



The Finance ACT, 2024 Will Contain Crystal Clear Provisions, Committee Assures Kenya Bankers Association

The Finance Act 2024 will have crystal clear provisions devoid of ambiguity, the National Assembly Committee on Finance and National Planning has assured.

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News>>The 5th Engineering Professionals Convention Taking Place In Nyeri

P. 8. Hundreds of professionals in the Engineering world are meeting at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology near Nyeri town for their fifth convention.



News>>Government To Deal Mercilessly With Criminals, CS Kindiki Tells The Senate

P. 12. The government will deal mercilessly with people propagating criminal activities across the country. Appearing before the Senate to respond to questions by the Senators, Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Pro. Kithure Kindiki said the government will mercilessly deal with criminals

Doctors Sign Return To Work Formula



Doctors have signed a return to work formula with government effectively ending 56 days strike.

The agreement was reached after prolonged discussions involving the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union (KMPDU), all healthcare workers, and various stakeholders. Speaking after signing of the agreement, Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha expressed gratitude to all parties involved in the negotiations, acknowledging the tireless efforts of Ministry of Health staff, Principal Secretaries, technical officers, and the Whole-of-Nation approach committee led by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei.



KMPDU signed the deal with MoH and CoG in the presence of Head of Public Service Felix Koskei/MoH

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

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We Shall Stop Them In Their Tracks, Finance Committee Reassures Boda Boda Operators On Unscrupulous Asset Finance Entities

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- On his part, James Sambai, who leads a welfare group in Langata area said over 10 riders in his welfare group had mysteriously lost their motor cycles just when they were about to complete the payment of their loan facilities.
- A similar account was given by Faith Otieno from Ruaraka area who specializes in online deliveries, whose motor cycle was stolen just when she had parked it to pick her child from a daycare. She revealed that she had paid a total of KSh246,000 before the bike got stolen.



Parliamentary committee members and Bodaboda operators during yesterday's meeting

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning will get to the bottom of the operations of unscrupulous asset finance entities, the committee has pledged.

Committee members made the commitment during public hearings in respect to the inquiry on alleged exploitative lending practices faced by the operators across the country through asset finance entities under *Buy Pay Later* model.

Inundated by accounts of harrowing experiences that boda boda operators have undergone in the hands of these unscrupulous lenders, the legislators noted that it was to time to stop these entities on the tracks by creating a stringent legal frame-

work to regulate the sector.

Lawrence Karanja who chairs a welfare group of fellow riders in Westlands told the committee that an asset lending entity - Watu Credit carted away a motor cycle belonging to one of his members, after he had completed a loan facility extended to him.

The motor cycle has never been recovered.

On his part, James Sambai, who leads a welfare group in Langata area said over 10 riders in his welfare group had mysteriously lost their motor cycles just when they were about to complete the payment of their loan facilities.

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Otieno from Ruaraka area who specializes in online deliveries, whose motor cycle was stolen just when she had parked it to pick her child from a daycare. She revealed that she had paid a total of KSh246,000 before the bike got stolen.

The committee heard that despite the hundreds of the motorcycles stolen being insured by the lenders themselves and installed with a tracking device, they had neither been compensated nor had the tracking system led to their discoveries.

Some of the riders also claimed that their colleagues had lost their lives soon after completion of the payment of their loans, under very unclear circumstances.

Others told the committee that they had

received threats from the rogue companies after they had appeared in the media during an earlier engagement with the committee on the matter.

"We live in constant fear. You have no idea who your next client is and what their intentions are. We urge this committee to protect us", Eric Wambua, a rider from Njiru area in Nairobi county, pleaded.

Led by the chairperson Hon. Kuria Kimani the members assured the over 50 operators who had gone to give their witness accounts, that the committee would stop at nothing until the ongoing exploitation that has caused them untold suffering is stopped.

"We are paid to work for you. We have invited you here because we believe this engagement will offer you reprieve from the agony you have been made to go through. We are therefore committed to this cause and we shall make strong recommendations in our report which will end up on the floor of the House for consideration", Kimani told them.

His sentiments were echoed by committee Members Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Umulkheir Kassim (Mandera), Paul Biego (Chesumei) and John Ariko who expressed concerns that such exploitation had been going on unabated.

The matter was first brought to the attention of the House by Munyoro when he sought a statement on the floor of the House from the committee chairperson on the matter.

The Speaker committed the matter to the committee, which thereafter commenced an inquiry on the allegations.

Having received the submissions from the operators, the committee is next week scheduled to engage with the five lenders whom allegations were leveled against, alongside the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) and the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) to shed more light on the matter.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kiambu MPs held a consultative meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Water, Zacharia Njeru, to discuss water-related issues in the county. The delegation included Senator Karungo wa Thang'wa and eight MPs, who discussed water projects and the relocation of residents near the Karimenu 2 dam. The dam, built at a cost of KSh24 billion, supplies over 70 million litres per day and is about to burst banks due to heavy rainfall. Njeru informed the MPs that the government has released funds to relocate and compensate a section of Karimenu 2 dam-affected residents. The delayed construction of the fence has continued to expose the residents to imminent danger should water from the dam spill over owing to the ongoing heavy rains.



The Kenya Association of Manufacturers has donated food worth Sh700,000 to flood victims in Machakos. The food is meant to cushion families displaced by the floods in Athiriver, Masinga, Yatta, and Mwala sub-counties. The association has also donated KSh5.1 million to reconstruct ECDE classrooms destroyed in the floods. The food will go a long way in helping close to 15,000 families displaced by the floods. Machakos Chief of Staff, Lawrence Ngovi, hailed the KAM for their timely donation, as 23 ECDE classrooms from the Nine Sub-counties have been destroyed by the floods. The county has reported 22 deaths due to flood-related incidents.



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has formed a Rapid Response Team to address flood damage caused by severe rains in the county. The team, led by the governor and other county dignitaries, will coordinate rescue operations, sanitation efforts, and essential services for over 100,000 affected residents. The team has identified areas prone to flooding, including Gatunyaga, Kamenu, Ngoingwa, Ruaka, Kahawa Wendani, Mwiki, Muihoko, Juja, Bosnia-Githurai, Manguo-Limuru, and parts of Kiambaa. The team is also working to improve infrastructure and provide basic needs to those affected. Rescue centres have been set up in various sub-counties, and the team has helped evacuate the occupants of a residential flat in Kiamumbi. As heavy rains continue, Kiambu residents can rest assured of the county's support.



Elgeyo Marakwet County has received movable assets worth Sh36 million from the Intergovernmental Technical Relationship Committee (ITRC). The county received 193 assets, including 88 motor vehicles, 91 motor bikes, and 10 plants. Most of the assets were in working condition, but most were obsolete. The working assets will be deployed to departments to alleviate transport challenges, while the obsolete ones will be disposed of and proceeds used to purchase new ones. The county will also repair two graders to assist in road maintenance. Since its inception, the county has faced transport challenges due to limited exchequer resources, forcing it to rely on donor-funded vehicles. The IRTC has been called upon to expedite the release of original logbooks for the disposal process. CEC Roads, Emmy Kosgey, thanked the IRTC for the handover of the assets, as they belonged to defunct local authorities.

The government has distributed 140 bags of rice and beans to residents of Nyatike Sub County in Migori County who were displaced by floods. The floods have affected approximately 840 individuals, 70 households, 10 schools, 6 dispensaries, and 10 roads across Migori County. The government is focusing on providing immediate relief and implementing sustainable solutions to safeguard communities against future calamities. An additional 200 bags of rice and 300 bags of beans will be distributed by Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary, Eliud Owalo. A total of 360 bags of beans and 240 bags of rice relief supplies have been disbursed in Nyatike South, with additional support provided to women in the form of 20 cartons of sanitary towels and various kits of medical supplies. The government is also working with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the National Environment Management Authority, and other stakeholders to identify safe riparian areas for relocation and to expand irrigable land.

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Doctors Sign Return To Work Formula, Ends Strike



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ment, Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha expressed gratitude to all parties involved in the negotiations, acknowledging the tireless efforts of Ministry of Health staff, Principal Secretaries, technical officers, and the Whole-of-Nation approach committee led by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei.

The Cabinet Secretary also com-

mended the Industrial and Labour Relations court for its crucial role in facilitating the resolution.

While recognising the hardships endured by patients and families during the strike, the CS lauded the dedication of healthcare professionals who remained committed to their duties amid the challenging circumstances.

She applauded the resilience of doc-

tors, nurses, and community health promoters for their unwavering service, especially during the current flooding crisis affecting the nation.

CS Nakhumicha further emphasized the importance of implementing sustainable solutions to longstanding challenges in the healthcare sector.

As part of the resolution, plans are underway to review staffing norms

and standards, enhance HRH coordination through the Kenyan Health Human Resource Advisory Council, and establish an intergovernmental task force to address unresolved issues.

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The 5th Engineering Professionals Convention Taking Place In Nyeri

By: William Muchiri
@themkenyaintimes

Hundreds of professionals in the Engineering world are meeting at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology near Nyeri town for their fifth convention.

The convention, whose theme is “Engineering @60; Reflections, Response, Resetting, was officially opened by Roads and Infrastructure Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen on behalf of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

On Tuesday, Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri Warui officiated the launch of Exhibition stands where dozens of various engineering prowess are being displayed.

The convention is also being attended by professionals from several other countries.



The Engineer Board of Kenya Chairman, Eng. Erastus Mwongera, while addressing the convention, highlighted three strategic intentions of the Board that include increasing registered engineers from 3,500 to 10,000.

He thanked President William Ruto for appointing three Vice Chancellors from the Engineering profession, an initiative he acknowledged has enhanced the Board’s progress in aligning with the Washington Accord..



Speaking on behalf of the Deputy President, Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen acknowledged that Engineers play a crucial role in building climate-resilient infrastructure. The CS noted that by upholding professional standards, engineers ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of flood-resistant projects, strengthening our resilience against climate change.

He added that despite the growing demands of climate change, engineers are at the forefront, providing innovative solutions to combat flood-related challenges and bolster our overall preparedness. He further noted that their expertise is vital in mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.



Engineers Board of Kenya CEO and Registrar of the Board, Eng. Margaret Ogai speaking during the opening session where she acknowledged and applauded the presence of leaders in the engineering value chain, policymakers, and all engineers at the event. She noted that the Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC) 2024 is part of the government Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) initiative, aiming to ensure inclusive development of roads, healthcare facilities, digital superhighways, and more.



Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri Warui, Principal Secretary for Roads Eng. Joseph Mbugua, Engineering Board chairman Erastus Mwongera and other officials posing for a photo after the official opening of the convention. Photos by Paul Wanjiru



The convention venue at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.



In the breakaway session, the discussion centered around enhancing value addition and productivity in the agriculture sector. Eng. Prof. Lawrence Gumbe, the Chairman of KeSABAE, highlighted several key strategies that can be employed to achieve this goal.

One of the primary points emphasized was the importance of tilting, mechanization, market access, and storage optimization. Eng. Prof. Gumbe stressed that by focusing on these aspects, farmers can unlock greater value addition and improve the overall productivity of their agricultural operations.



Semi-Conductor Technology Limited CEO, Dr. Anthony Githinji emphasized the need for the government to create policies that support innovation, as progressive policies stimulate innovation Manufacturing and Value Addition for National Prosperity

African States Deliberate On Data Protection Framework

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyetimes

The government is fast-tracking the signing and ratification of the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Eliud Owalo has said.

He added that through the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, discussions are also underway for an Adequacy Decision with the European Union and United Emirates to promote cross-border data transfer.

Speaking when he officially opened the Network of Africa Data Protection Authorities (NADPA) Conference, the CS said Africa is experiencing rapid growth in the development of intermediate digital infrastructure, including digital identification systems, digital payment systems, and wider e-governance systems.

“Kenya, through the Ministry, is currently reviewing the legal, policy, and regulatory framework with a view to proposing reforms and new policies, including the adoption of emerging technologies, to align with the Bottom-Up-Economic Transformation Agenda,” he said.

The CS emphasised the need for Africa to keep on coping in the face of global digitalisation, even as it ensures that it is not overexposing itself to cyber execution.

“We are not going to stop digitising records and digitalising services because of cyber insecurity. But we need to come up with a very robust mitigation framework within the digital space so that, as we embark on digitalisation, we are not exposing ourselves to loopholes,” he said.

Owalo further said that there was a need to strengthen data privacy and security, but cautioned African countries against digitising everything, instead ensuring they also strengthened the risk mitigation framework to ensure a robust policy, legal, and regulatory framework on the basis of which data storage can be anchored to facilitate data privacy on the one hand and data security on the other.

He noted that the conference could not come at a better time, and that it will be a platform for leaders in the field of space to look back on the subject as an African continent, recognise the minds of those who are aware of the best of data governance, and take stock of the challenges that it has faced, as well as in the face of rapid digital transformation.

“This platform will enable us to



Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Martha Koome, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Eliud Owalo, and Eng. John Tanui, Principal Secretary, State Department of ICT, looking at the technologies displayed at the NADPA conference.

analyse areas where we have gaps and what we need to do to close those gaps from a continental perspective to strengthen the data governance framework. And at the same time, we will also have the opportunity to recognise the lessons that we have learned in history and the past and how those lessons can inform what we are going to do moving forward in the same regard,” CS Owalo said.

Africa, he said, should be able to come up with a very clear roadmap that clearly articulates the critical process partners with respect to data governance as a continent, the structures that are needed, and the ability to strengthen data governance authorities. An action plan with very clear responsibility centres, time-frames, expected outputs, and output indicators.

“What do we need to do as an African continent to ensure that we move together in tandem from the perspective of data governance and data security so that no countries are left behind? How do we come up with policies, laws, and regulations that are in tandem with each other?” Owalo said

The CS said that in order not to waste resources, countries need to be in sync, and if one country has already set up a data centre as part and parcel of their clouding cluster, they should ensure that data centres attain optimal capacity utilisation levels while leveraging on the demand of Africa as a market for Africa, avoiding duplicity, and having adequate upkeep of the data infrastructure.

“We are operating in an environ-

ment where factors keep changing. We have a lot of emerging issues in our cyberspace. We are dealing with issues like artificial intelligence and the internet of things; how do we tackle these issues when we bring together as an African continent?” he said, noting that this means all have to be proactive so that they are ahead of change.

Chief Justice, Martha Koome, who graced the occasion, said that we are in an era where we are pursuing data-informed and evidence-based decision-making, and therefore the collection and usage of data present incredible opportunities to improve governance, service delivery, and overall quality of life.

However, she noted that every time individuals engage in online activities, they leave behind a digital footprint—a trail of personal data that, if mishandled, can result in identity theft and erosion of trust in digital services.

“Balancing the imperative of providing secure services with the protection of individuals’ privacy rights is a complex and multifaceted endeavour that requires careful consideration of the trade-offs between security measures and privacy safeguard decisions that ultimately have profound implications for our democratic values and human rights,” she said.

The Supreme Court President added that the importance of data protection lies not just in compliance with laws, but in upholding the trust and confidence that citizens place in public institutions.

“Our responsibility as regulators and protectors of privacy is to ensure that data collection adheres to stringent data privacy principles, but data protection authorities must also invest in public education initiatives, raising awareness about data privacy rights and the dangers of data exploitation.

As Africa embarks on its digital transformation, the Chief Justice noted that the appetite for data on the continent is growing exponentially, and with the proliferation of digital technologies, there is an increasing risk of exploitation by entities that seek to mine data for their own gain. Therefore, the onus is on us to safeguard the interests of our populations.

The German Ambassador to Kenya, Sebastian Groth, said the digital economy and data protection are playing a very important role in unlocking the potential of economic growth.

He said that Data breaches and privacy violations have become more common in our increasingly digital world and that there are a lot of issues right now globally with these risks, which not only impact individuals but even democracies and political systems.

“Data protection is not just a technical issue; it is a fundamental issue to build trust and sustain trust in society. To enable the digital economy and to realise the socio-economic potential of the data revolution, we firmly believe that strong data protection frameworks are essential for unlocking the economic potential of

data-driven industries.

He said Germany has partnered with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) in Kenya through the Digital Transformation Centre and has supported capacity building for ODPC staff, enabling the team to develop world-class expertise in data protection law enforcement.

“We believe that the economic advantages that come from robust data flows and adequacy agreements between the EU and other countries are enormous. There’s enormous economic potential in it,” Amb. Groth said.

The European Union Deputy Ambassador of the EU delegation to Kenya, Ondrej Simek, acknowledged the importance of data privacy, saying Data is clearly reshaping societies.

He said that collaboration between data protection authorities around the world is needed to advance the regional and global organisation of legal and regulatory frameworks.

“One area of specific importance is that of safe cross-border data flows. The first step is ensuring that data protection laws are in place. The second one is to always personalise them effectively,” he said.

Despite digitalization’s potential, Amb. Simek said this also comes with its own risks, and as our societies go digital, a lot of massive amounts of personal and sensitive data are being generated, collected, and processed every day. And with the introduction and increased use of artificial intelligence, this trend is increasing as well.

“Citizens around the world, both here in Africa and in Europe, are therefore not only benefiting, but they are also encountering the diverse challenges that breaches, cyber-attacks, cyber stalking, identity fraud, and all of this are the result of unauthorised use of personal information,” he added.

The EU representative confirmed, though, that new data protection laws are being put in place and that the role of independent supervisory authorities is growing while more and more countries are choosing a safe digital future that is stable and predictable, a framework that protects citizens’ rights and offers business certainty as a basis for innovation.

It is expected that by the end of the two-day conference, a common position on all matters under discussion will be developed before being forwarded for consideration by the AU Council of Ministers.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura's Helicopter Makes Emergency Landing Amidst Relief Mission

By: Cynthia Masibo and Wendy Keziah @themtkenyatimes

In a dramatic turn of events, a helicopter carrying government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura and Kenya Red Cross Secretary General Idriss Ahmed was forced to make an emergency landing in Gishungo, Kikuyu Constituency, amidst a crucial relief mission. The incident, attributed to poor weather conditions, has underscored the formidable challenges faced by relief efforts amidst the ongoing nationwide floods that have ravaged communities across the country.

Mwaura and Ahmed were en route to Nyando for a mission aimed at providing much-needed aid to flood victims when the helicopter encountered adverse weather conditions, compelling the pilot to execute the emergency landing. Despite the unexpected setback, both occupants emerged unharmed, highlighting the importance of stringent safety pro-

ocols in mitigating risks associated with humanitarian operations.

The plight of flood victims has reached critical levels, prompting concerted efforts from the government to allocate funds and resources towards alleviating their suffering. The relentless downpours have inundated numerous regions across the country, leaving devastation in their wake and displacing countless families from their homes.

The incident involving Mwaura's helicopter serves as a stark reminder of the inherent risks associated with humanitarian missions, particularly in hazardous weather conditions. Despite the challenges, relief organizations remain steadfast in their commitment to providing assistance to those in need, demonstrating resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Efforts to mitigate the impact of the floods have seen the government mobilizing resources and collaborating with various stakeholders to ensure prompt and effective response. Measures such as evacuation, provision of shelter, food, and medical aid have

been implemented to address the immediate needs of affected communities, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

However, the scale of the disaster underscores the need for sustained efforts and comprehensive strategies to tackle the root causes of flooding, including infrastructure development, land-use planning, and climate resilience initiatives. Long-term solutions are imperative to prevent future disasters and enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations, requiring coordinated action from government agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

As the nation grapples with the aftermath of the floods, solidarity and cooperation among citizens, government agencies, and humanitarian organizations are paramount. Together, they must work tirelessly to provide relief and support to those affected, embodying the spirit of unity and compassion in times of crisis.

The emergency landing of Isaac Mwaura's helicopter serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges in-



Government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura addressing the media at Nyayo house

herent in humanitarian efforts, while also highlighting the unwavering commitment to serving the most vulnerable members of society. As the relief mission continues, the nation stands united in solidarity with all those affected by the floods, offering hope and assistance in their time of need.

Kenya's Bold Steps In Community Health: A Model For Africa

By: Cynthia Masibo @themtkenyatimes

In the global pursuit of improving healthcare delivery and addressing the burden of disease, Kenya emerges as a trailblazer, renewing its focus on a people-centered approach to healthcare delivery. The government's commitment to strengthening community and facility-based Primary Healthcare to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) reflects a profound understanding of the transformative potential of community health initiatives.

Primary Health Care (PHC), as envisioned by the government, encompasses a comprehensive range of services, including promotive, preventative, curative, and rehabilitative care, delivered through community collaboration and participation. Recognizing the pivotal role of community health in promoting better health outcomes and breaking the cycle of ill health and poverty, the government has embraced a bottom-up approach to health, known as "Afya Nyumbani" (Health at Home).

At the heart of this approach are the community health promoters (CHPs), individuals selected by their communities and trained to address local health needs. These dedicated men and women, numbering 107,831 across the country, serve as the front-line workers in delivering essential health services at the household level. Their scope of work includes basic preventive and promotive health interventions, health education, first aid, and referral services, embodying the spirit of "Ubuntu" that permeates Kenyan society.

The government's commitment to the long-term financial sustainability of community health is evident in its investment strategies. A report on the Community Health Investment Case for Kenya in 2018 revealed that everyone shilling invested in community health yields the equivalent of KES 9.4 in economic and societal benefits. Building upon this evidence, the government has allocated resources to strengthen the delivery of community health services, including the payment of stipends for CHPs.

At the Intergovernmental Summit held in February 2023, the National Government, in partnership with the 47 County Governments, committed to the payment of stipends for 100,000 CHPs on a matching basis, with each CHP receiving a monthly stipend of KES 5000. This initiative, supported by a KES 3 billion allocation from the National Government, underscores the commitment to recognizing and rewarding the invaluable contribution of CHPs to the health and well-being of communities across Kenya.

In harnessing the power of community health, Kenya sets a shining example for the continent, demonstrating how a people-centered approach, supported by strategic investments and partnerships, can pave the way towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and improving the lives of millions.



Community Health Workers (CHWs) enhancing health service delivery in different parts of the country.

My Decision To Defend Ruto During The ICC Trial Landed Me In Trouble



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- After winning the elections, UhuRuto presidency recognized my passion. I started receiving a monthly stipend as preparations were being made to get me a job in the civil service. The plan to get me a permanent job did not materialize. I become one of the victims of the fall out between President Uhuru and then his deputy William Ruto.
- During the trial, I worked closely with a top aide of the Dr Ruto. Today, he is senior state officer.
- Since President Ruto assumed office, I have kept the faith. This is in terms of championing his political, social-economic agenda.



President William Ruto at the International Criminal Court (ICC)

I used to work with civil society and human rights groups before the commencement of the trials of former President Uhuru Kenyatta and then Deputy President William Ruto at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

I was a key player and I worked closely with the top leaders of the lobbies and opposition leaders.

After I totally declined to heed their call to stop faulting the ICC prosecutor's case against UhuRuto, they were left with only one option: Blacklisting me and I eventually become jobless.

After President Uhuru's case was withdrawn, I dedicated all my time and energy fighting for the acquittal of the current President William Samoei Ruto.

Hardly a week passed without denouncing the charges levelled against him. I also defended him through verbal commentaries and this would land me in trouble with members of my community of kikuyu.

I believed the charges had been trumped up and were politically motivated.

The endgame was to bar him and UhuRuto Kenyatta from contesting the presidency.

This plot had been hatched by the opposition leader Raila Odinga. Raila and his brigade believed that this could have cleared the way for him to ascend to power with ease.

My prayer and that of other Kenyans were heard by the ICC trial chamber.

The Jubilee flag bearers are free to run for political office of their choice. This judges cited the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

After winning the elections, UhuRuto presidency recognized my passion. I started receiving a monthly stipend as preparations were being made to get me a job in the civil service. The plan to get me a permanent job did not materialize.

I become one of the victims of the fall out between President Uhuru and then his deputy William Ruto.

During the trial, I worked closely with a top aide of the Dr Ruto. Today, he is senior state officer.

Since President Ruto assumed office, I have kept the faith. This is in terms of championing his political, social-economic agenda.

My woes got exacerbated during the Raila-led demonstrations. I wrote many articles denouncing he protests. One of them was titled 'Is Raila Out To Cause A Total Economic Sabotage?'

It goes: Azimio La Umoja-OKA Party leader Raila Odinga has announced that the third wave of anti-government protests across the country will proceed as planned.

This is despite the top state officials led by President William Ruto vowing that they will not allow the demonstrations to take place.

As we know, Raila's previous protests always turned chaotic and bloody. This means when he avers that the demos will be peaceful and held in full compliance with the provisions of constitution, this is just a political ploy. He means the opposite of this.

One can therefore understand where President Ruto is coming from when he reiterates. I took the oath of office to protect the lives of Kenyans and their property and this is my core function as spelt out in the constitution.

He would use this as the basis of defending his decision that he was not violating any law.

It is true that Article 37 of the constitution allows Kenyans to exercise freedom of assembly, expression, demonstration and picketing. The same Article, however, emphasis that these activities should be held within an environment that is peaceful and non-violent. So, those participating- organisers

and thier supporters-must be unarmed.

In Raila's demos, the picture is totally different. Some of the protestors were always armed to the teeth.

The video clips taken by the mainstream media and social media would attest to this.

In recent demo, they escalated the orgy of violence and destruction. At least 9 people lost thier lives. The government installations were also not spared. A government office and a national flag were set ablaze. The flag had been hoisted. A goon climbed the pole and pulled it down then burnt it. Report indicated he was among those lost who died.

The newly constructed Nairobi Expressway was also vandalized and destroyed, causing a damage worth Sh700 million.

They also used machetes to break into a Supermarket and stole all goods and money. The money vaults were turned upside down.

One may ask. Where were the anti-riot police? Well, we saw them engaging the protesters in running battles.

But as it turned out, they were dealing with hardcore criminals who were ready to pay the ultimate price. Some reports indicated a good number of them had been hired and had allegedly been given clear instructions that Baba wanted to see them cause a heavy damage to our economy.

A report released by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KPSA) showed that the business community was losing Sh3 billion every day when the demonstration was held.

For Baba Raila, many believed that he had come to this conclusion. President William Ruto is a big-headed and a hard nut to crack. So, Raila had only option and this is to do a total economic sabotage.

He hoped this will force Dr Ruto to climb down, invite and engage him on

a one-on-one talk.

Once the talks are concluded and Raila have his way, he would emerge and tell the country that we have reached 'a ceasefire'.

He will also climb down from his earlier hardline stance and now recognize Ruto as the President of Kenya.

For those well conversant with the history of Raila, I'm sure they would agree with me. He had previously played a similar script.

In 2007, he forced President Mwai Kibaki to share the government with him on 50-50 basis.

In 2017, he forced President Uhuru Kenyatta to shake hand with him.

Given this scenerio, I would agree with President Ruto. Raila developed a bad habit and 'I will not allow this to continue anymore'.

Raila lost the election. He should accept this bitter truth and move on.

This is my advise to him. He should stick to his role as an opposition leader.

I'm ready to facilitate the work of his office because I believe in a strong, vibrant and robust opposition that will put my government in checks.

Taking cognizant that the opposition is alternative government, the outfit ought to shun politics of bloody confrontations, malice, destruction of properties.

When we go wrong, we are ready to be corrected. We are also ready to hear the solutions they have.

This engagement should be done in a structured and constructive manner.

Equally, the opposition leaders ought to support our agenda and policies that are designed to better the lives of the citizens. Some of the achievements might not be realized immediately.

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

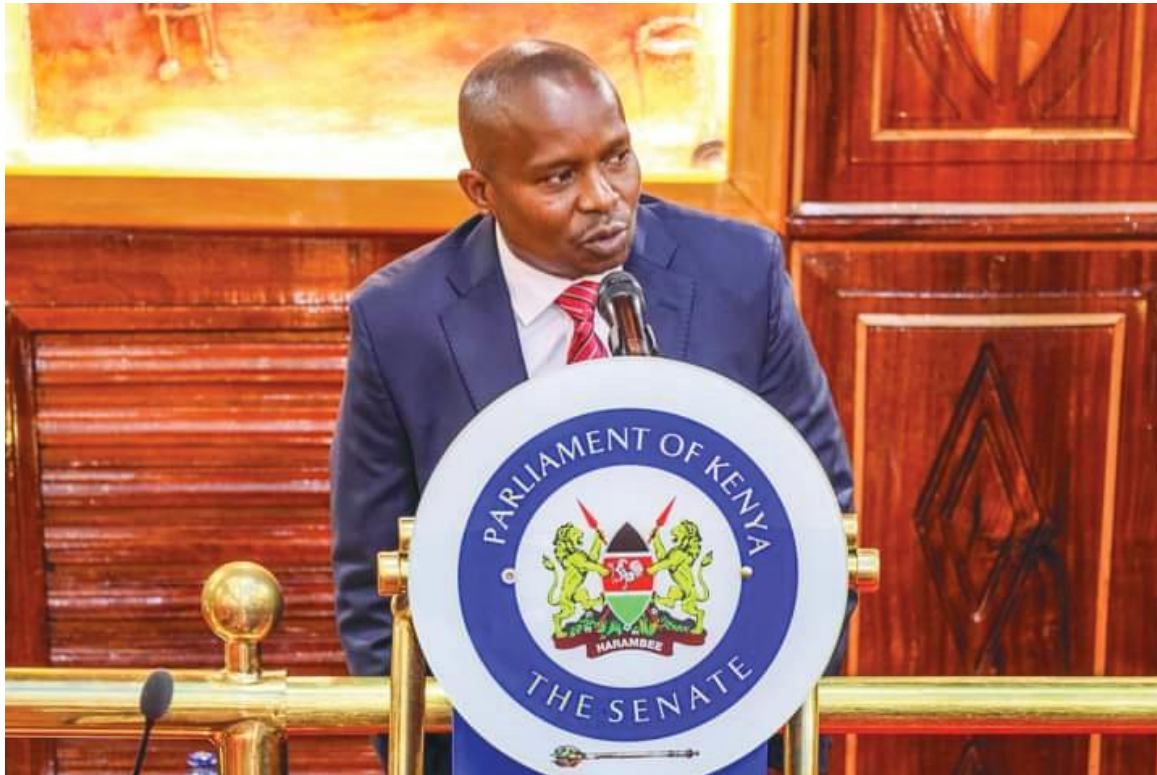
Government To Deal Mercilessly With Criminals, CS Kindiki Tells The Senate

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

- The five accused persons were charged for murder before a High Court at Kiambu, all of them pleading not guilty before being remanded at Nairobi and Kitengela remand prisons.
- Kindiki assured the Senate that the government is committed to ensuring that justice is delivered dismissing concerns that there was a deliberate delay in the investigations.
- On the question of harassment, intimidation and violence against journalists, Pro. Kindiki told the Lawmakers that the Kenya Kwanza government is committed to uphold freedom of expression and right to information as enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki when he appeared in Senate yesterday

The government will deal mercilessly with people propagating criminal activities across the country.

Appearing before the Senate to respond to questions by the Senators, Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Pro. Kithure Kindiki said the government will mercilessly deal with drug traffickers, terrorists and people facilitation and carrying out organized criminal activities.

He said government will use all the available means to ensure criminals and facilitators of criminal activities are dealt with accordingly with full force of the law.

Further, the CS emphasized that the Kenya Kwanza Administration is determined to bring to book all the suspects that participated in the brutal murder of the Meru based political blogger Daniel Muthiani Bernard alias Sniper.

He told the Senate that investigations into the incident commenced immediately it was reported with security agencies arresting five suspects who have already been arraigned in court.

“Investigations placed five accused persons at the scene of abduction namely Vincent Murithi Kirimi, Murangiri Kenneth Guantai, Christus Manyara Kambi, Brian Mwenda and Bonface Kithinji Njiiya who were together with the deceased from Meru town all the way to River Mutonga,” revealed CS Kindiki.

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ing not guilty before being remanded at Nairobi and Kitengela remand prisons.

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He encouraged any journalist or blogger who experience any harass-

ment and intimidation to report to the nearest Police Station, revealing that police officers have already been sensitized on upholding the rule of law and constitutionalism.

The issues surrounding the abduction and execution of the Meru political blogger were brought to the attention of the Cabinet Secretary through questions by Meru County Senator, who is also the Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi.

Murungi sympathized with the deceased family who he said are yet to bury their kin until justice is served appealing to the government to hasten the process.

Addressing the query on Sondu

Town clashes raised by Kisumu County Senator Pro. Tom Ojienda, the CS elaborated measures that the government has put in place to contain the situation.

Among the measures are deployment of more security officers, enhanced security patrols, joint meetings with officers from the affected counties and enhanced sharing of intelligence among security agencies.

Security agencies are also arresting and prosecuting suspects with the CS revealing that over five people have already been arrested and arraigned in court.

On the question of re-establishment of Wema General Service Unit camp in Tana River raised by Sen. Danson Mungatana, the CS revealed that plans are underway to reestablish the Camp in Kulesa Village Maziwa Sub Location, Salama Location in Tana Delta Sub County, the area that was identified by the security committee in liaison with the community.

Wema Unit was marooned by floods following heavy rainfall that was experienced across the country.

Responding to the question by Turkana Senator James Lomenen on the curfew in major towns in Turkana, the CS appealed to political leaders to help in sensitizing the community on peaceful coexistence assuring them that the government is up to the task to ensure peace and safety for all Kenyans.

Touching on the question of operationalization of Chiakariga Sub County in Tharaka Nithi County raised by Sen. Mwenda Gataya alias MoFire, Prof. Kindiki said the government will prioritize allocation of funds in the next financial year for the full operationalization of the Sub County.



Senate Speaker Amazon Kingi during yesterday's session.

Power Over Satan



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

There are certain things you must do to stay strong: raise your hands and praise the Lord, read the Bible, worship the Lord, pray. If you are going to be a warrior and a servant of God, you cannot go around doing your own thing. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).”

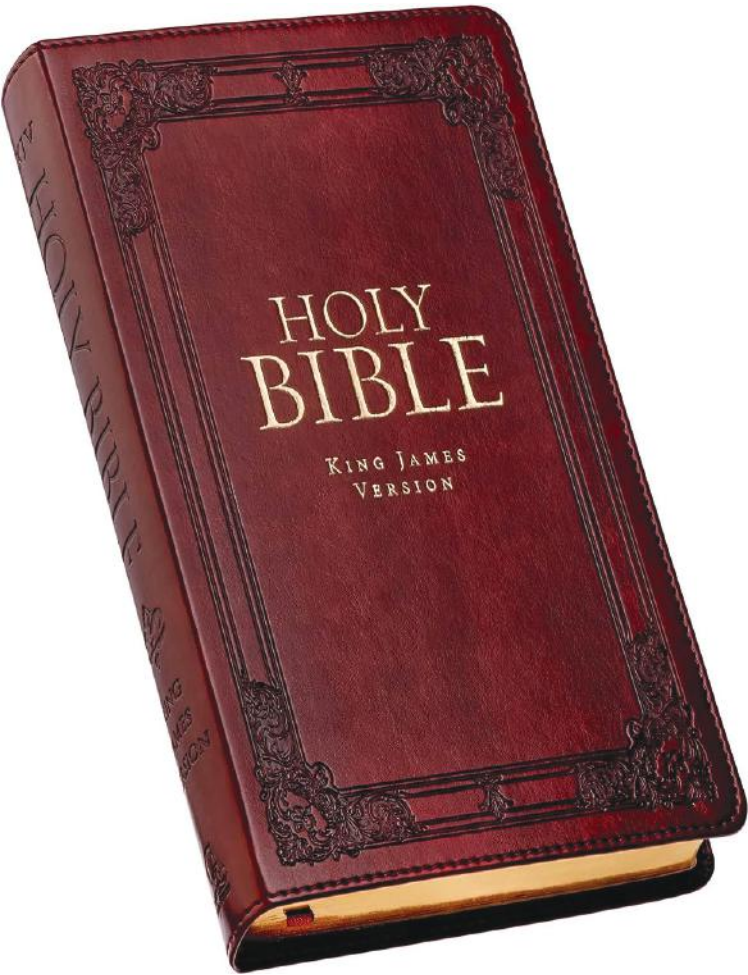
The kind of faith that Abraham had can get you what you want from heaven. God can use you to minister to others, and you will be a blessing to many. He will give you orders of certain things to do. And, if you are obedient, you will be blessed. It is

written, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Note, to keep your mind full of peace and joy, do not get involved in abnormal sex acts. Keep everything normal between a husband and wife, even. The cleaner you keep your sex life, the more peace of mind you will have. What you do with your body affects your mind. Many times, the things that happened with the bodies began at a very young age. Satan cannot drive you mentally insane if you do not give him the power. James 5:15 says that the prayer of faith will save the sick, and Mark 11:24 tells me to believe when I pray that I will receive. The prayer of faith is important to you in dealing with demons.

SELAH! MAY YOU ENJOY OVERWHELMING VICTORY.

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.



Mother



Be happy always be healthy,
You are my sunshine mom.

Faizulloev Abramot

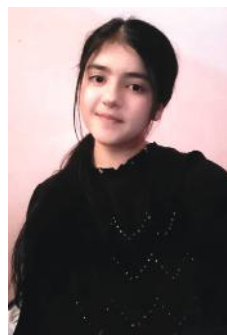
Fayzulloev, son of Abramot Sayfi, was born on June 1, 2003 in Dehganabad district, Kashkadarya region. Economics and Pedagogical University, 2nd level student of primary education, winner of the badge for "international services" of the Double Wing International Creative Foundation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. 5 participants of the international anthology and 2 manuals are currently on sale on 10 sites of morebooks. He is also a holder of a high-level diploma of the Navoi city administration and a member of the Golden Wing of the Republic.

There is a mother, the world is bright,
Mother is the lamp of life.
He enlivens the world with his love,
There is a mother and a person is created.

Tongues were speechless at the tariff,
I have mercy on you.
Without my world, my mother,
I will fly with you.

I embrace the worlds together,
I shine with your love.

Science Glorifies Woman



February 11 is the international day of participation of women in science. Wide celebration of this international date was noted in the resolution of the United Nations on December 22, 2015. This resolution was adopted in order to achieve full and equal participation of women in science, to ensure gender equality and to expand the opportunities of women.

Discovering new horizons in science does not depend on a person's age, race, language, nationality and gender. Humanity realized this fact a long time ago. Based on the Sustainable Development Goals, the world community has made significant progress in attracting women to science. However, women still face restrictions on the same front.

It is observed that girls are more likely to limit their scientific activities when they start a family and have children. But this is a big mistake. They say, "A woman reads a big society." Currently, our president has created many conditions for our women and girls, and these things are still going on. A girl can flourish a family only if she is educated.

A man's education is for himself, but a woman's education is for the whole nation. At the level of state policy, the issue of wide involvement of women in scientific activities, support of their software development and innovative ideas is again being paid attention to in our country. Education of our sisters, training them for professions, ensuring their employment, wide involvement in entrepreneurship has become one of the priority directions. Until recently, in our society, there were frequent misconceptions such as "Would an educated girl lead the city, girls should think about marriage, not education." Today, these views have completely changed.

The political-legal, socio-economic image of our society has changed, new relationships are emerging in our lives, and new values have been formed in our people regarding women's education. We are taking bold steps towards building the foundations of the Third Renaissance in New Uzbekistan.

The period of the New Renaissance depends, first of all, on the development of science and the strength of national spirituality. Deeply aware of this acute reality, it is necessary to note that our state has introduced a package of guarantees and privileges for women to study and engage in science, and new opportunities are being created.

Choriyeve Shakhriroz, 11th grade student of the 32nd general education school, Jondor district, Bukhara region

My Father Is My Master....



(For my grandfather Odiljon Jorayev)
Teacher...

Anyone who hears this word will be moved. After all, from the first moments of our memory, such great beings hold our hands and teach us to step boldly towards the future. My first Teacher is my Father. This person is my light and my supporter. Since childhood, I grew up watching their work and love for their profession. It was as if I was a little princess of the world of books. I also loved books. And I started creating. The strength of my creativity was the smiling faces of my father and his words that my child should not stop moving, but only move forward.

Years have passed. I grew up. Although I did not continue my father's profession as a journalist, today I chose my career path because of the person who supported me in everything. I have achieved the status of a teacher. Today I am a young Master. I am a kind teacher who is able to leave a good impression among different students with his direction and teaching style. Speaking of teachers, I am reminded of these lines from a story about Alexander the Great that I came across

in an article...

Once upon a time, Alexander the Great placed his first teacher on the throne of his conquered country. Then he asked, "Why do you do that?" - when they asked the question, they answered: "My parents were the reason for my birth, and my Teacher was the reason for my rise."

Indeed, behind the progress we are making, there is the work of great teachers.

Maftuna Mahkamova

Mahkamova Maftuna Odiljon's daughter was born on February 20, 1995 in Baliqchi district of Andijan region. He graduated from the 41st general secondary school in Baliqchi district with excellent grades and entered the Chinabad Construction Vocational College. He graduated from college in 2013. And he started working in the college where he studied. In 2020, the Faculty of "Informatization of Industry" of the Namangan Institute of Engineering and Construction was recommended to students in the direction of "Information Systems and Technologies". Until now, several of his poems have been published in regional newspapers. He was also awarded by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation in October 2023. Currently, she is working as a poetess, a student, and a young teacher at Vocational School No. 1 of Baliqchi district.

Calls In The Mountains



I say,
Calm and let them go,
For when you come,
They will stay.

I tell you,
Calm and let the spear go,
And embrace not the loss,
But the victory you can't see
till you come.

I say,

Accept and come,
To join a calm but watchful
Earldom under this mutoma!

Please,
Come,
For I was calm when young like
You,
I listened and let go,
Of the spear and stool.

I say,
Let him take them,
If he is my root
Just come and I'm waiting,
We shall cause him to respect
Of ancestry and all we taste.

(@Labass. S.Degro.
is a real life poet brought to earth in a
local kitchen. All glory to God.)
0700133179

Building Safe And Trusted Digital Space For Children

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The Director General noted that the International Telecommunications Union estimates that approximately 5.4 billion people, which is 67 per cent of the global population were using the internet in 2023 and at the same time globally, almost 80 percent of children and youth between 15-24 years use the Internet, 13 percent more than the rest of the population.
- In Africa, the Mugonyi explained that 53 per cent of children and youth in the same age bracket use the internet, noting that privacy of children is thus essential for their safety particularly on social media platforms, where they may unintentionally disclose private data, images or videos which could result in cyberbullying and privacy violations.



Children are early adopters of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), yet they are the most vulnerable consumers.

Communications Authority of Kenya Director General David Mugonyi has said online experience for children is threatened by online harm, a combination of cybercrime, privacy violations and abuse.

Speaking during a session on "Internet hygiene: Children Privacy Online" at the Network of Africa Data Protection Authorities (NADPA) Conference, Mugonyi noted that creating a safe digital experience for our children is urgent and pressing.

Achieving this however, he said calls for a multi-sectoral ecosystem that eliminates vulnerabilities and minimizes as many threats as possible.

"Protecting children online is a complex, multidimensional and dynamic challenge and we need data protection, consumer protection, industry regulation, safeguarding and public education," he said.

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ticularly on social media platforms, where they may unintentionally disclose private data, images or videos which could result in cyberbullying and privacy violations.

For many of us being connected is a necessity. The internet has brought about enormous benefits over the years, Creativity, Productivity, Education and Social connection, it has also opened up opportunities for millions worldwide, from being able to find information and expressing ourselves to transforming the way we do business.

However, children online are possible targets of sexual exploitation and abuse such as, sexting, sextortion, online grooming and online solicitation," he said naming other threats, which include cyber bullying, public shaming, cyber stalking, tolling, doxing, hate speech, intimidation and online threats, added Mugonyi.

The Director General therefore underscored the importance of all service providers with websites or online services that children can access to take deliberate measures to protect the experience and privacy of children on their platforms.

"Kenya's Data Protection Law restricts the collection of Data from children without parental consent, while the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child highlights the need to create special protections for children and back them in law," he said

He gave an example of the United Kingdom which has blocked targeted and personalized advertising for children and accounts for anyone under

18 are automatically set to private and adults cannot message them.

He said that there will be need to develop and implement technical and operational measures to protect children online, which include deliberate interventions that encourage the design of products and services that acknowledge the rights of children with mechanisms such as privacy by design and safety by design.

"To complete the ecosystem, it is important to have clear procedures for handling child online protection related complaints and incidents. Countries like Australia have done so," noted Mugonyi.

He explained that through an elaborate Child Online Protection (COP) programme that CA rolled out in 2015, the organization has been providing both children and their parents with the knowledge to keep them safe, so as to minimize and eliminate exposure to risks and vulnerabilities.

"We have not only sensitized teachers, but have also leveraged impactful events such as music and drama festivals to create awareness among students across various levels of learning. We are escalating child online safety sensitization across all spheres of our society", Mugonyi said.

The Authority, he added, is further scaling up the conversation to devolved administrative units, where they provide avenues for communities to interact with various actors in this space to discuss effective ways of ensuring children productively use the Internet and the role of the wider society in this.

During his remarks, Information,

Communications and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo said computers have brought untold benefits to children around the world as the number of connected households increase by day.

However, Owalo noted that as children and young adults engage more with the digital world, there was a need to explore what mechanisms exist to protect children online.

The CS called upon NADPA members to promote child safety by ensuring the right frameworks are put in place to protect children and also to prepare them for the digital opportunities.

On her part, Chief Justice Martha Koome said that in this digital age, it has increasingly become evident that children and young adults are not just passive consumers of technology, but active participants in the digital world.

"From online learning to social media interactions, children engagement with digital platforms is pervasive and profound, but the same digital landscape is fraught with potential risks, ranging from exposure to inappropriate content to online harassment and exploitation.

As African countries, Koome said we must urgently prioritize the protection of children online, recognizing that their safety and wellbeing are paramount.

She added that emerging issues such as internet hygiene, cyberbullying and online predators, underscore the need for comprehensive mechanisms to safeguard children's digital experiences, thus it was important that digital policies and programmes take into account unique vulnerabilities of children and prioritize their safety in the design of software applications and online platforms.

"I want to urge you as Africa's Data Protection Authorities to prioritize the protection of children's data, recognizing that their safety and wellbeing are paramount," said Koome.

The CJ added, "By building a safe and trusted digital space for children, we can empower them to harness the potential benefits of technology, while mitigating the inherent risks, ensuring that they can explore, learn and grow in a secure online environment.

According to Section 33 of the Data Protection Act in Kenya, every data controller or data processor shall not process personal data relating to a child, unless consent is given by the child's parent or guardian and that the processing is in such a manner that protects and advances the rights and best interests of the child.

AGRIBUSINESS

Second Africa Fertilizer And Soil Health Summit To Address Looming Soil Health Crisis



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The alarming statistics underscore the severity of the soil health crisis in Africa. Nearly 282 million people on the continent, approximately 20 percent of the population, are undernourished. This number has increased by 57 million since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the urgency for decisive action.

- Since the first Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in 2006, where the target of a minimum of 50 kilograms per hectare of fertilizer use for agricultural growth was set, progress has been limited. Only 10 countries have met or surpassed this target, leaving many others struggling to enhance their agricultural productivity.



The Africa Fertilizer & Soil Health Summit is timely for a comprehensive review of the state of Africa's soil health to recalibrate strategies to boost soil productivity for higher crop yields, economic growth & well-being of Africans.

The urgent need to address Africa's deteriorating soil health has taken center stage at the African Union's Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH24), currently underway in Nairobi, Kenya. With over 4,000 participants, including 8 heads of state and government, 25 ministers of agriculture, and 32 ministers of foreign affairs, the summit aims to tackle the pressing issue of soil degradation, which poses a significant threat to the continent's food security.

Africa is losing over US\$4 billion worth of soil nutrients annually, a staggering figure that jeopardizes its ability to sustainably feed its growing population. The summit, co-organized by the African Union and the Government of the Republic of Kenya, with support from various partners, seeks to foster critical discussions on enhancing the value of land as a crucial asset for farmers.

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percent of the population, are undernourished. This number has increased by 57 million since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the urgency for decisive action.

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The theme of this year's summit, "Listen to the Land," reflects the imperative to evaluate Africa's soil health and review progress made since previous commitments by African leaders. The goal is to adopt regenerative practices, policies, and approaches that will improve the long-term value of land as a critical asset for farmers.

During the opening ceremony, H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy,

and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission (AUC), emphasized the need for collaborative action and innovative solutions. She stressed the urgent need for Africa to reclaim its degraded soils to ensure food security for future generations.

Concrete Steps Forward

The summit aims to draft and endorse the Nairobi Declaration on Fertilizer and Soil Health, a comprehensive document outlining commitments, strategies, and actionable directions to enhance the sustainability of fertilizer use and other soil health practices. Additionally, a 10-year Action Plan and mechanisms to finance it are anticipated, offering concrete guidelines on new policies and investments to drive soil health transformation across the continent.

A significant \$15 billion of private sector investment will be needed to increase the local manufacturing of mineral fertilizers, with the target of tripling the local production of organ-

ic and inorganic fertilizers by 2033. These investments are crucial for accelerating impact and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Africa's agricultural sector.

As the AFSH24 gathers momentum, there is a palpable sense of urgency among participants to address Africa's soil health crisis head-on. The outcomes of the summit, including the Nairobi Declaration and the 10-year Action Plan, are expected to pave the way for a sustainable agricultural transformation on the continent.

With collaborative action and innovative solutions, Africa has the potential to unlock its agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and economic growth for generations to come. The time to act is now, and the AFSH24 provides a platform for African leaders, policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders to chart a course towards a brighter, more sustainable future for the continent.

Kirinyaga County Government Evacuates 20 Families After Building Develop Cracks

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

County Government of Kirinyaga evacuated 20 families who were living in house that has developed cracks in Kutus town.

The families were forced to move out of the area on Tuesday evening over fear that the building could collapse.

County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development Samuel Kanjobe said the county had acted to save lives of people after receiving reports of a house that structural issues from members of the public.

Kanjobe said the County Government had already issued a three day vacate notice to the tenants after the house developed a fault line only for more cracks to emerge.

He said the residents had blamed the fault line on the old house on an adjacent three-storey building that is under construction.



Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development Samuel Kanjobe addressing journalists in Kutus town yesterday.

“We sent our team composed of structural engineers, architects and building inspectors to this plot that was built a while ago in the late 70s and the complaint was about an adjacent building which had caused the old building to develop a fault line and we issued a stoppage notice,” he

said.

The CECM said the owner of the storey building had been ordered to stop construction work until he sought out structural issues that had affected the adjacent house.

“We received further reports at around 5.15pm on Tuesday that nu-

merous fault lines had developed and the canopy had started to come and it is then that we decided to have an emergency evacuation,” Kajombe said.

He said the county team will conduct further audit on both houses for a conclusive report on the cause of the cracks in the house.

Tenants living in the house thanked the county government and the disaster management team for quick response to save lives.

“We have been forced to vacate our houses because of the risk posed by the cracks. This problem has been caused by this adjacent building being constructed here, we want the County Government not to relent on its efforts to ensure people are safe from buildings being built without following the right procedure,” said Grace Wambui, one of the tenants.

Rare And Endangered Bongo Released To The World

The release of ten Mountain Bongos into Mawingu Sanctuary at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy demonstrates the valuable role of preserving endangered wildlife species

By: Muturi Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting endangered wildlife species, including Mountain Bongo antelopes, from extinction.

First Lady Rachel Ruto emphasised the importance of safeguarding these species and preserving their ecosystems.

The release of 10 Mountain Bongos into the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary brings the total number of antelopes in the sanctuary to 24.

This marks the end of a 20-year campaign to protect these critically endangered species.

Tourism Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua emphasised the government’s commitment to supporting conservation efforts and ensuring the tourism sector’s peak to create employment opportunities for youth.

The Kenya Wildlife Service, Director-General, Dr. Erastus Kanga, stated that wild animal recovery has been rising but regretted that the Mountain Bongo population is only 100 in Kenya.

The Kenya Wildlife Service is working to restore the species through in situ breeding and rewilding technologies.

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy patron Humphrey Kariuki stated that the number of endangered antelopes has been increasing at a snail’s pace for the past 20 years, with plans to import more from European zoos to



enhance genetic diversity.

Kenya has an ambitious plan to achieve a national population of 750

Mountain Bongos in the next 50 years, as enshrined in the Mountain Bongo National Recovery and Action

Plan launched in 2019.

The Finance ACT, 2024 Will Contain Crystal Clear Provisions, Committee Assures Kenya Bankers Association

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “Hon. Members, preliminary analysis in our ongoing Total Tax Contribution Report indicates that the average number of tax payments in 2023 for 16 of our respondents is 775, three times the works average. The same analysis shows that banks spent KSh1.18 million in additional costs for hiring staff for tax compliance in 2023”, noted Gitachu
- Kimani further observed that the committee would align the Finance Act with other laws, after KBA Chief Finance Officer Mr. Kennedy Mutisya expressed concerns that the newly introduced Housing Levy and the Social Health Insurance Fund scheduled to be rolled out in July, was in conflict with the Employment law and other laws and had led to decimation of disposal incomes.



Finance and National Planning parliamentary committee chairman Kuria Kimani addressing yesterday's breakfast meeting.

The Finance Act 2024 will have crystal clear provisions devoid of ambiguity, the National Assembly Committee on Finance and National Planning has assured.

The pledge was made yesterday by the committee chairman Kuria Kimani who is the MP for Molo constituency during a breakfast engagement with the representatives of the banking sector, under the auspices of the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA).

Kuria acknowledged that failure by the Finance Act 2023, to provide specific monthly dates by when entities should have remitted their tax payments to the Kenya Revenue Authority, may have resulted to increased cost of tax compliance.

He was responding to assertions by FCPA Edna Gitachu-a tax policy consultant for KBA, that the Act's provision that requires entities to pay taxes within 5 working days had resulted to 1300% increase in number of tax payments per year, leading to huge costs on tax administration.

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Kimani further observed that the committee would align the Finance Act with other laws, after KBA Chief Finance Officer Mr. Kennedy Mutisya expressed concerns that the newly introduced Housing Levy and the Social Health Insurance Fund scheduled to be rolled out in July, was in conflict with the Employment law and other laws and had led to decimation of disposal incomes.

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He told the committee that increase in contributions had an effect on net pay and was potentially in breach of the one-third rule in the Employment Act. They proposed that the Committee considers reviewing individual tax bands and the top marginal rate. KBA pointed out that the move would cushion low-income earners from the impact of the cost of living, inflation

rates and currency depreciation.

Among the other challenges the KBA officials raised was the short-implementation window of the eTIMs system and the excise duty charged on financial services and insurance services.

They also pleaded with the Committee to consider reviewing taxes downwards, adding that high taxation does not necessarily translate to high revenue generation.

In response, the committee members Julius Ruto (Kesses), Paul Biego (Chesumei) as well as Kimani attributed the introduction of new taxes in the last Finance Act to high

budgetary demands by all sectors in government .

He however observed that it was time for the county to consider managing its expenditure within a realistic budget.

At the same time, the committee committed that beginning next financial year, they will hold regular engagements with players from various sectors of the Economy after every passage of the Finance Act, to audit the impact of the legislation on the economy.

“We are delighted for the opportunity to undertake a mid-term review on the impact of the Finance Act, 2023. We however should not wait until the tail end of the implementation of the Act to share such insights. We want to make a pledge that going forward, we shall engage regularly, so that by the time we’re considering the Finance Bill, we have projected on the provisions that require to be amended”, he explained.

Meanwhile, the committee has cautioned government agencies that are yet to comply with the government directive that all transactions be captured through e-TIMs.

Speaking on the matter, Kuria said that the committee would seek an explanation as to why some government agencies had failed to comply.

“The requirement that all entities onboard on e-TIMs has afforded the government an opportunity to expand the tax base and consequently, generate more revenue. We can therefore not understand why some government parastatals are yet to comply. They should lead by example”, he held.



Members of Parliament and Kenya Bankers Association officials after yesterday's consultative breakfast meeting

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Motorcycles Have Become Indispensable In Kenya

Motorcycles have become indispensable in Kenya, serving as a crucial mode of transportation for millions of commuters. However, the widespread use of motorcycles has unveiled a concerning reality: a significant portion of riders run without insurance, proper training, or documentation, posing grave risks to themselves and others on the road. Statistics reveal a troubling trend: up to 60 percent of Kenya's 2.4 mil-

lion motorcycle riders are uninsured, leaving them and their passengers vulnerable to financial ruin in case of accidents. The human toll of these accidents is immeasurable, causing devastation to families and communities across the nation. The lack of proper training further worsens the risks associated with motorcycle riding. With over 70 percent of riders lacking adequate training, roads become hazardous for both rid-

ers and pedestrians. Compounding these challenges is the widespread issue of unregistered motorcycles and lack of proper documentation. Many riders run without valid licenses, vehicle registrations, or insurance certificates, flouting regulatory requirements and evading accountability. This culture of impunity not only endangers public safety but also fosters reckless behavior. To address these challenges, stringent

enforcement of existing traffic laws is essential, including mandatory insurance requirements and licensing standards. Comprehensive road safety education and training programs are imperative to equip motorcycle riders with the knowledge and skills needed for safe operation. By incentivizing compliance with regulatory requirements, safety standards can be elevated, enhancing the quality of service for riders and passengers

alike. Addressing the road safety crisis in Kenya requires collaborative efforts from government agencies, law enforcement, stakeholders, and the community. Esther Mabeya and Franklin Atisa are media students at Rongo University.

Urgent Action Needed To Save Mt. Elgon Forest

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the alarming situation unfolding in Mt. Elgon Forest. It is distressing to witness the continued human encroachment and destruction of this vital ecosystem while the Kenyan government remains silent. Mt. Elgon Forest is not just a collection of trees; it is a critical part of Kenya's natural heritage, providing essential ecosystem services such as

water regulation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. The forest is not only home to numerous plant and animal species but also serves as a source of livelihood for local communities. However, recent reports of human demolitions within Mt. Elgon Forest paint a grim picture of environmental degradation and habitat loss. Illegal logging, encroachment for agricul-

tural purposes, and other destructive activities are ravaging this precious ecosystem, putting its delicate balance at risk. Despite the clear and present danger to Mt. Elgon Forest, the government's inaction is both puzzling and concerning. It is imperative that the relevant authorities take immediate and decisive action to halt further destruction and safeguard the future of

this invaluable natural resource. I urge the Kenyan government to enforce existing laws and regulations to prevent illegal logging and land encroachment in Mt. Elgon Forest, increase patrols and surveillance to monitor and deter illegal activities within the forest, and collaborate with local communities, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders to develop sustainable management

plans for Mt. Elgon Forest that prioritize conservation and community well-being. Time is of the essence, and decisive action is needed to save Mt. Elgon Forest from irreversible damage. Failure to act now will have far-reaching consequences for the environment, biodiversity, and future. By: Chrispas Wanjala

Why Combating Pollution Should Be A Collective Responsibility

In the modern age, as the specter of environmental degradation looms larger than ever, the call for action against pollution grows increasingly urgent. While individual efforts to reduce pollution certainly hold significance, the scale of the challenge demands a collective responsibility. It is not merely a matter of personal choice but a societal imperative that necessitates coordinated action on a global scale. Pollution knows no boundaries. Air

and water currents carry pollutants to any destination therefore affecting ecosystems far beyond their sources. Pollution from one region can have cascading effects on global climate patterns, biodiversity, and public health. Thus, addressing pollution requires collaboration among individuals, industries, and communities to mitigate its far-reaching impacts. Pollution leads to contamination of water sources which then harbors harmful pathogens, bacteria, viruses,

and parasites that cause waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis. These diseases can lead to severe illness, dehydration, and even death, particularly in vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune systems. Pollution imposes significant economic costs on communities and nations, including expenses related to healthcare, water treatment, ecosys-

tem restoration, and lost productivity. Contaminated water sources can disrupt agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and other industries dependent on clean water, leading to financial losses and economic instability thereby reducing living standards of people at large. Local communities play a vital role in addressing pollution by advocating for clean air, water, and soil in their neighborhoods. Collective responsibility fosters community en-

gagement through grassroots movements, citizen science initiatives, and environmental activism. By raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and holding polluters accountable, communities can contribute to pollution prevention and mitigation efforts. Isaac Okoth Rongo University

Will The Tragedy Accidents End?

It is so painful waking up each morning with death news and there is no any another way that people are dying but only through roads. The year's assessment of lives lost in road accidents are now seen to repeat themselves or even be more than before. What is the problem with our roads, drivers or the KENHA? Thus is mean the assessments of vehicles that are meeting the full requirements are not assessed well? Or thus it mean some of the drivers

that are on the road aren't qualified and do they normally show their original licence when they are asked by the traffic officers?. Where maybe the loop hole that is causing all this? Our roads must have full signs and speed governors to be fixed in all vehicles both public and private and they must be checked and if one is found not having the set requirements to be jailed. Let no one get any favour because of their connection or status.

Lives are important mire than money. We may cry each morning and even request assessment of all vehicles but we leave out the fact that corruption will still let others is the transport sector. The Matatu drivers asked to be assessed will not be only a solution when we forget that most of the accidents are now being caused by big vehicles. Let all of the drivers be assessed well for the better of our country and safety of the souls that are perishing mercilessly.

All the traffic officers to be strictly governed by the law to avoid corruption happening each day. We must also consider the quality if studies offered in all driving schools and if all if the students qualifying have the required skills. Some the school are not having the complete sets of vehicles for the field training, others are only giving logbook and driving licence after part-time students have done paper work exams and they don't test their field skills and this is also one of the

greatest cause of all this death. Can we maintain our roads also so that we do not only lament because of the drivers forgetting that our roads are very poor. We first start with our government and then come to the rest of this case. Jared Wafula and Elvis Nyongesa RONGO University

The Role And Importance Of Medicinal Plants In Human Health



By: Boymirzayeva Dilaro Usman
@themtkenyatimes

Abstract
Medicinal properties of medicinal plants used in medical practice and the role and importance of medicinal preparations prepared from them in human health.
Key word: Diseases, biological substances, pharmaceutical plants and factories.
Enter
Medicinal plants are plants that are used to prevent diseases in the treatment of human and animal diseases. For the treatment of diseases, medicinal plants are usually prepared in

pharmacies, pharmaceutical plants and factories, laboratories, as well as at home. compounds - biologically active substances of plants are isolated.
Literature analysis and methodology
Since ancient times, when people felt bad, were sick, injured, or injured, they found a cure for their pain from the plants of the atrif. tincture, decoction, nastoyka, extract or other preparations are often prepared for treatment purposes. Most of them are separated from the products with the help of water, different levels of alcohol, etc., and a medicine consisting of a collection of biologically active substances is created.
Discussion and result
Most of the medicinal plants used in medical practice are less poisonous or not poisonous at all, so people themselves have been using them for various medicinal purposes. In addition, medicinal plants have always been collected in populated areas. there were no difficulties in the work.
Summary
While we pay attention to the issues of maintaining people’s health, preventing diseases, raising healthy generations, timely and fast high-quality



medical care, medicine, which is one of the main factors of disease treatment and prevention All possible opportunities should be involved in the supply of preparations and other means obtained and prepared from plants. Local leaders, representatives of the relevant office. It is necessary for the institution, community and state enterprises to actively support this.

Scientific supervisor: Abzalova No-dira Akmalovna. Researcher: Boymirzayeva Dilaro Usman, 2nd year student of pharmacy
Boymirzayeva, daughter of Dilaro Usman, July 14, 2003
Surkhandarya region
She was born in “Botosh” neighborhood of Altinsoy district.
Receives secondary education at the

8th general secondary school (2009-2019).
Later, Denov continues at Abu Ali Ibn Sino Technical School of Public Health (2021-2023). Currently, he is a 2nd-level student at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Tashkent Medical Academy

Amref Health Partners with 4Life Solutions to Tackle Water Crisis Amidst Kenya’s Flooding Emergency

Collaboration Aims to Provide Safe Drinking Water and Support to Flood Victims

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

In the wake of Kenya’s ongoing flooding crisis, humanitarian organizations are rallying to address the urgent need for safe drinking water and support for affected communities. Amref Health Africa, in partnership with 4Life Solutions, has stepped up to provide crucial aid to victims in Maimahiu and the Tana River region, where flooding has displaced numerous families and heightened public health risks.
The collaboration between Amref Health Africa and 4Life Solutions is specifically aimed at providing safe drinking water and training support to those affected by the devastating floods. With water sources contaminated and infrastructure damaged, access to clean water has become a

pressing concern for many in the affected areas.
Speaking on the crisis, Dr Meshack Ndirangu, a representative from Amref Health Africa highlighted the severity of the situation and the critical need for immediate assistance. “The flooding crisis in Kenya has left many communities without access to clean water, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases and exacerbating existing health challenges,” remarked a spokesperson for the organization.
Furthermore, the partnership between Amref Health Africa and 4Life Solutions underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing humanitarian emergencies. By pooling resources and expertise, the two organizations aim to maximize their impact and reach as many affected individuals as possible.
In addition to providing essential aid to flood victims, Amref Health Africa also expressed appreciation for the national government’s humanitarian

response to the crisis. The coordinated efforts between government agencies and humanitarian organizations are crucial in effectively mitigating the impact of natural disasters and providing timely assistance to those in need.
However, amidst the relief efforts, concerns about public health emergence risks loom large. The displacement of communities, overcrowded shelters, and limited access to healthcare services create a fertile ground for the spread of diseases. As such, ongoing monitoring and preventive measures are essential to safeguarding the health and well-being of affected populations.
As the flooding crisis in Kenya persists, the collaboration between Amref Health Africa and 4Life Solutions serves as a beacon of hope for those grappling with the aftermath of the disaster. Through their combined efforts, lives can be saved, communities can be rebuilt, and the resilience



Country Director of AMREF, Meshack Ndirangu, addressing the press

of the Kenyan people can prevail in the face of adversity.
In times of crisis, solidarity and collective action are paramount. The partnership between Amref Health Africa and 4Life Solutions exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing humanitarian emergencies and delivering life-saving aid to those in need. As the flooding crisis continues to unfold, let us stand together in support of the affected communities and work towards a brighter, more resilient future for all.

Masinde Muliro University Introduces Three New Academic Programmes

By: Moses Wekesa
@themkenyatimes

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology has introduced three new academic programmes that will be offered at the institution in collaboration with other partners. The programmes include Paramedical Sciences, Neuropsychology and Biosafety and Biosecurity. The Paramedical Science will be offered at a certificate and a Diploma Level. Already 17 students taking paramedical science courses have travelled out of the country for an exchange programme with 12 out of the number, currently with the Red Cross United Kingdom (UK). Speaking to Journalists in readiness for the launch of the University's New Strategic Plan, the acting Vice Chancellor Prof Charles Mutai said the neuropsychology is offered in collaboration with Finland. "We have our first 40 pioneering stu-

dents' for the Biosafety and Biosecurity programme which is sponsored by Canada," he noted. Professor Mutai said the new programmes are attracting more students in the University with the population growing from 22 000 to 24 000. He said the university has also invested in research in the academic programmes ranging from Science, Engineering, Economics, management, medicine and social sciences that have attracted funding from international donors positioning the institution at the global scene. "Our research portfolio has also gone up. Last year one of our own prepared a proposal that attracted around Sh100million for research on Jiggers. This year we have two groups who have attracted Sh 10million research grant from another donor and we have also received research grants totaling to Sh10million from the National Research Fund of Kenya," he added. As a result of the growing student population, Prof Mutai said the University is set to undertake major infrastructure improvement which



Prof Charles Mutai

include establishment of a Health Sciences Complex and an Education complex. The Health Science complex will be constructed on part of the 34 acres of land at the Approved school's grounds offered to the University.

Prof Mutai noted that they have prepared proposals for funding from the government to construct an education complex that will cost Sh1billion "The mechanical engineering building, the student's tuition Building and the Administration Block was

actually built by money generated within the University so we hope that the government will also support us in constructing the Health Sciences Complex and an Education complex," he noted.

Nairobi Hosts Africa Media Leaders

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

All Africa Media leaders have gathered in Nairobi for a three-day summit to discuss issues affecting the sector and the critical role media plays in shaping Africa's future. The summit started yesterday and ends tomorrow is taking place at the Radisson Blue hotel. All Africa Media Leaders Director, Dr. Tendai Mhizha, announced that the summit will focus on strategies for competing in the social media era. Over 40 countries are represented, including Editors in Chief, CEOs, MDs, influencers, and digital and camera crews. The summit will also release the State of African Media Report and have a panel discussion on how technological changes are affecting

newsroom transformation. A Council will be formed to mediate media matters across the continent and tackle information and disinformation. A training programme on digital newsroom transformation will be offered. The summit will also feature an awards ceremony, including the youth innovation challenge, young journalist awards, African capacity-building journalism awards, Africa development awards, journalism African awards, and a lifetime achievement award.



Kenya Power Owe Creditors Over KSh80 Billion

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

The National Assembly Committee on Public Debt and Privatization chaired by Balambala MP, Abdi Shurie, yesterday met with the top management of Kenya Power who presented their report on the statutes of two loans: KP-GOK Loans and KP-GOK onlined loans.

According to Managing Director, Eng Joseph Siror, as of 30th June 2023, Kenya Power had one guaranteed loan which is a syndicated loan with a partial IDA guarantee of USD 200 million.

The loan, which was taken in 2016 to refinance short-term commercial loans, is a mixed currency facility of USD 350 million and Ksh15 million making a total of USD 500 million.

Eng. Siror told the members that so far the Power utility firm has fully paid the local currency component



The Kenya Power team in a group photo with parliamentarians after the meeting

which matured in June 2023, the balance on the USD component was Ksh 23.05 billion as of June 2023.

“The syndicated facility was utilized to refinance more expensive commercial loans that had been drawn by the company for project finance during the grid expansion and modernization initiative in prepara-

tion for the increase in generation as well as accelerated customer connectivity,” Eng. Siror said.

Through the chairperson, the committee tasked the Managing Director to explain to them why they borrowed an external loan to repay the internal loan and also who would repay the loan in case firm failed to



Kenya Power Managing Director Eng. Joseph Siror (centre) with other top managers when they appeared before the parliamentary committee yesterday

pay it back.

“Legally any borrowing must be approved by Parliament which is not the case for this particular loan. It is worrying that Kenya Power would just borrow without following the law,” Shurie told the Kenya Power team.

The Managing Director disclosed that in case they defaulted on the loan IDA could have repaid it partially based on the guarantee and

the government would pay the rest, adding that the liability lies on the Kenya taxpayer.

On the KP-GOK on-lend loans, Eng. Siror told the committee that there are 11 loans totalling KSh70.3 billion with a further outstanding amount of KSh9.1 billion in accrued interest.

House Keen To Support Stabilization Of Investment Climate In The Country, National Assembly Says

By: PSCU

The National Assembly is keen to support a strong investment climate in the country, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Samuel Njoroge has said.

The Clerk made the pledge when he delivered a Keynote address during the opening session of the 7th Annual Institute of Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (ICIFA)Conference, held at the Flamingo Pride Inn Hotel, in Mombasa County.

He enumerated to the Conference some of the progressive legislation that Parliament has enacted in a bid to bolster the country’s position as a preferred investment destination.

“In the recent past, Parliament has enacted legislation that has significantly impacted the country’s business and investment climate. The



enactment of the Companies Act, the Insolvency Act, the Business Laws Amendment Acts and the Tax Procedures Act. All these are aimed at enhancing our appeal as a preferred investment destination”, he noted.

While observing that government initiatives such as privatization and putting in place the necessary reg-

ulatory frameworks support market growth, he called on the institute to play its part in facilitating the continued innovation in the development of investment products, and carrying out public education on modern investment practices.

He also urged the Institute to collaborate with Parliament on the review

of laws geared towards enhancing Kenya’s investment climate.

Mr. Njoroge cast a spotlight on the crucial function of the Institute of ICIFA in crafting regulatory policies and advocating for changes that uphold professionalism, integrity, and accountability within the financial sector.

Noting that the Institute owes the public, a duty of care, he urged the Institute to scale up its scrutiny of fund managers and investment schemes by issuing advisories to investors, against unlicensed or unregistered persons or entities.

“The institute is obligated to protect the public generally by issuing advisories against unregistered and unlicensed persons or entities seeking to collect any coin from the public. You are responsible for investment advisory standards and owe the public a duty of care”, he averred.

ICIFA is the professional body mandated by law to regulate the Investment and Financial Analysis profession in Kenya.

The Institute is authorized by law to register and grant practising certificates to Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (CIFAs) in Kenya both in private and public practice under the Investment and Financial Analysts Act (No.13 of 2015).

The State Heightens Relief Aid Distribution To Flood-Affected Families

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Nairobi region has been the most affected by floods, with 164,000 people directly impacted. Government Spokesperson Dr Isaac Mwaura announced that the government has stepped up efforts to offer support to victims of floods and landslides, which have killed 238 people and left 75 others missing. The Kenya Red Cross Society has been working with various agencies and humanitarian organisations to enhance support for affected people. The government has deployed various mechanisms to handle the disaster and manage ongoing evacuations, including the KDF and NYS for search and rescue operations and

the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) for assistance in moving residents to safer areas. Mwaura also presided over the distribution of non-food items to 441 people from the Kabonyo Kanyagwal area, which was adversely affected by the backflow from Lake Victoria. The government has mobilised and deployed on the ground the civil registry, lands, the Kenyan National Examination Council (KNEC), and registration of persons' departments to facilitate the free replacement of vital lost documents. County Executive Committee Member Judith Oluoch praised the national government for its partnership with the lakeside county and other stakeholders to address humanitarian emergencies.



Government Spokesman Dr Isaac Maigwa Mwaura distributing relief supplies to some of the floods victims.

County To Prioritizes Vocational Training For Job Market Relevance

By: Lamech Willy
@themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Bomet has taken a significant step in addressing unemployment challenges by initiating a vocational training program aimed at equipping instructors with the necessary skills to train learners for competency-based jobs. County Chief Officer for ICT, Stella Rotich, highlighted the pivotal role of vocational training in addressing unemployment rates, particularly among the youth. "Vocational training plays an integral role in the dynamic job market by equipping learners with hands-on skills that are key to addressing unemployment rates due to lack of market-demand skills among the youth," affirmed Rotich. Ms Rotich made the remarks during the opening of a four-day training that focuses on Curriculum Based Education Training (CBET) for principals and instructors from the county's 33 Vocational Training Centers (VTCs).



Dr. John Keter, Chief Officer for Education and Vocational Training addressing the meeting.

The workshop is being conducted by the TVET Curriculum Development, Assessment, and Certification Council (TVET CDACC). The CO further emphasized the significance of CBET in shaping the future of vocational training and pledged robust support for integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programs into

CBET curricula. "Vocational training centers play an integral role in shaping the dynamic job markets by equipping learners with the technical skills needed to address unemployment in the country," stated Ms. Rotich. "The County government is well-prepared to support these institutions, and we are going to in-

corporate ICT programs into CBET programs." Dr. John Keter, Chief Officer for Education and Vocational Training, reiterated the County government's commitment to revamping curriculum across all VTCs, to enhance learners' employability in the job market. "This inaugural training in Bomet is

of paramount importance as the government has prioritized technical and vocational education in its manifesto. This initiative is crucial in preparing our instructors, to evaluate and educate learners for competency-based roles," stated Dr. Keter. Alphonce Kimutai Kirui, the County Director of Vocational Training, echoed the sentiments, emphasizing the significance of the initiative in aligning vocational education with market demands. "The County Government's commitment to vocational training is evident through initiatives like this," noted Kirui adding: "By equipping instructors with the skills needed to train learners for competency-based jobs, we are ensuring that our workforce meets the needs of the evolving job market." The training, facilitated by TVET CDACC, seeks to equip instructors with the requisite skills to effectively train learners for competency-based jobs, thus contributing to reducing unemployment and fostering economic growth in the County.

Civil Society Decry Flawed Pandemic Agreement

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyetimes

In a resounding declaration against profit-driven policies at the expense of global health, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) alongside civil society organizations, convened have condemned the deeply flawed Proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

The April 16, 2024, Proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement has undergone extensive negotiations, resulting in a text that has been watered down and lacks accountability. “The recent iteration of the text is filled with platitudes, anemic in obligations, and devoid of any accountability,” remarked Dr. Samuel Kinyanjui, Country Director of AHF Kenya. The proposal, criticized by The Lancet as “shameful, unjust, and inequitable,” fails to prioritize global health security over profit-driven interests.

From May 27th to June 1st, 2024, during the World Health Assembly, UN member countries are expected to agree on a pandemic agreement. Under the present terms, only 20% of pandemic-related health products

are guaranteed to the WHO, leaving the remaining 80% vulnerable to market forces. “Such an arrangement will effectively leave 80% of crucial vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics prey to the international scramble seen in COVID-19,” noted Dr. Kinyanjui. The statistics underscore the urgent need for equitable access to life-saving medical resources.

Equally troubling is the absence of effective mechanisms for accountability and enforcement. “Equity will not be operationalized without effective mechanisms for accountability and enforcement,” emphasized Mr. Timothy Wafula, Programme Manager, Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN). The proposal lacks tangible provisions for monitoring and compliance, perpetuating past failures in global health security.

Calls for accountability have been widespread, echoed by the United Nations General Assembly and prominent international bodies. “Relying solely on state self-reporting mechanisms does not work,” stated Kinyanjui. The absence of independent oversight and clear enforcement frameworks undermines the agreement’s effectiveness.

Civil society’s participation in deci-

sion-making processes remains marginalized, despite their critical contributions during past health crises. “The voices of civil society remain marginalized in the decision-making processes of the WHO and its implementation,” remarked Mr. Fitsum Lakew Alemayehu, AU Liaison Manager/CISPHA Coordinator at WACI Health. Their inclusion is vital for meaningful participation and effective governance.

James Kamau, CEO of the Kenya Treatment Access Movement (KETAM), emphasized the need for binding financial commitments to establish a robust pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response architecture. “Without binding financial commitments and a coherent long-term financing strategy, we risk repeating the failures of the past,” warned Kamau.

As negotiations enter their final stretch, the coalition of civil society organizations urges delegates to heed the warnings of experts and take decisive action. “Empty handshakes in Geneva will not prevent another global health disaster,” concluded Kinyanjui. The time for meaningful action is now.



Special Needs Schools Grappling With Funding Shortfall; National Assembly Told

By: PSCU

Members of the National Assembly received a response from the Cabinet Secretary for Education through the Education Committee Vice Chair, Malulu Ijendi regarding a statement sought by Baringo Central MP Joshua Kandie regarding the delayed salaries and understaffing of non-teaching personnel in special needs’ schools.

On March 20, the Baringo Central MP raised pressing concerns regarding the delayed salaries and understaffing of non-teaching personnel in special needs schools, particularly highlighting the plight of Kabarnet School for the Deaf and Blind.

Kandie called for immediate action and clarification from the Ministry of Education on measures to ensure timely payment of support staff and increased budget allocations.

“Special needs schools play an indis-

pensable role in our society, catering to students with diverse learning abilities and disabilities,” said Kandie.

In a response read in the National Assembly on Wednesday last week, Injendi who is also the Malava MP, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, outlined the government’s commitments but acknowledged significant funding shortfalls.

The ministry’s data tabled before the House revealed deficits in budget allocations for special needs education. For instance, for the fiscal year 2023/2024, the primary education sector faced a deficit of KSh326,963,100, while special needs education at the primary level showed a shortfall of KSh873,000,000.

“The under-funding poses a serious threat to the quality of learning, especially for those with severe disabilities,” Injendi stated.

Kabarnet School for the Deaf and Blind, identified by Hon. Kandie, has been particularly affected, with a pending bill of KSh4.7M in unpaid



salaries for support staff.

The Ministry has called on the Departmental Committee on Education and the National Assembly to enhance budgetary provisions to ensure special needs institutions can operate smoothly and efficiently.

The Courtesans Of Heera Mandi Lahore



By: Somdatta Mitra
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Victorian perspective of the British did not afford tawaifs the same respect they once commanded. Instead they were viewed as licentious. Referred to as “nautch girls “ by the British meaning (dance) they were distanced over being their patrons. Brothels and prostitution proliferated under the British rule finding place near the Taxali Gate in Heeramandi to entertain British soldiers. Overtime these tawaifs lost their status and respect they once owned with much dignity. We take a look at the unsung heroes of Heera Mandi, who are yet to get their tributes. From financial help to inspiring the freedom fighters, tawaifs played a significant role in India’s freedom struggle. As anger against the East India Company spread, courtesans offered their establishments, known as kothas, as a meeting place and hideouts for rebels.

A Mughal era where we really feel inquisitive to know, how the courtesans here lived and how they sacrificed for the freedom struggle in pre - independence era. Heera Mandi (Diamond Market) was neighbourhood and bazaar located in the Walled City of Lahore. It is specifically known as the red light district of Lahore, Pakistan. Established by Hira Singh Dogra, who was the prime minister of the Sikh kingdom of Lahore from September 17, 1843 to December 21, 1844. In a desire to help the local economy Heera Singh set up a grain market by the name, “ Heera Singh di Mandi “ in the Shahi Mohalla, an area close to the royal court and known for housing the tawaifs (courtesans) of the Walled City of Lahore.

After the grain market was established, it turned the area into an economic center, and the tawaif (courtesans) quarters in Heeramandi turned into a limelight.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Mughals began bringing women from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to perform classical dances such as Kathak. Overtime Heeramandi transformed into a center for courtesans. Following invasions by Ahmad Shah Abdali, Heeramandi was quite popular for prostitution. Despite its notorious reputation, the area functions as a regular market during the day, selling food and musical instruments, among other items. However at night, it transformed into a hub for sex trade. Still existing today, some parts in ruins, silent faces estranged and perhaps invacuated from the dying spirit that it once dazzled at night.

Once the bustling center for art, culture and etiquette, beholding a legacy, Heeramandi reserved flamboyant architecture, opulence and poise. Situated near Taxali Gate and Badshahi Mosque, in Heera Mandi women were once trained in various arts including classical kathak, mujra, thumri, ghazal and dadra. They epitomized manners, art and etiquette, akin to royalty. Upon mastering classical dance and singing they became tawaifs (courtesans), entertaining the royal guests in kothas. Young nawabs were also sent to these kothas to learn Urdu, manners, and etiquettes from the tawaifs. Tawaifs (courtesans) though unmarried engaged in romantic relationships with their patrons. They often served as royal mistresses, entering and dissolving relationships mutually. They were esteemed entertainers, catering to royalty and nobility.

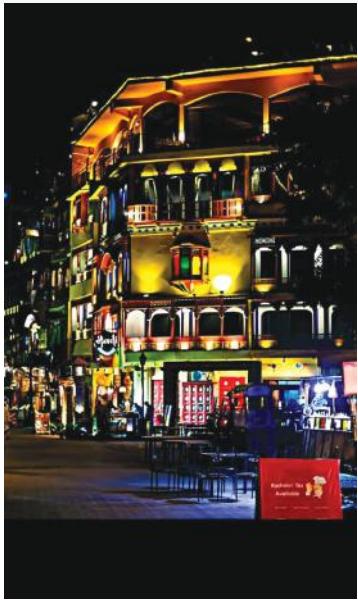
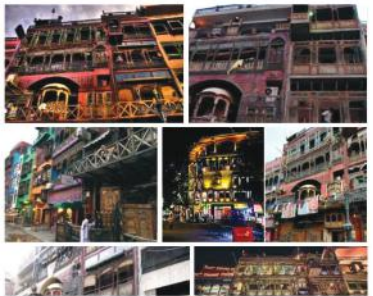
The Victorian perspective of the British did not afford tawaifs the same respect they once commanded. Instead they were viewed as licentious. Referred to as “nautch girls “ by the British meaning (dance) they were distanced over being their patrons. Brothels and prostitution proliferated under the British rule finding place near the Taxali Gate in Heeramandi to entertain British soldiers. Overtime these tawaifs lost their status and respect they once owned with much dignity.



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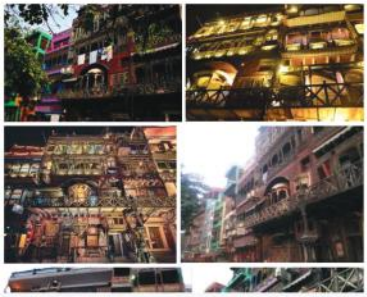
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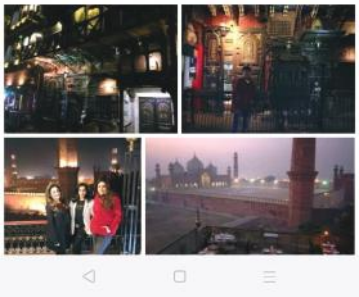
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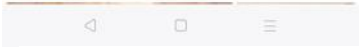
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The Kenya U17 National Team, Junior Starlets, has left the country this evening for Addis Ababa Ethiopia, ahead of Friday's FIFA U17 World Cup qualifier 1st leg against the host.

Junior Starlets Depart For Ethiopia For FIFA U17 World Cup Qualifier



Valerie Nekesa in training on Tuesday.

The Kenya U17 National Team, Junior Starlets, has left the country this evening for Addis Ababa Ethiopia, ahead of Friday's FIFA U17 World Cup qualifier 1st leg against the host.

Starlets coach Mildred Cheche named 23 players as the traveling squad for the assignment.

The second leg of the third round of FIFA U17 World Cup qualifiers will be held on Sun-

day, May 19, 2024, at the Ulinzi Sports Complex.

Following the two legs, the tie's aggregate winner advances to the fourth and final round, where they will face either Djibouti or Burundi.

The winner of this match will automatically qualify for the 2024 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, which will be hosted in the Dominican Republic in October.

Travelling Squad Goalkeepers: Ephy Awuor, Scovia Awuor, and Velma Auma.

Defenders: Elizebeth Ochaka, Claire Meries, Lorine Ilavonga, Jenevieve Mithel, Christine Adhiambo, Judith Nandwa, Kimberly Akinyi, Dorcas Glenda, and Sheryl Atieno.

Midfielders: Velma Awuor, Brenda Awuor, Halima Imbachi, Rebecca Odato, Susan Akoth,

Lorna Faith, and Lindey Weey Atieno.

Forwards: Valerie Nekesa, Marion Serenge, Quinter Adhiambo, and Diana Onyango.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Borussia Dortmund reached their first UEFA Champions League (UCL) final since Jürgen Klopp’s 2013 team by beating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 (2-0 on aggregate) in a memorable contest at the Parc des Princes

Solid Dortmund Stun PSG To Qualify For 1st UEFA Champions League Final Since 2013



Borussia Dortmund reached their first UEFA Champions League (UCL) final since Jürgen Klopp’s 2013 team by beating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 (2-0 on aggregate) in a memorable contest at the Parc des Princes.

Matt Hummels’ early 2nd stanza header was enough for the visitors to extend their 1st leg lead. Despite numerous efforts from all-attack-minded Peruvians, Dortmund remained tight to qualify for the first final since losing in

2013 to their German counterparts Bayern Munich. Dortmund will know their June 1st Wembley final opponents on Wednesday night as 14-time champions Real Madrid, who will host Bayern Munich for the 2nd

leg semi-final after a 2-2 draw in the 1st leg in Germany.

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SPORTS NEWS



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A South African Teen Publishes Her Debut Book Titled “Silenced Tears Of A Broken Girl”



By: Mulamuleli Tshitangano
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “The specific love of literature began when i was very young, and used to read folklores with my grandpa”. The young passionate youth strongly believe that everyone has a passion, and through writing she is embracing her passion. That follows after she has just published her debut book titled “Silenced tears of a broken girl”.
- She strongly believes that her words have the power to inspire, entertain and make a difference through the support of her community. However, Sharon is an advanced teen who is also involved in Model analysis.
- Silenced tears of a broken girl are of daily triumphs as a teenager. We all face Adversity at some point in our lives. Silenced tears of a broken remind us that life’s obstacles are not road blocks.



Silenced Tears Of A Broken Girl

At just the age of 17, poetry finds its way in a heart of a South African youth. Mohlala Taborwa Sharon is a South African-based teen hailing from Limpopo province, and nurtured by Jane Furse soil in Mamone village. Growing up, Sharon loved the thought of coughing up the pages of books; although she would never classify herself as a “bookworm”.

“The specific love of literature began when i was very young, and used to read folklores with my grandpa”. The young passionate youth strongly believe that everyone has a passion, and through writing she is embracing her passion. That follows after she has just published her debut book titled “Silenced tears of a broken girl”.

She strongly believes that her words have the power to inspire, entertain and make a difference through the support of her community. However, Sharon is an advanced teen who is also involved in Model analysis.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Silenced tears of a broken girl are of

daily triumphs as a teenager. We all face Adversity at some point in our lives. Silenced tears of a broken remind us that life’s obstacles are not road blocks. Nobody knows how I suffered . I’ve seen the most vulnerable version of me, and I realised it took everything in me to survive from my silent battles. This masterpiece came together as I was writing whatever that clicked my mind whenever I felt down. I’ve learned a lot while i was hurting. I’ve created this to protect myself while I was healing to shelter my own wound from those who wanted to see me bleeding, and to keep my being safe and sane at the same time.

“The dream and hopes I have with my recent craft is to go big so that the world gets to know how South Africa has the best teen writers. One thing I want to achieve is to see myself writing more and more books,” she said.

Some of the icons that she wishes to collaborate with are Mulamuleli Tshitangano, Matalane Mokgatla and Mmathoke. Through their writings, Sharon believed that It’s much



Mohlala Taborwa Sharon .

important to explore some powerful strategies and helpful advices and keeping the creative flame alive throughout our writing journey. Just like any newbie in an industry, Sharon did face some challenges like everyone. “The challenges I faced during the process was when I had self-doubt regarding the poems I wrote thinking they were not enough. I raised my self- awareness

and went out there and got the help I needed. There were days where i felt that my work is in vain , and there were moments where i didn’t know what to do with all of the sudden change , but i wrapped in endless, boundless grace all the same , giving me strength everyday to breath deep