



Kenya Sanitation Alliance Meeting Highlights Collaborative Efforts to Improve Sanitation

The Kenya Sanitation Alliance (KSA) recently convened a pivotal meeting, presided over by Mary Muriuki, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards. The event brought together key representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, UNICEF, USAID, and stakeholders from 15 counties to discuss and strategize on enhancing sanitation services across Kenya. Page 18

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News>> Campaign To Give Out 1 Million Motorcycle Helmets Kicks Off In Earnest


P. 8. National Transport And Safety Authority (NTSA) Has Partnered With Several Organizations In The Initiative That Is Being Spearheaded By Social Media Platform; LipaLikes



News>> New KPCU In Major Changes To Boost Service Delivery

P. 12. The Managing Director of the New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU), Timothy Mirugi, has announced a significant infrastructural and human resource re-structure to enhance its service delivery to coffee farmers.

Government Out To Deal With Fake Drugs - Gachagua

 The government is intensifying the fight against the sale of fake and counterfeit medicines to rid the country of harmful drugs sold in licensed and unlicensed outlets, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said. The DP said security officers will work closely with the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya and other agencies to identify crooks and criminals operating pharmacists and chemists illegally and take lawful action against them.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 10



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Magical Kenya logo and social media icons (thumbs up, heart, paper plane) are also present.

Tharaka Nithi Says No To, One Man, One Vote, One Shilling Revenue Sharing Formula

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themtkenyatices



From left: Tharaka Nithi County Secretary Mr Alex Muratha and Chief of Staff Murithi Mbiro consoles Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael during the burial of his father in Muthambi ward. Photo/Mwenda Njeru

Worth Noting:

- “The last time the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ was taken to the Senate for debate, Tharaka Nithi County was losing a lot of money and that is why we can’t support such a proposal,” said Mr Njuki during a recent meeting with President Ruto in Nakuru.
- He said the Parliament should come up with a revenue sharing formula that does not disadvantage any county so that all the parts of the country can develop.
- According to Gachagua and the other proponents of the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ revenue sharing formula, money should be shared by individuals.

Tharaka Nithi County leaders led by Governor Muthomi Njuki have opposed the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ revenue-sharing formula debate championed by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. The leaders have said the formula also opposed by President William Ruto does not promote unity in the country because it disadvantages counties which are less populated. The leaders argue that some regions including Tharaka Nithi, Lamu and several other counties in have been marginalized in terms of development since independence and DP’s formula would only disadvantage them more.

“The last time the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ was taken to the Senate for debate, Tharaka Nithi County was losing a lot of money and that is why we can’t support such a proposal,” said Mr Njuki during a recent meeting with President Ruto in Nakuru. He said the Parliament should come up with a revenue sharing formula that does not disadvantage any county so that all the parts of the country can develop. According to Gachagua and the other proponents of the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ revenue sharing formula, money should be shared by individuals. Speaking yesterday in Iriga village in

Muthambi ward, Maara constituency during the burial of Bishop Ragu Njagi Mukira, the father to Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael, county leaders led by Administration Executive Muthini Karangi, Karingani Member of County Assembly Murithi Gaturo and his Muthambi counterpart Moris Mangu also faulted the ‘one man, one vote, one shilling’ formula. Mr Mangu said Mt Kenya West which mainly comprises of Kikuyu community which has a huge population does not even care about the other Mt Kenya counties like Tharaka Nithi. “If such a revenue sharing formula is

adopted, Tharaka-Nithi County will lose close to Sh1 billion every financial year,” said Mr Mangu.

Mr Gaturo asked the county leadership and the residents to fiercely oppose the ‘divisive’ formula should it be advanced to the parliament.

On the witnessed ideological differences between President Ruto and his deputy, Njuki said he could not afford to run away from the government to the opposition just less than two years after the elections.

He said in the government, most of Mt Kenya leaders run away from Uhuru Kenyatta’s government leaving those from Western, Nyanza and Ukambani enjoying development.

“I cannot afford to get into the bush to fight the government as early as now because I will disadvantage my people. I also cannot run away from this government which we suffered so much to put in place,” said Njuki.

Mr Muthini asked the county leaders to keep off the Ruto-Rigathi ‘fights’ and concentrate on lobbying for their constituents noting that already the county government is suffering from a lack of finances.

Bishop Ragu who was the national chairperson of all OFCAM churches until his retirement on December 8, 2019 was eulogized as a great man who not only promoted the church but also championed development in the region.


During the burial ceremony, leaders appealed to residents of Maara constituency to consider electing Mr Muisrael as their Member of Parliament in 2027.

Mr Mangu touted Muisrael as a peaceful person and development-oriented leader who has greatly helped his people since 2007 when he joined politics as a councilor.

Muisrael lauded the county leaders and residents for their great support during the mourning period and for ensuring that they rest their father peacefully.

Editor's Desk





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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kiambu Senate Speaker has approved a County Impeachment Bill, which aims to remove county officials for misconduct in office. The bill provides a direct framework for the removal of governors, their deputies, the Member County Executive Committee (MCEC), and county speakers. The bill has received its first nod from the Senate Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs, and Human Rights, with a few recommendations and amendments. Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa Thang'wa, who tabled the Bill, expressed excitement about

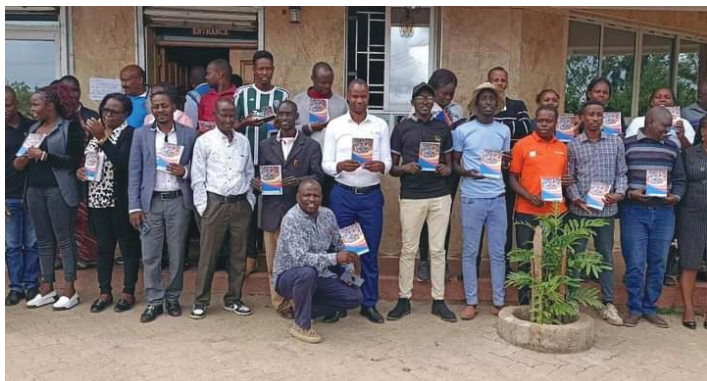
the bill's publication, urging the public to provide their input. The bill aims to address the lack of procedural safeguards guaranteed by Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution, ensuring fair administrative action and protecting the rights of all parties.



A teenager was fined Sh1 million or served one-year imprisonment after admitting to selling bhang to school-going children.

Joseph Mwangi, 18 was arrested by local police after locals reported him selling bhang. Mwangi was found guilty and

pleaded for leniency, stating he started peddling bhang at a young age to raise school fees. Murang'a Chief Magistrate Peter Ndwiga ruled that Mwangi must impose the fine or serve a one-year sentence as a deterrent to others selling bhang to school-going children.



The Samburu County Gender Sector Working Group has launched the Male Engagement and Inclusion Thematic Group to combat gender-based violence (GBV). The group aims to empower men and boys to participate in the gender agenda, challenge outdated

cultural practices, and support women in leadership, security, social economic empowerment, and anti-GBV areas.



Vihiga County Commissioner Felix Watakila has urged public officers to closely monitor project progress to prevent unscrupulous contractors from doing shoddy work or failing to meet set timelines. He criticised contractors for failing to complete projects at Ebanangwe Vocational Training College and Emululu VTC in Luanda sub-county. Watakila called for multi-sectorial collaboration to rein in criminals and ensure projects are executed effectively and within set timelines.

Kisumu County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Public Service, County Administration, and Participatory Development Judith Oluoch addresses participants during the launch of the second phase of the Huduma Mashinani initiative in Seme Sub-County, Kisumu County. "Huduma Mashinani serves as both a feedback mechanism and an information and dialogue forum, ensuring continuous engagement between the government and its citizens," Oluoch observed.



The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is engaging with the private sector to discuss strategies for eradicating child labour. The Deputy Labour Commissioner in charge of Field Services, Bonaya Kase, emphasised the need for the state to take the lead in reducing child labour in Kenya, with a target of ending it by 2025. "If you don't have that authority from the Ministry of Labour to employ children, then you are committing an offence. This has been a slow process, but where we have reached now, we are mobilising the communities so that we can now take action to eliminate child labour in totality," he added.



Kase highlighted the Employment Act's regulations, which require employers to obtain authorization before employing children. Kenya plans to fight child labour through free primary school education, transition to secondary school, and vocational training. The ILO CAPSA Project Manager, Grace Banyu, commended the government's proactive stand on child labour and human trafficking, urging the private sector to commit to labour standards.

The Kenya Bankers Association (KBA), in partnership with the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), rolled out the "Chora Plan" financial literacy programme to empower individuals and businesses with the necessary knowledge. The programme provides the skills and knowledge to make informed financial decisions and enhance financial stability and economic growth in Kenya. The programme will pave the way for a month-long sensitization drive focusing on building a saving culture in financial planning to enhance the financial health of businesses and households. The CBK Governor, Dr. Kamau Thugge, called for stakeholders to move forward on the financial inclusion frontier as a pathway to shared prosperity for all Kenyans.



The Principal Secretary for ASALs and Regional Development, Kello Harsama, has announced measures to support herders in Marsabit County affected by climate change. The Kenya Kwanza administration has allocated Sh1 billion to assist livestock farmers in restocking animals devastated by drought and flash floods.



The funds were captured in the fourth medium term (MTPIV) of the Vision 2030 Strategic Development Plan and will commence in the 2024-2025 financial year. Local pastoralists lost over 80% of their livestock due to these disasters, requiring timely action to restore livelihoods and human dignity. Monthly rations of 700 bags of beans and 400 bags of rice have been allocated to every sub-county.

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MAISHA NI
kuchungana.



Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya familia yako



Dozens Of Reformed Addicts Graduate After Successful Rehabilitation In Mombasa

By: OSDP



The reformed addicts from Mombasa posing for a photo.

Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas could not hide her joy seeing the transformation in the man and boys who have been into drugs for years. She noted that some reformed addicts were admitted to the facilities with their families (wives and children) after her visit to the drug dens.
- “When I went looking for the boychild at the dens, but as I was taking the boychild to rehab, some told me they had wives and children and we had to take them (wives and children) as well,” she said.

Reformed drug addicts from the coastal counties have graduated after a six month rehabilitation program under the office of the Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi.

The former 65 addicts included seven women who were part of the program at two rehabilitation; Eden house in Likoni and Reachout facilities at the Coast region and sponsored by Pastor Dorcas.

The reformed addicts were identified when Pastor Dorcas toured Shimamzi drug dens in Mombasa before she organized a medical camp at the Railways dispensary and Miritini late last year.

Many of the addicts had lost hope of ever regaining their well-being after being addicted to drugs for years. Religious leaders from have pledged to support the initiative across

Pastor Dorcas could not hide her joy seeing the transformation in the man and boys who have been into drugs for years. She noted that some reformed addicts were admitted to the facilities with their families (wives and children) after her visit to the drug dens.

“When I went looking for the boychild at the dens, but as I was taking the boychild to rehab, some told me they had wives and children and we had to take them (wives and children) as well,” she said.

Under the rehabilitation program, one of the facilities has been accommodating the addicts with their families.

“The lives of our children are very precious and we must save them regardless of our differences. When I look at you (Religious leaders) I see the solution to the challenges facing our children. We must save our generation,” she added.

State Department of Medical Services Harry Kimutai lauded the efforts by Pastor Dorcas in saving the boychild saying the efforts are saving a generation.

The PS promised that through his ministry some of the men will be trained as trainers.

“We will pick some of them and train them to become trainers, those who will be going to those dens to fish out the rest,” he said.

Kisauni DCC Jamleck Mbumba

promised that the local administration would work with the religious leaders in fighting the drugs and substance abuse menace at the coastal county.

“The battle is not over but we have made progress. We urge all of us to join hands and end this menace and everyone to do their responsibility in saving our children,” he said.

Ushindi Baptist Church Bishop Joseph Maisha lauded Pastor Dorcas for the transformation of the 65 adding that there is a new hope at the coast.

“When we were in Shimanzi, I saw some of the addicts in very bad situations, but Pastor Dorcas went to them and they were crying to her as their mother. They had lost hope, but now I see the work that has been done and as the coast region we are proud,” Bishop Maisha said.

His sentiments were echoed by Sheikh Rashid Swaleh who called for collaborative efforts in the fight against alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse.

Evelyn Watere, popularly known as Queen Latifah one of the seven women under the program and now a re-

formed addict could not hide her joy after a successful journey.

Watere has been a heroin addict for more than 26 Years. Together with her husband they both joined the program during the visit by Pastor Dorcas at the Shimanzi drug den.

“I have been trying to get out of the addiction for years but it has not been successful but when mama Dorcas promised to help us, I have seen transformation. I can now see the future in my life.”

Boniface Ndirangu who is a reformed addict and a counsellor who has walked with the addicts on a recovery journey said that it was the first time that someone faced the hard drugs menace head-on. Ndirangu pointed out the high rate of success in the program.

“It is the first time we have seen someone doing something about heroin addicts in this magnitude,” he noted.

The forum also sensitized religious leaders from the coastal counties on prevention and treatment for HIV, drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse among boys and men.

Pastor Dorcas also launched the Country Action Framework for Acceleration progress in Ending Aids and promoting Health and Well Being of Boys and Men in Kenya urging religious leaders to be at the forefront in ending stigma among those living with HIV/Aids. The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) through the CEO Ruth Masha noted that more than 5,500 men and boys died of HIV/Aids in 2022. NSDCC chairman Geoffrey Gitu also urged religious leaders to help in ending stigma.

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Campaign To Give Out 1 Million Motorcycle Helmets Kicks Off In Earnest

National Transport And Safety Authority (NTSA) Has Partnered With Several Organizations In The Initiative That Is Being Spearheaded By Social Media Platform; LipaLikes

By: Wilfred Muchire
@themtkenyatimes

A unique campaign aimed at sensitising Kenyans on road safety, more so for Bodaboda operators has kicked off in earnest.

In the initiative, one million motorcycle helmets will be provided to motorcyclists across the country in the next six months.

During the inauguration of the initiative, dubbed, 'Abiria Ni Mayai', a motorcyclist took away KSh250,000 from Lipalikes Chief Executive Officer Nick Mararo at the ceremony held at the Kasarani Super Special stage in Nairobi.

The motorcyclist, Mark Makokha, emerged the best in riders preparedness and knowledge on safety test, following his skills on safety, patience and personal presentation all founded on point system.

Just like other similar events lined up across the country, last weekend's ceremony was organized to enhance the boda boda riders and pillions' safety.

NTSA is collaborating with Kenya Commercial Bank, Lipalikes and Rising Stars among other organisations to sponsor the multi-million shillings campaign.

Mr Mararo said his organisation, a



Lipalikes CEO Nick Mararo addressing journalists during the inaugural event..

Social Media platform came out with the idea to address the ever rising accidents involving motorcyclists across the country.

"The whole event is not only about carrying eggs it's about the safety of the passenger, and if he or she is safe the rider is home safe, and as you know when an accident occurs the bodabodas' are usually the first on scene and today they have learned on what to do just in case," Mararo said. "Sixty-five per cent of passengers don't wear helmets and some instances the rider, you will hear some women say the helmet is dirty, that is why we were also emphasizing on cleanliness," he added.

Nairobi bodaboda operators chairman Newton Kigonde appreciated the effort made by 'Abiria Ni mayai

dabi'.

"The initiative is the best so far and the gains are immense, I believe after this our passengers will be happy," Kigonde said.

Over 250 riders graced the event beyond expectations with 50 from Uasin Gichu county stealing the show.

The event next moves to the home of bodabodas' the western circuit.

The campaign initiated targets boda-boda operators through awareness raising, training, and reward of good behaviour.

NTSA Director General George Njao said the campaign has been necessitated by the fact that most motorcycle riders operate without helmets and reflector jackets endangering themselves and their passengers.

"Life is very delicate. He or she



Some of those who took part in the inaugural event..

needs to be driven with a lot of caution. Most importantly the passenger and the rider ought to wear a helmet at all times to remain safe on the road," he said during the launch of the campaign.

According to Mararo, pillion passenger safety is one of the most overlooked aspects of the boda boda business in the country.

He alluded to data indicating that a third of Kenyans who have died on the roads in the last 6 years have been out of boda boda accidents.

"This is a safety and skill campaign. We are pushing for a safety-conscious rider and passenger. Helmet-wearing is a key and integral part of this. Helmets save lives," said Mararo

NTSA and Lipa Likes are concerned that the helmet and reflectors are the

most overlooked safety items leaving Kenyans endangering their lives as they try to reach various destinations, with the constant threat of accidents and dangerous riding.

Data released in April focusing on the busy boda boda industry, capturing findings for the last 6 years – that is between 2018 and 2023, a third of road accident deaths were caused by boda boda dangerous riding.

The campaign will see various boda boda riders compete in a competition that will have them carry eggs, milk, and water with the aim of seeing who will have the least damage to what they are carrying.

Nyeri Affordable Housing Project Halted For Redesigning

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wamohome has said that the affordable housing project in Nyeri had to be temporarily stopped to allow contractors to make adjustments to the construction design.

"We changed the design after awarding the contract, and because of those changes, a delay occurred. We also had to revise the contract and the budget," said the CS.

The project, initially intended to build 320 housing units at the Blue Valley site in Majengo within Nyeri town was halted due to the soil's in-

ability to hold the proposed number of floors.

The ministry has now revised building designs to accommodate more housing units. The project has also led to a revised contract and budget.

The government plans to build a total of 1 million affordable housing units by 2027, which translates to a minimum of 200,000 housing units annually.



New EAC Secretary General Calls For Teamwork, Protection Of Community's Image

By: Christine Muchira

The new East African Community Secretary General, Veronica Mueni Nduva has urged the staff of all EAC Organs and Institutions to work as a team and called for collective responsibility as part of efforts to protect and enhance the good image of the Community.

In a well-attended inaugural meeting with the Staff of all the EAC Organs and Institutions at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, and other staff who joined online from the Institutions, the Secretary General underscored the critical role that each staff member plays in achieving the organization's goals and aspirations. "Unity and collaboration are the cornerstone of our success," said Nduva. "As an institution, we must work cohesively, leveraging our diverse skills and experiences to drive the EAC agenda forward. Our collective efforts are crucial in creating a prosperous and integrated East African region," she added.

Nduva said that under her tenure, each and every member of staff would be treated as a valuable member of the organisation, adding that it is the parts that make the whole. She emphasised the need to treat all staff



members equally irrespective of rank and national origin.

The Secretary General further reminded the EAC leadership and members of staff of their premier position as diplomats and the arising need to always project a good image of the Community to East Africans. The Secretary General called on all staff members to exhibit the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and dedication in their duties. She highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive public image of the EAC, which she said reflects the region's achievements and aspirations.

"Our image is a valuable asset, we all act as ambassadors of the EAC, upholding its values and principles in every interaction. We must ensure that our actions, both within and outside the workplace, align with the vision and mission of the Community," she added.

The Secretary General also addressed the challenges facing the EAC and urged all staff to remain resilient and innovative in their approach to problem-solving.

"We must be proactive and forward-thinking. "By embracing change and fostering a culture of in-

novation, we can overcome obstacles and seize opportunities that propel the EAC to greater heights", added Nduva

Speaking earlier, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba, outlined the progress being registered by the Community including; the Permanent Secretaries/Under Secretaries Retreat held in May in Kampala that considered the Appeals on the Institutional Structure for the Community and recommended more than 50 new positions to the 45th Meeting of the

Council for consideration and adoption.

"On behalf of the Secretariat, let me pledge our support and undivided commitment to you in order to realise the full potential of our community and utilise the same to meet the aspirations of the citizens in the region," said Ssemuwemba.

In his remarks, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Justice Nestor Kayobera, welcomed the Secretary General to the EAC and called for teamwork and networking among the bloc's top leadership, adding that this would help resolve many challenges facing the Community.

Justice Kayobera underscored the need for good relations among the various Organs and Institutions of the Community saying that there was no competition and rivalry amongst them would be counterproductive to the integration process.

Also present at the meeting were: the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors, Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth; the Clerk of East African Legislative Assembly, Alex Obatre; the Counsel to the Community, Dr. Anthony Kafumbe; the Deputy Registrar of the EACJ, Her Worship Christine Mutimura Wekesa; and the Heads of EAC Institutions.

Government To Connect Thousands Of Homes To The Power Grid

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Energy and Petroleum Principal Secretary Alex Wachira has announced that the government will connect 566,000 homes to the electricity grid at a cost of Sh42 billion.

The government aims to allocate money annually to have 90 to 95 per cent of all homes connected to power by 2030.

Wachira commissioned four new electrification projects, which will connect 600 households and institu-

tions in Cianthia, Karerema, Cieria, and Kanyaga/Gitiburi to the national grid.

He said priority will be given to areas with low electricity, urging beneficiary communities to be vigilant against vandalism.

The projects will take about one month to build and will be free of charge.

Wachira expects the projects to transform the socioeconomic lives of the people.



Government Out To Deal With Fake Drugs - Gachagua

By: DPCS

The government is intensifying the fight against the sale of fake and counterfeit medicines to rid the country of harmful drugs sold in licensed and unlicensed outlets, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said.

The DP said security officers will work closely with the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya and other agencies to identify crooks and criminals operating pharmacies and chemists illegally and take lawful action against them.

Speaking yesterday when he opened the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya International Scientific Conference in Mombasa, Mr Gachagua said collaborative efforts between the government and the professionals is crucial for the successful battle against the merchants of the harmful drugs.

“One of our weak points in the fight against drugs and substance abuse are some pharmacists and chemists that are dispensing unlicensed drugs over the counter. We have many young people, even in Mombasa, who get syrups from the establish-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha with Pharmaceutical stakeholders in Mombasa City yesterday..

ments and mix them with other things to make dangerous concoctions that are harmful to them,” he said during the event at Sarova Whitesands Hotel.

Further, the Deputy President asked the members of the Society to be more responsible in protecting the sanctity of their profession by flush-

ing out those tainting them.

“I call upon the professionals running the pharmacies and chemists to live up to their oath and do the right thing. Don’t dispense unlicensed drugs over the counter. We must also have a good record of all the drugs dispensed,” he urged.

To ensure success in the crackdown,

he said all the officers based at the counties have been instructed to fully collaborate with the professionals and other respective agencies.

“There are many quacks who have opened pharmacies and chemists. We will provide security and intelligence teams to help in cracking them down, to shut them down and take firm ac-

tion against the crooks,” he stated.

While acknowledging the good work done by the majority of the pharmacists, he said their role in the rolling out of the Universal Health Coverage is indispensable.

“The pharmacists are the backbone of our health sector. It is critical that you are professional because if you dispense the wrong drug, the whole value-chain from consultation through diagnosis will be in vain,” he observed.

At the same time, the DP while congratulating the PSK for its 60th anniversary, challenged the members of the Society to improve their participation in the formulation of policies and pieces of legislation crucial to the sector.

“That is why we are excited that, among other legal and policy frameworks, PSK has ignited and sustained a robust discourse among professionals, other sector actors, and the public, on the Kenya Drugs Authority Bill, 2022. Among other matters, the Bill proposes the establishment of a single regulatory body on Human and Animal medicines in fulfilment of the Health Act, 2017,” he said.

Owalo Presides Over The Official Opening Of The 3rd Regional Research Conference

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

ICT and Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary yesterday presided over the official opening of the 3rd Regional Research Conference at the Kenya School of Government as the chief guest.

Speaking during the 3rd regional research conference at KSG Nairobi CS Eliud Owalo implored that the partnership could mark a significant step towards bridging the digital divide in land administration. The Ministry of ICT is eager to collaborate with National Land Commission for a groundbreaking initiative: a large-scale digital skills sensitization program to revolutionize land governance and resource management.

In her opening remarks, The Chief Executive Officer, CHRP Kabale Tache Arero observed: “The Conference is poised to showcase prom-



ICT CS Eliud Owalo

inent researchers in the realms of land governance, data & innovation. These experts will present their findings from completed research projects and share their expert knowledge with a broad audience. “Data, Innovation & Technology are keys to

modernizing land governance. Our conference theme reflects the urgent need for adaptive strategies in a rapidly changing world” noted NLC CEO Kabale Tache

On the same breath, CEO National Research Fund Prof. Dickson An-



NLC CEO Kabale Tache Arero Wednesday morning at KSG for the Regional Research Conference

dala who was also Representing CS Education Ezekiel Machogu noted: “NRF facilitates research through key thematic areas based on Kenya’s existing frameworks as listed in the ST&I Act 2013, Second Schedule Section 9(1), which include; Agricultural and Natural Resource Scienc-

es, Biological and Health Sciences, Physical, Industrial and Energy Sciences; Infrastructure, Information and Communication Sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; and Earth and Space Sciences.” Noted NRF CEO Prof. Dickson Andala.

The Debate On Finance Bill 2024 Is Healthy



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- President Ruto however noted. Constitutionally, the mandate to enact the Finance Bill is vested in Parliament. I hope the House will support me.
- Turning to his critics, he noted that they would want Kenyans to believe that this would make them more poorer.
- The opposite is the true position. Dr Ruto said his interventions are designed to ensure a faster growth of our economy.
- This will herald in creation of more jobs in both formal and informal sectors. As such, Kenyans will put more money into their pockets and smile all the way to the bank.



I have been following closely the debate on Finance Bill 2024.

From onset, my eyes would be trained on how the two core committees of the National Assembly namely the Budget and Appropriation and Finance and National Planning committees steered the process.

The committees have so far followed the law to the letter and spirit.

Many Kenyans, who turned up during public participation, minced no word in opposing some of the proposed taxes.

Yes, we agree paying tax is a legal civic duty. However, these taxes are very high. The burden will be too heavy particularly to low income earners.

So, we recommend they should be reduced.

In response, members of the committees would tell them. We have taken note of all the issues you have raised.

We will retreat to review the Finance Bill and ensure your inputs are captured. President William Ruto had earlier revisited the topic of taxation.

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

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

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

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

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

President Ruto however noted. Constitutionally, the mandate to enact the Finance Bill is vested in Parliament. I hope the House will support me.

Turning to his critics, he noted that they would want Kenyans to believe

that this would make them more poorer.

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

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

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

Everyone of us has a duty to develop our country.

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

I promised you that I will fix it and steer it back on track.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ruto administration ascended to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under my watch, this will not happen.

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

(KRA) headquarters in Nairobi.

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

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

He vowed to deal firmly with KRA rogue officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Counties Should Adhere To Equal Representation In Staff Employment Parliamentary Committee Says

By:PSCU

The Senate Committee on Cohesion, Equal Opportunity, and Regional Integration has urged counties to adhere to the constitutional threshold when hiring staff.

The committee, led by Marsabit Senator Mohamed Said Chute, emphasized that counties must prioritize Kenya's diversity when structuring their staff.

Senator Chute spoke when the committee visited Lamu County Governor Issa Timamy in his office to inquire whether the county had upheld equity in its workforce.

Over the past five months, the Committee has summoned various government institutions to the Senate to examine the representation of Kenya's diversity in their staff composition.

The Committee is seeking to establish whether certain parameters such as ethnic composition, gender parity, age and People with Disabilities are considered in staff employment.

The Committee observed that PWDs have been greatly disadvantaged across board when it's comes to employment.

"PWDs are completely disadvantaged and we are pleading with in-

stitutions not to sideline them when it comes to employment opportunities," Senator Chute said.

In Lamu County, only 18 persons with disabilities (PWDs) have been hired, constituting just one per cent, falling below the five per cent threshold.

Lamu County Public Board chaired by Mr. Abdalla Mohamed explained that the county's terrain has dissuaded many persons with disabilities (PWDs) from seeking employment opportunities in Lamu County.

Lamu Senator Githuku Kamau advised the county to use alternatives means of placing job advertisement like social media, vernacular stations to attract a wider audience.

The board, in their report findings to the Committee showed that the youth took the lions share of employment in the county.

The Committee was surprised to discover that 20 county staff members are aged 60 years and older.

"Can the Governor please explain to us why staff as old as 74 years old are still in employment at the expense of the young people," Senator Betty Montent asked.

The County Public Board explained that staff aged 60 years and above were inherited from the previous government and were retained to train new staff.

Unsatisfied with the explanation, the



The committee members with Lamu government officials

Committee instructed the county to provide, within a week, the specific names and job roles of the elderly staff members.

On ethnicity, the Committee said they were happy with staff composition saying the county has managed to employ almost all tribes of the country.

Bajun took the largest share of employees at 623 out of 1675 employees.

Other tribes employed by the county are Kikuyu (353) Mijikenda (170), Pokomo (84), Kamba (58), Luhya (57), Luo (44) Kenya Arab and Orma at (40) employees.

The Governor stated that Lamu has

employed individuals from 35 out of the 42 ethnic communities in Kenya, positioning his county as the most ethnically inclusive in the nation.

The County assured the committee that they will undertake affirmative action policies to prioritise the recruitment of PWDs, women and minority groups in line with both national policies and their commitment to enhance diversity.

In terms of gender parity, the county has employed 698 females and 978 males.

The Governor highlighted that according to the County Government's Act of 2012, it is mandated that county governments ensure that no more

than 70 per cent of positions in the county public service, at any level, are filled by individuals from the dominant ethnic community in the county.

"The county in its bid to comply with the provision of the law has considered the merit of not more than 70% position slots for occupation" he said.

Nominated Senator Raphael Chimerara encouraged the county to follow due process guided by the constitution in their staff recruitment.

Senator Beth Syengo was also present in the meeting.

New KPCU In Major Changes To Boost Service Delivery

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatiimes

The Managing Director of the New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU), Timothy Mirugi, has announced a significant infrastructural and human resource re-structure to enhance its service delivery to coffee farmers.

The organisation is currently in a transitional phase, with major changes planned, including the introduction of a marketing department, an overhaul of milling machines, and the application for a Direct Sales Agency License.

The government has waived historical debts amounting to Sh6.8 billion owed by coffee farmers nationwide.

The Sh18,415,930 has been disbursed to 4,281 beneficiaries in 11 counties, including Tharaka Nithi. Other changes include hiring additional field services and providing subsidised coffee farming inputs to farmers.



President Ruto Receives Credentials From New Ambassadors

By: PSCU

President William Ruto yesterday received credentials from five new ambassadors and a high commissioner at State House, Nairobi.

The presentation of credentials marked the first time the Kenya Defence Forces were involved in the ceremony.

The national anthems of the countries were played and their flags hoisted after each ambassador presented their credentials to the President.

Previously, the presentation of credentials was an indoor event.

But in the Commonwealth, receiving credentials from a new ambassador is an important State ceremony for the Head of State in its formality and substance.

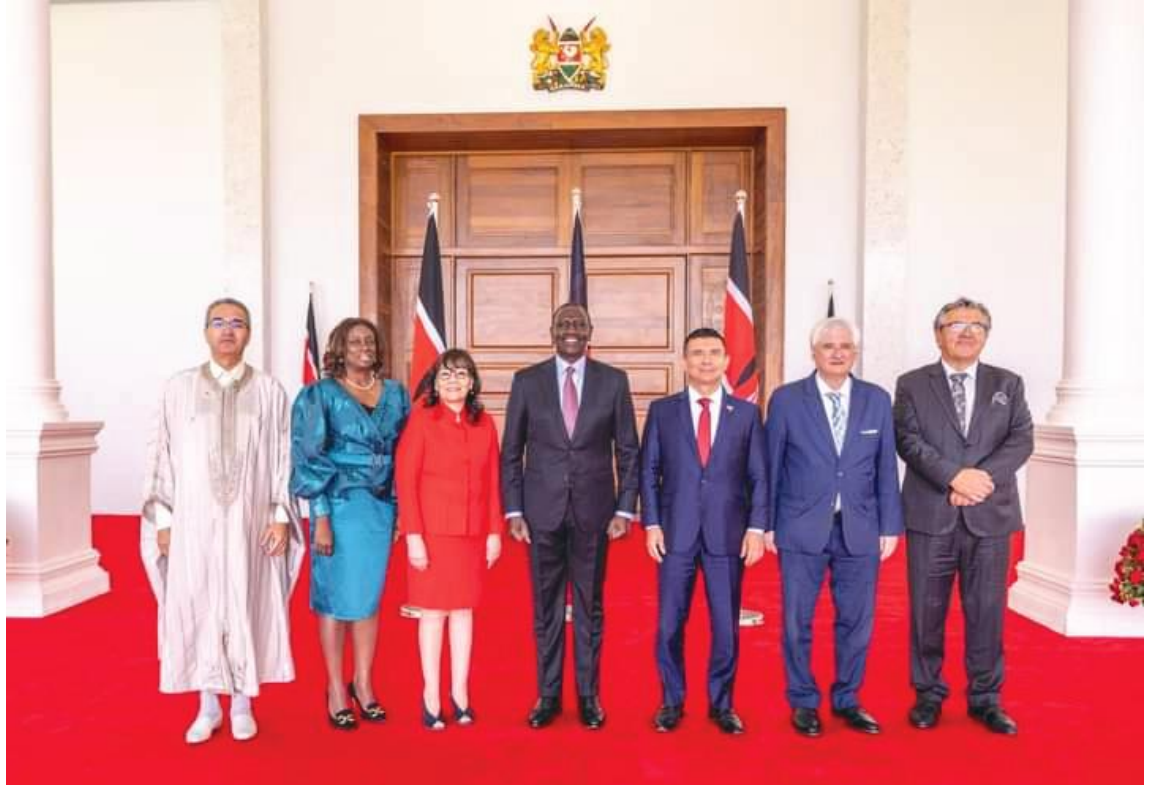
Only after this ceremony are ambassadors recognised as the representatives of their country.

The new ambassadors expressed

their commitment to strengthen bilateral ties with Kenya for the mutual benefit of their respective peoples.

Those who presented their credentials are ambassadors Anouar Ben Youssef of Tunisia, Patricio Alberto Aguirre Vacchieri (Chile), Luis Alejandro Levit (Argentina) and Romy Sonia Tincopa Grados (Peru).

Others were Ambassador Sabit Subasic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will be based in Egypt, and Ambassador Joan Thomas Edwards, High Commissioner of Jamaica, to be resident in South Africa.



President William Ruto with the new Ambassadors and High Commissioners at State House, Nairobi..

FBI Director Christopher Wray Makes Historical Visit To DCI Headquarters

By: The DCI

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations was yesterday honoured to host the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Mr Christopher Asher Wray at the Mazingira Complex headquarters, during his maiden tour to the country since his appointment as FBI Chief in 2017.

During his four-day trip, Director Wray met with high ranking government officials and several national security and law enforcement heads in the country, holding meetings that focused on strengthening bilateral security and investigative cooperation.

In an exclusive meeting held with selected Heads of Directorates at DCI headquarters, the eighth Director of the FBI lauded the existing partnerships with the country's top

most criminal investigation agency, highlighting key successes in counterterrorism and transnational organized crimes.

Wray further reaffirmed FBI's commitment to cooperation with stakeholders in adopting modern-day pragmatic measures pertinent to disrupting global threats.

Meanwhile, the host Director DCI Mr Mohamed I. Amin conveyed his appreciation to his guest and the US government, for the immense support the Directorate has continued to receive through sponsored trainings locally and abroad, donation of state-of-the-art equipment and enhanced information sharing networks.

Mr Amin noted that as a result, the DCI had managed to greatly suppress highly complex criminal activities, built its capacity and earned the confidence of Kenyans in its capacity to combat all manner of crime.

The two directors also responded to questions on national and international issues raised by members of



the fourth estate. dignitaries from FBI Headquarters

FBI Director Christopher Asher Wray receiving a gift from DCI Director Mohamed Amin

Wray's delegation comprised other in Washington, DC and the US Embassy in Nairobi.

Secret



Luck laughs in the dark.
I believe that this is my destiny
I will remain a mysterious girl.

ok whatever you think of me
I don't care about Bandasin's opinion
Even if you say it with provocations,
The important thing is that God knows who
I am!

Abdiyeva Shahzoda Sherzod
Abdiyeva is the daughter of Shahzoda Sherzod. She was born on April 20, 2007 in Yangkent MFY, Guzor district, Kashkadarya region. Currently, he is a 1st-year student at TATU Karshi Academic Lyceum named after Muhammad al-Khorazmi. She started practicing poetry for the first time at the age of 7, and in 2021, his first poetry book titled "Grandmother's Angel" was published. His poems are published in mass media. She won the 2nd place in the "Followers of Zulfiyakhanim" contest and several other online contests, as well as the online contests of young readers, poetry, and essay contests. Currently, that is, in 2024, he is participating in the almanac competition called "Follower of Great Antiquities", which was organized with the cooperation of prestigious foreign organizations. She is interested in art and literature, learning foreign languages, the world of poetry and reading fiction. Motto in life: "Even if the 29th day of the month is dark, don't be in a hurry to give up. There is still 1 more day, only beautiful patience and effort!"

I have become a strange mystery...
Only pen and paper knows my heart
The greatest witness to this mystery,
Only God is the Creator.

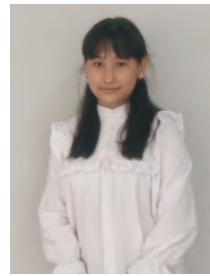
Laughter on the face, pain in the heart,
I'm running, I'm looking for a pen.
He will reveal my secrets as if this is my
lament
This is the Old World because it is
mysterious

When my heart cries, I am with others
My eyes show a fake smile
Maybe she is a happy girl without thoughts,
but
Only God knows who I really am.

I don't know how long I have left
Maybe the meaning of my life
How hard it is to live like a living corpse,
Maybe today I will leave you, World!

Well, whatever happens,

The Problem Of The Aral Sea: How Does The World See It?



One of the most pressing global issues in Central Asia today is the drying up of the Aral Sea. Are the experts working on this problem still unable to find an answer? Or has the attention towards the Aral Sea decreased so much? These kinds of questions have recently made ordinary people think. In fact, there are various speculations about what caused the drying up of the Aral Sea and how to prevent it. No one knows which of these is closer to the truth. According to experts, the Aral Sea dried up long ago and was restored years later. For many years now, the place of the sea has been covered by sandy dunes and salty soils. As a result of this, the flora is disappearing, having a great impact on nature. People living near the sea are suffering from endemic diseases. The biggest reason for the formation of the sea is that during the time of the former USSR, a lot of water was used for cotton growing lands

in Uzbekistan, and as a result, the island began to develop slowly. Thanks to the drying of the island, Uzbekistan took the first place in cotton production. However, by the present time, people have come to understand that they dried up the island with their bare hands. Our country, Uzbekistan, together with other countries in Central Asia, prepared agreements to prevent the island's security, set a deadline for them, and signed them. Of course, we may not be able to completely restore the island, but instead we can plant saxophones and other productive plants that are beneficial to nature, and we can use the rest of the island only in the right way. In conclusion, I will say that we should preserve and appreciate the blessings given to us by the creator of our nature. After understanding the mistakes made to all nature, it is only in the hands of humanity to correct them

I was born in Choriyeva Shakhrinoz, Zhondar District, Bukhara Region. I graduated from the 32nd general education school this year. My field of study this year is art journalism.

Truth At The Heart Of Prayer



What is the truth behind this glorious feeling, which has accompanied mankind since the dawn of time in various expressions and views? What is the reason for its eternal persistence in all peoples, nations, peoples and religions, big and small? What is the meaning of such phrases as "Apple gold, take a prayer"? It is difficult to find a clear answer for everyone in the sources to these questions that interest many. Because it is an abstract concept.

The power of the mind alone is not enough to perceive the mysterious world. That's why understanding, understanding and interpretations are different. But in relationships, the sameness is evident. In simple terms, when a person confesses his weakness, he turns to God and expresses his neediness, supplication, and supplication, and no one is hindered from this expression. There is such an opportunity that someone asks for salvation without even thinking about who they are. The tendency to pray

thus continues to be popular. Faith and medicine are separated from each other and even shown as antagonistic enemies. Thoughtful people can easily understand what the benefit is and what is the harm. Therefore, medical scientists who have conducted research on prayer have come to the conclusion that it is a factor outside of nature. More specifically, Dr. Bandolph Baird, who works as a cardiologist at a hospital in San Francisco, secretly conducts an experiment on his 393 patients. Patients are divided into two groups, one group is treated with medicine and prayers, and the other group is treated only with medicine. When the result is analyzed, it is found that the need of medicine of the patients treated without dua compared to those treated with dua increased by five times, and now it is no secret that this topic is seriously popular.

One truth must be recognized, some politics, society, system, ideology and individual may choose the path of irreligiosity, but humanity has never lived without religion, even during the Soviet era.

I am Sevara Turayeva, a student of the 11th grade of school 81, Kamashi district, Kashkadarya region, I was born on May 1, 2006

Daddy



People wearing hats
He brought my father
The roof was brought to a one-board
house
My eyes were filled with tears
He slept soundly
Our yard is crowded
Supposedly a market
"Dad," I said, going to him and whispering
softly
Wake up and move a little
I left shivering
Tears flowed from my eyes suddenly
My mother came to me and whispered,

"My daughter."
Now I am your father and mother
What I wanted to say didn't come out of
my heart
I still couldn't take my eyes off my father
In my dream, he said, "I'm going to caress
you."
When the time came, he would take
my father away, and the sound of his
ominous steps could be heard
I couldn't let go of the pain in my heart.
Let no one see this sorrow as bad as the
sun

Author: Mehrangiz Shirinova

Shirinova, daughter of Mehrangiz Ma'arif, was born on April 13, 2007 in Azamat Mahalla, Ishtikhan District, Samarkand Region, a student of the "School of Talented Young Journalists".

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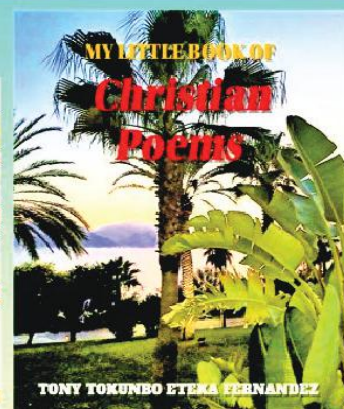
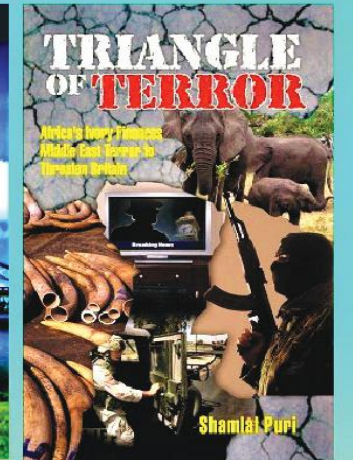
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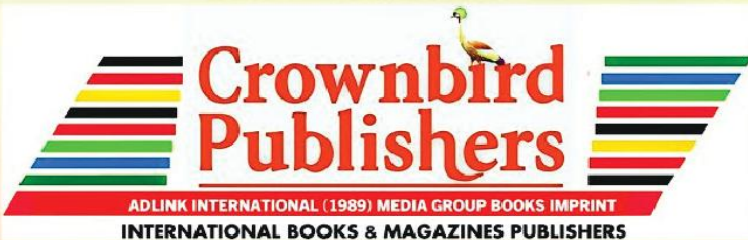
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BUSINESS

Fish Market Set To Revitalize Fish Production And Marketing In Naivasha

By: Mabel Keya
@themtkenyatimes



The Karai fish market

Worth Noting:

In order to cushion the vendors from losing their means of income and streamline the trade, the county government in partnership with the Africa Green Council embarked on a project to construct an ultra-modern fish market at Karai area along the Trans African highway, a facility that would also provide travelers with an opportunity to enjoy the delicacy in a serene environment.

According to Nakuru county Trade Chief Officer Mr. Ben Sang, the Sh340 million project is on the verge of completion with the current administration committed to ensure the last phase that includes construction of parking spaces, setting up of electric vehicle charging ports as well as cold rooms for fish preservation is done within the stipulated timelines.

Lake Naivasha is known for its role in high production of fish, thus helping to reduce the fish deficit in the country.

The fresh water lake has for years been supporting thousands of families who depend on the lake resources while contributing to the economic development of the lakeside town.

Only five species of fish are present on the lake, all of which have been introduced. They are Oreochromis leucostictus, Tilapia zillii, Micropterus salmoides (largemouth bass), Barbus amphigramma and Poecilia reticulata (guppy).

Because of availability of fish in the area, fish mongering is a common commercial activity along the busy Nairobi-Nakuru highway that has employed thousands of people in Naivasha and its environs.

On several occasions, the Nakuru county department of public health has banned the hawking of fish along the highway terming it a health hazard due to the manner the fish was being handled by the vendors. The hawkers also run into the risk of being knocked by speeding vehicles as they try to sell their fish to the passing motorists and passengers.

This is because there is no designated fish market on the highway.

In order to cushion the vendors from losing their means of income and streamline the trade, the county government in partnership with the Africa Green Council embarked on a project to construct an ultra-modern fish market at Karai area along the Trans African highway, a facility that

would also provide travelers with an opportunity to enjoy the delicacy in a serene environment.

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The project which commenced in 2020 but experienced some setbacks at the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, aims to resolve the perennial issue of fish sellers who lose their lives every year after being hit by speeding vehicles on the busy highway as they try to sell their wares.

The Chief Officer has expressed confidence with the progress of the project noting that traders will soon enjoy the privilege of operating in a safe and controlled environment, while at the same time ensuring that hygiene and safety of fish sold to customers is guaranteed.

The modern market is expected to have 300 stalls, with its core function including a fish value addition component.

Naivasha East Ward MCA Stanley Karanja in whose area the market is located is calling for the speedy completion of the market noting that it will boost the economy of the area and open job opportunities for unemployed youths. Karanja notes that with the delayed completion of the project will continue exposing

more traders to the danger of being knocked down by speeding vehicles.

Samwel Njoroge a resident in Karai area is among those who have welcomed the setting up of the modern market in the locality saying it will improve their livelihood and boost their businesses that they immensely depend on to earn a living.

Another trader Joyce Wanjiru who sells vegetables has urged the county government to hasten the project to enable them operate from the market.

According to Wanjiru, they are forced to travel to Kinungi market which is several kilometers away to sell their vegetables which is too costly, adding that once the market is complete, it will alleviate their suffering.

In November last year, the county government of Nakuru restocked Lake Naivasha with Tilapia fingerlings worth over Sh2.5 million in a bid replenish the dwindling fish stocks in the fresh water body.

Currently, there are 300 licensed fishing boats on Lake Naivasha manned by youth groups to ensure increased employment opportunities while also ensuring sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources.

The lake has only five fish landing beaches including Central beach, Karagita, Kamere, Tarambete and Oloiden. But only Central beach had been gazetted leaving the other four without legal and official land documents.

The county as at December last year Nakuru County recorded fish catch weighing a total of 2,045,856 kilo-

grammes of fish catch with an estimated market value of Sh.247,621,663 (Sh. 248 Million) from the lake with Tilapia species is the most common fish, according to the data captured.

Things are looking up for the fisheries sector as the Government is set to construct a state of the art landing site on Lake Naivasha at a cost of Sh. 100million.

Making the announcement in Naivasha last year, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Salim Mvurya Mgala said the landing site will have a cold room for processing and another cold room where the fisher folk can store the fish at the right temperature.

He said all these are intended to ensure that the fish the fishermen catch remains in good condition for a longer time in order to reach the market.

The project is part of the bigger plan announced by the Government last year where Sh. 900million was set aside for the construction of state of the art landing sites in various parts of the country in order to improve fish catches and meet the growing demand of fish in the market. He was a

Data from the Ministry of Fisheries shows last year produced over 30,000 metric tonnes of fish which has been a big improvement from the previous years where the country produced as low as 4,000 metric tonnes annually, with aquaculture accounting for 2.7 per cent and the annual supply gap of 50,000 metric tonnes of fish is projected to increase to 75,000 by 2030 if annual per capita fish consumption remains constant at 4.3 kg.

India, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were the top five main exporters of fish to Kenya, with the country importing roughly 620,000 kilogrammes (from India), 326,000 kilogrammes (from Oman) and 310 kilogrammes (from UAE) respectively. In total, Kenya imported 20 million kilos of fish worth Sh.5 billion annually to meet the deficit in fish consumption in the country.

The government is looking forward to increasing this production through encouraging aquaculture, provision of seed (fingerlings) to farmers and establishment of centres of excellence where farmers can get quality seeds.

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Kenya Sanitation Alliance Meeting Highlights Collaborative Efforts to Improve Sanitation

By: Aoma Keziah and Cynthia Masibo

@themkenyaintimes



Unveiling Khpoa's Strategic Plan: A New Era In Healthcare

age the knowledge shared during the meeting to drive impactful changes in their communities. "Let us move forward with a united vision for a cleaner, healthier Kenya," she concluded. She also announced the formation of a task force dedicated to addressing the immediate challenges identified during the meeting and ensuring that the strategic plans discussed are implemented effectively.

The Kenya Sanitation Alliance meeting marks a significant step towards achieving comprehensive sanitation coverage in Kenya, reflecting a strong commitment from both the government and its partners to enhance public health standards across the nation. The collaborative spirit and shared vision among the participants underscore the potential for transformative change, setting the stage for a future where every Kenyan has access to safe and reliable sanitation services.

As the meeting adjourned, participants expressed optimism about the future of sanitation in Kenya, with many looking forward to continued collaboration and the tangible improvements that these efforts will bring to communities across the country. The next KSA meeting is scheduled later this week, where stakeholders will reconvene to review progress, share new developments, and continue their joint efforts towards a healthier, cleaner Kenya.

sized the need for robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the progress of sanitation initiatives. By implementing comprehensive data collection and analysis systems, stakeholders can better understand the impact of their efforts and make informed decisions to enhance project outcomes.

The meeting concluded with a call to action for all participants to reinforce their commitment to improving sanitation in Kenya. Principal Secretary Muriuki urged stakeholders to lever-



Principal Secretary of the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni.

Worth Noting:

- The meeting provided a platform for various stakeholders to share insights, experiences, and challenges related to sanitation projects in their respective counties. Representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation presented updates on ongoing initiatives and future plans to bolster sanitation infrastructure and services. These updates included the rollout of new water purification systems, the construction of modern toilet facilities, and the implementation of waste management programs.
- UNICEF and USAID highlighted their continued support for Kenya's sanitation goals, underscoring the importance of collaboration and community engagement. "Our collective efforts are crucial in achieving sustainable sanitation solutions that can withstand the test of time and benefit future generations," said a representative from UNICEF.

The Kenya Sanitation Alliance (KSA) recently convened a pivotal meeting, presided over by Mary Muriuki, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards. The event brought together key representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, UNICEF, USAID, and stakeholders from 15 counties to discuss and strategize on enhancing sanitation services across Kenya.

In her opening remarks, Principal Secretary Mary Muriuki emphasized the critical role of sanitation in public health and its impact on the overall well-being of communities. "Improving sanitation is not just about building infrastructure; it's about fostering healthy environments that support the growth and development of our people," she stated. Muriuki highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach that includes education, infrastructure development, and policy reform to achieve lasting improvements in sanitation.

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UNICEF and USAID highlighted their continued support for Kenya's sanitation goals, underscoring the

importance of collaboration and community engagement. "Our collective efforts are crucial in achieving sustainable sanitation solutions that can withstand the test of time and benefit future generations," said a representative from UNICEF. USAID representatives echoed these sentiments, noting that their investments in sanitation projects are designed to empower local communities and ensure that improvements are maintained over the long term.

Stakeholders from the 15 counties shared success stories and best practices, fostering a collaborative atmosphere aimed at replicating successful models across the country. For example, a representative from Kisumu County discussed a recent initiative that integrated sanitation education into local school curriculums, resulting in significant improvements in hygiene practices among students. Similarly, representatives from Mombasa County shared their experience with a public-private partnership that has successfully managed waste collection and disposal, creating cleaner and safer urban environments.

The discussions also addressed key challenges such as funding, maintenance, and community involvement in sanitation projects. Participants noted that while there has been progress, persistent issues such as inadequate funding, lack of skilled personnel, and insufficient community engagement continue to hinder efforts. To combat these challenges, the meeting explored innovative funding mechanisms, such as micro-financing for local sanitation businesses and partnerships with private sector entities.

Additionally, the meeting empha-

National Museums of Kenya and ICCROM Launch Kenya Youth Heritage Hub and Jenga IT Hub



By: Cynthia Masibo
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The Nairobi National Museum of Kenya



Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the launch, NMK's Director General highlighted the transformative potential of this initiative. "The Kenya Youth Heritage Hub and Jenga IT Hub represent a pivotal step in our ongoing efforts to engage young people in the preservation and promotion of our rich cultural heritage. By providing them with the tools and skills they need to innovate and create, we are not only preserving our past but also investing in our future," she stated.

- Ms. Gujral echoed these sentiments, emphasizing ICCROM's commitment to supporting youth-led initiatives across Africa. "The Youth. Heritage. Africa Programme is about more than just preservation; it's about enabling young people to see the potential in their heritage and empowering them to create new opportunities for themselves and their communities.

In a recently held landmark event, the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) in collaboration with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) inaugurated the Kenya Youth Heritage Hub (KYHH) and officially opened the Jenga IT Hub, Nairobi Chapter at the Nairobi National Museum.

This initiative is part of ICCROM's broader Youth.Heritage.Africa Programme, which aims to engage youth across the continent through innovative and creative avenues, positioning cultural heritage as a cornerstone for economic and social development. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of ICCROM's Director General, Ms. Aruna Francesca Maria Gujral, who served as the Guest of Honour.

The establishment of KYHH marks a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to preserve and promote Kenya's rich cultural heritage. This initiative seeks to transform heritage into a dynamic and living resource that not only preserves the past but also fosters contemporary creativity and economic growth. The hub in Nairobi joins a network of similar centers in Rwanda, South Africa, Egypt, and Zimbabwe, which collectively aim to empower young Africans by providing them with the skills and opportunities to thrive in the modern world.

The Jenga IT programme, a key component of KYHH, is designed to provide comprehensive training to its first cohort of 22 youth participants over a six-month period.

This training encompasses a wide range of disciplines, including fashion, performing arts, visual arts, and entrepreneurial skills such as proposal writing. By equipping young Kenyans with these diverse skills, the programme aims to foster both personal and professional development, enabling participants to contribute meaningfully to the creative economy.

Speaking at the launch, NMK's Director General highlighted the transformative potential of this initiative. "The Kenya Youth Heritage Hub and Jenga IT Hub represent a pivotal step in our ongoing efforts to engage young people in the preservation and promotion of our rich cultural heritage. By providing them with the tools and skills they need to innovate and create, we are not only preserving our past but also investing in our future," she stated.

Ms. Gujral echoed these sentiments, emphasizing ICCROM's commitment to supporting youth-led initiatives across Africa. "The Youth. Heritage. Africa Programme is about more than just preservation; it's about enabling young people to see the potential in their heritage and empowering them to create new opportunities for themselves and their communities. We are proud to support the Kenya Youth Heritage Hub and look forward to seeing the incredible work that will emerge from this initiative," she said.

The event was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from several embassies and corporate institutions. Their

presence underscores the broad support and collaborative spirit behind the initiative, highlighting the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships in promoting cultural heritage and youth empowerment. This broad base of support is crucial for the sustainability and success of the hub, ensuring that it has the resources and backing needed to make a lasting impact.

In addition to the Nairobi hub, other youth heritage hubs are already up and running in Lamu, Ileret, Fort Jesus, and the Swahili Pot. These hubs provide spaces where youth can explore their cultural heritage,

collaborate on creative projects, and gain valuable skills that will serve them well in the future. By fostering a network of such hubs across the country, NMK and ICCROM are creating a robust platform for youth engagement and empowerment.

The Jenga IT Hub in Nairobi is particularly noteworthy for its focus on integrating technology with the arts. Participants will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources, enabling them to experiment with new media and digital tools. This integration of technology is essential for ensuring that Kenya's cultural heritage is preserved and promoted in ways that are relevant to the digital age.

In her remarks, Ms. Gujral highlighted the importance of this integration. "Technology offers us new ways to engage with our heritage, to tell our stories, and to reach broader audiences. By incorporating digital tools and techniques into the training programme, the Jenga IT Hub is helping to ensure that Kenya's cultural heritage is not only preserved but also made accessible and engaging for future generations," she said.

The launch of KYHH and Jenga IT Hub is a testament to the power of collaboration and the importance of investing in the next generation. As Kenya continues to celebrate and safeguard its cultural heritage, initiatives like these ensure that this heritage remains a source of inspiration and opportunity for years to come.



The Chairman of the Nairobi National museum, Mr Edwin Jacob Abonyo, addressing the media

Second Phase Of The Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Programme To Tackle Food Insecurity

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The government plans to roll out the second phase of Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE II) next month to tackle food insecurity in the country.

The ten-year programme, which will run until 2032, aims to eliminate EDE within the next decade through grassroots sensitization forums involving all stakeholders.

The new working document, EDE CPF II, focuses on investments in foundations for ASALs: development and resilience, peacebuilding, conflict management and security, climate-proofed infrastructure, health, nutrition, environmental management, ICT, digitization, and innovation for resilience.

The programme aims to strengthen capacities and systems in drought and early warning, contingency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery, with the ultimate objective of making Kenya a country resilient to drought risk.

The government has initially set aside Sh8 billion for providing food to affected families and feed for livestock in drought-ravaged areas of Nyeri.



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Sports >> *Athletics Kenya (AK) has unveiled a strong team of 59 athletes for the African Senior Championships, scheduled for June 21 – 26, 2024 in Douala, Cameroon.

Yego, Komen Among 59 Athletes Named To Africa Senior Athletics Championships In Cameroon



Julius Yego of Kenya makes a throw during a Javelin contest at the 2024 Kip Keino Classic at the Nyayo National Stadium on April 20 2024. PHOTO/Sportpicha.

Athletics Kenya (AK) has unveiled a strong team of 59 athletes for the African Senior Championships, scheduled for June 21 – 26, 2024 in Douala, Cameroon.

The team comprises of 26 female and 33 males, who will enter a residential training camp immediately to prepare for the event.

“The team will report for residential training camp on Thursday. The athletes are also required to report at Riadha House on Thursday at 3 pm,” read the official statement.

The Kenyan team will be led by national head coach Julius Kirwa.

“The team will be led by Etyang, chairman AK National Police Service, and national head coach

Kirwa,” the statement continued. Notable athletes in the list include 2023 Prague half marathon champion Roncer Kipkorir Konga, who will team up with 36-year-old experienced road racer Joseph Kiptum in the 10,000m.

World’s 10,000m silver medalist Stanley Waitthaka was named in the 5000m alongside Levi Kibet.

African Games 1500m champion, Brian Komen, and 2017 Africa U20 silver medalist, Boaz Kiprugut, will battle out for gold in 1500m.

In the 800m, former World U20 Championships silver medalist, Alex Ng’eno, will compete alongside Nicholas Kiplagat.

Three-time national sprints champion, Esther Mbagari, will

compete in both the women’s 100m and 200m, while Rukia Nusra will aim for the 100m hurdles title.

Athletics Kenya Team List

800m Men
- Kipngetch Ngeno
- Nicholas Kiplagat

1500m Women
- Mary Ekiru
- Caroline Nyaga

1500m Men
- Brian Komen
- Boaz Kiprugut

5000m Women
- Mercy Chepkemoi
- Teresiah Muthoni

5000m Men

- Levi Kibet
- Stanley Waitthaka

10000m Women
- Gladys Kwamboka
- Emmy Jepkemoi

10000m Men
- Roncer Konga
- Joseph Kiptum

3000m Steeplechase Women
- Mercy Wanjiru
- Leah Jeruto

3000m Steeplechase Men
- Edmund Serem
- Collins Kiproop
- Mathew Kosgei

20km Race Walk Women
- Margaret Gati

20km Race Walk Men
- Heristone Wafula

High Jump Women
- Zeddy Jesire

High Jump Men
- Asbel Kiproop

Long Jump Men
- Edwin Kimutai

Triple Jump Men
- Gilbert Pkemoi
- Isaac Kirwa

Discuss Women
- Caroline Cherotich
- Roseline Nyanchama

Javelin Men
- Julius Yego
- Methuselah Kiproop

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Sports >> *Germany veteran Toni Kroos said Real Madrid teammate Jude Bellingham can handle the pressure of carrying England's Euro 2024 expectations.

England's Hope Bellingham Can Handle Pressure, Says Kroos



Soccer Football - International Friendly - England Training - St George's Park, Burton upon Trent, Britain - October 10, 2023 England's Jude Bellingham during training Action Images via Reuters/Matthew Childs.

Germany veteran Toni Kroos said Real Madrid teammate Jude Bellingham can handle the pressure of carrying England's Euro 2024 expectations. Still just 20, Bellingham comes fresh off a Champions League victory at Wembley and did not play as England lost a warm-up match 1-0 against Iceland. Asked if the pressure was too much for Bellingham at his age, Kroos said the England midfielder was not like most 20-year-old footballers. "I've had a year with Jude and had to ask how old he really is.

He's 20 but -- and particularly off the field -- he feels to be a fair bit more mature than that." Bellingham moved to Borussia Dortmund aged 17, made his England debut in the same year. "It speaks for him that there is so much hope resting on him in England. At Real in the first few weeks he was directly decisive for us. And I didn't feel he had any problems as his importance to the team grew. "It speaks for him that the hopes are placed on him. I think that he's a guy who can handle this pressure. This personality at just 20

years of age -- it's no problem for him to withstand the pressure." England, without a major international trophy since 1966's World Cup win over West Germany, are one of the favourites for Euro 2024. At the previous Euros, in 2021, they lost the final on penalties to Italy. Kroos, who played his last game at club level in Real Madrid's 2-0 Champions League final win over Dortmund, returned from international retirement to play for Germany at the Euros but will retire from all football after the tournament.

The 2014 World Cup winner, who won a record six Champions League titles during his career with Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, called Bellingham "the complete package." "I wish him personally a good tournament -- but I hope that it's over for England at some point."

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Prospects And Principles Of Avoiding The Underground Economy In Uzbekistan: Towards A Formal And Sustainable Economic Landscape



By: Eshkulova Dilorom
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Worth Noting:

- **Expanding Access to Credit: Promoting microfinance institutions, credit guarantees, and other financial mechanisms to provide affordable credit to individuals and small businesses.**
- **Financial Literacy Programs: Implementing financial literacy programs to educate individuals and businesses on responsible financial management, saving, and accessing formal financial services.**
- **Mobile Banking and Financial Technology: Leveraging mobile banking and fintech solutions to expand access to financial services in rural areas and underserved communities.**

Abstract: Uzbekistan faces the persistent challenge of a substantial underground economy, hindering its economic growth and sustainable development. This thesis examines the complex factors driving the informal sector, analyzing their impact on economic indicators, social well-being, and government revenue. It then proposes a comprehensive framework for mitigating the underground economy, grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. By employing a combination of legislative reform, regulatory streamlining, and social interventions, the thesis argues that Uzbekistan can foster a more formal and vibrant economic environment. The research draws upon a diverse range of data, including economic statistics, case studies, and international best practices, to formulate a pragmatic roadmap for tackling this critical issue.

Keywords: Underground Economy, Informal Sector, Uzbekistan, Sustainable Development, Transparency, Accountability, Inclusiveness, Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction, Tax Revenue, Labor Market, Financial Inclusion, Regulatory Reform

Introduction

The underground economy, encompassing economic activities operating outside the formal regulatory framework, poses a significant impediment to achieving sustainable development in many nations, including Uzbekistan. Its presence signifies a lack of trust in government institutions, a complex regulatory environment, and a perceived lack of economic opportunities within the formal sector. In Uzbekistan, the underground economy is deeply embedded in various sectors, fueled by factors such as bureaucratic hurdles, high taxation, limited access to formal financial services, and a culture of informality. This thesis delves into the intricate web of causes and consequences of the underground economy, aiming to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenge and to propose a framework for its mitigation.

Bureaucratic Barriers:

The complex and time-consuming

procedures for registering businesses, obtaining licenses, and navigating the tax system deter many individuals and small businesses from entering the formal sector.

High Taxation and Lack of Tax Compliance:

High tax rates, inconsistent tax policies, and a lack of transparency in tax administration discourage businesses from formalization, leading them to seek avenues for tax avoidance.

Limited Access to Financial Services:

The lack of access to affordable credit, financial literacy, and formal banking services forces many individuals and businesses to rely on informal lending systems, further perpetuating the underground economy.

Corruption and Weak Enforcement: A culture of corruption and weak enforcement of laws and regulations discourages businesses from engaging with the formal sector, as they perceive it as a risky and costly endeavor.

Cultural and Historical Factors:

The legacy of a centrally planned economy, combined with a traditional reliance on informal networks and family-based businesses, has contributed to the persistence of the underground economy.

The Consequences of the Underground Economy:

Economic Growth and Development: The underground economy hinders economic growth by diverting resources from the formal sector, reducing investments, and creating a less competitive business environment.

Tax Revenue and Budget Shortfalls: The lack of formal taxation on informal activities leads to significant budget shortfalls, limiting the government's capacity to invest in public services and social programs.

Labor Market and Inequality: The underground economy often involves exploitative labor practices, low wages, and limited access to social protection, exacerbating inequality and contributing to poverty.

Social Well-being: The informal sector often lacks safety standards, healthcare provisions, and other social benefits, negatively impacting the well-being of individuals and families.

Sustainability and Environmental Protection: The underground economy can contribute to environmental degradation due to the lack of regulatory oversight and environmental awareness.

Towards a Formal and Sustainable Economy: This section outlines a comprehensive framework for mitigating the underground economy, encompassing legislative reforms, regulatory streamlining, and social interventions.

Transparency and Accountability:

Open Government Data: Promoting open access to government data and information on regulations, licenses, and tax policies to enhance transparency and reduce opportunities for corruption.

Strengthening Independent Institutions: Enhancing the capacity and independence of institutions responsible for tax collection, anti-corruption, and regulatory enforcement.

Electronic Governance: Implementing online platforms for business registration, tax filing, and other bureaucratic procedures to streamline processes and reduce human interaction.

Regulatory Simplification:

Streamlining Business Registration: Reducing the number of requirements and simplifying procedures for registering businesses, including simplifying procedures for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Tax Reform: Introducing a simplified tax system with lower tax rates and a broader tax base, focusing on value-added taxes (VAT) and a progressive income tax system.

Regulation of Informal Activities: Implementing regulations for specific sectors within the informal economy, such as street vending, transport, and small-scale manufacturing, with the aim of formalization and tax compliance.

Financial Inclusion:

Expanding Access to Credit: Promoting microfinance institutions, credit guarantees, and other financial mechanisms to provide affordable credit to individuals and small businesses.

Financial Literacy Programs: Implementing financial literacy programs to educate individuals and businesses on responsible financial

management, saving, and accessing formal financial services.

Mobile Banking and Financial Technology: Leveraging mobile banking and fintech solutions to expand access to financial services in rural areas and underserved communities.

Social Inclusion:

Targeted Social Programs: Implementing targeted social programs to alleviate poverty, improve access to education, healthcare, and social protection for vulnerable individuals and families.

Skills Development and Training: Investing in vocational training programs and skills development initiatives to equip individuals with the necessary skills for employment in the formal sector.

Promoting a Culture of Compliance: Fostering a culture of compliance through public awareness campaigns, highlighting the benefits of formalization, and promoting responsible business practices.

Conclusion

This thesis argues that the underground economy in Uzbekistan is a multifaceted issue requiring a comprehensive and coordinated approach. By embracing transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness, Uzbekistan can establish a more formal and vibrant economic landscape that promotes sustainable development, reduces poverty, and improves the well-being of its citizens. The proposed framework emphasizes the need for legislative reforms, regulatory streamlining, and social interventions to create an environment conducive to formalization and economic growth. By addressing the root causes and consequences of the underground economy, Uzbekistan can unlock its potential for a more prosperous and equitable future.

By actively engaging in further research, policymakers and researchers can refine strategies and policies, ensuring a more effective and sustainable approach to mitigating the underground economy in Uzbekistan.

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