

Murang'a County Landslide Victims Settled

By: Florence Kinyua
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “We thank the church for allowing us to move the victims here and to use their infrastructure, and we also thank the Department of Special Programmes for availing the provisions for these people like food, mattresses, jikos, and clothes,” said the MP.
- Kihungi noted that the victims will occupy that compound for six months as a geological survey is carried out by the Ministry of Mining, whose report will direct a plan for moving and settling them somewhere else permanently.



The houses that the landslide victims were settled in. Photo/ Florence Kinyua.

Landslide victims from Kangema sub-county, displaced over a month ago, have finally been settled at the ACK Kiarithe church compound, re-locating them from a nearby primary school, where they had initially sought shelter.

The 25 families were moved from their Musoso village, when their land started sinking as the area is prone to landslides that date back a decade.

The area Member of Parliament, Peter Kihungi, led the process of resettling the families in the newly renovated houses on the church grounds, in an event that was also graced by the Mining PS, Elijah Mwangi.

“In 1917, the first landslide happened, and it left many casualties. In 2018, after 100 years, the ground started

sinking and the people were moved, albeit shortly before reoccupying their land,” he said.

A few months ago, the heavy rains we experienced triggered landslides, and the land started sinking again. We had to act first and move the people to safe ground before a catastrophe struck,” added the MP.

“We thank the church for allowing us to move the victims here and to use their infrastructure, and we also thank the Department of Special Programmes for availing the provisions for these people like food, mattresses, jikos, and clothes,” said the MP.

Kihungi noted that the victims will occupy that compound for six months as a geological survey is carried out by the Ministry of Mining, whose re-

port will direct a plan for moving and settling them somewhere else permanently.

“We will also engage the services of counsellors so that these families can go through counselling for their psychosocial support and restore their lives,” he added.

One of the victims, 60-year-old Simon Irungu, thanked the government for relocating them and getting a shelter for them.

“Our lives have been unbearable since we lost our source of livelihood when the land started sinking and the living conditions in the school were difficult, so having a two-bedroom house for my family is a welcome relief,” said Irungu.

Irungu notes that the families lost

over 1200 tea plants and thousands of coffee stems. The land started sinking in 2017, and we relocated temporarily before moving back there, only to lose our source of income.

On her part, Lucy Mwihi Waweru, a mother of three, says that the living conditions at the school have deteriorated since schools reopened, but having some shelter in the church compound will give them some relief.

“At the school, there was no privacy, but now we will be able to await a permanent solution, so that our lives can go back to normalcy,” she said.

The residents called on the government to offer them a permanent solution.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kaiti MP Joshua Kimilu has appealed to secondary school principals not to send students home for lack of fees. Instead, Kimilu urged the administrators to retain the students at their respective institutions, saying he and other legislators, would soon give bursaries to alleviate the challenges the schools were experiencing. "I finished giving bursaries to students in colleges; now I have initiated the disbursement of money to students in secondary schools to pay their fees. I therefore urge principals in my area to allow students to continue with their learning," said Kimilu.



The Governor of Kiambu County, Kimani Wamatangi, has commissioned the establishment of the Kwambira Buspark in Limuru. The 5,000-square-metre terminal is designed to accommodate up to 110 vehicles and offers convenience to commuters and businesses. The strategic design ensures a smooth flow of traffic, with paratransit motorists joining from behind the Kwambira Shopping Centre via the Nairobi-Nakuru Highway and exiting at the Kwambira Mutarakwa road. The Kwambira Buspark is expected to become a model for modern transport terminals in the region, setting new standards for efficiency, safety, and convenience. The project aims to end the unsafe practice of matatus picking and dropping passengers along the Nakuru-Nairobi Highway at Kiboko.



Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi has urged Kenyan tea factories to consider producing Orthodox tea instead of CTC (Crush, Tear, and Curl) for better returns. He assured farmers of good returns from Orthodox tea, stating that this is where the world is and the tea market is headed. Orthodox tea is loose leaf tea produced using traditional methods, such as plucking, withering, rolling, oxidation/fermentation, and drying. The Kenyan government has a clear focus on ensuring tea farmers get good money for their labour but has urged them to work closely with the government to achieve the best price possible. The CS called on farmers to vote wisely in the factory directors' elections set for June 28, dismissing rumours that the government has preferred candidates for the positions. The elections will be free and fair, conducted by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).



Kisii County is implementing a project called "Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in Africa" to combat child labour in the tea and coffee sectors. The project, led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the International Labour Organisation, is focusing on raising awareness about the dangers of child labour in agriculture, such as tea picking, coffee picking, fertiliser application, and delivery of cash crops. The project also aims to address exploitative labour practices, such as soapstone carving, hawking, and prostitution, which deprive children of access to quality education and future prospects. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports that 8.5% of children, or an equivalent of 1.3 million, are engaged in child labour, with the highest rates occurring in arid and semi-arid land counties.



Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eliud Owalo, has emphasized the Kenyan government's commitment to fostering regional development for the benefit of all Kenyans. He urged Kisumu residents and leaders to support the government's development initiatives, highlighting the progress made in implementing tangible development projects in western Kenya while striving for balanced national development. One key project is the Sh3 billion Kabonyo Kanyagwal Fisheries Aquaculture and Training Center of Excellence, approved by President William Ruto, which aims to revolutionize the fishing community. Fish landing sites equipped with cold storage and processing facilities have been established along Lake Victoria shores to benefit fishermen in Migori, Homabay, Kisumu, and Siaya Counties. Owalo also announced plans to expand Kisumu International Airport and Kabunde Airstrip in Homabay to include cargo handling, facilitating the direct export of fish from the source. Jack Ranguma, Chairperson of the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA), called on Kenyans to support the Finance Bill 2024, which aims to enhance financial inclusion through programs that align with the main economic activities of the people.



Ten-year-old Jenny Hope of Pioneer Child Development Programme which is run by ChildFund is seen explaining the use of the eco-friendly, solar powered Solvatten water purification vessel to delegates who included President William Ruto's daughter Charlene, Environment Cabinet Secretary Ms Soipan Tuyu and Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu during the marking of this year's World Desertification and Drought Day that took place in Doldol area, Laikipia North constituency.

  ntsa_kenya

MAISHA NI
kuchungana.



USALAMA
BARABARAN!



Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua
kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya
familia yako



Mbagathi Hospital Receives Electric Delivery Beds Fortifying Sakaja's Health Agenda



Nairobi termed the donation as a demonstration of the place of partnerships as pivotal to our health-care provision/City Hall.

Nairobi's Mbagathi Hospital received a major boost on Monday following the delivery of heavy-duty electric delivery beds and a cardiac monitor by the Safaricom Foundation.

City Hall welcomed the new equipment as a key enabler to Governor Johnson Sakaja's commitment to ensuring preservation of dignity in county-run health facilities.

Nairobi termed the donation as a demonstration of the place of partnerships as pivotal to our healthcare provision.

Governor Sakaja reiterated that the new additions will bolster the hospital's capacity to deliver exceptional care, especially in the maternity and cardiac departments.

“The electric delivery beds will enhance the comfort and safety of mothers during childbirth, while the cardiac monitor will improve the hospital's ability to manage patients with heart conditions effectively,” City Hall noted.

Nairobi hailed the initiative as a clear example of a shared commitment to advancing healthcare accessibility and quality for the community.

“By continuously fortifying our capacity, we strive to meet the healthcare needs of Nairobi's residents more effectively and with greater dignity.”

Sakaja noted that ongoing support from partners like the Safaricom Foundation is vital in realizing the vision and ensuring that Mbagathi Hospital remains a beacon of hope and care for those it serves.

Governor Sakaja emphasized that health services are a cornerstone of his administration's commitment to the people of Nairobi.

He assured residents that his team is dedicated to delivering quality healthcare services diligently, aiming to improve the overall well-being of the community.

CS Nakhumicha Unveils New Healthcare Initiatives At SHA Forum



Health Cabinet Secretary Nakhumicha Wafula (C)

Health Cabinet Secretary Nakhumicha Wafula has reiterated the government's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility and quality through the Social Health Authority (SHA). Speaking at a media engagement forum organized by SHA in partnership with the Ministry of Health, she introduced a series of new healthcare initiatives aimed at enhancing standards and accessibility.

These initiatives include a wide range of services such as assistive devices, dental health care, accident and emergency services, end-of-life care, specialized pharmacy benefits, mental wellness support, essential diagnostics, and disease screening.

The CS underscored SHA's dedication to upholding every Kenyan's constitutional right to high-quality healthcare, supported by legislative acts like the Social Health Insurance Act, Facility Improvement Financing Act, Primary Healthcare Act, and Digital Health Act.

She noted that SHA's implementation of digital technologies will ensure efficient service delivery and accurate patient identification.

The government has allocated significant funding to support these initiatives, including Ksh 53 billion for public financing and an additional Ksh 8 billion and Ksh 148 billion for social health insurance, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing healthcare services across Kenya.

Among those present at the event were Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary for Medical Services; Dr Patrick Amoth, Acting Director General of Health; Dr Timothy Olweny, Chair of SHA; Kap-Kirwok R. Jason, Chair of the Transition Authority; and Elijah Wachira, Acting CEO of SHA, among other distinguished guests.

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Why MPs Should Pass Finance Bill, 2024 - PS Mbaika

By: Patrick Nyakundi
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Members of Parliament have been cautioned against opposing the Finance Bill 2024, as failure to approve the same would have a big negative impact on the overall development of the country.

Consequently, Devolution Principal Secretary Teresia Mbaika has reminded the legislators that even monies disbursed through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) won't be realised should they not pass proposals contained in the Finance Bill, set for debate in Parliament today.

"This Finance Bill is the one going to be used by the government to get funds. If it fails to pass in Parliament, know that there will be no money for bursaries, health care, construction of roads, provision of water, and other needs," said Mbaika, while speaking at Mukuyuni Primary School during a fundraiser in aid of Mukuyuni

Catholic Church on Sunday.

The PS was reacting to sentiments made by Kaiti MP Joshua Kimilu, who had earlier vowed to oppose the bill and ensure it did not pass in Parliament.

However, the PS said it is important for MPs to debate the bill with sobriety, saying that not all clauses therein, were bad, as some of the naysayers had tried to insinuate.

"You know the Finance Bill 2024, will definitely attract a robust debate in the House, and the process is participatory. Each clause will be looked into; if you feel it is not good for Mwananchi, remove it," she noted.

Further, Mbaika urged the MPs to stop politicising the crucial bill in public places, saying that in such a scenario, members of the public may not get to understand the truth.

"People want development; they don't want the many distorted words you are telling them about the finance bill," posed Mbaika.

Speaking at the same event, her MS-MEs Development counterpart Susan Mang'eni echoed the same sentiments, saying the proposed Finance



Devolution Principal Secretary Teresia Mbaika

Bill will help the government raise funds to finance its development activities, thus avoiding taking expensive loans from financial institutions.

"I urge Kenyans to be ready to pay taxes to develop our country. No-

body will come to develop Kenya; it is obligatory for us to pay taxes and boost our economic growth," Mang'eni said.

Others present at the function included Kibwezi West MP Mwengi

Mutuse, Kenya Railway Corporation MD Philip Mainga, Chairman Special Economic Zones Fred Muteti, and Wote Diocese Bishop Paul Kariuki, among others.

Fostering Inter-Agency Cooperation For Enhanced Justice In Kenya

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes

An inter-agency forum convened and sponsored by the International Justice Mission (IJM) in Kenya has underscored the crucial role communication plays in the Criminal Justice System, further exploring ways in which actors in the System could concert efforts to bolster confidence among the publics.

During the two-day workshop held last Friday and Saturday at Chaka Ranch in Nyeri County, 37 communication officers drawn from 10 government agencies affiliated to Criminal Justice System (CJS) engaged on shared challenges in their line of work, and at the same time suggested ways of strategizing communication.

Speaking during the forum dubbed 'Inter-Agency Comms Wellness', facilitators from International Justice



Mission (IJM) sensitized on its role and areas of partnerships with CJS actors, in their mission that seeks to protect people in poverty from violence and enhance justice in Kenya, "until all are free".

"We partner with local authorities

to rescue and restore victims, hold perpetrators accountable and help strengthen public justice system," said Mr J. Kariuki from IJM.

The workshop that also scheduled various team building activities was graced by IJM's counselling psy-

chologists, who addressed the major causes of trauma, vicarious trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) among officers serving in the security sector, thereafter highlighting ways of Self-Care and its vitality for efficiency in performance.

Communication officers attending the workshop were drawn from NPS, DCI, KPS, APS, IAU, IPOA, ODP, NPSC, Witness Protection, Judiciary and the host, the IJM.

IG Koome Assures Judiciary Of Security

By: Margaret Kalekye



Worth Noting:

- “Following the tragic loss of the Makadara Law Courts’ Principal Magistrate, Hon. Monica Kivuti who succumbed to gunshot wounds inflicted by a police officer on June 13, 2024 at the Makadara Law Courts, the National Police Service would like to re-assure the Hon. Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, of the safety and security of judicial staff while discharging their official mandate. This remains a matter of priority to the Service” he said.
- “Police stations assign protective safety and security duties to all Courts Countrywide. It is worth mentioning that it was the swift action by Police Court Orderlies that contained the Makadara shooting incident on that fateful day including the neutralization of the perpetrator” he explained.



Inspector of Police Japheth Koome.

The National Police Service (NPS) has assured the judiciary of enhanced security following the tragic death of Makadara Law Courts Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti. In a statement yesterday, Inspector of Police Japheth Koome announced that the safety of judicial officers remains a priority to the service. While condoling with the family of the late magistrate, the police boss said NPS had over the years designated police officers to protect judicial officers and courts across the country. He noted that it was the swift action by Police Court Orderlies that contained the shooting incident on that fateful day including the neutralization of the perpetrator. “Following the tragic loss of the Makadara Law Courts’ Principal Magistrate, Hon. Monica Kivuti who succumbed to gunshot wounds inflicted by a police officer on June 13, 2024 at the Makadara Law Courts, the National Police Service would like to re-assure the Hon. Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, of the safety and security of judicial staff while discharging their official mandate. This remains a matter of priority to the Service” he said. “Police stations assign protective

safety and security duties to all Courts Countrywide. It is worth mentioning that it was the swift action by Police Court Orderlies that contained the Makadara shooting incident on that fateful day including the neutralization of the perpetrator” he explained. He said the establishment of the Judicial Police Unit in 2021 to provide comprehensive security to the Judiciary is part of the stringent and

long-term measures that the Service has taken to enhance efficiency in securing the Judicial Staff. “Over the years, NPS has been at the forefront of providing security to the Judiciary Officers throughout the Country. As a Service, we sincerely condole with the family of the late Hon. Kivuti and the Judiciary and wish a quick recovery to our two Officers injured on that fateful day” he stated.

Koome however was quick to point out the evolving nature of crimes pledging to work closely with the judiciary. “Cognizant of the complexity and evolving nature of crime and emerging crimes, the National Police Service remains committed to working with the Judiciary, and indeed, the National Council on Administration of Justice to ensure that security of the Judicial staff and Court Users is enhanced”. Kivuti was shot by a police officer while on duty in a makeshift structure at the Makadara Law Courts which is undergoing renovations. Meanwhile, Chief Justice Martha Koome has ordered the closure of all makeshift structures which judges and magistrates have been using as alternative courtrooms. “Going forward, judicial services will no longer be rendered in makeshift structures” she said. The CJ clarified that courts nationwide will proceed with their operations on Wednesday, 19th; Thursday, 20th; and Friday, 21st; except for Makadara Law Courts, which is under re-evaluation for security purposes. ‘I have spoken with the IG of Police, who has assured that security in our court premises and for judges and judicial officers nationwide has been enhanced.’ Martha Koome, Chief Justice Judges, magistrates and Kadhis have however maintained they will not work from Wednesday to Friday to protest ‘poor working conditions’.



Never Back Away From The Devil: Be Patient In The Spirit



By: Eric Musa
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You can never back away from the devil. The best thing is to learn to be patient in the Spirit. Jesus’ name is stronger than all devils. But when you run into someone who literally has been worshipping them, they do not come out so easily. You cannot make all of them leave real quickly. Some are strong, and you do not know how to do everything. But the Spirit of God knows how. And no matter how much experience you have, you will still run into cases that you do not know how to pray for. So use the Word of God and pray in the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO DO IN EVERY CASE. The Spirit of God knows how to get freedom for everyone. He con-

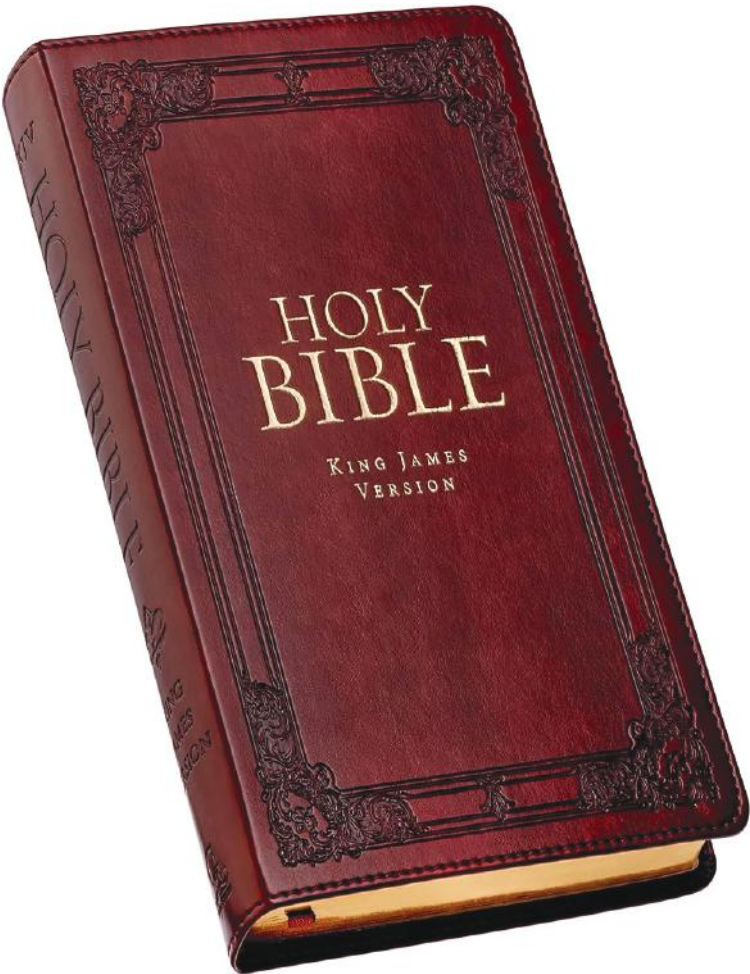
firms the Word with signs following. “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit HIMSELF maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And HE(GOD) that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because HE maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of GOD (Romans 8:26,27).

“There was that demon-possessed woman, the will of God was freedom. The devil wants humans to worship him. However, THE WILL OF GOD IS FOR EVERYONE TO BE FREE FROM DEMONS AND TO BE ABLE TO WORSHIP HIM. Getting that woman free took four hours of praying in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit knew exactly what to do. I did my part. I spoke to the demons and told them to get out of her.” The Spirit knows the rest. He will get the demons out and bring deliverance. The will of God is freedom for everyone.

OH LORD, GIVE US UNDERSTANDING THAT WE MAY LIVE

IN FREEDOM. HALELUJAH.

Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.



Finance Bill 2024: Is President Ruto Being Held Hostage By IMF?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- Reacting to the fears that budget statement presented by Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndungu cannot be altered, Ndindi Nyoro, the Kiharu MP, assured Kenyans that the statement is not cast on stone.
- We have heard you the people of Kenya. I want to assure you that we had retreated to review the Finance Bill 2024. So, we have considered your views and captured them in the final report which we will present on the floor of parliament.
- For instance, you wanted us to reinstate the school feeding programme and allocate enough funds of employing Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers on permanent and pensionable terms. We have already done that. You also wanted us to remove or reduce the VAT on bread.



President William Ruto.

I have been following with keen interest the debate surrounding the Finance Bill 2024. The critics of President Ruto want Kenyans to believe that the proposed taxes were punitive.

They were being overtaxed because President Ruto was 'no longer championing their interest'. He had instead caved in to pressure from the US and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Some critics would even allege the Bill had been drafted by IMF.

They would not provide an iota of evidence to support their claims even after being challenged to do so.

I'm not holding brief for the President but I want to make one thing clear. Dr Ruto is a hands-on President. Since he assumed office, he has been very vocal and firm when it comes to safeguarding the interest of all Kenyans.

The rules governing IMF barred the institution from interfering with budget making processes of a sovereign state. So, you would expect Dr Ruto to allow IMF officials to bend their own rules.

Besides, after discerning the Institution's advisory opinions, he would reject conditionalities that were unpalatable.

Therefore, the narrative by Ruto's critics that Kenyans were being overtaxed did not hold any water.

In Kenya, the tax was capped at 14 percent. This is unlike other countries in Africa where the tax ranges between 22 to 25 percent.

In Europe, the taxes were even higher. In France, for instance, the tax was capped at 45 percent.

In Kenya, the budget making process goes through numerous stages. One of them is public participation.

As I write this piece, Ndindi Nyoro led Budget and Appropriation and that

of Finance and National Planning have already completed gathering the views of Kenyans.

Reacting to the fears that budget statement presented by Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndungu cannot be altered, Ndindi Nyoro, the Kiharu MP, assured Kenyans that the statement is not cast on stone.

We have heard you the people of Kenya. I want to assure you that we had retreated to review the Finance Bill 2024. So, we have considered your views and captured them in the final report which we will present on the floor of parliament.

For instance, you wanted us to reinstate the school feeding programme and allocate enough funds of employing Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers on permanent and pensionable terms. We have already done that. You also wanted us to remove or reduce the VAT on bread.

I had earlier written an article in this column touching on the same topic. The name of David Ndii, President William Ruto's head of economic advisors, was always mentioned whenever the discourse surrounding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) policies came up.

The comments posted on social media lately suggested that Ndii was misleading and mis-advising President William Ruto. This is in regard to what those attacking him term as tough economic conditions imposed on Kenyans by IMF and World Bank.

To them, the two Bretton Wood Institutions were working at the behest of the US government and pushing her economic agenda that is selfish and self centered.

I totally want to distance myself from

these comments. I'm not doing this out of naivety and let no one misconstrue my position to mean holding brief for David Ndii and his team of economic advisors.

For starters, Ndii is a world renowned top notch economist.

So, President Ruto's decision to appoint him to drive his economic agenda was wise and well informed.

Having interacted closely with him during the push for the new constitutional dispensation, I know Ndii's knowledge and grasp of matters of resuscitating and reviving the economy is immeasurable.

It is worth noting that Kenya is not the only country that has been having engagements with IMF and World Bank.

Many countries across the world including the developed nations were also embracing these policies.

The critics wanted President Ruto to fail in terms of returning the economy back on track. Remember Dr Ruto had inherited a dilapidated economy.

Ndii has been very keen in terms of discerning IMF and World Bank conditions.

As such, he was advising the President to implement what is a good for the country.

Sometimes back, the Bretton Institutions had raised complaint after the Government of Kenya turned deaf ear to one of their conditionalities.

Yes, people would feel the pinch but this was for a short time. Things were bound to get better and they would reap maximum benefits.

We all know that President Ruto's position was very clear during the electioneering period.

Borrowing is not a bad idea. Even developed countries resort to borrowing to rebuild their economies.

It becomes a problem when you resort to reckless borrowing and eventually take loan money that exceeds or at par with Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He always fingered the outgoing government of President Uhuru Kenyatta for having developed insatiable appetite for borrowing. This will never happen if I win the elections.

Dr Ruto has been walking the talk. This while noting this is one of the burden he inherited.

During Uhuru's era, it dawned on IMF and World Bank that our economy was not doing well.

Left with no option, President Uhuru had to cave in to their pressure.

It is true we have been seeing President Ruto holding talks with the President of IMF. This is not something new. The other world leaders do the same.

The recent social media reports have been alleging that Dr Ruto has so far signed up foreign loans worth billions of shillings.

In most cases, the critics would come out of blue to publish these alarming claims.

They would not tell us where they got this information.

As a way of fooling the masses, they would feature a photo of the Kenyan head of state and the President of IMF taken a long time ago.

President Ruto has not changed his position.

What he meant during the campaign is that he will reduce in a big way the insatiable appetite for borrowing foreign loans that was the hallmark of the previous administration.

He has kept his word. The money that his administration have borrowed so far is a drop in the ocean.

In Kenya, the two institutions have been partnering with leaderships of the successive governments of Independent Kenya. This is on matters of resuscitation of economy and development.

They made the most memorable interventions during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi.

Upon realizing our economy was doing badly, they started to engage Moi and his administration.

This led to the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs).

The public opinion was divided. Some supported the conditionalities and others argued they had been imposed terming them as a bitter pill.

President Moi had formed a team, dubbed the Dream Team, to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the SAPs. The team was led by Richard Leakey.

So, the lesson we learn here is that the pain of the IMF and World Bank prescriptions is for a while. The situation improves and get better thereafter.

Besides Moi, William Ruto's predecessors Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta have had engagements with Bretton Wood Institutions. This heralded in accepting the loans they offered and conditionalities attached.

Each administration would also prioritize on the issue of enhancing and expanding tax collection base. This is by drafting and enacting tax regime to fast track the process. President Kibaki is the one who had coined a slogan 'Kulipa Ushuru Ni Kujitegemea'.

A day had been set aside to celebrate and reward Kenyans who paid their full taxes on time, thus complying with tax laws and regulations. Just like Ruto, Kibaki and Uhuru would mince no in calling on tax man to pursue tax defaulters. Every Kenyan must pay their taxes.

Some of Uhuru's meetings with Bretton Wood were held at their headquarters in US.

Dr Ruto has so far made great strides towards rebuilding of our economy. He knows this is only way that can make them leave our country on their own volition.

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

Addressing Kenya's Population Challenges: Learning From The Past And Planning For The Future



By: Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh
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Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development launch.

Worth Noting:

- The policy focuses on the critical thematic area of population size, growth, and age structure with a view of giving direction to Kenya's demographic landscape which currently presents unique challenges and opportunities.
- Our population is growing, more so with a significant proportion of youth. This youthful population, if well managed, can be a powerful driver of economic growth and development. On the youth, the policy aims to achieve a population age structure that accelerates economic development by fostering a demographic transition towards a more balanced age structure.
- This involves reducing dependency ratios and increasing the proportion of working-age individuals, thereby creating a more productive and economically dynamic population.

The government recently launched the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023, the Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development.

Before we delve into the details of this new policy, it's important to cast a historical glance at some of the perspectives that have guided policy changes on population and development not only in Kenya but globally.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) held in Cairo marked a transformative moment on the global discourse on population and development.

Delegates from 179 countries, Kenya included, converged to adopt a groundbreaking Programme of Action. This document shifted the paradigm from a narrow focus on population control to a broader vision that emphasized reproductive health, women's rights, and sustainable development.

The Cairo Programme of Action underscored that population issues are not merely about numbers but are intrinsically linked to human rights and well-being.

It called for a holistic approach, integrating population concerns into broader development strategies, thereby setting the stage for future policies and programs worldwide.

Over the past three decades, the principles enshrined in the Cairo Programme of Action have guided global and national efforts in addressing population and development challenges.

In Kenya, the focus on reproductive health and rights has led to significant advancements in maternal health, family planning, and gender equality. Kenya in particular has made positive strides in integrating population issues into her development agendas, recognizing that sustainable development is unattainable without considering demographic factors.

Internationally and regionally, the

ICPD's emphasis on human-centered development has inspired numerous policies aimed at improving the quality of life for all individuals, particularly in Kenya.

Kenya's New Population Policy: A Strategic Response

The newly launched Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023, the Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development, is a testament to our proactive approach in addressing demographic trends.

This policy is intricately linked to the ICPD Cairo Programme of Action, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to the principles of human rights, health, and sustainable development.

The policy focuses on the critical thematic area of population size, growth, and age structure with a view of giving direction to Kenya's demographic landscape which currently presents unique challenges and opportunities.

Our population is growing, more so with a significant proportion of youth. This youthful population, if well managed, can be a powerful

driver of economic growth and development. On the youth, the policy aims to achieve a population age structure that accelerates economic development by fostering a demographic transition towards a more balanced age structure.

This involves reducing dependency ratios and increasing the proportion of working-age individuals, thereby creating a more productive and economically dynamic population.

The policy represents a pivotal step in aligning our demographic strategies with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Cairo Programme of Action, reinforcing Kenya's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Kenyans through a comprehensive and integrated approach to popula-

tion and development.

Today, Kenya is at the cusp of her demographic trajectory, and the population policy is designed to address the nation's demographic trends strategically.

One of the seven thematic areas addresses of population size, growth, and age structure. On this specific thematic area, the policy provides a harmonized and responsive framework for addressing population and development agendas.

It further integrates population issues into development planning and implementation through a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach that will involve the National Government, County Governments Civil Society Organisations, NGO's the Private Sector, Faith Based Organisations, Political Parties, Mass Media, Institutions of Higher Learning and Research Institutions ensuring that economic, social, and environmental strategies consider these critical partners.

In the same breath, the policy also holds the government accountable for meeting global, regional, and national commitments on population and development. This alignment with broader international goals underscores Kenya's dedication to sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

At its core, the policy envisions a secure, healthy, educated, and empowered population capable of driving sustainable development. To achieve this vision, the policy outlines several key objectives which include to: achieve a population age structure that accelerates economic development by fostering a demographic transition towards a more balanced age structure.

To achieve this, NCPD, which is the government agency charged with the overall authority and responsibility for the direction and management of population and development issues in Kenya aims to nurture a more productive and economically dynamic population.

Others include, to enable informed choices on family size, access to reproductive health services and education so as to empower Kenyans to make informed decisions about family size to enable them to contribute to more sustainable population growth. This is part of a fundamental aspect of the ICPD Cairo Programme of Action, which emphasizes reproductive rights and health as key components of development.

In order to improve health and increase lifespan across all age groups the policy envisages enhancing

healthcare services and promoting healthy lifestyles are essential for increasing life expectancy and improving the quality of life for all age groups. This aligns with Kenya's goal of ensuring a healthy population that can contribute effectively to national development.

It also addresses challenges and opportunities arising from urbanization and migration as it seeks to harness the potential benefits of these trends while mitigating associated risks, thereby promoting balanced and inclusive development.

These efforts are envisaged to go hand in hand with promoting integrated approaches to population, environment and disaster challenges while recognizing the interlinkages between population dynamics, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience is crucial for holistic development planning. This integrated approach is essential for building a sustainable future.

Looking into the future, Kenya's population dynamics present unique opportunities and challenges within the African continent. While many African nations grapple with high fertility rates and youthful populations, Kenya is at a pivotal point where strategic interventions can yield significant dividends. By focusing on education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, Kenya can transform its demographic profile into a powerful driver of development.

The population policy is a testament to Kenya's proactive approach to population management which borrows from historical insights and aligns with contemporary realities for addressing the complexities of population size, growth, and age structure. In doing so, it lays the groundwork for a prosperous and sustainable future for all Kenyans.

Going forward, NCPD is making a clarion call to all Kenyans, policy makers, lawmakers, development partners, religious leaders and the mass media to support the effective implementation Population Policy.

By joining hands with NCPD, Kenyans will take the driving seat in ensuring that the policy's ambitious goals are realized which will be the cornerstone for a prosperous and sustainable future for future generations.

The Author is the Director General, National Council for Population and Development. (NCPD). To interact with the policy, visit the NCPD website: <https://ncpd.go.ke/>

Ruto Directs Police To Heighten Security For Judicial Officers After Magistrate’s Death

By: Prudence Wanza
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has urged police officers to ensure adequate safety for all judicial officers following the tragic death of Makadara Law Courts Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti.

In a statement yesterday, President Ruto described attacks against judicial officers as criminal acts that undermine the rule of law.

Kivuti was shot by a police officer while on duty at the Makadara Law Courts last week on Thursday.

Ruto condemned the act, stating that police should uphold their duty

of protecting all citizens, including judicial officers, without fail.

“The confrontation, threats, or attacks of any form against judicial officers are unacceptable, criminal, and undermine the rule of law,” said Ruto.

“Under no circumstances should police abandon this essential obligation or become threats to the safety and security of the people.”

“What happened to Hon. Kivuti is unacceptable; it should never happen again. I urge the police to ensure the safety of our judicial officers at all times as they carry out their duties.”

The head of state hailed Kivuti as a dedicated and hardworking judicial professional who served Kenyans with commitment.

Kivuti was shot by a senior police officer who was reportedly upset by her ruling against his wife and later succumbed to her injuries on June 14 at Nairobi Hospital.

Magistrate Kivuti succumbed to injuries on June 14 at a Nairobi hospital..



Police Raid Home In Kamulu, Recover Stolen Cars



By: The DCI

DCI detectives have recovered five suspected stolen motor vehicles at a home-stead in Kamulu, in an early morning joint operation that also saw the arrest of the prime suspect, Salesio Njagi Kiura.

Pursuit for the suspect followed a June 10, 2024 report referred to DCI Buruburu re-

garding the theft of a car Reg. No. KDJ 366C Toyota Ractis stolen at Nairobi’s Umoja Innercore, whose owner found missing moments after parking it at a spot.

Acting on intelligence, CRIB hawkshaws from Nairobi Regional Hqs, DCI Buruburu and KPS officers from Kamulu Police Station proceeded to Kamulu along Josna Road at Kiura’s (suspect) residence, where the reported stolen car was found while in the process of being

dismantled.

Inside the same gated home were found four other vehicles, including a blue Mazda Demio Reg.No KCW 831N, a Toyota Ractis (silver) KDB 216T, a Suzuki Mira (silver) KDB 308P and a white Toyota Passo Reg.No. KCW 346L (colour changed from its original blue).

The scene has been documented by Buruburu CSI detectives and all vehicles towed to Buruburu Police Station alongside the suspect.

We Are Committed To Ending Fake Certificates - Koskei



Head of Public Service Felix Koskei

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei expressed concern over the increasing number of Kenyans using fake certificates for employment or promotion.

He warned that fake papers are found in education, police departments, civil servants, and other government-employing bodies.

“It pains that fake papers are found in education, the police

department, civil servants, and many other government employing bodies,” he said.

Koskei warned that government employees who are found culpable will be punished according to the law.

He promised that the government is ensuring qualified people with genuine certificates are doing what they are specialised at.

He assured Kenyans that taxes paid, including those proposed in the Finance Bill 2024, will be used prudently and that no single shilling will be stolen.

He pleaded with Kenyans to focus on what their taxes will deliver in terms of education, roads, health, agriculture, and other sectors.

I'm Gonna Be Happy



One day a flower will open for me,
The way will always be open to me.

It's always a fun day
I will be happy, believe me.

Spring will surely come for me,
Trees bloom early in the morning.
You can also have lunch at a glance at
the flowers
I will be happy, believe me.

A rose will soon grow for me Honey is
really the happiest Summer is a big work
for me I will be happy, believe me.

Daughter of Ilhomova Mohichehra
Azimjon, 7th grade student of
Zarafshan city, Navoi region, school No. 9.
toshpulatovazimjon274@gmail.com

Dust star



With hearts ablaze, eyes enkindled,
I am that dust star you know.
"Why exactly dust?" you may think,
For it is a star among all the ashes.

Many stars cast dim light,
Similar, they approach humans.
But the dust star is too far in ashes,
From everyone, it keeps its distance.

Its place is so high,
Stars cannot approach its side.
Aware of itself, proud this star,
Never visible to people.

One day it dims its dim light,
One day it flares as if the sun,
One day it confuses the world itself
There you will know its power.

Jo'rayeva Marjona was born on October
18, 2003, in the Surxondaryo region, Termiz
district. She is a second-year student at
the Faculty of Philology at Termiz State
Pedagogical Institute, specializing in Uzbek
language and literature education.

I Loved Reading It



Reading a book develops a person both
spiritually and physically. Because getting
information through a book is more
harmless than from a computer or
phone. Also, a person who reads a lot of
books will never be short, his vocabulary
increases, he thinks broadly, and most
importantly, he learns knowledge quickly.
That's why I also I am interested in
reading books. Of course, every person
has a work, a story or a fairy tale that
he loves from the inside. Of course, I
have one too. This is the novel "Between

Two Doors" by Said Ahmed. This work
has been published several times over
the past century. It was published
six times in more than three hundred
thousand copies. First of all, Said Ahmad
condemns the war, he fully illuminates
the fact that it brings heavy hardships
to people. In addition, he shows the
qualities, patriotism, and endurance of
ordinary people, which were especially
bright during the war years.
The characters in the novel "Between
Two Doors" complement each other
and give the work a special look. Each
character has a special role. It is natural
for us to learn the good qualities that
we need from the life of each character.
In conclusion, it should be said that this
work is distinguished from other works
by its vitality and naturalness. Any
reader who has read this book will not
like it or read it without interest. The
book reveals the important aspects of
life and shows the true way of life, so
it will not leave a place in the reader's
heart.

Kochkarova Sarvinoz
Graduated from school No. 6 in Urganch,
Khorezm region

Uzbekistan: Continuing On The Path Of Development

Comprehensive reforms implemented in
Uzbekistan in recent years bring positive
changes in all areas of the country. The
reforms carried out under the leadership of
President Shavkat Mirziyoyev have a positive
effect on the life of every citizen. Below we
will touch on some important areas of these
changes.

Economic Reforms

Great steps are being taken to liberalize and
modernize the economy of Uzbekistan. A
lot of attention is paid to the development
of the private sector, which encourages
the development of small and medium-sized
businesses. Many new businesses are opening
due to the easing of the tax policy and the
creation of a favorable environment for
investors.

Changes in Education

The education system is also being reformed
based on modern requirements. A number of
programs are being implemented to improve
the quality of education, introduce new
pedagogical technologies, and cooperate with
foreign educational institutions. The opening
of branches of prestigious universities in the
country also indicates the development of
the educational system of Uzbekistan at the
international level.

Advances in Medicine

Large-scale reforms are also being carried out
in the field of medicine. By introducing modern
diagnostic and treatment methods, improving
the qualifications of medical personnel, and
building new medical facilities, the level of

quality medical service is being improved.

Social protection and population support

Many programs are implemented by the
state in order to support the needy sections
of the population. Measures are being taken
to increase the amount of pensions and
allowances, expand opportunities for persons
with disabilities, and support low-income
families.

Culture And Sports

Big changes are also taking place in the field
of culture and sports. New cultural centers,
sports complexes are being built, and wide
opportunities are being created for our youth
to show their talents. The achievements
of our athletes participating in international
sports competitions are also increasing the
reputation of our country in the world.

Summary

The reforms and changes being carried out
in Uzbekistan are taking our country to a
new stage of development. The work carried
out in every field serves to increase the
reputation of our country at the international
level. These changes are important steps
towards creating a more comfortable and
happy life for the people of our country.

Author: Zaripova Sevinch
11th grade student of the 6th school

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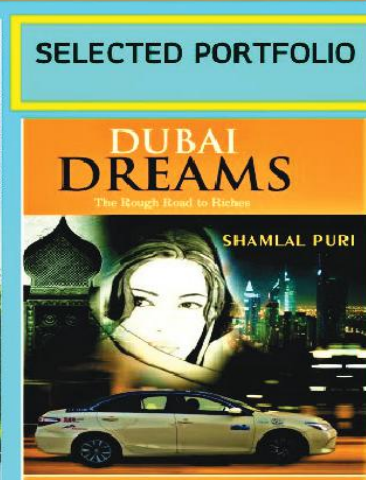
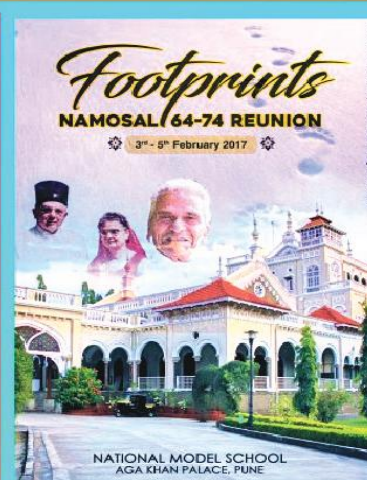
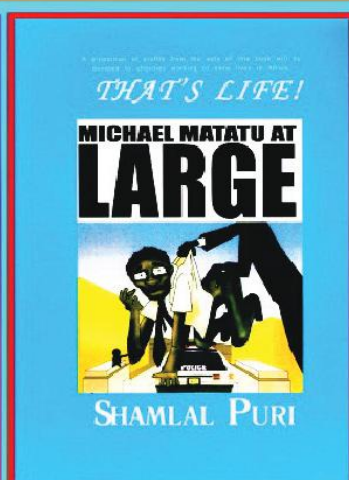
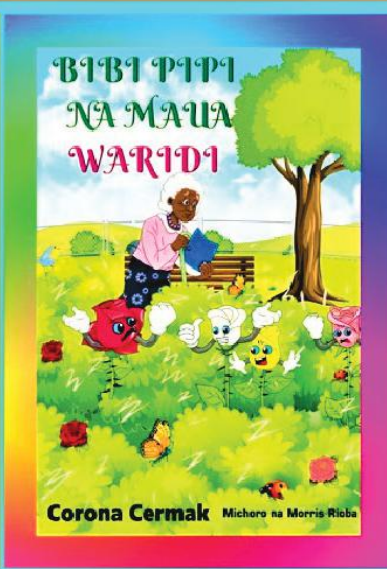
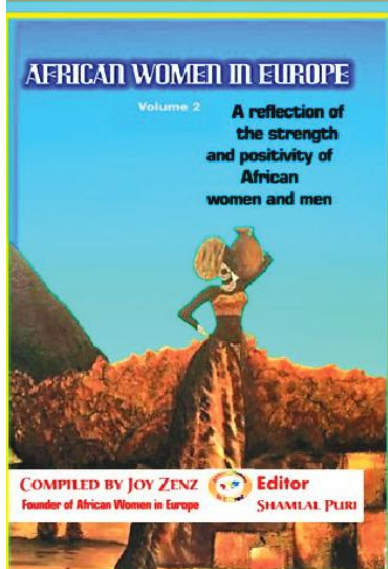
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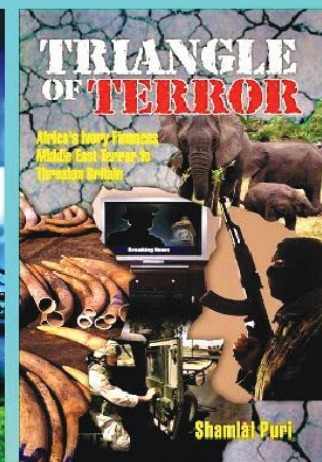
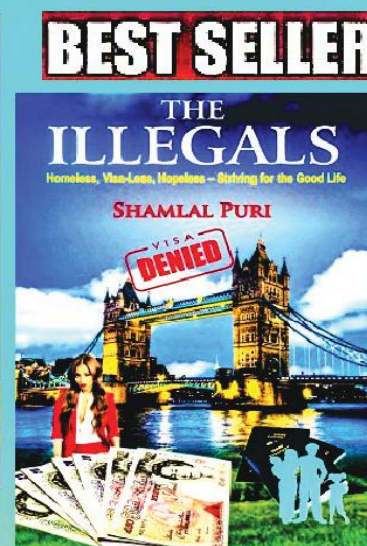
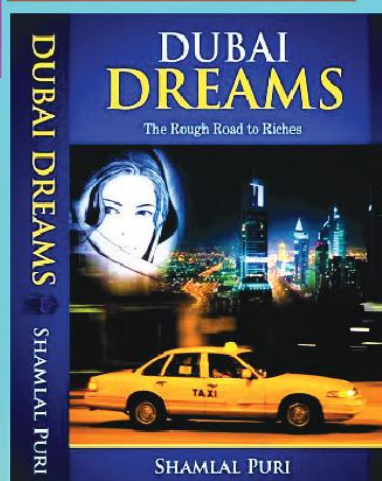
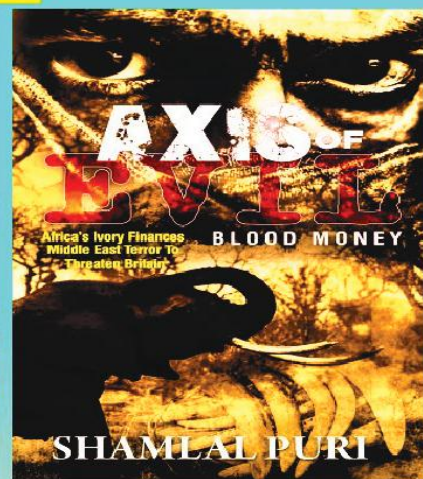
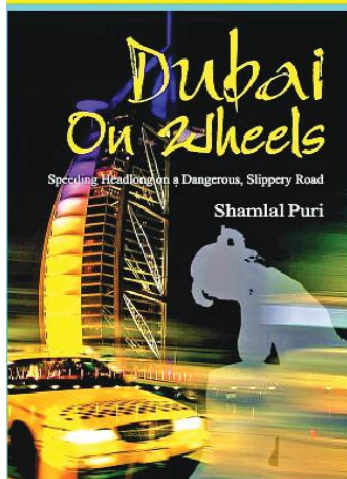
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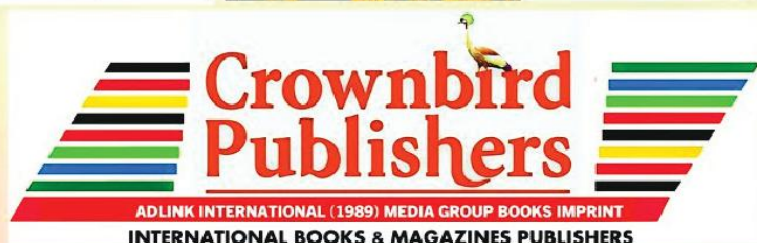
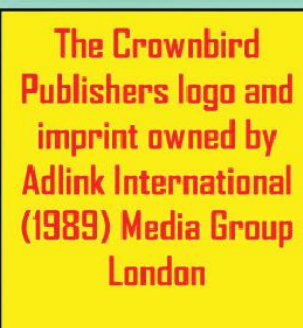
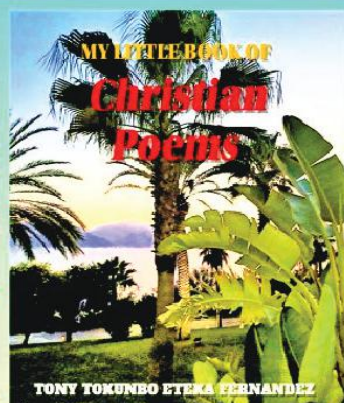
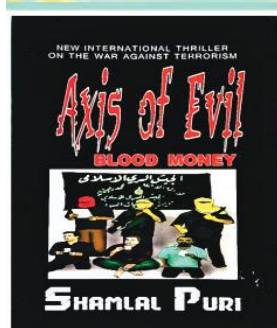
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Students Joining Universities, TVETs To Apply For Loans From Today

By: KBC Reporter

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The application portal for scholarships and loans for students joining universities and TVET institutions will be officially opened tomorrow.

In a statement Monday, Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said the applications were due to open on Saturday, June 15, but the ministry pushed it forward due to Eid ul-Adha celebrations.

Last July Machogu launched the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal, through which applications for scholarships, loans and bursaries would be made after admission letters were received. The model was created to channel higher education funds directly to individual student.

To be eligible to apply, one must have been placed by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Place-

ment Service (KUCCPS) to pursue an undergraduate, diploma, craft certificate, or artisan course at one of Kenya's accredited public universities or TVET colleges.

"We wish to assure all parents, guardians and students that the Government will allow sufficient time for all eligible learners to apply for the funding in the form of scholarships and loans, in the spirit of leaving no one behind." The CS said.

Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu

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Sonko To Fund 50 Female Cheerleaders For Kenya's Under-17 Squad In DRC

By: Capital Correspondent

.....

Former Nairobi Governor Mike Mbuvi Sonko has pledged to sponsor 50 lady cheerleaders to support the Kenyan Under-17 women's football team in the Dominican Republic in October.

Sonko's commitment follows the team's historic qualification for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The sponsorship aims to motivate the team to strive for victory and bring the World Cup home.

The former Governor expressed confidence in the team's potential and called on everyone to encourage the players.

Sonko has been a steadfast supporter on national teams and has offered to cover expenses for Kenyan sports personalities in the past.

In 2018, he fulfilled a similar promise by awarding the Harambee Stars

Sh3 million after their 3-0 victory over Ethiopia in a Group F qualifying match at the Moi Sports Centre in Kasarani, Nairobi.

The former Governor expressed confidence in the team's potential and called on everyone to encourage the players/

FILE

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Kirinyaga Women Rep Launches Foundation To Enhance Education

By: Mutai Kipngetchi and MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The DP praised the initiative, saying it is key to transforming the lives of many Kenyans, who are unable to access education or develop their individual talents.
- Gachagua asked residents of the county to take advantage of good leadership and programmes by the Women Representative to change their fortunes.
- “I ask you, the people of Kirinyaga, to take note of the good work Njeri is doing for the orphans and vulnerable people who need help to make their lives better. That is the kind of leadership we want,” said DP.
- He further challenged MPs to focus on their mandate and channel their energies into serving the people who elected them into office. The event was held at Kutus Primary School.



Deputy President with a section of leaders and students during the launch of the Kirinyaga Women Representative foundation.

Kirinyaga County Women Representative Jane Njeri Maina has launched a foundation that will help vulnerable pupils access quality education through scholarships.

The ‘Mama Na Kazi’ Foundation (MNK Foundation) is one of the pillars under her Tupange Kesho programmes, funded through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) kitty.

The launch event, presided over by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Saturday raised over Sh16 million towards the foundation that will be used to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on quality education, decent work, and economic growth among the residents of the County.

The DP praised the initiative, saying it is key to transforming the lives of many Kenyans, who are unable to access education or develop their individual talents.

Gachagua asked residents of the county to take advantage of good leadership and programmes by the Women Representative to change their fortunes.

“I ask you, the people of Kirinyaga, to take note of the good work Njeri is doing for the orphans and vulnerable people who need help to make their lives better. That is the kind of leadership we want,” said DP.

He further challenged MPs to focus on their mandate and channel their energies into serving the people who elected them into office. The event was held at Kutus Primary School.

On her part, Njeri thanked the Dep-

uty President for gracing her event, saying the foundation seeks to make the lives of Kirinyaga residents better, adding that her aim is to ensure all eligible children have access to education so that in the long run they can attain economic growth.

“We aim at creating a county, where every individual has access to education that nurtures their potential and where economic growth is inclusive and sustainable, leaving no one behind,” Njeri said.

The MNK Foundation also facilitates skills development, supports entrepreneurship, and promotes gender equality and economic growth.

“We want to forge partnerships with governments, NGOs, educational institutions, businesses, and local communities to leverage collective expertise, resources, and networks and make the lives of our people better,” she said.

“We will embrace innovation and technology to develop scalable and sustainable solutions that address the evolving challenges in education and economic development,” Njeri added.

The women representative revealed that so far, over 200 women groups in the county have benefited from the NGAAF Kitty and that she seeks to ensure more are empowered going forward.

“I have visited more than 200 villages to empower our women with funds from the NGAAF Kitty. More than 3,000 students have received bursaries. We have also disbursed Sh5 million to special needs students,”

she said.

“Education is the greatest equalizer.” I hope there comes a day when education will be free for all. I am a champion for that,” she added.

Nandi Women Representative Cynthia Muge emphasised the role of education in society, especially among

the women folk, more so as the opener to opportunities in and outside the country.

The legislators present praised the initiative, promising to ensure budgetary allocation for education is increased for more enrolment of pupils in basic and tertiary education.

However, Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei, also present at the function, said he will push to have one national bursary kitty to ensure equality and equity among the beneficiaries countrywide.

The Deputy President was accompanied by among Kirinyaga Senator Kamau Murango, Members of Parliament James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Njoki Njeru (Embu Woman Representative), Cynthia Muge (Nandi Woman Rep) Jerusha Momanyi (Woman Rep Nyamira), Doris Donya (Woman Rep Kisii), Gichuki Githinji (Gichugu), Johanna Ng’eno (Emurua Dikirr), Sabina Chege (Nominated MP), Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North), Charity Kathambi (Njoro), Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta), Josses Lemengit (Emgwen), former Laikipia Woman Representative Catherine Waruguru, Musician Kevin Bahati, MCAs as well as Kirinyaga grassroots leaders led by Mureithi Kang’ara.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Kirinyaga Women Representative Jane Njeri Maina and Kirinyaga County Senator Kamau Murango join dancers during the launch of the Women Rep's foundation..

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prioritizing Professionalism: The Media Council Of Kenya’s Role In Safeguarding Journalism



In recent years, the landscape of Kenyan media has undergone a transformation, with the emergence of comedians finding roles within the communication and journalism industry. While humor has its place in media, the trend of employing comedians over seasoned media professionals raises concerns about the integrity and quality of journalism. In this article, we delve into why the Media Council of Kenya should refocus its efforts on prioritizing the employment of media professionals, ensuring the preservation of ethical journalism and safeguarding the public interest.

Firstly, it’s essential to acknowledge the value of comedians within the media landscape. Their ability to entertain and engage audiences plays a significant role in captivating attention and disseminating information. However, the core function of journalism goes beyond mere entertainment; it serves as a watchdog, holding power to account, and providing citizens with accurate, unbiased information to make informed decisions.

Media professionals undergo rigorous training and adhere to ethical standards to uphold the principles of journalism. They possess the necessary skills, such as investigative reporting, fact-checking, and critical analysis, to deliver news with credibility and integrity. By prioritizing their employment, the Media Council of Kenya can ensure that journalistic standards are maintained, thereby fostering trust between media outlets and the public.

Moreover, the role of media professionals extends beyond reporting the news; they contribute to shaping public discourse, fostering democratic values, and promoting social justice. Through in-depth reporting, they highlight issues affecting society, amplify marginalized voices, and hold institutions accountable for their actions. Comedians, while talented in their craft, may lack the expertise and experience to fulfill these crucial functions effectively.

Furthermore, the employment of media professionals supports the growth and development of the journalism industry in Kenya. By investing in

training programs, mentorship initiatives, and professional development opportunities, the Media Council can cultivate a skilled workforce capable of meeting the evolving needs of the media landscape. This not only enhances the quality of journalism but also promotes innovation and diversity within the industry.

Additionally, prioritizing the employment of media professionals can help address the challenges facing the industry, such as misinformation, fake news, and ethical breaches. Journalists are trained to adhere to ethical guidelines and standards, ensuring that their reporting is accurate, balanced, and impartial. In contrast, the rise of comedians in journalism may blur the lines between entertainment and news, potentially undermining the credibility of media outlets and eroding public trust.

It’s also important to consider the long-term implications of prioritizing comedians over media professionals. While humor can serve as a powerful tool for engaging audiences, it should not come at the expense of journalistic



integrity. By investing in quality journalism, the Media Council can help safeguard the future of the industry, ensuring that it remains a cornerstone of democracy and accountability in Kenya.

In conclusion, while comedians have carved out a niche within the communication and journalism industry, their role should complement rather than replace that of media professionals. By prioritizing the employment of trained journalists, the Media Council of Ken-

ya can uphold the principles of ethical journalism, promote transparency and accountability, and safeguard the public interest. It’s imperative that we recognize the invaluable contribution of media professionals and support efforts to strengthen the journalism industry for generations to come.

*By Masika Samuel
Kevin Okoth*

Recklessness on the Roads, Curbing a Growing Epidemic

In recent times, the roads have become increasingly treacherous, with a surge in road accidents that claim countless lives. It is high time we shine a spotlight on the reckless behaviors contributing to this epidemic and take decisive action to rectify this grave issue. As a society, we can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to the devastating consequences of road accidents.

One of the primary causes behind this growing epidemic is a culture of recklessness that has permeated our roads. From speeding to aggressive driving, it seems that many individuals are prioritizing their convenience and thrill-seeking desires over the safety of themselves and others.

This disregard for basic traffic rules and ethical considerations has undoubtedly contributed to the surge in road accidents. To combat such reckless behavior, it is imperative for authorities to enforce regulations more stringently.

By imposing stricter penalties and actively pursuing traffic violators, law enforcement agencies can create

a deterrent effect that discourages individuals from engaging in dangerous driving practices. Moreover, maintaining a consistent presence on the roads through regular patrolling and implementing surveillance technology can significantly contribute to curbing this epidemic.

Education is a powerful tool in fostering responsible behavior on the roads. Comprehensive driver’s education programs need to be made mandatory, ensuring that individuals are aware of not only the technical aspects of driving but also the importance of responsible decision-making. Emphasizing the ethical implications of reckless driving and instilling a sense of accountability for one’s actions are crucial to changing attitudes and behaviors.

The rise of technology has brought with it a dangerous phenomenon: distracted driving. Whether it’s texting, social media use, or even using in-car entertainment systems, such distractions pose a significant threat to road safety.

Governments must establish strict

regulations that penalize this behavior, while individuals must consciously prioritize their undivided attention on the road, leaving behind their digital distractions. Road infrastructure plays a vital role in ensuring road safety.

Governments and local authorities must allocate sufficient resources to maintain and improve road structures, signalization, lighting systems, and pedestrian crossings. Investment in well-designed, efficient roads reduces congestion and promotes an environment conducive to safe driving practices.

Creating a safer road environment is a collective effort that requires the active participation of individuals and communities. Promoting a culture of accountability and empathy among drivers, as well as encouraging reporting of reckless driving, can help curb the escalating number of accidents. Additionally, organizing community campaigns and events that focus on road safety can foster a collective sense of responsibility and unity.



Road accidents have become an overwhelming challenge that demands our immediate attention and action. By addressing the culture of recklessness, enforcing regulations, promoting driver education, combatting distracted driving, investing in infrastructure, and fostering community participation, we can effectively reduce road accidents and save countless lives.

It is high time we prioritize road safety and ensure that our roads are

spaces for safe journeys, rather than sites of tragedy. Let us come together and create a society where reckless driving is not tolerated, and every road user feels secure in their daily commutes.

*Dorothy Atieno and Leah mungai
Rongo, Migori*

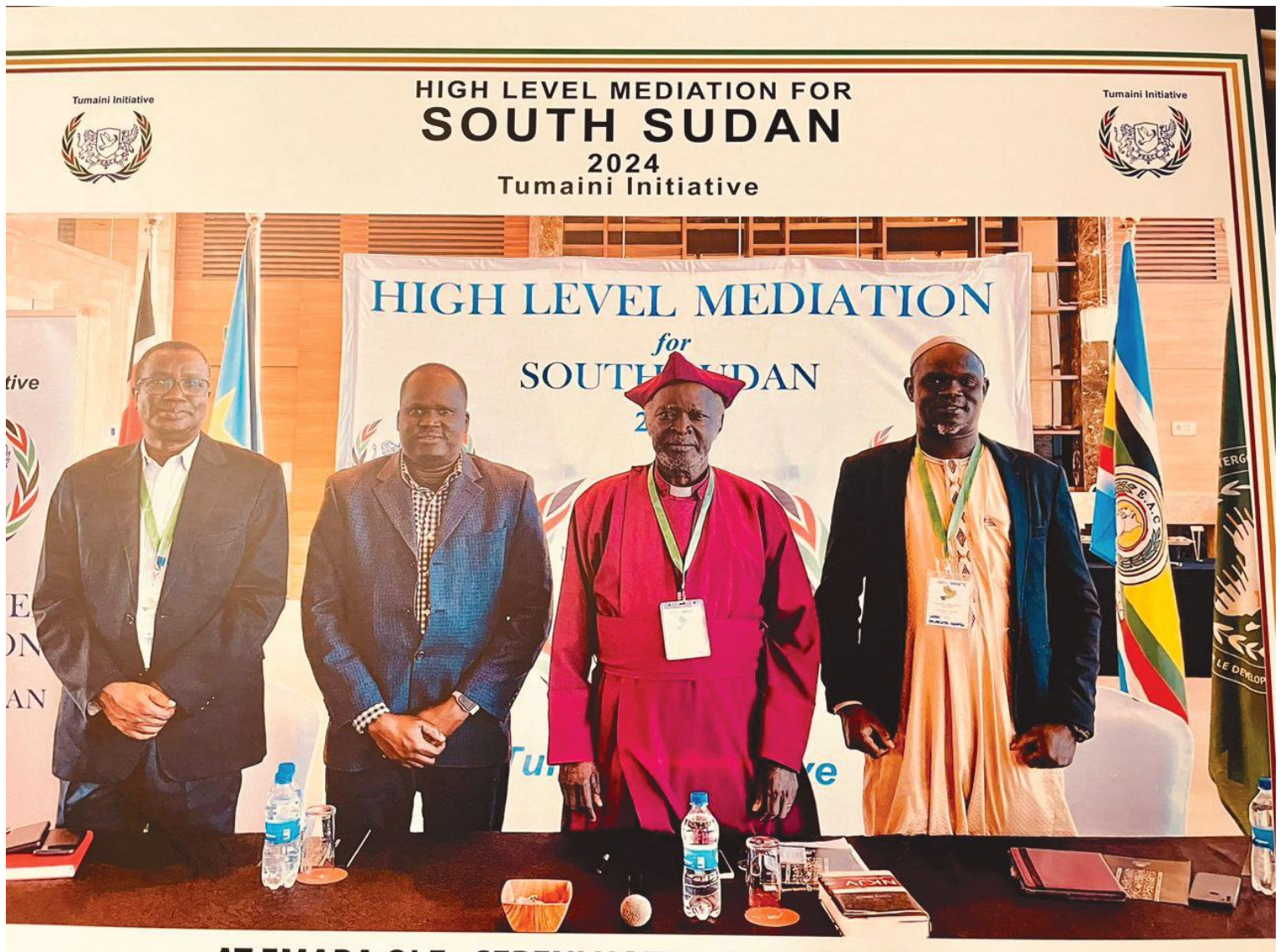
UDRM-A And NPM/NPDF Has Sparked Significant Controversy About The Credibility Of The Mediation

By: Special Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The expulsion of these movements has raised alarms about the impartiality and inclusiveness of the Tumaini Peace Initiative. Many believe that the decision undermines the spirit of inclusivity that is essential for a credible peace process. The leadership crisis within SSUNA should not, in the view of UDRM and NPM, justify the termination of any party's participation in the peace talks, especially when these differences have no adverse effect on the peace process itself.
- The parties are calling on the mediation leadership and the Government of Kenya to intervene and resolve this issue amicably. They urge the mediators to allow UDRM and NPM to participate as independent movements, which they believe will restore trust and enhance the credibility of the peace initiative.



The recent expulsion of the United Democratic Revolutionary Movement/Army (UDRM-A) and the Nilotia Peoples Movement (NPM/NPDF) from the Tumaini Initiative of High Level Mediation has sparked significant controversy and raised serious questions about the credibility of the mediation process both regionally and internationally.

The Tumaini Peace Initiative, aimed at fostering peace and stability in South Sudan, has faced a setback following the exclusion of these two significant opposition movements. The expulsion was reportedly influenced by internal leadership conflicts within the South Sudan United National Alliance (SSUNA), a coalition that includes the SSPM/A, UDRM-A, NPM/NPDF, and the National People's Movement.

According to Honorable Dr. Joseph Madak, Secretary General and Chief Mediator, the decision to remove UDRM-A and NPM/NPDF was driven by leadership issues within SSUNA, where decisions were made without the inclusion of all leaders representing the alliance's movements. This has been perceived as a move influenced by the SSUNA Chairman, rather than an impartial mediation effort, leading to a substantial erosion of trust in the process.

The UDRM, which had formally withdrawn from SSUNA citing lack of inclusivity, had requested to be included in the peace talks as an independent entity. This request, however, was denied by the mediation leadership, causing discontent among the expelled parties. UDRM and NPM have expressed their unwavering commitment to the peace process and have rejected their expulsion, labeling it as unfair and procedurally flawed. They argue that they were not given the opportunity to discuss their withdrawal from SSUNA with the mediation team, a step they consider crucial for transparent and fair mediation.

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should not, in the view of UDRM and NPM, justify the termination of any party's participation in the peace talks, especially when these differences have no adverse effect on the peace process itself.

The parties are calling on the mediation leadership and the Government of Kenya to intervene and resolve this issue amicably. They urge the mediators to allow UDRM and NPM to participate as independent movements, which they believe will restore trust and enhance the credibility of the peace initiative. This inclusion is seen as vital not only for the South Sudanese people but also for the regional and international communities invested in South Sudan's stability.

In a joint statement, the leaders of UDRM and NPM appealed to President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan and President William Ruto of Kenya, emphasizing that the peace process, initiated in good faith, is now at risk of being co-opted by a few opposition groups with narrow agendas. They warned that the current trajectory could derail the efforts to achieve lasting peace

in South Sudan, urging donor communities to take note of the process's deviation from its intended inclusive approach.

The expulsion, dated June 11, 2024, by Chief Mediator General Lazarus Sumbeiywo (Rtd.), has indeed placed the Tumaini Peace Initiative in a precarious position. If unresolved, this decision could severely impact the initiative's standing and effectiveness, casting doubts on its ability to mediate complex conflicts impartially and inclusively.

The call for an inclusive and fair mediation process remains strong, with many advocating that the only path to genuine peace in South Sudan lies in the representation and participation of all relevant parties, free from political maneuvering.

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Sports >> *Christian Eriksen scored for Denmark in a 1-1 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024 on Sunday

Eriksen Scores On Emotional Euro Return As Denmark Held By Slovenia



Slovenia's goalkeeper Jan Oblak prevents Denmark's forward Rasmus Hojlund from scoring next to Slovenia's defender Jaka Bijol (L) during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group C football match between Slovenia and Denmark at the Stuttgart Arena in Stuttgart on June 16, 2024. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP).

Christian Eriksen scored for Denmark in a 1-1 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024 on Sunday, almost three years to the day since he nearly died in his team's opening game at the last tournament.

The Manchester United midfielder fired his team ahead on 17 minutes in front of a Stuttgart stadium filled overwhelmingly by Denmark supporters, but Erik Janza's late deflected effort earned Slovenia a point in their first match at the Euros since 2000.

Denmark go on to play England in their second Group C game in Frankfurt on Thursday, while Slovenia continue their campaign against Serbia in Munich.

Denmark reached the semi-finals of the pandemic-delayed Euro 2020 tournament before losing to England, riding a wave of emotion triggered by Eriksen's collapse in Copenhagen, which left him needing to be

resuscitated on the pitch after he suffered a cardiac arrest.

He eventually resumed his career after being fitted with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, making his return to international duty nine months later and appearing at the 2022 World Cup.

On the eve of Denmark's Euro 2024 opener, Eriksen said the harrowing incident is no longer something he routinely thinks about, intent instead on focusing helping his country make another deep run in Germany.

Slovenia midfielder Timi Max Elsnik admitted there would be few surprises for either side after they finished just behind Denmark on head-to-head record in their qualifying group.

Highly-rated Slovenia striker Benjamin Sesko nearly caught Kasper Schmeichel out with a powerful long-range drive, but moments later it was Denmark who struck.

- Wind supplies Eriksen -

A quick throw-in was flicked on by Jonas Wind into the stride of Eriksen, who crashed a low shot into the far corner to give the Danes the lead.

With Sesko being closely monitored by the Danish defence, Andraz Sporar failed to take advantage of a hole in the backline as he miscontrolled a bouncing ball forward when he looked through on goal.

Sesko almost handed Denmark a second as he hacked a clearance in his own area against his team-mate, Jan Oblak watching on in hope as the ball skipped just wide of his goal.

Eriksen blazed over just before half-time after more excellent work from the lively Wind, with Slovenia defender Jaka Bijol close to heading into his own net after a Denmark set-piece early in the second half.

Oblak produced a brave stop to prevent Rasmus Hojlund dou-

bling the advantage, blocking the United forward's effort from point-blank range to keep his team in it.

Adam Gnezda Cerin glanced a cross wide as Slovenia pressed for an equaliser and Sporar stabbed wide as he lunged to meet a free-kick.

Sesko was desperately unlucky to see his rasping drive cannon back off the post, but Slovenia were soon level.

Denmark could not properly clear a corner and Janza's thumping half-volley from just outside the penalty box brushed off Morten Hjulmand to leave Schmeichel stranded.

Sporar had the chance to snatch victory for Slovenia after bursting past Jannik Vestergaard, but he powered into the side-netting as Schmeichel appeared to get the faintest of touches.

AFP.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Scuffles broke out on Sunday between English and Serbian football fans in the German city of Gelsenkirchen ahead of the Euro 2024 match between the two countries, police said.

England And Serbia Fans Clash Ahead Of Euros Match



Police officers speak with supporters arriving at the Arena AufSchalke ahead of the UEFA Euro 2024 Group C football match between Serbia and England in Gelsenkirchen on June 16, 2024. Gelsenkirchen has been declared high risk by the police due to fears Serbian ultras could clash with the tens of thousands of England fans that have made the trip to north-west Germany. (Photo by Kenzo TRIBOUILLARD / AFP)

Scuffles broke out on Sunday between English and Serbian football fans in the German city of Gelsenkirchen ahead of the Euro 2024 match between the two countries, police said.

“There were clashes between English and Serbian fans, who were separated by the police,” a police spokesman told AFP.

The spokesman was not able to give any details of arrests or injuries.

The German Bild daily published images showing an altercation on the terrace of a restaurant, with chairs being thrown around.

Several people were injured and a group of England supporters were arrested in a nearby pub, the report said, without giving numbers.

An AFP journalist saw broken glass on the restaurant terrace and witnessed a group of Serbian fans about to be escorted out of the area to an underground station by police.

Germany has deployed a large police presence to Gelsenkirchen in western Germany for the match between England and Serbia, which kicks off at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT).

Supporters at the match will also only be able to purchase reduced-strength beer, police said Friday.

A 2.5-percent “light beer” will be served in the stadium, with fans limited to two drinks at a time, a spokeswoman for police in the German city told AFP.



The decision for Sunday’s match had been taken for “security reasons”, the spokeswoman said.

England fans famously clashed with supporters from Russia ahead of their match in Marseille, France, at Euro 2016, which saw running battles between hooli-

gans.
AFP.

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PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



The Father Of All Professions



By: Mukhammadova
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Worth Noting:

• While Amir Timur conquered the world with his sword, Navoi with his pen, teachers conquer the world with knowledge. Indeed, one day the students of a teacher will succeed in various professions and fields. There is no greater happiness for a teacher than this.

• It is no coincidence that people say, "Teachers rejoice more at the achievements of their students than at the successes of their children." After all, when we achieve success, we loudly proclaim in big arenas that it was their knowledge and upbringing that brought us to this point. Through the education and upbringing of one teacher, hundreds of highly qualified professionals in various fields emerge. The teaching profession is the foundation of all professions.

Teaching has always been considered a noble profession. There are many professions in the world. However, at the core of all these professions lies just one: the teacher, the foundation of all successful careers. No one has 30 children, but a teacher, throughout their life, becomes a beloved figure to hundreds, even thousands of children. Only teachers can show love and compassion to someone else's child and provide them with education. Everyone loves their own child, but loving and educating someone else's child is not something everyone can do.

Recall the first time you stepped into school... A kind person with a radiant face gently took you by the hand from your mother and seated you at a desk. If our parents gave us family upbringing, teachers imparted life lessons and made us recognize those seemingly simple symbols called letters. They selflessly sow the seeds of knowledge and wisdom in us. During the most beautiful, knowledge-thirsty years of our childhood, we take our first steps into the world of learning from our first teacher. They teach us to sit quietly for 45 minutes and to listen to someone. Gathering all the mischievous, impatient, playful children who can't recognize letters into one classroom, they form a family out of them. They teach the children not only to be kind and courteous to one another but also to others around them. They are as loving as a mother and as demanding as a father.

I remember... It was September 2, 2011, the day I took my first small step into the big world. My heart was simultaneously filled with excitement and fear. How would it be? What will I do? How will I spend hours in a room without my mom? Will I make friends? Perhaps because my mother had sent me to pre-school education, I knew many poems and could speak Russian. But I didn't know what letters were, and I admired my mother for being able to read all those stories, poems, and texts effortlessly. That day marked the first step in my journey to learning to read. My little heart stepped onto the school threshold

with great excitement. The first stage was successfully completed. Now, who would be my teacher and classmates? Fortunately, God gave me Zebo Nurullayeva as my teacher. I was delighted. Indeed, at first sight, she was an attractive and kind person. On the first day, because I was late, I sat at the back with another child. Our teacher began her speech with "my dear children." She introduced herself and said, "we are one family. You are brothers and sisters. Always be kind to each other. Now, everyone share your snacks with your seatmates." Since it was my first day, I hadn't brought anything, only my "Bilimdon" magazines. The boy next to me had brought some bread, and he broke it in half and handed it to me. A true teacher is not just someone who teaches lessons from day one but instills love, compassion, and humanity in the children. That's what our teacher did; she first brought the children together, teaching them life lessons and encouraging them to be generous. Anyone can be a teacher, but not everyone can be a mentor or a master.

As the wise say: "An average teacher tells. A good teacher explains. A great teacher demonstrates. But the greatest teachers inspire." Truly, until I was 18, I had many teachers, but only a few were true mentors to me. If asked who I think of as a mentor and who comes to mind, without hesitation, I describe the qualities and characteristics of those who were true mentors to me. A mentor is not just a teacher; they are a motivator, psychologist, critic, advisor, someone with strong knowledge and capabilities, compassionate yet firm, someone who has overcome life's trials and challenges, and someone who has lived through my situations. Yes, my mentors possessed exactly these qualities. They gave me life and educational lessons. They made me understand that the path to my goal would be difficult and that I should never stop striving. They made me realize that practical experience is more important than theoretical knowledge in becoming a good professional. They criticized me, not accepting my work done

tirelessly day and night, saying, "This does not meet your standards," thus giving me new zeal, motivation, and understanding. In stressful and bad situations, alongside my family, they thought of me and guided me in the right direction. They were my protectors, not allowing others to criticize me, and showed me love. Behind each of their criticisms was a piece of advice, a piece of guidance, and a chest of new ideas. We all have mentors who have left an indelible mark on our lives. Our wise people didn't say for nothing, "A student who has not seen a mentor is not a student." Even the stubborn Jahangir was guided by these people. Those who have bowed their heads to conquerors like Timur and have educated greats like Alisher and Babur. God even sent the Archangel Gabriel as a mentor to the Prophet. Yes, if asked who holds the most significant place in our path to success after our parents, without hesitation, we say our teachers.

While Amir Timur conquered the world with his sword, Navoi with his pen, teachers conquer the world with knowledge. Indeed, one day the students of a teacher will succeed in various professions and fields. There is no greater happiness for a teacher than this.

It is no coincidence that people say, "Teachers rejoice more at the achievements of their students than at the successes of their children." After all, when we achieve success, we loudly proclaim in big arenas that it was their knowledge and upbringing that brought us to this point.

Through the education and upbringing of one teacher, hundreds of highly qualified professionals in various fields emerge. The teaching profession is the foundation of all professions. From one class come 30 different professionals. One becomes a compassionate teacher like their mentor, another a doctor, another a carpenter, another a pilot, and another a defender of the homeland protecting it from evildoers. In this context, a story comes to mind... A grandmother who had spent her life teaching and had educated many young people was asked by her

4-year-old grandchild:

- Grandma, I can't decide what I want to be when I grow up. A doctor, a pilot, a policeman, what should I be? Grandma, what were you when you were young?

- Me? She answered with a smile. I was a pilot, a doctor, a lawyer, a chef, a tailor, a soldier, a firefighter, a carpenter, a programmer, an athlete, a translator, a journalist.

- How is that possible? That's impossible. At that moment, her students walked in.

- My child, I was a teacher, she said. A spark lit up in the little child's heart, and he said, "I want to be a teacher too."

Indeed, one teacher creates specialists in thousands of professions. It's impossible not to always bow to such noble people.

In conclusion, there is only one profession in the world: teaching. All other professions are its derivatives. A teacher has the strictness of a father, the love of a mother, and the wisdom of sages. They are the precious people who, after our parents, stand next to us with hearts full of knowledge. No matter who we become, our success is truly due to them. They are the guardians of life and education. We always show respect and honor to our teachers. No matter how much we do for them, it will never be enough. As the great thinker Alisher Navoi said, "On the path of truth, whoever teaches you a letter with effort, it is impossible to repay their debt with even a hundred treasures."

Mukhammadova Mushtariybegim Otabekovna was born on 01.05.2005 in the city of Navoi, Navoi region. Currently, she is a 2nd-year student of the computer engineering faculty of Tashkent University of Information Technologies. At the same time, she is a young member of the People's Democratic Party. Until now, she has gained knowledge in many areas. In particular, she perfectly studied art, culture, education, politics, psychology, personal development, foreign languages. Currently, she can communicate in Turkish and English.