



Leveraging Private Equity And Public-Private Partnerships For Climate Finance In Kenya

Kenya, like many countries, faces significant challenges posed by climate change, including droughts, floods, and environmental degradation. Addressing these issues requires substantial financial resources, which can strain public budgets.

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WILDLIFE DIRECT

News>> WildlifeDirect Commissions Six Local Filmmakers For The "Justice For Nature" Film Initiative

P. 8. WildlifeDirect, a leading Kenyan conservation organization has commissioned six short film makers for a prestigious award.



Socialization

News>> Socialization In The Development Process

P. 12. Socialization is a practical problem of rearing children so that they will become adequate adult members of the society to which they belong.

Kenya's KSh52 Billion Goodies From America

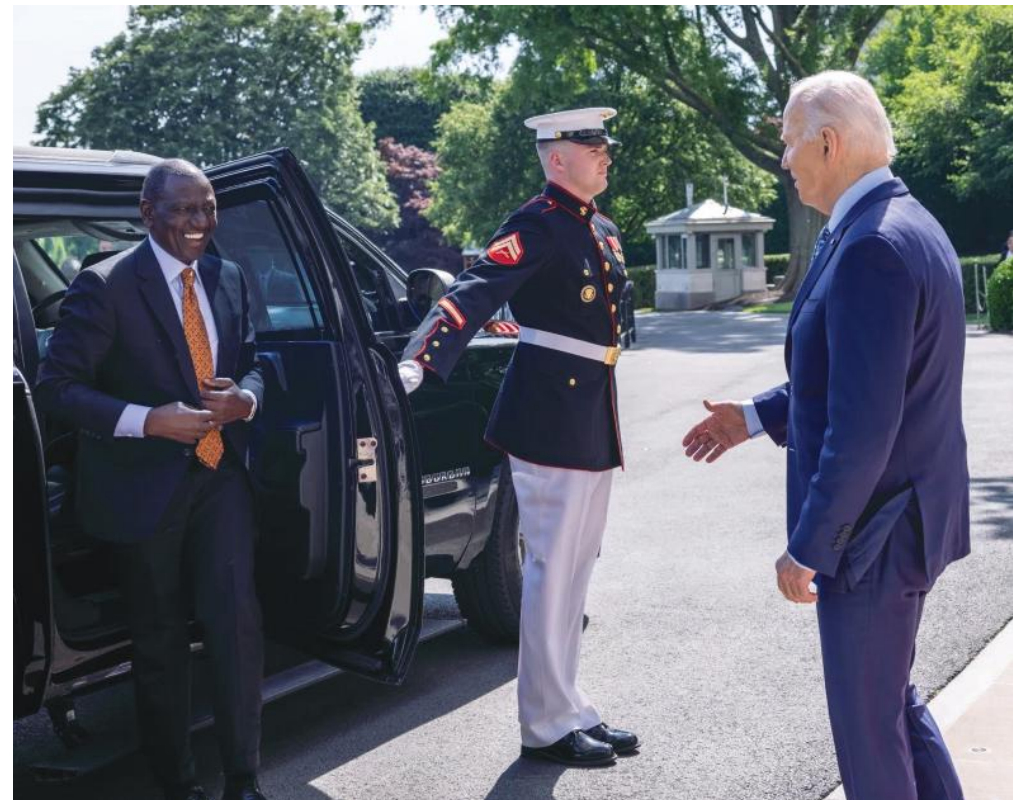


President William

Ruto will return home from his high-profile visit to the United States of America with a bag overflowing with goodies worth billions of shillings.

Ruto and his host President Joe Biden signed multiple deals spanning different governmental and private sectors.

In the four-day-long State Visit, Kenya has reaped not only financial and investment gains, but also a landmark achievement to become the first be the first sub-Saharan African country to be designated as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.



President William Ruto received by U.S president Joe Biden at White House. Photo/PCS

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Kenya Tea Brand Positioning: Eastern Produce Kenya In Multi-Million Investment Plan

The Eastern Produce Kenya (EPK) Affirms KSh260 Million Investment Commitments To Quality Tea Production And Proactive Climate Action

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “At EPK, we support the movement towards developing a world-class Kenyan tea brand based on recognisable quality and sustainability. This will require tea industry collaboration,” Mrs Chirchir said.
- She added, “Tea is a people industry requiring high levels of continuous training and experienced, focused management at all levels to produce premium Tea. It also includes high welfare standards, environmental conservation, and best-practice factory energy efficiency to comfort our worldwide customers and give them the best farm-to-tea-cup quality experience.”



Eastern Produce Kenya Director Mrs Leah Kibii Chirchir hands over a tree seedling to local primary school students as part of the International Tea Day Celebrations

Eastern Produce Kenya (EPK), based in Nandi County, has confirmed its plans to focus on the quality of its Kenyan Tea while enhancing its sustainable production programme.

As part of the firm's three-year investment plans, valued at more than KSh 260 million, EPK is actively working to improve its energy efficiency, reduce its carbon footprint, enhance its social care, and improve the environment in which it operates.

All these efforts support EPK's quest to continue producing quality tea in a sustainable manner.

Speaking during an event to mark this year's International Tea Day Celebrations, EPK Director Mrs Leah Kibii Chirchir said that in efforts to create a

clear differentiation for a Kenyan Tea brand in international markets, tea producers should ensure that the quality of Kenyan Tea is paramount and adopt the very best sustainable production practices to set Kenya apart from other producer countries to meet global market demands.

“At EPK, we support the movement towards developing a world-class Kenyan tea brand based on recognisable quality and sustainability. This will require tea industry collaboration,” Mrs Chirchir said.

She added, “Tea is a people industry requiring high levels of continuous training and experienced, focused management at all levels to produce premium Tea. It also includes high welfare standards, environ-

mental conservation, and best-practice factory energy efficiency to comfort our worldwide customers and give them the best farm-to-tea-cup quality experience.”

This year, EPK has advanced its climate action commitments to environmental stewardship by planting over 15,000 indigenous trees, including 250 in Nandi Hills Primary School recently and donating 750 tree seedlings to 13 local schools within the area as part of its sustainability agenda. This is in support of the government's 15 billion tree planting programme.

EPK has also taken a lead in sustainable tea production by investing in reducing its thermal energy consumption in its tea factories, targeting an 18% reduction. The company is achieving this through

a robust energy-saving culture, improved efficiency in boiler operations, and innovative waste heat recovery mechanisms. This has substantially reduced the mass of fuel burnt, thus reducing its carbon emissions.

Mrs Chirchir noted that the International Tea Day celebrations provide an opportunity to showcase the unique Kenyan tea brand by demonstrating the highest standards of quality tea production and industry collaboration to achieve global competitiveness.

“At EPK, we are keen to achieve quality through maintaining superior employee welfare, world-class tea production underpinned by our sustainable practices that prioritise climate action through our custodial management that ensure we enrich all catchment areas and indigenous forests that makeup 48 per cent of the land across all our estates,” said Mrs Chirchir.

EPK was proud to participate in the International Tea Day celebrations in partnership with the Tea Board of Kenya and other stakeholders in Nandi Hills. The celebrations gathered the industry together through a Tea Expo at Nandi Bears Club, celebrating the strides within the sector to ensure that Tea remains one of Kenya's top export earners.

This year's International Tea Day celebrations commenced with a local race at the local Nandi Tea Stadium, which attracted 450 runners. Winners in the different categories received medals and assorted merchandise.

This international tea day underscores Eastern Produce Kenya's long-term commitment to world-class quality through sustainable agricultural enterprises. At the heart of this belief lies a steadfast approach to social and environmental matters to ensure viable agricultural operations for future generations. This view exemplifies the Group's philosophy of custodial management and provides the basis on which each enterprise operates.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Older persons registered in Kiambu are set to benefit from Inua Jamii funds starting June 2024, as the government opens bank accounts for them

The funding targets legible senior citizens aged 70 and above who will receive Sh2,000 monthly from the national government through the Department of Social Protection.

The Social Development Officer in charge of Kiambu Sub-County, Rose Kanyutu, has invited six contracted banks to pitch tents in selected locations in the sub counties to ensure a smooth operation of the exercise.

About 1200 legible older people will be opening new bank accounts in Kiambu Sub-County alone.

Plans are underway to conduct validation tests for registered persons with disabilities, orphans, and vulnerable children before they can open their bank accounts.



The Kenya Red Cross Society and Taita Taveta Department of Health have launched a 6-day training exercise for healthcare providers to effectively manage malnutrition in children under five years. The Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) course, sponsored by Kenya Red Cross Services at Voi, aims to equip healthcare providers with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify, refer, and follow up on cases of malnutrition in the county. The training focuses on preventive and promotional services rather than curative methods and underscores the government's commitment to tackling malnutrition comprehensively. The programme is tailored towards providing the skills required to mitigate malnutrition, with the aim of enhancing primary health care services. The training will be conducted by medical officers, clinical officers, nurses, nutritionists, and nutrition coordinators across the county. Kenya Red Cross Society

Nakuru County plans to leverage the gig economy to increase employment opportunities for youth. Chief Officer for ICT, E-Government, and Public Communication, Catherine Changwony, underscored the importance of gig economy growth, providing more accessible, competitive, and consistent job opportunities, and potentially reducing unemployment. She also highlighted ICT as a key enabler in economic pillars and driving economic, social, and political development. Nakuru County is committed to partnering with IT experts to enhance digital transformation, improve service delivery, and create employment opportunities for the youth. The Economic Survey 2023 reveals that the age groups aged 20-24 and 25-29 continue to have the highest unemployment rates at 16.3 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively. The Digital Economy Task Force reports that Kenya's gig economy, valued at KSh14 Billion currently supports over 36,000 gig workers.



Nyeri County businessman cum politician Dr Thuo Mathenge's affiliated Noo Wangikù Foundation has since its establishment, two years ago donated more than 200 wheelchairs to residents in the county. A foundation official Gitau Nginduri said the foundation whose motto is 'Empowering Grassroots Communities' has been identifying and donating the mobility machines to locals in a bid to ease their movements and upgrade their standards of living through various economic activities. On Wednesday, a local who has been using a dilapidated wheelchair was gifted a new one with his neighbours receiving free Furaha maize flour courtesy of the foundation. Yesterday, Dr Mathenge, the national chairman of The New Democrats (TND) political party said he formed the foundation as a charitable arm of his vast business empire to assist the needy in his county where in 2027, he will be seeking to be the fifth governor. He disclosed that he has assisted dozens of other needy citizens in various other parts of the country.



Busia County is promoting tourism by marketing local tourist destinations, including the Kakapel National Monument in Teso, North Busia County. The monument, known for its unique ancient wall drawings and caves, is little known among Busia residents, except for researchers visiting for academic purposes. The department of tourism in Busia County is promoting all tourist sites in the county to sensitise residents to the natural resources in the county. The next circuit will visit Mukhondo Conservancy, a home of endangered sitatunga antelopes, and enjoy beaches along Lake Victoria shores. The county assembly will allocate funds to the department to ensure the effective performance of its duties. The Kakapel National Monument curator, Mr. Thomas Namuye, is urging the County Government and other stakeholders to help create an interpretation centre for the site's exhibitions. The National Museum Monument will work closely with the county government to promote tourism across the county. Ms. Selyne Orlando, a hiker at the Kakapel Museum, suggests partnering with other stakeholders to introduce sports events and wildlife to make the site vibrant and attract both local and international tourists.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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Stop Sabotaging Revenue Collection For Mere Politics, Tharaka Nithi MP Told

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Mwimbi ward MCA Jonnes Kinegeni alias Gakuota and his Mugwe counterpart Jacob Murimi Kiriko lauded residents for turning up in good numbers for public participation and giving their views on the projected development agenda.
- Mr Kiriko said those who don't attend the public participation meetings end up blaming the government when projects that are not of their priority are considered.

Tharaka Nithi County Assembly led by Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Godfrey Murithi Gaturu has told off the county's women representative, Ms Susan Ngugi Mwindu for sabotaging payment of revenue.

Speaking during a public participation forum in Chuka town in Chuka/Igambang'ombe Constituency yesterday, the Members of the County Assembly (MCA) said it is not only illegal but also immoral for an elected leader to incite the traders against paying revenue.

Mr Gaturu who is also the Karingani ward MCA said no government can achieve its development plans if the people fail to pay revenue.

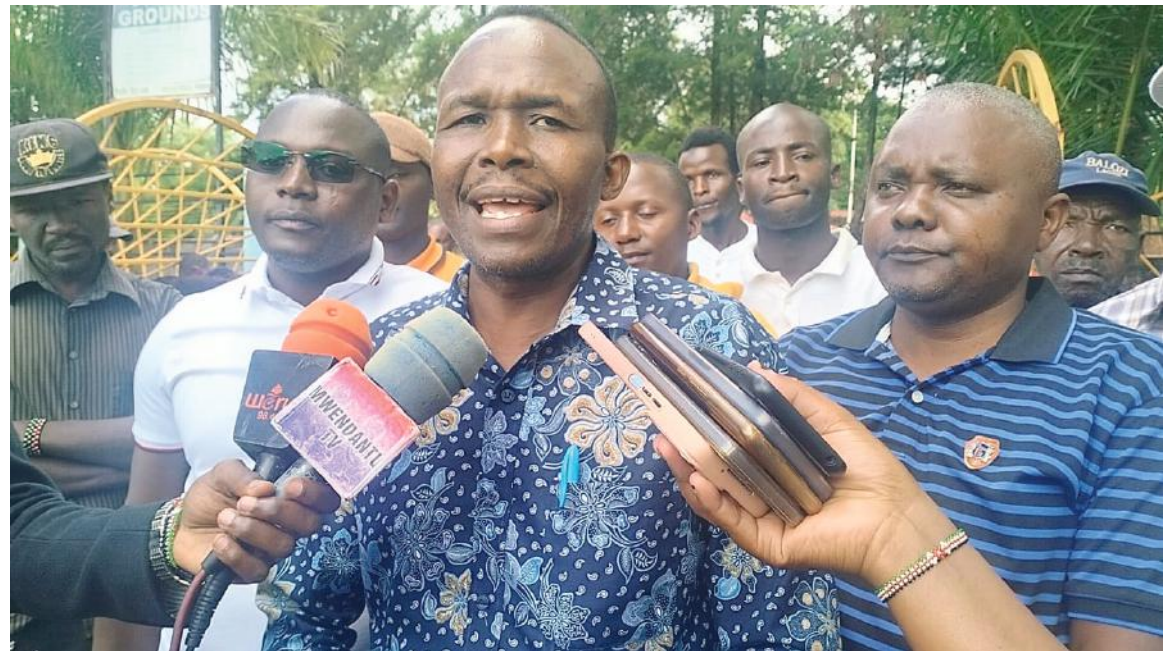
"We are asking our people to shun leaders who incite them against paying revenue just to sabotage the county government," said Mr Gaturu.

He said the little money collected in Marimanti town in Tharaka constituency which Ms Ngugi has been inciting traders against paying revenue is not even enough to construct the market and that the government has to get money collected in other places to finance it.

The Women Representative has been not only asking the locals to boycott payment of revenue but also leading demonstrations paralyzing activities and even leading to injuries of some traders and revenue officers.

Mr Gaturu said elected leaders serving in the national government should support their home counties by ensuring that the allocated resources are disbursed and not sabotaging them because of their 2027 political ambitions.

Mwimbi ward MCA Jonnes Kinegeni



Tharaka-Nithi County Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Murithi Gaturu addressing media during budget public participation meeting in Chuka town yesterday. Photo/ Mwenda Njeru..

alias Gakuota and his Mugwe counterpart Jacob Murimi Kiriko lauded residents for turning up in good numbers for public participation and giving their views on the projected development agenda.

Mr Kiriko said those who don't attend the public participation meetings end up blaming the government when projects that are not of their priority are considered.

"It is very encouraging to see a good number of our people, both young, old and women attend this important meeting that will determine our future development projects," said Mr Kiriko.

Governor Muthomi Njuki led government plans to have a budget of Sh6.3 billion, 64 percent for recurrent expen-

diture and 36 percent for development.

The devolved government expects Sh4.3 billion from the national government, Sh450 million-local revenue and the balance will be a conditional grant.

The health department is expected to take the lion's share, Sh1.7 billion which is 33 percent of the total annual budget.

A total of Sh78 million of the Sh1.7 billion will be used to establish an Intensive Care Unit at Chuka County Referral Hospital which was recently elevated to a level-five health facility.

Gaturu noted that the national government has reduced the promised Sh250 million for the industrial park planned to be established at Kairini in Mariani ward to Sh150 million and

that the county government is ready to allocate an equal share to make it Sh300 million.

He said the county has the potential to collect Sh759 million according to the Commission on Revenue Allocation.

The county government has been increasing its own source revenue since the coming of Governor Njuki in 2017 from Sh79 million in the 2016/2017 financial year to Sh286.1 million in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Governor Njuki attributes the achievement to strategic initiatives including the installation of CCTV cameras at various revenue collection points and the automation of revenue collection systems to help minimize pilferage and non-compliance.

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WildlifeDirect Commissions Six Local Filmmakers For The “Justice For Nature” Film Initiative

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

WildlifeDirect, a leading Kenyan conservation organization has commissioned six short film makers for a prestigious award. The films are dedicated to advocating for justice for nature. This initiative, funded by the Whitley Fund For Nature, follows a successful pitch competition that drew 50 compelling proposals, of which 45 were pitched in person at the WildlifeDirect offices and the rest virtually. The competition attracted a fantastic array of ideas with topics ranging from deforestation and human-wildlife conflict to marine protection, pollution, poaching, animal welfare, and climate change. The panel of judges included award-winning novelist Yvonne Owuor Adhiambo, Film industry experts Nimo Mathenge (Walt Disney, OWN), Pauline Njau (UNHCR award-winning filmmaker, and Dr Paula Kahumbu. The winners were picked after demonstrating understanding of the issues, capability, and compelling



ideas for bringing the stories to life through film. The winners are: Pauline Kyalo of “El Nyuki – The Bee Man” which is a documentary about bees in Kenya and Nepal, Albert Nyakundi of “Coral Keeper: Whisper of the Waves” which is a 3D Animation about the pollution of rivers and its impact on the sea and Musyoki Kivindyo and Dancurf Brown of “Blood Ivory”, a drama about ivory trafficking. Others were Thige Njuguna of “Nyoka Mpenzi”, a documentary about the welfare of snakes, Lornah Sharon Wambui of “Balance Unmatched”, a documentary about deforestation on Mt Kenya and Kiki Cheptoo Ng’ok with his documentary titled, “A Sky With No Vultures” which is about the

poisoning of vultures. The diverse selection of winners included two students who are currently pursuing a Master’s degree in wildlife filmmaking at the University of West England, seasoned drama filmmakers Musyoki Kivindyo, Dancurf Brown (Villains of the Metropolis on Netflix), and animator Albert Nyakundi. Newcomers to the film include documentary filmmaking, including Lornah Sharon Wambui and Kiki Cheptoo Ng’ok. The production kick-off was held from 2nd to 4th May 2024 and it included comprehensive training for the teams in story development, logistics in film production, film contracts, legal and environmental legislation, taxes, film insurance, and financial management.

The preparatory phase facilitated a vibrant exchange of ideas, fostering a supportive community among participants. Each team has been awarded KSh500,000 to produce their film. Speaking on their behalf, Nyakundi, inspired by the collaborative atmosphere asserted, “We are not just going to meet your expectations, Paula; we’re going to go way above it”. The actual value of these films extends far beyond the screen. The transformative experience of the filmmakers involved catalyzes a broader explosion of content creation. Through their participation, these storytellers become crucial voices for African nature, the envi-

ronment, climate change, and heritage. This initiative elevates their technical and creative skills. It deepens their commitment and ability to influence public perception and policy concerning critical environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, deforestation, land degradation, marine conservation, and biodiversity protection. The six films will be shot in locations around Kenya and beyond and they aim to craft compelling narratives that resonate deeply with African audiences, making a crucial contribution to environmental advocacy and cultural appreciation throughout the continent.

Environmental Activists Lauds Climate Action Africa Project

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

A group of environmentalists from Nyeri County have lauded their colleagues from Canada for supporting their initiatives. Members of Citizens Health Initiative have been involved in various activities that address the peoples well-being, top among them, issues to do with Climate change, whose phenomenon have drastic effects on human and planet’s health. Led by their chairperson, Mary Njeri Maina, some of the initiative members are set to travel to Canada for a Climate Change Conference where they hope to tap more knowledge on how to address challenges on climate change in the Kenya. The Canada conference will be a



Stakeholders during a visit by the Canadian team, a few weeks ago.

follow-up of a visit made by environmental activist from the North American country a few weeks ago in Nyeri County. When the team from Canada led

by Ms Charlotte Mathieu was in the country, they visited among other areas, Karatina University which has an ambitious climate change project under Climate Action Africa Project.

In this initiative, different stakeholders have been joining hands to address various challenges posed by climate changes, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During the visit, Mathieu noted that their visit to institutions and Hombe area which is part of Mount Kenya forest had impacted knowledge on them which they hoped to go and share with their colleagues. One of the Canadian team’s hosts, Dr Flora Namu from Karatina University noted that climate change effects should be tackled by all, across the world since carbon emission had great effects across the globe. Ms Maina supported the Canadian and the university official saying, “The planet is one. There is no escaping. Carbon spreads across the globe and thus we must all be concerned,” Disclosing that her group members, drawn from various sectors were making plans to travel to Canada, Ms Maina called for concerted efforts to address climate change challenges.

Inside Ruto’s KSh52 Billion Bag Of Goodies From America

By: Fridah Naliaka

Worth Noting:

- The money that the U.S has given Kenya or committed to will support the country in areas including Democracy, Human Rights, Governance; Health Partnerships; People-to-People Ties; Shared Climate Solutions; Trade and Investment; Debt, Development, and Sustainable Finance; Digital, Critical, and Emerging Technology Cooperation; and Peace and Security Cooperation.
- Nearly Ksh.5.3 billion (\$40 million) has been allocated to Kenya for democracy, human rights, and governance and another Ksh.93 million (\$700,000) to support the operationalisation of the Public Benefits Organization Act.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced an additional Ksh.173 million (\$1.3 million) for the youth empowerment program aimed at strengthening political engagement at the subnational level and Ksh.80 million (\$600,000) to advance disability inclusion.



President William Ruto with his US counterpart Joe Biden during a joint press conference at the White House on May 23, 2024. PHOTO | PCS.

President William Ruto will return home from his high-profile visit to the United States of America with a bag overflowing with goodies worth billions of shillings.

Ruto and his host President Joe Biden signed multiple deals spanning different governmental and private sectors.

In the four-day-long State Visit, Kenya has reaped not only financial and investment gains, but also a landmark achievement to become the first be the first sub-Saharan African country to be designated as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

When Ruto returns home this weekend, he will be landing with a bag full of goodies worth over Ksh.52 billion (\$395.15M).

The sums of money are from commitments that the U.S. state departments and agencies have made to Kenya, to support various development projects.

The various partnerships, The White House announced, are founded on the 60-year ties the two nations have shared.

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The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced an additional Ksh.173 million (\$1.3 million) for the youth empowerment program aimed at strengthening political engagement at the subnational level and Ksh.80 million (\$600,000) to advance disability inclusion.

America also intends to support Kenya’s Anti-corruption efforts with Ksh.66 million (\$500,000) for a new Fiscal Integrity Program, and another Ksh.66 million (\$500,000) to broaden the reach and effectiveness of anti-corruption advocacy.

“To support the Government of Kenya to combat corruption, the Administration is providing Ksh.33 million (\$250,000) through the Global Accountability Program, and Ksh.40 million (\$300,000) to support Kenya’s proposed Whistleblower Protection law to strengthen Kenya’s anti-corruption legal architecture. In addition, USAID has provided Ksh.358 million (\$2.7 million) to support the improved enforcement of policy and laws that deal with fraud, waste, and abuse in the delivery of public services to Kenyan citizens,” the White House

says.

The US also announced a new Ksh.929 million (\$7 million) partnership to advance and strengthen the modernization and professionalization of Kenya’s National Police Service.

The United States of America also intends to provide Ksh.650 million (\$4.9 million) in new funding for Kenya and other East African countries to improve cooperation and coordination in combating criminal networks and holding criminals accountable.

The goodie bag will also take care of reforms in Kenya’s electoral process with Ksh.199 million (\$1.5 million) provided to support Kenya’s electoral process by strengthening the election commission, political parties, and campaign finance.

America will also support Kenya in developing the digital superhighway to enable a holistic view of health care delivery. Here, Ksh.4.1 billion (\$31 million) will be provided to build and deploy digital health solutions to support disease programs in Kenya.

Other investments that the U.S. will make in Kenya include a Ksh.1.3 billion (\$10 million) direct loan to Kenyan company Hewa Tele and two rounds of equity investment totalling Ksh.531 million (\$4 million) to Kasha Global.

The U.S. will also support the Kenyan education sector by providing Ksh.66 million (\$500,000) to sup-

port the development of Kenyan students, scientists, researchers, and engineers.

“USAID intends to provide Ksh.3.2 billion (\$24.5 million) for the Kenya Primary Literacy Program (KPLP), a new nationwide early-grade literacy activity implemented in close partnership with Kenya’s Ministry of Education,” the White House announced.

Another Ksh.40 billion (\$300,000) will support women’s entrepreneurship and gender equity in the Kenyan energy sector and Ksh.478 million (\$3.6 million) committed to accelerating the connection of homes, businesses, and institutions in Kenya to cleaner electricity.

Other investments will be in hydro-power projects and a transition to zero-emissions vehicles in Kenya.

Kenyan-owned private companies have also gotten a share of the goodies. For instance, a Ksh.66 million (\$500,000) technical assistance grant has been announced to build a proprietary credit scoring model to support Pezesha Africa Limited.

In addition, a Ksh.6.8 billion (\$51 million) loan will be issued to asset financing platform M-KOPA to support smartphone receivables and cash loans. This is aimed at enhancing the affordability of M-KOPA’s devices to low-income borrowers.

Demons Do Not Obey Weak Christians



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Devils do not listen to weak Christians. He beats them to the ground in spite of the authority Jesus has given them. Having authority and exercising it are two different things. It is advisable to just speak words as the Spirit gave them to you, pray without ceasing coupled with praying in tongues.

Do not be worried about the appearance of people who come to church. God will deal with that. It is not your business. Do not worry about the outward person. Be concerned about the inward man. I have seen some people so messed up that even the devil did not want them. When you get too bad, the devil's crowd does not want you anymore. Just remember that Jesus will accept you the way you are,

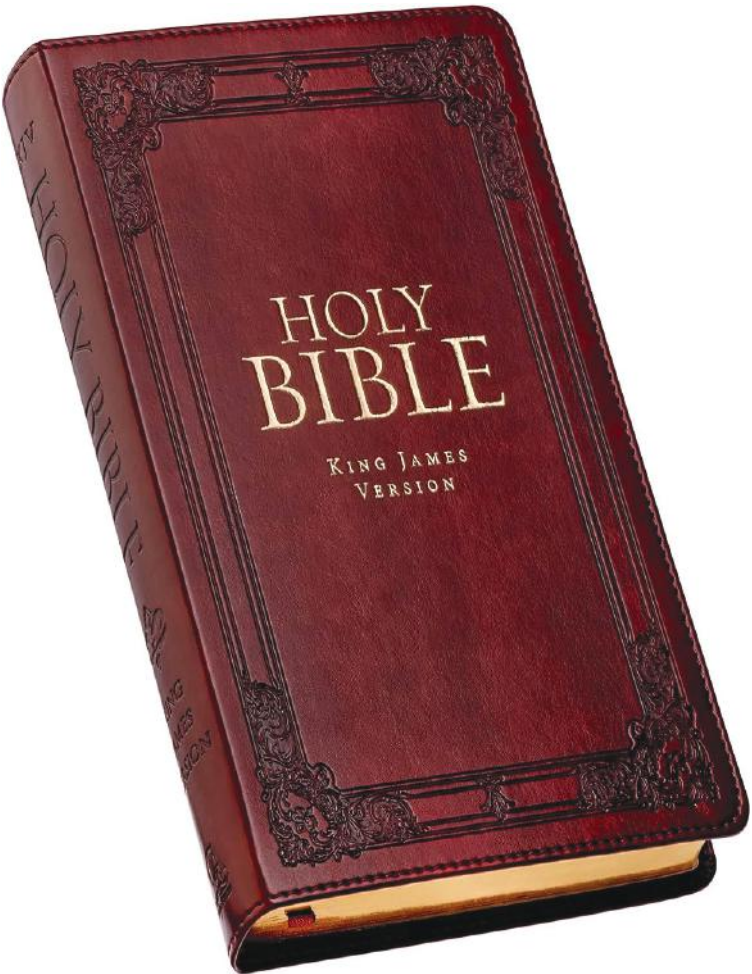
if you will bow down before Him and ask for mercy. Ask for mercy, and you will get it.

If you do not want to get involved in casting out devils because it is "weird," you are already involved in weird stuff—and that weird stuff is you. Casting out demons and laying hands on the sick is supposed to be the normal Christian life. Learn about the power that is in you. The Holy Spirit does not think as we think. He thinks according to the reality of heaven: no sickness, no confusion, no nervousness, no cripples, and no blindness. Until you get your mind renewed with the Word of God and stop thinking about yourself, you cannot even get healed.

Remember: the Holy Spirit is not ignorant. If you are not receiving the blessings of God, it should be evident to you that you are ignorant. The Kingdom of God is total victory, and if you are born again, you have inherited heaven. The entire Kingdom of Heaven lives in you.

WHAT A MIGHTY WONDERFUL GOD WE SERVE.

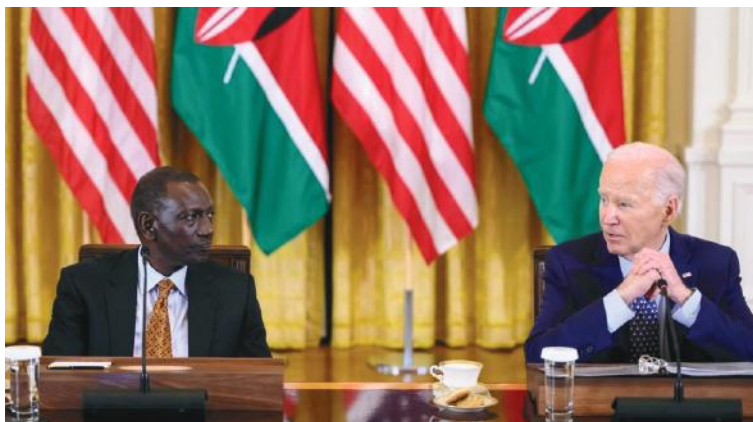
Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the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



Ruto Meets Biden, US Congress Speaker



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President William Ruto and US President Joe Biden

Worth Noting:

- On his part, President Ruto echoed Biden's sentiments. He listed the areas of cooperation and stated that Kenya will continue to cultivate and play a bigger role. This is in strengthening our ties for mutual benefits of our peoples.
- Mr President, America has so far played a key role in lifting Kenya. We appreciate your support.
- When Dr Ruto left the country, I wrote in this column that Kenya was poised to reap big from this visit.
- In day one of this visit, 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.

President William Ruto is currently in the United States of America (USA) on a state visit.

A week before Dr Ruto and his delegation flew out, there was a debate on whether he should address the joint US Congress.

In his response, Speaker Johnson Mike stated that the house was ready to give him this rare opportunity.

He however said the Kenyan head of state will meet and address members of US Congressional Delegation which he will personally lead.

This meeting took place a day before US President Joe Biden hosted his Kenyan counterpart President William Ruto at White House.

The bilateral talks focused on a wide range of issues of mutual interest between the two nations.

After the talks, the two leaders addressed a joint press conference.

Biden stated that the United States of America will continue support Kenya in different sectors of development.

This visit comes at the right time.

While bearing in mind the visit coincides with 60 years of US-Kenya diplomatic relations, it will deepen and strengthen our ties.

On his part, President Ruto echoed Biden's sentiments. He listed the areas of cooperation and stated that Kenya will continue to cultivate and play a bigger role. This is in strengthening our ties for mutual benefits of our peoples.

Mr President, America has so far played a key role in lifting Kenya. We appreciate your support.

When Dr Ruto left the country, I wrote in this column that Kenya was poised to reap big from this visit.

In day one of this visit, 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 pow-

erful 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.

Dr Ruto later held talks with the chief executives of the world renowned Coca Cola beverages company. The executives agreed to increase their investments in Kenya to the tune of 23 billion. President Ruto also managed to strike a deal during which the US agreed to give Kenya financial support totalling to Sh144 billion.

Notably, before his host, President Joe Biden, sent out this invitation, he had called Dr Ruto and discussed the issues that will feature during the bilateral talks.

This is 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.

It is worth noting that President Ruto had previously made three visits to the US. But the latest one is a landmark one because it is a state visit.

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 visits, 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 assem-

bling and rolling out of the electric buses in the city of Nairobi.

This will be a key step towards mitigating the effects of the climate change.

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.

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

Raom 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.

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 Silicon 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 carved 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 their 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 their 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

Socialization In The Development Process



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Here the parent intends to train the child, to change his way of acting by making him learn certain ways and by giving up certain other ways of behaving. However, it is difficult to draw the distinction between “action” and “learning.” As Seers, Maccoby and Levin (157) write, “Actually every interaction between two people has an effect both on their present actions and on their potentialities for future actions.”

- An affectionate hug or a reprimand not only influences what the child is doing at the moment, but adds a small change into his expectations of what will happen in future shriller on occasions.

Socialization is a practical problem of rearing children so that they will become adequate adult members of the society to which they belong. Research studies in Psychology and Anthropology in the last few decades have shown the relationship between parental practices in the upbringing of children and the behaviour patterns of adults. There are two ways in which unique types of thinking, feeling and modes of acting of a particular group of people get transmitted to the next generation:

(a) Directly and formally as in educational programmes.

(b) Informally through interactions between parents and their children which occur in the course of child-rearing.

These interactions include the parents’ expression of attitudes, values, interests and beliefs as well as their caretaking and training behaviour. Some of this informal learning arises through interactions with relatives, neighbours, peer groups and teachers. Not all parent-child interactions arise from the deliberate intention on the part of the parents to train the children. Some of these interactions arise out of caretaking—feeding, cleaning and protecting. Some are expressions of love or annoyance—reactions that have no significant purpose for the child’s future; but they have their influence on the child’s growth.

Parents influence the children by their actions, what they do on a given occasion. Anything a parent does to a child or with a child has as its aim to control the child, to change or to maintain a particular form of behaviour; and this influences the child’s actions. There is also the process of learning, where the parents deliberately try to change the child’s potentialities for acting in the future.

Here the parent intends to train the

child, to change his way of acting by making him learn certain ways and by giving up certain other ways of behaving. However, it is difficult to draw the distinction between “action” and “learning.” As Seers, Maccoby and Levin (157) write, “Actually every interaction between two people has an effect both on their present actions and on their potentialities for future actions.”

An affectionate hug or a reprimand not only influences what the child is doing at the moment, but adds a small change into his expectations of what will happen in future shriller on occasions. This expectancy, in turn, increases or decreases the probability that he will act the same way in the future.”

The process of influencing the child is greatly facilitated when the child develops his language skills. The mother can make it clear to the child whether her intention is to control the child’s behaviour for the moment or to modify’ his behaviour permanently. The words “now” and “next time” become very useful to make the child understand the intentions of the mother.

The words “good” and “bad” become very powerful to modify’ the behaviour of the child both before he learns to use these words himself and after he has acquired their use. They can become much more effective than either emotional or expressions or actions like beating etc., to modif’ the child’s behaviour and to enable him to learn the appropriate ways of behaving in the given situation.

The mother has much to teach the child or to help him to learn. He has to learn the motor activities that will enable him to manipulate the objects in his environment. He has to learn eating habits, drinking habits, toileting, independence, responsibility, speaking, understanding speech and

so on.

He must learn what desirable things to have are and what are the undesirable things he has to avoid or give up. The child must develop proper control of his aggressive impulses and learn to put up with frustrations and failures. He must learn what is “good” and what is “bad,” what is approved by his parents and what is not approved by them.

He has to learn the names and functions of things and how to manipulate them. He must learn the proper ways of behaving towards his parents, brothers or sisters and other members of the family, the relatives who come to the house and the visitors who drop in. Margaret Mahler (1975), has shown how the psychological birth of the child unfolds itself slowly through interpersonal and intrapsychic processes. It involves a sense of separation from the mother and the achievement of a sense of individuation.

Both these are achieved from about the fourth month to the third year. This separation-individuation phase of development is crucial in regard to ego development and in regard to the development of object relations. Thus this is a kind of second birth.

In the first three months, the infant spends his day in half-sleeping, half-walking state. It is more a physiological than a psychological state. It is followed by a dim awareness that need-satisfaction comes from outside. He gradually becomes aware of his mother and attachment to her develops.

The concept of attachment is relatively new in theorising about child development. In 1958 Bowlby introduced the term to describe the tie between mother and infant. Bowlby suggested that there are five innate and un-learned responses which bind

the infant to his mother, namely, sucking, clinging, following the mother with his eyes, crying and smiling.

Sucking, clinging and eye—following are initiated by the infant with only marginal response from the mother. But crying and smiling become effective by the active response from the mother. In the course of development, these five responses become integrated and constitute the basis for attachment behaviour and are eventually modified through learning.

Ainsworth (1973) says “An attachment is an affection ties that one person forms to another specific person, binding them together in space and enduring over time.” Animal babies, as well as human babies, seek the proximity of the mother.

Each species has characteristic attachment behaviour patterns. In the birds it is formed a few hours after birth. In the animals within a day or two; Clinging seems to be the most important attachment behaviour of the monkeys. Bowlby (1969) asserts that the infant is ready to make his first attachment to a specific person in the second quarter of the first year.

After the first six months, it is more difficult. The difficulties are very great after the first year. This is why the period from three months to six months is a very critical period in child’s life. It is the period of primary socialisation when the infant makes his first social attachment, the sense of trust as Erikson calls it.

From birth onward, infants tend to look at faces in preference to other stimuli. During the first six months, their most vigorous smiles and cooing are in response to faces. The mother facilitates this by putting the baby in a face-to-face position, looks into his eyes and caresses his limbs and body. His crying is a spontaneous expression of his distress and the mother spontaneously responds by trying to relieve his distress. Repeated contact with the particular person is necessary for the infant to become attached to her or him. Smiling and vocalising become selective. The infant ‘talks’ more to the persons with whom he is building attachments. Another sign of attachment is the stopping of crying. When he is crying, he will stop it, if his mother or another person to whom he is attached, takes him up. Not so when others, take him up. His looking also shows his attachment. He looks at his mother with eagerness and joy. It is obvious that attachment is built not on the basis of family relationship but on the basis of affection shown by a person to him.

IGAD Releases Seasonal Forecast June To September

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyetimes

The Greater Horn of Africa will from next month to September receive above normal rainfall and higher than normal temperatures over most parts. According to the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) – Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) who issued the seasonal forecast for June to September 2024, areas expected to experience these above-normal conditions include western and coastal Kenya, Djibouti, Eritrea, central and northern Ethiopia, much of Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan.

On the other hand, parts of northern Somalia, isolated areas over western Ethiopia, and north-western South Sudan are expected to experience drier-than-normal conditions.

The climate patterns in the June-July- August-September (JJAS) 2024 period closely resemble those of 1998

and 2010, both of which experienced wetter-than-normal conditions over much of the region.

The temperature forecast shows a probability of warmer-than-normal conditions across the region, particularly over Kenya, northern Sudan, central and western Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania.

Dr. Guleid Artan, ICPAC’s Director noted that GHA stands as a region that is highly susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change, which pose significant challenges to the resilience of our communities.

In a media briefing, he added that the forecasted wetter-than-normal conditions for June to September 2024 echo the patterns of 1998 and 2010, highlighting the level of impact especially for South Sudan and Sudan, which may experience impacts of floods.

“As we observe these recurring extreme climate events, it is important to acknowledge the pivotal role played by early warning systems which serve as key instruments of preparedness, guiding us through climate variability. Through our operations, ICPAC con-

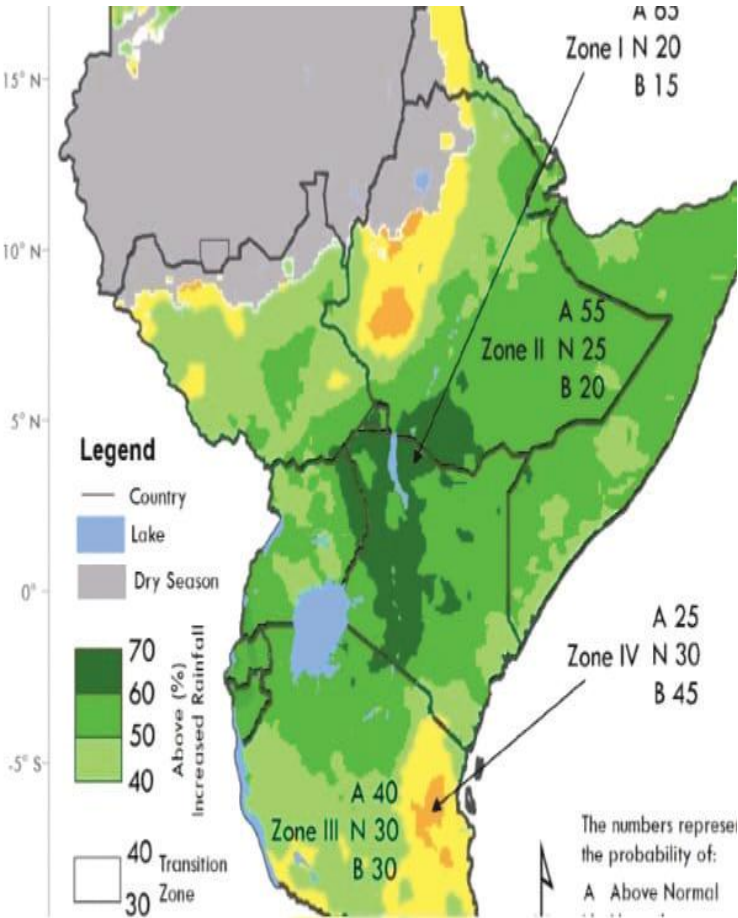
tinues to provide actionable climate information that is relevant and key for Early Action,” Dr. Artan added.

In line with the World Meteorological Organization’s guidelines and recommendations, ICPAC has adopted an objective seasonal forecast method to generate climate forecasts for the Greater Horn of Africa.

May 2024 initialized seasonal forecasts from 9 Global Producing Centres (GPCs) were utilized and processed to develop the June-September 2024 seasonal climate outlook.

The seasonal forecasts and their hind-cast data were analyzed to provide a probabilistic forecast indicating the likelihood of above-normal, normal, or below-normal rainfall.

The 67th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF67) was organized in collaboration with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services across the region, along with other partners, with the primary objective of issuing the seasonal forecast for June to September 2024.



Kiambu County To Get A State-Of-The-Art Library

By: John Kariba
@themkenyetimes

Kiambu County will be embarking on establishing a modern education library facility in a bid to elevate literacy levels.

In partnership with the Nation Media Foundation and Kenya National Library Services in the construction of the facility that will be able to accommodate 500 individuals.

Governor Kimani Wamatangi expressed gratitude to the Nation Media Foundation for their crucial financial support in funding the construction of the facility that is set on a one-acre parcel of land that has been provided by County Government.

“I am grateful to the Nation Media Foundation for offering to help fund the construction of this facility that will feature a state-of-the-art e-resource center and designated sections tailored for children, youth, and adults,” he said.

The meeting held Thursday includ-



ed key stakeholders from the Nation Media Group and its Foundation, led by Group Managing Editor Ms. Pamela Sitoni and Daisy Maritim, Manager at Nation Media Foundation. Kenya National Library Services Philomena Mwirigi, alongside Mary Kinyanjui, Head of Research

and Consultancy. County Executive Committee Member for Education Nancy Gichung’wa and Director for Cultural and Arts, Heritage, and Library Services Mr. Ken Mwangi also graced the occasion, along with Ngewa Ward Member for County

Assembly Charles Kang’ethe. Meanwhile Governor Wamatangi issued bursary cheques to beneficiaries across various wards. The Cheques were distributed in Cinda, Ndenderu, and Karuri wards (Kiambaa Sub-County), as well as Township, Riabai, Ting’ang’a,

and Ndumberi wards (Kiambu Sub-County).

Additionally, beneficiaries of the Kiambu Scholarship Programme in Githobokoni Ward, Gatundu North Sub-County, received their cheques yesterday. “Our top priority is to enable bright and needy children across the County to attend school without interruption,” stated Wamatangi, emphasizing their commitment to supporting education.

Each beneficiary receives between Sh5, 000 and Sh 10,000 under the enhanced bursary programme.

Kiambu County has been without a library for a long time since the only one that existed was closed down in 2013 after the administration of the County Government of Kiambu removed books from the community hall that was being run by the defunct municipal council of Kiambu.

The hall was then partitioned and is now being used by officers of the County Government as offices.

Samarkand Is The Cradle Of Ancient History!



By: Asilbek Axrorov

Samarkand... What a glorious name... I don't know what comes to mind when someone says Samarkand, when I say Samarkand, the first thing that comes to my mind is Registan square. We can call this square "the heart of Samarkand". This old square has always been with Samarkand. Whatever events have happened in Samarkand, this square has seen them, it is a living but silent witness to all the events. In fact, Samarkand is a place of pilgrimage for all Uzbek scholars. Who would not come to this place of worship, all of them have stepped on this land, how many people of science have flourished on this land. The souls of all our great grandfathers and descendants are on this earth, and we cannot help but recognize them. The great and invincible general Sahibgiron Amir Temur, the king and poet Zahiriddin Muhammed Babur, the great astronomer and scientist Mirzo Ulugbek, the sultan of ghazals, the founder of Uzbek literature, Alisher Navoi Imam al-Bukhari, who thoroughly studied Islam, Mahmudhoja Behbudi, one of the leaders of the Jadidist movement that arose in Turkestan at the beginning of the 20th century, and our first president Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov were born and raised on this land. Great personalities of the world have marched here, among them we can mention Alexander the Great. In addition, Samarkand was the capital of huge states. In particular, our grandfather Amir Temur was considered the capital of the state he founded. Another grandfather, Mirzo Ulugbek, also lived and worked in Samarkand. They contributed not only to the development of Uzbek science, but also to the development of the world science. Mirzo Ulugbek built an observatory in Samarkand in 1420 and carried out his scientific work. Mirzo Ulugbek wrote works on astronomy here, and it is worth mentioning that he managed to determine the names and locations of 1018 stars in this observatory. When the scientists

checked the position of these stars using modern technologies, it was found that their position has not changed at all. For this, we should congratulate our grandfather. The scientist who achieved such successes and the city also experienced a sadness. This was the son of Padarkush, Abdulatif. He betrayed his father, cheated and slandered him. Believed and caused his father's death (perhaps the real father is not Abdulatif, but it is people with dark intentions who created coldness between father and son). Our grandfather Imam al-Bukhari also spent the last years of his life here and taught the people of Islam here. 9,000 people studied his lessons. If we look at the 20th century, Mahmudhoja Behbudi, one of the founders of the Jadid movement in Turkestan and the father of Uzbek Jadids, was born in Samarkand. Samarkand attracts and surprises people with its mystery. Millions of tourists visit this place every year, now Samarkand is the most famous tourism center in the whole world. In 2023, an international summit was held on this issue. If there are two best and oldest cities in the world, one of them is Rome and Samarkand. In fact, Samarkand is liked by everyone with its beauty and madrasahs, mausoleums and monuments that dazzle the eyes and make the heart. Personally, I like this magnificent, I am involuntarily happy and proud to be born in an ancient, world-known city where generations have left an indelible mark. Every time we go to Samarkand, I am overwhelmed by the beauty of Registan. When I step into Registan, my whole body trembles, I feel as if I am stepping on the footprints of my ancestors. When I touch it, I feel very proud and very refreshed. At this moment, I feel as if the spirit of my grandfather's takes hold of me, their trust runs through my body like blood, and I try to be a suitable generation for them. I have not seen or heard of such scientists in the near future. But this should not last long. We, the young generation, must be worthy of them and continue what they have done. Currently, there are all conditions for this.

Asilbek Axrorov

The student of Bukhara state university

Hidden Gem in Asia: Uzbekistan



By: Adkhamjon Janobiddinov

For many travelers, Asia is a continent of vast landscapes, ancient cultures, and dazzling diversity. Yet, among the well-trodden tourist paths of China, Japan, Thailand, and India, there is one country that often goes overlooked, a hidden gem of Central Asia: Uzbekistan. This land of breathtaking mountains, lakes, deserts, towering minarets, and richly spiced cuisine is a treasure trove of history, culture, and natural beauty, and a must-see destination for anyone seeking a truly unique travel experience.

One of the main draws of Uzbekistan is its stunning architecture, which bears witness to a long and illustrious past. From the grandiose mosques and madrasahs of Samarkand and Bukhara to the ornate mausoleums and palaces of Khiva, every corner of this country is steeped in history and artistry. Perhaps the most iconic of all is the Registan, a vast public square in Samarkand that boasts three towering madrasahs adorned with intricate tilework, arabesques, and calligraphy. Visitors can spend hours marveling at the intricate details and vibrant colors of these ancient structures, imagining the scholars, poets, and merchants who once walked the same grounds.

The legacy of the Silk Road also permeates Uzbekistan, as it was once a key hub in this ancient trade route that connected the East and West. The city of Bukhara, with its well-preserved medieval architecture, offers a glimpse into this bygone era. Here, visitors can explore the Ark Fortress, the Bolo Haouz Mosque, and the Kalyan Minaret, each telling a story of the city's glorious past. Khiva, another jewel of Uzbekistan, stands as an open-air museum with its Itchan Kala, a walled inner town that has been meticulously restored to reflect its 19th-century grandeur. Another highlight of Uzbekistan is its cuisine. With an abundance of fresh

produce, meats, and spices, the food here is flavorful, hearty, and satisfying. Some of the must-try dishes include plov which is made with lamb or beef, carrots, onions, and raisins; shashlik, grilled chunks of marinated meat served with bread and vegetables; and Lagman, a noodle soup with vegetables and meat. For those with a sweet tooth, there are also plenty of desserts to sample, such as halva, a sweet paste made from sesame seeds, and pakhlava, a flaky pastry filled with nuts and honey. The bustling bazaars, such as Chorsu Bazaar in Tashkent, offer an immersive experience where one can taste and buy local delicacies, spices, and fresh produce.

Despite its many attractions, Uzbekistan remains relatively unknown to foreign tourists, making it an ideal destination for those seeking a more authentic travel experience. One aspect that contributes to this authenticity is the country's hospitality, which is known for being warm, welcoming, and sincere. Visitors can expect to be greeted with open arms by locals who are proud of their cultural heritage and eager to share it with others. Whether it's sharing a cup of tea with a host family, bargaining for souvenirs in a bazaar, or simply chatting with a stranger on the street, the people of Uzbekistan are always happy to engage with visitors and make them feel at home.

Moreover, Uzbekistan's diverse landscapes offer a wealth of natural beauty. The Kyzylkum Desert, one of the largest deserts in the world, provides a stark and stunning contrast to the lush Fergana Valley, known for its fertile lands and vibrant markets. Adventure seekers can trek in the Nuratau Mountains, explore the scenic beauty of the Charvak Reservoir, or relax by the shores of Lake Aydarkul. Each of these locations offers unique opportunities for exploration and immersion in nature. Overall, Uzbekistan may be a hidden gem in Asia.

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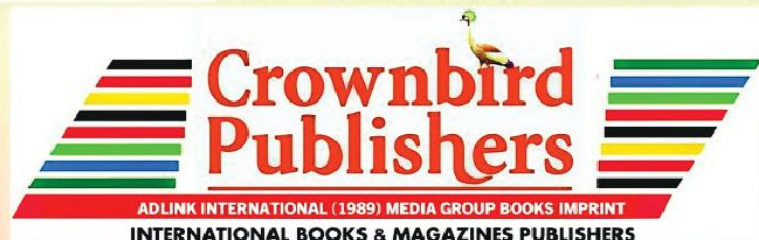
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Diseases Control Council To Partner With Murang'a Government In Fight Against HIV/AIDs

By: Bernard Munyao and Anita Omwenga

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The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) in partnership with the County Government of Murang'a will embark on sensitization forums in effort to curb spread of HIV/AIDs.

The public forums will focus on educating the locals and especially young people to embrace behavioral changes aimed to end new HIV infections.

NSDCC Chairman Mr Geoffrey Gitu yesterday, observed despite Murang'a being among low burdened counties with HIV prevalence, infection rate among young people is on rise in the recent past.

In 2022, the chairman said, Murang'a County had an HIV prevalence of 2.3 per cent where an estimated 20,000 people are living with HIV noting that a number of those infected, are not under medication thus at high risk of spreading the virus.

"As the country targets to end HIV as a public health threat by 2030,



Murang'a County governor Irungu Kang'ata with NSDCC Chairman Mr Geoffrey Gitu at his office yesterday..

there is need to put more focus on our young people who are currently leading with new infections," he stated when he led a team from the council to pay a courtesy call to the county governor, Irungu Kang'ata.

He added, "In the proposed forums which will be done at ward levels, we will also address other challenges associated with HIV including early pregnancies and gender based

violence."

Gitu further said a multi-sectoral approach will be employed to ensure locals get the right information and embrace to end new infections.

"There is a need to ensure all those infected are put under medication and monitored so as to ensure our aim of ending new infections is attained. Next month we will have our first engagement public forum at Kanyenyaini ward," stated the chair-

man.

Head of NSDCC county support division Douglas Bosire said emerging new social habits like sex among men and drug injections have contributed substantially to the HIV burden.

He explained in Murang'a despite having HIV prevalence of 2.3 per cent generally, women are more vulnerable to HIV with a prevalence of 3.3 compared to 1.4 percent among men.

"The epidemic is geographically diverse in the county, ranging from high prevalence of 3.5 percent in Mathioya Sub County to a low of 1.3 percent in Kandara Sub County.

"Increase of people on antiretroviral treatment has seen the county reduce AIDS-related deaths by 71 percent from 903 in 2013 to 261 in 2022," highlighted Bosire. He further said new HIV infections also reduced by 91 percent from 1970 in 2013 to 178 in 2022.

"About 36 percent of new adult infections were attributed to adolescents and young people aged 15-24 years. HIV transmission from mother to child has also reduced from 24 percent to 24 percent to 8.4 percent." He remarked.

Bosire noted NSDCC among the purposes of the triple threat initiative aims to build resilient and sustainable platforms that are adolescents and young people centered for effective prevention of new HI infections, sexual and gender based violence and mis-timed pregnancies.

Murang'a County AIDs and STIs Coordinator David Kinyanjui on the same time called for a multi-sectoral approach and community led responses to curb new HIV infection.

He called upon young people in the county to go for HIV testing and counseling as a way to help end new infections.

"Young people have been avoiding testing for HIV but we challenge them to come out and be part of this fight to end new infections," added Kinyanjui.

A programme officer with NSDCC Monica Njoroge castigated men for failing to go for HIV testing saying the high prevalence among women is due to frequent testing when they go for prenatal clinics.

"It's unfortunate, men avoid doing HIV testing and this has led to low prevalence when in reality, the number of those infected with HIV is high," she observed.

Persons With Disabilities Ask For Special Public Service Vehicles

By: Moses Wekesa

@themtkenyetimes

Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) have asked the government to consider providing for them Special Vehicles or design Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) they can comfortably use whenever they want to commute.

Speaking during a public participation forum on the proposed Persons Living with Disabilities National Policy 2024, Josphat Musagama, a resident of Vihiga county said most behicles on the road are not designed to support Persons Living with Disabilities.

He noted that the unfavorable designs in the vehicles expose them to risks of injury particularly those who use crutches and wheelchairs.

He disclosed that during an earlier meeting he attended and gave inputs at the Kenyatta International Con-



Josphat Musagama

vention Centre in 2011, some transport companies present promised to design their vehicles to consider the needs of persons with disabilities.

He however regretted that despite the promises their concerns as PWDs have not been implemented with only few institutions like the Vihiga County Assembly meeting the standards.

A report by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis(KIPPRA) on 'Enhancing Accessibility in Transport Infrastructure by PWDs' revealed that lack of a Universal accessibility of transport infrastructure both in rural and urban environments limits the participation of PWDs in the society.

"PWDs have to use taxi cars as op-

posed to available public transport, or even pay relatively more than the other public transport users. The cost is even worse in rural areas where PWDs have limited travel options, implying that PWDs in rural areas are less mobile," states the report by KIPPRA published on July 28, 2020.

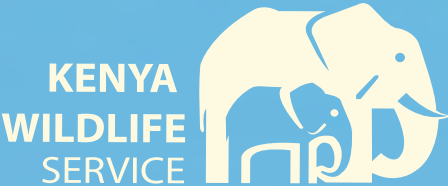
The report states that in universal

designs, the Transport system should include ease in boarding and disembarking the vehicles, and securing passengers and their equipment.

Similarly, a study conducted by the Flone Initiative in 2021, titled 'The Need for Inclusive Transport in Kenya' shows that about 77 per cent of People Living with disabilities in the country use Public Transport Vehicles (PSVs).

The Policy brief indicated that while using the Public Service Vehicles, PWDs were worried about boarding, reaching the vehicle, cost of transport, switching from one vehicle to another, alighting from a matatu and the condition of sidewalks.

While giving his proposal during the public participation held in Kakamega County, Musagama who is visually impaired asked the government to fully implement the Proposed Persons with Disabilities National Policy 2024 which contains recommendations on improving transport services for PWDs.



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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Leveraging Private Equity And Public-Private Partnerships For Climate Finance In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Shared Resources and Expertise:** PPPs allow the public and private sectors to pool their resources, expertise, and capabilities, creating synergies that can drive climate finance initiatives forward.
- Risk Mitigation:** By sharing risks and responsibilities, PPPs can make climate-related projects more attractive to private investors, facilitating the mobilization of capital.
- Regulatory Support:** Governments can create a supportive regulatory environment and provide incentives, such as tax credits or subsidies, to encourage private sector participation in climate finance initiatives.
- Public Interest Alignment:** PPPs can ensure that climate finance projects align with public interests, such as environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development.



Introduction

Kenya, like many countries, faces significant challenges posed by climate change, including droughts, floods, and environmental degradation. Addressing these issues requires substantial financial resources, which can strain public budgets. Private equity and public-private partnerships (PPPs) can play a crucial role in mobilizing the necessary funds and expertise to support climate finance initiatives in Kenya.

The Role of Private Equity in Climate Finance

Unlocking Capital: Private equity firms can raise capital from institutional investors, high-net-worth individuals, and other sources, providing much-needed financing for climate-related projects and initiatives.

Risk Sharing: Private equity investors are willing to take on higher risks in exchange for potentially higher returns, making them suitable partners for innovative and transformative climate projects.

Expertise and Governance: Private equity firms bring valuable expertise in areas such as project management, financial structuring, and operation-

al efficiency, which can enhance the success of climate finance initiatives.

Growth and Scalability: Private equity firms can provide growth capital and support the scaling up of successful climate-related businesses and projects, amplifying their impact.

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Climate Finance

Shared Resources and Expertise: PPPs allow the public and private sectors to pool their resources, expertise, and capabilities, creating synergies that can drive climate finance initiatives forward.

Risk Mitigation: By sharing risks and responsibilities, PPPs can make climate-related projects more attractive to private investors, facilitating the mobilization of capital.

Regulatory Support: Governments can create a supportive regulatory environment and provide incentives, such as tax credits or subsidies, to encourage private sector participation in climate finance initiatives.

Public Interest Alignment: PPPs can ensure that climate finance projects

align with public interests, such as environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development.

Implementing Climate Finance through Private Equity and PPPs in Kenya

Establishing a Climate Finance Fund: Kenya can establish a dedicated climate finance fund, attracting private equity investors and leveraging public resources to finance climate-related projects and initiatives.

Developing Climate-Focused PPPs: The Kenyan government can identify specific climate-related infrastructure projects, such as renewable energy installations, water management systems, or reforestation initiatives, and structure them as PPPs, inviting private sector participation and investment.

Enabling Regulatory Framework: Kenya should review and update its regulatory framework to create a conducive environment for private equity and PPP investments in climate finance. This may include streamlining approval processes, providing tax incentives, and ensuring transparency and accountability.

Capacity Building: To effectively utilize private equity and PPPs, Kenya should invest in capacity building programs for public sector officials, equipping them with the necessary skills to structure and manage these partnerships effectively.

Impact Measurement and Reporting: Establish robust impact measurement and reporting frameworks to track the environmental, social, and economic outcomes of climate finance initiatives, ensuring transparency and accountability to all stakeholders.

Conclusion

By leveraging the complementary strengths of private equity and public-private partnerships, Kenya can unlock significant financial resources and expertise to address the pressing challenges of climate change. This approach can not only mobilize capital but also promote innovation, risk-sharing, and alignment with public interests. With a supportive regulatory environment and capacity building efforts, Kenya can position itself as a leader in climate finance, setting an example for other nations to follow.

Who Doesn't Know Gautam Buddha?



By: Vijay Kumar Nishchal
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Mahatma Buddha's life was full of compassion and kindness. A story from his life helps to prove this. That story is that once while roaming in the forest Siddhartha found a swan injured by a hunter's arrow. He removed the arrow from its body to relieve its endless sorrow.
- He gave it water to drink to give it some relief. But then his cousin Devadatta arrived there and said "This is my prey, hand it over to me." To this Siddhartha said "I have saved it, while by killing it you have done a reprehensible deed, so you tell me should the killer have the right over it or the one who saved it."



Gautam Buddha

Everyone in this world knows that Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. He was born in 483 BC and gained Mahaparinirvana in 563 BC. In his childhood, he was known as Prince Siddhartha. According to Buddhist scriptures, 12 years before Gautam Buddha's birth, a sage had predicted that this child will either become a universal emperor or a great sage. And his prediction came true. Everyone knows that he was born in the house of King Shuddhodhan in Lumbini. His mother's name was Mahamaya who died seven days after his birth. He was brought up by the Queen's younger sister Mahaprajapati Gautami. At the age of 29, Siddhartha left his only first child Rahul and wife Yashodhara after marriage and abandoned the attraction of royal life and went to the forest. After years of attentive meditation, he attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya (Bihar) and he became Lord Buddha from Siddhartha Gautam.

By studying his life, it is known that an ideal life is created by the development of knowledge, morality, good

character and concentration. Buddha philosophy says that every person is unhappy for some reason or the other and the reason for that sorrow is endless desires and attachment. When a person forgets desires and attachment and sees only the truth, he is always happy. Mahatma Buddha has given five teachings to control a person's behavior. These are:

- Stay away from killing or any kind of violence. Non-violence should be the main doctrine of morality.
- One should not steal.
- Restrain oneself from misuse of senses or refrain from sexual misconduct or the misuse of the senses. Do not give importance to sense pleasures.
- Never tell lies and do not say wrong things about others
- Avoid any intoxicating drink or thing as it overpowers the mind and prevents a person from thinking clearly and seeing the reality.

Mahatma Buddha's life was full of compassion and kindness. A story from his life helps to prove this.

That story is that once while roaming in the forest Siddhartha found a swan injured by a hunter's arrow. He removed the arrow from its body to relieve its endless sorrow. He gave it water to drink to give it some relief. But then his cousin Devadatta arrived there and said "This is my prey, hand it over to me." To this Siddhartha said "I have saved it, while by killing it you have done a reprehensible deed, so you tell me should the killer have the right over it or the one who saved it."

Devadatta complained about this to his king Shuddhodhan. Shuddhodhan told that it was Devadatta who had shot the arrow, So why didn't Siddhartha give this swan to him and why is he getting narrow-minded.

Siddhartha argued, "Father! What harm did this innocent swan do to Devadatta knowingly or unknowingly? Nothing. Then what right did he have to shoot an arrow at this innocent swan which is flying freely in the sky? Why did he shoot an arrow at this swan and injure it cruelly? I could see its pain and I saved its life by slowly removing the arrow. So I

should have the right over this swan."

King Shuddhodhan thought for a while and agreed and said, "You are absolutely right. There is no need for any fight. In fact the one who saves is greater than the one who kills, so you clearly have the right over this swan. Humanity won and cruelty lost. We should learn from this that we should always be in favour of humanity. Human beings should be kind, compassionate and non-violent. Gautam Buddha gives a beautiful message to the whole world. This is the best for humanity."

Vijay Kumar Nishchal
Pataudi Gurugram
Haryana India

House Defence Committee Tours National Defence University, Lanet Regional Hospital And Military Airstrip

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations conducted a series of inspection visits at key military installations in Lanet, Nakuru County. The Committee's focus was on the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), Lanet Regional Hospital, and the Lanet Military Airstrip.

A section of the Committee led by Shinyalu MP Fred Ikana met with the Maj Gen Jeff Nyagah, General Officer Commanding Western Command, Maj Gen (Rtd) P Amogola, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Finance & Administration, Prof. Anne Muigiai, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs, Brig. Dr. Francis Kuria, Chief Medical Officer, Lanet Regional Hospital, Brig. Adan Hassan, Commandant Joint Warfare College.

Members of the committee were impressed with the rapid growth of the National Defence University-Kenya. The University, established in 2015 boasts 24 academic programs and a

student body of 1116 hailing from 15 African and Asian countries. The Committee noted the successful completion of the inaugural graduation ceremony in November 2023.

Lawmakers were briefed on the NDU-K's plans to expand its academic programs, enhance human resource capacity, and forge wider partnerships and linkages. Notably, the NDU-K is currently conducting research on insecurity challenges in the North Rift Region

The Committee also visited the Lanet Regional Hospital, established in October 2022. The hospital's core mandate is to provide medical care to the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel and their dependents, along with offering medical support during operations and wartime.

Legislators expressed satisfaction with the progress made towards the hospital's completion.

Committee Members learnt of the hospital's future plans to extend services to civilians on a fee-for-service basis.

The recent deployment of medical personnel from the Hospital to provide aid during the Mai Mahiu floods was lauded by the Committee as an



Parliamentary Defence Committee members with senior military officials.

example of the positive impact the Hospital can have on surrounding communities.

Members of the Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee also inspected the construction of the Lanet Military Airstrip, a project financed by the Ministry of Transport and managed by the Kenya6 Airports Authority (KAA). While

acknowledging the potential benefits of the completed airstrip, the Committee urged the KAA to expedite construction for a timely completion.

The Committee's visit culminated in a meeting with General Charles Kahariri CBS, Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, at the Lanet Regional Hospital. The discussions likely centered on strategic issues and col-

laboration between the KDF and the National Assembly Committee.

Other members of the Defence Committee, Abdikadir Hussein (Lagdera) and Joshua Kandie (Baringo Central) also engaged with General Charles Kahariri CBS, Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces at the Lanet Regional Hospital.

Informal Settlement Programme Selects Kiambu County For Its Phase II Project

By: Xavier Brian
@themkenyatimes

Three informal settlements within Kiambu County are set for upgrade through the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project-II (KISIP-II) programme.

This will involve the provision of title deeds, drainage, floodlights installation, provision of street lights, laying of sewerage lines and water and electricity connectivity among others.

The three settlements in Thika Municipality include Umoja settlements in Ruai, Kiangombe settlement in Thika Municipality, and Kiandutu settlement in Thika.

The KISIP project is a government project that was launched back in 2011 to improve the living conditions in informal settlements in selected urban centers. Furthermore, the project was instituted under the Ministry



of Land, Housing, and Urban Development in the Slum Upgrading department.

Out of the 33 participating counties in KISIP II, Kiambu County, alongside Mombasa County and Uasin Gishu County, had been chosen to benefit from Component 2.

This selection underscores the significance of addressing socio-economic challenges within informal

settlement and emphasizes the commitment to address disparities and promote inclusive development across various regions within the county.

A team from the National Project Coordination Team (NCPT) led by Madam Gladys Juma was in Kiambu County headquarters to deliver the news of the allocation to the County Executive Committee Mem-

ber (CECM) Salome Wainaina who lauded the move, terming it a major milestone in improving the lives of residents of Kiambu.

"The selection of Kiambu County signifies a significant opportunity to address socio-economic disparities and promote inclusive development within informal settlements," she said.

Wainaina added that collaborations

such as these from the National and County Governments will only serve to benefit and improve lives of the common mwananchi.

"Through collaborative efforts between government agencies, stakeholders, and the community, these projects aim to create positive socio-economic impacts and enhance the quality of life for residents in Kiambu County," she said.

The team from the National Government also met with the Settlement Executive Committee (SEC) to inform them of the selection and encourage their active involvement in the project.

The (SEC) members were urged to prepare and engage all registered groups within the informal settlements and were also encouraged to be ready to present their proposals for socio-economic inclusion, ensuring that the voices and needs of the community are effectively represented in the project planning and implementation phases.

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The National Assembly’s Investments Committee Reviews Auditor-General’s Findings On Five State Corporations

By: PSCU

The National Assembly’s Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture, in a session chaired by Vice-Chairperson Caleb Amisi (Saboti), has retreated to finalize its third report on the Auditor-General’s findings regarding the financial statements of five state corporations.

The report examines the Kenya Veterinary Board, National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Kenya National Hospital, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority, and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

It includes observations, findings, and recommendations based on the Auditor-General’s audits for various financial years.

The Committee’s key areas of focus include; general observations on cross-cutting issues, specific audit queries are identified by the Auditor-General for each corporation, management responses to these queries and the Committee’s own observations and recommenda-



Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina, a member of the Investment committee following the proceedings..

tions.

In their investigation, the Committee assessed whether the state corporations were managed according to sound business principles and prudent commercial practices. They gathered oral and written evidence from the CEOs of the corporations involved.

Major issues identified included; irregular procurement processes and contract management, violating the Public Procurement and Assets Dis-

posal Act, of 2015. These irregularities caused delays, cost variations, and unnecessary cost escalations, delays in providing documents to the Auditor-General, with some accounting officers failing to complete and reconcile financial records in time, delayed accountability of imprests, breaching Section 71 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, which mandates the surrender of imprests within seven days post-assignment.

The committee plans to finalize its



Committee Vice-Chairperson Caleb Amisi making his point during yesterday’s session.

recommendations and submit the report to the House for debate and adoption.

“Our major role is to make sure that there is value for money, we should not allow even a single cent of the taxpayer’s money to be misappropriated, said Maragua constituency MP Mary Wamaua.

They also urged for the involvement of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission in implementing

the findings, including potential actions against culpable CEOs.

Other committee members present at the session included Martin Owino (Ndhiwa), Peter Masara (Suna West), Bernard Kitur (Nandi Hills), Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu), Jackson Kosgei (Nominated), Joshua Kimilu (Kaiti), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), and Nabuin Ekwom (Turkana North).

Kenya Commercial Bank In A Mission To Assist Cooperatives

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themtkenyetimes

Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Nakuru Branch Manager Ms Christine Keter says that the bank has come up with the KCB Chama App that seeks to help cooperatives, and Chamas (Groups) on managing finances, taking loans or saving towards an objective.

The officer noted that most cooperatives face challenging issues such as managing finances and unavailability of credit that cause stagnation of development within the cooperatives.

She was speaking in Nakuru where she led a team from the bank in a meeting with the County Chief Officer for Cooperatives Kurgat Kibet to explore possible areas of collaboration between the department and the bank.



Ms. Keter further disclosed that the bank will work in partnership with the county to train Small Scale Enterprises (SMEs) and provide mentorship to the cooperatives which has been identified by the government as one of the important pillars in

improving the economy and in the achievement of vision 2030.

However, the chairman of small-scale farmers in the county, Bernard Mwenje, present, said, a number of banks have not appreciated the struggle of farmers since they don’t factor

in the numerous natural calamities such as the recent floods, droughts and unanticipated diseases like the vicious armyworms.

He maintained that farming be it of crops, poultry and animal husbandry are totally different from other busi-

nesses, which are likely to make profits on a daily basis as farmers have to wait for crops to mature, get harvested, sell and repay the loans.

He claimed that more often than not banks expect farmers to start servicing the loan in 30 to 60 days, which in most cases the poor farmers haven’t even harvested, or started selling the eggs, meat or milk.

Mwenje said cooperative societies who take loans on behalf of the farmers are more likely to default because of unanticipated eventualities, such as a sick cow or after a cow has been injected against East-Coast Fever (ECF) which forces the farmer to milk, and discard the milk for seven days, hence affecting the projected out-put of the cooperative society.

He urged the county governments to come up with a revolving Sacco that charges a minimum fee, and doesn’t penalize or increase interests for delayed payments caused by natural disasters.

Senate Agriculture Committee Considers A Petition On Catastrophic Maize Disease

By: PSCU

The Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries under the leadership of Kirinyaga County Sen. James Murango yesterday received stakeholder submissions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya Plant Health Inspection Services, Pest Control and Product Board and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, on the Petition on Catastrophic Maize disease that farmers of Bomet County have endured for the past 12 years.

In the Petition, the petitioners prayed that the committee should determine the measures the Kenyan Government will implement to provide intervention measures to the rural poor farmers affected by the maize disease in Bomet County.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, through Principal Secretary Paul Ronoh submitted that food security in the coun-



Committee chairman and Kirinyaga Senator James Murango (right) with his Nyeri counterpart Wahome Wamatinga during yesterday's session

ty has been affected negatively by Maize Lethal Necrosis disease that was first identified at Kipisarwet area in 2011.

The disease has a potential to cause 100 per cent maize crop failure.

The Ministry and the County Government of Bomet has employed several strategies and interventions to manage the spread of the disease in the country.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and

Livestock Development is implementing a comprehensive Crop Insurance Program to cushion farmers from losses associated with crop failure due to climatic conditions, floods, pest and diseases,” the PS stated.

KEPHIS Managing Director recommended that regulation of maize seed sale to ensure farmers have access to disease-resistant varieties.

“KEPHIS has tested and facilitated



Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr Paul Ronoh when he appeared before the committee yesterday.

the release of 16 MLN tolerant maize varieties developed by various breeders. Some are already in the market, and others are at different stages of seed multiplication,” Prof. Theophilus added.

KARLO informed the committee that continuous management and

proactive measures are essential to achieve total eradication. Sustained vigilance and adaptation to emerging challenges will ensure the long-term health and productivity of maize crops, securing food security and economic stability for Bomet County and other the affected regions.

The Mediation Committee Starts Off Deliberations On Revenue Allocation

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The mediation committee on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024, convened its first meeting yesterday to establish its engagement strategy.

During the meeting, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro was unanimously elected as the committee chairman representing the National Assembly, while Meru County Senator who is also the Senate Deputy Speaker Murungi Kathuri was elected as the Co-Chair.

The bill was passed in the National Assembly in March 2024 and subsequently referred to the Senate for consideration.

It was read in the Senate on March 27, 2024, and approved with amendments on May 2, 2024.

The Senate's amendments proposed an equitable share allocation of KSh415.9 billion for the coming financial year, compared to the Nation-



al Assembly's proposal of KSh391.1 billion.

After the bill was referred back to the National Assembly for consideration, it was rejected, prompting the formation of an 18-member mediation committee with nine members from each house to negotiate a new

version of the bill that is acceptable to both houses.

“We are here to see how we can amicably resolve the stalemate on the division of revenue. We are looking forward to a win-win outcome and ensuring we empower our counties with the resources to discharge their

functions,” Kathuri told the committee.

His remarks were echoed by Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago, who emphasized the need for budget scrutiny to avoid double allocations for similar functions.

He argued that most functions are

devolved, and allocating more resources to the National government for already devolved functions disadvantages county governments and results in double allocations.

There was a unanimous call to allocate more resources to counties to support devolution, allowing county governments to grow and fully deliver on their functions as envisioned in the 2010 constitution.

Counties have often complained of resource shortages and delayed exchequer releases, terming these issues as setbacks to executing their mandates.

As the committee seeks to balance the demands, Nyoro reminded members to consider resource constraints and prioritize funding crucial aspects of the economy.

“Our resource envelope as a country is tight. We therefore have a delicate task to reallocate money from some functions and add to the county allocation,” he said.

Staunch Church Elder Laid To Rest in Githunguri, Kiambu

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyentimes

A staunch Kiambu PCEA church follower and grassroot worker, the late Johana Nyutu Kariuki was laid to rest at his home in Wanjenga village Gathugu, Komothai in Githunguri Constituency, Kiambu County yesterday.

The late Mzee Nyutu passed on Wednesday last week at the age of 83, after a long battle with both chronic Diabetes and Hypertension.

The deceased was father to a former nominated Councillor with the defunct Nyeri Municipal Council, Jane Wanjiru Kamutu and Father-In-Law to career Journalist, Joseph Kamutu who hails from Mukurwe-ini Constituency in Nyeri County.

The late Mzee Nyutu will be remembered for being a founder member of

the local PCEA Githima church.

The funeral service was conducted by the PCEA Gathugu Parish Minister, Rev. Leah Kamunya who praised the deceased for his selfless service to the church.

Rev. Kamunya further praised the late Mzee's family and the greater Kariuki family which has produced two Reverends who include Prof. Peter Kariuki of PCEA and Esther Wainaina, a Chaplain at Kenyatta University, besides several church elders who include two of his own daughters, namely Ronah Karanja and Jane Kamutu herself.

In her message of condolences, Githunguri MP, Gathoni Wamuchomba said the late Mzee Nyutu's service to God ought to be emulated by all.

The funeral was attended by a number of Parish Ministers among them Rev. Mary Muriuki of PCEA Banana Parish.



PCEA Elder Jane Kamutu reading a tribute to her late father during the funeral service

Four Freed Over Malicious Damage Accusations

By: Wangari Humphrey
@themkenyentimes

Four men were yesterday set free of malicious damage charges due to lack of enough evidence.

The four were acquitted by a Nyeri court with the trial court, presided over by Senior Resident Magistrate Mercyline Lubia ruling that the prosecution failed to provide enough evidence that could sustain a conviction.

The four Paul Githinji, John Ekadel, John Etaan, John Nteentiri Sagati, and George Lolonki were accused that on diverse dates between September 1, 2023 and November 1, 2023 at unknown time at Lakucha village, Gatarakwa in Kieni Nyeri County with others not before court, they vandalized 60 concrete post with metallic rods inside worth Sh150,000 property of Munjuga.

In the second count they were accused of stealing the same property. In an alternative count, they were

charged with handling stolen goods.

According to court documents the particular were that the four were accused that on November 3, 2023 at unknown time at Kiawara trading centre, jointly with others not before the court were found in possession of 43 square cubes of steel rods knowing or having reason to believe they were stole.

The magistrate acquitted them stating that "in the present case no one witnessed the incident of malicious damage or stealing taking place the entirety of the prosecution case depended on the averment that the accused person were found with metal rods marked for identification," the magistrate observed.

"The metal rods not produced as exhibit as crucial witness who were arresting officer and investigating officer were never availed in court as witnesses," Ms Lubia stated.

She noted that in the circumstances it serves no point to go into merit or demerit of the evidence given by witness court.

At the same time, she added, none



of the evidence holds water in the absence of the key exhibit the metal rods.

"In the circumstances, I find the prosecution has failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

The accused persons are hereby acquitted under section 215 of the criminal procedure code," the magistrate ordered.

Ruto Persuaded The U.S. To Hasten The Renewal Of AGOA

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

President William Ruto yesterday persuaded the U.S. to hasten the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This will provide new markets and help sustain Kenya's economic growth.

He made the remark while meeting President Joe Biden, at White House, Washington, D.C.

Enacted in May 2000, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is the cornerstone of U.S. economic engagement with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. AGOA is a long-term commitment with broad bipartisan support in the United States.

On June 25, 2015, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved legislation to re-authorize AGOA for an additional ten years. This is a strong signal that investors can and should invest with confidence in Africa.

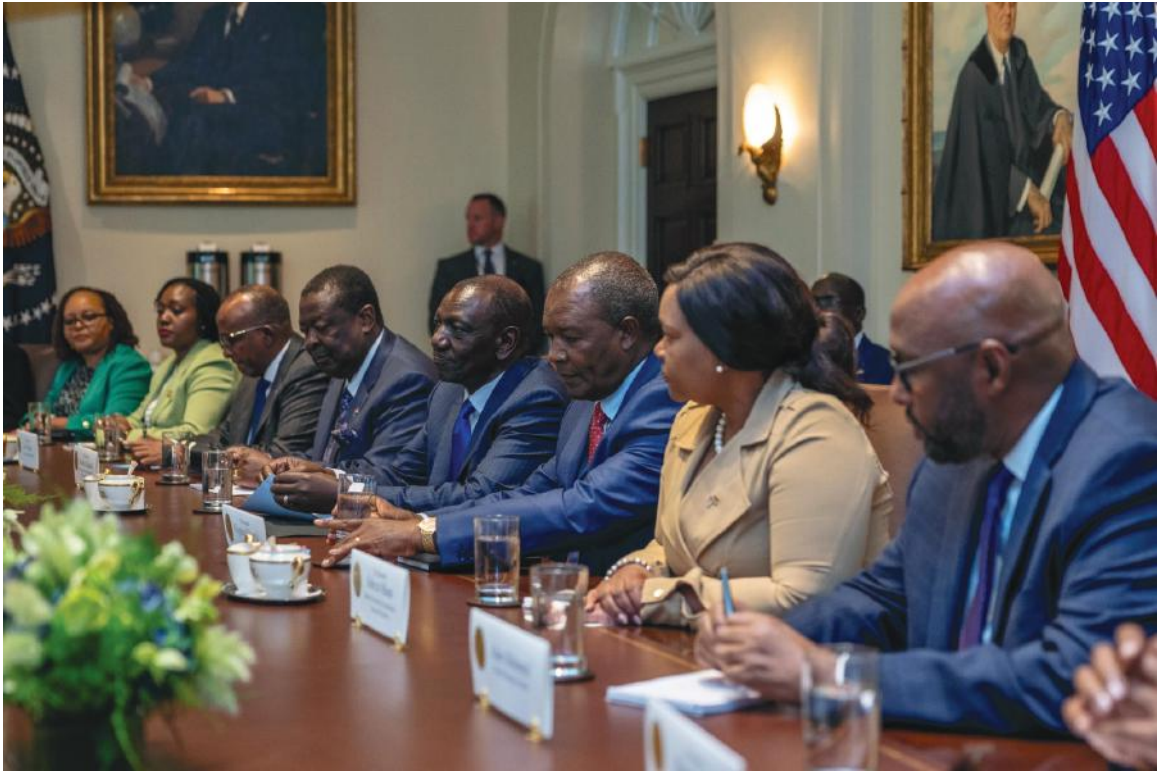
Total African exports under AGOA

more than quadrupled since the program's inception. As of June 2015, AGOA eligible countries have exported nearly \$480 billion worth of goods to the United States under AGOA and the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences.

By providing duty-free access to the U.S. market, AGOA has succeeded in helping eligible nations grow, diversify their exports to the United States, and create employment and inclusive economic growth. Under AGOA, eligible countries can export products, including value-added manufactured items such as textiles, to the United States duty-free.

AGOA and Professional Exchange

Since 2000, the United States has promoted economic growth and development in Africa through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a preferential trade agreement with eligible sub-Saharan African countries. AGOA legislation provides member countries with the most liberal access to U.S. markets apart from countries or regions with which the U.S. has a Free Trade



President Ruto with delegates in US.

Agreement. The U.S. commitment to deepen economic relations with sub-Saharan Africa has facilitated investment, created business linkages, and unlocked opportunities for entrepreneurship in the region.

ICEA LION Group And Kahawa Garrison Partner To Plant 21,100 Trees In Major Reforestation Effort

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

ICEA LION Group, in a powerful collaboration with Kahawa Garrison and Miti Alliance, has taken significant strides in reforestation with a major tree-growing initiative at Kahawa Garrison, Mwhiko Camp. Demonstrating our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, ICEA LION Group contributed 11,100 seedlings, reinforcing our dedication to green cover restoration as a core element of our ESG agenda. This effort also aligns with our support for the National Tree Planting Initiative aiming to plant 15 billion trees by 2032.

Colonel S. N. Kasura, Camp Commandant of Kahawa Garrison Barracks, expressed profound gratitude, stating, "We are immensely grateful for the partnership with ICEA LION Group. Their support is pivotal as we strive to reach our goal of planting 8 million trees, with only 3 million left



ICEA LION Group CEO, Philip Lopokoikiyi ... at Kahawa Garrison, Mwhiko Camp.

to achieve in the next three years. Today, we have successfully planted a total of 21,100 seedlings, geared towards enhancing biodiversity and supporting our nation's ecosystem." Michael Waiyaki, CEO of Miti Alliance, highlighted the importance of planting indigenous trees specific to each area to ensure sustainability and

benefit the local ecosystem. Philip Lopokoikiyi, Group CEO, ICEA LION, reiterated our commitment to environmental conservation: "Supporting this initiative reaffirms our dedication to reforest and restore green cover in the country. We aim to take Kenya's forest cover back to 30%. Without proper forest cover, there's a significant impact on biodiversity and climate change."

As part of our ongoing environmental efforts, ICEA LION Group is committed to growing one million trees by 2026. The 21,100 trees planted by our team at Kahawa Garrison will play a crucial role in combating the effects of climate change and restoring the country's natural beauty. Our commitment extends beyond merely planting trees; it encompasses the vital process of growing and nurturing them to maturity. By ensuring the survival and growth of these trees, we can make a lasting impact on the environment, support local ecosystems, and contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.

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Sports >> *Ademola Lookman was Atalanta's hat-trick hero on the club's greatest ever night in Dublin as German champions Bayer Leverkusen were vanquished 3-0 in the Europa League final on Wednesday

Hat-Trick Hero Lookman A Symbol Of Atalanta's Underdog Success



Atalanta's Nigerian forward Ademola Lookman lifts up the trophy after the UEFA Europa League final football match between Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen at the Dublin Arena stadium, in Dublin, on May 22, 2024. Lookman scored all three goals as Atalanta won the game 3-0. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP)

Ademola Lookman was Atalanta's hat-trick hero on the club's greatest ever night in Dublin as German champions Bayer Leverkusen were vanquished 3-0 in the Europa League final on Wednesday.

Leverkusen arrived in the Irish capital unbeaten in 51 games this season and on course for a remarkable treble.

But it was Atalanta's rise under Gian Piero Gasperini that finally found its ultimate reward.

Lookman may be an unlikely figure to score the first hat-trick in a European final since 1975.

However, the Nigerian is a prime example of the savvy recruitment and excellent coaching from Gasperini that has allowed a provincial club to step out from the shadow of nearby giants AC and Inter Milan.

Born in England and a product of the Charlton Athletic youth academy, Lookman's first big break came with a move to Everton before joining RB Leipzig.

But he struggled for first team

opportunities at both clubs and ended up in the lower reaches of the Premier League in loan spells at Fulham and Leicester.

Lookman only ended up in Bergamo due to the influence of Atalanta's former head of sport Lee Congerton, who had previously worked at Leicester.

Now he will forever be fondly remembered in northern Italy as the architect of the finest victory in Atalanta's 116-year history.

"No one ever imagined he could make this much progress," said Gasperini.

"He did something that will remain in the annals of history. He has carried himself as an incredible player and a match-winner."

Lookman's treble took his tally in two seasons with the club to 30.

He also helped fire Nigeria to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations this year and believes his career is ready to explode at the age of 26.

"I've always had confidence in my ability," said Lookman.

"In the past few years I've been able to take my game to a new level and show that on a more consistent basis.

"I'm pleased with the progress I've made but this is just the beginning. I hope for more nights like this."

- Rough diamonds -

Lookman is far from the only rough diamond that Gasperini has polished to turn Atalanta into a force in Serie A and on the continent.

He formed a fearsome front three this season with Charles De Ketelaere and Gianluca Scamacca after their difficult spells at AC Milan and West Ham respectively.

"The first few conversations I had with him made me look at football differently," added Lookman.

"He made it simpler in my mind and made me look at my game in a different light."

Gasperini reiterated his feeling that it did not take a trophy to

vindicate the fine work he has done over the past eight years.

"I never believed one trophy would change our journey - the run we have been on is worth more than one piece of silverware," said the 66-year-old.

"The game we have played tonight is the result of the journey."

However, Gasperini did acknowledge that Atalanta's first major trophy for 61 years and the first of his coaching career was a rare victory for the underdog in a sport usually dominated by the clubs with the deepest pockets.

"To win it with Atalanta is perhaps one of the football fairytales that rarely gives scope for meritocracy," said Gasperini.

"It doesn't always come down to cold hard numbers or super leagues but shows teams without huge budgets can achieve big things."

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New West Ham Boss Lopetegui Vows To Make ‘Big Noise’



Wolverhampton Wanderers’ then Spanish head coach Julen Lopetegui claps the fans ahead of the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Arsenal at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England, on November 12, 2022. West Ham announced the appointment of former Wolves boss Julen Lopetegui as their new manager on May 23, 2024. The Spaniard, who officially begins work on July 1..

West Ham’s new manager Julen Lopetegui vowed to make a “big noise” at the London Stadium after the former Real Madrid boss was hired by the Premier League club yesterday.

Lopetegui has agreed a two-year contract with the option of a third season.

The 57-year-old Spaniard had been out of work since leaving Wolves on the eve of the just-concluded Premier League season.

Lopetegui will officially begin work with the Hammers on July 1, replacing David Moyes after the Scot’s exit at the end of this season.

“We came here with the idea and the thought to make a big, big noise,” Lopetegui said. “That’s why we came here, and we are excited by this challenge.

“Of course, we are going to do

our best to help the club and the team to achieve the best level and to achieve our aims.

“I assure the fans that they are going to be key in all our achievements.”

West Ham joint-chairman David Sullivan said Lopetegui’s appointment would “ensure a strong opportunity to build on the positive progress made in recent seasons”.

Lopetegui led Sevilla to Europa League glory in 2020, a success that restored his reputation after he was sacked by Real Madrid in 2018.

He had been dismissed by Spain just before the start of the 2018 World Cup after it was announced he would quit to take charge of Real following the tournament.

However, the former goalkeeper’s brief spell at the Bernabeu was a dismal failure as he lasted

just 14 matches before being axed after a humiliating 5-1 loss against Barcelona.

He moved to Wolves in November 2022 when the Molineux outfit were bottom of the Premier League.

After impressively guiding them away from relegation danger to a 13th-place finish, Lopetegui became frustrated by the club’s financial situation and left by mutual consent in August 2023.

West Ham technical director Tim Steidten said: “He was a stand-out candidate to become our head coach and I am personally delighted that we have chosen to work together.”

Moyes had led West Ham to their first major trophy in 43 years when they won the Europa Conference League in 2023.

But the Hammers finished ninth

in the Premier League in the 2023/24 season, missing out on European qualification.

Former Manchester United boss Moyes, who had been in charge since 2019, fell out of favour among fans due to his cautious tactics.

Lopetegui plans to improve on Moyes’ achievements as he looks to make his mark in east London.

“We will try to put our stamp on the club. I feel that we have a fantastic platform,” he said.

“I think the last few years have been very good to have this base, but my ambition as a coach is always to be better, to achieve more and bigger aims. We are very ambitious about this.”

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Backpage



Tshepo Mosweu



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

1. Who is Tshepo?

I'm a passionate archival professional, striving to make a difference in the field of archival science. I'm also someone who loves traveling, reading and writing. Sometimes I tell people that I was born with a book in hand. I value loyalty, respect and love. But most importantly, I'm on a journey of self-discovery and growth, constantly evolving and learning along the way.

2. Where were you born?

I was born in the small and dusty village of Chadibe, in the Tswapong region in Botswana. My formative years were spent there until I completed my primary education. Following that, I pursued my secondary and tertiary studies in Mokobeng and Palapye, respectively. My academic journey led me to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Botswana, followed by a Masters in Archives and Records Management, and ultimately, a Doctorate in Information Science. I got married in Moshupa, Botswana. I have served at the Department of administration of justice, the Botswana National Archives and Records Services, and presently, based at the University of Botswana.

3. When did you begin writing?

I embarked on my writing journey as soon as I acquired the skill to wield a pen. Throughout my schooling, my compositions were regularly showcased to my classmates as exemplars of writing excellence, from primary to senior school. In my free moments, I indulged in crafting stories and poems, honing my literary skills. My debut publication, 'From Africa to the East: My China Experience,' was published in 2019, chronicling my adventures while studying Mandarin in

Shanghai, China. While my literary repertoire predominantly comprises academic works, my passion for storytelling continues to fuel my creative endeavors.

4. What should be done to improve book sales in Africa?

Improving book sales in Africa can involve several strategies tailored to address the unique challenges and opportunities in the region. Firstly, it is common knowledge that most of our people do not necessarily like reading books. Therefore there's need to invest in literacy programs and initiatives to increase the number of readers in Africa. That would be the start of a thriving book market. Secondly having noted that the publishing process is expensive for African authors, our governments and private corporations should provide support and resources to local authors and publishers, including funding for book production, marketing, and distribution. This can help nurture a vibrant local literary scene and encourage more diverse voices to be heard. Thirdly we need to expand access to books through initiatives such as public libraries, mobile libraries, and community book-sharing programs. Digital platforms and e-books can also broaden access, especially in areas with limited physical bookstores like my home village where even the school does not have a library. Most importantly we need to promote reading culture in Africa through campaigns, book clubs, literary festivals, and school reading programs. Engaging events and activities can spark interest in books and foster a lifelong love of reading. We then bust the myth that If you want to hide something from a black person, hide it in a book.

5. What do you think about authorship in Botswana?

Authorship in Botswana is still evolving. Although the country boasts a rich oral tradition, with storytelling deeply ingrained in its cultural heritage, it's only in recent years that we experience a growing interest in written literature, with authors from Botswana making some contributions to both local and international literary scenes. Initiatives like the National Book Week,

the Botswana Book Fair and organizations like the Writers Association of Botswana try to support literacy and promote local literature through providing platforms for aspiring and established authors to connect, collaborate, and develop their craft. However, challenges remain, such as limited publishing infrastructure, distribution networks, and funding opportunities. Despite these challenges, with continued support and investment, the future of authorship in Botswana looks promising, with the potential to further amplify diverse voices and narratives from the region.

6. Who inspires you locally in the world of books?

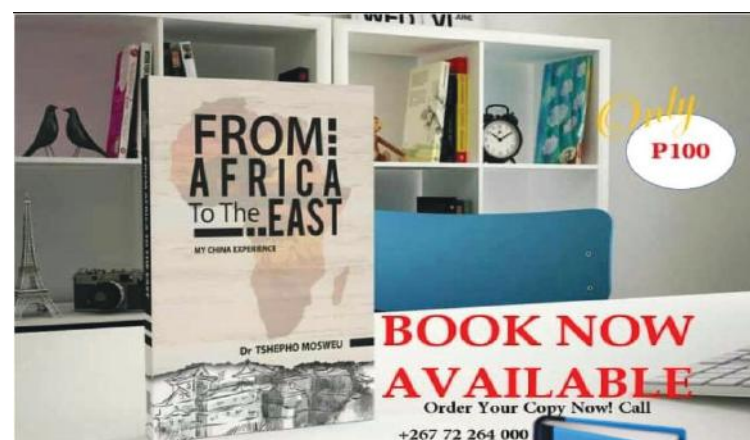
Award winning author Lauri Kubuitsile inspires me but my personal experiences, insights, and passions are a powerful source of inspiration for my writing.

7. Nonacademic writers must focus on grammar and spelling as well as authentic best told stories what's your take on that considering that books must be archived?

It's essential for all writers, including non-academic writers, to pay attention to grammar, spelling, and overall language mechanics to ensure clarity and readability in their work. As for archiving books, maintaining high standards of grammar and spelling is equally important. Books serve as valuable cultural artifacts and historical records, and ensuring accuracy in language contributes to their preservation and accessibility over time. That said, creativity and authenticity should not be sacrificed for strict adherence to grammar rules. The balance lies in skillfully crafting stories that engage readers while also upholding linguistic standards. Editing and proofreading play crucial roles in refining the language of a book, ensuring that it is both engaging and polished for public use.

8. What is your best book?

Undoubtedly, my literary work available in the market so far "From Africa To The East: My China Experience,". This book offers a unique insight into Chinese culture from the perspective of an African. In Botswana, there's a proverbial



saying, "Go tsamaa ke go bona," meaning "To travel is to explore." This book chronicles my time as a Mandarin student in China, particularly my experiences in Shanghai and other cities. Through these experiences, I gained valuable insights into Chinese culture that I shared with readers in Africa and beyond who are curious about China.

9. China experience versus Botswana literature do you think Africa must learn a thing from China's curriculum?

While I haven't studied Chinese literature deeply due to my limited proficiency in the Chinese language, I've observed through those with English translations that Chinese books highlight the greatness of China. Chinese literature offers insights into Chinese culture, history, and values. It's worth noting that during my studies at Shanghai Nor-

mal University, all the prescribed books focused solely on China and Chinese culture, without incorporating any foreign literature. Their literary repertoire encompasses a wide array of narrative techniques, ranging from classical poetry to contemporary novels, which depict the beauty and adaptability of Chinese traditions. Therefore, African literature can draw inspiration from the depth, diversity, and relevance of Chinese literature to craft works that are captivating, enlightening, and authentic reflections of the African experience.

10. Where can one buy your book?

You can find my book at the Botswana Book Centre in the Main Mall and at Sebilo Books in Oodi. Additionally, online versions are accessible through Amazon.