



Farmers Turn To Black Soldier Fly Farming For Economic Relief And Environmental Sustainability Amid Climate Change Challenges

Due to high cost of living, farmers in Gusii region have started to embrace black soldiers fly farming to cushion the high expenses incurred to purchase animal feeds.

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News>>Magistrates Sensitise Molo Residents On Court Verdicts

P. 8. Molo Magistrates yesterday called for enhanced public sensitisation campaigns to provide members of the public with a deeper understanding on the work they do as arbiters in different disputes.



News>>National Assembly Committee Reviews Audit Queries Of National Museums Of Kenya

P. 12. The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture, chaired by Navakholo MP Emanuel Wangwe, met yesterday with the Managing Director of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) Prof. Mary Gikungu

Government Removes Controversial Tax Proposals

President William Ruto has lauded the move by the National Assembly Committee on Finance to announce a raft of changes to the Finance Bill 2024.

According to the head of state, the withdrawal of some of the proposals hugely protested against by Kenyans demonstrates that the government he leads listens to its citizens.

Ruto who commented on the matter after chairing a Parliamentary Group meeting of lawmakers drawn from the ruling party, noted that the changes announced will ensure there is no extra burden exerted on the taxpayer.



President William Ruto presides over Kenya Kwanza PG meeting at State House

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Tharaka Nithi County Government Praised For Success In Fish Farming Project

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themtkenyatimes



A fish pond in a farm in Igambang'ombe ward in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Mwenda Njeru..

Worth Noting:

- Officials from IFAD under the leadership of the country representative, Ms Mariatu Kamara and those from ABDP led by Mr Josphat Kirimi conducted a comprehensive review of the project in Igambang'ombe ward.
- The officials were taken around the farms by the County Fisheries and Ecosystem Development Department Chief Officer Mr Anthony Kiruja who also pointed out the other contributions by the devolved government including the provision of extension services, cool boxes, fishing nets, freezers and fish feed.

Tharaka Nithi County Government has been lauded for implementing a very successful Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) project that involves fish farming

The project currently in 15 counties with high aquaculture potential is jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

The programme focuses on establishing and strengthening smallholder business-oriented aquaculture organizations by supporting pond construction and improving productivity to promote the farmers' economy, food security and nutrition.

It also aims at enhancing aquaculture value-added products through processing and increasing youth employment through aquaculture enterprises.

Officials from IFAD under the leader-

ship of the country representative, Ms Mariatu Kamara and those from ABDP led by Mr Josphat Kirimi conducted a comprehensive review of the project in Igambang'ombe ward.

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"The objective of this visit is to meet fish farmers to know how they are progressing and what we could do to better the venture which will be coming to an end soon," said Ms Kamara.

She said the project had so far achieved a great milestone but there was a need to establish whether farmers have been empowered enough to comfortably continue

with the venture once the programme comes to an end.

In Igambang'ombe ward, a total of 27 farmers; 19 adult males, three adult females, two adult females, four male youth and one PWD came together to form Igambang'ombe Fish Farmers Small Holder Aquaculture Group back in the year 2020 and registered with the social services.

The farmers stock their ponds with tilapia and catfish fingerlings from one of them who has established a hatchery and so far they have stocked 48,100 out of which, 49950 are catfish and 5150 tilapia.

The harvested fish are sold within the area and others are consumed in the household while some youths are doing value addition by deep frying and can meet their financial needs.

The members have been trained on nu-

trition, establishing a kitchen garden, and how to integrate crop and fish farming using very fertile pond water and they are all growing vegetables and fruits.

The farmers stated that some of the major challenges of the venture are getting quality fingerlings and the high cost of fish feeds.

"We are in the process of writing a proposal to be funded by the programme on fish value addition," said Ms Karegi Magondi, one of the farmers.

The group meets every last Thursday of the month to give reports, review the progress, discuss on other various issues and get training.

Apart from fish farming, the group engages in Table Banking and Merry Go Round activities.

Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Judicial workers from Embu Law Courts held a peaceful walk to mourn the tragic death of Makadara Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti, who was shot last week. The staff carried placards with the inscription “Stop the Killings; Judicial Lives Matter” and held prayers to condole with the departed magistrate’s family. Environment and Land Courts Judge Antony Kaniaru called for a wakeup call for the security of judicial officers.



Environment Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya has announced a policy to eradicate invasive plant species in arid and semi-arid areas. The government is keen on eradicating these species, which are a major challenge. Some invasive species, such as cactus like *Opuntia stricta* and Mathenge, can be eradicated by turning them into products that support different value chains. “We are focusing on utilising this invasive species by turning, for instance, opuntia into animal feed, the same as prososis (mathenge), which supports a lot of value chains. If we approach it from different dimensions, we will be able to deal with them and at the same time add value,” added CS Tuya. The CS said the government plans to eradicate these plants through joint efforts after the policy is implemented. All donor resources will be channelled at the grassroots level to combat climate change and empower communities. The Ministry of Environment has been actively working on environmental stewardship, with the theme “United for Land. Our Legacy, Our Future,” reflecting the increasing global trend of land degradation and drought.



First Lady Rachael Ruto says Kenya has made significant strides in advancing child rights and welfare, particularly in ensuring that our children get access to education. She said, Kenyans must commend the government for the significant strides it has made towards achieving the theme of this year’s celebration, ‘Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now,’ as well as the impactful steps we have taken to improve the state of education nationwide.

“The county governments and various stakeholders in the education sector have equally achieved additional milestones, all aimed at developing systems that provide high-quality and pertinent education across all institutions, guaranteeing that no child falls behind. We are still making strides to ensure that all our children have access to the same quality of education, infrastructure, and facilities,” she noted.



Ndanai-Abossi Assistant County Commissioner Ambrose Kimanzi has warned residents against practicing outlawed female circumcision (FGM), urging parents to protect their children from being lured into the vice. He also cautioned against resolving defilement cases in Kangaroo courts, known as ‘kipgaa’, which deprived victims of due justice and allowed perpetrators to continue with the vice. Area Member of County Assembly Paul Kirui called for the empowerment of boys, who are lagging behind in education and economic development. Kirui argued that boys should put more effort into school and avoid drug and alcohol abuse.



Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development Director Charles Ongondo has called on secondary schools to share laboratory facilities with Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) in their neighborhoods. Ongondo said many JSS schools lack laboratories for practicals. Plans are underway to construct integrated learning resource centres in all primary schools to aid JSS learners in practical lessons. The government is also planning to provide mobile laboratories to primary schools, which are far away from secondary schools. Ongondo said the government is keen on implementing the new curriculum to ensure it achieves its objectives.

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House Committee Considers Petition On The Proposed Enactment Of A Robotics And AI Bill



By: PSCU

The Public Petitions Committee, in a session chaired by Vihiga Member of Parliament Earnest Kagesi met with Members of the Robotics Society of Kenya in the consideration of a petition filed before Parliament for the enactment of the Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Bill.

Mr. Fred Sagwe, the Chairperson of the Robotics Association of Kenya, informed the committee that the purpose of the proposed legislation is to regulate the Robotics and the Artificial Intelligence (AI) profession at a time when the industry

is fast evolving and technology is constantly changing.

“By introducing this Bill, we aim to foster and strengthen the AI profession to keep up with the ever changing industry without necessarily curtailing innovation and growth of the AI space,” stated Mr. Sagwe.

The committee members were however curious on the need for the Society to want to self-regulate with Members specifically questioning if the proposal was an attempt to cover up the harm that the industry has inflicted on society.

Kuria East MP, Marwa Kitayama enquired “Is there more to this bill than meets the eye because it is very rare for anyone to want to bring up proposals that are self-regulating. What kind of harm has AI caused to

this country so that you want to self-regulate?”

In response, Mr. Sagwe informed the Committee that as a society that is keen to maximize on the full potential of the AI space, the society was borrowing from the general data protection regulation that have been enacted by the European Union Parliament.

“We are simply borrowing from the GDPR that has been utilized by the Members of the European Parliament so as to protect the industry which quite young but also wide reaching,” said Mr. Sagwe.

He added, “To make sure that we safeguard the industry and things like the laws that concern data protection are adhered to, oversight is needed.”

Parliament Resolves To Hold Thursday Morning Sitting For Extended Debate On Finance Bill



President William Ruto, his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua and lawmakers allied to Kenya Kwanza administration briefing journalists on various proposed changes to the Finance Bill..

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly resolved to hold a morning sitting tomorrow, to allow for extended debate on the Finance Bill 2024.

In a motion sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Kimani Ichung’wa, lawmakers unanimously adopted the procedural motion seeking to hold a morning sitting commencing at 9.30 am for purposes of considering priority business.

“The House Business Committee met this afternoon and considered this motion to al-

low legislators ample time to debate the Finance Bill 2024. We thought it would be wise to have sitting on Thursday Morning. We will have the entire Wednesday from 9.30am and 9.00pm and Thursday morning sitting,” stated Ichung’wa.

The extended session will supplement the already scheduled today’s sittings, offering a full day and a morning for members to propose amendments and extensively debate the 2024, Finance Bill.

The Leader of the Minority Party, Opiyo Wandayi, echoed the need for sufficient debate time. He emphasized that members across the political divide desired a thorough examination of the bill.

He said, “Members from across the political divide want adequate time to contribute to the Finance Bill 2024 at its second reading.”

The House is also expected to consider amendments made by the Senate to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Bill. With two constituencies currently lacking representation, Hon. Wandayi stressed the urgency of filling these vacancies through proper legislative procedures.

“We will also have time to consider Senate amendments to the IEBC Bill, we have two constituencies without representation. It is in order that we approve this motion,” added Wandayi.

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Magistrates Sensitise Molo Residents On Court Verdicts



Molo Chief Magistrate Elena Nderitu.



Molo Court magistrates, staff and court users' committee placed candles around the photo of the late Makadara law courts Principal Magistrate, Monicah Kivuti. Photo/Millicent Asere.

By: Emily Kadzo and Millicent Asere
@themtkenyatimes

Molo Magistrates yesterday called for enhanced public sensitisation campaigns to provide members of the public with a deeper understanding on the work they do as arbiters in different disputes. The magistrates spoke when they

joined their colleagues across the country in mourning the death of Makadara Law Court Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti, which occurred on Thursday last week. Chief Magistrate Elena Nderitu said, "As magistrates, our role is to apply the law and have no interest or bias. Our mandate is to follow the law so as to fulfil the tenets contained in our oath of office. We preside over hearing of different cases to fulfil Kenya's

vision of being a just society that respects and abides by the rule of law." Nderitu pointed out that there are other alternatives to launching complaints, and this should be utilised by those who feel aggrieved and not use uncouth means to achieve perverted justice. "Let us embrace our institution of justice and respect the custodians of justice. Injustice to you is injustice to

me and all of us," she noted. In solidarity, they consoled the family of the late Kivuti while condemning the attack, saying that this is an act that should not be repeated. Her sentiments come following the horrendous shooting incident that led to the killing of their colleague, Kivuti, on allegations that she had denied cash bail to an accused person, 48-year-old Jennifer Wairimu,

facing charges of obtaining Sh2.9 million by false pretense. Feeling bitter over Kivuti's directive, Wairimu's husband, who is also the OCS at Londiani Police Station, Samson Kipchirchir, was angered and went for the magistrate and shot her. He was immediately countered by the police orderlies in court, who shot him dead.

Real Estate Firm To Construct 600 Affordable Houses In Bamburi

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Fairdeal Properties, a real estate firm, has begun construction of 600 affordable housing units in Bamburi, Kisauni Sub-County, known as 'Bamburi Green View'. The project is divided into three phases, with phase one involving the construction of 200 units of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments. The prices of these units are Sh2.35 million, Sh3.49 million, and Sh4.39 million, respectively. The company offers a good payment plan with starting installments starting from Sh30,000 to Sh40,000. The firm has also developed Zawadi Apartments, Bamburi Palm View, and Bamburi Coconut Villas in the area. The Bamburi Green View apart-

ments are 70 per cent sold, and booking is ongoing for the remaining units. Fairdeal aims to build more affordable houses to complement government efforts and contribute to the growing mombasa construction industry. The project includes amenities like a swimming pool, a fully equipped gym, a clubhouse, a recreational area, and a children's play area.



Government Removes Controversial Tax Proposals In Finance Bill 2024

By: Eric Biegon
 @themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has lauded the move by the National Assembly Committee on Finance to announce a raft of changes to the Finance Bill 2024.

According to the head of state, the withdrawal of some of the proposals hugely protested against by Kenyans demonstrates that the government he leads listens to its citizens.

Ruto who commented on the matter after chairing a Parliamentary Group meeting of lawmakers drawn from the ruling party, noted that the changes announced will ensure there is no extra burden exerted on the taxpayer. "We have had a robust public engagement on the proposed Finance Bill. We have adjusted the document accordingly," the President posted on his X account

President Ruto further applauded

Kenyans for sharing their views and expressing their misgivings openly on some of the clauses contained in the Finance Bill 2024 which they considered of grave concern.

"We are glad we are having conversations about issues, and our institutions are working. This is how democracies function," he said

"We are going to end up with a product in Parliament that came from the Executive and has been interrogated by the Legislature. Through public participation, the people of Kenya have had a say," added the head of state

Among other changes to the Bill that were announced Tuesday, the 16 percent VAT on bread has been removed and the VAT on the transportation of sugar has also been removed. VAT on financial services and foreign exchange transactions has also been removed.

National Assembly Finance Committee Chairperson Kuria Kimani further indicated that there will be no increase in mobile money transfers.



National Assembly Finance Committee Chairperson Kuria Kimani.

He said the contentious issue of 2.5 percent Motor Vehicle Tax that had been proposed has also been removed as well as the excise duty on vegetable oil.

Media Council Condemns Assault, Arrest Of Journalists During Anti-Finance Bill Demos

By: Ian Omondi
 @themtkenyatimes

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has lashed out at the police following incidents of harassment and arrest of journalists who were covering protests against the contentious Finance Bill, 2024 in the Nairobi Central Business District (CBD) on Tuesday. MCK CEO David Omwoyo termed the attacks by armed police officers, who were supposed to protect the journalists, as unwarranted since the press men and women sufficiently identified themselves using their accredited media badges and jackets.

He went on to identify at least five journalists who were unjustifiably attacked and arrested while in the line of duty at the 'Occupy Parliament' protests, among them two from international media houses and three attached to local outlets.

"Among those who were targeted included Joe Muhia and Iddi Ali Juma of AP who were arrested and later

released after being assaulted. In an incident captured on video, Standard Group video editor Justice Mwangi Macharia was arrested and violently hauled out of a moving police motor vehicle, sustaining physical injuries," stated Mr. Omwoyo.

"Nation Media Group's Taifa Leo reporter Sammy Kimatu was also thrown out of a moving police Land Rover, sustained injuries and is currently receiving treatment. Maureen Murethi (NTV) has also been hospitalised after police aimed a canister at her as she covered the protests."

He added: "Today's unfortunate events remind us that members of the National Police Service remain the weak link in Kenya's quest for freedom of expression and freedom of the media as espoused in our Constitution."

The MCK boss further urged Inspector General of Police Japhet Koome to put a leash on the rogue officers and ensure that journalists are always protected - not targeted for harassment - while performing their duties.



Standard Group journalist Justice Mwangi Macharia being arrested and then violently hauled out of a moving police vehicle while covering protests in Nairobi CBD on June 18, 2024..

For A Victorious Life: Focus On Christ Jesus



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

There are cases where people are heavily oppressed by the devil, and if they do NOT get the truth of the Word (Christ Jesus) in them, the devil would destroy them. Human beings are God’s pride of creation, and the devil loves to hurt God by taking over one of His creatures and taking them to hell. God does NOT want us getting messed up by demons.

However, you do not need to get focused on demons and look for them behind every bush (although there is probably one there). But focus on Jesus and be obedient to His commands. Hebrews 12: 1-2 teaches us the best approach we should have, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders

and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

You are casting out demons for His benefit, as part of occupying the territory He bought back with His precious blood. Devils will never get into you, if you refuse to participate with them and do not yield to their temptations. Hanging around the wrong people will lead you into temptation. Attending services in a dry church will make you dry ground and good soil for demonic influence, but not for the Word.

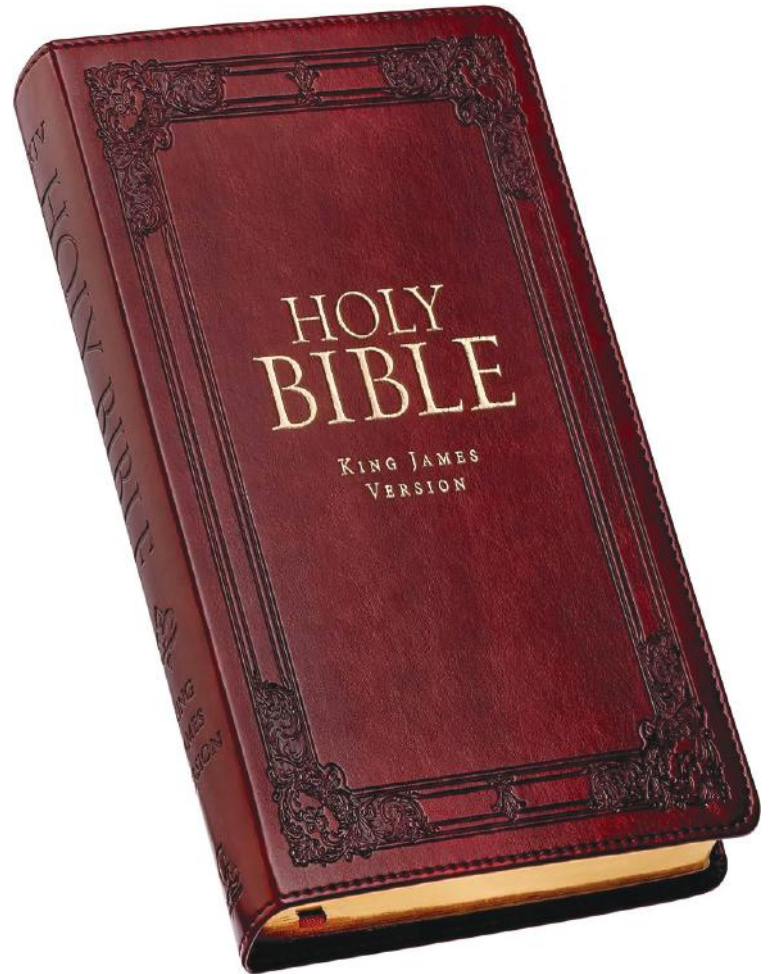
Feed yourself with the Word and pray in tongues. Put on the whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:11-18). Dry church services many times take place in beautiful buildings and have beautiful music. The services are soothing to your soul, but your spirit goes hungry. The first few services, you know better. Perhaps you can hardly stand it. But then you begin to

get used to it. Finally, you like those kinds of services. Falling into other kinds of temptations, even into carnal sins, follows the same pattern. Withstand the wiles of the enemy, and you will not be oppressed by Satan.

OH GOD HELP US, IN YOUR MERCY AND LOVING KINDNESS DELIVER US THAT WE MAY BE WORTHY INSTRUMENTS IN YOUR HANDS. 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.



Upgrading Of The Police Clearance Certificate System

By: The DCI

The Director DCI Mr Mohamed I. Amin yesterday presided over the signing of a contract between the DCI and Idemia Southern and Eastern Africa Limited that will enable the upgrading of the Police Clearance Certificate system from the currently used Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System (APFIS) to Multi Biometric Identification System (MBIS).

The upgrade comes as a response to mitigate legitimate concerns from members of the public in regards to the delays experienced in the processing of the Police Clearance Certificates (PCC).

The new system, MBIS will improve the processing speed of the certificates from the initial 14 days to 1 day, thus effectively contributing to the

clearance of the backlog while also matching the corresponding number of applications to those processed in a day.

Additionally, the new system is fully bolstered to support livescans of the PCC applications in 52 Huduma Centres across the Country, at the DCI Headquarters and Police Stations.

This feature will tremendously reduce paperwork in the whole process of acquisition of a Police Clearance Certificate.

Moreover, while the old system was only able to store two million criminal records, the new system has a storage capacity of upto 10 million.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr Amin affirmed his confidence that the new system will address the concerns arising from delayed processing of the Police Clearance Certificates. He further emphasized the Directorate’s commitment to offer this service with utmost dedication.



Director of Criminal Investigations Mohamed Amin with his officers and officials of the firm that is set to undertake the upgrade..

House Finance Committees Table The Final Report Capturing Views Collected During Public Participation



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Kimani Kuria, the National Assembly's Finance Committee chair, at a press briefing shortly after Kenya Kwanza's Parliamentary Group at State House on June 18, 2024 ahead of tabling the contentious Finance Bill 2024 in Parliament in the afternoon. .



Worth Noting:

- Ndindi, the Kiharu MP, further stated: We have also listened to parents, guardians and other stakeholders in education sector. So, we have reinstated the school feeding programme. We have also allocated enough funds to employ Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers on permanent and pensionable terms.
- Despite the report addressing most of concerns raised by those opposed to it, this did not stop the Nairobi based civil society groups from holding their demonstration. The protestors who carried placards and flyers with inscription 'Occupy Parliament' chanted anti-President William Ruto slogans.
- This is not the first time we are witnessing this. Similar protests had rocked the country during the tenures of former Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

The financial report prepared by the chairpersons of the two powerful committees of the National Assembly namely Budget and Appropriation and Finance and National Planning left no doubt that the members had taken into consideration the views of Kenyans opposed to the Finance Bill 2024.

While tabling the report in parliament, they highlighted a raft of tax proposals that had been termed as punitive.

As you can see in our report, we have clustered taxes in contention into three categories. We have removed some and we have proposed zero rating and exemptions on others.

Noting that the priority of this house is to safeguard the interests of Kenyans, we have no doubt our report will be adopted.

The Chairman of Budget and Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro had a few days earlier set the ball rolling when he unveiled a list of some of the taxes that would be dropped.

They included proposed 16 percent VAT on bread; 2.5 percent motor vehicle tax. Eco levy will also be adjusted with baby pampers, sanitary towels and other products being zero-rated.

Ndindi, the Kiharu MP, further stated: We have also listened to parents, guardians and other stakeholders in education sector. So, we have reinstated the school feeding programme. We have also allocated enough funds to employ Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers on permanent and pensionable terms.

Despite the report addressing most of concerns raised by those opposed to it, this did not stop the Nairobi based civil society groups from holding their demonstration. The protestors who carried placards and flyers with inscription 'Occupy Parliament' chanted anti-President William Ruto slogans.

This is not the first time we are witnessing this. Similar protests had rocked the

country during the tenures of former Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

During the public participation, many Kenyans reasoned; Yes, we agree paying tax is a legal civic duty. However, some of the taxes contained in Finance Bill 2024 are very high. The burden will be too heavy particularly to the low income earners.

So, we recommend they should be reduced.

President William Ruto had earlier revisited the topic of taxation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Turning to his critics, he noted that they would want Kenyans to believe that this would make them more poorer.

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

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

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

stated.

Everyone of us has a duty to develop our country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I know some Kenyans were not paying

taxes and others were not fully complying with tax obligations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under my watch, this will not happen.

Early this year, President Ruto became the first Kenyan head of state to personally file his tax returns at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) headquarters in Nairobi.

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

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

He vowed to deal firmly with KRA rogue officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Assembly Committee Reviews Audit Queries Of National Museums Of Kenya

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture, chaired by Navakholo MP Emanuel Wangwe, met yesterday with the Managing Director of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) Prof. Mary Gikungu, to scrutinize the Auditor-General's reports on NMK's financial statements for seven financial years.

The committee expressed concerns regarding NMK's financial stability. Despite NMK reporting a surplus of Ksh11,944,556 in 2014/15, a significant turnaround from the Ksh72,685,586 deficit in 2013/14, the cumulative revenue reserve balance remained negative Ksh413,894,448.

The financial statements as of June 30, 2015, also indicated a negative working capital of Ksh210,075,322. This persistent deficit underlines



the critical assumption that NMK's continued operations rely heavily on ongoing financial support from the government and creditors.

Addressing those issues, Prof. Gikungu stated, "Hon. Chairman, the observations are accurate based on the statement of changes in net assets for the Financial Year 2014-

2015. Management has implemented controls, including new accounting systems and the establishment of Budget Implementation and Public Finance Management Committees. However, the situation remains unresolved due to accumulated losses and continuous budget cuts in subsequent years."

Another query discussed was the lack of ownership documents for NMK's land. As of June 30, 2015, NMK's financial statements reflected property, plant, and equipment valued at Ksh2,791,316,618, including Ksh1,575,127,445 for 110 parcels of land. Out of these, only 37 had title deeds, 38 were surveyed and regis-

tered under NMK, 33 lacked surveys and ownership documents, and 2 were under dispute. This situation casts doubt on whether the carrying value of these properties accurately reflects their fair market value.

Moreover, the committee addressed the issue of land encroachment. Emerging evidence suggested that several NMK land parcels had been irregularly allocated to private developers. Prof. Gikungu noted, "It is true we have several parcels without title deeds and no revaluation at the time of the audit. However, an evaluation was completed in FY 2022/2023, partially resolving these issues as documented in the Valuation report. Nevertheless, NMK still faces challenges with illegal inhabitants on some parcels and seeks intervention from various state agencies to resolve these disputes."

The session highlighted ongoing financial and administrative challenges within NMK and underscored the need for continuous oversight and support to safeguard national heritage assets.

House To Consider Amendments To IEBC Bill And Statutory Instruments Bill

By: PSCU

Two Bills originating from the National Assembly; the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill and the Statutory Instruments (Amendments) Bill are set for consideration by lawmakers. This follows amendments made by the Senate.

The IEBC amendment Bill, co-sponsored by the Leader of Majority and the Leader of Minority parties of the National Assembly seeks to make consequential amendments to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Act of 2011, aligning it to the Judgments of the Supreme Court in the aftermath of the recently disputed General Elections. The Court in its ruling held that certain provisions of the Act were unconstitutional hence warranting a new Act to remedy the

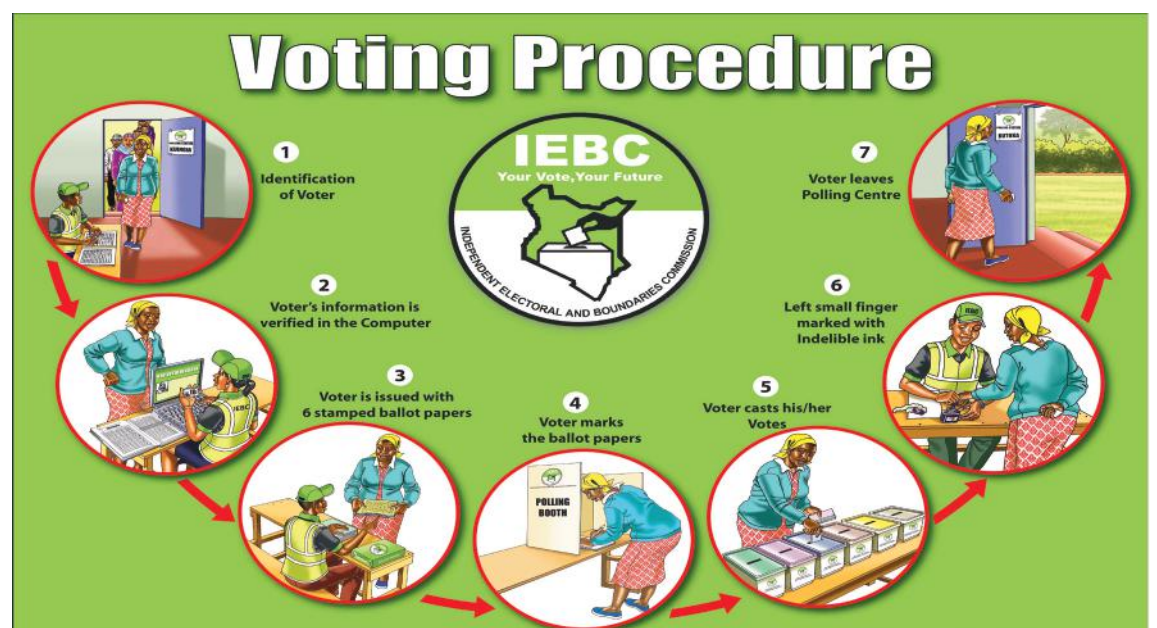
wrongs of the Elections

The Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party Kimani Ichung'wah seeks to introduce amendments to the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013, by establishing timelines for the making of regulations to ensure efficient implementation of parliamentary laws.

While communicating the message originating from the Senate, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula informed the house that the Senate had concluded their part of passing the Bills.

"Honourable members Pursuant to the Provisions of Standing Order 41(4) I wish to report to the House that I have received five messages from the Senate regarding the passage of five Senate Bills and two National Assembly Bills," stated the Speaker.

"On 11th of June, 2024, the Senate considered and passed the Statutory Instruments (Amendments) Bill (National Assembly Bill no 2 of 2023)



and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendments) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 10 of 2024) with amendments," added the Speaker.

The two bills were committed to the committee on Delegated Legislation

and the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee respectively for consideration of the amendments.

"Aware of the Nature of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendments) Bill, I direct that the Justice and Legal Af-

fairs Committee should expedite the process and table its report on Thursday, 20th June, 2024 during the morning sitting," further instructed the Speaker.

Nyeri County To Launch Sacco To Empower Widows

By: Samuel Maina
@themkenyatimes

Widows residing in Nyeri County will now have the opportunity to access loans from a tailor-made savings and cooperative society, beginning next month, area Gender, Youth, and Sports CECM Esther Ndung'u has disclosed.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Ms Ndung'u said the Sacco, expected to be launched on Friday next week will act as a rallying call for widows to join the facility where they can save their money, grow their savings, and later have access to affordable loans.

The idea to launch such a financial facility was mooted in 2014 during the administration of the late Nyeri Governor Nderitu Gachagua.

However, it was abandoned after his death and was only revisited when

the current Governor Mutahi Kahiga, came into office.

Ms. Ndung'u says to be eligible to join the Sacco, one must be a member of a duly registered self-help group with an active constitution in place.

Nyeri County First Lady Caroline Kahiga is expected to officiate the opening ceremony.

"We want our widows to have a platform where they can save and borrow once they have put enough money into their accounts. Through such empowerment, we believe our women will have a pool where they can access crucial startup capital to help come up with investment projects that can support them financially," she said.

The county government hopes to open up the Sacco to other members, such as widowers and youth, once the initial initiative has succeeded.

The CECM further said the government will also be launching a County Social and Gender Development Policy on the same day to act as a guiding

framework that will ensure equality in resource allocation for all groups of people.

"Widows bear the brunt of life's hurdles, including being disinherited from their matrimonial property by their in-laws. We want those widows to have a platform that can bring them together and also create an avenue from which they can access loans to sustain them in life. The members will in the future act as ambassadors who will rally their fellow colleagues to enrol, she added.

During his state of the county address in November, Kahiga told Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) that his administration had already presided over 100 cooperative elections, besides training 600 cooperative leaders on financial management and good governance.

In addition, the county boss said his administration had seen the entry of 12 additional financial entities into the cooperative industry, pushing the



Ms Esther Ndung'u.

number of cooperative societies in Nyeri to 195 with a combined membership of 500,000 members.

The members are drawn from various income segments, ranging from agriculture to the transport sector.

The cooperative sector in Nyeri boasts of some Sh2.4 billion in share capital and an asset base of over Sh22 billion.

Medical Services PS Appears Before Public Debt And Privatization Committee On The Status Of Government Acquired Loans

By: PSCU

The Principal Secretary of Medical Services, Harry Kimtai, apprised the National Assembly Committee on Public Debt and Privatization on the status of three loans acquired by the government for use by the State Department.

The committee led by Balambala MP, Abdi Shurie, wanted to know the status of the first loan, UA 14 million that was acquired back in April 2022 between the government and the Africa Development Fund and was meant to finance phase one of the East Africa Centre of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences Project.

On this loan, Mr. Kimtai told the members that the loan would ensure full operationalization of the Centre, disclosing that the progress in implementation is within the stipulated timelines.

The second loan that the commit-



tee was interested in is a EUR 19.37 million loan that was acquired on 12th September 2022 between the government and Mihuzo Bank Europe N.V.

This second loan was meant to finance a project called the Turnkey Medical Equipment and Refrainment Package Contract-Upgrading Maternal and New Born Care Units.

According to the PS, the objective of the project was to refurbish, equip and train staff at 20 health facilities and to reduce maternal and infant mortalities by creating a conducive delivery and nursing environment for mothers and newborns.

"The project started on 13th September 2023 and is anticipated to terminate in September next year

and it is being implemented across 12 counties; Nyandarua, Embu, Samburu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nyamira, Nyeri, Murang'a, Kisii, West Pokot, Narok, Makuani and Kwale," Mr. Kimtai disclosed.

While reacting to the information, the members asked the PS how the beneficiary counties were selected.

Mr. Kimtai responded that a survey

on the Kenya demographic was conducted and the benefitting counties were found to be facing most of the challenges to be addressed by the project.

The PS distanced his State Department from the final loan, a USD 100 million (Facility B) and EUR 93 million (Facility C) acquired on 5th April 2022, between the government and Citibank, N.A, London Branch, Rand Merchant Bank, the Standard Bank of South Africa Limited and the Standard Chartered Bank, was meant to finance the phase one of the East Africa Centre of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences Project.

"I wish to state that the State Department has no knowledge of the above loan facility as per the records availed from our finance department. I have so far requested the National Treasury for clarification of the same. I shall revert to the Committee once I receive the response," he said.

I Waited For You



I waited for you with great intensity,
I fulfilled my dream of meeting you every
moment.
I talked to the moon at night,
I treasured your memories in my heart.

I felt you in every beat of time,
I lived every moment incomplete without
you.
I spent my days hoping for your arrival,

I sang songs of meeting you in solitude.

I saw your reflection in every star in the
sky.
I saw the color of happiness in your
smile.
Without you this life is like a silence,
Without you this heart is also like a
desert.

I have gathered courage to say only this
much,
I have sacrificed everything in waiting
for you.
Come sometime, in the world of my
dreams,
Fulfill my desire of waiting sometime.

Poet - Anurag Upadhyay.

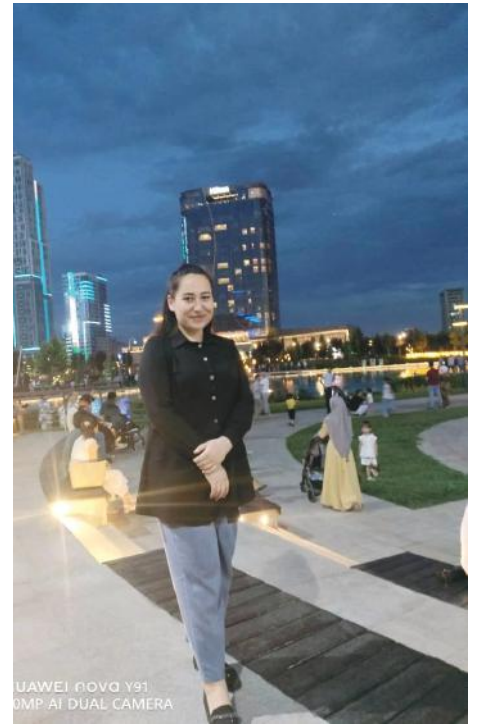
Happiness

Someone says happiness is beautiful,
I didn't believe it before.
Afraid to even dream
I was a little girl, shy, fairy.

Do not look up from the book, read,
I was writing new poems.
Looking for happiness in a fairy tale book,
Sometimes I fainted.

Joy swims through the book,
The word steps towards happiness.
If you have a peaceful family,
There is no greater happiness than that.

Sarvinoz Tuliyeva
The owner of the state award named
after Zulfiya. Uzbekistan



A Huge Maple And A Tower



Today I visited the biggest library and
while walking around the library, I saw
a book there, the maple tree on the
cover of the book reminded me of the
maple tree in our village and I took it and
started flipping through it, this book is
our village I was happy to see that it
was written about our huge maple tree
and I remembered my childhood and my
village.

We grew up running around the village
streets from our youth. Our village was
very big and very beautiful, tourists
came from far away to see our village,
people from the city came to have a
rest, and the most gratifying thing was
even the exhibitor came very often,
they were looking for something, they
were digging, they had all kinds of tools
in their hands.

We children used to stare at them,
these activities were mostly carried out

in the middle of our village in a tall maple
tree and a small tower.
And the Sabbaths were written down,
and a little further away from it were
built chordanas, and the tourists were
entertained there and there was a
bigger room in the net, at the foot
of the courtyard there was a small
platform, we couldn't enter there, it
was locked, when no one was around, he
would climb out of the maple branches
and sleep quietly inside the tower we
used to think that this must have
belonged to the king, and we used to
think about who lived there and we
would be happy.

Our village was famous, everyone
came to see it from afar, this maple
and tower is our village had spread his
domain to seven climates.

Saidqulova Nozima To'iqin daughter.
Karshi institute of Engineering and
Economics 3rd grade student.



My Family



A tapestry woven, threads of love so
bright,
My family, a beacon in the darkest night.
A chorus of laughter, a symphony of
sound,
Where hearts intertwine, and love
abounds.

Grandparents' stories, whispered soft and
low,
Of times gone by, a seed of wisdom to
sow.
Parents' guidance, a steady, loving hand,
Leading us forward, through life's shifting
sand.

Siblings' laughter, a playful, joyous chime,

Sharing secrets, defying space and time.
Each member a thread, woven strong and
true,
A tapestry of love, forever in view.

Through stormy weather, and sunny days
so bright,
My family, my anchor, a guiding light.
With open arms, and hearts filled with
grace,
A love unyielding, in this sacred space.

Bultirov Rakhmonberdi Sobirjon o'g'li was
born on August 12, 2008, in Uzbekistan.
Currently, he is a 10th grade student at
the Is'hoqxon Ibrat Creativity School.
He is proficient in writing poetry and
stories and can freely speak in English,
Russian, Uzbek and German. His stories
have been published in the prestigious
Kenyan journal "New York Times" and
in Germany's "Raven Cage" journal his
story "Country" was featured. His poems
have appeared in the book "Stars of the
magic" and he has been honored with a
certificate. And he is an active member
of the Hippo International Olympiad and a
lot of climate changing conferences.

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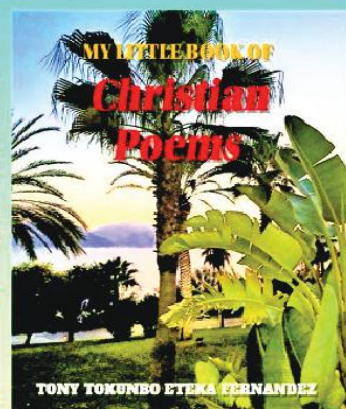
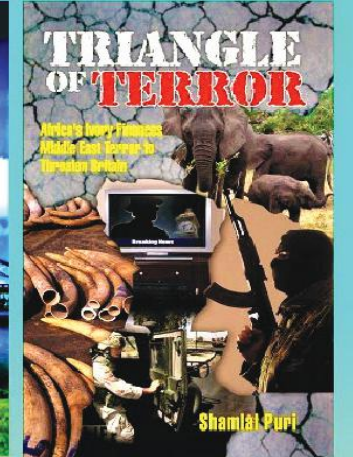
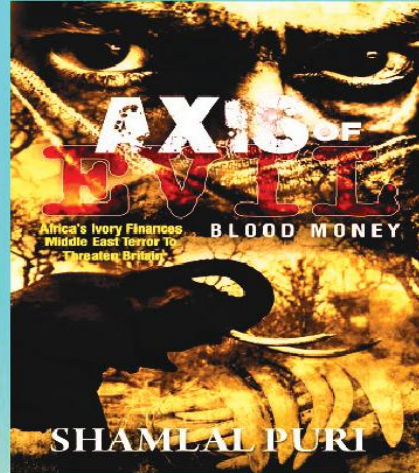
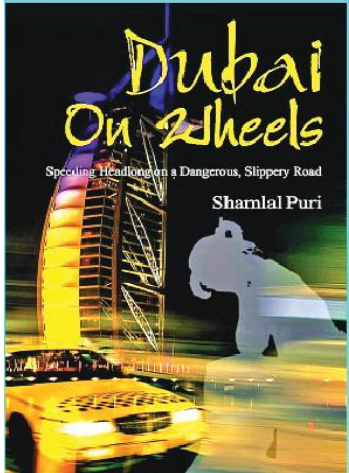
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BUSINESS

NGOs Inject Sh197.9 Billion into Economy, Boosting Key Sectors

By: Cynthia Masibo and
Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyentimes



Principal Administrative Secretary Njenga Minjiri, the representative to PS Raymond Omollo, issuing his address.

Worth Noting:

- The launch event also marked the beginning of NGOs Week 2024, an annual event designed to showcase the contributions of charitable organisations and facilitate the sharing of experiences. This year's theme, "Building Synergy for a Sustainable Future," calls on non-profits to work collaboratively with the government and other stakeholders to maximize their impact.
- "The PBO sector has long been recognized as crucial actors in driving sustainable development, and working at the forefront to address pressing societal challenges," said Dr. Omollo. He specifically praised NGOs for their swift response in providing emergency relief during the recent floods that devastated several parts of the country. Local and international NGOs delivered essential aid, including food, clean water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, education materials, and temporary shelter to affected communities.

In a significant contribution to Kenya's economy, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) invested a staggering Sh197.9 billion in various projects over the past financial year. This figure, revealed in the Annual NGO Sector Report 2022/2023 launched yesterday, marks an increase of Sh12.4 billion from the previous year. The report underscores the crucial role of NGOs—recently rebranded as Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs) following the operationalisation of the PBO Act, 2013—in fostering sustainable development across the nation.

During the launch at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Dr. Raymond Omollo highlighted the sectors benefiting from these investments. Delivered by Principal Administrative Secretary Njenga Miiri on his behalf, Dr. Omollo's speech commended the collaboration between the government and PBOs in addressing various development challenges. He pointed out that funds were channeled into health, education, welfare, agriculture, water, and sanitation, among other critical areas.

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"The PBO sector has long been recognized as crucial actors in driving sustainable development, and working at the forefront to address pressing societal challenges," said Dr. Omollo. He specifically praised NGOs for their swift response in providing emergency relief during the recent floods that devastated several parts of the country. Local and international NGOs delivered essential aid, including food, clean water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, education materials, and temporary shelter to affected communities.

Despite these positive contributions, Dr. Omollo expressed concern over the low compliance rate among NGOs regarding annual reporting. Out of 12,000 registered NGOs, only 2,828 filed their annual reports as required by law. "Despite having over 10,000 active NGOs, the actual contribution of this sector to the economy remains unclear due to these reporting deficiencies," he noted. He directed the PBO Authority to enforce compliance strictly, including deregistering non-compliant organisations.

The government's operationalisation of the PBO Act is a testament to its

commitment to creating an enabling environment for non-state actors. This Act aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency within the sector, ensuring that NGOs operate within a robust regulatory framework. "The Act provides a broader civic space and is arguably one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in guaranteeing the freedom of association and assembly as provided for in Article 36 of our Constitution," Dr. Omollo stated.

PBO Authority Chairman Mwambu Mabongah echoed these sentiments, urging NGOs to intensify their efforts in supporting the needy and vulnera-

ble. Drawing on the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, Mr. Mabongah encouraged NGOs to act as good neighbors and provide aid to those in extreme need within their operational areas. He assured stakeholders that the Authority is committed to implementing the new law effectively.

Executive Director Mutuma Nkanata outlined the Authority's role in guiding NGOs through the transition to the new legal regime. He emphasized the importance of aligning NGO programs with Kenya's national development plan, including the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda. "Pursuant to the Authority's policy guideline role, we will continue to publish the Annual NGO Sector Report and provide guidance to PBOs on aligning their programmes with national development goals," said Mr. Nkanata.

As NGOs Week 2024 progresses, the sector's contributions and challenges will be under the spotlight. The week's activities are set to provide a valuable platform for PBOs to showcase their work, share best practices, and forge stronger partnerships for a sustainable future. The government, through the PBO Act and continued engagement with the sector, aims to harness the full potential of NGOs in driving national development and addressing socio-economic challenges.

In conclusion, the Sh197.9 billion investment by NGOs is a testament to their vital role in Kenya's development landscape. With enhanced transparency, accountability, and collaboration, the sector is poised to make even greater strides in the years to come.



Principal Administrative Secretary Njenga Minjiri, the representative to PS Raymond Omollo, issuing his address (Right).

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Farmers Turn To Black Soldier Fly Farming For Economic Relief And Environmental Sustainability Amid Climate Change Challenges



By: Elizabeth Angira



Felix Ombati attending to black soldier fly says that the farming is cheap to start, most of the products they use are wastes. Photo credit |Elizabeth Angira.

Worth Noting:

- According to Mr Ombati he started the project on 2021, the cost only he uncured was the purchase of cage which costed him Ksh 8000.
- "I did not start with huge amount of money, I used the basins and buckets I had at that time," he says.
- According to The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), has led the way in incorporating insects as alternative, more affordable, nutritious and sustainable protein options in animal feed.
- In particular, the Centre has demonstrated that black soldier fly larvae or the proteins derived from them, can be used safely as components in feeds for poultry, pigs and fish. In poultry, such feeds have been proven to improve growth performance, the quality and quantity of meat and eggs, and overall profitability for farmers.

Due to high cost of living, farmers in Gusii region have started to embrace black soldiers fly farming to cushion the high expenses incurred to purchase animal feeds.

Black soldier fly larvae feed on literal waste products, and are very efficient at turning them into their own biomass. 1.5kg of decomposing organic matter creates 1kg of black soldier fly larvae, which in turn create 100g of beef, if used as feed for cattle.

The dry weight of Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) contain up to 50% crude protein (CP), up to 35% lipids and have an amino acid profile that is similar to that of fishmeal.

Indigenous chicken farmers can cut the cost of production by rising their own nutritious black soldier larvae to supplement the chickens' feed and enable the birds to achieve maturity and market stage faster.

Lack of access to affordable protein sources for farmed pigs, chickens and fish in Kenya can deter women and youth farmers from starting a small livestock venture, with both groups less likely to have access to the required capital. Yet, their involvement in agriculture is widely recognized as critical to Kenya's economic development.

Traditionally, Kenyan farmers use fishmeal and soybean as protein sources for their animals, but both can be problematic for smallholder communities.

Kenya does not produce high quantities of soybean, and limited local supply translates to expensive import taxes, which often push the commodity out of the reach of small-scale operations. Likewise, fishmeal is becoming a less reliable protein source due to greater market competition,

overfishing and traders often adulterating supplies with sand to increase profit margins.

Two production models show insects could provide a reliable, sustainable, safe, and cost-effective source of protein for small-scale livestock and fish farming enterprises.

Mr Felix Ombati a youth black soldier fly farmer shares his story on how he has ventured into this farming.

Mr Ombati graduate of Bachelor of Science and Agri business he ventured into black soldier fly farming after he read an article about it and realized that the farming was not common in Gusii region.

He says that he did a research and found that the black soldiers are good source of proteins to poultry, livestock and pigs.

Mr Ombati says that he underwent training at The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) where he was trained on how to grow them from larvae, pupa to adult stage.

"I got starter kit from them, that's is how I ended up coming up with this beautiful project," he says.

According to Mr Ombati he started the project on 2021, the cost only he uncured was the purchase of cage which costed him Ksh 8000.

"I did not start with huge amount of money, I used the basins and buckets I had at that time," he says.

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the proteins derived from them, can be used safely as components in feeds for poultry, pigs and fish. In poultry, such feeds have been proven to improve growth performance, the quality and quantity of meat and eggs, and overall profitability for farmers.

Why black soldiers fly

Mr Ombati says that black soldiers farming is cheap to start, most of the products they use are wastes e.g fruits mango peels, watermelons which they collect them during market days on Monday and Thursdays at Daraja mbili market.

He further says that they took shortest time possible, it takes 8-12 days you can be able to harvest them.

He says that black soldier's fly is fully organic

Mr Ombati says that on a good day they can produce 20kg of fried fry larvae at Ksh 130 per kg.

Fras manure is good for farming

Ms Janet Otwor another farmer says that she cannot regret to have invented in BSF farming, she has trained other women who are happy with that farming.

Ms Otwor says that when they are dried they can be used to make flour and cooking oil.

She says that BSF has high proteins which can be fed on chicken to gain more weight and produce high quality egg production.

Pigs fed with black soldier flies grow faster and produce more and better quality meat.

Cells of pupa they can prevent root nematodes.

Black soldier flies provide the opportunity for smallholder farmers to shift towards a more reliable, profitable and ultimately more sustainable

source of protein for their animals.

They currently produce an average of 500 kg of black soldier flies larvae every week, fed directly to his chickens and pigs.

The high-protein black soldier fly increases the chicken's growth rate and the amount of good, lean meat they produce.

Feeding

Robert Onsare interest in poultry farming began in 2014 when he was still in formal employment. He started by raising Kienyeji chickens for meat and eggs, then scaled up to egg production only.

"I first bought 20 chicks from neighbors and within three months, many had died. I did not give up, and I bought another 100 kienyeji chicks and continued scaling up to 300 and by 2015 when I quit, I had 500 birds," he says.

After a few years, he realized that the demand for eggs was more than that of meat, so he shifted from kienyeji chicken to high breed broilers.

However, he has had a passion for farming since childhood. And this passion kept him the reason as to why he decided to resign a job in one of the company.

He says that someone advices him to feed his poultry with BSF if he wanted to get more income.

"I can testify the chicks matured faster unlike in the past when he used to feed them commercial feeds," he says.

To keep them healthy, Onsare feeds the birds with BSF, kitchen waste, sunflowers, cereals, fish meal, green grass and maize germ.

Also keeping her chicken in a large fully fenced compound where they can scavenge and get insects.

Remember, keeping indigenous chicken thrives in a rural areas where people prefer them over exotic ones. Ensuring a strict vaccination schedule prevents loss of poultry.

Onsare likes crossbreed chickens because they are resistant to diseases and mature faster than the local Kienyeji chicken.

He says poultry farmers should vaccinate the chicken after every 10 weeks to keep away diseases like Newcastle which is a big threat to poultry farmers.

He says that farmers should ensure that the chicken cages are cleaned

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Why Self-Awareness Is Essential For Career Success



By: **Ashford Gikunda Kimani**

Are you aware of your strengths and weaknesses? Self-awareness is like good taste or a sense of humor. Everyone thinks they have it, but that's not always the case. Yet, it's the number one skill that Claire Hughes Johnson, a former Google VP and current advisor for Stripe, would look for when interviewing job candidates. But, in the end, self-awareness is a rare quality. According to research published in Harvard Business Review, even though most people think they are self-aware, only 10%-15% of the people studied fit the criteria.

In a TED Talk, organizational psychologist Tasha Eurich defines self-awareness as "the ability to see ourselves clearly, to understand who

we are, how others see us and how we fit into the world." But to understand self-awareness, we must consider its internal and external components. Internal self-awareness refers to how clearly we view our values, reactions and impact on others. On the other hand, external self-awareness is concerned with understanding how others see us.

Self-awareness has many benefits that contribute to career success. Let's look at some of the advantages of self-exploration and how it can promote professional growth.

Contributes to empathy

Self-awareness is one of the foundations of empathy, according to research published in the Journal of Cognitive

Enhancement. That's because we need to understand ourselves before we can understand others. The study results showed that participants who improved the most at identifying the different parts of their personality also strengthened their ability to interpret the mental states of others. As a result, self-awareness allows us to see things from the perspective of colleagues, which helps us become better communicators in the workplace.

Improves communication skills

When you are aware of your communication style, it is easier to tailor it to specific audiences. This skill is essential when working with diverse teams. A heightened self-awareness also allows for better active listening skills.

By becoming more engaged, you can build trust and loyalty with your team more easily.

Assists with stress management

By practicing self-awareness, you start to notice emotions and behaviors that become clues to your overall health. That way, if you find yourself feeling irritable or burned out, you can take action to remedy the situation. For example, you may notice that drinking too much coffee makes you anxious and interferes with your sleep patterns. If you're aware of it, you can make different lifestyle choices that will benefit your mental and physical well-being.

Leads to better time management

One of the keys to time management is self-awareness. For example, do you know when your peak performance hours are? These are the times of day when you are most productive. If you are most energized in the early morning, you can schedule analytical work for that time. On the other hand, if you tend to experience a slump in the late afternoon, it's a good chance to focus on less demanding administrative tasks.

Facilitates decision making

The most successful leaders know themselves and can tap into their intuition to give them an edge. They are also aware of their emotions so they can avoid letting their feelings cloud their judgment. By being mindful of potential biases and understanding

how they can lead to poor choices, self-aware individuals make smarter decisions.

Increases self-control

Focusing on self-awareness also helps people practice patience. That's because it requires thinking about your reactions and acting in the most appropriate way possible. For example, when a team member makes a mistake, you may want to express anger and resentment. But by exerting self-control, you will think before you react.

Boosts productivity

When you're a self-aware leader, you know your superpowers and shortcomings. That way, you can focus on your assets and delegate tasks that aren't within your area of expertise. It also makes you a better manager because you will be more aware of others' strengths and weaknesses. By using resources more efficiently, you can work smarter and increase productivity.

Without self-awareness, you won't be able to realize your full potential or even know what will make you happy. Fortunately, it's never too late to learn more about yourself or change course. Yes, it takes work, but so does anything worth having.

Ashford teaches English and Literature at Ng'ethu Secondary School in Gatundu North Sub County.

Understanding The Risks Of Flooded Waters

Flooded waters caused by heavy rainfall, overflowing rivers pose significant health risks to Kenyan communities beyond the immediate dangers of drowning and displacement, stagnant floodwaters can become breeding grounds for waterborne diseases.

Waterborne diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms that thrive in contaminated water sources. During floods, sewage systems may overflow, mixing with floodwaters and contaminating them with bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Additionally, agricultural runoff, industrial waste, and debris can further pollute floodwaters, exacerbating the risk of

disease transmission.

One of the most common waterborne diseases associated with flooding is cholera. Cholera is caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* and is characterized by severe diarrhea and dehydration. Floodwaters contaminated with cholera bacteria can quickly spread the disease, particularly in densely populated areas with inadequate sanitation infrastructure.

Another significant concern is the transmission of waterborne viruses, such as hepatitis A and norovirus. These viruses can cause gastrointestinal illness, with symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Floodwaters contaminated with fecal matter or

sewage are particularly high-risk environments for viral transmission, as the viruses can survive in water for extended periods.

Parasitic infections, such as giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis, are also prevalent in flooded areas. Parasites like *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* thrive in contaminated water sources and can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea. Ingesting or coming into contact with contaminated floodwaters puts individuals at risk of parasitic infection.

To mitigate the risk of waterborne diseases in flooded areas, immediate action is crucial. Authorities should

prioritize providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to prevent the consumption of contaminated water and promote proper hygiene practices. Boiling water or using water purification tablets can also help kill or remove pathogens.

Furthermore, public health education plays a vital role in raising awareness about the risks of waterborne diseases and how to prevent them. Communities should be informed about the importance of avoiding contact with floodwaters, practicing good hygiene, and seeking medical attention if they experience symptoms of illness.

Ultimately, addressing waterborne diseases in flooded areas requires a multi-faceted approach that combines infrastructure improvements, emergency response measures, and community engagement. By prioritizing public health and taking proactive steps to reduce the risk of disease transmission, communities can mitigate the impact of floods on human health and well-being.

Saumu Pili And Wanjiru Jane
Rongo University

Farmers Turn To Black Soldier Fly Farming For Economic Relief And Environmental Sustainability Amid Climate Change Challenges

Contd from Page 18.



Black Soldier Fly Farmin. Photo credit |Elizabeth Angira.

pecially poultry farmers, it reduces the cost of feeding poultry drastically. It's a cheap and highly nutritious source of protein.

Mr Soire says, it slow rate of social acceptance of the technology and also extension workers aren't adequately facilitated by devolved governments to demonstrate on this technology.

He says that the county has scaled up agriculture extension services to promote uptake of BSF farming to address high cost of producing eggs and chicken meat, thus increasing food production, farm income and creating.

Bio Waste Management

Leonard Ofula , Kisii County National Environment Management Authority , says aims to improve urban sanitation, address bio waste management, and mitigate climate change.

He adds that black soldier flies to help in organic waste management and environmental conservation.

"The insects feed on collected organic garbage from marketplaces and homesteads, to form manure and animal feeds," he says.

Mr Ofula cites that municipalities governing waste disposal struggle to deal with the urban cities' current waste levels in a sustainable way, as a result, bio wastes accumulate in open and unregulated sites, creating unsanitary environmental conditions that pose public health risks and contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thus BSF will clean the environment.

He says that due to climatic change BSF farming is well fit to help farmers to curb high cost of animal feeds.



Worth Noting:

- After a few years, he realized that the demand for eggs was more than that of meat, so he shifted from kienyeji chicken to high breed broilers.
- However, he has had a passion for farming since childhood. And this passion kept him the reason as to why he decided to resign a job in one of the company.
- He says that someone advices him to feed his poultry with BSF if he wanted to get more income.
- "I can testify the chicks matured faster unlike in the past when he used to feed them commercial feeds," he says.
- To keep them healthy, Onsare feeds the birds with BSF, kitchen waste, sunflowers, cereals, fish meal, green grass and maize germ.

regularly and provide enough water for them to grow healthy.

He keeps her chickens in a large fully fenced compound where they can scavenge and get insects.

Source of income

Mr Ombati says that his main source of income comes from black soldier fly

On his farm he rears 500 chicken and supplies eggs to markets.

"Per week I earn Ksh 10,000 from the eggs, one goes at Ksh 25," he says.

Mr Ombati has plans to expand his poultry to rear 2000 chicken, he explains, there is high demand of eggs, the eggs are so nutritious and the size is so big.

"We started black soldier flies production in late 2020 with starter stock of black soldier flies populations of larvae from ICIPE," he says

Currently, we are at 5 tones daily production and eyeing to supply the larvae to large scale feed enterprises in Gusii region.

His enterprise employs 10 people, 5 of them women, who are all below the age of 30.

Mr Ombati wants to expand his farming and start rearing pigs and fish.

I started scouting for waste from our neighbors I set out to find more industrial waste at big companies as well as within the single markets who now collects food scraps and leftovers ranging from mango peels, watermelons.

When fed organic waste, black soldier flies produce nitrogen-rich frass (insect manure) that can be used as a high-performing fertilizer.

Insects are playing a key role in providing quality nutrients and boosting farmers' production and

income.

Challenges

High cost of labor who takes care of the black soldiers, to clean the cage and also to grind the wastes.

Mr Ombati says that getting the wastes is also a challenge, he has to source them on market days.

"Since we do not have any company that is processing fruits, so that we can get the wastes, it becomes a challenge to source only from the market.

Nicholas Ondicho, 48 years old, Certified Public Accountant, is among the successful livestock rearing farmer in Kisii County

Due to high cost of living, Mr. Ondicho has been forced to rationalize the animal feeds, the cows takes per day.

"We have now reduced the ratio the animal feed, since it is costly," he says.

He notes that they used to purchase Unga limited meals at Ksh 1850 now its 3500.

According to him, the quantity of the milk has been reduced due to the animals they do not take the

percentage of meals they used to take before the increase of the cost of animal feeds.

He says that raw animal feeds has been increased to 68% price and says that he has changed minds to feed his animals with BSF.

Dr Abel Mokoro, an Agro economist and lecturer at Kisii University, says that they are proteins in nature and therefore when fed to poultry directly provide protein of high quality that is of the essential amino acids, also used indirect by manufacturing animal feed industrial to replace fish meal which scarce.

Mr Samwel Bosire, the Abagusii Council of Elders Secretary General, says that the world has evolved, they have welcomed the new BSF farming to cushion high cost of living.

"We cannot ignore digital farming, we are in the digital era, we cannot oppose to it, but we should not forget our traditional farming," he says.

Mr Nathan Soire, the Kisii County Director for Agriculture, says BSF farming is worth adoption by es-



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Sports >> *After securing a ticket to this year's FIFA U-17 World Cup slated for Dominican Republic in October, the government, through the Ministry of Sports has pledged to oversee proper and thorough preparations for Junior Starlets

Junior Starlets Will Be Ready For FIFA U-17 WC Bow, Says CS Namwamba



After securing a ticket to this year's FIFA U-17 World Cup slated for Dominican Republic in October, the government, through the Ministry of Sports has pledged to oversee proper and thorough preparations for Junior Starlets will be featuring in the quadrennial extravaganza for the first time.

Starlets overcame a determined and much improved Burundi side 2-0 on Sunday at the Ulinzi Sports Complex, Nairobi, to complete a resounding 5-0 victory following a comfortable 3-0 away win in the first leg of the third-round qualifier match in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a week ago.

After achieving the milestone, the Mildred Cheche-led side became the first Kenyan football team to ever qualify for a FIFA World Cup showpiece.

According to Cabinet Secretary for Youth, Arts and Sports Ababu Namwamba, the government strive to have the girls to be in good shape ahead of the tournament to fuel a successful debut at the games.

Although, he did not clearly

pronounce the government plans and itinerary, Namwamba reiterated the government's dedication to and commitment to the course.

"You will get the details after we announce the program formally.

"We have a plan for their preparations and we have identified a good place where we will take them three weeks to the tournament".

"We I don't want Kenya to go to the tournament to add to the numbers of participants team but we want them to go there and compete, Put on a good show," he stated.

Kenya, Zambia and Nigeria will represent Africa in the sixteen-team tournament that will be held in Dominican Republic in October.

"We are not only representing Kenya but Africa at large and therefore the plans we have are focusing on making Kenya and the entire African continent proud," underscored Namwamba.

"During our camp, we will play high altitude friendly matches as part of preparations. It's a good camp," he added.

The CS implored the corporate world to come on board to as a way of supporting different sports in the country.

"We are playing our role as government as far as supporting and developing sports is concerned, however, these projects and programs, such as Talanta Hela, cut across all sports in the country but it is capital intensive, hence we want corporates to behold."

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Nick Mwendwa said the Federation has proposed to Ministry of Sports to consider Spain, where majority of the teams that have qualified for the tournament have selected for training.

"We have spoken to the ministry of Sports, proposing we go to Spain. Teams going to this tournament have chosen Spain as a camping destination," he said.

"It will be easier here for us to get high altitude friendlies and once the draw is done and we know the teams we are facing in the group stages we will approach the others for build-up matches," added Mwendwa.

Mwendwa, said Junior Starlets

players that are in Form 4 will not be left behind to sit for their Kenya Certificate of National Examinations (KCSE), which kicks-off in October, the same month the tournament will take place.

"We (the Federation) are in talks with the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Education to have in-house arrangements form four players sit for their final exams this year and still travel for World Cup".

"We are not going to leave any girl behind because of the form four World Cup when they have worked hard to go to the World Cup.

"World Cup comes once in a lifetime; we can re-book it and they sit for these exams in March (2025). It's a once-in-a life time opportunity for me, leave alone the girls," he affirmed.

On Sunday during dinner with the girls for making history, the Ministry of Sports rewarded the team with Ksh. 10 million for qualifying for the World Cup.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Former Harambee Stars head coach Jacob 'Ghost' Mulee has lauded the technical ability of Phillipp Mwene, a Kenyan/Austrian professional footballer

Phillipp Mwene: Ghost Mulee Lauds Kenyan/Austrian Taking Euro 2024 By Storm



Former Harambee Stars head coach Jacob 'Ghost' Mulee has lauded the technical ability of Phillipp Mwene, a Kenyan/Austrian professional footballer, who is currently representing Austria as a full-back in the ongoing Euro

2024 tournament in Germany. Mwene was born to a Kenyan father and an Austrian mother, and holds dual citizenship of Kenya and Austria.

Speaking to Citizen Digital, Mulee said Mwene's technical ability

was obvious when Austria played against France on Monday, and despite the 1-0 loss he was able to give the French world class winger a run for their money.

"He was one of the outstanding players in the game. He is tacti-

cally gifted and very strong that is good for a defender, and going up against some of the world class top strikers that is very impressive of him," said Mulee.

Mwene was born in Vienna, Austria on January 29, 1994, and made his debut for the Austria national football team as a full-back on September 4, 2021 against Israel where they lost 5-2.

He played the entire match, and Mulee expects him to be regular having made 13 appearances for Austria so far.

"He still has a lot to offer. All he needs is consistency and improving every game. I think he will be useful for his national team," stated Mulee.

The 30-year-old who plies his trade for Mainz 05 in the German Bundesliga, started his youth club career at Austrian Wien between 2002-2010 before moving to VfB Stuttgart youth team between 2010-2013.

He was promoted to the senior team between 2013-2016 and made 73 appearances.

In 2016, Mwene moved to Kaiserslautern where he played 65 matches scoring four goals, before joining Mainz 05 in 2018 to 2021, playing 30 matches and scoring one goal.

He then joined Mainz 05 in 2018-2021, where he featured in 30 matches scoring one goal, before moving to PSV where he played 44 games and scored three goals.

he left for PSV making 44 appearances and scoring three goals, before returning to Mainz 05 on a three-year contract, playing 23 times and scoring one goal so far.

In August 23, 2023, Mwene returned to Mainz 05 on a three-year contract, and has so far made 23 appearances and scored one goal.

Citizen Sport

SPORTS NEWS



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The Mt Kenya Times



375778 201602

Community Farm

By: Sevara Turayeva
Ulug'bekovna
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Worth Noting:

This system is a society of acute physical and mental slavery, which is full of general fear and hatred, says the writer. It is in this book, i.e. "1984", that the controversial famous "Big Brother is watching you" was written, as well as such widespread terms as "ambivalence" and "thought crime" were introduced. In addition, the work tells the story of a group of animals living on a farm who rebel against their masters and hope to build a free, equal and happy society as a result.

The main goal of the animals in the play was to build a new, independent society through the revolution. However, due to the dictatorship of the pig nicknamed Napoleon, the animals did not achieve their goal and lived a miserable life.

No matter where you are, "Big Brother is watching you"

In some cases, people are motivated by someone or some event to start something or read a book, and thus they get strength and aspiration. Why exactly an event? Because such a situation has been observed in myself. I read another great book because of an argument in a bookstore.

One day, I went to a bookstore to pick up "Prayer Changes Destiny" by Atham Amin Nemutlu, a Turkish writer. Then a girl came and told the seller that she had ordered a book two weeks ago and had been waiting for it for a long time.

After the seller said that the book had arrived but was already sold out, the girl became very depressed and looked at the seller and said, "I've been waiting for a long time, why didn't you take that into account?" Pchilik didn't buy it and wasn't interested, besides, this girl didn't fight, so I thought I should read the book and decided to do so. I bought the book from the online store that same day.

The day I bought it, I read it from night to night. Why did you study from night to night? You can say the reason is simple; the book was interesting and wonderful enough not to bore the reader. This book is the work of the English writer GEORGE ORUEL "A strange story about animal husbandry" - Farm.

English writer and publicist George Orwell, real name Eric Arthur Blair, was born on June 25, 1903 in Motihari (India) in the family of a British sales agent. In 1935, he began to create under the pseudonym "George Orwell".

In the satire "Molkhana" written in 1945, the writer showed the rebirth of revolutionary principles and programs: "Molkhana" (novella) is a chronicle of the 1917 uprising in Russia. "1984" is a logical continuation. Through his works, Orwell described the future world society as a totalitarian hierarchical system.

This system is a society of acute physical and mental slavery, which is full of general fear and hatred, says the writer. It is in this book, i.e. "1984", that the controversial famous "Big Brother is watching you" was written, as well as such widespread terms as "ambivalence" and

"thought crime" were introduced. In addition, the work tells the story of a group of animals living on a farm who rebel against their masters and hope to build a free, equal and happy society as a result.

The main goal of the animals in the play was to build a new, independent society through the revolution. However, due to the dictatorship of the pig nicknamed Napoleon, the animals did not achieve their goal and lived a miserable life.

Every reader who reads the book thinks "Why did the animals try to fight for freedom?" It is natural that the question arises, because he realizes that animals are being oppressed and used only for the benefit and benefit of humans.

Therefore, they want to live without dependence on anyone and without excessive hard work, that is, free from slavery. However, they did not achieve their goals because they were divided and had no alliance.

The animals lived on the farm under the motto "Two-legged enemies - four-legged and winged friends." In fact, the animals who started the war first invited all the poultry and animals on the farm to fight against humans, comparing their next life and previous lives, explaining that during the rule of humans, chicken eggs were sold and the number of chicks decreased, and after the war, they promised that eggs would not be sold at all.

Believing in this, the farm animals join the war and drive the humans off the farm as they please. They begin to live confident that they have achieved their goal and are free. However, their joy did not last long.

The promises made at the beginning turned out to be false, and various disagreements arose between the animals. In the end, due to the rash decision of the pigs and an irreparable mistake, the efforts of all the animals on the farm to fight for manhood were lost. came out and the farm was in trouble.

In fact, what did the writer describe in the work? Of course, through animals, narrow-minded people in the government were illuminated in the work in a non-imaginative way and explained to the reader in an easy and interesting way.

At the end of the article, I would like



Sevara Turayeva Ulug'bekovna

to say that every reader and person who is interested in politics should read this book and get a deep understanding of the events happening in society today and imagine the current world as an example of "Molkhona", there are still short-sighted people among us. It is necessary to understand that it is not. At the same time, this book increases thinking,

that is, it encourages the reader to think deeply.

Sevara Turayeva Ulug'bekovna
May 1, 2006 Kamashi District,
Kashkadarya Region