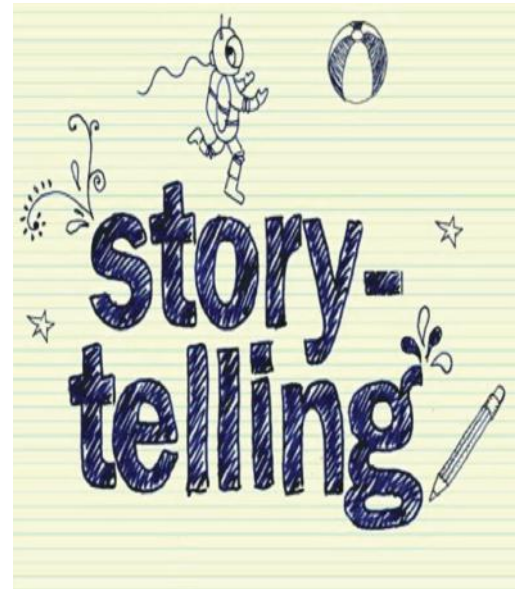


DP Urges Leaders To Focus On Service Delivery



P.9

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua



Opinion: The Art Of Story Telling – Crafting Compelling Narratives That Resonate **P.11**



Children representing different learning institutions across the county.

News: Kiambu County Celebrates Day Of The African Child With Focus On Universal Education **P.13**

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Azimio Resolves To Reject Key Tax Proposals In Finance Bill 2024

By: Irene Mwangi



Azimio co-principal Kalonzo Musyoka

Worth Noting:

- “If the bill is enacted as proposed, Kenyans must brace themselves for substantial financial strain in the form of increased taxes under the Kenya Kwanza regime,” Musyoka stated.
- “We understand that ordinary citizens, including small-scale traders like Mama mboga, stand to gain nothing from this bill, as it primarily targets them for the second time.”
- The Wiper Leader criticized the government’s approach, accusing it of subjecting Kenyans to punitive tax measures.

The Opposition Coalition has now set its sights on challenging the provisions of the Finance Bill 2024, which is poised to underpin the financing of the Sh 3.9 trillion budget for the upcoming financial year 2024/2025.

Azimio co-principal Kalonzo Musyoka warned that each Kenyan citizen might have to shoulder an additional Sh 24,000 in taxes if the proposed legislation is passed by the National Assembly.

Musyoka reaffirmed the opposition’s commitment to vehemently contest the bill, despite their minority status in the house.

“If the bill is enacted as proposed, Kenyans must brace themselves for substantial financial strain in the form of increased taxes under the Kenya Kwanza regime,” Musyoka stated.

“We understand that ordinary citizens, including small-scale traders like Mama mboga, stand to gain nothing from this bill, as it primarily targets them for the second time.”

The Wiper Leader criticized the government’s approach, accusing it of subjecting Kenyans to punitive tax measures.

He alleged that Sh 1 trillion of the Sh 3.9 trillion budget is essentially allocated to

recurrent expenditures in various government departments, which he described as ‘budgeted corruption.’

The Azimio La Umoja Coalition has raised concerns about the Sh 23.6 billion increase in recurrent expenditures, including allocations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sh 1.4 billion), the National Treasury (Sh 6 billion), and the Ministry of Transport (Sh 1.3 billion).

“This is not development but blatant embezzlement disguised as expenses for tea, snacks, and flowers,” Musyoka remarked. “It’s their turn to feast.”

The Raila Odinga-led coalition identi-

fied six contentious tax proposals in the Finance Bill, advocating for their rejection.

One such proposal includes a 16 percent tax on bread, potentially increasing the price of a 400-gram loaf by approximately Sh10.

They have also strongly opposed a new tax on motor vehicles, which proposes a 2.5% tax on the value of motor vehicles, with a minimum of Sh 5,000 and a maximum of Sh 100,000.

The coalition argues that this will elevate the cost of car ownership and result in higher insurance premiums.

Musyoka highlighted the new withholding tax on digital marketplaces, which imposes a 20% tax on non-residents and a 5% tax on residents’ income from digital platforms.

He asserted that this would raise tax compliance expenses for digital marketplace operators.

Additionally, the Azimio La Umoja underscored that the eco-levy tax, aimed at fostering a circular economy to manage waste, will inflate the prices of essential commodities, including bread and cooking oil.



“If this bill becomes law, it will significantly escalate production costs, impair the industry’s competitiveness, lead to closures, and result in job losses. Consequently, our local and export markets will suffer, and retail prices will soar, burdening the mwananchi,” Musyoka warned.

The proposed law targets a range of items, including diapers, rubber tyres (for wheelbarrows and wheelchairs), batteries, pencil sharpeners, staplers, printers, calculators, photocopying machines, coin counters, and wrapping machines.

The National Environment Management Authority has projected revenue of Sh54 billion from this levy.

The National Assembly Finance and Planning Committee has now retreated to draft its report on the tax proposals following the completion of public participation hearings.

Editor's Desk

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

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IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

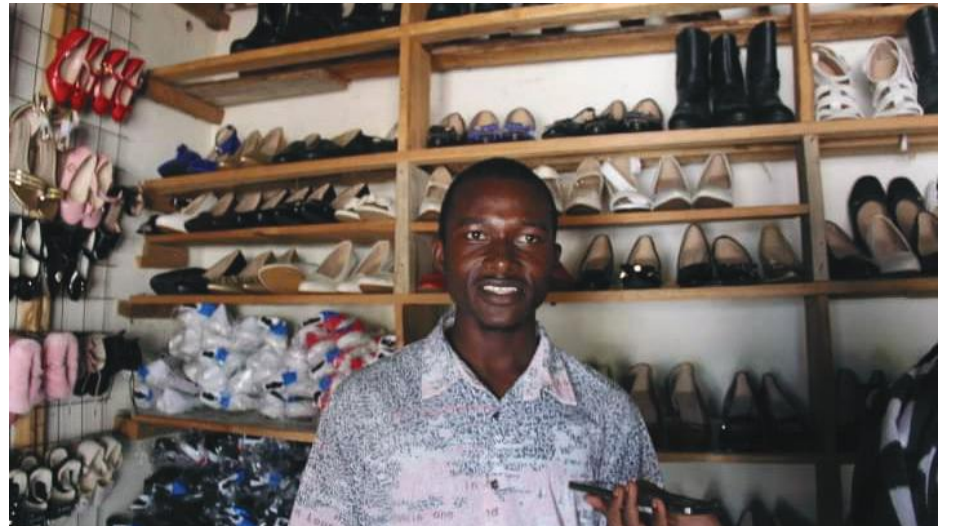
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NEWS IN BRIEF



A truck carrying sugarcane overturned at the Kachok interchange on Kisumu-Nairobi Road. Kisumu East Sub-County police commander Joseph Obara confirmed the incident that left the truck driver with minor injuries. Obara emphasised the need for the Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA) to urgently address the problem caused by the narrow interchange on the bridge. According to an eyewitness, John Onyango, the accident occurred when the driver applied sharp brakes to avoid hitting athletes training on the road, causing the truck to flip on its side.



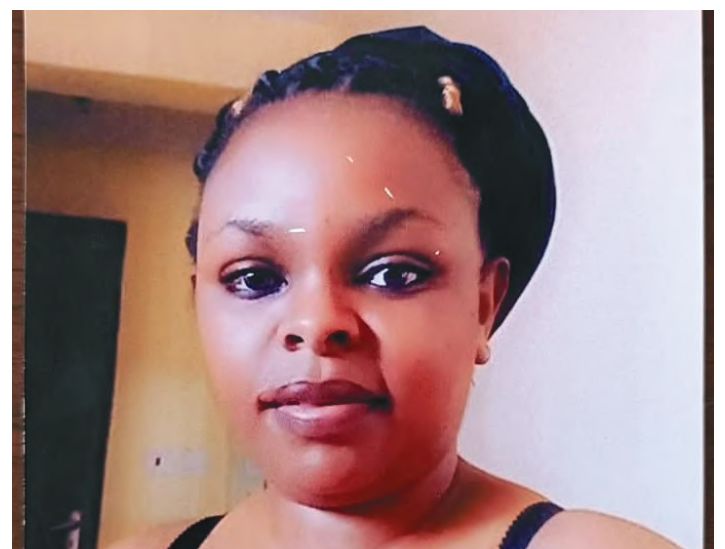
A section of residents of Homa Bay county have expressed displeasure over the proposals in the financial bill 2024-2025. The residents said the proposed increment of taxes on basic commodities such as milk and bread would hurt the majority of Kenyans. Grace Akinyi who is a vegetable seller at Soko Mjinga in Homa Bay town said that they were promised that the Kenya Kwanza government will uplift the hustlers but they were suffering because of high taxes.



Repairing electronics and general engineering work has been considered a male preserve by many in Busia County. However, this did not deter 24-year-old Centrine Odorot who is thriving in her career path at Amagoro business centre. Centrine saw her dream shattered after KCSE exams where she performed dismally and the situation at her family did not allow her to continue with her studies and pursue her dream career of engineering though she had the will. Driven by passion, she volunteered to work in one of the electronic shops in Malaba town earning Sh4000 a month; however, she prioritised gaining skills over salary. "After completing my Form 4, in an era where most students scored grade E, I saw my dreams shattered. I was no exception though I always wanted to be an engineer," narrated Odorot.

Detectives based at DCI Kayole, Nairobi are appealing for information on the whereabouts of 35-year-old Mary Mwende Kimwalu, who is a suspect in a case of Attempted Murder committed at Mihang'o Estate in Njiru, Kayole sub-county on April 22, 2023. In the case, Mary Mwende reportedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend three times on the chest using a kitchen knife, after a tiff that sundered their once dazzling love. After the heinous attack, she went underground, carefully effacing the track behind her. Mwende did not only hole up, but also cut communication with her family, known friends and has since avoided places she previously frequented hence paralyzing efforts to bring her to justice. The Immigration Department confirms that she has not exited the country, and a warrant of arrest issued against her on May 13, 2024 is in force. Records of the suspect held at the National Registration Bureau indicate that she hails from Ikutha in Kitui Central, at Kyoani sub-location. Uploaded herewith are photos of the suspect availed to the police by the family, who are also desperate to know the whereabouts of their kin. Do you know her? Have you seen her? Do you have any information that could assist in her arrest? Please report to any police station, DCI office.

Kilindini detectives yesterday nabbed couriers. The hunt was on at 1am as a team of Anti-Narcotics officers from Kilindini trailed a suspect as he loitered at the Likoni matatu station, impatiently waiting for a delivery sent from Tanga in Tanzania. As the clock struck 6am, Collins Omondi seized the parcel and discretely stowed it in his Subaru Treza Reg. No. KDE 948E. The officers, shadowing Omondi's every move, trailed him to Fazuka Apartment Complex in Utange Solian, where they swiftly arrested the unsuspecting smuggler. A meticulous search in his vehicle uncovered a cleverly concealed manilla sack, camouflaged with a mound of oranges. Upon closer examination, the sack was found to harbor 14kg of a dry greenish plant material, arousing strong suspicion of the illicit drug, Bhang! Securing the exhibit and with the suspect well restrained, the officers knocked at the house of Halima Masudi Hassan, who was up and ready to do some business. Unfortunate for her, the faces she saw at her door were what she ever dreaded. In her house, an additional 12kg of bhang was seized. By 7am when early birds were opening their businesses, Port Police Station was ushering in two suspected traffickers, a prohibited herb and a Subaru.



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MAISHA NI
kuchungana.



Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya familia yako



Kenya Shines On The Global Stage As Nova Pioneer School Is Nominated For A Global Award

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes



From left: Nova Pioneer founding director Christopher Khaemba, Nova Pioneer Tatu City girls principal Dr. Nyaboke Nduati, Wabui Omenga a student at Nova Pioneer Tatu City girls and Hon. Silvanus Osoro a parent at Nova Pioneer follow and celebrate the school's nomination in the top 10 world's best school in the innovation category at Tatu City, Kiambu branch.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking moments after receiving the news, Nova Pioneer's Director Mr Christopher Khaemba described the nomination as a tribute to the School's students, parents, and teachers, who have jointly worked to position the School on the global excellence map.
- "We are excited to receive the news that Nova Pioneer Tatu City, a school for innovators and leaders, is one of the top ten finalists in this year's World's Best School Prize for Innovation category. This nomination is a testament to the school community's sheer hard work as part of a joint commitment to elevate the quality of education in Kenya," Mr Khaemba said.

Nova Pioneer Tatu City School has been named one of the Top 10 finalists in the World's Best School Prizes education awards.

In a communique, Nova Pioneer Tatu City School has been nominated as one of the finalists in the World's Best School Prize for Innovation 2024 category and will square it out for the top honours with other schools from the United Kingdom, Brazil, Italy, and Australia among other regions.

It has been nominated in the prestigious awards scheme as the only other Kenyan academic institution alongside the Kakenya Center for Excellence, a government-funded primary boarding school for girls near Kilgoris in Narok County.

Kakenya has been nominated for the Community Collaboration Award.

Organised by T4 Education, a global Education Technology (Ed-Tech) platform that brings together a community of over 200,000 teachers from more than 100 countries to transform education, the World's Best School Prizes are the world's most prestigious education awards, giving inspirational schools a share of the KSh6.5 million cash award and a global platform so others can replicate their best practices.

Speaking moments after receiving the news, Nova Pioneer's Director, Mr Christopher Khaemba, described the nomination as a tribute to the School's students, parents, and teachers, who have jointly worked to position the School on the global excellence map. "We are excited to receive the news that Nova Pioneer Tatu City, a school

for innovators and leaders, is one of the top ten finalists in this year's World's Best School Prize for Innovation category. This nomination is a testament to the school community's sheer hard work as part of a joint commitment to elevate the quality of education in Kenya," Mr Khaemba said.

He added, "At Nova Pioneer Schools, we deliver educational excellence in an environment that nurtures our students to uncover their potential and blaze trails in the world beyond our school walls. Nova Pioneer students develop into life-long learners who can uncover their talents and potential."

While releasing the 2024 finalists, T4 Education Founder and CEO Mr Vikas Pota described this year's World's Best School Prizes finalists as extraordinary schools.

"We're thrilled to announce the Top 10 shortlisted schools for the World's Best School Prizes 2024. The competition has been fierce, and we're excited to share these extraordinary schools. Each shortlisted School has demonstrated incredible innovation, leadership, and dedication to providing a quality education for their students. From groundbreaking teaching methods to robust student support programs, these schools are redefining what it means to excel in education," Pota said.

T4 Education, through the World's Best School Prizes platform, aims to celebrate schools globally for their pivotal role in developing the next generation of learners and their enormous contribution to society's progress.



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Mombasa Residents Engage In Public Participation For Fourth Medium-Term Plan

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes



The Cabinet Secretary Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Salim Mvurya has chaired an engagement forum involving stakeholders and members of the public to discuss and propose development projects for Mombasa County

Worth Noting:

- The CS said the plan is aimed at raising living standards by creating more investment and employment opportunities for citizens and investors.
- He noted that there are various projects already in progress in Mombasa County implemented by the government to aid in the development plan.
- These include the Mombasa-Malindi road which is in the first phase of the project, with the second phase starting from Likoni to Lungalunga.
- Mvurya noted that the road will go all the way to Bagamoyo in a bid to open Kenya to more trade with other East African countries.

The Cabinet Secretary Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Salim Mvurya has chaired an engagement forum involving stakeholders and members of the public to discuss and propose development projects for Mombasa County that will form the basis for the fourth medium-term plan for 2023–2027.

The Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP 4) is a master plan launched by the government to accelerate Kenya's progress towards becoming a newly industrialised and middle-income country.

Among priority projects in MTP 4 for Mombasa County are the Dongo Kundu bypass and the expansion of the railway, among others.

"We have checked the medium-term plan, Kenya kwanza plan and the county development plan so that we can realise seamless implementation at the two levels of government," said Mvurya.

The CS said the plan is aimed at raising living standards by creating more investment and employment opportunities for citizens and investors.

He noted that there are various projects already in progress in Mombasa County implemented by the government to aid in the development plan.

These include the Mombasa-Malindi road which is in the first phase of the project, with the second phase starting from Likoni to Lungalunga.

Mvurya noted that the road will go all the way to Bagamoyo in a bid to open Kenya to more trade with other East African countries.

Another project is the expansion of railway, parking and extension where a commuter rail will be constructed to aid travellers who use the Standard Gauge Railway.

He said the Jomvu-Mariakani road is now under construction and soon a dual carriageway will be launched by the president.

According to Mvurya, plans are underway to connect the South Coast

and the island through the construction of a bridge worth Sh260 billion.

He also observed that the Dongo Kundu bypass is almost complete with the project aimed at reducing congestion at the ferry crossing channel.

Mvurya stated that the national government has also made a commitment to matters of health care, which is evident in the MTP 4 plan, with the government collaborating with the county government to facilitate the sector. He noted that the rollout of the Social Insurance Fund will ensure quality healthcare for all Kenyans, including low-income earners with the registration exercise ongoing.

The CS said the county government and local national administration represented by the County Commissioner will fast-track the process to ensure seamless registration.

He said the government also plans to construct another referral hospital

that will complement the Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital that serves the coast region.

Mvurya stated that the executive also addressed the expansion of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, with other airports in the country also put into consideration in revamping the transport infrastructure.

On matters of housing, the CS said that a social housing project by the Kenya Kwanza administration is meant to help low-income earners own decent housing.

"Apart from the ongoing housing project, there is an urban upgrade for which the president launched a Sh46 billion programme, a phase two of the urban programme implemented in counties," he said.

The CS said the housing project will create employment opportunities with women given an equal chance of employment as men.

He added that the government has constructed Ronald Ngala Tourism College in Kilifi to give youth a chance to train on matters of tourism that thrive on the coast.

He noted that this is an ongoing programme that a number of youths are benefiting from.

He said the Ministry of Education is now adequately facilitated with more than Sh600 billion to make sure they comprehensively implement the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) programme but also have implementation of the various levels of infrastructure including the financing of public universities.

Mvurya noted that security at the

beaches is also enhanced following the installation of street lights.

He further urged those who incite the legislators on the passing of the Finance Bill to come on board and air their views through public participation which is a democratic right for all Kenyans.

"Government services can be well provided if we allow legislatures to pass the bill that will help in tax collection. The law gives them a chance to discuss and remove a clause that they see as unfit, and that is why there is public participation," he said.

He added that it is impossible to grow the economy if there is no Finance Act that will help in mobilising the collection of resources.

Mvurya also announced that the fees for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) course at Bandari Maritime Academy have been lowered from Sh35,000 to Sh15,000.

He said the government has allocated funds to spearhead development in the blue economy sector.

"150 boats have been bought to help our fishermen; we also have five other boats for deep-sea fishing," he added.

He noted that the government will also build a landing site at Kindogo worth Sh150 million.

Mvurya said they will expand Bandari Maritime Academy to accommodate more students and also comply with international standards.

"We will equally launch a survival training centre at the facility, with Sh2.4 billion set aside for the project," he added.



Gachagua Urges Leaders To Respect Kenyans And Focus On Serving And Improving Their Lives

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has appealed to elected leaders to respect Kenyans and focus on serving and improving their lives.

The Deputy President said it is wrong for some leaders to ignore their mandate and instead, take to misleading and stepping on the people who look up to them for solutions for their challenges.

Speaking on Friday afternoon at the commissioning of new classrooms at Highway-Manyatta Primary School in Ruai, Kasarani Constituency, Nairobi County, the DP said the time to deliver on the promises to the people is now.

“I have heard some leaders disrespecting the people that elected them. Kindly respect wananchi. Even if you are now wealthy, don’t fall into the temptation of spitting and disrespect-

ing those who don’t have anything. Kindly accord them respect even if they don’t have anything like you do,” he said.

Mr Gachagua said he is a people’s person and always speaks for them, urging other leaders to do the same.

“I speak for the people. I listen to the people on the ground. I don’t speak what I have not been asked to say by the people. If I take a particular stance, they are millions behind me supporting it,” he added.

The DP praised Kasarani MP Ronald Karauri for focusing on developing the constituency promising to lobby for more support for schools’ infrastructure in the area.

“All the leaders must account to the people for the time they have been in office. Whether you are a governor, MP, Senator or even MCA, the people want to know what you have done for them,” the DP stated.

During stopovers in the nearby Ruai and Bypass estates, the DP emphasized on the need to improve the lives of the people through key



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with other leaders at Highway-Manyatta Primary school in Ruai yesterday.

programmes and projects saying the Ruto administration has allocated funds for roads and markets in the areas.

Apart from the host MP, other leaders present were Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei, Embakasi North MP James Gakuya and his Kajiado North

counterpart Onesmus Ngogoyo as well as area MCA Karis James Karanja.

Fight On Illicit Brews, Drugs Bearing Fruits - Gachagua

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says implementation of tough measures to curb illicit brews, drugs and substances has borne fruit as thousands of youths have been saved from the vices.

Speaking on Friday during a follow-up meeting to check on the progress of the measures at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi, the Deputy President said the whole-of-government approach has been instrumental in the enforcement of the measures.

“We have done quite well. I want to commend everyone for the action they have taken to boost the Government’s efforts. There has been a lot of cooperation from the respective agencies and law enforcement agencies,” he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua Speaking on Friday during a follow-up meeting to check on the progress of the measures at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi.

The Deputy President said reports from various parts of the country indicated that sale of the poisonous drinks has dropped, promising intensification of the measures to rid the country of the menace.

“Things are much better now. We will continue with the engagement to

review the progress we are making in this fight,” he added.

The comprehensive 25 measures have been rolled out since the be-

ginning of March and are aimed at boosting the ongoing campaign against the vices being spearheaded by the Deputy President.

The meeting was attended by Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, Attorney General Justin Muturi, Solicitor General Shadrack Mose, Judiciary Representative Ase Opondo, Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni, Anti-Counterfeit Authority Chief Executive Officer Robi Njoroge, Kenya Veterinary Board Chief Executive Officer Mary Agutu, Kenya Bureau of Standards Chief Executive Officer Esther Ngari, Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Dorcas Oduor, Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer Fred Siyoi, KRA Deputy Commissioner in charge of Enforcement Mutembei Nyagah and other senior officials.

People Living With Albinism In Kericho Benefit From Free Cancer Screening

By: Collin Kemoi and Sharon Chepwogen
@themkenyentimes

Persons with albinism in Kericho County on Friday benefited from a free skin cancer screening exercise conducted at the Kericho County Referral Hospital.

As the world marked International Albinism Awareness Day, a number of this vulnerable group that lacks melanin in their skin turned up for the exercise that also involved sensitization on the need for regular medical checkups to prevent developing skin cancer.

Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin, and eyes, causing the affected areas to be vulnerable to the sun and bright light. As a result, almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.

Speaking to journalists, Kericho County Coordinator for Disability Services, Hopkins Olasi, said skin cancer is highly preventable when

persons with albinism enjoy their right to health, including access to regular health checks, the use of sunscreen, sunglasses, and sun-protective clothing.

He said that due to a lack of melanin in the skin and eyes, persons with albinism often have permanent visual impairment, adding that they also face discrimination due to their skin colour, and they are often prone to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the grounds of both disability and colour.

The Disability Services Officer emphasised the National Council for Persons with Disabilities's commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of persons with albinism, stressing the significance of collaborative efforts between government agencies, healthcare institutions, and civil society organisations in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing persons with disabilities.

"Today we have also provided them with free sunscreen to aid against sunrays and hats to also help in the prevention of direct sun contact," said Mr. Olasi.



Persons with albinism in Kericho County on Friday benefited from a free skin cancer screening exercise .

The persons with albinism were advised to maintain monthly medical checkups where they also receive sunscreen lotions for their daily use. The theme for this year's International Albinism Awareness Day is to

reflect on the continued legal, policy, and practical changes still required to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of rights by persons with albinism. Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference pres-

ent at birth. In almost all types of albinism, both parents must carry the gene for it to be passed on, even if they do not have albinism themselves.

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Art Of Story Telling – Crafting Compelling Narratives That Resonate



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

Story telling is the art of weaving words into a concrete chronicle with the aim of creating a rich and believable narrative. Story telling is not just a transmission of facts but it should make the listener or reader ‘sits in the story’.

Every good story must have a plot. The plot is the structure that holds the story together like a skeleton. It helps in building a logical flow of events that emulate real life. The story’s plot need not flow a chronological order.

Many stories weave together from the present to the past making a very interesting read. The reader should be able to follow the plot in order to understand and enjoy the story. Your characters write your plot, your plot does not write your characters.

In character development, every event that takes place in your story is defined by your character’s feelings, thought and actions. Characters’ response to conflicts is the ones that make the story interesting.

Conflict is the life blood of the story. The protagonist usually wants something but has to overcome difficult challenges or the antagonist is

standing in the way or just disorganises the protagonist’s life. The reader must connect with the characters in the story in which case they will care about what happens to them and will be eager to follow them right to the end. Most well written stories will normally include the protagonist, antagonist, secondary and tertiary characters. Your characters should come out like real flesh and blood human beings.

The point of view of the story defines who is communicating to the reader and from what vantage point. We have five points of view in story telling; First person - whereby the narrator is the protagonist telling the story from their point of view. There is first person peripheral where the narrator is a close acquaintance of the protagonist - the story being viewed from their perspective. We have the

second person (you) whereby the narrator casts the reader as the protagonist. This one is a bit difficult to apply and is rarely used.

Fourthly we have the Third Person Limited - the narrator tells the story from the vantage point of one or more protagonists. Finally the Third Person Omniscient is whereby the narrator tells the story from multiple vantage points. A story can however move from one point of view to another.

The story must have a setting – that is where the story takes place. Characters are mostly defined by their setting which is where dialogue and action happen.

The theme indicates what the story is about. That is the ideas that a piece of writing explores - themes should be open ended, debatable and thought provoking. The story teller should

not attempt to resolve the theme’s conflict.

The way the author tells the story is referred to as the style. At the line level it is influenced by the choice of words, syntax, sentence structures and length. At the global level it is influenced by the story’s pacing, length of scenes and chapters.

A story well and meaningfully told should be capable of transporting the reader into a world of the writer’s own making.

David Ndirangu Bsc. International Business Administration (USIU- A) CPA (K). Business Management Consultant and author of the book; This is DAVE. Email: ndiranguda-vid2023@gmail.com

Woman In Kericho Invents Tea Pesticide

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Meet Viola Chepnetich, one of the participants at the Tea Belt Technical Vocational Education Training Conference that was held at Kericho Township Technical Vocational Educational and Training Institute recently.

She was among the best local innovators who showcased their inventions at the conference. She had one of the most brilliant inventions, a homemade pesticide developed specifically for use in tea cultivation. The pesticide is composed of natural ingredients such as aloe vera, lemon and white ashes which represents a significant step towards sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices.

Chepnetich’s initiative addresses the growing need for organic alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides which can have detrimental effects on both environment and human health.

“I began my research in 2019, conducting tests in Ainamoi, Kericho County and Limuru in Kiambu.



Viola Chepnetich

To ensure its effectiveness, I first tested the pesticide on kales (Sukuma Wiki) before applying it to tea plants. The results were effective with the pesticides proving to be 80 percent effective in controlling pests.

This success highlights the significance of my solution to enhance tea farming while promoting ecological balance,” said Chepnetich.

She said the pesticide can be used to control all crop pests but it is most

effective on aphids and mosquito bird pests.

Chepnetich’s work will go a long way in enhancing the entrepreneurial quest of the farmers to produce quality tea for market and become

profitable through reduction of pests that affect tea production at a lower cost.

The youthful innovator who has yet to roll out the organic product lamented that she encountered myriad challenges owing to the high cost of packaging materials for her products.

She further pointed out that she plans to take her innovation to Kenya Health Plant Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) for further testing and advice.

Chepnetich, who is a tutor at Township Vocational Training College said she is proud of her innovation which is in the formative stages and hopes to advance her scientific research in order to provide much-needed solutions to farmers’ production challenges.

Currently, she said the organic pesticide is still undergoing further research and is being used in the actual control of pests on the college farm and by farmers living around the institution.

Government To Revolutionise The Meat Industry

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

The 3rd edition of the Kenya Meat Expo held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) has brought together stakeholders, exhibitors and the general public to discuss the revolution of the meat industry for bottom-up economic transformation.

Speaking at the event, Livestock Development Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke said that livestock generates about 12 per cent of the gross domestic product, which the department believes should grow to 20 percent in order to bring significant growth to the livestock sector.

“As we embark on commercialising this sector, we have taken a value chain approach so that we can bring all actors from production, aggregation, value addition and manufacturing all the way to the market,” stated Mueke.

The PS emphasised that the Department is working with all these actors as one unit to create jobs and develop a valuable export development plan in



Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke with meat industry stakeholders.

the livestock sector.

Citing the Department’s journey of commercialising the meat sector from the market, Mueke reckoned that they discovered a huge market globally for

animal-based protein, which consistently demands quantity and quality meat products.

“As Kenya, we are strategically placed to achieve this because we al-

ready have the resources including 22 million cattle, over 35 million goats and 25 million sheep,” he added.

Further, the PS disclosed that he had worked with the key stakeholders and

developed a strategic intervention in the production sector to ensure they produce for the market in a sustainable manner.

He stressed the need to improve the breeding of animals, citing the Department’s specific intervention in developing a national balance sheet to monitor the amount of feed being produced.

“We have developed a livestock bill that is very progressive and that will commercialise the livestock sector,” announced the PS, adding that it has already been passed by the Cabinet and the Attorney General and is awaiting to be passed by parliament.

Mueke revealed that in the next few months, the Department will enact a system for livestock identification whereby they will register all livestock, track the feeding and nutrition regime and control diseases of the livestock.

This system, he assured, will solve the issue of cattle rustling and also ensure pastoralists get premium payments for their livestock.

Road Bumps Installed At Nakuru Salgaa Hot Spot To Enhance Road Safety

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themkenyetimes

Nakuru County Government has installed speed bumps at the Salgaa shopping centre access road in Mosop ward that will help ensure road safety and enhance the overall well-being of the community.

The County Engineer, Michael Kamau, said the initiative is expected to curb speeding, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents, following the recent completion of the tarmacing of the road, marking a key development in the county’s infrastructure projects.

He noted that the installation of the bumps is set to be completed soon, providing a smoother and more efficient means of transporting farm produce to the market.

Engineer Kamau said that road safety will also be improved by reducing the risk of accidents by slowing down speeding vehicles, especially for school-going children.

The Salgaa area and the Ngata Bridge are marked as some of the blackspots in the county where a high number of accidents tend to occur frequently.

Data from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) reveals that between January and April this year, 7,198 people were involved in accidents in the country.

Engineer Kamau said the NTSA data indicates a significant increase of 1,908 accidents compared to the same period last year.

He noted with concern that while the improvement of infrastructure was meant to improve citizens quality of life, it’s unfortunate that, in some cases, it tends to increase accidents.

He urged motorists to follow the laid-down safety measures to become better and more competitive drivers by reducing the ever-increasing accidents along the Nakuru-Kericho highway.



Kiambu County Celebrates Day Of The African Child With Focus On Universal Education



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes



Children representing different learning institutions across the county

Worth Noting:

- The event saw a substantial turnout, including notable attendees such as the FAWE Kenya team, led by Country Coordinator Pauline Masese. In her address, Masese emphasized the importance of education in empowering children and driving socio-economic development across Africa. She highlighted the need for concerted efforts to eliminate barriers that prevent children from accessing quality education.
- “Education is not just a fundamental right but a powerful tool that can break the cycle of poverty and inequality,” said Masese. “We must work together to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to learn and grow.”

On a recent event held at Chania Boys High School in Thika West was abuzz with activity as the County Government of Kiambu, in collaboration with various partners, celebrated the Day of the African Child (DAC). This year’s theme, “Education for all children in Africa: the time is now,” underscored the critical importance of ensuring access to education for every child across the continent.

The Day of the African Child is a significant event rooted in the tragic history of the Soweto Uprising in 1976, where hundreds of black schoolchildren in South Africa were massacred while protesting against the inferior quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their own language. This day now serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles for children’s rights in Africa, particularly the right to education.

In alignment with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which states in Article 11(1) that “Every child shall have the right to an education,” this year’s theme places a spotlight on the pressing need to address educational dispari-

ties. These disparities often arise due to location, race, parental status, disability, gender, and other socio-economic factors.

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“Education is not just a fundamental right but a powerful tool that can break the cycle of poverty and inequality,” said Masese. “We must work together to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to learn and grow.”

The event was officiated by the Department of Children’s Programs, which is currently spearheading the “Imarisha Msichana” initiative. This program aims to reduce the prevalence of teenage pregnancies, which pose a significant barrier to education

for many girls in the region. By providing comprehensive reproductive health education and support, the initiative seeks to empower young girls to make informed decisions about their futures.

“Teenage pregnancy is a critical issue that disrupts the educational journey of many young girls,” stated a representative from the Department of Children’s Programs. “Through ‘Imarisha Msichana,’ we are committed to providing the necessary resources and education to help girls stay in school and achieve their full potential.”

The celebration at Chania Boys High School included a variety of activities aimed at promoting the theme of education for all. These included speeches, performances, and interactive sessions where children and stakeholders discussed the challenges and solutions related to educational access. The vibrant atmosphere was a testament to the community’s dedication to this cause.

One of the key messages from the event was the call to action for all stakeholders, including government bodies, non-governmental organi-

zations, educators, parents, and the children themselves, to play their part in advocating for and facilitating access to education. The collaborative efforts of these groups are essential to creating an inclusive educational environment where every child can thrive.

As the event concluded, there was a renewed sense of commitment among attendees to continue working towards the goal of universal education. The Day of the African Child in Kiambu County not only celebrated the achievements made so far but also highlighted the ongoing challenges and the urgent need for continued action.

In the words of Pauline Masese, “The time for education for all children in Africa is now. We must seize this moment to make a lasting impact on the lives of our children and the future of our continent.”

I'm Missing You Again Today

Look, I'm missing you again today
I get my pain only from poetry.
Tears flowed from my eyes,
Look, I'm drowning without you.

Look, only pain and suffering in poems,
I just forgot myself.

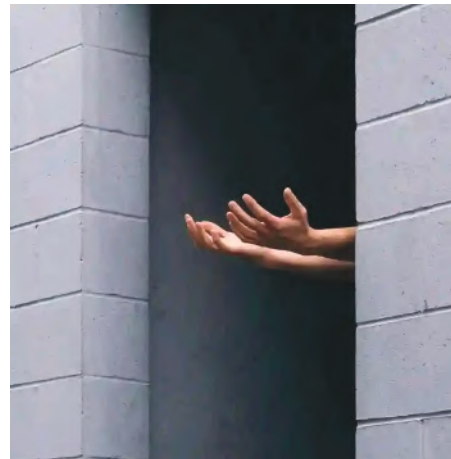
The pen trembles when I hold it,
Only this black eye is on your way.

Only this black eye is on your way..

Shonazarova Parizod Ravshanbek's daughter from Uzbekistan. She was born on 22nd December of 2005 in Khorezm region, Khanka district. Presently, she studies at 41-school in Khanka.



NEVER GIVE UP



No man was made perfect
Perfection comes with desire to be
Double energy up and constituency will
always bear fruits

Just like infants they don't grow up
instantly

It's a process that involves all nature of
efforts to see the growth
So as perfection comes with combination
of efforts.

Don't freak out when you fail
We hurt and heal
We crawl but we are moving the distance
difference from the start will always lift
up our spirits

Practice makes perfect
Nothing is too difficult for a willing soul
Positive energy invested will always pay
back double
Patience is the key
Hope will grace the journey

Don't give up
Stay strengthened
Ride with your head up just like the next
champion..

Never feel that low to give up
Light is always at the end of the tunnel.

ProGeorge Daniel Meya
@danielaomulama@gmail.com

My Dreams



I am sure everyone has dreams for the future. Some people think about who they will be in the future, some people want to send their parents on Hajj and Umrah. I really want to do that too. I think this is the dream of all Muslims in the world. Some people want to learn more than one language. My dreams are similar, but I think like a teenager and I want what teenagers want. This is my habit. Sometimes, I lie down and dream about my future, and I work hard to achieve it. There are people who dream big but do not move towards it. Many people ask me about my future aspirations, and I tell them my long-term goals. Now, I want to tell you exactly about my future, about my imaginary future.

First of all, I want to study as everyone dreams. Before that, I want to become a student of "Ibrat Creativity School."

This is the biggest dream, the first step towards my dreams. If it is the other way around, you are afraid to take the next step. I think all people are like that. But if it is the other way around, you are afraid to take the next step, and this has a big impact on the future. Then, I will get CEFR and IELTS certificates. I know it is hard to get

these, but I will try to get them. Some people told me that I cannot get them because it is hard, even my teacher told me. I will work even harder to prove that these words are false.

Then, I definitely want to go to universities in America or Britain on a grand basis, and I hope that I will never have to let my mother down. My next step is to get a profession. To be honest, I never thought about what I would be when I grew up. I dreamed of many professions when I was young, such as a Doctor, Policeman, Banker, Teacher, and then I studied English to become a Translator. But later I decided to choose another profession, and that profession was Ambassador. I had a lot of trouble deciding on a profession.

People started to put me down and told me that I could not pursue such a different profession. At that time, no one believed in me except my parents. And I want to show them that they were wrong. Through this desire, I came to Ibrat school. God willing, I will definitely achieve my goals and I will never let my teacher, parents, and all the people who believed in me down.

Shakhlokhon Jalolova is a student of school 35, Namangan city, Namangan region, Republic of Uzbekistan. She is a highly motivated individual with ambitious dreams for the future. Aiming to achieve both personal and professional milestones, she is dedicated to hard work and perseverance.

It Is Up To Us To Be A Builder Or A Destroyer



"Between Two Doors" is a novel by Utkir Hashimov, written in 1982-1985, depicting the period of the Second World War and its aftermath.

Seeing the title of the work and the cover of the book, some readers do not rush to think about the book, we can express the name of the work as the "station from birth to death" of a person. The happiness or misery that befalls a person in this interval depends on what we have done and what we have not done.

They say

"Someone is born in heaven and dies in hell.

One is born hellish and dies heavenly." The author shows not only the sufferings of the war, but also the trials of thousands of people behind the front lines.

The fate of our believing ancestors, who overcame these trials, and those who succumbed to the scourge of the soul, can be a lesson for us.

Maybe for you too, it seems that the tragedy in the work has increased. The author explains it like this:

"Life is not a celebration. War is not a game."

I will not dwell on every character and every event in the play. But I would like to draw your attention to this passage taken from the language of the elder Arif. Conclusion, of course, from yourself...

"There are people who are the same: he enters the door and when he leaves the door, he does what he can. He leaves at least one brick in the building called life. There are others: he wants to steal at least one brick from that building. He can't go anywhere by stealing it, and when he goes to the other door, he leaves it anyway. The only thing left to do is demolish the building..."

Aziza Saparbaeva

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Childcare Actors

ECD Network For Kenya And Childcare Actors Reflect On Status Of Childcare In Kenya

By: Aoma Keziah and
Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes



Mr Philip Nzenge, Deputy director Directorate of Children's Services and other stakeholders during the Conference.

Worth Noting:

- The ECD Network for Kenya reiterated its commitment to advocating for better childcare services and called for collaborative efforts to ensure that every child in Kenya has access to quality early childhood education and care. The network emphasized the role of community involvement and the need for continuous dialogue among stakeholders to address the evolving needs of children and their families.

- A child's earliest years (0-3) are the most critical period for their development requiring them to be in a safe, and stimulating environment. The absence of a safe and growth-enabling environment deprives children's ability to achieve their developmental milestones. Childcare is often regarded as a woman's role in most family setups, which burdens, and limits women's labor participation.

The ECD Network for Kenya, alongside key stakeholders in the childcare sector, held a significant press conference today to reflect on the current status of childcare in the country. The event brought together policymakers, childcare providers, non-governmental organizations, and experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities in improving early childhood development (ECD) services.

The highlight of the conference was the speech by Mr. Philip Nzenge, the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Children's Services, who represented the Cabinet Secretary. Mr. Nzenge emphasized the critical importance of quality childcare in shaping the future of the country, highlighting the government's ongoing efforts and policies aimed at strengthening ECD services.

"In our quest to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for our children, we must ensure that all stakeholders, including parents, caregivers, and the government, work in unison," Mr. Nzenge stated. He detailed the government's commitment to increasing funding for ECD programs, improving the training of childcare providers, and enhancing the infrastructure of childcare facilities.

ties.

The conference also featured presentations and discussions from various actors in the childcare space, including representatives from UNICEF, USAID, and other non-governmental organizations. They shared insights on best practices, challenges, and opportunities in the childcare sector.

One key topic of discussion was the need for comprehensive policies that support the holistic development of children. Stakeholders called for increased investment in early childhood education, healthcare, and nutrition, stressing the importance of an integrated approach to childcare.

Participants also addressed the pressing challenges faced by the sector, such as inadequate funding, lack of trained personnel, and insufficient facilities. They urged the government and private sector to prioritize investments in early childhood development, noting that the benefits of such investments extend beyond individual children to society as a whole.

The ECD Network for Kenya reiterated its commitment to advocating for better childcare services and called for collaborative efforts to ensure that every child in Kenya has access to quality early childhood education

and care. The network emphasized the role of community involvement and the need for continuous dialogue among stakeholders to address the evolving needs of children and their families.

A child's earliest years (0-3) are the most critical period for their development requiring them to be in a safe, and stimulating environment. The absence of a safe and growth-enabling environment deprives children's ability to achieve their developmental milestones. Childcare is often regarded as a woman's role in most family setups, which burdens, and limits women's labor participation. This calls for the need to create awareness at national, subnational and local levels on proper childcare, and enhance women's labour force participation.

The World Bank estimates that about 350 million children below primary school age, representing more than 40 per cent of that population, do not have access to Proper childcare. Additionally, it is estimated that about 40 per cent of pre-school Children are not enrolled. The childcare burden is widely felt among children under the age of three years, because the costs of keeping them is generally higher and few countries have policies or

provision that cater for their needs.

The gaps in access to childcare are acute in low-income economies where resources and policies are not available to support the children. In Africa, about 35 million children live without parental care, according to a report by the African Committee Of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Poor quality of childcare impacts a child's development outcomes and future potential in life.

Against this backdrop, countries have an obligation to expand access to quality, affordable childcare. According to the World Bank, national governments should implement a wide range of policies, including those that correct the market failures to boost economies and build a strong enabling environment to expand access to quality, affordable childcare.

As the conference concluded, there was a renewed sense of urgency and dedication among all participants to work towards creating a robust and effective childcare system in Kenya. The collaborative spirit demonstrated at the event underscored the shared responsibility of all sectors of society in nurturing the youngest members of the nation.

The press conference featured a comprehensive review of the current state of childcare in Kenya, noting significant gaps in accessibility, affordability, and quality of services. Despite the progress made in policy formulation, many children, especially those from marginalized communities, still lack access to essential ECD services.

As the country moves forward, the collective efforts of all actors in the childcare space will be essential in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The Day of the African Child is marked every year on June 16th. It is an important milestone and a reminder of the struggles and liberation of children in Africa. The day provides African governments with the opportunity to review progress made in protecting and promoting the welfare of children and setting new goals and strategies to enhance them. The theme for this year being "Education for All Children in Africa, the time is Now".

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Forestry Listed As One Of The Value Chains

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Soipan Tuya has said forestry has been listed as one of the value chains.

While speaking at a Narok hotel during the fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP) dissemination forum, Tuya said that the government is revitalising the forestry industry away from what it has traditionally been so that forestry can be seen creating jobs and addressing food security, adding that is the plan behind the 15 billion tree planting programme.

The CS said 20 per cent of the trees to be planted under the government's 15 billion tree planting programme are fruit trees that would speak to food security and nutrition value for the population in the country.

Tuya said the government has a responsibility through her ministry to provide unlimited supply of tree seedlings for fruits, fodder trees, and other various species that need to be planted in specific areas.

On the other hand, the CS said the government embraces participatory forest management so that the communities living near the forest have clear guidelines under the Forestry Management Act in terms of user rights for communities.

However, Tuya has made strong directives to forest officers, starting with the with the chief conservators of forests, regional forest conservators, and county forest conservators, down to the forest station managers, regarding the allowed activities within the forest.

The CS noted that Narok County has been greatly affected by the allowed activities within the forest. Adding to that, there are laws and regulations on the allowed activities within the forest.

She said that the activities that can be carried out within the forest are regulated by law, especially grazing and grass harvesting.

The CS said that they have delegated forest management to the community forest association, whereby the people who take responsibility are the forest officers, to make sure each community forest association understands the rules and regula-



The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Soipan Tuya.

tions on grazing. "For example, we have the regulations to be mapped out; we cannot have free-range kinds of activities within the forest, especially now that we are doing 15 billion trees for the areas under restoration; grazing is

not compatible," said Tuya.

The CS has directed all the forest officers to sit together with the community forest association to map out and zone the areas that are compatible with control grazing.

She also said there is a limited car-

rying capacity for livestock that must be enforced to the letter because it is limited; it can only happen within the areas that are not undertaking restoration activities.

Family Bank Shareholders Approve Establishment Of A Non-Operating Holding Company Ahead Of Expansion Plans

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Family Bank shareholders have approved establishment of a non-operating holding company that will hold shares in Family Bank Kenya and other non-banking subsidiaries ahead of expansion plans.

"Regional expansion remains a focus for the Bank in supporting our business growth and expansion strategy. We are exploring the possibility of expanding our footprint to countries within the East, West and Central African region," said Family Bank CEO Nancy Njau.

"This non-operating holding company will allow for capital efficiency, risk management and establishment of separate governance structures for both banking and our non-banking subsidiaries," she said.

The approval comes following the

Annual General Meeting where the shareholders also approved a KES. 723 million dividend pay-out for the financial year ended December 2023.

Family Bank CEO Nancy Njau, Chief Financial Officer Stephen Ngugi & PwC Senior Manager David Mugo (C) during the 17th AGM where shareholders approved the establishment of a non-operating holding company that will hold shares in Family Bank Kenya and other non-banking subsidiaries ahead of expansion plans.



National Assembly Seeks Dismissal Of Law Society Of Kenya's Petition On Bill

By: PSCU

The National Assembly has asked the High Court to dismiss a petition filed by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) seeking to block enactment of the Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

In an affidavit before Court, the National Assembly argues that the petition has been filed prematurely as the Bill in question is still before the Senate awaiting the Second Reading, following its passage in the National Assembly.

This, argues the National Assembly, violates the doctrine of ripeness which prohibits the court from entertaining issues prematurely when they are still abstract.

"The petitioner can still present its views before the Senate Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee. Therefore, the petitioner has brought the Petition prematurely before utilizing the available legislative alternatives available in the Senate where the impugned Bill is being considered," states the National Assembly.

Further, the National Assembly argues that the LSK is making an attempt to manipulate the court, by erroneously citing a past judgement without a complete

record of the facts or proper context to the present case.

The said judgement cited by the petitioner relates to a verdict made by the High Court on the Finance Act, 2023, which the National Assembly now argues did not prohibit it from undertaking its legislative functions, including amendment and repeal of law pursuant to article 95(3) of the Constitution.

In the petition, LSK claims that the Bill is a mischief to ensure that statutory instruments do not expire automatically 10 years after their commencement as is presently the law.

As a result of this, the petitioner claims may see some of the statutory instruments that were due to expire on the 10th anniversary saved with the potential to subsist in perpetuity.

However, the National Assembly argues that contrary to this assertion, a statutory instrument can be amended, repealed or replaced by a regulatory making authority as provided for under section 24(3) of the Statutory Instruments Act.

"This Court ought not to grant the orders sought in this Petition since the issues raised are premature. Furthermore, the petitioner has not adduced any cogent evidence to demonstrate to this Honourable Court that any right had been infringed by the Bill," argues the National Assembly.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT NAIROBI
CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION
CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO. E186 OF 2024

BETWEEN

THE LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA.....PETITIONER

AND

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA.....1ST RESPONDENT

ATTORNEY GENERAL.....2ND RESPONDENT

AND

KATIBA INSTITUTE.....INTERESTED PARTY

THE 1ST RESPONDENT'S REPLYING AFFIDAVIT

(In opposition to the Petition dated 8th April, 2024)

I, **SAMUEL NJOROGE, C.B.S.**, a resident of Nairobi and of P.O Box Number, care of 41842 – 00100, Nairobi, make oath and state as follows: **THAT**

1. I am the Clerk of the National Assembly.
2. I am fully conversant with the facts giving rise to this matter and thus competent to make this affidavit.
3. I am duly authorised by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, to swear this affidavit on behalf of the National Assembly.

In Memory Of Njambi Koikai, Make Paid Period Leave A Reality In Kenya: Nguvu Change Leader Sylvia Awinja

By: Sylvia Awinja
@themkenyaintimes

As shockwaves around the untimely demise of menstruation warrior and cultural icon Reggae RJ Njambi Koikai continue in Kenya, Nguvu Change Leader Sylvia Awinja backed by the Nguvu Collective has urged the Kenyan government to treat her tragic death as a wake-up call, and urgently introduce paid period leave for Kenyan women.

"Through her tireless advocacy, Njambi Koikai always appealed for timely care to be accorded to women's menstrual health. Her tragic death is a stark reminder of how menstruation cannot be taken lightly. This is a wake-up call for our country. How long will we continue to ignore the crippling pain women face every month and act

as if everything is normal?" Sylvia asks.

Njambi often disclosed how painful her condition was due to Endometriosis, through her videos, revealing that she went through 21 surgeries in order to resolve her health issues.

Similar to Njambi and scores of other women who experience severe menstrual pain, Sylvia too experiences excruciating pain during menstruation that cripples her from showing up at work.

"Even when she was enduring severe pain, Njambi used all her available platforms to raise awareness about menstrual health. It is incredibly pressurising for a working woman to be undergoing pain that numbs her mind and body and yet, perform at her usual pace. Many countries have acknowledged paid period leave as a right for women. But what about the menstrual rights of Kenyan women? Kenya should make Paid Period Leave a reality in Njambi Koikai's memory," urges Sylvia.

Sylvia has already filed an online petition urging the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Labour and Social Protection to enact legislation that will mandate all employers in Kenya to grant women employees who are experiencing painful or uncomfortable menstrual symptoms paid three days off work per month. Her petition has gathered the support of 7500 Kenyan citizens and continues to gather momentum.

Sylvia Awinja

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.....
.....
.....



Why Kenyans Should Reject The Finance Bill 2024: A Call For Economic Prudence And Social Justice

By: Grace Awuor
@themkenyatimes

In the corridors of Kenya's legislative chambers, a contentious document looms large, poised to shape the nation's economic landscape for years to come. The Finance Bill of 2024, ostensibly crafted to bolster revenue streams and fortify fiscal resilience, has ignited fervent debate and deep-seated concern among citizens across the nation. As its provisions come under increasing scrutiny, a chorus of voices rises, urging Kenyans to pause, reflect, and consider the ramifications of endorsing this legislation.

At the heart of the matter lies a fundamental question of equity and social justice. The proposed amendments to taxation policies, while purportedly aimed at shoring up government coffers, threaten to exact a heavy toll on the ordinary citizens of Kenya. From the introduction of new levies on essential commodities

to the spectre of increased VAT rates, the burden of these fiscal measures threatens to deepen the economic chasm, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities already grappling with the harsh realities of inflation and stagnant incomes.

Moreover, the Finance Bill casts a long shadow over Kenya's entrepreneurial landscape, particularly its vibrant Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector. While SMEs serve as engines of innovation and job creation, the proposed taxation frameworks and compliance requirements threaten to stifle their growth and dampen their resilience. In a nation where entrepreneurship is hailed as a cornerstone of economic progress, such impediments risk extinguishing the flames of innovation and stifling the aspirations of countless Kenyan entrepreneurs.

Beyond the confines of domestic economic concerns, the Finance Bill of 2024 sends ripples of apprehension throughout the global investment community. Foreign investors, crucial partners in Kenya's quest for economic advancement, may balk at

the prospect of navigating ambiguous tax regulations and navigating a landscape fraught with uncertainty. At a time when Kenya seeks to position itself as a beacon of investment opportunity on the African continent, the potential deterrence of foreign capital poses a formidable obstacle to realizing this vision.

Equally troubling are the questions surrounding transparency and accountability raised by certain provisions within the Finance Bill. In a democracy founded on principles of governance by and for the people, the opacity surrounding fiscal matters strikes at the very heart of public trust. Without robust mechanisms for oversight and public scrutiny, the risk of fiscal mismanagement and the exploitation of taxpayer resources looms large, undermining the social contract between the government and its citizens.

As the Finance Bill of 2024 awaits its fate, Kenyans stand at a crossroads, poised to shape the trajectory of their nation's economic future. In the spirit of civic engagement and democratic participation, the call to scrutinize



and, if necessary, reject certain provisions of this legislation emerges as a clarion call for economic prudence and social justice. For in the pursuit of fiscal reform, let us not lose sight of the imperative to safeguard the in-

terests of all citizens, ensuring a future that is equitable, inclusive, and prosperous for generations to come.

Who You're And What You're Matter

By: Martin Baiyenia Mukenya
@themkenyatimes

Normalize checking your internal environment (mindsets, exposure, emotional health, social capital and support systems) your mind is operating on.

It might be not working in your favor.

For you to unleashing your full potential.

After looking at this Benz and where it has been with all its potential.

I manifested ...

Their brains neurologically are born with engine capacity of a Benz but they are roaming like a probox car due to their internal environment.

In the era of modern technologies and information age. The physical environment don't mean much.

Work on your internal environment

if you have too to be the next big thing.

To those given big brains sense is expected.

We need you to be a problem solver. Sometimes your problem might not be your problem but the person you're telling your problems is the problem.

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Sports >> *World record holder for the women's 10,000m Beatrice Chebet is confident of her stamina to double in the 5000m and 10,000m at the upcoming Olympics in Paris.

'Who Am I Not To Double?' World Record Holder Chebet Eyes Two Medals At Paris Olympics



Faith Kipyegon (left) and Beatrice Chebet (right) during the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Photo/ERICK BARASA

World record holder for the women's 10,000m Beatrice Chebet is confident of her stamina to double in the 5000m and 10,000m at the upcoming Olympics in Paris.

The world cross country champion believes she is no different from other athletes who have doubled in both races in the past. "The 5000m will be coming first at the Olympics before the 10,000m so I hope everything goes well. There are so many athletes who have doubled before at the Olympics so who am I not to do that?" Chebet posed.

She added: "Everything is about believing in yourself and going

for it. My target at the Olympics is to make the podium for both races."

The world 5000m bronze medalist was on Thursday named in the women's 10,000m to fly the national flag at the quadrennial games – along with World Road Running 5km silver medalist Lilian Kasait and the 2022 World 10,000m bronze medalist Margaret Chelimo.

This was in the aftermath of her earth-shattering run at May's Prefontaine Classic in Oregon where she clocked 28:54.14 to win the women's 10,000m.

She was in her usual swashbuckling self as she clocked 14:52.55

to finish second in the women's 5000m at the national trials for the Paris Olympics on Friday morning at the Nyayo Stadium.

Double world record holder Faith Kipyegon took top honours in 14:46.28 with Chelimo clocking 14:59.39 in third.

Chebet said she decided to compete in the 12-and-a-half lap race to show her worthiness for the ticket to the Olympics.

"It wasn't an easy race because two weeks ago I was competing in the women's 10,000m at the Prefontaine Classic. Breaking the world record is not easy; I have been fatigued ever since. Rather than wait to be given the

ticket to compete in the women's 5000m, I decided to come and run and fight for my place. I felt as if I was not yet deserving to compete at the Olympics in this race but I am happy to have claimed my place," she said.

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Sports >> *National 800m champion Lilian Odira admits she has made a lot of sacrifices to recover her best form after returning from maternity leave.

Paid In Full: Odira Receives Payment For Sacrifices Made In Pursuit Of Paris Ticket



Kenya Prisons' Lilian Odira (R) in action at the National Championships. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

National 800m champion Lilian Odira admits she has made a lot of sacrifices to recover her best form after returning from maternity leave.

Odira admitted it is difficult to balance between family and her career as an athlete but has somehow managed to juggle both of them successfully.

"It is all about putting your focus forward and at times, you decide on what you have to do. Balancing between family and this athletics is not easy. It is not a smooth journey...you have to sacrifice a lot," she said.

Odira's sacrifices are so far rewarding her handsomely, with

the Kenya Prisons Service officer securing her place on the plane to the Paris Olympics in July.

She clocked 1:59.27 to clinch the women's 800m at Friday's national trials for the Paris Olympics, ahead of world 800m champion Mary Moraa (1:59.35) and Sarah Moraa (1:59.39) in second and third respectively.

The 25-year-old described the win as her greatest achievement yet, adding that it is a just reward for the arduous journey she has endured ever since she returned from maternity leave.

"I have been looking for the qualification time for the Olympics and now I have achieved it. It is

a great achievement for me...this has been my year from the time I came back from maternity leave. I thank God...this is great progress...and I am still aiming higher," Odira said.

She credited her coach, Jacinta Muraguri, for her motherly and professional support.

"She's a good coach...she's always there with me in good and even tough times. She has always been there to help me with my fitness. She has pushed me to achieve this so all my gratitude goes to her as well as my family," Odira said.

First things first, Odira will be competing at next week's Afri-

ca Athletics Championships in Douala, Cameroon where she is angling for an excellent performance in the one-lap race.

"I am hoping to bring a medal. My ultimate hope is to win gold the most important thing is to be on the podium. Afterwards, I'll come back and focus on the Olympics," she said.

Odira's last international competition was at March's African Games where she clocked 2:00.81 to finish fourth in the women's 800m.

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SCORES
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STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
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Eminence Movement Infusion Transforming Communities In Zimbabwe And Beyond

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The term “infusion” represents our mission to install quality and elevation in others through the transformative power of the Gospel. We achieve this by sharing the good news of God’s love, promoting repentance, providing for the physical and spiritual needs of the marginalized, and serving the poor. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Corinthians 4:7). And as we surrender to Him, He gives us a new heart and a new spirit, removing our heart of stone and giving us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).

Welcome to Eminence Movement Infusion, a dynamic organization driven by a profound understanding of our identity as children of God. As stated in Romans 8:19, creation eagerly awaits the revelation of God’s children and we believe that this revelation is the highest form of eminence.

Eminence, by definition refers to a state of being elevated, esteemed or revered, often due to exceptional qualities or achievements. In our context, we believe that the highest level of eminence is attained by being a child of God and we strive to embody this elevated state in our lives and actions.

The term “infusion” represents our mission to install quality and elevation in others through the transformative power of the Gospel. We achieve this by sharing the good news of God’s love, promoting repentance, providing for the physical and spiritual needs of the marginalized, and serving the poor. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Corinthians 4:7). And as we surrender to Him, He gives us a new heart and a new spirit, removing our heart of stone and giving us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). Through this infusion, we empower individuals to reach their full potential and embody the eminence that comes from being a child of God.

At Eminence Movement Infusion, we are dedicated to creating a global community that embodies the highest level of eminence, shining as beacons of hope and light in a world in need. Join us in our mission to reveal the children of God to the world and together, let us install quality, elevation and eminence in all we touch.

“Eminence Movement Infusion”

Empowering individuals, transforming communities and igniting spiritual growth.

Our mission is to create a vibrant community of change-makers who are passionate about spiritual development, social justice and empowerment. We believe in the power of connection, collaboration and mutual support.

Join us for inspiring conversations, empowering events and transformative experiences. Let’s rise together and make a meaningful impact in the world!

For more info Whatsapp us on: +263 78 082 7406 / +263 71 472 0408

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