



Fish Farming Becoming A New Economic Venture In Tharaka Nithi County
Fish farming is slowly becoming a new agricultural economic venture in Tharaka Nithi County with production shooting from 5000 kilograms in 2017 to 51,000 kilograms last year. The county has long been mainly known for growing coffee, tea, greengrams, and sorghum and also for keeping dairy and meat livestock.

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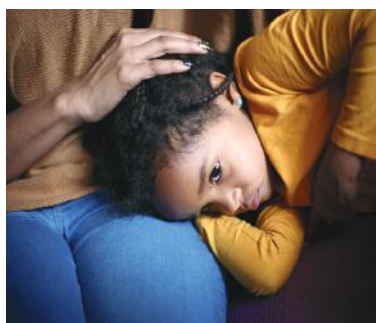
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News>>Lake Turkana Wind Power Enhances Better Universal Social Healthcare

P. 8. The endeavour by the government to provide Universal Health Care to Kenyans continues to get support from development partner



News>>Mental Life Of A Child In Development

P. 12. All children deserve to be protected from sickness and disease. But if we forget that it is the mental life that gives meaning to human existence, we shall create people who are empty, purposeless and emotionally crippled.

Government To Write Off Coffee Farmers' Debts

 The government will write off debts owed by coffee farmers' cooperative societies and unions as part of the intervention of revamping the multi-billion sub-sector, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said yesterday.

The Deputy President also vowed to continue with his mission of Mt Kenya region unity as various politicians commended his decision to embrace all leaders irrespective of their political affiliations.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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Nyeri County Leads In Coffee Cherry Advance Fund Uptake

By: Paul Wanjiru and William Muchiri
 @themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The coffee sector is pivotal in uplifting the Kenyan economy, particularly benefiting individuals formerly referred to as “Mama mboga and Bodaboda operators” the government is committed to supporting this sector,” the CS said.
- He added, “As leaders of Kenya Kwanza government, our primary goal is to ensure that even the marginalized, such as Boda boda operators, are included and directly benefit,” stated the Cabinet Secretary.
- Chelugui expressed gratitude to the people of the Mt. Kenya region and the religious organisations for their support during the last election.



From left to right; PS Ann Wang'ombe. CS Simon Chelugui, Yatta MP Robert Ngui Basil and Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge at Muruguru PCEA church last Sunday.
 Photo/PAUL MWANGI..

The government has so far disbursed KSh4 billion in form of cherry advance fund to support coffee farmers, Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives Development Simon Chelugui has revealed.

Speaking in Nyeri the Cabinet Secretary said that, following consultations between the Office of the President and that of the Office of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who has been spearheading the Coffee Taskforce team, coffee farmers will now be able to return to their farms and achieve good harvests.

The Cabinet Secretary who was in Nyeri Town constituency's PCEA church where he attended a Sunday Church Service and later led in a funds drive for completion of a new church highlighted that Nyeri County is at the forefront of advancing cherry funds, which has far reached over KSh700 million.

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fitting individuals formerly referred to as “Mama mboga and Bodaboda operators” the government is committed to supporting this sector,” the CS said.

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Chelugui expressed gratitude to the people of the Mt. Kenya region and the religious organisations for their support during the last election.

On the President William Ruto's choice of his Deputy President prior to the 2022 General Elections, the Cabinet Secretary said, “There were rumours prior to the 2022 General Election that President William Ruto would not have a running mate from the Central region, but due to the faith the President had in the region, Rigathi Gachagua became his running

mate.

On his part, the host and Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge supported a call by the Cabinet Secretary for farmers to increase production do that they can earn more.

“Farmers must go back to their farms, increase production so as to earn more,” said Mathenge who is also the chairman of Coffee Growing Areas MPs caucus.

He told New KPCU Managing Director Timothy Mirugi who was also present to make sure farmers who his organisation mill and markets their coffee gets good returns.

At the same time, Mathenge called for serious scrutiny of the next year's financial budget saying some proposals would be detrimental to Kenyans wellbeing.

Him and another guest, Yatta constituency MP Robert Ngui Basil said they will thoroughly go through the budget proposals and if need be seek amendments before passing it.

fore passing it.

The Yatta MP said he will not support any proposals that will be seeking an increase in taxes.

“There are many ways of raising and enhancing public resources, without burdening the citizens,” Basil said, adding, “one of the best way if addressing public resources matters is prudent use of what is already available,”.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by among others; Principal Secretary in the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Ann Wang'ombe and New KCC chairman Maina Kamiru.

Earlier, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Women Representative Rahab Mukami attended the service but left before for Endarasha Catholic Church where Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was attending a mass, being his first public appearance in a week.

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Group Executive Chairman
 M. Danson

Our Contacts

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262

Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyetimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyetimes.co.ke,

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Government Spokesman Dr. Isaac Mwaura, announced that construction of the stalled Itare dam in the South Rift will resume in September. The project is part of the government's efforts to build over 100 water dams over the next five years, aiming to enhance access to clean and safe drinking water. The Itare Dam will create over 3000 jobs, 70 per cent of which will go to the locals. The construction of the dam stalled at 11 per cent in terms of civil works and was 27 per cent complete overall. The government is looking into ways of supporting the contractor through the supplementary budget to seek out compensation and way-leaves as the contractor works on the dam and main trunk. The contractor will work on the main trunk as the government works on reticulation through the last mile connectivity to homes and businesses around the county to satisfy the demand of 80,000 cubic metres of water, with the surplus expected to reach Naivasha. The government is committed to fast-tracking infrastructure projects in Nakuru to realise their full potential in supporting the economy.



Governor Kimani Wamatangi has announced the completion of the Kiambu County main bus stage, a significant infrastructure project aimed at improving public transport efficiency and safety. The 4,750-square-metre bus terminal, which has been undergoing rehabilitation since last year, now boasts modern amenities such as cabro, paving road furniture, clear signage, and road markings. An advanced drainage system has been installed to prevent flooding and maintain the infrastructure's integrity. The project began in June 2023 and includes excavation, grading, and laying cabro blocks, as well as solarizing existing streetlights. The project has also created job opportunities for local residents and constructed modern kiosks for existing traders. Governor Wamatangi's administration is also undertaking rehabilitation projects at other bus parks in the county to enhance public transportation infrastructure and promote economic growth and connectivity.



The county will only produce 420,000 bags of maize from 100,800 acres, while 145,600 bags of beans will be produced from 43,680 acres. The most affected farmers are along the Athi River and Kaiti areas, where farms are submerged in water and suffer from soil erosion. Crops suffer from chlorosis disease, leading to poor yields and affecting food security. However, cereal prices have not been affected, as many farmers have food in stores from last season. Floods have also swept away some irrigation equipment, affecting the Katithi Micro-Irrigation Project. Agricultural Extension officers are working to educate farmers on the right time to plant and the right fertiliser to improve crop yields.



The government is working on a programme to intensify the propagation of seedlings to ensure that 20 per cent of the trees planted are fruit trees and another 20 per cent are fodder trees, to be planted in arid and semi-arid areas of the country. Tuya emphasised the need for a multi-government approach in collaboration with the community to deliver the government's target to ensure food security, support livelihoods, and create jobs. The primary target is to reclaim the degraded environment and achieve the 15 billion target trees to be planted within 10 years.



Information, Communication, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo has announced that the Kenyan government has trained over 390,000 youth on digital jobs and created 139,000 online jobs in the last one year. The government has been supportive through the construction and equipping of Jitume ICT hubs in almost all constituencies across the country, installing them with internet connectivity. The digital space is now one of the biggest employers, and the government aims to set up 1,450 digital hubs across the country, cascaded to the ward level, to rope in more youth onto the programme. The government is also working on a programme to ensure all markets are internet connected to facilitate the growth of e-commerce and transform the country into a 24-hour economy. The government has agreed with Kenya Power Company to allow internet cabling to be done using their poles, as opposed to underground cabling. Ministry of Information, Communications & The Digital Economy KE Eliud Owalo State Department For ICT & Digital Economy Kenya Power Care.



The government has awarded a Sh50 million patrol boat to fishermen in Lake Turkana to enhance security. Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya vowed to deploy more fisheries and coast guard officers to enhance security in the area. The government will provide free training to 1,000 youths working in Lake Turkana, equipping them with basic safety skills. Mvurya also warned against illegal mining in Turkana County and urged small-scale miners to be listed in cooperative societies for training and funding. He also vowed to work closely with the County Government of Turkana on licensing matters and urged people to move away from riparian areas during climate change.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Education CS Releases KUCCPS Placement Results

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The CS said the cumulative approved capacities in selected institutions were 1,078,806, comprising 278,006 in Universities (Degree), 769,820 in TVET colleges and institutes, 13,808 in Teacher Training Colleges, and 17,172 in Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC).
- Machogu said the remaining 694,086 (77.5%) who attained mean grades of between C and E, were eligible for placement to Diploma, Craft, and Artisan programmes in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.



Education CS Ezekiel Machogu..

The Ministry of Education has released the 2024 Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS), which will see at least 890,654 candidates who sat for the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education placed in universities and colleges.

Releasing the report during the 2024 KUCCPS Stakeholders Forum held at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi, the Cabinet Secretary for Education Dr. Ezekiel Machogu said the performance data provided by the Kenya Examination Council has indicated that a total of 201,146 (22.5%) students attained a mean grade of C+ and above, hence meeting the minimum requirement for placement to Degree programmes.

"A total of 153,274 students have been placed to various Degree programmes in Universities, accounting

for 76.2% of the 201,146 Kenyan students who qualified," said Machogu.

He announced that the processing of placement applications considers applicants' choices and their qualifications as well as available capacities, adding that applications for Open University of Kenya (OUK) programmes continue on the KUCCPS portal.

"I urge all Kenyans who wish to further their studies to take advantage of the flexibility provided by OUK and enrol for its globally competitive programmes," he emphasised.

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(77.5%) who attained mean grades of between C and E, were eligible for placement to Diploma, Craft, and Artisan programmes in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

With the approval of higher education and training regulators, the Commission for University Education (CUE), and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authority, KUCCPS provided courses offered in 70 Universities, 35 Teacher Training Colleges, 88 Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) campuses, and 248 public TVET colleges.

He said a total of 75,718 applicants have secured places in TVET institutions, including 11,991 who qualified for degree programmes but opted for Diploma courses.

"With regard to the Kenya Medical Training College, 56,516 individuals

applied and 19,653 were placed as per available slots," said Machogu.

He added that a total of 10,263 applicants have secured admission places in the Teacher Training Colleges for Diploma programmes, which comprises of 734 who have been placed for the Diploma in Secondary Teacher Education Programme and 9,529 for the Diploma in Primary Teacher Education.

During the event, the CS also launched the KUCCPS 2023–2027 Strategic Plan and released the 2024–2025 Placement Cycle Report.

He encouraged the KUCCPS Board to remain committed to the Vision of equitable, fair, and efficient placement services and assured them of the Ministry's support to achieve its mission of providing effective and efficient placement and career guidance services to students, for globally competitive human capital and sustainable socioeconomic development in Kenya.

Machogu said, "Over the years, thousands of students have looked upon KUCCPS as an equitable and fair provider of access to higher education and training," and expressed confidence that the new Strategic Plan will continue to maintain the high standards that KUCCPS has set.

The 2024 student placement process has covered students who submitted applications for various programmes in universities and colleges.

Following the release of the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Examination Results, the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) provided performance data for 895,232 candidates to KUCCPS, of which 890,654 were eligible for placement.

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Lake Turkana Wind Power Enhances Better Universal Social Healthcare

By: Sebastian Miriti
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Ms. Waithaka said that the green energy backing up company has fully equipped the ward and urged the county government to see to it that health facilities in the area were optimally staffed and stocked with drugs in order to make the investment viable.
- “The socio-economic-dimensional projects, which also focus on the water and education sectors, will be beneficial to the targeted communities if they are made operational through the deployment of personnel and supporting tools like drugs,” she observed.
- Waithaka added that LTWP was, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, the Winds of Change (WoC) Foundation, making the development ties with the government stronger in order to speed up development within its corporate areas.



Stakeholders during the official handing over of the facility.

The endeavour by the government to provide Universal Health Care to Kenyans continues to get support from development partners, with the Lake Turkana Wind Power (LTWP) company investing heavily in health infrastructural development in Laisamis constituency, Marsabit County.

LTWP, the largest wind power firm in Africa, has financed the construction of a male ward at the Laisamis sub-county hospital at a cost of Sh15.3 million to ease access to quality health care and improve the welfare of the local communities.

The company’s Chief Finance Officer, Alice Waithaka, said during the handover of the 22-bed capacity ward to the county government of Marsabit that the availability of standard health facilities was key for the well-being of the community and the nation.

Ms. Waithaka said that the green energy backing up company has fully equipped the ward and urged the county government to see to it that health facilities in the area were optimally staffed and stocked with drugs in order to make the investment viable.

“The socio-economic-dimensional projects, which also focus on the water and education sectors, will be beneficial to the targeted communities if they are made operational through the deployment of personnel and supporting tools like drugs,” she observed.

Waithaka added that LTWP was, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, the Winds

of Change (WoC) Foundation, making the development ties with the government stronger in order to speed up development within its corporate areas.

This, she said, would not only enhance the much-desired growth but also transform the lives of members of the local pastoralist communities through effective services and job creation.

Waithaka also rooted for the improvement of the road network within Laisamis Constituency, saying its deplorable state was hindering students and pupils from accessing school and the sick from reaching health facilities with ease, especially during the rainy season.

She noted that public functions in the area were still being conducted

through interpreters 60 years after independence because many of the members of the local communities could not speak or understand Kiswahili. She urged parents to take their children to school in order to prepare them for a bright future.

According to the company’s Community Liaison Manager, Job Lengoiyap, the lack of medical personnel at health centres and dispensaries across the constituency in which LTWP has assisted in infrastructural development was denying locals the essential service.

Lengoiyap cited the Sarima Dispensary, which, though it has a nurse stationed there, suffers from a perennial shortage of drugs and vandalism.

The manager said that the company was pursuing a memorandum of un-

derstanding with the devolved unit, where the firm would be tasked with establishing the needed structures and equipment while the government takes care of staff and drugs.

He said that the company decided to fund the construction of the ward and a laboratory in the Laisamis-Logologo zone, which is prone to kalazar, in order to boost the fight against the disease.

Consequently, the Marsabit County Public Service Board has approved and deployed 8 nurses to the hospital for effectiveness in service delivery.

The Board Chairman, Ambrose Har-gurah, said that in reciprocation for the LTWP gesture, the government had found it befitting to avail medical personnel so that the facility could be of use to the community.

He hailed the company for its CSR initiatives in the county, adding that the quality of work displayed pointed at prudent use of public resources.

“The eight nurses will be deployed within a week as we strive to adequately staff health facilities across the county,” he said, noting that it was only through optimal staffing that the desired results could be realised in the health sector.

Marsabit Deputy Governor Solomon Gubo, who was the Chief Guest, said the undertakings of the LTWP were a main driving force for Vision 2030.

Gubo said the county government would allocate Sh5 million to rehabilitate and upgrade facilities at the hospital to make it appropriate for rendering the desired services.

During the event that was also attended by the County Executive Member for Health, Ms. Grace Galmo, many trees were planted as an emphasis was placed on encouraging residents to sustainably grow trees in order to mitigate climate change and protect the environment.



A 22-bed capacity male ward constructed by LTWP at the Laisamis Sub-County Hospital at a cost of KSh15.3 million under its corporate social responsibility programme, the Wind of Change.

Government To Write Off Coffee Farmers’ Debts

While Speaking In Kirinyaga County, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua; The Second Most Senior Political Leader In The Country Also Announced He Would Continue Pushing On Unity Agenda

By: DPCS and WILLIAM MUCHIRI



Worth Noting:

- “I have come to pay my respect to my teacher, mentor, friend and a great man who moulded us to be what we are today through mentorship and discipline. He has transformed many people into great men of great minds. He was a great teacher and could spot talents and support the same. He helped me to be a debater and the same came in handy during the national debate ahead of the 2022 elections,” said Gachagua.
- Narrating how he received the news of Mr Ndumbi’s demise, the Deputy President said he “was on seven days of fasting, prayers and meditating without phone or any distraction at Mt Kenya Forest, reflecting on the nation’s direction”.

The government will write off debts owed by coffee farmers’ cooperative societies and unions as part of the intervention of revamping the multi-billion sub-sector, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said yesterday.

The Deputy President also vowed to continue with his mission of Mt Kenya region unity as various politicians commended his decision to embrace all leaders irrespective of their political affiliations.

Speaking at Kabare Village in Gichugu Constituency, Kirinyaga County, Gachagua said he had spoken to President William Ruto about the write-off of the coffee farmers’ debts and the Head of State had endorsed his proposal.

“Debts of Coffee Cooperatives, Unions and Saccos will be waived. I have spoken to the President and he has agreed that the same way debts for sugarcane farmers have been waived, it will apply to coffee farmers. Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui (Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMES) has been instructed to prepare a memo to be presented to the Cabinet so that we can start afresh,” he stated.

The Deputy President added that the Ministry of Cooperatives will soon disburse to farmers, the second batch of the Cherry Fund at a rate of Sh40 per kilo.

He emphasized that the government is keen on supporting farmers to increase production and sales of the cherry.

Deputy President has been leading reforms in the Coffee, Tea and Dairy Sub-sectors for the smallscale farm-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua confers with Kirinyaga County Senator Kamau Murango during the requiem service for his former principal Julius Kano Ndumbi at Kianyaga High School yesterday...

er to earn more.

In his remarks, the Deputy President also said reforms in the tea sub-sector were bearing fruits and farmers’ income has increased.

He spoke during the funeral service of his former teacher at Kianyaga High School, Mwalimu Julius Kano Ndumbi, 73.

The late Ndumbi was the Principal of Kianyaga High School when the Deputy President was a student.

The Deputy President eulogised Mr Ndumbi as an educationist and disciplinarian, who loved and shaped lives of many young people.

At the time of his death, he was serving as a director at the National Irrigation Board.

“I have come to pay my respect to my teacher, mentor, friend and

a great man who moulded us to be what we are today through mentorship and discipline. He has transformed many people into great men of great minds. He was a great teacher and could spot talents and support the same. He helped me to be a debater and the same came in handy during the national debate ahead of the 2022 elections,” said Gachagua.

Narrating how he received the news of Mr Ndumbi’s demise, the Deputy President said he “was on seven days of fasting, prayers and meditating without phone or any distraction at Mt Kenya Forest, reflecting on the nation’s direction”.

At the event the Deputy President was in the company of various leaders including Senators Kamau Murango (Kirinyaga) and Veronica Maina (Nominated) and MPs Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga Woman Representative), Mary Wamaua (Maragua), Gachoki Gitari (Kirinyaga Central) and Ward Representatives led by Kirinyaga County Assembly Speaker Muteti Murimi.

Area MCA Dr Isaac Muriithi Mugo together with the County Government Executive Committee members and Kirinyaga County Jubilee Party chairman Muriithi wa Kang’ara were also present.

Also present were former Kirinyaga County Senator Daniel Karaba and well former State House Comptroller Dr Nelson Githinji.

On the politics, Mr Gachagua vowed to continue with his resolve to unite the nation starting with the Mount Kenya region.

He said leaders attempting to divide region will not succeed.

“I made a decision, as the senior most elected leader in Mount Kenya region, to unite everyone irrespective of political affiliation. I am happy that the ordinary people at the grassroots are united. Only a section of leaders that are trying to divide the region, but they will not succeed,” he said.

Leaders accompanying the Deputy President led by Senator Murango commended his decision to work and embrace all leaders irrespective of their political affiliation.

“We urge the DP to remain focused and not to be distracted by political noisemakers; they do not want him to perform in his mandates. The DP has already succeeded in reforming key agriculture subsectors, eradicating illicit brews and drugs abuse and assisting President Ruto in driving the National Government,” said the Maragua MP.

MP Gitari said: “As Mount Kenya leaders we are behind the Deputy President and President Ruto. There are detractors and we request that the DP to deny them attention”.

Jubilee politician Muriithi wa Kang’ara also commended the Deputy President for standing firm and working with all leaders including those allied to the Opposition outfits.

“The Deputy President is a hero and leader of the Mount Kenya community. We urge him to continue uniting the region and working with all leaders. As an elder, I will work with him in that exercise,” said Mr Kang’ara.



Kirinyaga Central MP Gachoki Gitari addressing mourners yesterday...

EU Injects Sh 113.6 Million Towards Climate Change Mitigation

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The European Union has awarded a KSh113.6 million grant to a plant breeding and biotechnology project aimed at mitigating climate change impacts.

The project, involving 11 institutions of higher learning across the globe, will be led by Kenya's Egerton University.

The initiative aims to develop and implement a harmonised curriculum in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, improve the skills and competence levels of 12 students and 24 academic staff in teaching and research activities at African and Palestinian universities, and modernise research facilities and infrastructure in these fields.

The project is expected to improve agricultural technologies for better productivity, sustainability, and environmental safety.

The Egerton University Vice Chan-

cellor, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, underscored the importance of biotechnology development in enhancing food security, evolving more efficient and cleaner industrial manufacturing processes, and reducing negative environmental effects.

The project will involve 150 students from partner universities, 8 centres and laboratories being upgraded, and the development and review of 20 curriculums.

The project will also involve the establishment of three BREEDTECH incubators and the development of the BREEDTECH Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in African and Palestinian universities.

The initiative will also promote public-private sector partnerships with institutions of higher learning in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology.



Egerton University



Ruto's 5-Day State Visit To USA Is Bearing Fruits For Kenya



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- He minced no word in challenging the powerful nations including the US that embraced democratic values and principles to help in entrenching these virtues to developing countries.
- In Kenya, he reiterated his commitment to win the war against corruption. is unstoppable. President Ruto, who is there for a state visit, urged the US government to support his efforts.
- Before his host, President Joe Biden, sent out this invitation, it emerged that he had called Dr Ruto and discussed the issues that will feature during the bilateral talks.
- The talks will be held at White House, the seat of American power.
- Taking cognizant of the fact that the visit coincides with 60 years of diplomatic relations between Kenya and US, the two leaders will do reflections and engage in candid and robust discussions.



President William Ruto, TV host Steve Harvey and First Lady Rachel Ruto

President William Ruto is currently in the United States of America (USA).

When he flew out, I wrote in this column that Kenya was poised to reap big from this visit.

This has come to pass. In day one, the President was hosted by top managers of the Center for Diseases Control (CDC).

After the talks, he witnessed the signing of lucrative deals and agreements by members of his delegation and the Center's officials.

It is worth noting that the CDC had over years been helping Kenya to battle infectious diseases, in research work and development of vaccines.

President Ruto thanked officials of Center for agreeing to redouble this support.

Dr Ruto had earlier presented a powerful speech at Jimmy Carter Library which mainly focussed on Democracy, good governance and the war against corruption.

He minced no word in challenging the powerful nations including the US that embraced democratic values and principles to help in entrenching these virtues to developing countries.

In Kenya, he reiterated his commitment to win the war against corruption. is unstoppable. President Ruto, who is there for a state visit, urged the US government to support his efforts.

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Taking cognizant of the fact that the visit coincides with 60 years of diplomatic relations between Kenya and US, the two leaders will do reflections and engage in candid and robust discussions.

The final communique will come up with a clear road map towards strengthening and fast tracking these ties.

For starters, this will be a big honor for President Ruto. He will join the six world leaders who had been hosted by a

sitting President of US for such forum at White House. They include Prime Ministers of Japan and India.

Notably, this is not the first time that President Ruto is visiting the US. But the latest visit is a land mark one because it is a state visit.

Therefore, President Ruto is expected to come back with bagful of more and more goodies.

Considering that Dr Ruto is an intellectual and a good orator, there is no doubt about this.

He will manage to enumerate socio-economic, security and other challenges facing Kenya and convince his host to support us.

I'm sure this visit will also give Dr Ruto an opportunity to review the progress of the deals and agreements he had signed earlier with chief executives and industries of US big companies.

In one of President Ruto's previous visit, I wrote an article that goes.

Upon arrival, the president immediately started meeting the chief executives of leading American based companies, industries as well as top businesspeople.

The talks have borne the fruits as he had managed to woo them to come and invest in Kenya.

In one agreement, he secured a grant amounting to Sh8.7 billion.

This support was offered by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), an independent US government foreign aid agency. MCC focuses on undertaking programmes meant to alleviate poverty.

These funds will be spent in assembling and rolling out of the electric buses in the city of Nairobi.

This placed President Ruto in that vintage position where he would kill two birds with one.

First, this would help to mitigate the effects of the climate change in a big way.

The use of fossil fuels which are biggest polluters of climate and environment would drop drastically.

That visit to US had come just a few days after convening Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi.

The adaptation was one of the key agenda items.

On this, the delegates passed a resolution outlining the strategies to move away from non-renewable energy to renewable energy.

They agreed this will be done gradually.

In Kenya, this has started in earnest. President Ruto is pioneering this process meant to save humanity from extinction.

Room Center, the assembling company of 51-seater electric buses will be based here in Nairobi.

Once charged, the bus will cover a distance of 200 Kilometers. The recharge will take two hours.

Some of these electric buses will be plying intercity.

There will be no cause for alarm. The charging stations will be established around the country.

Let me now go to the second point.

President Ruto have brought the dream of rolling out Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) to a reality. This dream had been delayed for a long time. I remember it was first conceived by former President Mwai Kibaki. President Uhuru Kenyatta's efforts to revive this project also failed to bear the fruits.

Majority of Kenyans, who use public transport every day to travel to and from their places of work, will become the biggest beneficiaries. This is because the electricity is cheap. So, the bus fares will drastically come down.

Again, buses are comfortable and health friendly. They will not emit greenhouse gases which is harmful to human health

President had earlier visited Silicon Valley in Fransisco. We saw him being warmly received and welcomed by the Presidents and Chief Executives of the giant tech companies, including Google, Microsoft, Intel and Apple.

Reducing the cost of their services and sharing their experiences with Kenyan techies and innovators topped the list.

Dr Ruto's diplomatic and oratory skills would once again shine as he managed to convince each company to buy his ideas and plan.

He had witnessed members of his delegation sign a number of lucrative deals tailored to promote and elevate Kenya as a technological hub in the region, Africa and globe.

Noting that the rollout of digital technology stood out as one of the key pillars of Kenya Kwanza's Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda during the campaigns, this left no doubt that the President was walking the talk.

For starters, I politely call on them to bear this in mind. The world had become a global village courtesy of technology a key enabler of the economic growth and prosperity.

Therefore, countries with advanced technology were the leading economies and richest.

President Ruto was also aware about the important role of the internet in these endeavours.

Therefore, he would not leave the Sil-

icon Valley without meeting the President of the world leading internet provider.

The high cost is one of the issues that Dr Ruto would bring to light. This paved the way for signing of the agreements to reduce the cost.

Sometimes Kenyans face the challenge of the Internet failures. The President of this company assured Dr Ruto that they will address the matter.

Before he wrapped up this visit, Dr Ruto delivered a keynote address to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The host, US President Joe Biden, opened the meeting.

This is the second time that the Kenyan head of state have gotten an opportunity to address the Assembly.

It was rare to see African leaders being given this opportunity.

So, this demonstrated the world leaders held him at high esteem. His leadership resonated very well.

Since he assumed power, Dr Ruto has curved a niche of being a democrat and a strong believer of the Kenyan constitution and rule of law.

The global leaders would only give this rare opportunity to an African leader who understands and is well conversant with world's geopolitics.

Well, the critics would resort to politicizing the matter.

The Americans were out to pursue their interests in Kenya and Africa and business was thier main focus.

They knew that Kenya is a gateway to Africa. So, this is the reason why the US government is reaching out and luring President Ruto.

I disagree. Azimio leader Raila Odinga, his brigade and their sympathisers have been making these allegations simply because the US refused to sanitize thier white lies and raw propaganda.

This is in relation to outcome of 2022 presidential elections.

Raila had alleged he had been rigged out but would not prove any of his claims when he filed a petition at the Supreme Court of Kenya.

While dismissing his petition, the seven-judge bench of the apex court ruled that none of his prayers contained an iota of truth. This was a hogwash.

The local and international observers had also given the poll a clean bill of health.

In separate reports, they concurred with the decision of the IEBC chairman to declare Dr Ruto as the President-elect.

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

Mental Life Of A Child In Development



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Surveys of general population show that the prevalence of persistent and socially handicapping mental health problems among children aged 3-15 years in developed countries is about 5-15 per cent, and more limited data from developing countries suggest a roughly similar rate.
- These numbers do not include children with mental retardation nor those with diseases such as epilepsy, organic brain syndromes, sensory impairments, any systemic physical diseases; the latter group of diseases often coexists with and aggravates emotional problems, conduct disorders and impairments or delays in the development of normal functions which are among the most frequent mental disorders of childhood.

All children deserve to be protected from sickness and disease. But if we forget that it is the mental life that gives meaning to human existence, we shall create people who are empty, purposeless and emotionally crippled. At least one thousand million children in the developing world grow up under great stress. Those who are to protect and nourish them often have no means or knowledge which would allow them not to do so. Some survive and many, unnecessarily, die. Of the survivors many remain scarred, deprived of their chance to live a full life. They also want to fight, survive, feel happy, grateful or frightened. It is the mental life, the experience of living, which is rated highly and not the mere fact of survival.

Philosophers, decision-makers and politicians all agree that the mental health and development of children matters and that it is an essential guarantee for a better tomorrow. And yet, when it comes to action, psychosocial development and mental health are still low on the priority.

Undoubtedly, treatment of physical disease is of tremendous importance and will have a significant impact on the mental health and development of children; but the idea that it is possible to improve the health of children by first dealing with physical diseases and then later with their mental health and development is dangerous and incorrect.

Improved somatic conditions are as much a component of health as mental functioning: one cannot be achieved without the other. Children who are malnourished, infested by parasites or sick with a multitude of diseases cannot use their mental potentialities properly: but if we forget that it is the mental life that gives meaning to the existence of a human, we shall create people who are empty, purposeless and emotionally crippled.

Surveys of general population show that the prevalence of persistent and socially handicapping mental health problems among children aged 3-15 years in developed countries is about 5-15 per cent, and more limited data from developing countries suggest a roughly similar rate.

These numbers do not include children with mental retardation nor those with diseases such as epilepsy, organic brain syndromes, sensory impairments, any systemic physical diseases; the latter group of diseases often coexists with and aggravates emotional problems, conduct disorders and impairments or delays in the development of normal functions which are among the most frequent



mental disorders of childhood.

Thus in developing countries alone at least one hundred million children suffer from mental disorders, often complicated by or complicating physical diseases. Most of these children are unknown to the health care system: even those who come forward are usually inappropriately handled. A WHO study demonstrated that up to one-third of all contacts that children make with the general health care services in an urban slum area are due to psycho-social problems. A good proportion of school drop outs do not continue schooling because of (usually unrecognised) mental health problems. Juvenile delinquency, drug taking and alcohol abuse seem to be growing even among younger children.

Effective measures for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders in childhood are now available, and that with concerted action a vast proportion of mental disorders in childhood and their consequences in later life could be wiped out at a cost that most countries in the world can afford.

Improved maternal and obstetric care could reduce perinatal complications, brain damage and mental health problems associated with it. Better nutrition coupled with appropriate psychosocial stimulation, effective immunisation programmes and improved general health care, appropriate accident prevention measures and better care for the chronically handicapped to prevent the occurrence of mental complications are all preventive general health measures that are immediately applicable and of proven efficacy.

Social welfare measures—such as the avoidance of unstable and discontinuous patterns of parenting; improvement of day care facilities, hospitals and residential facilities, for

example by ensuring continuity of staff taking care of children; review and adjustment of legislation; raising public awareness of the psychosocial needs of children and other measures—all these are within reach and could have measurable benefits.

Areas in which such research must be undertaken include schooling in general, the influence of urbanisation and industrialisation of child health, ways of providing child care in residential institutions, and an examination of those factors that protect child health in situations which apparently expose children to a high risk of mental disorder. Efficacy of certain measures—such as focused short-term counselling and behavioural methods—which are applicable at primary health care level and at a low cost has been proved. Epilepsy is amenable to drug treatment at low cost, and it has been shown that such treatment can be provided at the community level. The yearly supply of medicaments needed to treat a child with epilepsy can be as low as one hundred shillings.

Sensory deficits such as poor vision could be corrected by eye-glasses which—when pressed from unbreakable plastic—cost only 600 Kenya shillings. Yet these do not figure on the list of purchases for health services because the importance of sensory stimulation for normal mental development has not been given sufficient prominence. First, the collaboration among the many agencies and social sectors which should join hands in improving child health is poor and is becoming worse. Programmes carried out in educational, social welfare and health institutions compete with rather than complement each other.

The medical profession, which always regarded collaboration with teachers as a necessary evil, has

become even more entrenched and isolated from other sectors, including education. The other relevant professions have also become obsessively concerned with protecting their professional interests, often to the detriment of the quality and quantity of services they render. Second, the technology which could be made available for use at all levels of health care has been retained in the hands of super-specialists who, at best, advise other members of their team to treat children nicely, parents wisely and all other professionals suspiciously.

How to implement concrete and simple measures that can be taught to a mother, a nurse or a social worker is often not disclosed; or when disclosed, is wrapped in jargon or hedged about by warnings of the possible dangerous consequences that will ensue unless the specialist is consulted continuously. Patients with whom progress is slow of difficult tend to be dumped into facilities or on to professions that have neither the resources nor the knowledge to provide adequate help.

Third, bureaucracy has, in many places, grown faster than science. It has managed to impose a variety of requirements, which undermine the action and turnable helpers into inept scribes providing reams of paper which will justify even more paperwork and even less solution-oriented action. Fourth, health care, on the whole, has become marked by over-reliance on technology and consequent neglect of its human aspects.

In the area of child health this tendency is particularly pernicious, since children do not choose where they will go when sick and are even less able than adults to offer resistance to unnecessary and abusing treatment.

Kenya Commits To Attaining Malabo Declaration On Agriculture

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themkenyatimes

Kenya has renewed its commitment to the post-Malabo process, giving assurance that she would work closely with the other African Member States to bring alive the next 10-year African Agricultural agenda.

State Department for Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr. Paul Ronoh said that after two decades of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation (Maputo 2003, Malabo 2014), the continent has made significant progress in economic and agricultural growth, reduced poverty and malnutrition, expanded agricultural trade, and public investments in agriculture.

Speaking in Nairobi yesterday during a regional stakeholder engagement and dialogue to provide input for the post-Malabo CAADP Agenda, Dr. Ronoh said that agriculture remains the backbone of most African countries' economies, with the continent's



Principal Secretary for Agriculture Paul Ronoh.

estimated 33 million smallholder farmers being key not just to food production but also to the livelihoods of the many Africans whose work is linked to the agricultural sector.

In 2003, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the CAADP, an agriculture-led integrated development framework to boost African Agriculture and food security, which was called the Maputo Declaration. The commitment entailed investing at least 10 per cent of a country's Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) in the agricultural sector, to attain a minimum six per cent average annual growth of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AgGDP).

Ten years after implementing the CAADP framework, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods at the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Afri-

ca Union Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Successive CAADP-Malabo Biennial Reviews since 2017 indicate that most of the countries are not on track to meet the CAADP Malabo Commitments. Challenges include climate change, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, disease pandemics, and economic downturns.

Dr. Ronoh said that successive CAADP-Malabo Biennial Reviews since 2017 indicate that only one country is on track to meet the Malabo Commitments. This challenge is exacerbated by global issues, including climate change, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, disease pandemics, and economic downturns.

"In addition, the changing African Agri-food system due to changes in demographics, urbanisation, technology, dietary habits, increasing dietary diversification and consumption of processed food, and employment in the processing sector calls for innovation, adaptation, re-invigoration, and scaling up if Africa is to achieve CAADP commitments," said the PS.

He highlighted that the three days of

stakeholder engagement and dialogue provide an opportunity for key stakeholders, particularly the AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities, to discuss the issues that will inform the CAADP Agenda for the next 10 years.

"The Government of Kenya, through my ministry, recognises and appreciates the strategic role that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play in the African Agricultural Transformation and is committed to working with the member states from the Eastern bloc in the region to define both the continent and the regional agricultural transformation agenda to address emerging issues and opportunities," said Dr. Ronoh.

Hosted by IGAD, EAC, COMESA, and the Africa Union, AUDA NEPAD, the regional consultations are planned to ensure stakeholder participation and consensus-building on important elements or input for the Post-Malabo Agenda.

Floods In Isiolo: Seven Schools Yet To Open

By: David Nduro
@themkenyatimes

Seven schools that were affected by floods in Merti Sub-County, Isiolo County, last week have remained closed as the stakeholders plan to reopen them soon.

Education stakeholders, including teachers, school sponsors, political leaders, and national and county government officials, held meetings in Merti town to discuss how to tackle the infrastructural challenges facing the schools before reopening. Merti Sub-County was hard-hit by the recent floods after the River Ewasonyiro burst its banks and floods destroyed the schools, homes, and crucial infrastructure, including boreholes.

Among the strategies to put in place are having some schools temporarily merge so that learners do not miss lessons for a long time.

Political leaders led by Women Rep.

Mumina Bonaya called for quick interventions from the state and non-state actors so that the schools could be rehabilitated and the learners could resume learning as soon as possible.

According to the Head Teacher of Khalifa Primary School, Mr. Ahmed Husein, 10 pit latrines had been destroyed, and the learning institution was in dire need of new toilets before re-opening.

He also said that arrangements to deploy pupils from nearby schools to Merti Muslim girls were welcome, but the stakeholders should move with speed to alleviate congestion that could lead to the contracting of diseases among the learners.

Another head teacher, Mr. Boru Guno, said that eight blocks of latrine at Merti South Girls Primary School have been submerged and offices are flooded. Text books and other learning materials were also destroyed.

He said that many schools had sanitation blocks destroyed, which



Isiolo Women Member of Parliament Ms. Mumina Bonaya while speaking in Merti town during a meeting to address challenges facing seven schools that are yet to re-open following effects of floods last week. Photo by David Nduro

could endanger the learners, and he appealed to the Ministry of Education to expedite the rehabilitation

through the disaster fund recently set aside by the government.

He said that the Education Ministry must also address the issue of learn-

ing materials that were destroyed.

MOTHER



Making a cymbal out of my heavy words,

I suddenly fell on my mother's neck.
Seeing the broken eyes in his eyes,
My heart was careless.

The one who rocked the cradle and was happy,
My mother's hands are withered.

A son who shakes the world,
Did I fall into the mother's heart?

Anger did not get in my way.
Uncooked soups in his mercy.
Don't listen to me.
A thousand disasters rained down on
my head, stones.

Did I become a victim of anger today?
Hurt my mother in a knot in the heart.
Mother kneeling behind the conscience,
Exile without being in front of Allah.

Sultanova Shirinoy Yuldasheva
Republic of Karakalpakstan,
Beruni district, school 54
spiritual and educational works

Climate Change Is The Greatest Threat To Mankind



Relevance of the topic. The problem of climate change is becoming more urgent every year. In the 19th century, scientists discovered that certain gases trap heat from the Earth, and without their help, this heat escapes into space. Carbon dioxide plays the main role in this process: without it, the planet would have turned into a frozen desert. In 1896, it was first predicted that the temperature of the planet would increase due to the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases.

Today, their number in the atmosphere has increased by 43 compared to the period before the industrial revolution, and the average temperature of the Earth has increased to the value predicted by scientists. As a result of industrial development, the amount of hydrocarbon gas released into the atmosphere is increasing every year. This increases the "steam room phenomenon" on our planet and causes drastic climate changes. As a result, natural disasters are increasing. In many regions of the world, the natural balance is disturbed: in some places, precipitation is much more than usual, while in other regions, drought is on the rise. The cases of "disruption of natural norms" observed this year are a clear example of this. In the spring of 2010, severe floods occurred in some European countries, and the summer was very hot and dry. In addition to global warming, the problem of climate change is uneven rainfall, sometimes drought, sometimes and the sudden increase of precipitations will also include flooding of the regions. The goals and objectives of the research: it is appropriate to encourage developed countries not to shrink from expenses in order to restore the natural balance, it is appropriate for developed countries to provide new technologies to the "third

world" countries, to finance projects aimed at establishing environmentally friendly production.

External factors of climate change: 1. Changes in solar radiation lead to changes in solar radiation fluxes. 2. Movements of TECTONIC plates affect the earth's orography, as well as ocean levels and their circulation. 3. The composition of atmospheric gas, in particular, the concentration of methane and carbon dioxide. 4. Change in the angles of the Earth's rotation axis. 5. Changing the orbital parameters of the planet relative to the Sun. 6. Earth and space disasters.

The causes of climate change are, among other things, related to human interference with nature throughout its existence.

Conclusion: To eliminate the consequences of climate change, first of all, it is necessary to reduce the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Humanity must transition to new energy sources, which must be low energy and renewable. Sooner or later, the world community will seriously face this question, because the mineral resources used today are not renewable. One day, scientists will have to create new, more efficient technologies. In addition, it is necessary to reduce the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and this can only help in the restoration of forest areas. It is desirable to make maximum efforts to stabilize the global temperature on Earth. Even if it is not successful, but humanity should try to achieve the minimum impact of global warming.

Jalilov Sardorbek

He won a scholarship to go to "Alabuga" polytechnic university in Russia. He applied to "Turin" University and was admitted to the university.

Prizident agency school student. Holder of a diploma, certificate, honors. He took part in the regional olympiad twice in physics and won high places. Participant in Stem Sciences Olympiad. He is very skilled in the art of painting and making architectural buildings. Kamalak and a member of the youth leadership club. The creator of science is the holder of the badge of the CIS, Active researcher and Supporter of the Motherland.

A Missed Call!



grew up in an instant. The lesson started, the bell rang. The bell that rang every time the classes changed made me feel weird. When we were celebrating our graduation party after classes, we got into an unexpected situation. The bell we were supposed to ring was missing. From the teachers to the students, they didn't believe us! But the bell really disappeared.

This situation would put a smile on someone's face if it made someone nervous. After all, we were graduates who didn't get to ring a memorable last bell!

Mamadaliyeva is the daughter of Aziza Dilshodbek.

He was born on October 19, 2006 in Chust, Namangan region. His first book "Joy of Youth" was published in 2021. Along with writing poems, Aziza is also very interested in reading books. He is the district and regional prize winner of the "Young Reader" competition. A number of his poems are published in district and regional newspapers. Aziza Namangan has delighted many fans with her poems on television.

May 25. Yes, yes, we will leave all our joys and childhood memories at the doorstep of the school. Today for some reason I wanted to go to school earlier than usual. Despite the fact that I came to school early in the morning, all my classmates arrived before me. As soon as I came in, my stomach was full. I felt different, as if I was stepping into school for the first time. As soon as I closed my eyes, I vividly remembered the first time I stepped into the school. I didn't even notice that I

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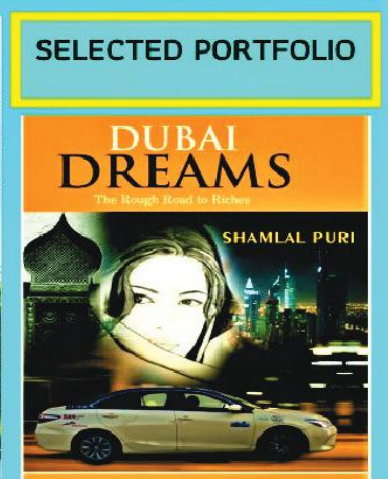
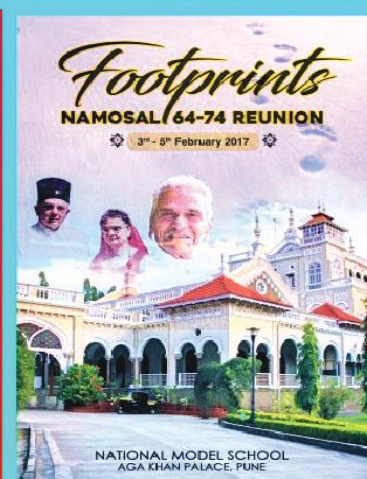
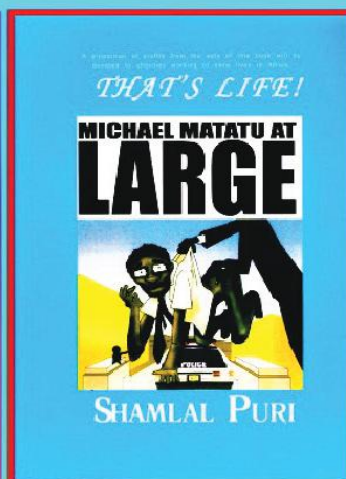
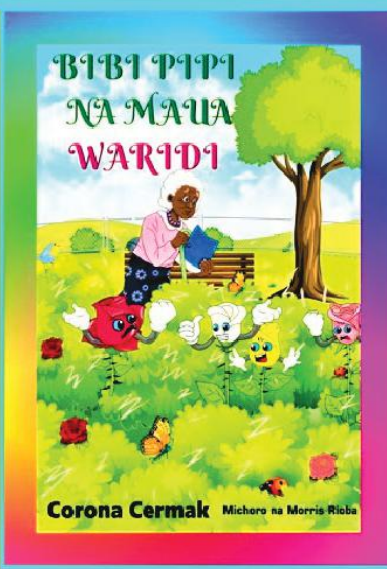
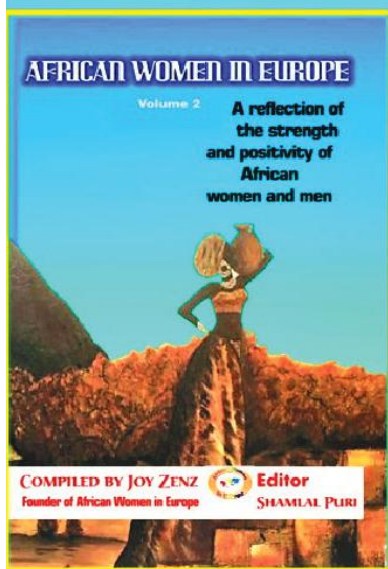
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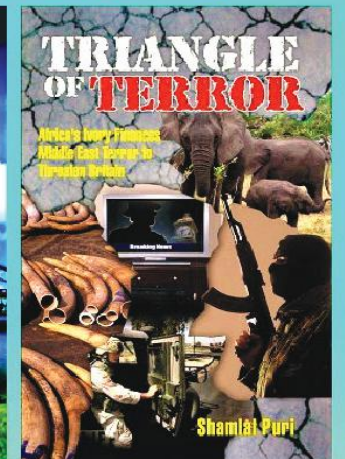
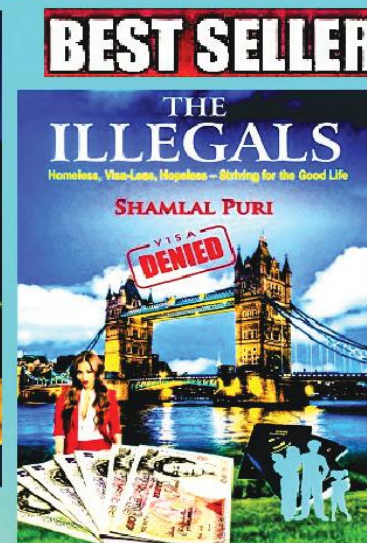
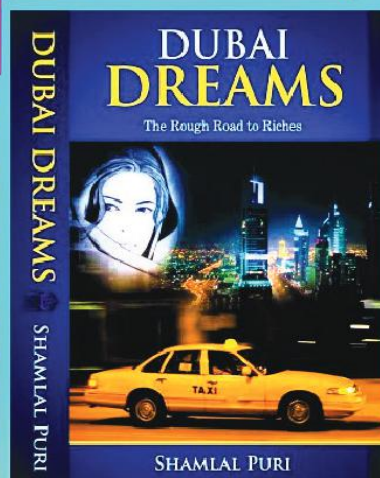
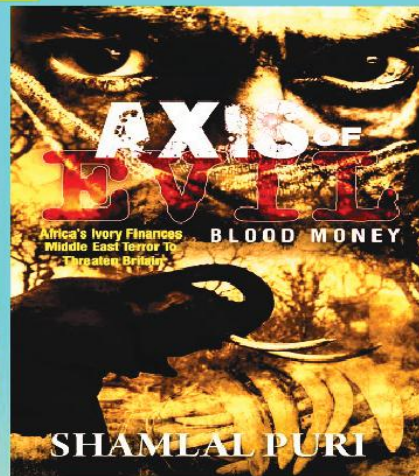
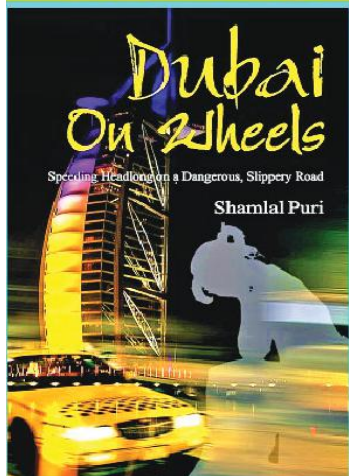
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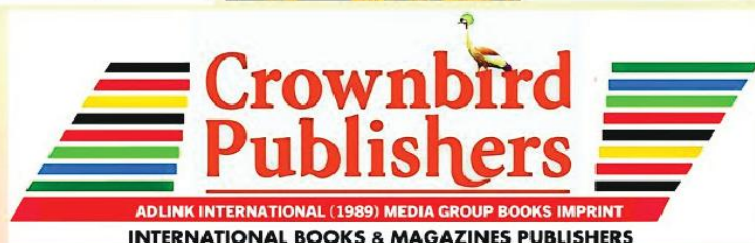
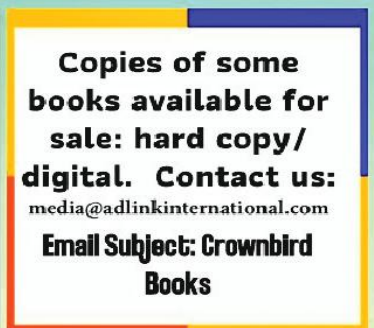
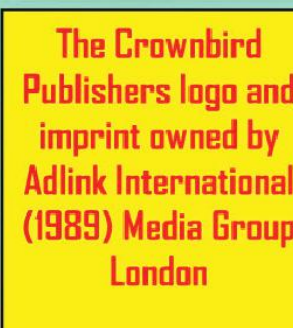
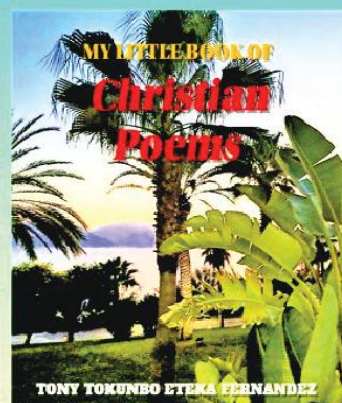
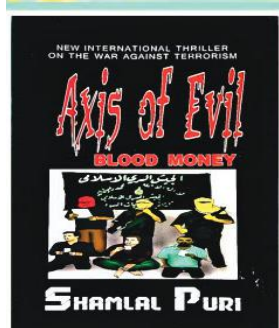
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BUSINESS

Kenya Unveils Ambitious Plans To Become Africa's Premier Medical Tourism Destination

By: Wendy Keziah and
Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

A key component of the strategy involves the innovative integration of Kenya's rich tourism offerings with medical services. Dr. Mutua explained plans to create packages that combine medical treatments with recovery periods in some of Kenya's most famous tourist destinations, including the Maasai Mara, Diani Beach, and the Great Rift Valley. "Imagine recovering from surgery in a serene environment, surrounded by the stunning landscapes of Kenya," he said. "Patients and their families can enjoy Kenya's natural beauty and diverse wildlife while recuperating."

This approach not only provides a unique selling point for medical tourists but also enhances the overall patient experience. By promoting wellness and relaxation in conjunction with medical care, Kenya aims to differentiate itself from other medical tourism destinations that might lack such diverse natural attractions.



Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua speaks during a strategy meeting with stakeholders on how to make Kenya the leading medical tourism hub in Africa, May 21, 2024.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Dr Alfred Mutua has, announced an ambitious initiative to establish Kenya as the leading destination for medical tourism in Africa. Speaking to a diverse audience of healthcare professionals, tourism stakeholders, and media representatives, Dr. Mutua outlined the government's comprehensive strategy to leverage Kenya's advanced healthcare infrastructure, skilled medical workforce, and unique natural attractions to attract international patients seeking top-tier medical care.

Promoting Advanced Healthcare Services

Dr. Mutua highlighted the substantial advancements Kenya has made in its healthcare sector, which now boasts state-of-the-art facilities and world-class medical professionals. Special emphasis was placed on the country's capabilities in specialized areas such as cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, and cosmetic surgery. "Our hospitals are equipped with the latest medical technology and staffed by highly trained doctors and nurses," Dr. Mutua stated. "We are in a prime position to offer medical services that are not only of the highest quality but also cost-effective compared to other

global destinations."

Kenya's healthcare institutions have seen significant upgrades, including the acquisition of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. Major hospitals in Nairobi and other cities are now capable of performing complex procedures that previously required travel abroad. This development is expected to appeal to international patients from neighboring countries and beyond, seeking high-quality yet affordable medical care.

Integrating Tourism and Healthcare

A key component of the strategy involves the innovative integration of Kenya's rich tourism offerings with medical services. Dr. Mutua explained plans to create packages that combine medical treatments with recovery periods in some of Kenya's most famous tourist destinations, including the Maasai Mara, Diani Beach, and the Great Rift Valley. "Imagine recovering from surgery in a serene environment, surrounded by the stunning landscapes of Kenya," he said. "Patients and their families can enjoy Kenya's natural beauty and diverse wildlife while recuperating."

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a unique selling point for medical tourists but also enhances the overall patient experience. By promoting wellness and relaxation in conjunction with medical care, Kenya aims to differentiate itself from other medical tourism destinations that might lack such diverse natural attractions.

Collaborations and Partnerships

To support this initiative, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife is actively collaborating with the Ministry of Health, private healthcare providers, and international medical institutions. Dr. Mutua announced that discussions are underway with leading hospitals and health networks globally to establish referral pathways that will direct patients to Kenya. "We are forming strategic partnerships to ensure we meet the highest standards of medical care and patient safety," he said.

These collaborations are expected to enhance the credibility and visibility of Kenya's medical tourism sector. By aligning with renowned international medical institutions, Kenya aims to assure potential patients of the quality and reliability of its healthcare services.

Economic and Social Impact

Dr. Mutua emphasized the significant economic benefits anticipated from the medical tourism initiative. He predicted substantial revenue generation and job creation, which will contribute to the overall economic growth of the country. "Medical tourism has the potential to become a major economic driver for Kenya," he noted. "It will stimulate investment in our healthcare infrastructure, create jobs, and generate revenue that can be reinvested into the health sector."

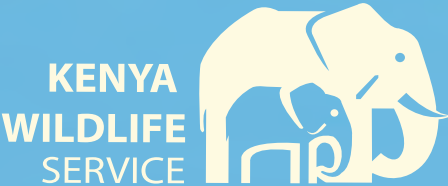
The influx of international patients is also expected to have a positive impact on local healthcare services. Increased demand for high-quality medical care will likely lead to further improvements in healthcare infrastructure, benefiting both international patients and the local population.

Regulatory Framework and Quality Assurance

To ensure the success and sustainability of the medical tourism sector, Dr. Mutua assured that stringent regulatory frameworks and quality assurance mechanisms are in place. The government is in the process of establishing a Medical Tourism Board that will oversee the sector's development and ensure compliance with international healthcare standards. "Patient safety and quality of care are our top priorities," he stressed. "We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our medical tourism offerings."

The regulatory framework will include rigorous accreditation processes for healthcare facilities and professionals involved in medical tourism. Regular audits and assessments will be conducted to ensure continuous adherence to international best practices.

Kenya's initiative to become a premier destination for medical tourism marks a significant milestone in the country's development. By combining advanced healthcare services with world-renowned tourist attractions, Kenya is set to offer a unique and attractive proposition for medical tourists. With strong government support, strategic partnerships, and a commitment to quality, Kenya is poised to make a substantial impact on the global medical tourism market.



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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Fish Farming Becoming A New Economic Venture In Tharaka Nithi County

By: Alex Njeru
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr Paul Muthigani, is one of the fish farmers from Tharaka constituency whose new venture has turned around his fortunes.
- “Fish farming is better compared to greengrams and sorghum which I have been growing because it requires a small land and the profit is high,” said Mr Muthigani.
- He however said high cost and shortage of feed is the major setback in fish farming and if not solved farmers will be compelled to quit.
- Mr Festus Murithi, another farmer said the cost of 25 kilograms of commercial fish feed increased to Sh4500 from Sh2800 in the last few years dealing a huge blow to the business.



Officers from Tharaka Nithi County Government led by Chief Officer Department of Fisheries, Mr Antony Kiruya (second left) inspect a fish pod at a farm in Mukothima ward. Fish farming is becoming a new economic venture in Tharaka Nithi County.

Fish farming is slowly becoming a new agricultural economic venture in Tharaka Nithi County with production shooting from 5000 kilograms in 2017 to 51,000 kilograms last year. The county has long been mainly known for growing coffee, tea, greengrams, and sorghum and also for keeping dairy and meat livestock. The growth can mainly be attributed to efforts by both national and county governments to promote farming and consumption of fish through the Agricultural Business Development Programme (ABDP). Through the programme, farmers who are currently 2200 and organized into small groups have received pod liners, fingerings, feed, harvesting nets, and freezers for storing harvested fish awaiting market and extension services. Though fish consumption is common in communities in the coastal and lake regions, residents of Tharaka Nithi County and Mount Kenya region have embraced it mainly due to its rich nutritional value.

Lifestyle Diseases

With increasing lifestyle diseases related to eating habits, health experts also encourage people to consume white meat and fish is one of them and is rich in protein.

Mr Paul Muthigani, is one of the fish farmers from Tharaka constituency whose new venture has turned around his fortunes. “Fish farming is better compared to greengrams and sorghum which I have been growing because it requires a small land and the profit is high,” said Mr Muthigani. He however said high cost and shortage of feed is the major setback in fish farming and if not solved farmers will be compelled to quit. Mr Festus Murithi, another farmer said the cost of 25 kilograms of commercial fish feed increased to Sh4500 from Sh2800 in the last few years dealing a huge blow to the business. Murithi resorted to growing Azolla, an aquatic plant that he harvests every three weeks and feeds his tilapia fish as a supplement to the commercial feed. “I encourage fellow farmers to grow Azolla because it is cheap and is liked by tilapia fish that are commonly reared in our county,” said Mr Murithi. Availability of fingerings is another challenge with farmers compelled to travel several kilometers to Thika, Sagana and Machakos hatcheries to buy. Due to poor handling, sometimes the fingerings die during transportation. To solve the challenge, a farmer, Jasper Nyaga from Kiriani in Maara

constituency has established a hatchery and the local farmers can now conveniently buy the fingerings. Nyaga is also a fish farmer and encourages youths to embrace the venture because it requires a small parcel of land and is not quite engaging. “I remember sometimes back I sold fish worth Sh600,000 after only six months which is a handsome earning,” said Mr Nyaga. Farmers groups have also established eateries where they sell cooked and uncooked fish and they acknowledge that the demand has been growing. Judith Mukiri, is a member of a 19-member farmers group that has established an eatery at Mitheru in Maara constituency. “We decided to open this fish eatery as value addition after we were taught by the officers from the department of fisheries in the county how to cook and eat fish,” said Ms Mukiri. Recently the county government donated freezers to the farmers where they can store their fish for several days without rotting as they look for a market. Governor Muthomi Njuki who issued the equipment at Mitheru in Maara constituency said his government will also establish a fish centre in Chuka town with big freezers where farmers will be delivering their fish for storing and even selling.

Export fish

He said though he is encouraging the expansion of the local market, his target is to export fish that has already been processed for value addition. “As a government, we are dedicated to promoting fish farming and that is why we have given farmers freezers, feeds and harvesting nets. Farmers have also been receiving fingerings and liners from my government,” said Governor Njuki. To ensure the availability of adequate and cheap fish feed which is currently bought as far as Uganda, Njuki said he will promote local production by providing free sunflower seeds to farmers starting next rainy season. He added that the devolved unit will allocate five acres at the proposed Sh500 million Kairini Industrial and Aggregation Park for a fish model farming and processing plant. The county boss lauded the government for the establishment of Mutonga Marine Research Institute in Tharaka constituency which will greatly promote fish farming in the region.

Methodology Of Teaching English To Preschool And Primary School Children



By: Ibromimova Dildora
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Moreover, it is crucial to pay special attention to each child's temperament (a combination of innate and stable psychological characteristics that define an individual's behavior) during the process of teaching them a foreign language.
- Some children, specifically melancholics (people prone to sadness, depression, and low moods), have weak nervous systems, are easily upset, impressionable, and slow to adapt to new environments.
- They should be taught phonetics or grammar gradually, and games without competition should be organized for them. They need a special approach, meaning they should be taught to tolerate competition.



Annotation:

This article provides information about teaching English grammar, vocabulary, and speaking to children, emphasizing the importance of working with each child individually, taking into account their temperaments.

Keywords: foreign language, phonetics, grammar, vocabulary, temperament, melancholic, choleric, sanguine, phlegmatic.

The preschool period of a child's life is considered to be from 3 to 7 years old. Education and upbringing provided to preschoolers should focus on mastering complex actions, developing elementary hygiene, cultural and labor skills, developing oral speech, and forming the initial sprouts of social morality and aesthetic taste. During this period, the needs and interests of preschoolers rapidly increase, with children spending most of their time playing. This means that teaching English through fun games during this age will be more effective than other methods. If we delve deeper: play becomes so significant in children's lives that it encompasses adult labor, thinking about various things, and even daydreaming. Most importantly, there is a certain precision in their play activities. It's appropriate to direct this precision towards language learning.

Moreover, it is crucial to pay special attention to each child's temperament (a combination of innate and stable psychological characteristics that define an individual's behavior) during the process of teaching them a foreign language. Some children, specifically melancholics (people prone to sadness, depression, and low

moods), have weak nervous systems, are easily upset, impressionable, and slow to adapt to new environments. They should be taught phonetics or grammar gradually, and games without competition should be organized for them. They need a special approach, meaning they should be taught to tolerate competition. This is because melancholics may easily give up on their goals if they realize they lack the will or nerve to overcome obstacles they encounter on the way. Therefore, a gentle approach is required when teaching them foreign languages.

Cholerics (people who can withstand significant mental stress) are accustomed to a very active lifestyle. Once they get interested in something, they won't give up until it's finished. Organizing competitions and debates on various topics for such children will strengthen their understanding of the subject and increase their interest in learning it. This method can be applied when memorizing vocabulary, as they will be more motivated to memorize more words to win. For example, if the topic of animals is being covered and the teacher announces that whoever remembers and recites the most animal names in English will win the lesson and receive a reward, the students will be motivated to memorize more animal names. Sanguine people (those with strong, balanced, but excited and inhibited processes) have a robust nervous system and are serious and composed. Their speech is fast, their voices are loud, and they use facial expressions and gestures when they speak. Such people will thoroughly understand any grammatical topic covered in class. The key is to keep them interested in

the lesson. Moreover, they can pronounce difficult words beautifully. Phlegmatic people (those who stand out from others due to the strong, balanced, and inert type of their nervous system) have slow movements and smooth speech. While working with them, they may lag behind others in completing certain tasks, but their artistic talent should not be underestimated. During the process of working with such children, the teacher should be patient and require them to speak something in English. This is because their speech is usually well-developed.

Therefore, a teacher needs to have sufficient methodologies to engage every talented child in the lesson. It is necessary to create an environment that promotes English language learning. For example, at the beginning of the lesson, the teacher leads all the children in singing a pleasant song and they all dance to its melody. This, in itself, will strengthen their bodies, make them more alert, and help them learn the lyrics of the song faster. This environment allows for a natural transition to a good learning atmosphere. Another effective method is teaching the foreign language through cartoons. We all know that young children enjoy watching cartoons and often learn from them. If we encourage them to watch English cartoons, they will learn both how to pronounce words and memorize vocabulary faster. Imagine how much easier it is to remember the names of fruits like "apple" or "banana" by seeing them in cartoons. This is because remembering what you see is significantly more effective than simply memorizing something you read. Several studies have been conducted

on this topic.

Currently, all preschools in China are equipped with multimedia devices. Children are taught English through songs, poems, stories, and videos. This turns boring language lessons into an exciting daily play.

Multimedia-based teaching provides teachers with great opportunities. It can increase children's interest to a high level and hold their attention for a long time. Through this, we can see the improvement in children's language skills.

This leads us to the conclusion that to teach English to young children, it is necessary to create an English environment and organize interesting exercises and games based on each child's worldview and temperament. It is important to note that English is now considered a language learned by all strata of society. Many people are learning this language, especially young people, who make up a significant percentage. Therefore, if every learner is taught with good methods and methodologies, the results will continue to improve. Additionally, educational tools and multimedia resources will also contribute to this process. This means that teaching through multimedia and fun games, rather than simply daily lessons, will undoubtedly be effective, and children will learn English faster.

Ibromimova Dildora was born on May 7, 2005 in the Kitab district of Kashkadarya region. She is a student of the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, HT-2, faculty, group 2324. She has been writing poems and stories since she was young. Now she is also writing articles.

Ban Muguka Reduce Rehabs In Mombasa

By: Eric Wanjala
@themtkenyentimes

Following a recent heated debate on Muguka and Miraa plant by leaders from the Coast and Mt Kenya region, Mombasa Women Representative ZamZam Mohammed yesterday called out on Mombasa leadership and the whole County security team to do a massive crackdown on the region to apprehend users and sellers of drugs.

While addressing members of the press at her office at Nairobi Bunge Towers Mombasa woman Rep raised concern on rising numbers of rehabilitation centers in Mombasa county and the large colossal amounts of money being set aside for the establishment of more rehabs.

“Muguka chewing has become a serious issue in our community, contributing to increased rates of addiction, domestic violence, and poor health,” Ms ZamZam asserted. “We need to take decisive action we as leaders and the county security team to protect our people, particu-

larly the youth, from the devastating effects of this substance and let it be on record that Mombasa is not a rehabilitation center where the only booming business or investment one can think of Mombasa is a rehab center.”

Muguka a leafy green plant commonly chewed for its stimulant effects is widely used in Mombasa regions of Kenya. While it is legal and a source of income for many farmers, its consumption has been linked to various health and social problems with the plant been grown widely in Embu where the species is known ‘Catha edulis’

Ms ZamZam highlighted the need for comprehensive policies and support systems to help those affected by muguka addiction. “We cannot simply ban muguka without offering alternatives,” she said. “We need no rehabilitation programs in Mombasa, since the more we have the rehab centers in Mombasa the more we are advocating for the usage and abuse of drugs in educational campaigns, and economic support for farmers who depend on khat cultivation for their livelihoods.”

The proposed ban has sparked a



Mombasa woman rep ZamZam Mohammed.

heated debate within the county, with some residents and local leaders expressing support for Ms ZamZam stance, while others argue that banning muguka would harm the local economy and infringe on cultural practices.

“I understand the concerns of those who rely on muguka for their income which I’ll advise them to use

those land for growth of the cash crops, however, we must prioritize the health and well-being of our community. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to find sustainable solutions.”

A section of leaders from the Embu and Meru region say that the region fully depends on muguka and therefore calls for Mombasa county to re-

duce the amount being paid as tax to the county.

The Mombasa county government is expected to hold public consultations on the proposed ban in the coming weeks. In the meantime, Ms ZamZam has urged residents to engage in open dialogue and consider the long-term benefits of a khat-free county.

Kenya Ranked 6th Most Preferred Destination By Mining Investors

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

A global survey by the Fraser Institute has ranked Kenya as the sixth most attractive destination for mining investment in Africa.

The survey, which examined 2,045 exploration, development, trading, and mining-related companies, found Kenya ranked 6th in Africa with an investment attractiveness score of 55.22 per cent.

This ranking surpassed South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania, which scored 41.84, 42.97, and 46.38 per cent, respectively. Kenya also beat Uganda, Mali, Senegal, and Liberia in the survey.

The State Department for Mining Principal Secretary, Elijah Mwangi, attributed the ranking to the positive growth trajectory in the mining sec-

tor since the department undertook extensive reforms to streamline operations and introduce robust regulatory frameworks to support stakeholders, miners, and investments.

The survey used three broad parameters, including the Investment Attractiveness Index, the Policy Perception Index, and the Best Practices for Mineral Potential Index, to measure a country’s overall suitability as a mineral investment destination.

The survey also revealed that Utah in the United States emerged as the most attractive mining jurisdiction globally in 2023, while Botswana emerged first in Africa.

Other African countries that scored favorably in the survey include Morocco, Zambia, Namibia, and Ivory Coast.



State Department for Mining Principal Secretary, Elijah Mwangi examining some minerals.

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House Committee Seeks Comprehensive Data From State Department To Inform Budgetary Consideration

By: PSCU

The State Department for Housing has been asked to provide data on housing units and estate houses allocated to civil servants across the country, to enable the National Assembly Housing Committee assess the current status of the properties for budgeting purposes.

“We require you to provide us with the list of rented houses, those sold and the ones you are demolishing with their acreage details. Also state why you are demolishing these houses,” Committee chairperson Johana Ng’eno directed.

Additionally, Ng’eno, the Emurua Dikiir constituency MP also asked the Department’s Principal Secretary Charles Hinga to include in the details, a list of National Housing Corporation (NHC) Houses available for sale.

Meanwhile, the committee has urged the Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Works, Mr.

Joel Arumonyang to consult with the Department’s Board, and the State Department for Housing in a bid to seek collaboration in the construction of public housing.

During deliberations on the next financial year Budget Estimates and the current financial year Supplementary Estimates II, members of the Housing Committee expressed concerns about the impact of reduced funding to National Construction Authority (NCA).

The lawmakers also sought to know what NCA was doing to enhance inspection of upcoming buildings across the country, given the rampant cases of collapsing of houses.

In response, officials from the Department of Public Works led by PS. Joel Arumonyang Informed the Committee that the proposed rationalization of NCA’s Budget would hinder the Authority’s operations, including accreditation and certification programs for skilled workers, and the review of essential regulatory instruments.

He also mentioned that the upcoming building code would bring sanity, quality and enhance standards.



The committee during yesterday’s session.

On his part, Hinga told the committee that the proposed budgetary cuts for his State Department would affect the implementation of the Affordable Housing Program, resulting in pending Bills on the Kenya Urban Support Program which is set for completion

before the end the current Financial Year.

He also observed that it would affect the intended construction of markets since most of the works had already been tendered for.

The committee is expected to meet

with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works tomorrow, before finalizing their report for presentation to the Budget and Appropriations committee.

The Metropolitan National Sacco Registered A Loss Of Six Billion, Sacco’s Chairperson Tell Senate Trade Committee

By: PSCU

The Senate Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism has today learnt that the Metropolitan National Sacco registered a loss of Kshs6,778,192,153 in the 2021/2022 Financial Year resulting in dwindling fortunes.

The Legislators learnt this while considering the cooperative society’s Chairperson and Board of Management responses to a statement sought by Bungoma Senator David Wakoli regarding the Status of the Metropolitan National Sacco in Bungoma County.

Senator Wakoli, in his request for a statement, invited the Senator Lenku Seki - led committee to cause there to be an audit of the conduct of business, including books of accounts, at the Sacco by the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) in light of the alleged irregularities re-

ported by members of the Sacco in Bungoma County.

While appearing before the Trade committee to respond to the request for a statement earlier yesterday, the Sacco’s chairperson Esther Mbaire put all the irregularities’ blame on the former directors and Board of Management, whom she accused of irregularly paying dividends to members whereas there was no surplus resulting in losses.

She added that her Sacco couldn’t refund shares to former members of the Sacco as Senators suggested since the cooperative society was still suffering from the aftershocks of the loss, refunding the shares would make the Sacco insolvent.

“The former top management of the Sacco paid dividends to members whereas there was no surplus,” revealed Mbaire.

“So, we can’t refund former members until we recover these monies by either the former directors, staff and top management returning the money or defaulters repaying their loans,” she added.



The committee during yesterday’s session.

Senators were also appalled to learn that the Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan National Sacco Cyrus Kariithi’s spouse, Gladys Nduung’u who is a former employee of the Sacco, owes the co-operative society KSh43,160, 632.

Joan Wambui, the CEO’s sister-in-

law, owes Metropolitan National Sacco KSh20,022,940 and is still an employee of the cooperative society.

“What efforts are you making as the CEO to recover these monies from your relatives?” Senator Seki, who is the chairperson of the committee posed.

The Trade committee resolved to invite the Commissioner of Co-operatives and the Chief Executive Officer of SASRA to further deliberate on the matter and get justice for the Metropolitan National Sacco members.

KICC Sh600 Million Pending Bill Irks The Departmental Committee On Tourism And Wildlife

By: PSCU

Tourism and Wildlife Committee has raised a red flag over the delayed payment of at least Sh600 million owed to the 14 contractors who renovated the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). The renovation works were undertaken last year ahead of the International Climate Change Summit that brought together several Heads of State and other delegates. The committee, during a meeting with representatives of the contractors chaired by Kareke Mbiuki at Bunge Towers, noted that the delay was unjustified. “The committee is concerned that despite the contractors delivering their work before the International Summit they have not been paid all their dues,” said Mbiuki. The contractors were led by Mercy Meria who read their submission to the committee. She noted that they were subcon-

tracted by a Chinese identified as Wu Yi to do the facelift of the iconic building. “We were only paid 17 per cent of what was due to us by the Chinese company,” Ms Meria told the committee. The contractors thanked the committee for agreeing to give them an ear on the matter following their petition but noted that the delay in payment had subjected them to untold suffering. “We are having sleepless nights because auctioneers keep knocking on our doors,” said Mr. Mohammed Munyanya, one of the contractors. Kuresoi North MP Alfred Mutai said the committee will not allow the Chinese company to use its financial muscles to frustrate the local contractors. “The work the local contractors have done is seen and I wonder why some people somewhere are holding onto their money,” said Mutai. Ali Abdi (Ijara) said the local contractors had tabled genuine grievances which the Committee will seriously address. The committee also queried dispar-



Kareke Mbiuki.

ities in the total cost of the renovations of KICC. This is after one party put the cost at KSh1.9 billion while the other at more than KSh3.19 billion. “The House appropriated KSh1.9 billion for the renovations but another figure of KSh3.19 billion by the Chinese firm has been tabled before us,” said Mbiuki. The committee said it will invite the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Defense Aden Duale and the managers of the Chinese Company for clarity on the matter. “The committee has stopped any payment to the Chinese firm until the matter is settled amicably,” said the committee chairperson. He added: “I want to assure the contractors that the Committee will prosecute the matter with all fairness.”

Kiambu And Nyeri County Assemblies Seeks More Funds

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu and Nyeri County Assemblies have appealed to the Senate to consider their requests for additional allocation of recurrent expenditure for the coming Financial Year. Appearing before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, the two County Assemblies led by their Speakers elaborated several areas that needed more funding that have necessitated requests for additional allocation. The County Assembly of Nyeri through Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi requested for an additional Ksh156,500,490. The amount according to their submission is expected to cater for acquisition of motor vehicles to aid in the operations of the County Assembly. “The County Assembly has 8 vehicles, 4 of them were inherited from

the defunct local authority, the motor vehicles that are currently operational are not sufficient to cater for the day to day Assembly operations,” they submitted. Also lined up for funding is the equipping of the Speaker’s official residence, upgrading and equipping of the Staff Canteen, Automation of the County Assembly, acquisition of ICT and Hansard equipment and purchase of furniture. Kiambu County Assembly on its part requested for additional allocation of Ksh241,302,400 which they intent to spent on among other things acquisition of computers and laptops, customization of application systems, documentation and printing, salaries and wages for members of the County Assembly and acquisition of 3 motor vehicles for the County Assembly. The Assembly will in addition use the funds to cater for provision of security guards, Hansard system and broadcasting Unit, chamber Overhaul, acquisition and installation of Electronic Documents and Records



Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi (left) with other officials when they appeared before the Senate yesterday.

Management System and Upgrading of Intercom Telephone System, Local Area Network and increasing of the internet bandwidth. Members of the committee noted submissions from the two County Assemblies promising to engage further before coming to a conclusion. Senators present during the meeting were Mandera County Senator Ali Roba (Chairperson), Tabitha Mutinda (Vice Chairperson), Eddy Oketch of Migori County, Mohamed Faki of Mombasa County, Shakila Abdalla and Richard Onyonka of Kisii County.

Kenya Hosts 9th Annual Global Conference On Energy Efficiency

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyentimes

The 9th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency was officially opened yesterday at the Safari Park Hotel by Davis Chirchir, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Energy.

He was accompanied by Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira. This prestigious event marks the first time the International Energy Conference on Energy Efficiency is being held in Africa, drawing participants from over 60 countries, including 27 from Africa.

In his opening remarks, Chirchir warmly welcomed the delegates and emphasized Kenya’s commitment to energy efficiency and conservation.

“Good morning and welcome to Nairobi, Kenya. It is a pleasure and a great opportunity to host this significant conference,” said Chirchir.

He highlighted the importance of the event, noting the participation of numerous countries and the valuable exchange of ideas and innovations it fosters.

Chirchir detailed Kenya’s progress in energy efficiency, pointing to pol-



CS Davis Chirchir.

icies and initiatives aligned with the Paris Agreement and the country’s national climate contributions. He underscored the pivotal role of energy efficiency in Kenya’s green inclusive development and economic growth agenda. “Energy efficiency and conservation stand as crucial pillars of Kenya’s strategy to optimize energy use, minimize waste, and mitigate environmental impact,” Chirchir stated.

Kenya has taken proactive steps to

enhance energy efficiency, including the enactment of the Energy Act of 2019, which provides a robust legal framework to support these efforts. The Act empowers regulatory authorities to enforce energy performance standards and promote renewable energy sources, thereby incentivizing sustainable practices. “The Energy Management Regulations established under this Act have been instrumental in promoting compliance and fostering best practices in energy man-

agement,” he added.

Chirchir also highlighted Kenya’s leadership in developing and implementing Minimum Energy Performance Standards for lighting and appliances, further emphasizing the nation’s commitment to energy efficiency. He acknowledged the collaborative efforts required to achieve energy efficiency goals, involving government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and international stakeholders.

“We leverage collective expertise and resources through multi-stakeholder platforms to accelerate progress towards a more efficient and sustainable future,” Chirchir said.

He recognized the fruitful partnerships with organizations such as the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the United Nations Environment Program, and the Copenhagen Climate Center, which have been pivotal in promoting energy efficiency and conservation in local industries.

Furthermore, Chirchir lauded the collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), which has been crucial in enhancing Kenya’s capacity in data collection, modeling, and scenario planning across all energy sectors. “We look forward to

continuing our collaboration with the IEA on initiatives aimed at advancing energy efficiency and conservation in Kenya,” he noted.

The conference also featured a reflection on Kenya’s National Sustainable for All Action Agenda of 2016, which outlines ambitious targets for achieving universal access to modern energy services, doubling energy efficiency improvements, and increasing the share of renewable energy by 2030. These targets highlight Kenya’s dedication to a sustainable energy future.

In his concluding remarks, Chirchir emphasized the integral role of energy efficiency and conservation in Kenya’s sustainable development agenda. “By enhancing innovation, adopting best practices, and fostering collaboration, we are poised to unlock the full potential of energy efficiency and conservation benefits for present and future generations,” he said.

The event promises to be a landmark in the global energy efficiency landscape, fostering meaningful dialogue and partnerships aimed at promoting sustainable energy practices worldwide.

Implications Of The Proposed Removal Of VAT Exemptions On The Aviation Sector In The Finance Bill 2024

The Kenya Association of Air Operators (KAAO) expresses deep concern regarding the Finance Bill 2024, which proposes to eliminate VAT exemptions previously granted to the aviation sector. These exemptions have been instrumental in stimulating growth and investment within the industry. The proposed deletion of these VAT exemptions threatens to undermine the substantial progress achieved in recent years, posing a significant risk to the sector’s sustainability and its contribution to Kenya’s economic growth. The specific exemptions targeted for removal include:

- 8802.30.00: Aeroplanes and other Aircraft on unladen weight exceeding 2,000 kgs but not exceeding 15,000kgs
- 8802.60.00: Spacecraft (including satellites) and suborbital and spacecraft launch vehicles
- Hiring, leasing, and chartering aircraft, excluding helicopters

of tariff numbers 8802.11.00 and 8802.12.00.

- Direction-finding compasses, instruments, and appliances for aircraft.

Firstly, the revocation of aircraft VAT exemptions will precipitate a significant surge in acquisition costs for airlines and operators. This, in turn, will trigger escalations in air travel and charter services, cargo services, aerial services, unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV) services, balloon operations, aircraft repair and maintenance and training prices, thereby impeding the sector’s growth trajectory in maintaining and developing Kenya’s air transport system. Secondly, the proposed abolition of VAT exemptions on hiring, leasing, and chartering aircraft poses a significant risk of escalating operational costs. Such a scenario could result in diminished accessibility and affordability of these vital services, impacting sectors reliant on aviation, including tourism, trade, and emergency response.

Additionally, the removal of exemptions for spacecraft and launch vehicles threatens to stifle investment in space-related endeavours, curtailing opportunities for innovation and collaboration in this burgeoning frontier. In essence, the potential removal of these VAT exemptions will have a direct impact on our regional competitiveness and impact the advancement of Kenya’s aviation sector. Policymakers must recognize the multifaceted implications of such actions and prioritize strategies to safeguard these critical exemptions in line with both the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommendations and the East Africa Common External Tariff on zero-rated taxes on aviation. Preserving these measures is imperative not only for sustaining industry growth and encouraging investment but also for upholding Kenya’s position as a



regional aviation hub and ensuring continued economic prosperity.

In response to these pressing concerns, we urgently appeal to the Government and policymakers to reconsider the proposed removal of VAT exemptions in the Finance Bill 2024. Preserving these exemptions is indispensable for sustaining growth, ensuring sector competitiveness, and safeguarding the aviation industry’s vital role in Kenya’s economy.

Kenya Association of Air Operators

Understanding Home Security



By: Cyril Kasembeli
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Guards can be reassigned to your new location seamlessly. In essence, whether you reside in a rental unit or a personal home, you should expect to receive the same level of service.
- If the landlord has installed security aspects like electric fence or security cameras; is there need for a tenant to have additional?
- This depends on the tenant's preferences and specific needs. There are two main reasons why a tenant might opt for additional security systems.
- Firstly, they may need unrestricted access or control over their security system for example access to video footage. Secondly, the tenant's security preferences might differ from those of the landlord, prompting them to enhance security in their own space.

What does home security entail?

Home security entails the measures needed to deter, delay, detect, and respond to any sort of intrusion, burglary or access by unauthorized persons. Achieving home security involves various methods, ranging from the traditional guard at the gate to alarm systems coupled with response services, video surveillance systems, access control, perimeter protection, and many more.

Are aspects such as ambulance contacts, fire rescue, nearest hospital or police station considered as part of home security?

In the current times, home security goes hand in hand with home safety. In essence, while home security focuses on protecting against external threats and criminal activities, home safety focuses on minimizing internal risks and ensuring the well-being of occupants within the home. Aspects such as emergency medical response, fire rescue, and roadside assistance, although falling under safety rather than security, are offered by different players in the home security space as value additions.

How affordable is it to have a home security package?

Affordability is relative. Home security packages vary from basic, low-cost options, such as a panic button-only system, to more detailed and tailored offerings, which may necessitate a prior security risk assessment. In essence, a package can be tailored solely based on your security needs or, alternatively, taking into account the client's budget constraints. My recommendation is to opt for a package that aligns with your security requirements. Ultimately, safeguarding your assets should be the priority, and being excessively cost-conscious could potentially leave you vulnerable.

How does security for a personal home/ unit differ or compare to that of a rented unit?

Security is a service, and fundamentally, there's no difference between obtaining security services for a rented unit and for a property you own. Technological advancements in the electronic security sector, for instance, have facilitated the development of wireless systems. These systems are straightforward to install, preserve the aesthetics of the property, and are easily relocatable in the event of a move.

Guards can be reassigned to your new location seamlessly. In essence, whether you reside in a rental unit or a personal home, you should expect to receive the same level of service.

If the landlord has installed security aspects like electric fence or security cameras; is there need for a tenant to have additional?

This depends on the tenant's preferences and specific needs. There are two main reasons why a tenant might opt for additional security systems.

Firstly, they may need unrestricted access or control over their security system for example access to video footage. Secondly, the tenant's security preferences might differ from those of the landlord, prompting them to enhance security in their own space.

For instance, consider a scenario where the landlord has installed CCTV cameras covering the common areas of the estate, for example, parking lot and the tenant wishes to have visibility of their living room and monitor who enters and exits the space using their mobile phone. In such a case, the tenant would need to procure additional security services to achieve this level of surveillance and control, as it aligns with their specific security requirements.

How does home security for a

townhouse differ or compare to that of a rural home?

Rural homes face a greater risk of intrusions compared to urban homes due to their sparse population and isolation. Rural homes generally lack the proximity-based deterrence that is found in town environments. Moreover, rural properties often feature multiple access points or could have no perimeters at all, complicating the implementation of security systems.

Urban homeowners may find it easier to access advanced security technology and services, such as smart home security systems, video intercom, and neighbourhood-wide surveillance networks because of the presence of network infrastructure.

Essentially, the difference lies in the implementation approach and is greatly influenced by property size and access to technology and infrastructure.

Owing to the past incidents involving Airbnb's, how important is home security in today's society?

Given the past incidents in Airbnb's, the importance of home security in today's society cannot be emphasized enough. There are risks associated with short-term rented apartments, and measures need to be put in place to ensure the security of guests.

Home security, I would say, is a critical consideration for Airbnb owners. Solutions tailored specifically for the needs of Airbnb businesses include guest verification systems and alarm systems capable of alerting authorities in case of security emergencies.

There is also the need for enhanced security protocols at these establishments, such as verification of visitor identification either manually or using advanced visitor management systems, the use of access control, and video surveillance systems, etc., to mitigate risks associated with the short-term rental business.

For such a business (short term rentals) what kind of security should be implemented?

Some of the security measures that can be put in place in short-term rentals include;

Having onsite security personnel, get the services of security guards or personnel to provide assistance to guests as needed. These security personnel will patrol the residence and respond promptly in case of a security emergency.

Conducting background checks on guests, this should be done before confirming bookings, verify guests'

identities and ensure they have a clean record.

Installing alarm systems equipped with panic buttons. These systems can alert the guards at the rentals and the response company in case of emergencies such as a guest being attacked. Ensure that alarm systems are regularly tested and maintained for optimal performance.

Installing surveillance cameras in the common areas of the establishment. This will ensure any suspicious activities are flagged and the responsible people alerted.

How do you balance home security in your Airbnb and privacy?

Install surveillance cameras only in common areas and avoid placing them in private spaces such as inside the houses. This ensures that guests' privacy is respected at all times.

Additionally, clearly communicate with guests about the security measures in place, such as surveillance cameras around the establishment at the entrances or smart locks before their stay. Transparency helps manage expectations and respects guests' privacy.

If you install cameras (whether hidden or in the open), should Airbnb clients be informed?

Yes, current data privacy and protection regulations mandate the disclosure of any video surveillance activities to individuals accessing the property. Hosts must inform guests about the presence of CCTV cameras and their intended use for surveillance. Guests should be made aware of where the cameras are located and how their data will be collected, processed, and stored.

This requirement should be fulfilled by displaying visible warnings, which could be further emphasized by notifying guests accordingly.

Similar to the above, should guests in your personal home be made aware of the same?

Yes, guests in your personal home should be made aware of any video surveillance activities. It's important to inform guests about the presence of cameras and their intended use for surveillance purposes. This disclosure helps maintain transparency, respect guests' privacy rights, and ensures compliance with data protection regulations. If need be, guests should be informed about the location of cameras and what their intended purpose is.

By SGA Security Lead Engineer, Cyril Kasembeli

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Mohamed Salah said Liverpool "will fight like hell" to win trophies next season, as the Egyptian hinted he will at least see out the final year of his contract at Anfield.

Salah Hints At Liverpool Stay, Targets Trophies Next Season



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring his team fourth goal during the English League Cup quarter-final football match between Liverpool and West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on December 20, 2023.

Mohamed Salah said Liverpool "will fight like hell" to win trophies next season, as the Egyptian hinted he will at least see out the final year of his contract at Anfield.

Salah has just 12 months remaining on his deal and has been linked with a move to the Saudi Pro League.

The Reds reportedly rejected a £150m offer from Al-Ittihad for the 31-year-old last September.

"We know that trophies are what count and we will do everything possible to make that happen next season," Salah posted on social media.

"Our fans deserve it and we will fight like hell."

Liverpool won the League Cup in Jurgen Klopp's final season in charge but missed out on the Premier League, FA Cup and Europa League.

Klopp's departure after over

eight years in charge of Liverpool has raised doubts over the futures of a number of star players, who rose to prominence under the German's reign.

Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold are also entering the final year of their contracts.

Former Feyenoord boss Arne Slot was confirmed as Klopp's successor by Liverpool on Monday.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Real Madrid's German international midfielder Toni Kroos announced yesterday he will retire from football after Euro 2024.

Germany's Kroos To Retire From Football After Euro 2024



(L-R) Real Madrid's German midfielder #08 Toni Kroos, Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder #10 Luka Modric, Real Madrid's Spanish defender #06 Nacho Fernandez and Real Madrid's Spanish defender #02 Dani Carvajal hold their 36th Spanish La Liga trophy as Real Madrid' players parade onboard a bus during celebration at the Cibeles square in Madrid on May 12, 2024. (Photo by OSCAR DEL POZO / AFP)..

Real Madrid's German international midfielder Toni Kroos announced yesterday he will retire from football after Euro 2024. "My career as an active footballer will end this summer after the Euro championship," 34-year-old Kroos, who won the 2014 World Cup with Germany, said on Instagram. Before the European Championship, Kroos has a chance to win the Champions League with Real for a fifth time when they face Borussia Dortmund at Wembley on June 1. He also won the Champions

League with Bayern Munich before joining the Spanish giants. Kroos joined Real in 2014 and quickly formed a formidable midfield partnership with Luka Modric. In a statement on their website, Real said Kroos "will go down in Real Madrid history as one of our club and international football's greatest legends". Kroos has also won the Liga title four times. He announced he was quitting international football in July 2021 but reversed his decision in February after talks with Germany

coach Julian Nagelsmann, who persuaded him to play on till the Euro 2024 on home soil. "My ambition was always to finish my career at the peak of my performance level," Kroos said on Instagram. "I am happy and proud that in my mind I found the right timing for my decision and that I could choose it on my own." Kroos was one of the key players when Germany won the World Cup in Brazil in 2014 and scored twice when they inflicted a 7-1 defeat on the host nation in the semi-finals.

But four years later he was unable to prevent Germany from crashing out in the group stage in Russia.

AFP

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About The Book



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- Anila also runs a YouTube channel, "Refugee Voice," and founded the "Butterfly Global Teachers Club." Her contributions have earned her the International Excellence Award from the House of Parliament in London. Her mission is to provide education to orphans and street children and protect girls from forced marriages.
- Co-Author, Eileen Moynihan: Eileen, born in Chelmsford, England, and later moved to Ireland, is a retired teacher and writer. She has a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma in Special Education.



"Dream of A Girl": This book, co-authored by Anila Bukhari and Eileen Moynihan, focuses on women's rights and girls' education, presenting a collection of poetry that addresses these vital issues. The book aims to inspire and empower readers, reflecting Anila's passion for activism and Eileen's dedication to creative collaboration.

Author Introductions

Anila Bukhari: Born in Gujranwala, Anila Bukhari is a celebrated poet, writer, and activist known for her contributions to contemporary world literature. Fluent in multiple languages, she is an accomplished organizer and prominent figure in various literary and humanitarian groups. Anila's work, dedicated to promoting love, peace, and humanity, transcends regional, religious, and racial boundaries. She has received global recognition for her creative endeavours.

Anila is an award-winning activist for girls' education. She began writing at age 10 and has authored 11. And now Her "Girls Shine" project has impacted 50 countries, and her work includes efforts to combat forced and child marriages.

Anila also runs a YouTube channel,

"Refugee Voice," and founded the "Butterfly Global Teachers Club." Her contributions have earned her the International Excellence Award from the House of Parliament in London. Her mission is to provide education to orphans and street children and protect girls from forced marriages.

Co-Author, Eileen Moynihan: Eileen, born in Chelmsford, England, and later moved to Ireland, is a retired teacher and writer. She has a Bachelor of Education and a Diploma in Special Education.

After teaching special and resource classes, she retired early and began writing children's stories and poetry. Eileen has authored seven children's books and a poetry collection, and she is an active member of various writers' groups. She values creativity, imagination, education, and community.

