



Shame Of Mud-Walled Classrooms And Grass-Thatch Structures In Tharaka Schools In The 21st Century
In an era of rapid advancement in education and infrastructure, Tharaka constituency in Tharaka Nithi County remains woefully behind.

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News>>MPs Express Concerns Over Reduced Budgetary Allocation To The State Department Of Roads And Transport

P. 8. The Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure has raised concerns over the trend of declining budgetary allocation to the State Departments for Roads and Transport for the last few years.



News>>How Is Maturity Developed?

P. 12. Maturity is rooted primarily in self-control which, in turn, facilitates growth in wisdom and responsibility. The most basic objective of training children, therefore, is the subduing of their self-will. From the time children are born, parents must develop in them the ability to say "NO" to their own desires and "YES" to their parents.

Ruto Begins US Tour In Atlanta

President William Ruto began his tour of the United States of America in Atlanta yesterday.

According to the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken the visit to Atlanta is the first segment of Kenya's diplomatic engagement with the United States and will be followed by a State Visit to Washington, D.C. on May 23. "The United States of America (USA) has welcomed President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto to Atlanta, Georgia, Monday." Stated Blinken in a statement.



President William Ruto at The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Auditor General Appeals To Budget And Appropriations Committee To Reinstate The Budget Reduction



Nyeri County Women Representative Rahab Mukami, a member of the budget committee during yesterday's session.



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu when she appeared before the committee yesterday.



Committee chairman Ndindi Nyoro yesterday.

By:PSCU

The Auditor-General FCPA Nancy Gathungu, has appealed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee to consider reinstating the amounts reduced from the previous allocations in the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) for the Financial Year 2024/25, and those of the current financial year.

This, she noted, would enable her office to continue delivering its Constitutional mandate and ensure quality and timely audit reports are provided for effective oversight.

During the meeting chaired by Ndindi Nyoro (Kiharu), the Auditor General stated that in the 2024 BPS, the OAG was allocated KSh8.6 billion, com-

prising KSh 8.28 billion recurrent and KSh315 million development expenditure. However, under the proposed estimates, the recurrent budget allocation has been reduced to KSh8.21 billion.

Some of the key areas that will be affected by this reduction include training expenses, general supplies and services amongst other operation expenses.

The Auditor General also detailed the cost of the one capital project for the construction of Mombasa Regional Office, estimated at KSh900 million, and the construction of OAG Headquarters in Nairobi.

"We agreed to prioritize the Mombasa Regional Office but it is also imperative we start the preliminary planning for the Headquarters. I would request an allocation of KSh500 million for the OAG Headquarters project out of the estimated project cost of KSh6 billion, to enable us commence the process," added

Gathungu.

The chair questioned the return on investment of the OAG Headquarters.

"You are requesting for KSh500 million out of the projected KSh6 billion shillings. I have seen your rental expenditure in terms of the lease is around KSh180 million every year. Looking at it on the current market rates in Nairobi, some major buildings are on sale on almost the same amount. It'll take 30 years to recover the investment of KSh6 billion given the yearly expenses of KSh180 million," observed Nyoro.

"This committee appropriated the construction of the Headquarters in 2014. Ten years down the line, the headquarters have not been constructed. At that time, the estimated cost was KSh6 billion. The plans were to construct two towers; one for staff of OAG and the other tower for constitutional commissions."

"With the delays, the costs are escalating and we are incurring more in terms of leases. It was a surprise to find these costs removed. For Mombasa office, I would request we reinstate that amount and for Nairobi office we start the conversation," replied Gathungu.

Several committee members also supported the idea of prioritizing the Mombasa Regional office.

Further, Gathungu welcomed the enhancement of personnel emoluments by KSh278 million. However, she noted that this is still less by Kshs. 84.5 million, from the estimated requirements of KSh5.26 billion, which would affect the planned recruitment of 150 audit associates which is estimated to cost KSh123 million.

Alego Usonga MP Samuel Atandi questioned the request for additional funds for personnel emoluments, asking if she could consider investing more in tech-

nology to cut on the expenses.

"We are leveraging on technology and that is why progressively the audit reports are coming out earlier and we don't have arrears of backlogs. But we continue recruiting and outsourcing additional personnel," she replied.

The Auditor General also submitted the Supplementary Estimates II for the current financial year, which has been reduced by KSh275 million, out of which KSh245 million relates to the development expenditure that includes the Mombasa office project.

Earlier on, the Parliamentary Budget Office briefed the Committee on the Supplementary Estimates II for this financial year and the next financial year Budget Estimates.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Action Against Hunger, in partnership with the Mandera County Government, has donated medical equipment to 18 facilities across four sub-counties in Mandera County. The equipment includes mother-child weighing scales, trolleys, sterilisation drums, infant-paediatric beds, nebulizers, thermometers, ward screens, examination lamps, pulse oximeters, suction machines, baby weighing scales, blood pressure machines, Ambu bags, fetoscopes, medical storage drawers, glucometers, examination beds, Mama kits, dignity kits, IEC materials, and life-straws. The supplies aim to enhance healthcare accessibility and strengthen the healthcare system, particularly in outreach sites and health facilities. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health, Mohamed Ali Omar, expressed gratitude for Action Against Hunger's support in improving healthcare access and outcomes for vulnerable communities.



The Bomet County Department of Health and AGC Tenwek Hospital are collaborating to improve healthcare accessibility and awareness in the region. A specialised training programme for Community Health Assistants (CHAs) has been conducted to equip them with essential skills to identify various eye ailments among residents. The training, which began in Chepalungu sub-county, focuses on using mobile phones with specialised software for house-to-house screenings. The programme is part of a broader strategy to improve eye health across the county. The programme will be implemented in two phases, with CHAs conducting household-level eye screenings using mobile technology. Healthcare facilities in Bomet have also been trained on ophthalmic skills upgrading courses, low vision, cataract surgeons, and contact lens fitting.



Donkey stakeholders in Kenya have welcomed the decision by African Heads of State to ban the slaughter of donkeys for 15 years. The ban was adopted at the 37th African Union (AU) Summit in Ethiopia and aims to ensure the welfare and sustenance of communities across Africa who depend on donkeys. Dr. Benson Kibore, director of Farming System Kenya, praised the ban as a significant gain for donkey farmers, who are relying on them for their livelihoods. Dr. Benard Njau from the Narok Veterinary Department praised the ban as a major achievement for Africans who use donkeys to transport goods through impassable roads. He called for the issuance of movement permits for donkeys to curb the animals' trade. Brookes East Africa Director Elijah Mithigi supports donkey farmers by training them to diversify their income sources.



National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee members Florence Jematia and Rahab Mukami (Nyeri County MP) join local politicians for a dance during a public participation forum at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute in Marigat town last Friday.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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Senior Senate Staff Elected To Head Commonwealth Law Body

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyaintimes

A Senior Parliamentary Staff has been elected to lead a global group of legal drafters.

Dr. Johnson Okello, who is the Director of Legal Service in the Senate in Kenya, was elected the President of the Multi-National Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC) during its general meeting in Jamaica.

The Director becomes the first African jurist to hold the position in the body's 40-year history.

The election of Dr. Okello is a major achievement for the Parliament of Kenya, the legal fraternity in the country and Africa at large.

An expert in Legislative Drafting, Dr. Okello was elected by peers from member countries of the global body in an online voting that took place last month.

He takes over from Mr. Andy Beattie who comes from Scotland. He will head the body for the next two years.

Dr. Okello was admitted to the bar in 1998. He holds a PhD in law and has more than two decades experience in legal practice.

"I thank you all most sincerely for the trust and the faith you have shown by giving me the opportunity to spearhead the Association," said Dr. Okello when he took over from Mr. Beattie during the ceremony held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and which ended on Thursday last week.

Dr. Okello thanked the membership for believing in him and bestowing to him the leadership of the association.

tion at its pivotal point of reaching 40 years since it was founded.

He commended members for their dedication, commitment and hard work in ensuring that the Association remains alive to achieve its mandate.

Before his election, Dr. Okello had served as Council Member to the body, representing Africa Region for three terms.

He promised to reinvigorate Regional Branches and ensure that the ideals of CALC are felt by the wider membership. He also encouraged members to continue sharing knowledge by contributing to the legal journals and publications as one of the ways of sharing knowledge.

"We must grow, I will propel growth and development of the Association through creating professional regional offices that can transact business for the Association at close reach", stated Dr. Okello.

"When professionals meet at close range, it creates room for the growth and development of the Association as emerging issues are dealt with on real-time basis," he emphasized.

The outgoing President, Mr. Andy Beattie congratulated Dr. Okello saying that it was an honour to nominate him for the position. He assured members that, with Dr. Okello, CALC was in safe hands.

"I take this opportunity to thank you members for your support during my reign. I am delighted to welcome my colleague in leadership and assure you that in him the association is secure", said Mr. Beattie.

He implored members to give adequate support to the new president to ensure a smooth running of the Association.

ciation.

CALC is an association engaged in legislative drafting and other related legal work involving law making process.

The body was established in 1983 in Hong Kong alongside Commonwealth Law Conference.

It is a fully accredited organisation of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Okello is a ranking member of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and East Africa Law Society.

He is currently serving as Secretary General of Africa Colloquium for Legal Counsels Serving in Parliaments.

He has a versed experience in the field of Law having worked in private practice, served in the Government.

He started off as a State counsel before moving into private practice. During his career, he has taught at the Kenya School of Law and served as Legal Sector Reform Specialist under World Bank/ GOK Legal and Financial Sector Reform project.

Besides he has also drafted many legislation in Kenya and represented Kenya at the East Africa Community Harmonisation of Laws in EAC where he drafted many of the protocols that are implementing the EAC Treaty.

Dr. Okello has trained most lawyers in the region and beyond in Legislative Drafting.



Dr Johnson Okello in Jamaica last week.

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MPs Express Concerns Over Reduced Budgetary Allocation To The State Department Of Roads And Transport

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- Following a House resolution, the committee had written to the National Treasury to submit a report showing the distribution of national roads projects across all counties for a period of three years preceding 30th September last year.
- During yesterday's meeting, the National Treasury pledged that they would iconduct a review and submit the requested information.
- The members also observed that due to the multi-layer nature of road projects as well as inadequate budgetary allocation, the State Department had been grappling with accumulation of pending bills.
- In response, the National Treasury informed the committee that the ministry had appointed a pending bill verification committee to undertake reforms that would ensure future accumulation of pending bills is avoided.

The Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure has raised concerns over the trend of declining budgetary allocation to the State Departments for Roads and Transport for the last few years.

The committee noted that a review of historical allocations to the State Department for Roads shows that the allocation has been on a downward trajectory from a high of KSh240 billion in 2019/20 to KSh184 billion in the proposed Estimates for the next financial year.

The lawmakers also observed that the review of the 4th Medium-Term Plan (MTPIV) of the Vision 2030, indicated that the National Treasury had continued to consider the implementation of annuity projects despite the Roads Department having severally submitted that the government had long abandoned the annuity model

The move resulted from the high cost of running the program, forcing the government to explore other ways of developing roads across the country.

Further, the members were told that 24 per cent of the State Department's development budget amounting to over KSh26.77 billion had been earmarked for different clusters of low volume seal roads.

However, the members observed that this could lead to a skewed distribution of road projects across the country.

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In response, the National Treasury informed the committee that the ministry had appointed a pending bill verification committee to undertake reforms that would ensure future accumulation of pending bills is avoided.

Members also sought to know from the Kenya Roads Board the reasons behind the declining projection from the fuel levy for the 2024/25 Financial Year and whether the Estimates for 2024/25 had been based on these projections.

Meanwhile, the committee has called on the State Department for Transport as well as the Kenya Railway Corporation (KRC) to clarify on the applicability of the Roads Development Levy (RDL) on development projects outside of the Standard Gauge Railway. Members flagged this as an irregularity which requires to be addressed through the revision of the Act.

They also questioned why the operations and maintenance of the Standard Gauge Railway had been allocated KSh901 million from the Railway Development Levy for the integrated security management system and the completion of SGR passenger ticketing system.

This is despite Kenya Railways Corporation, on several occasions, while appearing before the Committee, having submitted that the project is meeting its operational expenditures from its own revenues.

Lawmakers further sought clarity on the unit cost of a marine vessel (MV Uhuru II), which has been allocated KSh3 billion.

Other key allocations which the committee sought clarification on, include the insurance of smart driving licenses with a proposed allocation of KSh140 million for issuance of 400,000 smart driving licence translating to KSh350 each.

The procurement of 500 SGR flat wagons and 20 SGR passenger coaches to the tune of KSh3.82 billion as well as the acquisition of 3 MGR locomotives at a cost of KSh544 million, was also reviewed.

in his submissions to the committee , the Principal Secretary State De-



Nyaribari Chache MP ZaheerJhanda, a member of the committee making his contribution during yesterday's session

partment for Transport, Mohamed Daghar stated that the reduction from net government funded projects had majorly affected low volume sealed roads, murraming and gravelling of roads which are expected to play a vital cross-cutting role in supporting the bottom up economy.

Daghar pointed out that the proposed reduction of the development vote would worsen the accumulation of pending bills.

He appealed for the reinstatement of recurrent budget and an additional funding of KSh300M to facilitate operationalization of the Kenya Millennium Development Fund (KMDF).

Principal Secretary for Roads Joseph Mbugua on the other hand called for the reallocation of KSh960M towards the completion of the interchange at the junction of James Gichuru road.

The PS observed that the completion of the interchange would improve

traffic flow on road.

Eng. Mbugua told the committee that the budget cuts had resulted to accumulation of pending bills. He blamed this for the slowed progress of works delayed projects' completion, interests and other claims, and abandoned projects, ultimately reducing confidence in government contracts.

The committee expressed concerns that the inadequate budget provision as compared to the huge portfolio of road projects would continue to stall ongoing projects across the country.

"This situation will give our neighbours an edge over us making us lose our position as the transit corridor. We need to re-think and consider as a Committee to reinstate, reallocate and refund back some of these budget cuts", the committee chairperson, G.K Kariuki urged the members.



Ministry officials consulting during yesterday's meeting.

Blinken Welcomes President Ruto As He Begins US Tour In Atlanta

By: Christine Muchira
@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto began his tour of the United States of America in Atlanta yesterday.

According to the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken the visit to Atlanta is the first segment of Kenya's diplomatic engagement with the United States and will be followed by a State Visit to Washington, D.C. on May 23.

"The United States of America (USA) has welcomed President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto to Atlanta, Georgia, Monday," Stated Blinken in a statement.

President Ruto who was accompanied by Mama Rachel Ruto arrived in USA Monday for a three day State Visit which is the first by a Kenyan Head of State in two decades, as well as the first by an African Head of State since 2008.

According to Blinken, United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa highlights the contribution American cities make to U.S. foreign policy and the mutual benefits of expanded

societal exchanges with the African partners.

Blinken noted, "President Ruto's visit to Atlanta reflects the city's growing global importance and underscores its central role in America's progress towards a more inclusive democracy."

"I welcome President Ruto's engagements with civic leaders on issues of democratic governance while in Atlanta, as well as his focus on our people-to-people ties, public health partnerships, educational exchanges, investments in shared prosperity, and his engagements with Atlanta's African Diaspora," He said.

During the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, President Biden stated that, "The future of Africa and the United States depends on what we can achieve together." President Ruto's visit to Atlanta embodies our joint vision for a 21st century partnership that builds and strengthens relationships beyond capitals.

"I look forward to welcoming President Ruto to Washington. D.C. later this week and thank the Mayor and Atlanta's civic leaders for graciously hosting our Kenyan friends."



President Ruto who was accompanied by Mama Rachel Ruto arrived in USA Monday .

Development Partnerships Forum Key In Projects Implementation - Gachagua

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says improved coordination between government and development partners is critical in the increased absorption of funds allocated to key projects and programmes.

Gachagua said the Development Partnerships Forum has ensured the fostering of better partnership in implementation of the projects across the country.

The Development Partnerships Forum (DPF) is chaired by the Deputy President.

Two Heads of Mission co-chair on a rotational basis, one representing bilateral partners and the second, multilateral agencies.

Speaking yesterday when he witnessed the handing over of the Forum's co-chair position by the outgoing Netherlands Ambassador to Kenya Maarten Brouwer to Germany



Deputy President chairing the Development Partnerships Forum meeting..

Ambassador Sebastian Groth at hid Official Residence in Karen, the DP said Kenyans would benefit more from enhanced coordination.

"The Forum has given fresh impetus to our development dialogue. The government and development partners' joint working groups, which are the key foundation of the Forum, have been re-energised and are meet-

ing regularly," said the DP.

He thanked the partners for their quick support whenever a challenge arises including the recent floods.

"Our partners have come through for us with support during the floods emergency. Since I took office our partners have always held my hand when I have been tasked to lead from the front on the various interventions.

I remain indebted to our partners for what they have done to our country," Gachagua stated.

Also present were the United Nations Resident Coordinator Stephen Jackson, who is also the other Forum's co-chair, and Germany Embassy Head of Cooperation Daniel Gunther, who represented Ambassador Groth.

The DP said the Forum has fostered dialogue, knowledge sharing, and co-ordinated efforts to support Kenya's development agenda.

"This Forum reflects our collective commitment to advancing our nation's development agenda and fostering effective collaboration between the Government and our Development Partners," he added.

The Deputy President thanked Ambassador Brouwer, whose term has come to an end, for his commitment to ensuring the Forum's objectives were achieved.

"Your dedication and leadership as the co-chair of the Forum has been instrumental in advancing Kenya development priorities," he said.

Ambassador Brouwer said there has been great improvement in the coordination between the government and the partners through the Forum.

"From the beginning, we have felt part and parcel of the Forum. I appreciate its revamping a lot because we have done things differently from the past," he said.

Focus On Christ Jesus And Be Obedient To His Commands



By: Eric Musa
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There are cases where people are heavily oppressed by the devil, and if they do NOT get the truth of the Word(Christ Jesus) in them, the devil would destroy them. Human beings are God’s pride of creation, and the devil loves to hurt God by taking over one of His creatures and taking them to hell. God does NOT want us getting messed up by demons.

However, you do not need to get focused on demons and look for them behind every bush (although there is probably one there). But focus on Jesus and be obedient to His commands. Hebrews 12: 1-2 teaches us the best approach we should have, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders

and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

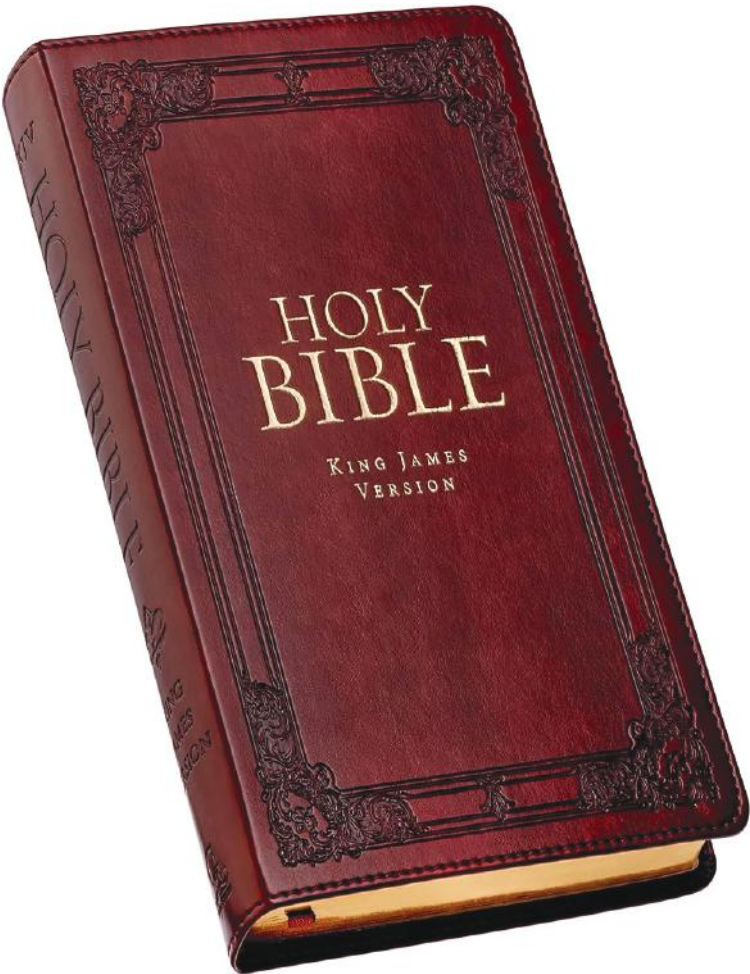
You are casting out demons for His benefit, as part of occupying the territory He bought back with His precious blood. Devils will never get into you, if you refuse to participate with them and do not yield to their temptations. Hanging around the wrong people will lead you into temptation. Attending services in a dry church will make you dry ground and good soil for demonic influence, but not for the Word.

Feed yourself with the Word and pray in tongues. Put on the whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:11-18.) Dry church services many times take place in beautiful buildings and have beautiful music. The services are soothing to your soul, but your spirit goes hungry. The first few services, you know better. Perhaps you can hardly stand it. But then you begin to

get used to it. Finally, you like those kinds of services. Falling into other kinds of temptations, even into carnal sins, follows the same pattern. Withstand the wiles of the enemy, and you will not be oppressed by Satan.

OH GOD HELP US, IN YOUR MERCY AND LOVING KINDNESS DELIVER US THAT WE MAY BE WORTHY INSTRUMENTS IN YOUR HANDS. HALELUJAH.

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



It Is Hard To Believe That Ndindi Nyoro Was Out To Divide The Kikuyu Vote



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- For Ndindi, he had already thrown his hat in the ring and he was leaving nothing to chance in angling himself to take up the position of Mount Kenya kingpin.
- Just like Gachagua, Ndindi was entitled to contest the seat.
- So, DP's allies' strategy of creating a narrative that the Kiharu MP was pushing the agenda of 'outsiders' was bound to fail.
- Gachagua's latest moves suggested that he was back-peddling on the promise of grooming and nurturing youthful leaders from Mount Kenya region.
- Ndindi is widely perceived to be his main competitor in succession battle for Mount Kenya kingpin and 2032 presidential elections.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

Last Sunday the fight for political supremacy in Mount Kenya region went a notch higher.

The allies of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua minced no word in alleging that certain politicians from the region were working at the behest of the enemies of Kikuyu to divide the community.

Led by Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, they stated that the Kikuyu were the main shareholder in this government.

For this reason, we will use all means to protect and defend our son, Gachagua. We will not allow anybody to humiliate and belittle him.

The truth of matter is that he is the senior-most politician in our region.

So, those opposed to him are enemies of Kikuyu. He is our kingpin.

They spoke at a time when speculations were rife that DP had fallen out with his boss. But apparently it seemed the working chemistry of the two leaders remained cordial. After the church service, the DP returned to Nairobi to see off his boss, President Ruto, who was travelling to the United States of America (USA) for a state visit.

Many believed that the allies of DP were mainly targeting Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro and Laikipia East Mwangi Kiunjuri.

For Ndindi, he had already thrown his hat in the ring and he was leaving nothing to chance in angling himself to take up the position of Mount Kenya kingpin.

Just like Gachagua, Ndindi was entitled to contest the seat.

So, DP's allies' strategy of creating a narrative that the Kiharu MP was pushing the agenda of 'outsiders' was bound to fail.

Gachagua's latest moves suggested that he was back-peddling on the promise of grooming and nurturing youthful leaders from Mount Kenya region.

Ndindi is widely perceived to be his

main competitor in succession battle for Mount Kenya kingpin and 2032 presidential elections.

After Gachagua was sworn-in I heard him taking on the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Uhuru let down the people of the Mount Kenya in a big way.

This is because he had failed to groom and nurture a person from this region.

So we were caught off-guard during the 2022 polls.

I want to assure you that we will not repeat this glaring mistake.

At one time, I remember him holding the hand of Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro in one of the subsequent meetings.

Ndindi has all it takes to steer the Mountain to the great height of success and shared prosperity.

As such, he is one of the leaders I have in mind.

But a few month later, DP Gachagua's tone and body language would leave no doubt he regretted having pronounced himself on this matter.

He perceives Ndindi Nyoro as a formidable competitor. We have in recent past seeing employing all tricks in the book in a bid to tame him.

It is worth noting that Gachagua did not play any role to nurture him and so he cannot claim any credit.

No Ndindi Nyoro had already cut his own political path.

Lately, we have been seeing the Kiharu MP honoring invitations by elected leaders mostly members of parliament from across the country. In these visits, he would launch various development projects particularly those sponsored by National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

As this happened, the MP's work in Kiharu was on course.

The other day I was in Muranga town and I got an opportunity to speak with chairman of Kiharu NG-CDF through the phone.

He told me that besides matters of education, health the MP is giving priority to the development of mega infrastructural projects.

For instance, a number of roads were currently being constructed.

Right now I'm on the ground in the remote area of this constituency inspecting these projects.

The MP had also kicked out the process of establishing and launching digital hubs in the villages. These efforts are designed to create jobs for the youth.

For DP Gachagua, It was apparent that he had come to the conclusion that Ndindi Nyoro's working development tours across the country posed a real threat to his political game-plan.

He not only threatened to derail and thwart his plans to become the kingpin of Mountain.

If this happen, he was likely to be dropped as President Ruto's running mate in 2027 and this dim his dream to succeed him in 2032.

With due respect to DP, I posit that his latest political strategy of portraying the young leaders from Mount Kenya as being out to further the course of outsiders was bound to fail.

We know Gachagua was a key player in the government of President Daniel Arap Moi during the 1992 and 1997 general elections respectively. One may ask. What role did he play?

Did he play the role of uniting the Kikuyus at the time? Many aver that he didn't.

Initially Gachagua thought that Ndindi Nyoro was a lightweight. He has since realized that he is a force to reckon with.

The local leaders in areas that the MP has so far visited would aver.

Ndindi Nyoro is a presidential material.

To tame him, we have seen his opponents escalating this war to State House.

This brings me to the question. Did President William Ruto have a hand in Ndindi's bid? The answer is a big No. There was no evidence to support these claims.

During his recent three-day of the Kikuyu land, President Ruto once proved wrong his critics.

He steered clear of local politics and concentrated on development matters.

In so doing, he once again demonstrated his commitment to walk the walk. This is by focusing on fulfilling the promises he had made during the campaigns.

Ndindi Nyoro's campaign had earlier taken a new turn when he hosted more than 20 Kenya Kwanza members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country in his Kiharu constituency.

DP Gachagua later visited Muranga County where he attended a fundraiser in Kigumo. I heard a group of Kikuyus claiming he had 'hired' dozens of MPs who had accompanied him.

For President Ruto, this is not the first time that his name would be dragged into premature 2032 succession politics.

Sometimes back Kakamega senator Bonny Khalwale had made similar claims. This happened during Dr Ruto's visit to the region.

He alleged that President Ruto had held a closed door meeting with the leaders of Mulembe nation at Kakamega State Lodge. We managed to convince him to support the candidature of ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi in 2032.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is not suitable for the position of the President. We want to tell him to forget it. President Ruto will pass the baton to Mudavadi, Khalwale added.

But in a swift rejoinder, Dr Ruto dismissed and denounced his remarks. It is premature and too early to talk about 2032 succession. We are hear to launch and commission development projects. This is in line with promises we made during the campaigns.

I'm not holding brief for the President but I'm persuaded to believe that his position is the same. This is regard to Ndindi's political game plan for the Mount Kenya region.

It is worth to recall that Gachagua was not the preferred choice of the majority of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) leaders from the Mountain for the position of the running mate. The final decision however lied with presidential candidate William Ruto. He settled on him.

Given this scenario, one would have expected Gachagua to immediately start healing the wounds after being sworn in as DP. It is widely believed that almost two years down the line he has failed to do this.

The Kikuyus rooting for Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to lead the Mountain would further cite his track record of development in Kiharu

The MPs and other elected leaders were trooping travelling for bench-marking.

A number of opinion polls conducted by renowned firms rated him as the best performer in the country on matters of development.

Matters of education were also close to his heart. Ndindi have done a lot in terms of building new state-of-art classrooms and renovating the old ones.

He has also been spending part of money he receives from National Exchequer to build TVET colleges.

National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) is one of the kitties.

He moved a step further when he initiated a school feeding programme for the students in all day secondary schools in Kiharu constituency.

Again, dozens of MPs from across the country attended this event.

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

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

How Is Maturity Developed?



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The indulged child is frequently angry because he does not get what he thinks is owed him. Ultimately, he will develop a “victim” mentality - nothing is ever his fault - someone else is always to blame for his misery.
- Some parents believe that maturity is an inevitable part of growing up and will happen naturally to all children, whether trained or not. Proper rearing of children, in their view, requires only that a parent love them, take them to church, and try to give them a happy childhood. To them, maturity is a guaranteed byproduct of getting older, so they do little to help the process, and without realizing it - much to hurt it.



Maturity is rooted primarily in self-control which, in turn, facilitates growth in wisdom and responsibility. The most basic objective of training children, therefore, is the subduing of their self-will. From the time children are born, parents must develop in them the ability to say “NO” to their own desires and “YES” to their parents. That is why parental control of young children is imperative. A child who learns to deny his own desires and submit to his parent’s controls, gains inner controls. Children are born into the world self-centered, and so must be trained from infancy that the world does not revolve around them. They must learn that life will not always give them their way. Susanna a mother who raised 9 children, including John and Charles Wesley, put it this way: “The parent who studies to subdue [self-will] in his child works together with God in the renewing and saving a soul. The parent who indulges it does the devil’s work, makes religion impossible, salvation unattainable, and does all that in him lies to damn his child, soul and body forever.” The child whose will is never subdued when young, comes to believe that he should have what he wants, when he wants it, and should not have to endure anything he does

not like. He will grow older thinking he is being deprived whenever he does not get what he wants from life, and by his teen years he will become preoccupied with his “rights” and know little of personal responsibility.

The indulged child is frequently angry because he does not get what he thinks is owed him. Ultimately, he will develop a “victim” mentality - nothing is ever his fault - someone else is always to blame for his misery. Some parents believe that maturity is an inevitable part of growing up and will happen naturally to all children, whether trained or not. Proper rearing of children, in their view, requires only that a parent love them, take them to church, and try to give them a happy childhood. To them, maturity is a guaranteed byproduct of getting older, so they do little to help the process, and without realizing it - much to hurt it. All children, unless calamity occurs, will grow older, but only those groomed toward maturity will attain it. Hence, as parents, we must work diligently to help our children develop the qualities leading to maturity. The child whose will is not subdued in the first few years of life is hampered in the maturing process. No matter how old he gets, a strong self-will ruled by the craving

for self-indulgence will be the mark of his immaturity. Sadly, this self-indulgence characterizes most children today - even in Christian families. As caring parents it is especially important for us to identify and eliminate that in our child-rearing which feeds the will and fosters self-indulgence in our children.

Self-indulgence is the drive which demands the satisfaction of one’s wants and desires. Consider the following symptom list. Do these symptoms generally characterize your children? a) They are indulged if they lack self-control

b) Self-indulgent people rarely say “NO” to themselves. c) They have a difficult time doing in moderation anything which gratifies; they frequently over-do-it.

d) They do whatever they feel like, or are so used to having their way that they think they should have whatever they want. e) The satisfaction of their own will is foremost in their life - others are considered second, if at all. f) They are indulged if they are self-absorbed Self-centeredness so rules self-indulgent people that they live as if the world revolved around them - life is interpreted by how it affects them. Whenever the self-centered child approaches his parents with a

question, (which may be frequent), it usually involves something he wants for himself. He has few sincere questions regarding the well-being of others. One who is self-consumed, pushes and lobbies parents constantly to get what is wanted; persists even after being refused.

May think of others, but only after satisfying themselves. Although most of us as parents love our children, our commitment to their happiness harms them. Indulged children are unprepared for adulthood. They have been sent the message that their personal happiness is of supreme importance, so they grow up thinking it is owed them. They ultimately lack the self-discipline necessary for successful employment, and their self-centeredness will cause strife in their marriages. Then when their marriages fail, they will not consider it their fault - they will be innocent “victims” of their spouse’s shortcomings. From the time they are young, our children must learn that life is not about fun and entertainment, nor is it about personal happiness and self-gratification. It is about responsibility and serving others. It is finding joy in honoring God and loving our neighbors

Gachagua Calls On International Partners To Support Climate Change Programmes

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has appealed to the international partners to enhance their support for programmes geared towards battling adverse effects of Climate Change in the country.

The Deputy President said the government has scaled up response to the phenomenon to mitigate against occurrences like severe drought, enhanced rainfall and floods as witnessed in the country recently, calling for more global support.

Speaking yesterday when he hosted the Common Board of Trustees of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), at his Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi, the DP said the ongoing programme targeting 15 billion trees by 2032 would

greatly benefit from the partners' support.

"Climate change is real. We have an ambitious programme of growing trees as one of the mechanisms we have identified to combat the negative effects of climate change. I appeal to you for your expertise, technical advice for this programme to come to fruition," he said.

The DP said Kenya had suffered the brunt of adverse weather linked to Climate Change including five failed rainy seasons that led to severe drought that hit the country before receiving enhanced rainfall that led to destructive floods.

Kenya is the host country of ICRAF (also known as World Agroforestry Centre) which has merged with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

During the event attended by Board Chair Doris Capistrano, Vice-Chair Alexander Müller and ICRAF Director General Éliane Ubalijoro, Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho among others, Gachagua

praised the organisation for lasting collaboration in environmental conservation and promoting agroforestry.

"It is an honour for the Board to sit in Kenya. We are honoured to host the headquarters of ICRAF. We appreciate the great work they are doing," he stated.

The Deputy President also called on them to boost the restoration of the rivers in Nairobi saying their input was critical in ensuring the success of the programme.

"I want to appeal to you to support us in the restoration of Nairobi Rivers. We are rolling out a serious restoration programme and CIFOR-ICRAF can play a role to assist us in offering technical advice, resource mobilisation to boost this programme," said Gachagua.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with some of the dignitaries who visited him.

Devolution Committee Questions Funding On Social Halls Construction Proposal

By: PSCU

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations chaired by Wajir Senator Mohammed Abbas has raised concerns on the proposal regarding the construction of social halls, specifically questioning whether the funding responsibility should fall on the National government or the County government.

The proposal is contained in the County Oversight and Accountability Bill, 2024 which is co-sponsored by Senator Ledama Ole Kina and Senator William Kisang.

The committee instead is proposing an amendment to the Bill that will see offices for the Member of County Assembly and the Senator hosted in the social halls to be constructed.

"As a Senator I have no office in Kisii County. In the process of constructing the proposed social halls, we should include office space for the Senator

and MCAs," said Senator Richard Onyonka during the public hearing on the Bill.

Section 2 of the Bill gives county governments the power to construct public halls in wards where no public halls exist or where the halls are inadequate to carry out public participation.

The Bill further mandates the counties to renovate, remodel, maintain and repair of public halls and other related facilities in wards that are in urgent need of such renovation or repair.

In determining whether an infrastructural development or renovation programme should be undertaken in relation to a public participation facility, the Bill obligates the county to take into account the repairs to, or replacement of, the facilities is required within a reasonably short period, the state of the facility and the need for maintenance or repairs be undertaken to avoid endangering the welfare of persons using the facility.

Kevin Kinengo, the Speaker of Kitui County Assembly, proposed that the



Senate introduce a bill to establish a law identifying corrupt members of the county assembly. He also suggested that county supplementary budgets should not be handled solely by MCAs but should include public participation to ensure that citizens

understand the importance of the supplementary budget.

Given the complexity of the issues discussed, the chair of the committee asked the team to organize another meeting in two weeks. This meeting will involve the Council of Gover-

nors, the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), and the Association of Members of County Assemblies (AMCA) to discuss the bill in detail and ensure it is beneficial and user-friendly for the public.

Nobody Is Born Bad



Before I start my story, I want to ask everyone a question: We know that we all divide all people into good and bad. but we will not try to understand how they came to this state. It is wrong to judge people based on their behavior and classify them as good or bad. Don't you think so too?

Maybe because of the environment they are like that? Now together we will find answers to these questions in this story. I hope that you will find useful information while reading the story.

2006. Children's home. One cold winter day, someone left a one-month-old baby in front of the gate of the Children's Home. Seeing this, the director of the orphanage took the baby inside.

Sister Dilshoda, director of the orphanage, named the girl "Aydin". But when Aydin was 3 years old, he lost his sister Dilshoda, who was like his mother. Sister Dilshoda was replaced by a new director, sister Manzura. Aydin's hard days began the day the new director arrived. With the arrival of Sister Manzura, the rules of the Orphanage changed, now the children could eat only twice a day. If someone was punished, they would leave him hungry and without water for two days. Aydin always rebelled against the adults because all these things touched his soul. That's why he was punished a lot. Sister Manzura, who was very angry, took Aydin by the hand, took her into a room with a mirror and began to mentally calm her down. He turned Aydin to the mirror and said:

- Look at yourself, don't you understand something?! Faiz left the orphanage as soon as you arrived. As soon as you arrived, the director, who was walking around, died suddenly. As soon as you arrived, the orphanage became financially poor and now

the children are starving. - he shouted. Sister Manzura gave Aydin a pen and paper and forced her to write the following words: "I am a sword that brings death and bad luck. I am a real creature and that's why my mother brought me here."

These painful days of Aydin lasted for 12 years. Until he met Babur, a peer who came to the orphanage. Babur felt very bad when he saw Aydin's score. "I will make Aydin happy no matter what," he promised. Babur told Aydin that they should run away together. Aydin agreed without thinking. After they ran away together, they went to the police, and Aydin told the police about all the actions of sister Manzura.

Hearing this, the police officer was stunned. The next morning, one of the police officers Akmal and several other police officers went to the Children's House to arrest Manzura.

Two employees took sister Manzura away. The others ransacked his room. They found the account book in sister Manzura's room. As a result, it was found that the director had embezzled more than half of the amount allocated by the state for financial support to the Children's Home. Other crimes of child abuse were also detected. Sister Manzura was sentenced to 10 years in prison for her crimes. Babur and Aydin were saved by a new family. 5 years later, Aydin Manzura went to her sister. But he did not come to see her, but only to find an answer to the question that had been bothering him for a long time.

Aydin Manzura asked sister a question: - Why? Why did you make me and others suffer so much? What evil did we do to you? Why did you come to the Children's House where we live?

Then Sister Manzura began to tell her story. Sister Manzura also grew up in an orphanage. Her principal also treated her like that, and when sister Manzura asked the principal why she was doing this, she said: - If you raise a person only in fear from a young age, he will keep your word and grow up to be perfect. he answered.

- I wanted to do the same, - said sister Manzura to Aydin sadly and asked Aydin for forgiveness. Of course, Aydin could not forgive her. because of that, Aydin and many other young people now remember their childhood with joy and can't forget their sufferings.

It is possible that he may appear to others to be unsympathetic, but Aydin does not regret his decision at all. After all, they say that a bitter truth is better than a sweet lie.

Shahrizoda Bekturdiyeva Uzbek writer girl

I Hold Your Heart In My Hand



I Hold Your Heart In My Hand
I didn't miss a moment, from my smile,
I write poems with your heart,
Enjoy every moment of life!

I hold your heart in my hand
Blood does not flow, pain does not eat
The pains are indescribable
because I hold it!

I hold your heart in my hand
We are writing beautiful poems together
We are talking about beautiful feelings
They will surely remember us!

Calm like you, full of excitement
The moon envies us at night
Selfless like you, breathing devotion,
To a nice person like you.

He is not quiet for a moment, sometimes
he is quiet,
Waves and ripples like the sea,
When the wind sings, the wind listens
quietly,
Who can stop him?!

The birds are his disciples,
Just like me.
It will take your life
just like me

"Take a picture" the heart seeks,
No one has seen you
Where can I find it, my eyes ask
Stop these questions!

Maybe your picture is in all the poems
It is placed, it is drawn strangely
Maybe it's everywhere
Kezar, looking for descendants.

It is clear that it is clear that
Your soul wanders in my soul,
Your heart writes "epic" in my hand
I feel your aliveness.

O creativity, should I say poetry?
Do you have a name?
I'm looking for it while I'm alive
You are alive in my dream

The pen in my hand is your heart
Your words are my soul
Who is there without him?
You will die, you will remain dry.

Here is your picture
I vowed to be a poet,
Because in every committed heart
As long as you live, there is pain!

Uzbekoyim

Erkinova Charos Elbek's daughter was born on November 13, 2008 in Navroz neighborhood of Pastdargom district of Samarkand region.

Currently, he is a 9th grade student of school 105.

He studied English, Russian, Korean and Uzbek languages.

Samples of creativity are regularly published in the international website "Lowercase Reality", Kenya Times, Raven Cage Zine, Seoul Times, Diaspora Times, ChaOS and many other international magazines.

"Uzbegin Dilbandlari", "International Literary Anthology", "Muhabbat va Soz" and actively participated in the anthologies published on Amazon. Member of YUKSALISH organization. Official Member of the Association of Volunteers of Uzbekistan.

Official member of the Golden Wing organization.

Member of the People's Democratic Party Young Volunteers team. Member of EVH organization.

Official member of Juntos por las letras literary organization.

The holder of the State certificate in the 2nd season of Shohida Yusupova's personal development competition.

Winner of the "Best Article" contest. Actively participated and won many contests and competitions.

Holder of more than 15 international certificates

Attended about 10 personal development classes.

A reporter for The Seoul Times.

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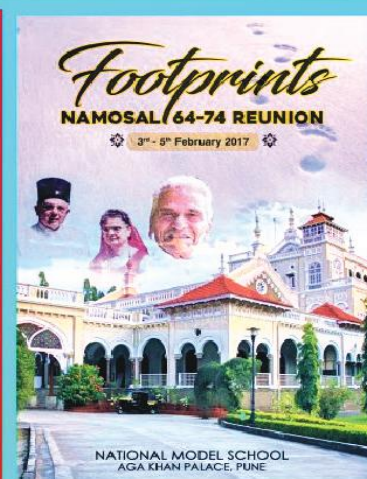
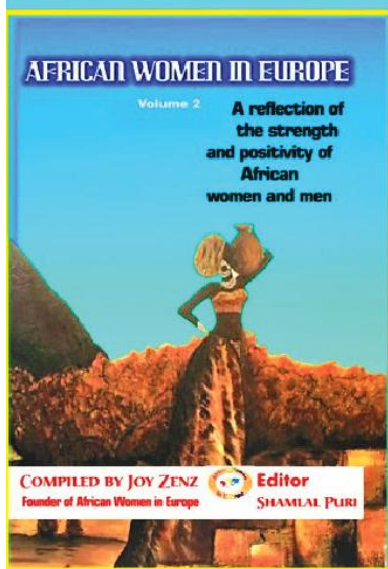
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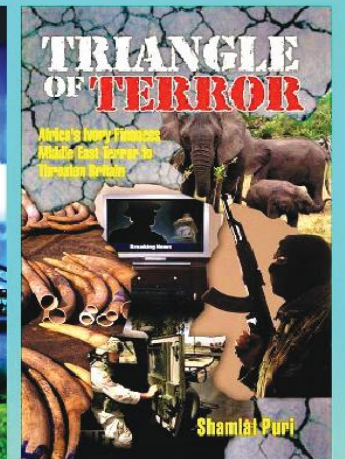
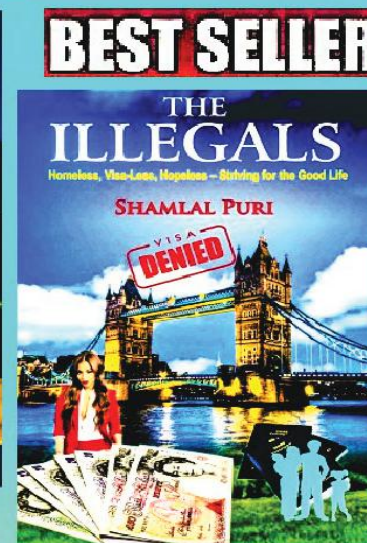
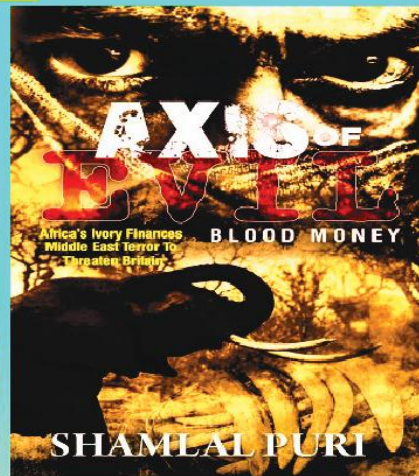
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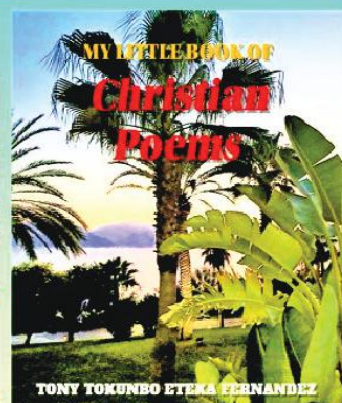
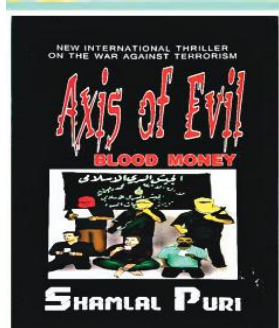
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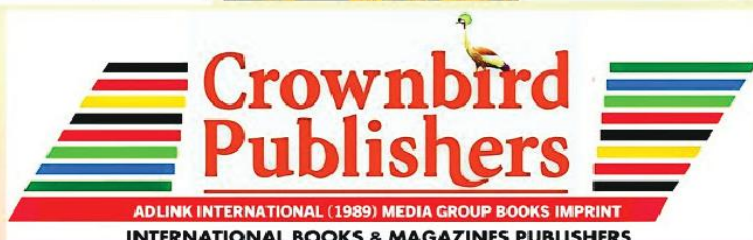


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Kenyan-American Co-Production Of “Searching For Amani” To Premiere At Tribeca Film Festival

The June 8th Event Will Take Place On The Heels Of President William Ruto’s State Visit To The White House

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatiimes

In the heart of Kenya, a powerful narrative unfolds in “Searching For Amani”; a cross-cultural film produced by a collaboration of Kenyan and American filmmakers.

It is directed by Nicole Gormley and Debra Aroko, produced by Peter Goetz, Nicole Gormley and Mungai Kiroga, and Caryn Capotosto.

This film is also executive produced by acclaimed Kenyan conservationist and WildlifeDirect’s CEO Dr. Paula Kahumbu.

It tells the story of Simon Ali, a 13-year-old boy whose life is irrevocably changed when his father, a respected conservancy guide, is murdered under suspicious circumstances. Faced with the daunting task of unraveling the mystery sur-

rounding his father’s death, Simon embarks on a perilous journey.

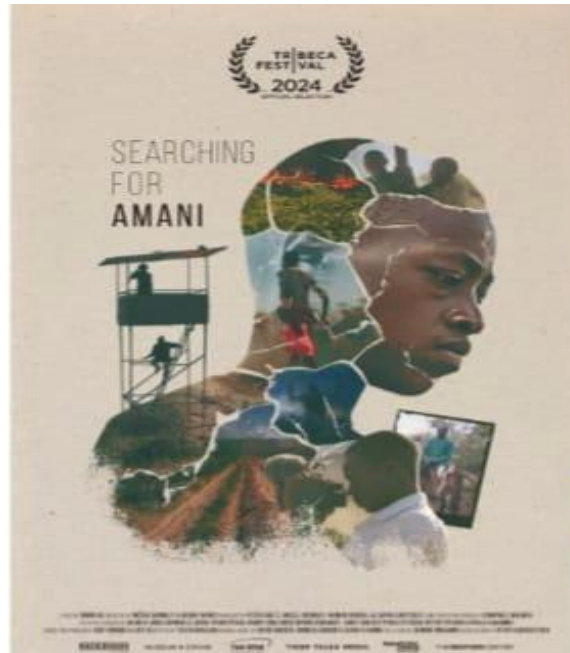
Armed only with a video camera and an unwavering desire for truth, Simon courageously confronts the harsh realities of his world.

Searching For Amani is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of perseverance in the face of adversity. Simon’s transformative journey from a grief-stricken child to a determined young man is a poignant reminder of the strength in the pursuit of truth.

The film is an example of how the spirit of collaboration in film production transcends borders and cultural boundaries.

The Kenyan-American co-production will have its World Premiere at the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, on the heels of Kenyan President William Ruto’s state visit to the White House.

The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign



Affairs has reported that Dr Ruto includes arts and cultural diplomacy in his agenda while in the United States.

Dr. Paula Kahumbu plans to attend the World Premiere of “Searching for Amani” at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 8th.

The Kenyan cast and crew have applied for US visas to attend the film premiere, a step forward in cultural diplomacy between the two nations.

StarTimes Launches Operations In Somalia, Promises Affordable Entertainment For Locals

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatiimes

StarTimes media has officially introduced its services in Somali, heralding a new era of accessible entertainment for the local population at affordable prices.

The launch event marked the company’s entry into the Somali market, with a focus on providing Direct-to-Home (DTH) decoder solutions tailored to the needs of the average household.

Mr. Carter Luo, the CEO of StarTimes Kenya, will assume the additional role of CEO for StarTimes Somalia, overseeing operations and expansion efforts in the country.

Speaking at the event, Luo outlined ambitious plans to enhance the viewing experience by incorporating more local channels into the Somali package.

He expressed enthusiasm for the venture, emphasizing the company’s commitment to enriching the entertainment experience of Somali con-

sumers.

“StarTimes has officially launched in Somalia, marking the beginning of unlimited entertainment for locals with a variety of shows to love and enjoy!” remarked Carter Luo, expressing enthusiasm for the company’s expansion into this vibrant market.

The launch event was graced by the presence of Mr. Dawood Uwais, Minister for the Ministry of Information, underscoring the significance of StarTimes’ entry into the Somali market.

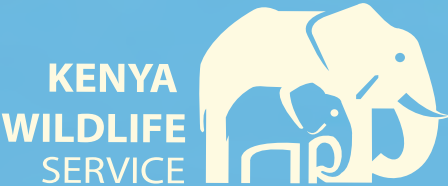
His presence underscored the government’s support for initiatives that promote access to information and cultural expression, highlighting the significance of StarTimes’ entry into the Somali market.

In attendance also included Mr. Abdi Halane Hirsi, the Chief Executive Officer of Galsom, a local dealer in Somalia.

Hirsi pledged to contribute to the enrichment of Somali entertainment by producing high-quality local content and comprehensive sports coverage.



From left; Mr Abdi Halane Hirsi, CEO Galsom company, Mr Dawood Uwais minister for Information republic of Somalia, Tamima Ibrahim, Startimes Marketing Director and Carter Luo, Startimes CEO Kenya and Somalia during the official opening of Startimes Somalia..



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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Shame Of Mud-Walled Classrooms And Grass-Thatch Structures In Tharaka Schools In The 21st Century

By: Denis Mutua
@themkenyetimes

In an era of rapid advancement in education and infrastructure, Tharaka constituency in Tharaka Nithi County remains woefully behind. Despite receiving millions in Constituency Development Funds (CDF) and county allocation each year, the region struggles to modernize its school buildings among other infrastructural projects. A stark example is Kamutuandu Primary School in Tharaka North Sub-county, where students and teachers endure mud-walled classrooms and grass-thatched structures, including the school staffroom. Recent heavy rains have exacerbated the dire situation, causing latrines and mud classrooms to collapse, leaving parents to shoulder the burden of repairs. During a recent visit, parents expressed frustration and a sense of neglect from both county and national governments. They reported that, although they were promised Sh10 million from the

national exchequer seven years ago, only Sh1 million has been disbursed. This amount funded a single permanent classroom, which now doubles as a refuge for teachers and students during rainstorms. “Whenever it rains, teachers and parents use this single classroom as their shelter since the others are mud-walled and compromised by strong winds,” lamented a parent. Parents decry the stark contrast between their schools and those in other regions, despite their contributions through taxes. Kamutuandu Primary School, a designated junior school center, lacks sufficient classrooms, worsening an already critical situation. Last week, parents at Kirimami Primary School in Nkondi Ward protested the deplorable state of their classrooms, which they claim endangers their children. “Classrooms in our school are in a deplorable state, with reptiles like poisonous snakes compromising the safety of our children. Teachers have no decent staffroom and sometimes take tea while standing for lack of shelter,” said a concerned parent. Beyond inadequate classrooms, many schools lack electricity, leaving

them further isolated and vulnerable. The poor road network compounds these issues. Except for the Mati road constructed during the previous regime, the constituency’s Chiakari-ga-Marimanti road has stalled for years, with sections riddled with pot-holes. During rains, earth roads and unbridged streams become impassable, stranding farmers who then must sell their produce to exploitative brokers leading to losses. Water scarcity adds another layer of hardship, particularly in Tharaka North, where residents rely on wells, boreholes, and rivers transported by use of donkeys or by women on their backs. Piped water remains a distant dream. These challenges are not isolated. The struggles of Kamutuandu and Kirimami schools reflect a broader crisis being experienced in the constituency. Residents are calling on their leaders, particularly Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara and Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, to expedite development projects and provide the vital services their taxes support in other regions.



A glimpse of Kamutuandu Primary and Junior School in Tharaka North Sub County in Tharaka Nithi that has mud-walled classrooms. Parents are urging the government to construct proper classrooms similar to those in other regions, emphasizing that they too are taxpayers..



A grass-thatched structure that serves as the staff room for the school due to the absence of a permanent staffroom..

Kenya Breaks Ground For World’s First Green Garment Factory Made From Recycled Containers

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

The world’s first green industrial garment factory has broken ground in Athi River EPZ, with a \$530,000 investment from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and a \$1.3 million loan from Trade Catalyst Africa (TCA). This new warehouse spans 5,000 sqm and is poised to be the world’s first sustainable garment factory constructed using upcycled containers. Already under construction, the green textile center will be completed by December 2024. With its innovative construction, and use of solar energy and rainwater harvesting, the new garment and textile center is expected to save an estimated 18 tons of CO2 annually. It will also conserve 1,000 m3 of water annually, highlighting the potential for sustainability in industrial design.

In addition to USAID and TCA funding, the new factory is a joint venture with Modular Real Estate EPZ Limited (MODULAR), a subsidiary of Container Technology Limited (CONTECH). “This investment presents a great opportunity to build scalable and sustainable industrial space for garment manufacturing and symbolizes our dedication to environmental stewardship,” said Duncan Onyango, CEO of Trade Catalyst Africa. “By pioneering this unique industrial space, we are setting a new standard for the garment industry, positioning Kenya and Africa as leaders in sustainable manufacturing.” Duncan added that TCA is dedicated to fostering sustainable development through innovative industrial and infrastructure projects, rooted in partnerships with leading organizations and leveraged on cutting edge technologies to drive Africa’s economic growth. The global textiles market, valued at approximately US\$1.5 trillion in 2020, is poised for significant growth.



This initiative will place Kenya at the forefront of this expansion by promoting eco-friendly manufacturing practices, to improve its competitiveness, therefore creating jobs, particularly for women, and boosting its export potential. Naeem Pasta, CEO of Modular Real Estate EPZ said, “This project showcases how innovative thinking and environmental responsibility can coexist, leading to economic growth

and a healthier planet. We are proud to be part of this pioneering effort.” Importance for Kenya: The green garment and textile centre is a step forward for Kenya’s industrial sector, aligning with the country’s vision to transform into a newly industrializing, middle-income country. By adopting sustainable practices in its garment and textile production, Kenya will enhance its competitiveness in the global market. Kenya’s garment

industry is a significant employer of women who will now benefit from this modern, eco-friendly facility, which is expected to create numerous jobs and provide training opportunities, thereby empowering local communities, and reducing poverty. By setting a precedent for green industrial practices, Kenya can become a model for other nations striving for sustainable development.

Ministry Of Interior Strengthens Capacity Of County Commissioners In Implementing Climate Change Interventions

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatomes

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration has strengthened the capacity of the 47 county commissioners in spearheading tree planting activities through training, an exercise jointly supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The training curriculum, co-created with the Kenya School of Government, will empower the county commissioners in monitoring and reporting mechanisms for climate change interventions within their respective counties.

“The impacts of climate change are unprecedented with climate-induced extreme weather displacing over quarter of a million people and affecting close to half a million people in the country. As such, providing strategic preparedness and a coordination mechanism to support the efforts of the Ministry of Environment in the nationwide implementation of climate change interventions is key”, said Principal Secretary, State Department of Internal Security and National Administration Dr. Raymond Omollo.

“As a Ministry, through the National Climate Change Security Readiness



Ministry of Interior PS Dr. Raymond Omollo hands over seedlings to Rift Valley Regional Commissioner Dr. Abdi Hassan during the National Climate Change Security Response Programme County Commissioners' training. The training empowered the county commissioners in monitoring and reporting mechanisms for climate change interventions within their respective counties. With them is Machakos County Commissioner Josephine Ouko..

Programme, we are committed to training county commissioners and over 15,000 National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) on climate change to empower them in mobilizing and supporting climate change interventions including the 15 billion tree campaign,” he said.

The training is in line with the objective of the National Climate Change Security Readiness Programme to build the capacity of all National

Government Administrative Officers for effective participation, stakeholder engagement, and coordination in the government’s climate change programs.

“It is important to fostering an understanding of different ecosystems and actions to support climate-resilient development and cooperation over shared resources. H.E President William Ruto has emphasized on the vital role leadership and commitment



Ministry of Interior PS Dr. Raymond Omollo and Ministry of Forestry representative Rose Akombo hand over seedlings to Rift Valley Regional Commissioner Dr. Abdi Hassan during the National Climate Change Security Response Programme training that empowered the county commissioners in monitoring and reporting mechanisms for climate change interventions within their respective counties. Joining them is Machakos County Commissioner Josephine Ouko..

play in the success and for advancement of environmental conservation and climate action in Kenya,” said Principal Secretary for Climate Change and Forestry in the Ministry of Environment Hon. Gitonga Mugambi.

“It is against this backdrop that we are collaborating with other Ministries to ensure seamless coordination and overseeing of tree-planting campaign at the grassroots level, and we are confident that this collaboration

with the Ministry of Interior will effectively advance these interventions,” he said.

The renewed tree planting efforts reflect Kenya’s commitment to achieving the United Nations-recommended minimum of 10 per cent forest cover per country, a target enshrined in national law.

TVET PS Lauds KNQA For Developing 2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatomes

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Dr Esther Muoria has termed the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan as a well- thought-out plan, intricately structured instrument that will steer the Authority to greater heights.

The PS while speaking during the Council retreat to finalise the KNQA Strategic Plan today, May 20,2024 at Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha said that KNQA has played a pivotal role in harmonising the education system as well as addressing issues that touch on skills that contribute towards sustaining the economy.

“All this efforts, in one way or another, are implementing the Bottom —up Economic Transformation Agenda of investing in the economy. A harmonised education system will help in maximizing and leveraging the existing and emerging skills, thereby boosting the economy in a major way,” she said.

She said the strategy will align with the key pillars of Vision 2030, insensitized in 2008 as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to offer quality education, decent work, economic growth and climate change.

Muoria further said the government through the Ministry of Education is fully supportive of the process, through all the needful steps to the point of implementation and actualisation of the strategic plan as KNQA has proven to be relevant in keeping up with emerging trends and enhanc-

ing quality, inclusion and access to education for all groups.

Members of the KNQA Council during the review of the Strategic Plan in Naivasha.

At the same time, KNQA Council Chairperson Stanley Kiptis assured that the KNQA is committed to ensuring unlimited supply of skilled labour force, nationally, continentally and globally.

KNQA Director General Dr Alice Kande on her part revealed that the strategic plan will play a key role in providing quality service delivery and committing to serving with professionalism and integrity which calls for being responsive and accountable to the public.



PS TVET Dr Esther Muoria

Kisii Woman Rep Donya Urges Parents To End Stigma And Support Children With Disabilities As She Donates Wheelchairs And Tricycles

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- She urged families to stop hiding and mistreating disabled members and to recognize that children with disabilities can also make significant contributions to the world.
- “We should not harm them but give them love,” Donya said, encouraging parents to enroll their disabled children in schools with specialists who can support their education.
- She highlighted that PWDs possess amazing talents and deserve love and support.
- Donya pledged to work closely with her office, partners, and community structures to support needy cases throughout the region.
- NGAAF provides innovative solutions and resources to empower individuals and communities, helping them achieve financial independence and prosperity.

People living with disabilities could not hide their tears of joy as Kisii County Woman Representative Doris Donya, well-wishers donated wheelchairs, and tricycles to them, among them children are major beneficiary.

This initiative, part of Donya’s “Donya Mission,” arose after her visits across the 45 wards of Kisii County, where residents expressed their needs.

As a result, the office of the Kisii County Women Representative distributed over 80 wheelchairs and tricycles to persons living with disabilities (PWDs) among 80 benefiting households.

Speaking at Kerina Special in Bonchari Constituency, Donya Doris emphasized that the initiative is implemented in collaboration with The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

Doreen Moraa, a beneficiary with a 9-year-old son living with a disability, expressed her gratitude to the Women Representative for donating a wheelchair

She said that parents and caretakers of people living with disabilities face many challenges, spending a lot of time taking care of them since they are not able to move or walk.

The wheelchairs and tricycles will ease their work.

“I can now even do menial jobs. I am a widow, and you can see the burden of taking care of this child without a formal job. It’s so challenging,” she said.

She thanked the Women Representative and also pleaded with the government to consider providing basic needs for people living with disabilities.



Kisii Woman Rep Dorice Donya addressing the residents at Kerina , Riana Ward ,Bonchari Constituency during the donation of wheelchairs and tricycles photo /Elizabeth Angira.

Support

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Businesses Person Kevin Aruasa addressing the residents at Kerina , Riana Ward , Bonchari Constituency during the donation of wheelchairs and tricycles photo / Elizabeth Angira.

NGAAF provides innovative solutions and resources to empower individuals and communities, helping them achieve financial independence and prosperity.

“We partner with friends and NGAAF to offer every necessary help to families with people living with disabilities,” Donya added.

The project aims to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in Kisii County’s 45 wards. By collaborating with NGAAF and other collaborators, the Women Representative seeks to enhance community capabilities through income-generating activities, focusing on supporting PWDs and at-risk populations.

Stigma

Donya noted that parents often hide children with disabilities to avoid stigmatization, stressing that PWDs are a blessing and should be treated with love and respect.

She urged parents to register their disabled children with her office, making it easier to provide assistance.

“I appeal to the community to raise the alarm if they see parents hiding affected children. We will come, examine the child, and provide the necessary equipment,” she said.

Since December 2022, this initiative has been aiding poor communities, and it plans to continue until all

families thrive.

Businessperson Kevin Aruasa also encouraged parents not to hide their children with disabilities due to stigma, emphasizing that children are blessings and should have the opportunity to play with others.

He praised the Woman Representative’s initiative for supporting vulnerable individuals and asserted that every disabled person should enjoy their human rights.

Aruasa stressed the need to break the stereotypes and stigma associated with disabilities and urged parents and guardians to accept and embrace their children so they can live fulfilling lives.

He called on the community to discard the social stigma associated with disabilities, making it easier for the administration to identify and support those in need through assistive programs.

Aruasa also appealed to leaders to unite in supporting such initiatives.

According to World Health Organization an estimated 1.3 billion people – about 16% of the global population – currently experience significant disability. This number is increasing due in part to population ageing and an increase in the prevalence of non- communicable diseases.

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Medic Cautions Residents Over Rising Hypertension, Diabetes Cases

By: Sarah Njagi
@themtkenyetimes

A medic in Kericho County has decried the rising cases of diabetes and hypertension (high blood pressure), advising residents to be wary of developing the two serious diseases that share common risk factors and progress with unnoticed symptoms.

According to a Resident Surgeon at the AIC Litein Kericho Annex clinic, Dr. Philip Blasto, a patient with high blood pressure is at increased risk of developing diabetes.

“So while hypertension might not cause diabetes directly, it could increase the risk of someone developing diabetes if they have high blood pressure. Increased pressure on one’s kidneys, heart, eyes, heart, and other organs increases the risk of developing diabetes. Patients with high blood pressure or hypertension usually have insulin resistance and have an increased risk of developing diabetes compared to those with typical blood pressure,” said Dr. Blasto.



Dr. Philip Blasto during the interview

In an interview with journalists Dr. Blasto noted that diabetes and hypertension share common causes and risk factors that include family history, being overweight, having a sedentary lifestyle, eating unhealthy diet, chronic stress, having poor sleep habits, tobacco smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption.

The surgeon said high blood pressure exhibited no symptoms, and regular blood pressure checks are used to detect the disease.

“A sphygmomanometer is used to read a patient’s blood pressure. A normal blood pressure range for a healthy person is less than 120/80 millimetres of mercury (120/80 mmHg). People with diabetes should have a reading ideally less than 130/80 mmHg. There are many serious complications when someone has both diabetes and high blood pressure, notably heart attacks, strokes, and kidney disorders,” said Dr. Blasto.

“Diabetes is a disease that is seen when the pancreas is not producing enough insulin or the body is resistant to the insulin produced in the body, or both. Type 1 diabetes occurs in those who are young, between the ages of 16 and below, where the pancreas is not producing insulin at all, and Type 2 diabetes occurs in older adults where there is little production of insulin or the body is resistant to insulin. A patient with high blood sugar levels exhibits signs of feeling thirstier than usual, urinating often, losing weight, feeling tired and weak, having blurry vision, feeling very hungry despite eating, and having slow-healing sores.

Over time, high blood glucose levels can damage the body organs, and possible long-term effects include damage to large and small blood vessels, which can lead to pressure on the kidney, leading to renal failure that could result in poor vision, reduced sensation of the nerves, and reduced immunity,” noted Dr. Blasto.

He lamented that the hospital was managing around 70 patients every day suffering from both hyperten-

sion and diabetes, an indicator that the two diseases were rampant in Kericho.

“The hospital facility has a hypertension and diabetics unit that attends to over 100 patients every day from Monday to Friday, and from this number, 20 to 30 are new patients, and the rest continue with their medical appointments,” noted Dr. Blasto.

The medic recommended that preventive lifestyle measures were crucial for managing both blood glucose levels and blood pressure, including maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active, eating a healthy diet, limiting alcohol consumption, and avoiding tobacco smoking as ways of keeping chronic diseases at bay.

Dr. Blasto urged residents to set aside some days from their busy work schedules for their annual medical check-ups, as it was an important part of preserving good health and preventing serious health problems.

UDA Party Concludes Ward-Level Elections In Narok

By: John Kaleke
@themtkenyetimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party has successfully completed ward-level elections and is now waiting to move to sub-county-level elections on Saturday.

Speaking to the media in Narok, the team led by Governor Patrick Ntutu praised the party national election board for the preparedness they have shown during the party primaries conducted last Saturday at the ward level.

“We thanked the national election board for the effort they have shown during the party primaries. The required materials have reached the polling stations on time,” said Ntutu.

Woman Representative Rebecca Tonkei, who is also the UDA Party Disputes Resolution Committee chairperson, said that the chairman at the county level should be the governor as it is at the national level,



Narok County governor Patrick Ole Ntutu and other leaders briefing the media.

whereby the president is the party leader.

“As team Ntutu, we said it should have been the same as at the national level, whereby the president is our party leader. And it should be the same in the county; the governor should be our chairman,” said Tonkei.

While reading the tabulated results from his team, Narok County Majority Leader Sonkoi Lemein said the concluded ward congress election has shown overwhelming support

for team Ntutu.

“We are delighted to announce that team Ntutu emerged victorious, securing a decisive win with 516 delegates against 84 delegates garnered by the other team,” said Lemein.

Lemein added that the 516 delegates for team Ntutu represent 86 per cent, compared to 14 per cent for the other team led by Gabriel Tongoyo, Narok West Member of Parliament.

Lemein said the UDA elections marked a significant milestone in the political landscape as the UDA grassroots elections.

According to the team led by Ntutu, the figures read per sub-county pitting Team Ntutu against Team Tongoyo, respectively, were: Narok East 68 delegates against 12 delegates; Narok West 71 against 9; Narok North 92 against 28; Narok South 114 against 6; Emurua Dikir 71 against 2; and Kilgoris 100 against 20 delegates.

Kirinyaga County Government Installs AI System To Enhance Disease Detection

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The AI program will assist radiographers to detect TB more accurately and curb human error misdiagnosis. It will act as an assistive device, detecting abnormalities in the lungs, such as TB, COPD, and cancer. It also encompasses integration into the digital X-ray machines as well as training of staff on use of the software,” he explained.
- He noted that the A.I. project has been implemented at Kimbimbi Hospital since most of the TB cases in the county come from Mwea which contributed to 40 per cent of the cases in the county in 2023 thus making it a TB hotspot and a high-priority area.



Kirinyaga County Director of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Esbon Gakuo (2nd right) being taken through the AI system at Kimbimbi Hospital radiology department...

Kirinyaga County government has installed the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) system to enhance disease diagnostic services in the county.

The system that has been installed at Kimbimbi Level Four Hospital’s radiography department, is integrated into the hospital’s X-ray equipment will also help in reducing the burden of detection of health conditions on healthcare professionals.

The AI program consists of two key components- one that will focus on enhancing chest findings thus enabling the detection of conditions such as tuberculosis (TB), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and cancer and another one that is designed to identify musculo-skeletal defects and fractures.

While supervising the installation of the system, the County Director of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Hesbon Gakuo, emphasized the transformative potential of the technology.

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Hospital since most of the TB cases in the county come from Mwea which contributed to 40 per cent of the cases in the county in 2023 thus making it a TB hotspot and a high-priority area.

Data shows that there were 1,520 TB cases diagnosed in the county in 2023, although it is estimated that the cases could have been as high as 1,800. Gakuo said that 75 per cent of the 1,520 cases were men, as they were at a higher risk for infection due to their social nature. He noted that the software will help achieve more accurate results and diagnosis.

Waiguru has said that the system will revolutionize healthcare service delivery in the county, underscoring her administration’s commitment in leveraging cutting-edge technology in order to improve on diagnostic accuracy, enhance patient care and ultimately save lives.

She said county has made tremendous progress in enhancing health services through adoption of modern technology.

“AI has emerged as a valuable tool and is being use for disease detection and diagnosis, medical imaging and analysis among others. In our healthcare transformation journey, we are also adopting all valuable advances in digital healthcare technologies. Digitized healthcare presents numerous opportunities for reducing human errors, improving clinical outcomes and tracking data

over time,” Waiguru said.

The Council of Governor’s (COG) Chair said the County has also rolled out the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) to manage all medical facilities in the county. HMIS is crucial to population health management platform as it enables healthcare professionals to view a patient’s medical history no matter where they are located.

The AI project that is being implemented in partnership with the National TB Program, AMREF Health Africa among other partners, will also be implemented at Kerugoya County Level Five Hospital and thereafter to other health facilities in the county.

Timothy Kandie, an ICT Officer at the National TB Program, noted that the AI program will ease the load on the clinicians in diagnosing health abnormalities in patients so as to initiate timely treatment.

He noted that Kenya has not been left behind as the globe moves to use of AI which plays a key role in health matters. “With the high number of patients coming in, and with the few number of radiologists in the country, this program will be able to ease the traffic as radiologists will be able to read patients’ images remotely and treat patients accordingly,” Kandie stated.

He explained that AI technology is an end-to-end platform for TB screening, program and case man-

agement, capable of generating TB interface reports in less than 15 seconds. It can operate offline with cloud sync for low bandwidth settings and includes a dashboard to track key program metrics. The software is hardware-agnostic, supporting all major CR, DR, and ultraportable X-rays, and can upload analogue X-ray images. Additionally, it offers multilingual support on mobile and web platforms.

It has demonstrated remarkable efficiency, boasting a 50 per cent cost savings on confirmatory tests, an 11 per cent increase in additional TB cases detected, and a 90 per cent reduction in X-ray reporting time. The WHO validated software is currently deployed in over 2,100 sites across 90+ countries.

AI enhances diagnostic accuracy, reducing the chances of human error. It enables faster diagnosis, allowing for timely treatment. The technology also supports remote diagnosis, which is crucial in regions with a shortage of radiologists. Moreover, AI systems can process and analyze vast amounts of data quickly, identifying patterns that might be missed by human eyes. This capability is particularly valuable in detecting diseases at early stages, improving patient outcomes.

Additionally, AI can lead to significant cost savings by reducing the need for unnecessary tests and procedures.

KNBS 2024 Economic Survey Report Launched

By: Sharon Atieno
@themtkenyatices

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has launched the Economic Survey Report for the year 2024 with the aim of protecting economic transformation growth and ensuring the availability of quality data. The Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Economic Planning, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, said the report provides details that are of practical use to policymakers, researchers, and research institutes looking to invest in the business community. Speaking at the launch in Nairobi yesterday, the CS added that the document also indicates data on outcomes, policy failures, and the measures that would be taken during the

period. "The most important thing is not only to understand the data, but also to appreciate its outcome and suggest some improvement," he said. Prof. Ndung'u noted that Kenyans have great expectations, particularly at this time when the nation is seeking ways to improve economic recovery while stakeholders are moving into a position to protect the economic growth transformation. CS acknowledged the importance of the economic survey, saying that it has been adopted as a basis for measuring the economic performance of critical indicators for critical sectors which have been aligned with the Medium-Term for the years 2023–2027 borrowed from Vision 2030. Ndung'u said that growth poverty reduction strategy is needed since it is consistent with the new ideas that will come, which call for ways and



Some of the officials pose for a photograph after the launch

means of igniting strong growth and sustaining it. "What has been more prevalent in markets that have failed to ignite growth is actually a problem of institution failure. That again is not going to show in the statistics," he noted.

The CS said institution failure should be checked and the origin of the results established to avoid market failure. "We need to do more than what we are seeing because we need to go into a totally different trajectory, includ-

ing faster growth, strong growth, and function in markets," said CS while supporting the domestic resources organisation. He said that the ideas to generate, manage the resources, and manage the markets that people work in have failed. Prof. Ndung'u urged Kenyans to ignite and protect economic growth so that the nation could have sustainable development, noting that people should use the economic survey data for direction. He commended KNBS staff for working tirelessly to make the production of the annual report a success and development partners for their financial support and successful development activities. The CS urged all stakeholders to take collective action, protect what is right, and ignite economic recovery.

School Heads Instructed To Admit Learners Affected By Floods

By: Jacob Songok
@themtkenyatices

School Heads across the country have been instructed to admit their schools' learners affected by floods without conditions. Schools re-opened for the second term last Monday following two postponements over floods that have ravaged the country since last month. Speaking at Iftin Primary School in Garissa, where he led a tree planting exercise in schools in the area, Masini Ichwara, Director of Planning at the State Department for Basic Education, said that the same has been communicated to all head teachers across the country. "The schools' heads are under instructions to accommodate all the IDP students in the nearby schools as the situation normalises. For now, let them come to school with the uniforms they have from the previous schools and start learning," Ichwara said. "We know parents have been affected by these floods, and they might not have the resources to buy new uniforms, and the extra cost will be a burden to them. That is why we call on the schools' heads to bear with the situation, which is temporary," he

added. The director said the Ministry of Education is doing everything possible to have all children go back to their respective schools disclosing that the emergency kitty that was promised by President William Ruto will go a long way in helping all learning institutions that were affected by the floods. Ichwara, who was accompanied by senior regional education officials from North Eastern, also encouraged the school heads to enter the learners into the NEMIS systems so that capitation can be channelled to every pupil that deserves it. "We know that there is a problem with birth certificates. We encourage the local administration, especially the chiefs and the birth and death registration offices, to closely work with schools and parents so that these kids can be given birth certificates," he said. "The government has committed itself that capitation is being provided to every child, and therefore these children should be captured," he noted. He also called on parents' organisations and well-wishers to support the school feeding programme, saying that the government alone cannot do it due to budget constraints. "I think as parents we also need to chip in in terms of giving food in

kind for the kids to benefit. These are our children, and we all have a role to play in ensuring that they continue with their studies uninterrupted," he said. In Garissa Township, Hyuga Girls and Bula Argi Primary Schools, which were the most affected by the floods, remain closed since the effects were severe. The students have since been transferred to the nearby Madarasa schools as a temporary measure. Several schools, among them Young Muslim High School, Jaribu Primary, Kazuko Primary School, and NEP Technical College, were also hosting IDPs. They have, however, since been relocated to pave the way for learning to continue uninterrupted. Garissa has the largest number of IDPs, totaling 21,770 across 12 camps. Among these are students who have been displaced from their homes. On the issue of teachers' shortages, which has remained a point of concern from both teachers' leadership and political leaders, Ichwara said that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) was working round the clock to address the issue, calling for patience from all stakeholders. Adan Roble, North Eastern Regional Director of Education, said that all the schools in the region are now open and that learning was going on except for two schools, one in Ga-



Masini Ichwara and other officials in Garissa yesterday

rissa and another in Bura subcounty, which are still submerged in flood waters. He said that children from the affected schools have been relocated to nearby schools where they will be hosted before the school's infrastructure is repaired and reconstructed. He said that in Wajir and Mandera, no school has been affected by floods. Siyat Hussein Noor, Head Teacher at Iftin Primary, acknowledged the challenge schools in the region have had as far as acquiring birth certificates, saying this has a direct impact on school funding since they are not captured on NEMIS. "As a region, we are very much affected by this. Most of the schools are receiving less funds not because they don't have the numbers in schools

but because the majority are not captured on NEMIS," Noor said. Noor, who is also the Kepsha Chairman of Garissa County, said that going forward, they will coordinate with other stakeholders, including the registrar of births and deaths and the chiefs, to make sure that the children get the birth certificates. On the issue of the school feeding programme, the Head Teacher noted that it remained a big challenge since it was one of the things that mainly attracts students to go to school and expressed optimism that by next week things will be okay.

Kenya To Adopt Quality Policy To Streamline Trade And Facilitate Better Access To Foreign Markets

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Miano further said that the Policy, which is underpinned on the motto “One measure, one standard, one accredited conformity assessment, accepted worldwide”, will promote a quality culture that ensures the protection of consumer rights as per the Constitution of Kenya as well as encourage industries and other organizations to adopt sustainable quality improvement practices in their day-to-day activities.
- “This policy is formulated within the framework of the national long-term policy blueprint (the Kenya Vision 2030) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and is critical in strengthening and coordinating our quality institutions, and transforming Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Miano observed.

Kenya has developed a Quality Policy to guide local enterprises into entrenching sustainable quality improvement practices in order to enhance their competitiveness at overseas markets.

Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano said local enterprises were facing challenges in accessing overseas markets due to the absence of a distinct and internationally recognized quality infrastructure.

The Cabinet Secretary, while presiding over this year’s World Metrology Day commemoration in Nairobi yesterday said the Quality Policy of Kenya, which her Ministry has drafted, would empower the country to produce goods that are internationally competitive in a sustainable environment.

She explained that once the Policy was enacted, it would not only boost the advancement of the country’s sustainable development agenda but also support the realization of Vision 2030 aspirations of becoming a globally competitive country that offers high quality products to both domestic and international markets while guaranteeing social, environmental, and consumer protection.

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“This policy is formulated within the framework of the national long-term policy blueprint (the Kenya Vision 2030) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and is critical in strengthening and coordinating our quality institutions, and transforming Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Miano observed.

The Cabinet Secretary, who was accompanied by the Principal Secretary, State department for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, emphasized that the basis for fair trade, high-quality products, and development of new technologies and innovations was traceable and reliable measurements and measurement standards.

She noted that there was growing demand for accurate and reliable measurements in the modern world not only in the manufacturing sector



Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Director for Quality Assurance and Inspection Dr. Geoffrey Muriira (left), the National Standards Council chairman Anthony Munyiri (centre) and KEBS Director for Metrology and Testing Dr. Henry Rotich (right) addresses the media during World Metrology Day celebrations at Boma Hotel.

and domains of national and international trade, but also in the areas of human health and safety, protection of the environment, communications, and in all fields of science and engineering.

Miano cited metrology and standardization as key pillars of the national quality infrastructure which guarantee high return on investment and assist industries, as well as MSMEs to innovatively improve their processes and guarantee quality and authenticity of their products, consequently making them compliant to the quality of national and international standards.

The Cabinet Secretary praised the work that the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) was playing, as a National Metrology Institute (NMI), to provide leadership and direction in the national traceability of measurements to the International System of Units (SI), and offering calibration services for industrial and trade measurements and other local and international calibration laboratories.

The KEBS also plays a leading role in maintaining national, regional, and international linkages with the relevant bodies, coordinating scientific research and special metrology-based projects, and providing technical training to the industry in measurements, both locally and internationally, is of great significance.

Dr. Mukhwana noted that the country was laying the groundwork for an industrial revolution through the use of standards, metrology and conformity assessment which are tools being deployed by the country to fine-tune its manufacturing processes, making them more efficient and competitive.

The World Metrology Day celebrations which brought together stakeholders in the measurements space was also addressed by the Managing Director of the KEBS Esther Ngari, and the Director of the National Metrology Institute at the KEBS Dr. Henry Rotich.

Ngari observed that this year’s World Metrology Day theme was “sustainability”, and stated that KEBS was taking a lead role in sustainability, which is one of KEBS core values, with Environmental Protection included as one of the key imperatives driving the organization’s 2023 – 2027 Strategic Plan.

The Managing Director said the Bureau was leading the way in developing standards that will inform sustainable growth and development in the country, singling out the E-mobility industry as one of the areas where KEBS was assisting in developing standards for the sector.

KEBS has also put in place technical committees aimed at uniting the industry in developing relevant

standards that will guide sustainable development and is looking at adopting 290 standards aimed at mitigating climate change which will mark an increase of relevant climate mitigation standards.

Dr. Rotich who also leads the Metrology, Testing and Research Development at KEBS observed that World Metrology Day had officially become a UNESCO International Day which recognizes the importance of metrology in improving quality of life, enabling international trade, and preserving the environment.

The Director said metrology for sustainability is about promoting responsible resource management and environmental stewardship and called on industries to embrace accurate measurement practices for a more sustainable future.

World Metrology Day, celebrated annually on May 20th, commemorates the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, a historic treaty that established a global measurement system, the foundation for scientific discovery, industrial advancement, international trade facilitation, and ultimately, a better quality of life while protecting the environment.

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Sports >> *Feyenoord coach Arne Slot was Monday confirmed as Jurgen Klopp's successor at Liverpool by the Premier League club.

Liverpool Confirm Dutchman Arne Slot As New Manager



Feyenoord's Dutch headcoach Arne Slot waves during a Dutch Eredivisie first division football match between Feyenoord and Excelsior Rotterdam at the Feyenoord Stadium de Kuip in Rotterdam on May 19, 2024. (Photo by Bart Stoutjesdijk / ANP / AFP).

Feyenoord coach Arne Slot was Monday confirmed as Jurgen Klopp's successor at Liverpool by the Premier League club.

Liverpool said in a statement that the Dutchman, 45, would take up the position of head coach on June 1, subject to a work permit.

The club did not specify the length of his contract in their statement but Sky Sports said it understood Slot had signed a three-year deal.

Slot's arrival has been an open secret, with Liverpool reportedly agreeing a compensation deal worth up to £9.4 million (\$12 million).

He confirmed Anfield was his next destination at his final pre-

match press conference at the Eredivisie club on Friday.

Klopp announced his departure in January and took charge of his final game on Sunday, a 2-0 win against Wolves.

In his final speech to the Anfield crowd, the German urged fans to throw their full support behind Slot.

"You welcome the new manager like you welcomed me," he said. "You go all-in from the first day. And you keep believing and you push the team."

Slot moved to Feyenoord in 2021 after impressing in his first managerial role at AZ Alkmaar.

He led the Dutch giants to the inaugural Europa Conference League final at the end of his first

season. They narrowly lost 1-0 to Jose Mourinho's Roma.

Slot then delivered just a second league title in 24 years to De Kuip last season before penning a new three-year deal.

"You can see people are genuinely sorry you are leaving," he said on Friday.

"You can say that with words, but when you see it in people's faces, it affects me quite a lot."

Feyenoord have enjoyed a strong season, winning the Dutch Cup and coming second to an all-conquering PSV Eindhoven side.

Liverpool captain and fellow Dutchman Virgil van Dijk has hailed Slot's attacking mindset, saying it would suit the philoso-

phy at Anfield.

Initially, Bayer Leverkusen boss and former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso was the favourite to succeed Klopp at Anfield.

However, Alonso has committed to staying at Leverkusen after leading them to a first-ever Bundesliga title.

Liverpool won the League Cup in Klopp's final season in charge and finished third in the Premier League, qualifying for next season's Champions League.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Arsenal's dreams of a first Premier League crown in 20 years were dashed as their 2-1 win against Everton was rendered irrelevant by Manchester City's title-clinching victory over West Ham.

Arsenal's Title Dreams Dashed Despite Last-Day Win Over Everton



The scoreboard shows the full time score after the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Everton at the Emirates Stadium in London on May 19, 2024. Arsenal won the game 2-1, but lose out to Manchester City in the title race. (Photo by Adrian DENNIS / AFP)

Arsenal's dreams of a first Premier League crown in 20 years were dashed as their 2-1 win against Everton was rendered irrelevant by Manchester City's title-clinching victory over West Ham.

Mikel Arteta's side had gone into the last day of the season needing to beat Everton at the Emirates Stadium and hope City drew or lost in Manchester if they were to steal the title in miraculous fashion.

But the Gunners were forced to settle for second place after relentless champions City beat West Ham 3-1.

Idrissa Gueye put Everton in front late in the first half before Takehiro Tomiyasu quickly equalised.

By the time Kai Havertz scored Arsenal's winner in the 89th minute, City were already well on course to retain the title.

Arsenal had been almost flawless in 2024, with 16 wins and one draw, away to City, in their 18 league matches.

However, one costly slip-up in a 2-0 home defeat to Aston Villa last

month proved decisive in denying them a first title since Arsene Wenger's 'Invincibles' in 2004.

They finished two points behind City, who have won an unprecedented four successive titles and six in the last seven years.

Arsenal staff were seen rehearsing a mock title presentation at the Emirates on Saturday, complete with replicas of the trophy and medals, as well as signs emblazoned with the slogan 'Premier League champions'.

But there would be no genuine title party in north London as Arteta's heart-broken players were forced to accept their fate.

Arsenal fans had strolled down the sun-baked Holloway Road towards the Emirates more in hope than expectation of seeing a title-winning team.

Some even wore West Ham shirts rather their own club's in a nod to the favour required from their London rivals 200 miles to the north.

A raucous rendition of the club's 'North London forever' anthem before kick-off took the atmo-

sphere to fever pitch.

Silence in the stands

Despite the absence of injured star Bukayo Saka, Arsenal should have been ahead in the opening moments when Tomiyasu nodded wide from close-range.

However at that exact second, the atmosphere went completely flat as news filtered through of Phil Foden's second minute opener for City.

A resigned hush settled over the sell-out 60,000 crowd, but Arsenal did their best to refocus.

Foden's second goal in the 18th minute rendered the Arsenal faithful mute as Everton fans taunted them with chants of "you nearly won the league".

Everton took the lead in the 40th minute when Gueye's free-kick took a wicked deflection off Declan Rice's head as he jumped to block the ball, looping past wrong-footed Arsenal keeper David Raya into the far corner.

To their credit, the Gunners refused to surrender, equalising just three minutes later when Tomi-

yasu met Martin Odegaard's pass with a fine finish that whistled past Jordan Pickford from just inside the area.

Arsenal fans let out a defiant roar when they heard Mohammed Kudus had reduced the deficit for West Ham late in the first half.

They were briefly celebrating again after a false rumour spread that West Ham had equalised.

Dragged from despair to hope and back again within seconds, Arsenal were four points behind City in the 'as it stands' table at half-time.

Arsenal's players gathered in a huddle as they prepared to make one final push in the second half, but Havertz wasted two chances to give them life, nodding wide and then heading against the bar.

Rodri's 59th minute goal for City was met with silence in the Emirates stands.

And when Havertz stabbed home in the closing stages, Arsenal had already come to terms with the end of their title hopes.

SPORTS NEWS



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Cultivation Of Medicinal Helba “Trigonella Foenum Graecum” Plant In Syrdarya Region Soil-Climate



By: Mavlonova Madinabonu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Fenugreek seeds contain 29% proteins, 6% volatile and solid fats, as well as high percentages of vitamins B1, B2, Niacin, Pantoinin, trigonelline and tri-methylamines. These substances greatly affect the symptoms of menstruation.
- Fenugreek also contains other components such as iron, phosphorus, several enzymes, hormones and gums. The medicinal value of these compounds increases when the seeds germinate and buds appear. Through this process, proteins composed of a few essential amino acids are broken down into acids, vitamins, and hormones, which multiply wonderfully in a moist environment.
- Fenugreek is an annual herb that grows up to 60 cm (20 in) tall. The leaves are light green in color and consist of three leaflets with serrated edges. The white flowers are produced singly or in pairs in April and May.



Cultivation Of Medicinal Helba

Abstract:

In this article, we have identified the medicinal helba plant as being able to germinate in the experimental field in the Syrdarya climate. If this plant adapts to growing on any soils our goal is to establish the technology of growing the plant, its plantations.

Key words:

Helba, medicinal plant, raw materials, legumes fruit, Shamballa, Fenugreek.

Shamballa, Helba, Fenugreek are our plants, which are called by different names in different national languages and dialects. Scientific name “Trigonella Foenum Graecum”. Fenugreek has many medicinal uses, such as stimulating lactation, stimulating appetite, indigestion, anti-inflammatory, treating arthritis, as well as healing various wounds. Fenugreek is also very effective in treating diabetes, as two A gram of powdered fenugreek has been shown to be equivalent to one unit of insulin.

This is because fenugreek seeds contain zinc-bound β -chains that affect blood sugar levels. In addition, they contain amino acids and sulfuric acids, which stimulate the

production of active penicillin in the pancreas, Dr. Abdul Basit said. He published these results in his valuable book, *The Search for Healing in Natural Herbs and Predictive Medicine*.

In his book, Dr. Abdul Basit asserts that a diabetic patient suffers from a disruption of the sulfur bond that connects the β -chains to produce the active insulin molecule. Providing sulfur in an organic form, such as fenugreek seeds, increases the efficiency of the pancreas, which is useful in the treatment of diabetes.

Fenugreek seeds contain 29% proteins, 6% volatile and solid fats, as well as high percentages of vitamins B1, B2, Niacin, Pantoinin, trigonelline and tri-methylamines. These substances greatly affect the symptoms of menstruation.

Fenugreek also contains other components such as iron, phosphorus, several enzymes, hormones and gums. The medicinal value of these compounds increases when the seeds germinate and buds appear. Through this process, proteins composed of a few essential amino acids are broken down into acids, vitamins, and hormones, which multiply wonderfully in a moist environment.

Fenugreek is an annual herb that grows up to 60 cm (20 in) tall. The

leaves are light green in color and consist of three leaflets with serrated edges. The white flowers are produced singly or in pairs in April and May.

They are followed by bean-like pods, 10–15 cm (4–6 in) long, containing up to twenty small, grooved, yellowish-brown seeds. Its leaves are rich in nutrients such as carotene, vitamin A, ascorbic acid, calcium and iron. Seeds are composed of “protein, starch, sugar, mucilage, minerals, volatile oils, solid fats, vitamins and enzymes.” They smell like curry but are very spicy and contain coumarin oil.

The plant is usually grown in regions with a moderately cool climate throughout the year, not cold (especially during the “flowering and early grain formation” stage of the plant) and clear skies. It is grown in many types of soils with rich organic content. The seeds of the helba plant were planted in field conditions on 01.10.2023 at the experimental field of Gulistan State University. At the time of sowing, the soil temperature was 21°C. After the plant was planted, it was given the initial seed water. The seeds were sown evenly at a distance of 30 cm from each other and at a distance of 10 cm, and at a depth of less than 5

cm. The seeds began to germinate within 5 days after planting. On the 8-9th day, the seeds fully germinated. Experiments were planted in 4 replicates in 4 different variants. The size of each row is 2x2 m. The seeds were sown in their soil and sand was sprinkled over them so that the soil does not become compacted during rainy conditions and compresses the plants. 6] Helba Plant is drought tolerant, grows in saline and usually nitrogen rich soils. Another important aspect of this plant is that it loves sunlight and is adapted to grow at high temperatures.

Mavlonova Madinabonu, daughter of Alisher, was born in 2003 in the city of Yangiyer, Syrdarya region. She is a 3rd-year student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Gulistan State University. She is one of the most active students in the life of the university. Author of articles at international conferences and national conferences. On April 22, 2024, “ACTIVE RESEARCHER”, she took part in the 3rd round of the international scientific and practical examination competition organized on the scale of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and was awarded the “Active Researcher” badge.