



Investment In Maternal Healthcare In Kirinyaga Pays Off As More Mothers Access Skilled Delivery

The establishment of a maternity wing at South Ngariama Health Center, in Mwea, Kirinyaga County has turned out to be one of the most impactful projects implemented by the County Government in the recent past.

Page 18

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News>> Clerks Of The National Legislatures And EALA Ahead Meet Ahead Of Bureau Of East Africa Community Speakers Assembly

P. 8. Clerks of the National Assemblies and Parliaments of the East Africa Community (EAC) yesterday held a meeting



News>> Over 30,000 Addicts On Pastor Dorcas Rigathi's Rehabilitation Programme Waiting List

P. 12. The office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) has a waiting list of 30,000 men who have expressed interest to undergo rehabilitation from alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse.

Universal Power Connectivity Plan Is On Course - Ruto

 The government has secured KSh27 billion to connect 280,000 households to electricity under the Last Mile Connectivity Project. Making the announcement yesterday, President William Ruto said the funds will strengthen the government's ambitious plan of achieving universal access to electricity by 2030. The President said the power lines erected under this programme will also transmit fibre optic cables, ensuring universal Internet access.



Signing of Last Mile electricity connectivity contracts at State House, Nairobi yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

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DATE: 26-28 JULY, 2024, TIME: 8:00AM - 5:00PM

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Exercise Not Box-Endeavour, Chair Assures As Public Engagements On Finance Bill Commence

By:PSCU



Committee members during yesterday's forum.

Worth Noting:

“The provisions in the Finance Bill are proposals from the National Treasury. As we commence public engagements on the Bill tomorrow (today), I want to assure Kenyans that this exercise is not about ticking boxes. We are open to receive input that will help us end up with a progressive law which does not hurt the economy”, he assured.

He revealed that as of Friday last week, the committee had received over 200 memoranda online, but was expecting more before close of the window for submission of memoranda, today at 5pm.

The public engagement exercise on the Finance Bill, 2024 is not meant to tick the box, the chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning Kuria Kimani has assured.

Speaking ahead of the exercise set to commence today, Kimani noted that the committee is open to receiving input from the general public, and stakeholders representing the various sectors of the economy, adding that the members would consider all the submitted submissions when preparing the committee's report for consideration by the House.

He explained that the proposed tax provisions contained in the Bill emanate from the National Treasury, adding that the committee would consult widely and

analyse the impact of the Finance Act, 2023, before making its recommendations to the House on the proposed legislation.

“The provisions in the Finance Bill are proposals from the National Treasury. As we commence public engagements on the Bill tomorrow (today), I want to assure Kenyans that this exercise is not about ticking boxes. We are open to receive input that will help us end up with a progressive law which does not hurt the economy”, he assured.

He revealed that as of Friday last week, the committee had received over 200 memoranda online, but was expecting more before close of the window for submission of memoranda, today at 5pm.

Additionally, he noted that a total of 88 stakeholders from various sectors of the economy are scheduled to make oral presentations throughout the week.

Yesterday as the committee geared up for the exercise, members were taken through a brief on the analysis of the Finance Bill, 2024 by officers from the Parliamentary Budget Office led by the Director, Dr. Martin Masinde.

Earlier, the committee reviewed an analysis of the Supplementary Budget II for 2023/2024 Financial Year, as well as the Budget Estimates for the 2024/25 Financial Year from the same team.

The Bill formulates proposals relating to revenue raising measures including liability to, and collection of taxes.

Key among the legislations the proposed law seeks to amend include: the Income Tax Act (Cap.470), the Value Added Tax Act (Cap.476), the Excise Duty Act (Cap. 472), The Tax Procedures Act (Cap. 469B) and the Miscellaneous Fees and Levies Act (Cap.469C).

The Bill also seeks to amend other pieces of legislation relating to fees, levies and management of public funds.

In a bid to discourage use of plastics and promote proper waste management, the Bill has proposed to introduce a new levy known as the Eco Levy, under Schedule Four of the Bill.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



A multi-sectoral team has been established in Turkana County to address the aftermath of floods that caused significant suffering to local residents. The team, consisting of partners and government sector players, aims to strengthen community engagements and develop a comprehensive strategy to manage the floods' effects. The team will focus on improving water drainage systems, clearing blocked drainage, repairing damaged culverts, and implementing sustainable drainage solutions. The meeting resolved to provide relief food and non-food items to flood victims, while the County Executive warned against living in flood-prone areas and advised relocation to safer areas. The County Executive for Water Services, Patrick Losike, stated that efforts are underway to fix borehole 9 and ensure consistent water supply in Lodwar Municipality. CECM for Lands, Peter Akono, appreciated the team's strategic plan and emphasised the need to set aside land for displaced victims.



Kisumu Woman Representative, Ruth Odinga, has disbursed cheques worth over Sh2 million from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) to over 40 women groups in the county. The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Anne Wang'ombe presided over the handover, marking a milestone in empowering women, youths, and people with disabilities in the region. The grant funds are part of financial support released by the national government through the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action for the socio-economic empowerment of affirmative action groups. The grants target groups engaging in value-added practices, such as agricultural products, manufacturing, and assembly. The beneficiaries from Kondele, Migosi, and Kaloleni/Shauri Moyo and Railways wards were awarded cheques valued at Sh50,000 to 100,000 per group.



The Mpesa Foundation, in partnership with Zuri Health and the Machakos County Government, has held a free medical camp in Vota, Machakos, attracting nearly 5,000 residents. The camp offered a range of medical services, including child health and malnutrition screening, reproductive and sexual health, eye care, dental care, breast cancer screening, blood pressure and blood sugar screening, fistula screening, and general doctor consultations. Henry Kilonzo, Senior Manager of Foundation Programmes, stated that the foundation has invested Sh80 million for the programme to be rolled out across the counties. The medical camps through Zuri Health integrate technology and artificial intelligence to enhance efficiency.



A consortium of single mothers, persons with disabilities (PLWDs), and youth have partnered to enhance the government tree-growing initiative in Dongu Kundu. The mangrove ecosystem in the area was severely impacted by the construction of the Sh22 billion Dongo Kundu bypass, which includes bridges, a viaduct, and the establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on 3000-acre land. The environmentalists, including Faith Mureithi, Chairlady Nyumba ya Mumbi Women Dancers, have heeded President Ruto's call for organisations to join hands with the government in tree-growing. The groups aim to plant 10,000 trees by the end of the year, making the county beautiful. Josphat Msungu, Representative of PWDs, underscored the importance of tree growing for the local community, as they rely on trees for their survival and are vulnerable to skin cancer. The Kenya National Highway Authority contracted the group to plant trees along the Dongo Kundu bypass.



HIV-positive mothers are encouraged to continue taking antiretroviral drugs to protect their children from HIV and AIDS. The Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme at Lodwar County Referral Hospital (LCRH) has graduated 58 HIV-exposed infants, with a 96.6% success rate. However, only two out of 58 children tested positive for HIV, resulting in a 3.4% positivity rate below the national recommended rate of under 5%. The Chief Officer for Preventive and Promoter Services, Cathra Abdi, advised mothers to complete the programme and encourage others to participate, while also advising them to stop consuming alcohol, as it is a leading cause of non-adherence to antiretroviral treatment. Dr. Bonventure Ameyo, Director for Preventive and Promotive Services, emphasised the importance of mother mentors in the PMTCT programme. Deputy Director for Partnership, Nancy Kinyonge, requested partners to collaborate with the county health department to enhance the quality of HIV Testing Services (HTS) in other facilities.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Household Mapping To Boost Delivery Of Healthcare Services In Tharaka Nithi

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- By identifying areas prone to particular diseases, the devolved government will be able to come up with preventive initiatives including creating awareness among the residents and providing preventive measures such as mosquito nets to residents of malaria-prone areas.
- According to the county's Health Executive, Dr Gichuyia Nthuraku, the mapping programme will also enable the tracking of trends and patterns which will aid targeted interventions including allocation of enough resources to handle the specific need.



Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki commissioning Community Health Promoters during the past Mashujaa Day celebrations at Kairuni Stadium in Maara constituency.
Photo/Mwenda Njeru

Mapping of households will greatly boost the delivery of quality healthcare services in Tharaka Nithi County which has repeatedly scooped top awards for the provision of quality healthcare.

Community Health Promoters visit every household registering the occupants and gathering crucial information on demographics, health history and taking note of any potential health risk factor.

The data is important in enabling the health department to identify the individuals who need particular healthcare attention and even plan accurately and conveniently which is a key pillar to the realization of the Universal

Healthcare programme which is a flagship project by the Kenya Kwanza government.

By identifying areas prone to particular diseases, the devolved government will be able to come up with preventive initiatives including creating awareness among the residents and providing preventive measures such as mosquito nets to residents of malaria-prone areas.

According to the county's Health Executive, Dr Gichuyia Nthuraku, the mapping programme will also enable the tracking of trends and patterns which will aid targeted interventions including allocation of enough resources to handle the specific need.

"We are conducting household mapping so that we can tell the health status of each and every person in our county so that we can meet their specific needs for a healthy society," said Dr Nthuraku.

The data will also help in the development of well-tailored educational campaigns that empowers the locals to make informed decisions on their health including their feeding behavior.

The information collected will also help the Governor Muthomi Njuki-led government to conduct screening of illnesses such as cancer which is very important in the fight against such terminal illnesses which are even very

expensive to treat.

The initiative clearly demonstrates Governor Njuki's commitment to offering quality healthcare services to the people with the main focus being preventive healthcare.

The department of health has also successfully piloted a drone service that will transform how the county delivers emergency medical supplies, especially to the health facilities in remote areas.

The drone technology is not only efficient for quick response but also environmentally friendly because it does not release emissions to the environment as is the case of motor vehicle.

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Clerks Of The National Legislatures And EALA Ahead Meet Ahead Of Bureau Of East Africa Community Speakers Assembly

By: PSCU and MKT Reporter
@themkenyaintimes

Clerks of the National Assemblies and Parliaments of the East Africa Community (EAC) yesterday held a meeting to prepare working documents and agenda for the Bureau of EAC Speakers' scheduled for tomorrow.

The Bureau of EAC Speakers was established in 2008 with a mandate to establish a functional working relationship between and among the Speakers of the then five EAC Partner States and EALA, with a view to enhancing the role of the respective National Legislatures in the EAC integration agenda. Since then, the Membership has increased to eight and EALA.

Tomorrow's meeting, which will be the 17th since its establishment will be held in Nairobi.

According to Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Speakers' Bureau, the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly heads the Secretariat of the Bureau and coordinates all ac-

tivities under the Bureau.

During the meeting, the Clerks considered the report of the 13th EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games (IPG) held in Kigali, Rwanda in December, 2023 and the preparatory arrangements of the 14th Edition of the EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games to be held in Kenya later this year.

The Clerks are the technical officers of their respective National Legislatures and therefore comprise the technical arm of the Bureau of EAC Speakers.

EALA holds the promise of charting a course towards a more integrated and harmonized regional legislative landscape, highlighting the crucial role of parliamentary collaboration in advancing the aspirations of East African nations.

The meeting is part of the regional officials strategy of seeing a more cohesive East African Community.

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is established under Article 49 of EAC Treaty as the legislative organ of the community. The core functions of EALA include Legislation, Oversight and representation.



Some of the officials who attended yesterday's meeting

Secretary, Parliamentary Service Commission Roots For Proactive Approach To Occupational Hazards

By: PSCU

Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), Jeremiah Nyegenye has challenged staff to be proactive in handling occupational hazards and risks to help minimize accidents, injuries, and other health related issues.

Mr. Nyegenye who was speaking yesterday during a special talk organized by the PSC Occupational Health and Safety Services (OSH) Committee said a proactive approach would help staff think through, to imagine and to prepare appropriately to prevent such hazards from occurring.

"We have periodic inspection of the work place every three months for compliance. We do this to identify occupational hazards as well as cas-

es of ill health among workers and to take appropriate action," Nyegenye said.

Chairperson of the PSC OSH Committee Major (Rtd) Samson Sorobit reiterated that awareness amongst staff on occupational hazards is essential to help them fully undertake their core duties and promote productivity of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

External facilitators who trained staff included the secretary at the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health (Doshs), Dr. Musa Nyangusi, Doshs Deputy Director, Dr. Mwanahawa Ali, Doshs head of Research and Training, Dr. Dennis Ochillo and Kenyatta University Lecturer, Dr. Peterson Warutere.

Dr. Nyangusi noted that there was a need for individual staff to understand their role in promoting occupational safety and to familiarize themselves with the relevant legal framework guiding the same.



Dr. Warutere asked staff to undertake early screening for life-threatening conditions such as cancer to reduce the health risks and corresponding financial other burdens to that come with late discovery of such condi-

Universal Electricity Connectivity Plan Is On Course - Ruto

By: PCS

The government has secured KSh27 billion to connect 280,000 households to electricity under the Last Mile Connectivity Project.

Making the announcement yesterday, President William Ruto said the funds will strengthen the government's ambitious plan of achieving universal access to electricity by 2030.

The President said the power lines erected under this programme will also transmit fibre optic cables, ensuring universal Internet access.

"We are moving government services to the digital space, and ICT hubs are coming up across the country. We are moving our business to e-commerce; we are moving our learning to e-learning; we are moving health to e-health. Therefore the Internet is as important as electricity," he said.

He made the remarks during the signing ceremony of the Last Mile Electricity Connectivity contracts at

the State House Nairobi.

The funds have been provided by the European Union, French Development Agency and European Investment Bank.

He said the government is working on a similar electricity connectivity programme worth KSh22 billion with the Africa Development Bank and Saudi Arabia to connect more than 270,000 customers.

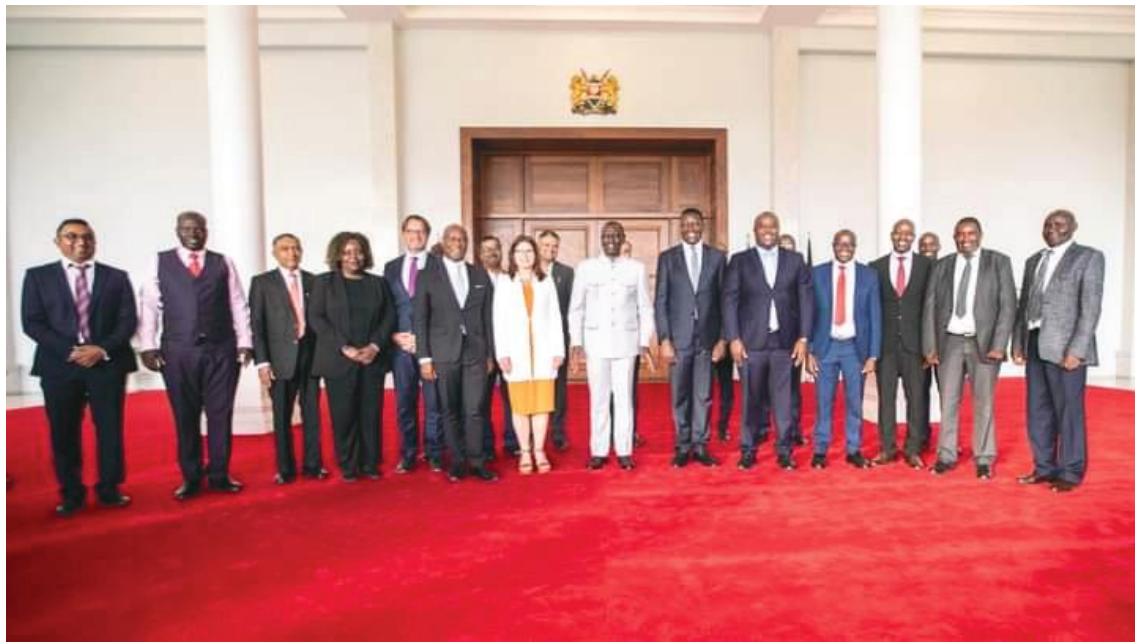
The President commended the programme, saying it has expanded the electricity grid to underserved areas, bridging the development gap between urban and rural communities.

He said that over the past decade, the government has increased electricity access from 27% in 2013 to over 76% today.

"This means that 9.6 million Kenyan households are connected to electric power," he said.

The President said electricity is a key driver of the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda that is designed to achieve economic inclusivity.

President Ruto said the Last Mile Connectivity Project has enabled businesses in rural areas to flourish, contributing significantly to the



President William Ruto poses for a photo with various stakeholders in the Energy sector

country's GDP and creating numerous job opportunities.

"The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, which are the engine of our economy, benefit immensely from reliable power, enabling them to operate efficiently and expanding their reach," he said.

He said the programme has also revolutionised the country's agricultural sector, powering irrigation systems and agro-processing units, thereby boosting productivity and ensuring food security.

Additionally, he said, it has enhanced educational opportunities, and improved healthcare services.

He observed that reliable power will drive digital initiatives such as the Hustler Fund and ensure that small businesses thrive and drive economic growth.

"Universal access is therefore fundamental to achieving economic inclusivity," he added.

PWDs Urged To Form Groups To Benefit From Government Funds

By: Kamanja Maeria
@themtkenyatimes

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Igembe South sub-county have been urged to form groups to benefit from government funds amid rising cost of living and scarcity of employment opportunities.

Speaking to journalists, an Uwezo funds officer in Igembe south sub county Casty Murithi encouraged PWDs to register in groups to access government funds and grants for financial empowerment.

She noted that there are various government funds like Uwezo that aim at providing accessible financial support to women, youths and persons with disabilities to promote business growth.

Murithi maintained that forming a group is not only geared for financial support but also to foster mutual support and shared responsibility among

the members.

She said that many PWDs were unaware of many opportunities available due to ignorance and lack of organization and such governments' funds remain underutilized.

Murithi elaborated that government funds are available to eligible groups to provide financial support and promote economic independence adding PWDs are an integral part of the society and should take advantage of the funds.

She further maintained that they offer training programs to registered groups to ensure efficiency of their projects.

The chairman of Maua disabled group David Gikundi issued a clarion call to 80 group members to utilize the funds to empower themselves economically.

He maintained that the Constitution of Kenya safeguards the interest of PWDs and thus urged all government departments to bring services closer to PWDs.



God Blesses Yielded People Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

God only blesses people mightily who want to learn and who will yield themselves to God. It is hard to get free from the devil if you go to a church where they refuse to cast out demons. Luke 9:1 says that Jesus has given His disciples all power and authority over all devils and over all sicknesses and diseases. All devils include the ones that have been robbing you of heaven's blessings. (Also see Matt. 28:18-20.) You have a right to be free.

Do I think the Lord will heal you? Yes, I know that He already has healed you. Healing, as well as salvation and freedom from demonic influences, was provided on the cross. However, just as you have to choose salvation and believe on Jesus to re-

ceive, you must receive healing. If you will not believe the Scriptures, you will not be able to receive healing. Faith is not believing what can be seen, but believing what is not seen because the Word says it. If you want to be free of demonic oppression, act and talk like you are free.

God will honor what you do in His Son's name, but not a false doctrine. Wondering in your mind and wavering to and fro between opinions (are there demons, and can I be free of this oppression?) will put you in an early grave. If you are a pastor afraid to cast out demons because you might lose some members, obey the Word of God and let those go who want to go. The Lord will bless you for obedience.

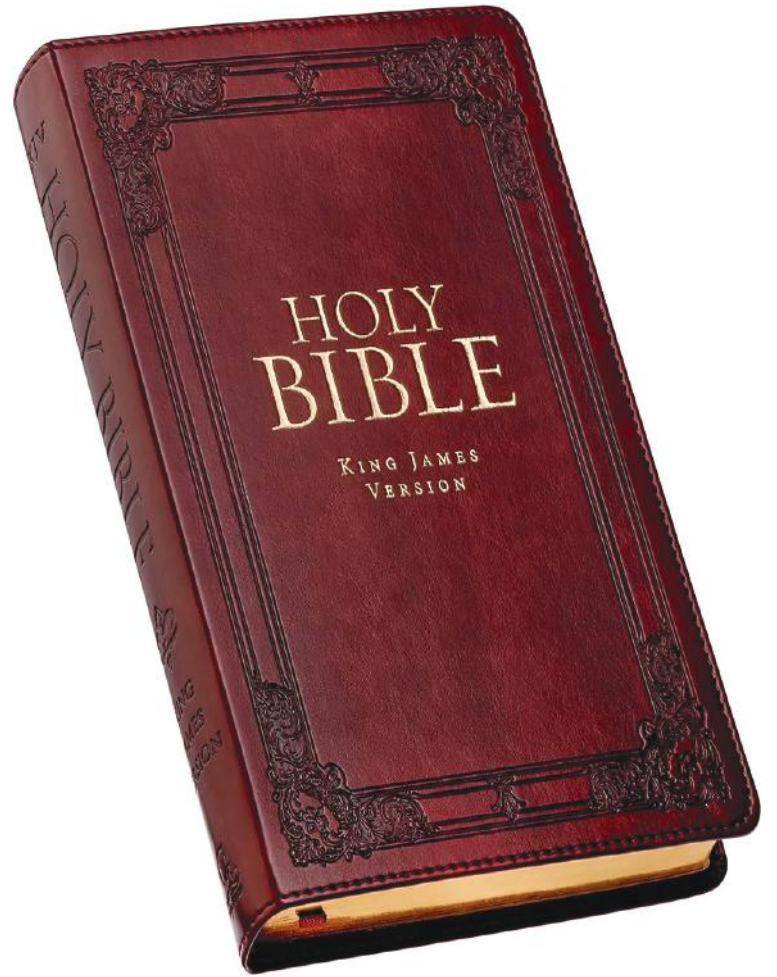
Pastor Hayes states, "The Lord told me one day, "Son, do you want to know what real faith is? You have been teaching it, you ought to learn what it is. Anything you will give Me thanks for with joy and not let your mind wonder, I will see to it that you get it."

Always remember, He loves you as much as He loves me. You need

something, you start thanking Him for it right now and every day. One day, all of a sudden, you will have it. Let Jesus hear you thanking Him.

OH HALELUJAH, I THANK YOU ALL LORD FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.

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 Is Right, Kenyans Were Being Misled To Believe They Were Paying The Highest Taxes



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



President William Ruto

Worth Noting:

- In an article I had earlier written in this column, I zeroed in on a President Ruto's speech during the ceremony organized by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to celebrate and reward Kenyans who were paying their taxes in full and within the timelines stipulated in law.
- The President minced no word in praising them for being a key pillar of enabling his government to deliver services to Kenyans.
- The government does not have monies of its own and it majorly relies on these revenues.
- The Ruto administration ascended to power on a platform of a raft of promises. The manifesto hinged on Bottom Up Economic model had been built from five key areas.

A few days ago, President William Ruto revisited the topic of taxation. Paying taxes is a civic duty and an act of patriotism.

My critics were peddling a false narrative that Kenyans were paying highest taxes.

In the contrary, they were paying the lowest tax in the continent of Africa. It is currently capped at 14 percent.

In other countries of Africa, the tax ranges between 22 to 25 percent.

In Europe, he gave an example of France where the tax is capped at 45.

President Ruto further reiterated that he intended to increase the taxes. My plan is to leave the tax at 22 percent when my two terms come to an end in 2032.

The critics would want Kenyans to believe that this would make them more poorer.

The opposite is the true position. Dr Ruto said his interventions are designed to ensure a faster growth of our economy.

This will herald in creation of more jobs in both formal and informal sectors. As such, Kenyans will put more money into their pockets and smile all the way to the bank.

I had earlier listened to President William Ruto's speech when he led the nation to mark this year's Labour Day celebration. He renewed his call and stated.

Everyone of us has a duty to develop our country.

When I assumed office, the economy was in bad shape.

I promised you that I will fix it and

steer it back on track.

The pain of tightening your belt was for a short time.

Today the cost of living is coming down. You are buying a 2kg packet of maize flour (Unga) at Sh100. When I took over, the price of the same packet was Sh230.

The prices of other essential commodities have also drastically come down.

In an article I had earlier written in this column, I zeroed in on a President Ruto's speech during the ceremony organized by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to celebrate and reward Kenyans who were paying their taxes in full and within the timelines stipulated in law.

The President minced no word in praising them for being a key pillar of enabling his government to deliver services to Kenyans.

The government does not have monies of its own and it majorly relies on these revenues.

The Ruto administration ascended to power on a platform of a raft of promises. The manifesto hinged on Bottom Up Economic model had been built from five key areas.

With this in mind, the President noted. Without you, we will not be able to do the implementation. So, I salute and commend you. Indeed, you are our Mashujaa.

The previous government's appetite of borrowing foreign loans was very high. This was hampering the growth of our economy. As such, I told you I will not follow that route. A time has come for

us to live within our means.

I know some Kenyans were not paying taxes and others were not fully complying with tax obligations.

I urge them to emulate these patriotic Kenyans, Mashujaa. Paying tax is a civic duty, Dr Ruto further noted.

In the meantime he asked KRA to expand the scope of tax collection. This is by ensuring that all Kenyans were brought on board.

Having set the targets, you have a duty to meet them.

He however cautioned KRA against harassing Kenyans when collecting the taxes. You should handle this matter in a humane and respectable manner.

If a Kenyan is not willing to pay taxes, explain to them why it is important to pay and the gains they would reap.

Dr Ruto further noted. I know some of you fear that monies would be stolen by some greedy and corrupt state officials. This is because the previous administrations were associated with mega corruption scandals. Mark my words.

Under my watch, this will not happen.

President Ruto has been walking the talk in this noble course of paying taxes. Early this year he became the first Kenyan head of state to personally file his tax returns at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) headquarters in Nairobi.

At the time, he challenged KRA to pull up their socks.

As a country, we are facing a serious financial crisis and this has incapacitated our job of delivering services to the people of Kenya.

He vowed to deal firmly with KRA

rogue officials.

Your days are numbered. I know some of you do not mean well for the country. You are out to sabotage my administration.

At the time the president fall short of saying some of KRA officials owed loyalties to his political opponents and they were serving their interests.

If you don't meet the targets, the message is clear. You want me (President) to resort to imposing more taxes to Kenyans and borrowing foreign loans. In so doing, you hand my opponents political fodder to fight me.

President Ruto is facing challenges similar to those encountered by his predecessors- Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

For President William Ruto, I have no reason to doubt his commitment to slay the dragon of corruption.

The other day he set the ball rolling when he sacked a PS and dozens of other top state officials linked to KEMSA and toxic sugars scams.

He asked the anti-graft bodies to carry out speedy investigations and bring the culprits to book.

For now, the buck stops with state agencies falling under the criminal justice system.

I hope they will not let President Ruto down by looking for excuses and scapegoat.

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

Over 30,000 Addicts On Pastor Dorcas Rigathi's Rehabilitation Programme Waiting List

By: OSDP



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi (front row in white) takes a picture with more than 100 clergy from across denominations after holding Thanksgiving prayers at the National Altar in Karen, Nairobi on 27th May 2024. They gave thanks because children have gone back to school, the end of the doctors strike and the moderate rains, and also prayed for other issues affecting the country, church and families. Photo/OSDP.

Worth Noting:

- “Let us come together as a church and start opening our doors to those boys. I ask churches that have rehabilitation centres to collaborate with us. We have a waiting list of 30,000, who have registered and want to undergo rehabilitation,” said Pastor Dorcas.
- She added that under the inpatient rehabilitation, her office would graduate 1,200 under inpatient rehabilitation, while 5,000 others had undergone outpatient community rehabilitation in collaboration with the clergy dependent on their level of addiction.



The office of the spouse of the Deputy President (OSDP) has a waiting list of 30,000 men who have expressed interest to undergo rehabilitation from alcohol, drugs, and substance abuse.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi made the revelation during Thanksgiving prayers session attended by more than 100 clergy from across denominations at the National Altar in Karen where she convened clergy for thanksgiving since children have gone back to school, end of the doctors strike and the moderate rains.

Few weeks ago, clergy had met for prayers at the same national altar to

pray for the same issues, terming them answered prayers.

Pastor Dorcas urged the clergy to open up their places of worship, across religions, for the restoration of the men in addictions who had shown willingness to stop using psychoactive substances.

“Let us come together as a church and start opening our doors to those boys. I ask churches that have rehabilitation centres to collaborate with us. We have a waiting list of 30,000, who have registered and want to undergo rehabilitation,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She added that under the inpa-

tient rehabilitation, her office would graduate 1,200 under inpatient rehabilitation, while 5,000 others had undergone outpatient community rehabilitation in collaboration with the clergy dependent on their level of addiction.

Since she began her mission of transforming boys and men, Pastor Dorcas has been receiving information on the effects of drugs on the population. Recently, she told the clergy of a situation where men were ‘injecting their private parts with drugs, and as a result gang raping women’.

She decried the extent of drug use in the nation, noting that hundreds of families were affected as the addiction spiraled affecting the father, mother and even children in some cases.

“When our children die like dogs, they die like animals out there...and someone somewhere, a merchant of death is still making more to kill others,” she added.

Pastor Dorcas also called for collaborations and partnerships in connecting the rehabilitated men to jobs and business opportunities.

“Once you remove them from addiction, you must take them somewhere to provide an end-to-end solution

to those in addictions. With all the churches we have in Kenya, if we can employ one, two...ten, we shall raise and support many and ensure we have a future as a church,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She urges even the Muslim and Hindu faithful to reach out to those in the streets and addictions, since the vices have affected all irrespective of race, religion or class.

Bishop Mophat Kilioba of PEFA Church acknowledged the transformation brought about by the boy child program in the nation, saying many who were lost in alcohol and drugs were leading a drug free life.

The clergy present included Archbishop Dr. Mophat Kilioba, Archbishop Gerry Kibarabara, Bishop Dr. Margaret Wangari, Rev Thegu Mutahi, Very Rev. Dr. Jeseo Kamau, Bishop Stephen Gachengo, Bishop Stanley Michuki, Ev. Lucy Wangunjiri, Rev. Dr. Lucy Muiro, Bishop Dr. Peter Mankura, and Pastor Esther Oba-Sike among others.

Uhuru Holds Key Meetings Ahead Of SA's General Elections

By: KBC Digital

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday held several meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa as part of the preparations for the upcoming General Elections scheduled for today.

Uhuru, who serves as the head of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) met with representatives from the South African Council of Churches, emphasizing the crucial role that faith-based organizations play in promoting peaceful and credible elections.

The former President also met with Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), a well-known organization that promotes ethical journalism and ensures balanced and impartial media coverage during elections.

He emphasized the importance of

the media's role during elections and the need for accurate reporting throughout the election period.

Kenyatta also met with South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Tawanda Chimni. These strategic meetings highlight a comprehensive approach to election observation, involving religious organizations, media watchdogs, and government officials.

These efforts underscore the African Union's commitment to supporting member states in upholding democratic principles and promoting stability across the continent.



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta serves as the head of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM).

NCIC Launches Peace To The City Initiative To Combat Youth Gangs

By: Capital Correspondent

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) has launched a program to curb organized armed youth criminal gangs nationwide.

The Peace to the City Initiative focuses on the counties of Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Eldoret, and Nairobi, which will host the Vulnerable Youth Summit in July 2024.

The Commission's Chairman Samuel Kobia expressed concern on Monday over the resurgence of organized criminal gangs in certain areas of the country, highlighting the urgency for decisive action.

"While it is true that this social phenomenon of young people is a result of lack of formal employment their regrouping and engagement in criminal acts poses a threat to the fragile social cohesion fabric," Kobia said.

Kobia observed that if left un-

checked, organized criminal gangs present a significant threat to peace, unity, and stability in Kenya, as well as to national security.

"Once they gain roots in the society, organized criminal gangs attain power capacity to challenge security organs of the state as in Haiti, Colombia, and other states in Central America," he said.

In 2022, the Commission published its Conflict Hotspot Mapping study, which highlighted the involvement of organized armed youth criminal gangs.

Nonetheless, Kobia expressed regret that despite authorities' endeavors to suppress their operations, these gangs persist in adapting and flourishing, employing advanced tactics to avoid detection and preserve their influence.



NCIC Chair Samuel Kobia.

Janga Hili Mafuriko



Misitu tulivamia ,kaharibu maumbile
Viwanda moshi hutoa , angani yachaFukile
Taka zote tukitoo ,kiholela twatupile
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wakujidunga

Naye mama maumbile , msamaha ni adimu
Hasira zake ni tele, sikia hili muhimu
Zitaangamiza ndwele , mafuriko yakidumu
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wa kujidunga

Tumtotele tambiko , mametu hapo alipo
Hebu akae kitako , Baraka azitowapo
Tusimpe maudhiko, epuka chake kichapo
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wa kujidunga

Tukiacha kemikali , za kudhuru mazingira
Na tutii serikali , sharia zake imara
Ukitii una kinga , mafuriko yakibisha
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wa kujidunga

Hapo natia nanga , beti kenda zinatoshia
Hizi lulu mezipanga , ujumbe nimewapasha
Ukitii una kinga , mafuriko yakibisha
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wa kujidunga

MTUNZI: Mwalimu Wanjama Frank
SIMU; 0721609433
BARUA PEPE; wanjamafrank@gmail.com
MAHALI; Mwalimu, shule ya upili ya lhithe
eneo bunge la Tetu ,Gatuzi la Nyeri

Mama ee! Mama ee! , twakullia mametu
Hasira tupunguzie , twajuta nafsi zetu
Jongea tukullie , okoa maisha yetu
Janga hili mafuriko , ni mwiba wa kujidunga

Bukurata wa ashiya , mama varaukia
Jasho lako lakupwaya , kiononi kaFungia
Mifereji Funguliya , ya mbinguni na duniani
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wa kujidunga

Mabwawa yote e maama, pomoni uliyajaza
Mabonde hata milima , mafuriko yatatiza
KitaFuta usalama , gharika yakuFukuza
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wakujidunga

Mwaka juzi ni solai , kukawa kilio tele
KaFuata jitimai, mahi mahi fikile
Dakika kupiga chai, hamkuwa cha simile
Janga hili mafuriko ni mwiba wakujitakia

There Is A Beginning And An End



Something scratches my heart,
Somehow I can't take my step.
Reindeer of melodious tones,
It cheers me up.

My imagination is moving
Sometimes good, sometimes bad.
Memory begins at the beginning,
From where I set foot

A time in the passing world
A wonderful feeling arises.
An example is the wind that goes away.
Our temporary life is that much.

Life is an example of the sea,
Without sails, without oars, I am a boat.
Nature is the symbol of our life,
Available in different colors.

Shodiyeva Sarvinoz Rasul's daughter was born on November 17, 2004 in Kalligobot neighborhood of Karshi city. He lives in "Yangi Hayot" neighborhood of Guzor district. His poems were published in a number of newspapers of our republic, "Umid Yogdusi" magazine, "Anthology of Kazakh-Uzbek artists" and "Stars on Earth" anthology. The owner of about a hundred international certificates. Currently, he is a 2nd-year student of the Uzbek language department at the Faculty of Philology and Language Teaching of Karshi State University.

There is a beginning and an end
I felt guilty for the first time.
And at that moment I was born again.
I touched someone's heart for the first time.
I got back to what I didn't do.

so hard
A sense of guilt torments these souls.
It is possible to do injustice to someone,
But who thinks that he blames himself.

Maybe I lost my identity today
It came into my life, no doubt a lie.
I lied to myself.
You are speechless when you break my trust.

I've come so far, I don't know when,
I know that this is the first and the last.
I needed it, but I didn't realize it.
Sometimes, some people are independent.

Monologue

Do Not Forget, Classmate



I sure miss it now
I play with the picture.
It was you, my friend.
Do not forget, classmate.

keep calling
Or write messages.
There is a merging class,
Do not forget, classmate.

You are the sun of that heart,
A loving embrace.
You gave me patience,
Do not forget, classmate.

Ithomova Mohichehra is a student of the 7th grade of the 9th general secondary school of Zarafshan city, Navoi region.

We won't see each other for three months.

Remember, my friend.
I know you are kind
Do not forget, classmate.

He Was A Fire-Breathing Poet



Moscow newspaper Uzbekni Lermentovi in the east. It was written.

Turob Tola

The fire-breathing poet Usman Nasir is another poet that we should study widely. Our literature, homeland and people will never forget him. This was said by the poet himself.

If I break off like a leaf,
Don't forget me, my friend
respects me

He builds a statue of flowers.
My poems will be heard

Even after thousands of years
Don't forget me, my friend.
("My Garden")

Usman Nasir has such a talent that everything he touches is like fire. Usman Nasir is like a dew who has not read the great and literary poetry. It is a half-smile on our lips that has not yet turned into a smile. His poems are vivid, vivid aspects of life. We appreciate Usman Nasir. Because it is the same in the blessed and holy place of poetry. sira hazan created an indescribable miracle garden.

This is what our writers say about him.

Abdulla Oripov

Usman Nasir came to our poetry like a wind. Maybe like a storm! It came with such a storm and wave that it destroyed some poetic style and memory. Pushkin appeared about him in the

I was Obidakhon Khalikova, born on February 14, 1999 in Chortok District, Namangan Region. Currently, I am a nurse midwife at the 51st family polyclinic of the city of Koroskon. I have had a great interest in artistic creation since I was young. I write many poems and articles. In 2016, my first book, Koroskonim sharfim shonim, was published. Until now, I have published many of my poetry articles in popular newspapers and magazines of Uzbekistan. I have set big goals for the future. I am moving towards these goals. You know that my goal is to move forward even if I fall.

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CitiBank NA Awarded Best Bank In Kenya

By: KBC Digital

CitiBank NA has been honored as the best bank in Kenya at the Think Business Banking Awards 2024.

The lender secured top accolades in the categories of internet banking, corporate banking, and product innovation, among other notable recognitions.

Other major winners included I&M Group which was recognized as the best customer-centric bank, and Housing Finance Corporation which was awarded for excellence in mortgage finance.

“Our goal is to drive the banking sector towards long-term sustainable, ethical, and environmentally friendly policies and practices” said Think Business founder and CEO

Ochieng Oloo.

Equity Bank was celebrated for its leadership in trade finance and retail banking, while KCB Group was distinguished as the best bank in digital banking.

Seasonal banker Richard Etemesi who is also the Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

With a remarkable 24-year tenure at Standard Chartered, Etemesi has served in various capacities across Kenya, Singapore, Uganda, Zambia, and the UK, showcasing exceptional performance.

“These awards are designed to spur competition, innovation, prudence, and stability in the banking industry, showcasing the best performers and enabling the public to make informed banking decisions,” added Oloo.

Standard Chartered Bank chief ex-



ecutive Kariuki Ngugi was recognized as the Chief Executive Officer of the year while Lucy Kagia was awarded outstanding young banker

China's Industrial Profits Up 4.3% In January-April

By: CGTN

Profits of China's major industrial firms increased 4.3 percent year on year in the first four months of the year, official data showed Monday.

The growth rate was the same as that registered in the first quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (about \$2.81 million) saw their combined profits reach 2.09 trillion yuan during the January-April period. In April, the profits of major industrial firms shifted from a year-on-year decrease of 3.5% in March to an increase of 4.0%.

“As market demand continues to recover, growth in industrial production is accelerating, factory gate price drops are narrowing, and the coordination between production and sales is improving. These factors are driving the improvement of enterprise revenues,” said Yu Weining,

NBS statistician, on Monday.

In April, the operating income of industrial enterprises increased by 3.3 percent year on year, a significant turnaround from the 1.2 percent drop in March, Yu said.

Over 70 percent of total industries realized a positive growth in profits compared to the same period last year.

The equipment manufacturing industry continued to play a supporting role. From January to April, the profit of the equipment manufacturing industry increased by 16.3 percent year on year, marking the largest contribution of the industrial sectors. In particular, electronics manufacturing was driven by the release of product demand and the rapid growth of output, with profit increasing by 75.8 percent.

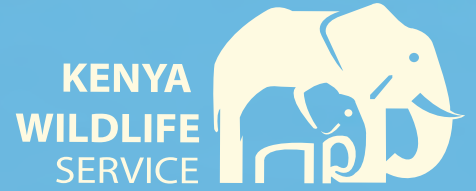
The promotion of high-end, intelligent and green manufacturing, the cultivation and growth of new quality productive forces and the superposition of policy effects have jointly promoted the rapid growth of equipment manufacturing industry profits.



Overall, the profits of industrial enterprises recovered steadily from January to April. Looking ahead,

efforts need to be made in accelerating the development of new quality productive forces, industrial quality

upgrading and expanding effective demand, Yu added.





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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

Investment In Maternal Healthcare In Kirinyaga Pays Off As More Mothers Access Skilled Delivery

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Five Months after the maternity wing was opened, over 60 successful deliveries have been conducted there. About 250 women have sought antenatal clinic services, representing a substantial rise from the previous whole year's attendance of 229 women. Postnatal clinic attendance has also risen to 359 mothers, compared to a mere 107 in 2022. Additionally, 658 women have accessed family planning services at the facility.
- Governor Anne Waiguru has hailed the maternity ward as a game-changer for mothers emphasizing the importance of providing accessible and affordable maternal and neonatal services as a way of preventing home births and reducing mortality rates.

The establishment of a maternity wing at South Ngariama Health Center, in Mwea, Kirinyaga County has turned out to be one of the most impactful projects implemented by the County Government in the recent past.

The ward that was opened in October last year by Governor Anne Waiguru, has become a haven for expectant mothers who now have a conducive environment to deliver their babies under the care of skilled birth attendants.

Provision of skilled care at birth is considered the single most important strategy in preventing neonatal morbidity and mortality thus contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals on health.

South Ngariama health facility that is situated in the far flung Mwea East Subcounty, serves a whopping population of 7,000 residents drawn from villages such as Morgan, Ikulungu, Itangi, Kadawa, Miatuini, Makuti and Kiumbu. Before its establishment, residents used to cover long distances to seek services in hospitals such as Gathigiriri, Kimbimbi and Murinduko, almost 10 kilometers away.

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ous whole year's attendance of 229 women. Postnatal clinic attendance has also risen to 359 mothers, compared to a mere 107 in 2022. Additionally, 658 women have accessed family planning services at the facility.

Governor Anne Waiguru has hailed the maternity ward as a game-changer for mothers emphasizing the importance of providing accessible and affordable maternal and neonatal services as a way of preventing home births and reducing mortality rates.

"The South Ngariama Maternity wing offers comprehensive services, including antenatal, postnatal, and mother and child health services. Our specialists ensure continuous care for both mothers and children up to five years after delivery," stated Governor Waiguru.

Evelyn Kahare, the Nurse-in-charge noted a marked increase in patient numbers since the maternity wing was launched compared to the previous year, attributing this surge to heightened awareness of the services offered by the facility. She emphasized the importance of the maternity wing in averting potential home births.

"Mothers used to journey from South Ngariama to distant locations like Kiumbu, Murinduko, Gathigiriri, or Kimbimbi. The 51 deliveries we've conducted would most likely have

ended up as home births were it not for this facility. We aspire to achieve zero home deliveries as Governor Anne Waiguru has empowered us with specialists and skilled personnel to serve the community," she noted.

The success story of this project cannot be told without the mention of Community Health Promoters (CHPs). They play a critical role in provision of primary healthcare since they are the link between the community and the health facility. The CHPs attached to this facility have been identifying expectant mothers within their villages and ensuring that they attend the minimum required antenatal clinics and also deliver in hospital. They also make follow-ups to ensure that the mothers attend postnatal clinics and that their babies are immunized accordingly.

Phyllis Karinga, a CHP attached to the facility said that they have been doing a lot of sensitization among mothers and the community at large as far as health matters are concerned. "Mothers in this region previously had a challenge whereby many of them gave birth at home, but that has changed with the opening of the maternity wing.

"The distance to the health facilities was the biggest challenge; before getting there, you'd find the mother has already delivered. Giving birth at home had detrimental results such as

infection, stillbirths, excessive bleeding, and even maternal and infant mortality." Karinga noted. She also thanked the County Government for the recent training offered to them as well as the monthly stipend they are now receiving, saying it has gone a long way in boosting their morale.

Stephen Kinyua, a village elder, reiterated the sentiments expressed by the community health promoter. He pointed out the dire situation prior to the facility's establishment, saying that their village is now changed.

Another beneficiary of the maternity wing, Emily Wanjiku, said that the facility was the best gift to mothers in the area. "The facility has facilitated all my eight antenatal clinics. Prior to its operationalization, I would spend Ksh 800 traveling to hospitals in Murinduko, Kiumbu, or Kimbimbi from Ngumano area. Now, I spend as little as Kshs. 200 to access the facility. The doctors provide excellent services, and we are even provided with a balanced diet." Wanjiku said.

South Ngariama Health Center is one of Governor Waiguru's projects aimed at strengthening primary health systems in the county, with 20 dispensary projects having been undertaken within the last three years.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continuing University Students Should Welcome The Incoming Warmly

Continuing students at universities have a responsibility to welcome and support incoming students in a variety of important ways.

Experienced students can help new arrivals become acclimated to the campus environment. By guiding them through the layout of buildings, pointing out key resources, and sharing knowledge of campus traditions, continuing students can ensure that incoming students feel oriented and comfortable from the start.

Academic mentorship is crucial. Sea-

soned students can provide invaluable advice to newcomers about course selection, notable professors, and effective study strategies. This guidance can make a significant difference as new students navigate the rigor of university-level coursework.

Social integration is paramount. Welcoming new students into social circles, student organizations, and extracurricular activities helps foster a vital sense of community. Continuing students play a key role in making incoming students feel included and con-

nected.

Encouraging campus involvement is important. Inspiring new students to take on leadership roles, volunteer, or pursue their interests through clubs and activities helps cultivate a spirit of engagement that enhances the overall university experience.

Emotional support should not be overlooked. Checking in on new students, offering a sympathetic ear, and directing them to appropriate campus resources can make a meaningful difference in helping them manage the

challenges and stresses of the transition to university life.

By serving as positive role models, continuing students demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to academic and personal success. This inspiration can be tremendously motivating for incoming students.

A warm, inclusive, and supportive attitude from continuing students signals to newcomers that the university community values their presence and growth. This fosters a sense of belonging that is essential for student well-be-

ing and achievement.

The actions of continuing students in welcoming and supporting their younger peers reverberate beyond the individual level. Such efforts cultivate a stronger, more vibrant, and resilient university community as a whole.

Devina Adhiambo.
Rongo University writers club.

Water Is The Source Of Life

In fact, water is a priceless gift of nature, without water there would be no life on earth. Most scientists agree that the first simple organisms appeared in water. As long as there is water, the world of plants, animals and we humans are alive. Since ancient times, people considered water to be sacred, revered water, worshiped water, built their dwellings in places with water sources, on the banks of springs, streams, lakes, and near them. They engaged in agriculture using water efficiently. "Avesta", the holy book of Zoroastrianism, which was created in the territory of our country 3000 years ago, mentions how sacred the blessing of water is, and the vitality of existence is connected with it. , if he pollutes the water, whether he is a governor or an ordinary person, he is severely punished and expelled from his ranks.

The hydrosphere has always in-

fluenced the biosphere layer of the earth. There is a certain amount of water in the body and organism of all types of plants, animals, in the composition of natural mineral deposits, rocks, earth, soil, and the atmosphere. Water is found on Earth in 3 different states: liquid, gas (steam) and ice. Water is the main factor of life, 80-90% of the plant body, 75% of the animal body, 2/3 of the human body, or more than 70%, is water. Under the influence of water, the process of substance exchange takes place in all cells of the body. Various compounds formed from the nutrients taken into the body are delivered to the relevant tissue cells and assimilated by means of water. About 80% of blood and flesh in a living body consists of water. According to medical information, when the human body loses 6-8% of water, the temperature of the human body rises, the skin part heats

up, and the heartbeat and breathing accelerate. As a result, a deep weakness appears in the whole body, and a person's head hurts. If 12% of the water in the human body is lost, it is inevitable that a person will die. In particular, moderate climatic conditions prevail at latitudes of 40 degrees north and 40 degrees south, and each human body needs an average of 2-3 liters of water per night. In hot climate regions, one person needs 6-8 liters of water per day.

3/4 of the planet's territory is occupied by water environment, its total reserve is equal to 1.5 billion cubic km. 94% of this amount is the water of extremely salty seas and oceans. Ice in the poles and high mountains contains only 2.2% of the total water on earth. The share of rivers, lakes, springs and various underground freshwaters is only 0.6%. Every year, 41,500 cubic km of water flows from

the land on the earth and falls into the ocean. This amount of water is 1.5 times more than the water of Lake Baikal. 56% of the annual water flow on land goes to the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic water basins, 44% to the Pacific and Indian Ocean water basins, and 2.5% to closed water basins. These indicators show that our planet has few fresh water reserves and is very unevenly distributed over the surface of the earth. Equatorial and temperate regions are better supplied with water compared to other regions. Therefore, we should understand that water is the most necessary element of life and we should not waste it.

Author: Erkinboyeva Hulkar



Remembering World Press Freedom Day And Strengthening Press Freedom In The Face Of Adversity

Remembering World Press Freedom Day and Strengthening Press Freedom in the Face of Adversity

On May 3, we observe World Press Freedom Day. It is important to consider the critical role that journalists play in preserving democracy and accountability around the world. The somber reminder of the difficulties journalists encounter in carrying out their obligation to report independently and truthfully coincides with this year's commemoration.

In their pursuit of stories that hold the powerful accountable, journalists have historically frequently found themselves in the crosshairs, subject to physical assaults, threats, and ha-

arrassment. Similar incidents of journalists being attacked, hurt, or even killed while seeking the truth have occurred throughout the past year.

Press freedom is a fundamental human right that is protected in democracies, not just a privilege. It is essential to democracy because it gives people the knowledge they need to hold their leaders responsible and make educated decisions. The freedom of the press also affects people's access to trustworthy information and their capacity to fully engage in public life.

Press freedom is still in danger in many parts of the world due to a variety of factors, such as corporate influ-

ence, political meddling, government censorship, and violence against journalists. In addition to putting journalists' lives and livelihoods in jeopardy, these attacks also threaten democracy itself.

It's critical that we reaffirm our dedication to protecting and preserving the ideals of press freedom as we commemorate World Press Freedom Day. This means protecting the independence of the press from unwarranted influence or censors, as well as guaranteeing the safety and security of journalists and holding those responsible for acts of violence and intimidation accountable.

It also necessitates promoting poli-

cies that protect everyone's right to free speech and information access, cultivating a culture that recognizes and respects the role that journalism plays in society, and supporting programs that encourage media literacy and critical thinking. Journalists everywhere have shown courage, resiliency, and commitment to their work in the face of hardship. They raise awareness of injustice, reveal corruption, and give voice to those who are oppressed and marginalized. Their steadfast dedication to transparency and responsibility acts as a ray of hope in a media environment that is becoming more complicated and demanding.

As we commemorate World Press Freedom Day, let us show our support for journalists everywhere and reaffirm our shared commitment to upholding press freedom as a fundamental component of democracy and human rights. We can only make sure that everyone lives in a more equitable, knowledgeable, and democratic society by defending presses freedom.

Perpetual K. John
Kitui County Student

Buy And Build Financing Is Available Up To 100%

This facility enables customers to buy a piece of land and construct it simultaneously.

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

2024 NCBA has partnered with Fanaka Real Estate to provide options such as land purchase, construction financing, buy and build loans, with facilities of up to 100% for potential home owners.

Through the partnership, the Bank will provide mortgage loans to salaried and non-salaried customers of Fanaka Real Estate. Salaried buyers will enjoy payment terms up to retirement age, while non-salaried customers will have terms up to the age of 65.

In addition, the Bank will also avail the Buy and Build financing option of up to 100%. This facility enables customers to buy a piece of land and construct it simultaneously. For customers who already own a piece of land, our construction solution will go a long way in actualising their dreams.

Commenting on the partnership,

NCBA's Group Retail Director, Tirus Mwithiga noted, "Owning property is more than just a transaction; it's the cornerstone of stability, security, and prosperity. At NCBA, we are dedicated to making this dream a reality for our customers. Through our strategic partnership with Fanaka Real Estate, we are not just providing loans; we are unlocking doors to homeownership with innovative financing solutions tailored to the diverse needs of our customers."

During the launch of the partnership, Fanaka Real Estate CEO Moses Muriithi said, "At Fanaka Real Estate, we believe that accessible home ownership is the right of every citizen. We are committed to making land ownership in the dormitory counties of Machakos, Kiambu, and Kajiado as affordable as possible for everyone."

"Fanaka Real Estate's ability to offer aspiring homeowners innovative mortgage products from NCBA underscores our commitment to providing homes for all income groups," Muriithi added.

Last year, NCBA rolled out a home



NCBA, Head of Property Finance, Eva Ratemo, (R)Head of Legal Department, Lawrence Gachanja Mwangi look on as (L-C) NCBA Group Director, Retail Banking, Tirus Mwithiga and (R-C) Fanaka Real Estate LTD, CEO Moses Muriithi and Fanaka Real Estate LTD, exchange signed mortgage deal partnership documents during the MOU signing ceremony at Fanaka Real Estate Ruiru Branch..

acquisition initiative that enables Kenyans to own homes at an affordable fixed rate of 9.5%. The property loan covers both land purchase and simultaneous construction, construction on owned land, and direct purchase of houses/apartments meant for owner occupation. The Bank has

partnered with key players such as Fanaka Real Estate to support our customers with a common goal of revolutionising the real estate landscape by enhancing affordable housing for all.

In addition, the Bank also provides a host of Property Financing options

for customers such as: Property Purchase, Plot Purchase Loans, Construction Loans, Easy-build, Equity Release Solutions, Mortgage Transfer/Buy-out and Mortgage Top-Up loans.

Adow Thought On One Man, One Vote, One Shilling?

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Mohamed Adow is the Member of Parliament Wajir South and here is what he has to share with us on the one man one vote one shilling.

Cool! Let's break down the stats.

First, let's re-visit the last census and reveal the true population from the servers based on the i-pads used by the field clerks. Forget about the manufactured figures that suppress the numbers for some and inflate for others (you know the deal with birth rates - now extrapolate)

Second, take the budget for 2024/5 which is Ksh 4.2 Tr and divide by the total, legitimate population - use the entire 4.2 Tr (not just 15% or about 600B for the counties). Don't disburse just yet - there's debt to be repaid and offsetting to be done

Third, take the debt stock, currently at about 10.5 Tr or 70% of the GDP (15 Tr), and trace the beneficiaries of that debt - what projects occasioned the debt and where were those projects/programs implemented?

Fourth, gradually deduct the debt from the allocations of regions who benefitted from skewed budgets since 1963. Why should others share the burden when value didn't accrue to them? As you check the time series data on debt accumulation, pay attention to the twin 'humps' in national gov't budgetary allocations to some regions during the periods 1963-1978 and 2013-2022. Hint: mega dams, subsidies for coffee/tea and other crops (minimal support to livestock), 're-structuring' the financial services sector, dizzying road networks, including the 30B mau mau rd, game parks, numerous public universities, special economic zones, manufacturing parks, power generation, modern markets, etc

Fifth, now disburse the budget to the country, apportioning the debt burden to the few entitled ones who enjoyed the benefits in the first place. But wait before you disburse! Ensure equalization funds revert back to the few genuinely poor counties who the constitution envisaged will be supported to reverse the enduring impact of sessional paper No 10 of 1965 - not the bloated number of rich counties that are home to billionaires and are yet being given equalization funds.

Sixth and final, we reiterate that we co-own this space called Kenya, given by God. While practising patience and constancy, we still don't hesitate to hurl the truth against falsehood whenever it manifests itself. As for the perennial brouhaha in the marketplaces, we say PEACE and keep moving on.



Mohamed Adow is the Member of Parliament Wajir South

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SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Pep Guardiola promised Manchester City will bounce back next season from their FA Cup final disappointment as the English champions celebrated a fourth consecutive Premier League title with a parade on Sunday.

Guardiola Vows FA Cup Revenge As Man City Celebrate Title Triumph



Manchester City's English midfielder #47 Phil Foden holds up the Premier League trophy during an open-top bus victory parade for Manchester City's Premier League title win, in Manchester, north-west England on May 26, 2024. City, have won six titles in seven seasons, and stand alone as the only English team to have won four straight top-flight titles, eclipsing the achievements of the great Liverpool and Manchester United teams of the past. (Photo by Darren Staples / AFP).

Pep Guardiola promised Manchester City will bounce back next season from their FA Cup final disappointment as the English champions celebrated a fourth consecutive Premier League title with a parade on Sunday.

Defeat to local rivals Manchester United in Saturday's FA Cup final prevented City becoming the first English side to ever complete consecutive league and cup doubles.

But there was still a historic achievement to mark for Guardiola's men after becoming the first team to ever win four consecutive English top-flight titles.

Thousands of fans braved torrential rain to see their heroes travel through Manchester's Deansgate area on open-top buses.

However, the numbers were substantially down on last year's parade to celebrate a Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup treble.

"We will be back next season," Guardiola said. "The FA Cup, we will take it."

City have won six of the last seven Premier League titles under Guardiola, who has just one year remaining on his contract.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss laughed off a plea to "stay forever" in Manchester but has committed to at least see out his deal next season. "Even myself, I couldn't expect to stay here eight years but everything goes well," added Guardiola.

"Step-by-step we are here. It looks routine but it's not routine."

Phil Foden won the football writers' player of the year award for his stellar season, which included 27 goals.

Despite City hoovering up trophies during Guardiola's reign, the England international insists the hunger remains to keep winning.

"Obviously (four in a row) is something nobody else has done before. It's an unbelievable feeling," said Foden.

"There is a hunger inside me to win trophies and the other players want to win as well. We're delighted with this season but next season we want to go again and win more."

City sealed the Premier League title a week ago with a 3-1 victory over West Ham.

Players were then captured out celebrating until the early hours

of Monday morning, but captain Kyle Walker was adamant that played no role in an uncharacteristically poor display against United at Wembley.

City trailed 2-0 at half-time to goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo and a second half fightback was too little, too late despite Jeremy Doku pulling a goal back.

"We celebrated on Sunday, this was Saturday. It's six days. If us athletes can't recover in six days there's no chance for anyone," said Walker.

"The moment was right. The club, the players and staff made that decision. Let's not blame that."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham said yesterday it would be "really nice" to play with Kylian Mbappe next season.

Playing With Mbappe Would Be 'Really Nice': Madrid's Bellingham



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham and teammates attend a training session at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on May 27, 2024 ahead of their Champions League final football match against Borussia Dortmund. (Photo by Thomas COEX / AFP)

Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham said yesterday it would be "really nice" to play with Kylian Mbappe next season. The France captain is expected to join Los Blancos at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain contract this summer. Mbappe could form an all-star attack alongside Vinicius Junior, with Madrid's top goalscorer this season, Bellingham, offering support. "I don't pick the team and I certainly don't make the transfers,

but Kylian Mbappe, what a player, who wouldn't want to play with someone as good as him?", Bellingham told reporters at a media day before the Champions League final on Saturday. "I don't want to put any more pressure on the situation, I know for him it's probably difficult having everyone always talking about him, but it would be really nice." Real Madrid face Borussia Dortmund at Wembley aiming to win the competition for a record-extending 15th time.

Lifting the Champions League trophy is one of the challenges Mbappe, 25, has on his to-do list. Mbappe led PSG to the French Cup last weekend in his final match for the Ligue 1 champions and said his next destination will be revealed soon. "All I wanted was to end things well with my club, with a trophy. I think there is a time for everything and I will announce my future club in good time," said Mbappe. "I think it will be in a few days so there is no problem.

"I don't know when yet. There are still some details (to be sorted out) but the most important thing was to finish on a high here." AFP

SPORTS NEWS

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BREAKING NEWS



Laura Mae Jones



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- Laura Mae Jones is a beacon of resilience, compassion, and transformative energy. With an impressive array of roles and achievements, Laura embodies the essence of a multifaceted life dedicated to the betterment of others. She is a Mindfulness Master, Paralegal, Notary Public, Author, International Motivational Speaker, Artist, Empowerment Model, and Toastmaster. Her life's work is a testament to her unwavering commitment to mental health reform, primarily through the teaching of mindfulness.
- Laura's journey is deeply intertwined with her personal life, where she proudly stands as the wife of John W. Jones, a Retired Master Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps and a disabled veteran who served his country for 30 years.



Laura Mae Jones..

I am a Mindfulness Master, Paralegal, Notary Public, Author, International Motivational Speaker, Artist, Empowerment Model, Toastmaster and am passionate to affect mental health reform by teaching Mindfulness.

Additionally, I am the proud wife of John W. Jones, Retired Master Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, disabled veteran who served 30 years.

Also, a joyful mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

It is my hope to be a ripple of love, hope and light to the world.

Having been on life support in 2015 and having a near death spiritual experience, I am a true living testimony that we are all one created by God

My message is to spread love and kindness globally and to pass my

wisdom to all those seeking to create a life of inner peace, self-love, compassion for others and to make every moment count.

I also received an honorary doctorate in philosophy and a lifetime achievement award in 2021

Introduction of Laura Mae Jones

Laura Mae Jones is a beacon of resilience, compassion, and transformative energy. With an impressive array of roles and achievements, Laura embodies the essence of a multifaceted life dedicated to the betterment of others. She is a Mindfulness Master, Paralegal, Notary Public, Author, International Motivational Speaker, Artist, Empowerment Model, and Toastmaster. Her life's work is a testament to her unwavering commitment to mental

health reform, primarily through the teaching of mindfulness.

Laura's journey is deeply intertwined with her personal life, where she proudly stands as the wife of John W. Jones, a Retired Master Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps and a disabled veteran who served his country for 30 years. Their partnership is a source of strength and inspiration, embodying the values of dedication, service, and mutual support. Laura is also a joyful mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, roles that she embraces with boundless love and enthusiasm. Her family is her foundation, and their happiness is her greatest reward.

In 2015, Laura faced a profound life-altering event when she was placed on life support. During this time, she experienced a near-death spiritual encounter that deepened her

understanding of the interconnectedness of all beings. This experience reaffirmed her belief that we are all creations of a higher power and strengthened her resolve to spread a message of love and kindness across the globe. Laura's survival and subsequent recovery have made her a living testimony to the power of faith, resilience, and the human spirit.

Laura's passion for teaching mindfulness is driven by her desire to impact mental health positively. She believes that mindfulness is a powerful tool for achieving inner peace, self-love, and compassion for others. Through her teachings, she hopes to inspire individuals to make every moment count and to cultivate a life filled with intention and gratitude. Her approach to mindfulness is holistic, integrating her diverse experiences and wisdom to offer guidance that is both practical and profound.

In addition to her mindfulness work, Laura has made significant contributions as an author and international motivational speaker. Her words have the power to uplift and inspire, reaching audiences around the world. Her artistry further reflects her creative spirit, allowing her to express her insights and emotions through various mediums. As an Empowerment Model, Laura exemplifies the strength and beauty of a life lived with purpose and conviction.

Laura's dedication to personal and professional excellence has been recognized with numerous accolades, including an honorary doctorate in philosophy and a lifetime achievement award in 2021. These honors are a testament to her impact and influence, acknowledging her tireless efforts to make a difference in the world.

Above all, Laura Mae Jones hopes to be a ripple of love, hope, and light. Her mission is to pass on her wisdom to all those seeking a path of inner peace and fulfillment. Through her work, she aims to create a legacy of kindness and compassion, encouraging others to live with authenticity and purpose. Laura's life is a powerful reminder that we all have the capacity to make a positive impact and that, together, we can build a world filled with love and understanding.