



President Ruto Set To Appoint High Court Judges
 The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has forwarded 20 names to President William Ruto for appointment as High Court Judges. Chief Justice Martha Koome, Chairperson of the JSC, said the panel arrived at the list following interviews conducted between April 3 and May 3 this year.

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 Daily ePAPER

Monday, May 6, 2024

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News>> Mining Communities Call For Reforms In The Sector

P. 8. Nakuru Town East Member of Parliament David Gikaria has termed mining sector as a key contributor to the growth of Kenyan economy.



News>> Parliamentary Committee Commence Inspection On Development Projects In Western And Nyanza Regions

P. 12. The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Regional Development is currently carrying out its oversight role by inspecting, government projects managed by the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA).

Gachagua: Concentrate On Service Delivery



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has told political leaders to concentrate on service delivery and desist from spreading propaganda and idle talk.

The Deputy President also called political leaders from Kiambu County, to tone down on high-octane politics and leadership wrangles and focus on working for their people.

Speaking at ACK St. Mark's New Kamiti Parish, in Kiambu Town constituency yesterday, Mr Gachagua said leaders should focus on social and economic development issues of their areas and the Nation instead of engaging in endless politicking.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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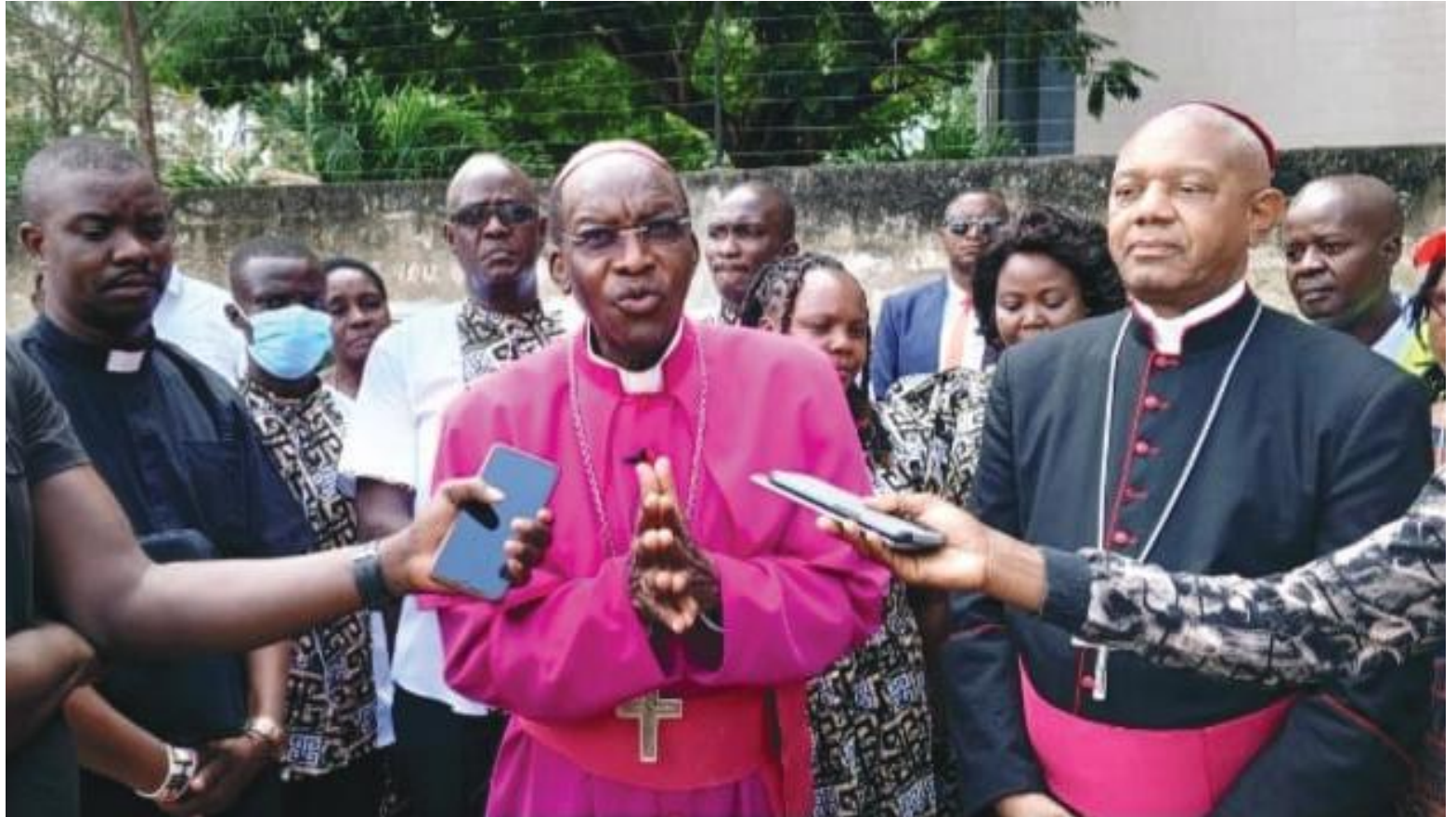
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Church Mobilizes Aid For Flood Victims, Calls For Long-Term Flood Mitigation Measures

By: Sadik Hassan
 @themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “The government should construct large dams to harvest the water because it is a big waste. Although there are floods after a short while the waters will subside and flow into the ocean and they will not have been helpful. They have caused devastating effects,” said Most Rev Archbishop Kivuva.
- He called for proper planning for the dams to harvest waters from the rivers for domestic, irrigation and generation of hydroelectric power.

Archbishop Martin Kivuva of Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa has urged the government to mull the construction of large dams to avert the recurring floods that have led to the death of more than 200 people.

Speaking yesterday during the golden jubilee celebration of St. Joseph Catholic Church-Tudor Parish headed by Fr. Richard Airo, Archbishop Kivuva prayed for fortitude for families who have lost their loved ones as a result of the heavy rainfall that has wreaked havoc in several parts of the country.

“The government should construct large dams to harvest the water because it is a big waste. Although there are floods after a short while the waters will subside and flow into the ocean and they will not have been helpful. They have caused devastating effects,” said Most Rev Archbishop

Kivuva.

He called for proper planning for the dams to harvest waters from the rivers for domestic, irrigation and generation of hydroelectric power.

Experts, he stated, have likened the heavy rains wreaking havoc in several parts of the country to be akin to the ones witnessed in 1961 when people were relocated to other parts of the country.

“The disasters should teach us lessons to put in place emergency systems that will offer quick response to victims,” said Rev. Kivuva, appealing for collaboration instead of blame games to assist victims. “As a church, we have encouraged our stakeholders to contribute food and clothes to be distributed to victims in the centres they are holed in,” he added.

All the parishes under the catholic archdiocese of Mombasa have been told to

inform their worshippers to contribute to alleviating the suffering of flood victims.

On the doctor’s strike, Kivuva urged the medics to avert more crises and return to work to take care of Kenyans affected by the raging rains albeit they have not reached a consensus with the government.

On his part, Malindi Catholic Diocese Bishop Willybard Lagho said flood is not a new phenomenon in the country or the world but the main setback is, “We don’t seem to learn from the past”

“If someone constructs a house on a riparian land or a waterway there will be problems. Our biggest challenge as a country is that we have allowed the construction of houses on waterways and authorized construction of new buildings without improving the drainage,” said Bishop Lagho.

“Our engineers and leaders must introspect because some of the disasters are man-made and could be avoided,” he added.

Bishop Lagho revealed that three catholic sponsored schools in Malindi are marooned in water because farmers have cultivated on river banks.

He urged parents to monitor their children’s behaviours to ensure they are firm in their faiths and not go astray.

“As a nation, we need to improve on our morals and good morals must be built from religion. Religion plays a pivotal role in shaping the morals of our children and leaders to be equitable,” stated Bishop Lagho.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by Exponential International Limited, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nyeri County Women Representative, Rahab Mukami, visited flood victims in Othaya. Fourteen families from Othaya town are taking shelter at Munai-ni Primary School after their homes were swept away by flash floods. Mukami assured them that she would seek alternative rental accommodations to ensure their safety. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU



Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki Choromai over the weekend held a consultative meeting with leaders of four water projects in Mweiga area, Kieni West Sub-County. The leaders were drawn from Simbara/Amboni, Simbara/Kamatongu, Bondeni and Njengu water projects. Also present were administrators from the area where the meeting resolved that the leaders register a Community Based Organisation (CBO), which they will use as a platform for addressing their joint water crisis in the area. They also agreed to seek ways of the area having a dam for water reservation and as a lasting solution to the perennial shortage of the commodity for the local residents. On his part, Choromai vowed to support all the water projects and other initiatives that could raise the locals standards of living.



The order aims to ensure the safety of residents and workers in these mines. The closure order was announced during a press briefing at quarries in Kyogong. Bomet County Commissioner Omar Ahmed highlighted the potential danger of cave-ins due to the heavy rains. Dr. Kipng'etich Kirui, the Bomet County CECM for administration, reaffirmed the government's commitment to enforcing the closure order in collaboration with the security team. A report from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has highlighted the serious environmental and public health concerns associated with the continued operation of illegal sites in Bomet County. Owners of quarries and sand-harvesting sites are urged to regularise their mining activities with relevant government agencies.



Tana Water Works Development Agency board of directors led by their chairman Wanyaga Gathaka and Chief Executive Officer Eng. Philip Gichuki led the Agency Directors and staff in joining hands with various stakeholders in planting thousands of tree seedlings at Nandago Hills in Tharaka Nithi County. During the Saturday event, the Agency initiative was supported by among others the County Government of Tharaka Nithi, Kenya Forest Service, Nithi Water and Sanitation Company, SA-PAD, and members of the hill's neighbouring community. The move is aimed at boosting the Kenya Kwanza administration's ambitious programme of planting about 15 billion trees by 2030. The Agency chairman noted that conservation of water catchment areas in its region of jurisdiction remains central to their operations.



Two informal settlements, Manyatta and Obunga, in Kisumu will benefit from a modern sanitation project costing Sh19.5 million. The project, implemented by Seureca East Africa Ltd. in partnership with the national government, aims to revolutionise poor sanitation in these slums. The funding has been channelled through the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSFDA), with Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company as a key partner. The project has two categories of toilets: modern pit latrine and power flush facilities. The modern pit latrine category cannot be connected to a sewer line due to unique challenges in Koyango, where it would be domiciled on a pilot basis. The project has already built over 200 sanitary facilities across the country, costing Sh130 million. The project has a strong Monitoring and Evaluation structure, ensuring the rights of all beneficiaries are protected. A caveat has been put on private land, requiring anyone who wants to buy such land to abide by the rule that the project continues to benefit the public.



Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Zachary Mwangi Njeru (in glasses and white cap), receives food donations from the Kikuyu Council of Elders Naivasha branch to be handed over to victims of the Mai Mahiu floods tragedy, who have been sheltering at the Ngeya Girls Secondary School in Mai Mahiu. Photo/Mabel Keya – Shikuku/KNA

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Committee Raises Alarm Over Stalled 1.4B Kisumu Convention Centre

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyentimes

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Regional Development has expressed concerns over the stalled Sh1.4 billion Kisumu International Convention Centre, which was commissioned in 2021 to host the Afri-cities conference in the lakeside city.

The project, a 6,000-seater capacity facility jointly implemented between the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, the State Department for Devolution, and Kisumu County, was expected to be Kenya's largest conference facility to help the country regain its foothold in conference tourism.

The committee was informed that the contract was signed on July 16, 2021, and was expected to be completed and handed over in 38 weeks.

However, the contract was reviewed and extended to 73 weeks, ending in December 2022.

The committee, led by Vice-Chair Mary Wamaua, expressed disappointment that the project, which had immense benefits, had stalled after gobbling millions of taxpayers' money.

She urged the government to find funds to pay the contractor and resume work as the committee seeks funds to complete the project.



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Mining Communities Call For Reforms In The Sector

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru Town East Member of Parliament David Gikaria has termed mining sector as a key contributor to the growth of Kenyan economy.

He was speaking in Nyatike, Migori County during a public participation exercise on two bills being undertaken by the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining. Similar exercise was happening simultaneously in Tana River by a section of the committee members.

The two bills under consideration Mining (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Gold Processing Bill, 2023.

“Government is intending to construct factories within the mining zones to offer value addition in order to fetch more income to the miners and the country at large,” said Gikaria.

Local miners voiced their long-standing dependence on mining as a primary economic activity, dating back generations.

Migori county at large has traces of gold deposits and many people living in the area depend on gold mining for survival.

Due to archaic ways used to extract gold from the deep mines, many miners find themselves at the risk of losing lives due to perennial cases of collapsing mines.

Concerns were also raised about exploitation by foreign entities purchasing unprocessed gold from locals. The committee assured residents that the proposed bill would address such challenges by introducing regulatory bodies to oversee the sector.

Miners also expressed support for the establishment of Mining Regulation Authority. They stressed the importance of their inclusion in its membership to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the sector dynamics and challenges.

Locals have also asked government to review downwards rates charged to obtain mining licenses and reduce time taken to process applied permits. This will enable artisanal miners to acquire the licenses and consequently lower the number of illegal mines within the mining zones.



Some of the stakeholders who attended the forum

How Technology Is Promoting Education And Critical Thinking

By: Kenya News Agency

Africa Tech-Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Centre in Naka Estate, Nakuru County, is using robots to teach 48 STEM students during the school holidays.

The centre integrates lessons with Information Communication Technology (ICT) to help learners aged 5–18 explore robotics, creative coding, physical computing, and the incubation of viable STEM ideas.

The use of robots fosters scientific reasoning and critical thinking, which may not be guaranteed in theoretical learning.

The robotics laboratory at the centre focuses on real-life application, sorting, coding, and programming to carry out specific tasks.

It enhances students’ abilities in problem-solving, communication, data analytics, creativity, collabo-

ration, technological thinking, and critical thinking, among other skills. By teaching problem-solving skills early through coding, they are better prepared for the world.

The introduction of robotics science was aimed at inspiring students in science-related careers with a view to inculcating the requisite skills envisioned in the competency-based curriculum (CBC). The centre is also using Scratch, the first block-based programming language for children aged 8–16, which enables them to create animations, games, music, and interactive stories while learning the basics of coding.

CEMASTEA’s National Trainer in Charge of Coding, Mr. Martin Mungai, believes that coding is a critical skill that could enable every household to actively participate in the digital economy and create virtual jobs.

Mastery of coding will help learners think differently, be more creative, grasp mathematics easily, and be collaborative.



Concentrate On Service Delivery, Gachagua Tells Leaders Who Spread propaganda

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with other leaders in Ting'ang'a area, Kiambu County yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “The President and I are focused on the job. The other leaders should focus on their job and service delivery too. The country needs us and citizens have great expectations. Let all leaders focus on service delivery, that is what Kenyans expect from us,” he said as he told off a section of politicians propagating lies and propaganda through online platforms which he dismissed as unhelpful and disgraceful.
- “Some of us have no time for petty politics, we are busy people with a lot of work to do. We have no time to listen to nonsense, theatrics and drama. We want to focus on the job that we were given by Kenyans,” he added.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has told political leaders to concentrate on service delivery and desist from spreading propaganda and idle talk.

The Deputy President also called political leaders from Kiambu County, to tone down on high-octane politics and leadership wrangles and focus on working for their people.

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“Some of us have no time for petty politics, we are busy people with a lot of work to do. We have no time to listen to nonsense, theatrics and drama. We want to focus on the job that we were given by Kenyans,” he added.

Mr Gachagua spoke amid heightened political talk and activities across the political divide over the 2027 elections and declaration of political ambitions.

On Kiambu politics, the Deputy President asked leaders to unite and work together adding that he will soon convene a meeting to address their differences.

“It pains me a lot to see leaders tearing each other apart. I appeal to the leaders to work together for the development of the county. Kiambu is important to President Ruto and I, it gave us a lot of votes in 2022. I will convene a meeting to find a lasting solution on any squabbles. Please tone down on the high-octane politics,” he stated.

The Deputy President spoke after a section of the county leaders engaged in an exchange of words at the event over the leadership of the devolved unit and gubernatorial aspirations.

He, however, told the worshippers that the county will not be left behind in the national government’s development agenda as he disclosed that he and the President will soon tour the region to launch infrastructure projects such as ultra-modern markets.

“The President likes Kiambu and it won’t be abandoned in the national socio-economic development plan,” he stated.

On the flooding situation in the country, the Deputy President reiterated his call on Kenyans to stop daring nature by crossing swollen rivers and living near spilling dams.

He announced that today, he will convene the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) where issues related to the flooding situation and multi-agency response

will take centre-stage.

He appealed to all the governors to attend the forum at his official residence in Karen, Nairobi.

Counties most affected by the flooding caused by the enhanced rains will be prioritised in the support.

He said the enhanced rains resulted from climate change and that Kenyans should plant more trees to address the situation.

“We have a problem with climate change. It is no longer a topic but is real and is here with us. We have just recovered from the worst drought in 40 years and five failed rain seasons. We lost 2.5 million cattle heads during the drought and used millions of shillings in mitigation,” he said.

He continued, “the situation is serious and we must address the problem through planting more trees. Let

us do what we can in achieving the President’s dream of 15 billion trees by 2032”.

Stating that the government has a responsibility to protect communities and preserve lives, Mr Gachagua said persons living in landslide prone areas and near spilling dams will be evicted.

On the nationwide crackdown on illicit brews and drug abuse, the Deputy President directed national government administration officers to implement the alcohol control regulations and ensure no bars are operating near schools or in residential areas.

“Soon I will start making surprise visits.

I will take a personal responsibility in ensuring that the illicit brews are eradicated. Everybody must do his/her job and respect each other. We are fighting this menace now and in the future. We will deal with this matter until it is rested. I am happy the President endorsed the crackdown,” he said.

The Deputy President was accompanied by among others; Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi, National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa, Senator Karungo Thang’wa, Woman Representative Anne Wamuratha and MPs Machua Waitthaka (Kiambu town), Mburu Kahangara (Lari), Simon King’ara (Ruiru), George Koim-buri (Juja), Githua Wamacukuru (Kabete), Alice Ng’ang’a (Thika town), John Kiragu (Limuru), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Pauline Lenguris (Samburu Woman Representative), Mary Maingi (Mwea), Maina Karobia (EALA), Wanjiru Mwangi (Nominated) and Members of the County Assembly led by the area (Ting’ang’a Ward Representative) Napoleon Mwaura.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Councillor Stephen Ndung'u Njenga, Kiambu County yesterday.

Prepare To Elect New Factory Directors, Tea Farmers Told

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyatimes

Tea farmers across the country have been urged to scrutinise the calibre of leaders seeking to head their factories.

The farmers affiliated to Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) are expected to have new leaders in the next few weeks after elections are called.

Lawyer Patrick Ngunjiri said that last month, different stakeholders withdrew various cases that had been filed in different courts following the Tea reforms initiative that was spearheaded by the former Jubilee regime which was headed by retired President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Yesterday, Ngunjiri told faithful at BIRTHIA Catholic Church in Othaya, Nyeri County that elections date would be announced soon and he advised the tea farmers to ensure they vote in people who will look at their best interest.

He said the elections were made possible following the withdrawal

of more than 11 cases in different courts, adding that most of those cases were in opposition of the Tea sector reforms that were introduced a few years ago.

The Church function was attended by other leaders who included Nyeri County Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri County Health Fund chairman Anthony Maina Mithanga and Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina spouse among others.

Wamatinga commended the Nyeri county leadership saying unlike in other counties where wrangling was the order of the day, Nyeri remained peaceful due to focused leadership.

On his part, Mithanga called on doctors to call off the strike saying Kenyans were suffering a lot.

He said although health facilities in the county had drugs, the uptake was low due to the absence of the medics who provide prescriptions.

He called upon the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union (KMPDU), the National Government, and County Governments to urgently resolve the deadlock for the benefit of suffering Kenyans.



From Left to Right; Anthony Maina Mithanga, Wahome Wamatinga and Patrick Ngunjiri at BIRTHIA Catholic Church, Othaya yesterday.

Women Parliamentarians Explore Ways To Accelerate Gender Responsive Budgeting

By: PSCU

Members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) over the weekend continued their engagement with the Institute of Public Finance (IPF) geared towards addressing challenges and exploring solutions for the implementation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB).

The Women MPs used Tripple A Change Space Analysis approach as the problem driven iterative framework. They further identified authority, acceptance and ability as the agents to assist drive increased Gender Responsive Budgeting.

Presented with the Annual National Shadow Budget and the Macro Fiscal Analytical Snapshot, the legislators emphasized on the need to empower

women leaders in governance and accountability structures, while reducing gender inequities and enhancing health investments.

The meeting noted the need to try small interventions in short rapid cycles to help flush out contextual challenges, including those that emerge in response to the interventions.

Highlighting the hurdles they face, Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County) underscored resource mobilization as a barrier deterring many women from pursuing political leadership roles.

While addressing the areas of capacity strengthening interventions, nominated Senator Crystal Asige stressed the necessity to provide women legislators with expertise support in various fields for instance in social media.

To amicably address GRB challenges, the women lawmakers rooted for training on Public Finance Management, opportunities for outdoor activities for Members to unwind and



share insights among themselves.

The Women Members of Parliament expressed optimism that the session

had helped bolster their budget scrutiny skills, having interacted with budget tools effectively. They also said that the sessions had sensitized

them on how to address Gender-Responsive Budgeting issues.

UDA Elections: Gachagua's Big Win



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- At State House meeting, Dr Ruto, the party leader, reportedly stated. I have heard the arguments from all the sides and this is my proposal.
- There is need to amend the constitution and the new clause should read. There shall be one party leader (the President) and one deputy party leader (the deputy president).
- One thing however remained clear. The other two slots of the deputy party leaders will not be removed perse. They will be replaced by the two assistant deputy leaders. So, it means it is only the power of holders which will be reduced.
- The President is said to have noted. The final decision will be made by party members who will attend the national delegates' conference (NDC).

A few days ago, President William Ruto reportedly chaired a meeting of National Executive Committee (NEC) of ruling United Democratic Alliance Party at State House Nairobi.

The meeting held at a time when the party was holding the grassroots elections focussed on emerging issues that threatened to divide the party.

From onset, President Ruto, who is the party leader, was rooting for a free, fair and credible election.

His ultimate goal was to build a strong party that becomes a beacon of democracy not only in Kenya, Africa but the world at large.

He was therefore keen to provide leadership that would resolve the disputes and contentious issues in an amicable manner and in early stages.

The UDA constitution provides for the position of the party leader and three positions of the deputy party leader.

This was the most contested clause. The Gachagua team felt that the clause had been sneaked by DP's political enemies.

This was a well calculated plot to clip Gachagua's wings.

Our battle of pushing for the amendment of this clause has started. This is a battle that we cannot lose. We must win.

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There is need to amend the constitution and the new clause should read. There shall be one party leader (the President) and one deputy party leader (the deputy president).

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The President is said to have noted. The final decision will be made by party members who will attend the national delegates' conference (NDC).

Earlier reports indicated that Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was leaving nothing to chance in his bid to plant his loyalists to the positions that were being contested.

One can understand where he is coming from.

As the second in command he believes he is just a heart-beat away from becoming the President of this country.

For this reason, he has to use all means to defend his territory.

This brings me to the question. Does he stand a chance of having his way?

I know one of his key strategy is to follow the footsteps of the current President William Ruto.

As we know, Dr Ruto, then deputy president, started to lay his political foundation during the first term of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

He was however more strategic. He would take advantage of Uhuru's absence and visit all parts of the country to represent him. This was during the



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

launch and commissioning of mega development projects.

He would take advantage of this to front himself as the best suited candidate to succeed President Kenyatta.

As a result, Dr Ruto managed to build political stamina. Come the second term, he had enough foot soldiers. So he would not fear taking on his boss head-on.

The 'handshake' was the stick that broke the camel's back. Ruto took advantage of the fallout with his boss to launch the second phase of his campaign that catapulted him to seat of power.

Reports have indicated that Gachagua is fronting Embakasi MP James Gakuya to take up the position of Nairobi UDA chairmanship as opposed to Governor Johnson Sakaja.

The media report suggested that he had hatched a plot to stop Sakaja from voting. The governor however managed to maneuver his way and he finally voted.

As stipulated in the constitution of UDA, the delegates will undertake two major activities. One, election of 39 new national office bearers.

During NDC, I would expect a proposal seeking to fast-track and entrench the two-thirds gender rule to come up.

When he flouted this proposal, President William Ruto, who is the party leader, stated. A time has come for the UDA to live up to our word.

During the campaigns we promised to implement the constitutional imperative of two-thirds gender rule to the letter and spirit.

Going forward, this would be my proposal. If the party nominates a man to be the presidential candidate the running mate should be a woman or vice versa.

Going by latest development, the talk that Mudavadi was being favored by President William Ruto does not hold any water.

The President has been reprimanding and distancing himself from the leaders engaging in succession politics. I have no time for this premature and empty debates. My eyes and ears are trained on fulfilling the pledges I made during the campaign, he once said during a development tour of Western Kenya.

He was responding to claims by Kakamega Senator Bonny Khalwale that he will pass the baton to Mudavadi in 2032.

The President reiterated this position during his recent development tour of Kikuyu land in Mountain. I'm not here to do politics. I'm here to launch

and commission development projects which will transform the lives of our people in a big way.

In Mount Kenya, the allies of Deputy President are also following and monitoring closely the political activities of Kirinyaga Governor Ann Waiguru and Kiharu MP Ndingi Nyoro. They believe that the two poses a real threat to DP bid for Mount Kenya kingpin and riding on this wave to succeed Dr Ruto in 2032.

If the DP loses the kingship, this will cost him dearly. The prerogative of picking a running mate squarely lies with the President.

So, if that happened, Dr Ruto was likely to drop him and pick Ndingi or Waiguru.

The latter would stand a high chance if the proposal to create a male-female lineup sails through.

In 2022, the mountain voted as a bloc for President Ruto. Dr Ruto's prayer and wish is to rally this region behind him in 2027 polls.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Parliamentary Committee Commence Inspection On Development Projects In Western And Nyanza Regions

By: MKT Correspondents

@themkenyatimes



The committee members going through an architectural drawing of one of the projects..

Worth Noting:

- “The loan facility for the project remains unpaid after the handover and continued to accrue interest and penalties leading to LBDA negotiating with the Bank to halt accruing of interests and penalties on the project. The authority received KSh2 billion between FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18 through the ministry of devolution”, said Mr. Ochiaga.
- The MD further indicated that the current outstanding bank loan stands at Kshs 4.4 billion inclusive of interest and penalties with the Mall attracting an occupation capacity at 30 per cent.
- The Vice-Chair challenged the LBDA Management to enhance marketing and publicity strategies to advertise the project saying that people need to know about the existence of the Mall.

The National Assembly’s Departmental Committee on Regional Development is currently carrying out its oversight role by inspecting government projects managed by the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA).

The committee led by the Vice – Chair Mary Wamaua visited the Lake Basin Mall Complex who’s construction was initiated on 7th August 2013.

The Mall located at the heart of Kisumu City is a revenue generating venture aimed at uplifting the standards of living of the locals through employment opportunities and providing an avenue for conducting businesses.

The Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA), Managing Director, CPA Wycliffe Ochiaga informed the committee that the Mall’s construction begun on 7th August 2013 and was completed and handed over to LBDA on 19th April 2016.

He further indicated that Cooperative Bank facilitated the construction of the Mall at KSh2.5 billion; a loan he said was disbursed between 2013-2015.

“The loan facility for the project remains unpaid after the handover and continued to accrue interest and penalties leading to LBDA negotiating with the Bank to halt accruing of interests and penalties on the project. The authority received KSh2 billion between FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18

through the ministry of devolution”, said Mr. Ochiaga.

The MD further indicated that the current outstanding bank loan stands at Kshs 4.4 billion inclusive of interest and penalties with the Mall attracting an occupation capacity at 30 per cent.

The Vice-Chair challenged the LBDA Management to enhance marketing and publicity strategies to advertise the project saying that people need to know about the existence of the Mall.

“This is a great facility that can be well utilized to benefit the people. I challenge your marketing and publicity teams to enhance advertisement of the premises and look for other lucrative ways including lowering rent rates to attract customers”, said Wamaua.

Members echoed her sentiments adding that if a public facility like Huduma Center would be situated at the Mall, more people would visit the facility hence getting to access other services within the Mall.

Notably, the LBDA team further sited accessibility challenges saying that the road infrastructure linked to the Mall was not well carpeted for ease of movement.

At Kabuchai Constituency, committee members in the company of the area Member of Parliament for Kabuchai Constituency who is also a Member of the Committee, Ma-

jimbo Kalisanga launched St. Joseph Nalondo Girls’ and Community Water Project which is being implemented by the Lake Basin Development Authority as part of the drought mitigation measures.

The drilling, construction and equipping of the project is expected to benefit the over 1,200 learners in the School, more than 4000 households besides serving the church and the Primary School neighboring it.

“As per the hydrogeological survey report, the output of the project is expected to yield Upto 8000 Litres per hour; a yield sufficient to solve the water problem issues in the location”, said Mr. Ochiaga

Mr. Ochiaga explained that the choice of the location for the water project was greatly influenced by the high water stress levels that could not support the population of girls in the school on matters consumption and hygiene.

The school management appreciated the gesture saying that the project will bridge a huge gap by improving hygiene in the learning environment, improved academic performance and marked reduction of social-related challenges attributed to insecurities when searching for water outside the confines of the institution.

Wamaua commended LBDA for the water project initiative while underscoring the importance of hygiene in schools and particularly girl’s schools

saying that it will boost their confidence hence leading to improved performance.

The committee also visited the Kisumu International Convection Center; a project managed by the state department for devolution.

Mr. Maurice Ogolla representing PS devolution indicated that the facility when completed, is expected to serve as a multi-sectorial conference center.

Members observed that project had stalled and the contractors were not on site by the indication of a busy environment showing little or no activity on site.

Mr. Ogolla explained that the project was inactive due to lack of funds and contractors had not been paid at the time of the committee visit.

Members committed to engage stakeholders involved in the multi-billion project to ensure its completion.

The was also expected to visit the Nyakoe Market in Kisii county, Rice Milling Plant and Fingerlings Multiplication Project both in Kisumu.

Other members carrying out the inspection visit include ; Kombe Harrison, Nabulindo Peter, Cherorot Kimutai, Khamis Chome, Paul Abuor, Tungule Charo, Yaqub Farah and area MP, Shakeel Shabbir

Committee On Members' Services And Facilities Roots For Improved Welfare Of Constituency Officers

By: PSCU

Legislators drawn from the National Assembly's Committee on Members' Services have rooted for the enhanced welfare of staff serving in constituency offices.

The members want the Parliamentary Service Commission to extend among others, an opportunity for capacity building for the officers whose welfare is funded by the Commission. The move is in a bid to address various shortcomings cited during the committee's fact finding mission to select Constituency offices last year.

The lawmakers led by the committee chairperson Stephen Wachira Karani from Laikipia West constituency were speaking in a committee retreat held in Mombasa County.

The retreat considered among other matters, the report on visits done in Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa, Laikipia and Nyandarua Counties, with the

MPs highlighting the need to engage senior Parliamentary staff in conducting training for Constituency staff in collaboration with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPST) so as to build their capacity on the workings of Parliament.

They however thanked the Parliamentary Service Commission for the improved disbursement of salaries and other emoluments to Constituency and County offices. They noted that this had eased the operations of these Offices.

The committee is scheduled to visit more Constituency offices in the near future to get more insights from staff working in those offices on how Parliament can improve their welfare, and on how those offices can enhance Parliament's outreach programme.



Dr Wachira Karani

The Mt. Kenya Times



Nipped In The Bud



With the seeds of its petition,
The other seeds,
Seeds of damnation blossomed
And loomed for long till the day
Of wreckage,
And it's abortion
Was deliberate
And
Mandatory.

Nonetheless, do you mind
To step down and draw

The heavenly stars onto me?
Do you wish me, a bald though tender?
Will you uproot ours like your
Conservative dad has lawn suit
To cause me either beside
My libidinous yearns?

Albeit crippled at infancy,
Tomorrow grass will grow
And let you not keep your poor Dada's
Status quo
I say, uproot not the sprouts
But water them to make
A greener shrub for your
Long disenchanted he goat
To browse.

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In a local kitchen. All glory to God.
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Poetry isn't dead.

The Versatile Arati Manas

Das



Arati Manas Das is a versatile personality as she is a Teacher, Dancer, Author, Fitness Dance Instructor. She has won many titles in the field of Beauty Pageant which includes 'Mrs. Glittering Queen of India', 'Mrs. Sensation', 'Mrs. India Flykee', 'Mrs. Inspiration' etc. Arati has received ample of awards like Mahatma Gandhi Ratan Award, Her ka Hunar, Nari Gaurav Award, Maharashtra Icon, Acharya Devo Bhav,

The Best Teacher Award, Rashtra Gaurav Award, Goldaze Award, Shikshak Ratn Award, etc.

She had been the face of some of the magazines too which contain 'The Rising Star', 'Namya', etc.

Arati has worked as the Groomer, Chief Guest, VIP Guest or the Jury in many events and shows.

She is the published Author. Her 5 solo books have been launched and are live on Amazon and Flipkart. Guldasta, Frame of Feelings, Vichardharain, Gravity of Words, Love vs Self Respect are her creations.

Arati has also worked as an influencer. She was the face of some of the products launches like Kotharis's Organic Products, Ramico's Beauty Products etc.

The Paddleboat

POET: Collins I. Munyanda.
COUNTRY: Zimbabwe.

Redcliff Paddleboat old people's home,
teems with sluggish, skin wrinkled senile men,
and archaic pink gummed, thin grey-haired women

Once, in times past,
consanguineous muscles rippled with dazzling
vitality,
feminine divine beauty exuded moonlit glory.
That, in those lost glorious seasons,
tumbled fortified castles,
metamorphosed noble men's hearts to stone.
Conquests now gone, devoured eternally,
by the conspiring dastard hands of time.

A dark hideous side
veils old inhabitants from the fervent outside
world.
These imbecile folk now became sleepless,
eyes blinded by geriatric, deleterious dust.

Antiquated mindsets no longer cogitate
discernment.
Wizzled breaths efflux gutturally between
creased lips.
Wobbly, bony anatomy chastise flaccid varlour.

Eulogistic winter hearths flare up no more,
hearths' rugs been long consumed by ravaging
overzealous termites.

Classical culture-rhythms dissipate away,
unabated.
Distant euphonious African drum beats bane
weary ears.

Half toothless astute mouths,
testify perpetually enlightened discernment.
In solitude or antiquated assemblage,
Paddleboat residents reminisce faded vulnerable
youthfulness.

And the comminutive 'Old Order's replacement by
the novel 'New World'.

And delusive politicians' disloyalty that pillage
dreams,
and ignites paramount nightmares.
They firmly rekindle condemnation of ravenous
human graves enterprise.

Through life's fading resolute moments,
blistering days, torrential nights,
they wonder about desultory absence of long gone
children.
Lonely christmas seasons without festal family
laughter.

Once, twice, when canorous chirping birds fly
overhead,
Archaic romantic memories fulminate intoxicating
dopamine covenants.
And brew assiduous loneliness.

And patronizes old souls weighed down by
effected seduced truths,
and dolorous combative thoughts.
Solemn days' breezes cannot redeem faltering
forsaken souls.
Gleaming nocturnal silver moon smites them into
mockery by night.

Earth's solitary summers import howling winds,
pummeling resuscitation to no avail.

Cold winters congeal bony fingers and hallowed
faces.

Ooh, renounced feeble citizens,
no longer gave gratitude to nature's ravishing
endowments.

Emaciated dwellers encapsulated in dusky
moments,
abdicated petition for life's eminence.

Mother's Love



A mother's love is boundless, she thinks of her child in every step she takes and in the food she eats, she is a mother who shares a piece of bread with her child even if she struggles for a piece of bread. How many pains and hardships our mothers endured before bringing us to this bright world. But are we children worthy of the

sufferings and sufferings that our mothers endured while we were growing up, and those who walked through the bitter thorns of life for us?
No! No matter how much we say that we love our mother, we still cannot feel the sufferings that our mother suffered.

A mother's love is warm and never ending, it always warms us and protects us from bad things. Also, the fact that a mother does not sleep on her child's head is a clear example of a mother's love

Rajabova Rukhshona Toychi was born on October 17, 2005 in Urgut district of Samarkand region. Currently, he is a 1st-year student of the Faculty of Uzbek Language and Literature of Tashkent International University of Financial Management and Technologies. In his free time, he likes to draw and write articles. We wish Rukhshona good luck and success in her future endeavors!

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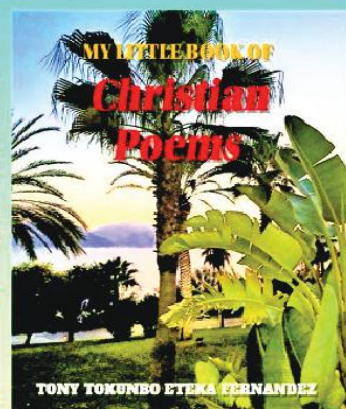
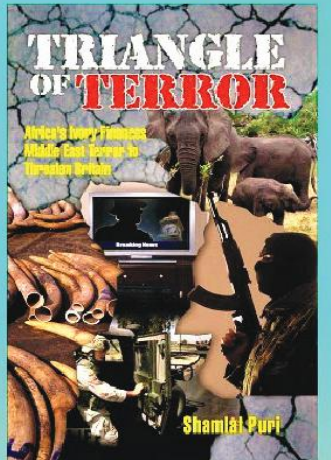
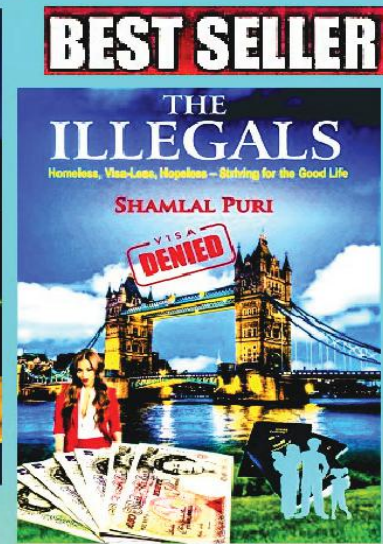
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CDF Assesses Mai Mahiu Search And Recovery Efforts

By: KBC Digital

The Chief of Defence Forces General Charles Kahariri visited the Mai Mahiu Disaster Recovery Center to assess the ongoing multi-agency efforts following recent flash floods that led to the loss of lives, displacement of people and destruction of infrastructure.

He was received by the General Officer Commanding Border Security Command Major General John Nkomo, who is also the National Floods Coordination Centre Commander, alongside the Governor of Nakuru Susan Kihika.

The CDF was apprised of the progress of the search and recovery efforts for victims of the Mai Mahiu tragedy. He was informed that over 300 people were displaced, 112 injured and 52 fatalities registered so far as search efforts continue to recover the missing persons.

Due to the magnitude of the tragedy, KDF joined the multi-agency team,

composed of various Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the County Government of Nakuru and other non-state actors, on Tuesday, 30 April 2024, deploying its capability to synergize the search and recovery operations.

The CDF said that the deployment is in line with the secondary role of the KDF, of assisting and cooperating with other government agencies, especially during emergencies and disasters to safeguard the lives of Kenyans.

“KDF has deployed varied capabilities and is working with the multi-agency teams to support the affected families, including those who have lost their loved ones. When we come together, we get to serve the nation better. Most importantly, is to closely monitor the situation to determine who is in greater danger and sensitize the people in prone areas to move to safer grounds,” said General Kahariri.

The CDF interacted with victims accommodated at Ngeya Girls Secondary School before visiting the affected sites at the Georges and Magathi bridges. He further witnessed ongoing



The CDF was apprised of the progress of the search and recovery efforts for victims of the Mai Mahiu tragedy.

preparations at the new rescue centre, planned to host the displaced families.

The Nakuru Governor appreciated the support by KDF, saying it has greatly enhanced the search and re-

covery efforts, resulting in more bodies being retrieved from debris by the multi-agency teams.

The Mai Mahiu tragedy occurred on 29th April 2024 after a tunnel situated on the hilly area of old Kijabe Road in Kiambu County accumulated wa-

ter due to blockage along the Meter Gauge Railway and the increased water burst the soaked walls, sweeping households along River Tongi from Kamuchira village through Mai Mahiu.

Mai Mahiu Tragedy Death Toll Hits 58

By: KBC Correspondent

The death toll from the Mai Mahiu tragedy has hit 58 after more bodies were recovered along the flood pathway in an exercise led by KDF officers.

Three more bodies including that of a minor were retrieved even as more rains continued to pound the area raising fears of more flooding.

This came as the national and Nakuru County government moved to close the Ngeya Secondary IDP camp by relocating the victims to rented houses and a nearby children’s home.

According to Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika, the support of KDF officers had seen more bodies recovered hitting the 58 mark.

Speaking in Mai Mahiu, she said that 32 people were still missing as the search was widened to neighbouring villages and dams where the floods swept through.

“We shall be holding a Memorial service next week for the victims and the government will support the burial exercise,” she said.

She added the county had rented houses for 56 households while the rest would go to the children’s home.

On her part, Gilgil MP Martha Wangari called on Kenyans to heed government directives and move away from flooded areas.

Wangari who led area residents in donating to the affected families said that they had identified affected areas in Gilgil.

“This is a national tragedy and we should join hands in supporting the affected and make sure we move away from water ways to avoid more deaths,” she said

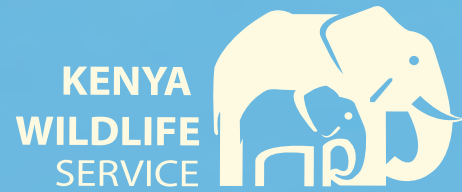
Naivasha MP Jane Kihara expressed her concern over the rising water levels in the area as more dams in the upper areas filled.

“We have seen the intensity of water flowing from upper areas rise and we are worried by Magena dam which has filled up,” he said

Others who spoke were Bishop Ben Kiengei from JCM Church who called on Kenyans to stop driving or walking through flooded sections to avoid unnecessary deaths.



Photo: Reuters



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Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

President Ruto Set To Appoint High Court Judges

By: KBC Reporter

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has forwarded 20 names to President William Ruto for appointment as High Court Judges.

Chief Justice Martha Koome, Chairperson of the JSC, said the panel arrived at the list following interviews conducted between April 3 and May 3 this year.

JSC noted that the application attracted 305 applications and short-listed 100 candidates for review.

The transmission of names comes at a time the Judiciary is seeking to enhance service delivery with the recruitment of additional personnel.

President Ruto had pledged, on January 20, to scale up the efficiency of the Judiciary through the appointment of extra judges in the appellate and high courts of Kenya.

He made the commitment during an inaugural Heads of Arms Summit attended by National Assembly and Senate Speakers as well as the Chief Justice.



Raila Calls On Kenyans To Stand Firm And Defend Democracy

By: KBC Correspondent

Azimio la Umoja leader Raila Odinga has urged Kenyans to be steadfast in defence of the democratic gains that the country has made over the years.

Among the gains that the former Prime Minister urged Kenyans to defend are the freedom of speech and devolution which, he added, the champions of democracy suffered for despite heavy reprisal from the past regimes.

He was speaking at Got Agulu in Usigu division, Bondo Sub County during the funeral of the late Hellen Odera, a widow of the late Odindo Odera who was the chief communications officer of Kenya's first vice president, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. Raila, who was flanked by Siaya Governor James Orengo and his

Kisumu counterpart Anyang' Nyong'o said the struggles of freedom fighters were not in vain as the country has achieved tremendous growth since the advent of devolution.

He told Kenyans that his quest for the African Union commission chairmanship will not alienate him from Kenyans, adding that he will still be available.

Azimio la Umoja leader Raila Odinga





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flood Havoc in Kenya: Assessing the Impact on Communities and Environment

The recent heavy rains in Kenya have brought about devastating floods that have left many Kenyans struggling to cope with the aftermath. From destroyed homes and infrastructure to disrupted transportation and loss of crops, the effects of the floods are widespread and severe.

In many parts of the country, rivers have burst their banks, flooding homes and displacing thousands of families. Roads have been rendered impassable, making it difficult for residents to access basic necessities such as food and

medical supplies. Crops have been destroyed, further exacerbating the already dire food insecurity situation in the country.

The situation is particularly dire in low-lying areas and informal settlements, where residents are at a higher risk of being affected by the floods. Many families have been forced to evacuate their homes and seek shelter in makeshift camps, placing an added burden on already overstretched humanitarian resources.

The government and humanitarian

organizations have been working to provide relief to those affected by the floods, distributing food, water, and other essential supplies to those in need. However, the sheer scale of the disaster means that more assistance is urgently needed to help those affected rebuild their lives.

In addition to the immediate impact of the floods, there are also long-term concerns about the potential for waterborne diseases to spread in the affected areas. With stagnant water pooling in many parts of the country, there is a

heightened risk of outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and malaria, further complicating the already challenging situation.

As the rains continue to fall and rivers continue to rise, it is clear that the people of Kenya need all the support they can get to weather this crisis. It is imperative that the government, humanitarian organizations, and the international community come together to provide the necessary resources and assistance to help those affected by the floods rebuild their homes and their

lives.

Only through a coordinated and comprehensive response can we hope to mitigate the impact of this disaster and prevent further suffering for the people of Kenya.

By Jack Ngungu and Godwin Otieno (media students, Rongo university Migori county)

Bridging The Gap: Addressing Youth Unemployment Post-Graduation

In the journey from academia to the workforce, one of the most daunting challenges that many young graduates face is unemployment. Despite investing years in education and training, a significant portion of youth find themselves grappling with the harsh reality of joblessness after graduating from college or university. The phenomenon of youth unemployment not only hampers individual career prospects but also poses broader socio-economic implications for societies worldwide.

Youth unemployment is a persistent global challenge, with young people disproportionately affected by job scarcity and economic instability. According to recent statistics, youth unemployment rates are often higher than those of older age groups, with disparities varying across regions and countries. The transition from education to employment can be jarring, as many graduates find themselves ill-prepared to navigate the

competitive job market. Mismatched expectations between academic qualifications and job requirements, coupled with limited work experience, exacerbate the challenge of securing meaningful employment.

Structural barriers such as limited job opportunities, lack of vocational training programs, and rigid hiring practices contribute to the persistence of youth unemployment. Additionally, economic downturns, technological advancements, and globalization further compound the challenges faced by young job seekers.

Unemployment among youth can lead to financial strain, as graduates struggle to repay student loans, cover living expenses, and support themselves financially. This financial instability can hinder personal development, delay major life milestones, and exacerbate socio-economic inequalities.

The experience of prolonged unemployment can take a toll on young

people's mental health and well-being. Feelings of worthlessness, anxiety, and depression are common among unemployed youth, as they grapple with uncertainty about their future prospects and self-worth. Without opportunities for meaningful employment, young graduates risk stagnation in their skill development and professional growth. Prolonged unemployment can lead to skill atrophy, diminishing the competitiveness and employability of youth in the long run.

Fostering closer collaboration between educational institutions and industries can help bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world employment needs. Curriculum revisions, internship programs, and experiential learning opportunities can better equip graduates with the skills and knowledge demanded by the labor market.

Encouraging entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth can

provide alternative pathways to economic empowerment. Supportive policies, access to financing and entrepreneurial training programs can nurture a culture of innovation and enterprise among young graduates. Governments, businesses, and civil society organizations must work collaboratively to create more job opportunities for youth, particularly in emerging sectors such as renewable energy, digital technology, and healthcare. Investing in infrastructure, green industries, and innovation hubs can stimulate job creation and economic growth.

Providing comprehensive career guidance, mentorship, and job placement services can enhance young graduates' employability and resilience in the job market. Tailored support programs for vulnerable groups, including marginalized youth, refugees, and persons with disabilities, are essential for fostering inclusive economic participation.

Youth unemployment poses a significant challenge to societies worldwide, undermining individual aspirations, economic prosperity, and social cohesion. Addressing this challenge requires concerted efforts from policymakers, educators, employers, and young people themselves. By investing in education-employment alignment, promoting entrepreneurship, expanding job opportunities, and supporting career development initiatives, we can empower young graduates to navigate the transition to the workforce successfully. Together, we can bridge the gap between education and employment and unlock the full potential of our youth as drivers of sustainable development and prosperity.

By Sharon Nasiche (media students, Rongo university Migori county)

The Struggle Of Kenyan Doctors In The Fight For Fair Treatment

By Prudence Bidii and Mercy Jepkemoi

The ongoing doctor's strike in Kenya has plunged the healthcare system into chaos, leaving many without the critical care they desperately require. As the country grapples with the relentless challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the absence of healthcare workers amplifies the urgency of the situation.

The genesis of this crisis stems from the longstanding struggle for fair

treatment and better working conditions faced by healthcare professionals in Kenya. For years, doctors have raised concerns about inadequate resources, understaffed facilities, and meager salaries. The recent strike serves as a reminder of these unaddressed grievances, as doctors take a stand to demand justice and reform within the healthcare sector.

The repercussions of the doctor's strike reflect across the nation, affecting patients from all walks of

life. A mother anxiously waits outside a hospital, clutching her feverish child, only to be turned away due to the lack of medical personnel. A senior citizen struggles to access essential medications as pharmacies run dry without doctors to authorize prescriptions. The most vulnerable members of society bear the brunt of this crisis, caught in a web of uncertainty and despair.

While the government has pledged to address the demands of the strik-

ing doctors, negotiations remain deadlocked, prolonging the agony for those in need of urgent medical attention. The impasse between healthcare workers and authorities underscores the deep-rooted systemic challenges that plague the healthcare system in Kenya.

In the midst of this tension, a glimmer of hope emerges as communities come together to support one another in the face of adversity. Volunteer groups provide medical aid, students

offer their services, and local leaders advocate for swift resolutions to end the standoff. The resilience and solidarity displayed by Kenyans during these trying times exemplify the unwavering spirit of unity in the face of crisis.

Addressing The Silent Struggle Of Women's Stress In Kenya

By: Deborah Monari
 @themkenyatimes

As we observe Stress Awareness Month this April, it's vital to focus on the issue of stress among women in Kenya that's often overlooked. Most traditional norms and cultural practices in tribes normalize behaviors that contribute to this stress, leading to a cycle of violence and degradation against women.

In some communities, it's acceptable for brothers to physically punish their sisters, while women are expected to bear the sole responsibility of household chores. Such ingrained attitudes reflect a society that undervalues and disrespects women for a long time, creating an environment where crimes like physical violence, femicide, and sexual assault flourish.

Women frequently experience many forms of harassment when strolling through Nairobi City, from offensive remarks to unwanted advances and physical contact. These incidents may seem insignificant, but they add

to a culture of tension and anxiety among women.

Victims of violence are often blamed. In addition, society is quick to find excuses for the perpetrators' actions, ranging from how a woman dresses or her perceived defiance towards her spouse. This outdated mentality of blaming victims only further marginalizes and silences women, becoming a barrier to their recovery from their trauma and their ability to get treatment.

It is imperative that we recognize the consequences that this stress has on women. Any woman shouldn't have to put up with this kind of abuse, not only in terms of the physical wounds but also the lasting psychological damage. A wounded woman, whether physically or emotionally, is unable to unlock her full potential in many aspects of life. It's a loss to herself, her family, and the community at large. We should not have to live in fear or face prejudice.

Increasing awareness of the problem is the first step in taking action. But this on its own is insufficient. Additionally, we need to act to alter the structures that support this prejudice



Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board CEO Lilian Kimeto

against women. This entails questioning established gender norms, promoting legislative changes, and holding offenders responsible for

their deeds.

As a nation, we all have a part to play in this. It's my hope that every woman will be able to thrive free of

fear, violence, or scars.

Written by Deborah Monari - From Nguvu Collective

Senate Trade Committee Considers The Draft Report Of The Co-Operative Societies (Amendment) Bill

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Senate Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism retreated to Machakos County to consider the draft Report on the Co-operatives Societies Bill

This amendment bill Senate's Bill No. 53 of 2023.

The Bill, sponsored by Senator Mariam Omar seeks to amend various sections of the Co-operative Societies Act to align it with the provisions of Part Two of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution providing that co-operative development is a devolved function.

The Bill was read for the First Time in the Senate on Thursday last week.

While considering the draft Report last Friday, the members of the Senator Lenku Seki-led Committee combed through the Amendment

Bill clause by clause and proposed the necessary amendments meant to devolve the development of co-operative societies in counties.

The Legislators also considered the draft Report on the Petition on the Fraudulent Acquisition of Shareholding at the East African Breweries Limited (EABL).

The chairperson now awaits the adoption of the final Report on the Co-operatives Societies (Amendment) Bill by at least five members of the committee before tabling it on the Floor of the House.



Some of the committee members during the Friday session.

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Sports >> *PSV Eindhoven were crowned Dutch champions for the 25th time yesterday, the club's first title since 2018, in a season also notable for the implosion of rivals Ajax.

PSV Eindhoven Crowned Dutch Champions



PSV supporters cheer during the Dutch Eredivisie football match between PSV Eindhoven and Sparta Rotterdam at the Philips stadium, in Eindhoven, on May 5, 2024.

(Photo by MAURICE VAN STEEN / ANP / AFP) / NETHERLANDS OUT

PSV Eindhoven were crowned Dutch champions for the 25th time on Sunday, the club's first title since 2018, in a season also notable for the implosion of rivals Ajax.

Peter Bosz's men made sure of the Eredivisie trophy with two games to spare via a 4-2 win over Sparta Rotterdam in a party atmosphere at a sunny Philips Stadion.

This meant second-placed Feyenoord could no longer catch PSV, who celebrated in front of their jubilant fans at the final whistle.

It has been a season to remember for the Eindhoven club whose shirt has been graced by Brazilians Romario and Ronaldo, as well as Dutch legends Mark van Bommel and Arjen Robben.

They went 17 games before even dropping a point in the Eredivisie, finally losing their unbeaten record on the 27th matchday with a 3-1 loss away to NEC Nijmegen.

Particularly sweet was a 5-2 win at home to Ajax and a crunch 2-1 victory away in Feyenoord's

intimidating De Kuip stadium, which set PSV on their way towards the title.

Central to PSV's success this term has been the form of their veteran Dutch striker Luuk de Jong, whose 27 goals has made him the league's joint top scorer.

This team has some way to go before matching the legendary 1987/88 Guus Hiddink-coached side that swept all before them, beating Benfica on penalties in the European Cup final.

But the Eredivisie trophy will assuage the frustrations of previous seasons when PSV finished second on three consecutive occasions, watching Ajax or Feyenoord lift the title.

PSV also enjoyed a good run in Europe, coming second in a Champions League group that included Arsenal, Sevilla and Lens, before crashing out to Borussia Dortmund in the last 16.

Horror season for Ajax Feyenoord can count themselves unlucky to have come up against an all-conquering PSV this year -- the Rotterdam club

have only lost twice all season in the top flight.

The De Kuip faithful will settle for second place plus a Dutch Cup triumph but are set to lose their coach, with Arne Slot heading to Liverpool to replace Jurgen Klopp.

Meanwhile, Ajax fans would settle for anything after a season which would have Johan Cruyff turning in his grave.

The four-time European Cup champions seem unlikely to qualify for any European football next season, lying a shocking fifth - nine points behind AZ Alkmaar.

The 5-2 win for PSV over Ajax in October was doubly joyous for the Eindhoven club as it also, briefly, condemned their perennial rivals to a historic last place in the Eredivisie.

Historic low followed historic low Ajax, a club that counts Cruyff, Marco Van Basten and Dennis Bergkamp as alumni, as they crashed out of the Dutch club to amateur club Hercules.

The nadir for the Amsterdam club came in early April when

they suffered humiliation in De Kuip, losing 6-0 to Feyenoord in the Dutch "Klassieker."

Frustrations on the pitch have boiled over into violence in the stands and chaos in the boardroom.

CEO and chairman Alex Kroes was suspended on suspicion of insider trading, only to return a few weeks later as technical director.

A few days after his suspension, it emerged that club chairman Michael van Praag, who had vocally criticised Kroes, had "forgotten" to declare his own shares in the club to the correct authorities.

Vitesse Arnhem were relegated for the first time in 35 seasons after the Dutch federation imposed an 18-point penalty on them.

They currently sit on two points after their punishment for breaches of the league's licensing regulations.

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Sports >> *Real Madrid clinched the Spanish title on Saturday for the fourth time in 12 years, beating Cadiz 3-0 before previous champions Barcelona lost 4-2 at Girona.

Five Key Factors In Real Madrid's Title Triumph



Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti reacts during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final second-leg football match between Manchester City and Real Madrid, at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester, north-west England, on April 17, 2024. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP)

Real Madrid clinched the Spanish title on Saturday for the fourth time in 12 years, beating Cadiz 3-0 before previous champions Barcelona lost 4-2 at Girona.

Carlo Ancelotti's side romped clear of last season's winners and shock challengers Girona to clinch their record-extending 36th La Liga trophy.

AFP Sport breaks down the keys to Los Blancos' domestic success this season:

Brilliant Bellingham
Nobody expected Jude Bellingham to have such an instant impact in Spain after his move from Borussia Dortmund last summer.

The England international quickly established himself as a key player in attacking areas for Madrid with ten goals in his first ten league matches, replacing the departed Karim Benzema.

Although his numbers have dipped in the second half of the campaign, Bellingham remains Los Blancos' top scorer with 18 in La Liga, and Ancelotti also regularly exalts his strong work ethic.

Catalan capitulation
Barcelona looked revitalised last season under Xavi Hernandez, but the champions struggled badly in the first half of the season.

Their previously rock-solid defence gave way with alarming regularity and Madrid's consistency, falling to just one defeat in the whole campaign to date, made their march to the title feel an inevitability.

Barcelona found new life after January but it was too little, too late for Madrid's arch-rivals.

Mentality masters
Real Madrid are admired for their never-say-die attitude and assuredness in big matches. In their key La Liga battles against Girona and Barcelona, they triumphed on every occasion.

Ancelotti's side hammered Girona 3-0 in September in a show of strength and then crushed the Catalan minnows 4-0 in February to completely deflate their title bid.

Against Barcelona, Bellingham delivered stoppage-time winners in both league match-ups, firing

Madrid to a 2-1 away triumph in October and a 3-2 victory in April at the Santiago Bernabeu.

And when Madrid were not playing well in some of the lower-key matches, they managed at least to draw. "To win a league, the games you can't win, you can't lose either," noted Ancelotti.

Durable defence
Real Madrid were dealt multiple set-backs this season in defence with Thibaut Courtois, Eder Militao and David Alaba all sidelined with long-term injuries. Despite that, they boast the strongest record at the back in La Liga.

Antonio Rudiger has raised his level to marshal the defence, while right-back Dani Carvajal is in arguably the best form of his career.

Defensive midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni has dropped into the back line without fuss when required and always looked solid despite playing out of position.

Madrid's squad players have also contributed in key moments, with Lucas Vazquez shining at right-

back in the recent Clasico.

Carlo's calls
Madrid coach Ancelotti has got his biggest decisions right this season. The coach's first call was to deploy Bellingham as part of a three-pronged attack with Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes, a role which his previous bosses had not envisioned for him.

The Italian managed Rodrygo's issues in front of goal well, keeping faith in the Brazilian, who made a point of celebrating with his coach after ending his drought in November.

Ancelotti has slowly phased out ageing great Luka Modric while still calling on him at the right times.

He kept squad players including Brahim Diaz and Joselu involved and hungry and both scored against Cadiz on the day Madrid won La Liga.

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SPORTS NEWS



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Unforgettable Pages In The World Of Books



By: Ne'matova Farangiz
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Worth Noting:

- True, he made a mistake, but he realised his mistake and returned to Islam, and at the same time, he became an example to his friends who had strayed from the right path and caused them to return to the path of guidance.
- He thought, "Either I have to return to God, or I have to leave God completely." But in his blood flowed the blood of a real, pure Islamic man. That is why he could not turn away from Allah. I think people of all ages should read the book. I think that it is a work that reminds people of their faith once again.



Learn from the cradle to the grave. Humanity is interested in learning and reading books. This is one of the first books on earth. "Avesta" is a book. This book is one of the sacred books of the Zoroastrian religion. The book describes the history of the 3rd-7th centuries BC.

There is a lot of information about the way of life and the financial situation of the countries. 4/1 of the Avesta has reached us. According to the hadiths, reading books is both a duty and a debt. Reading helps to generate new and unique ideas. Reading encourages us to think. Sometimes our dreams also depend on the happy books we read. Also, reading enriches our outlook and leads us to wisdom. The more books a person reads, the more his intel-

ligence and ability to think deeply grow. In addition, inflection increases our vocabulary. According to studies, it has been proven that the vocabulary of people who read a lot of books is much more fluent than others. It's easy to single out people who read a lot or the opposite.

"Imam's Mannequin Girl," is a work written by the famous Turkish writer Amina Şenlikoğlu. This is one of the best work that clearly shows the importance of being educated in order for women to find their place in society and not to remain spiritually backward. The book is about the life path of Imam Yakub and Gul Khanim's manly but very intelligent daughter, Fatima. Fatima was fed up with the shortcomings of her family, the simple way of

life, and the gossip of the daughter of an imam should be like that and the daughter of an imam should not do such things. In addition, the work talks about the changing nature of the youth of the entire society today, leaving Islam and plunging into another current, namely "Materialism." Fatima also seemed to get involved in this current. Since he was young, his father brought him various books, so he read so much that he even memorised the Qur'an. He thought these books were useless. But it was these books that saved him from entering this stream.

True, he made a mistake, but he realised his mistake and returned to Islam, and at the same time, he became an example to his friends who had strayed from the right path and

caused them to return to the path of guidance. He thought, "Either I have to return to God, or I have to leave God completely." But in his blood flowed the blood of a real, pure Islamic man. That is why he could not turn away from Allah. I think people of all ages should read the book. I think that it is a work that reminds people of their faith once again. In addition, the works and novels of another Russian writer, Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy, cannot fail to attract one's attention. Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy is one of the most famous Russian writers and thinkers, one of the greatest novelists in the world. Educator, publicist, religious thinker. One of his most famous novels is Anna Karenina. This work has a special place in my heart. The essence of the book "Anna Karenina" is to show the living and vivid history of different types of people: Alexey Vronsky - "golden youth", Stiva Oblonsky - "lover of an idle life", Doli Oblonskaya - "victim", Konstantin Levin - "Russian idealist", who takes an active part in people's life, Alexey Karenin - "the mighty of this world", etc. The author of the book "Anna Karenina" was able to create a novel from modern life, where good and evil, chaos and order reign. Lev Tolstoy did a great job of studying and developing the human soul, which is why the novel is relevant in any era. I think I only now understand why Tolstoy is so loved and respected! To describe in such detail the internal unrest of completely different people, to go through such a wide range of psychotypes is not very easy, for this you need to live one life with each of them. Tolstoy succeeded, and together with him we succeed too. I believe that it will be interesting for anyone to read and enjoy this book.

To sum up, reading books is not only for us young people but also for our parents, sisters, brothers, young and old. Therefore, let's increase our love for the book since it is a close companion and friend to each and every person in the world.

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