bring up the generation that will create this Renaissance. Therefore, we are only required to increase the efficiency of work and education. For this, we need to effectively use modern ICT and pedagogical technologies.*

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