



The Unbreakable Bond: Universities, Critical Thinking, And The Struggle For Democracy
Throughout history, autocratic regimes and oppressive governments have viewed universities and academic institutions with a wary eye. The very essence of these bastions of higher learning poses an existential threat to the established order - the unrestrained exchange of ideas, the nurturing of critical thinking, and the relentless pursuit of truth.

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Ruto Pledges To Engage Youth For A Better Kenya

President William Ruto has broken his silence over the ongoing protests by Kenyan youths over the Finance Bill 2024.

Speaking during a church service at Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Diocese of Nyahururu yesterday, Ruto said that he is proud of the young people who have stepped forward in their numbers tribe less and peacefully to democratically voice their grievances over the bill.

The President insisted that together with young people, his government will work with them to build a better country.



President William Ruto (C) and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua arriving at a church service in Nyahururu, Laikipia County

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Ruto And Gachagua Pay Glowing Tribute To Nairobi Business Magnate

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- Mzee Gikonyo, who died last week in his sleep, ventured into business in 1930 as a hawker in Nairobi. Over the years he established a business empire, Rwathia Group of Companies, comprising investments in the City Capital such as Alfa Hotel, Magomano Hotel, Timboroa Hotel, New Kinangop Hotel, Rwathia Distributors -a beer distribution company- and other businesses in real estate sector.
- On his part, Gachagua said Mzee Gikonyo will remain an inspiration to many people in the business sector due to his achievements and the humble beginning.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is welcomed in Rwathia village, Murang'a by among others Equity Bank founder Peter Munga..

President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua paid glowing tribute to a prominent Nairobi businessman Mzee Gerald Gikonyo Kanyuira for his passion in business sector and commitment to serve the nation.

The duo described Mzee Gikonyo, 110 as a dedicated and diligent businessman who oversaw growth of the Nairobi's business sector during the colonial and post-colonial eras.

In a condolence message read on his behalf by the Deputy President on Saturday at Wanjerere primary school grounds in Kangema, Murang'a County, the President eulogised Mzee Gikonyo as a fallen hero who will be remembered for his great humility, kindness, integrity and exemplary courage.

"The death of Mzee Gikonyo leaves a

huge vacuum among us that will be hard to fill. Those who knew him or had opportunity to work with him know that Mzee Gikonyo will be remembered as a man of great humility, kindness integrity and exemplary courage. He was diligent and hardworking man whose name was synonymous with discipline and success," said the President in the tribute.

Mzee Gikonyo, who died last week in his sleep, ventured into business in 1930 as a hawker in Nairobi. Over the years he established a business empire, Rwathia Group of Companies, comprising investments in the City Capital such as Alfa Hotel, Magomano Hotel, Timboroa Hotel, New Kinangop Hotel, Rwathia Distributors -a beer distribution company- and other businesses in real estate sector.

On his part, Gachagua said Mzee Gikon-

yo will remain an inspiration to many people in the business sector due to his achievements and the humble beginning.

"His wealth was put together through decades of hardwork and determination. He will remain inspiration to many people," Mr Gachagua told the thousands of mourners in his passionate tribute.

And since Rwathia village is known for producing top Kenyan business moguls, the DP said; "we have followed people of Rwathia village and their determination in business, they are hardworking people and they only need conducive environment for doing business. I am admirer of Rwathia people over their determination."

Mr Gachagua, who also shared time with the residents in the village after the funeral service, asked the business com-

munity to take keen interest with the governance of the Nairobi City County to ensure there is conducive environment and policies for their business investments.

"Since the business community has huge investments in Nairobi, they should take keen interest in governance of Nairobi county," said Mr Gachagua.

He further announced that the MauMau roads project would be completed.

In regard to the agriculture sector, the Deputy President called on tea farmers to choose people on integrity in the forthcoming KTDA elections.

On coffee sub-sector, he asked the management of cooperative societies to be prudent in financial management and avoid borrowing money without authority of the crop growers. He said the government's decision to write-off a Sh6.9 billion debt was part of the measures to revive the sub-sector.

Regarding politics, Mr Gachagua said he had succeeded in unifying the Mount Kenya region and asked leaders to respect wananchi, stop showoffs and work on the aspirations of the people.

"Those in leadership ought to respect the people and stop demeaning them. Remain humble. Some are showing off their monies despite saying that the government has no funds and is collecting taxes to pay debts," he said.

Present were Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Moses Kuria, the area MP Peter Kihungi, Senator Joe Nyutu, Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Veronica Maina (Nominated Senator) and MCA's led by the host Kamau Kagori (Rwathia ward), Grace City (Kanyenya-ini), Carol Njarara (Nyandarua) among other leaders.

Murang'a County Assembly speaker Johnson Mukuha, Corporate and business leaders led by businessman Peter Munga together with former Kirinyaga Senator Daniel Karaba and former Nairobi deputy governor Polycarp Igathe were also present.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenneth Matiba Eye and Dental Hospital in Kenol Town, Murang'a County, will be temporarily closed for two weeks as the local government relocates the facility to a new location. The hospital, currently on a rented premise, will be

relocated to a new building in the Makenji area, near Kenol-Thika Road. The new facility was constructed on land donated by Delmonte Company to the county administration. The county administration aims to save funds used for rent and build a level 5 hospital to serve southern Murang'a counties, including Maragua, Kandara, Gatanga, Kigumo, and Ithanga. The newly constructed building will first be used to host the eye and dental hospital as the county government embarks on expanding the facility to a level 5 hospital.



High Court Judge Kiarie Waweru has urged residents of Homa Bay County to avoid rushing to court for cases that can be resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. ADRs have helped ease the backlog of court cases, including property succession, land disputes, and family disputes. Waweru also emphasised the importance of addressing corruption in the justice system by reporting officials soliciting bribes to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) officers. County Executive Committee Member for Education Martin Opere urged the Judiciary to establish courts across all eight sub-counties, as Homa Bay County has high incidences of sexual and gender-based violence, requiring efficient court handling.



Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo tours the newly launched Jitume hub at the

Weru TVC in Kilifi County last Friday. Owalo announced the plan to use power transmission lines to ensure fibre optic cables reach every electricity transformer and house with a metre, adding that "we have given the contract to Kenya Power Company, which has already started the work, and very soon the problems we have been having concerning the internet will be solved."



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has raised Sh 8.6 million to support women groups in Baringo Central Sub County. She presided over a women's empowerment programme which supported over 250 groups. Mudavadi made a personal contribution of Sh 500,000 and delivered Sh 1 million from President Dr. William Ruto. He praised the women for their efforts in saving up to Sh 5.6 million for their empowerment programme and encouraged them to start small. Mudavadi pledged to team up with local leaders to improve the livelihoods of the various groups in the region. "This is where I was born, at a hospital near here, and I pledge to team up with your leaders to ensure that I also leave my legacy in Baringo," he said.

The government has assured parents that their school-going children will be fully insured under the new Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), scheduled to replace NHIF. Public Health and Professional Standards PS Muthoni Muriuki stated that the Primary Healthcare Fund under the new scheme will cover learners and their households. The PS underscored the importance of parents' role in education, urging them to guide and speak to their children in a language they understand most as they support them with school fees. The PS also congratulated Murang'a Diocese Catholic Bishop James Wainaina on the institution's continuous good performance and urged the alumni to modernise the school to meet current standards and provide a good studying environment.



The Walkabout Foundation has donated 100 wheelchairs to people with disabilities in Kisumu County, enhancing their independence and quality of life.

Kisumu Deputy Governor, Dr. Mathews Owili, said the initiative will improve access to education, employment, and community engagement. The foundation, established in 2014, gained momentum in 2018 when it began employing disabled locals. It also provides mobility solutions, employment opportunities, and support for mechanical hitches. The foundation also provides washable sanitary towels and diapers. Phanice Aloyce, a mother of a disabled child, expressed gratitude for the wheelchair, stating it changed her life and gave her child freedom to walk and move around.



Investment, Trade, and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano has emphasised that any Kenyan can venture into manufacturing, as long as they have some start-up capital. Miano emphasised that even developed nations started with smaller micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that grew and scaled into big industries. Miano said the Ministry is sensitising Kenyans on local manufacturing and offering opportunities to access financing, citing the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) as one of the government organisations supporting local manufacturing. CS added that MTP IV is aligned with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and aims to address water scarcity, food, insecurity, and value chains in Laikipia. The national government has allocated Sh 1.12 billion for the construction of 18 County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs), aiming to devolve manufacturing and industrialization to the county level to increase manufacturing and processing and enable counties to participate in exporting manufactured goods.

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MAISHA NI kuchungana.





Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya familia yako



Gakuya, Kihara Echo Gachagua's Unity Call

By: Charles Kinyua
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Gakuya called on family members left behind by their patriarchs who have consolidated wealth to always amicably agree on consolidating or sharing it without animosity and undue selfishness and outside influence.
- He was Speaking during the funeral service of pioneer entrepreneur Gerald Gikonyo Kanyuira at Wanjerere Village, Kangema constituency, Murang'a county on Saturday which was attended by several leaders, led by the Deputy President.



Jayne Kihara addressing mourners on Saturday.



James Gakuya on Saturday

Embakasi North Member of Parliament James Mwangi Gakuya has echoed Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's unity call noting that it's a foundation of economic and social stability.

Gakuya called on family members left behind by their patriarchs who have consolidated wealth to always amicably agree on consolidating or sharing it without animosity and undue selfishness and outside influence.

He was Speaking during the funeral service of pioneer entrepreneur Gerald Gikonyo Kanyuira at Wanjerere

Village, Kangema constituency, Murang'a county on Saturday which was attended by several leaders, led by the Deputy President.

Kanyuira who breathed his last at a ripe age of 110 ventured into business in the early 50s and had vast interests in real estate, hospitality among others.

Gakuya urged entrepreneurs to have interest in political goings on as stability can only be brought about by sound economic policies and a vibrant business environment.

His Naivasha counterpart Jayne Ki-

hara buttressed the importance of unity right from family up to the national level.

The two legislators advised families left by their parents not to recklessly dispose off properties for posterity, wealth and job creation.

Public Service cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria who also attended the ceremony trashed Gachagua's unity call saying that those in government can easily resolve whatever issues there may be without "acting cry babies".

Other notable celebrants included nominated senator and former UDA

Secretary General Veronica Maina who hails from the area, Murang'a county senator Joe Nyutu, area MP Peter Kihungi and former Nairobi Deputy governor under Mike Sonko, Polycarp Igathe.

The late Kanyuira had 4 wives, 23 children, 123 grandchildren, 223 great grandchildren and 19 great great grandchildren.

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TVETs Directed To Align Courses With Market Demands

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Technical and Vocational Education Training Principal Secretary Dr. Esther Thaara has directed all institutions under her docket to align their course outlines with job market demand to ease the absorption of graduates.

“This is because the Kenya Kwanza Government wants to ensure that we do an end-to-end job, which means that we train our graduands with an end in mind,” said Dr. Thaara.

She has directed all Technical and Vocational Education Training institutes in the country to link up with key industry players to produce fully-skilled graduates.

The ministry of education is ensuring the dual TVET is fully implemented, with 50% of learners’ time spent in industry.

The state department has taken a stand to take up the German training model to ensure youth are well trained and skilled as a way of industrialising the country.

“I want to be very grateful to GIZ from Germany. As a state department, we have decided that we are going to go by the German training model because Germany got to where they are because of imparting their youth with absolute skills.”

The state department has ensured that the implementation of Curriculum Based Education Training (CBET) takes root in institutions, where trainees will be instilled with necessary skills that ensure they thrive in the economy.



From left: Meru National Polytechnic Chief Principal Mutembei Kigige, TVET PS Dr Esther Thaara, and Meru National Polytechnic Council Chairman Dr Antony Njagi..

Community Conservancy’s Model Champions Peace Along The Borders



By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Pastoral communities along the West Pokot and Turkana border points are experiencing peace due to efforts by community conservancies.

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) is playing a pivotal role in restoring peace in the volatile area, with the hotspot areas where calm has been restored being Akiriamet, Akulo, Amolem,

Lochakula, Kainuk, and Sarmach.

The Ustahimilivu project, implemented by a consortium of five technical partners, aims to support resilience for sustainable livelihoods through the community conservancy model and restore drought resilience within 11 wards of lowlands in West Pokot County.

The initiative has helped in conflict resolution, taming livestock theft and highway banditry, as well as poaching.

It has also developed increased wealth and job opportunities through tourism and diversified economic activities.

Reformed warriors who used to engage in banditry and cattle rustling activities and women in volatile areas previously affected by insecurity are now engaging in income generating activities.

The NRT Director in West Pokot and Baringo Counties, Ms. Rebecca Chebet, noted that the project has contributed significantly to resilience building and increased crop production through irrigation agriculture.

It has also promoted fundamental socio-economic human rights, such as the right to health and the right to food of acceptable quality, endorsed by the Kenyan Constitution.

Multifaceted Approach Key Towards Eliminating The Cervical Cancer Scourge



By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The Africa Health and Economic Transformation Initiative (AHETI) is working to eliminate cervical cancer among women by collaborating with governments, civil society organisations, religious bodies, and local and international health organisations.

The initiative aims to equip participants with the knowledge and strategies needed to

advocate for and implement effective cervical cancer control programmes in their respective regions.

According to the World Health Organisation 2022 report, an estimated 126,000 new cases are diagnosed every year and 81,000 deaths occur annually, with Africa ranked as one of the top continents globally with the highest rates of cervical cancer.

The AHETI is dedicated to supporting the implementation of a multifaceted approach to advocating for policy changes, raising awareness, offering psychosocial support, and empow-

ering communities in the prevention and control of cervical cancer in Africa.

Key interventions include behaviour change communication, advocating for the HPV vaccine and screening for women, treatment, palliative care, and survivorship.

The initiative also calls for enhanced access to treatment protocols and continuous training for healthcare professionals and policymakers to advocate for care policies in Africa.

Ruto Pledges To Engage Youth For A Better Kenya

Ruto says he is proud of the young people for their courage and unity

By: Abdiaziz Hashim
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has broken his silence over the ongoing protests by Kenyan youths over the Finance Bill 2024.

Speaking during a church service at Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Diocese of Nyahururu on Sunday, Ruto said that he is proud of the young people who have stepped forward in their numbers tribe less and peacefully to democratically voice their grievances over the bill.

The President insisted that together with young people, his government will work with them to build a better country.

“The courage and unity that our youth have exhibited in the management of our country’s affairs is encouraging. We will engage them to discuss their concerns and build a better Kenya for everyone” he told the congregants.

Ruto, his deputy Rigathi Gachagua and a host of leaders attended the Consecration of Rev. Maj. Samson Mburu Gachathi as the third Bishop of the Diocese.

Anglican Archbishop Jackson Ole



President William Ruto his deputy Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders at church

Sapit who presided over the ceremony urged the police to refrain from using excessive force during the anti-Finance Bill demonstrations since they have been peaceably marching along the streets.

“These are our children and there is

a need to listen to the issues they are raising,” the Prelate, whose church is against the bill over new tax proposals,” he said.

Ole Sapit said he had initially disallowed politicians from making speeches during the ceremony but af-

ter consultations softened his stance giving the President and the DP a chance to address the faithful.

Gachagua concurred with the Archbishop and only read out the names of a host of legislators from across the country who were present.

The DP said he supported the church’s decision to bar politicians from using the pulpit to divide the nation and fuel political intolerance in the Country.

Research Institute Unveils New Technology To Improve Crop Production In Dryland Areas

By: Kenya News Agency

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has introduced new farming technologies to boost smallholder farmers in semi-arid areas.

These technologies include conservation agriculture, mulching, minimum soil disturbance, zai pits, and using certified seed.

Dr. Henry Ojulong, ICRISAT Senior Plant Breeder for sorghum and millet, underscored the importance of technologies’ in conserving water and elevating crop productivity, resilience, and sustainability.

Dr. Ojulong also introduced drought-resistant and tolerant crops, such as sorghum, finger millet, pearl millet, and green grams, which take a short period to mature with minimal rainfall.

Farmers are encouraged to intercrop and have crop rotation to maximise yields. Farmers like Fibi Mwangangi have reported increased farm yields and better training, with farmers able to harvest more food and have a ready market for their produce.

Mwangangi is leading five Women Groups, who are using the new technologies to add value to their crops and generate income.

Dr. Henry Ojulong.



Health Ministry Intensifies Screening For Sickle Cell Disease

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The World Health Organisation reports that around 1000 children are born with sickle cell disease daily in Africa, making it the most prevalent genetically acquired disease in the region.

In Kenya, 14,000 children are born with sickle cell disease each year. The Ministry of Health (MOH), in partnership with the Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance of Kenya (NCDAK) and the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH), is implementing programmes in 17 sickle cell endemic counties, including Kisii.

“This is a new way of ensuring that children have access to treatment and care immediately after they are born so that they do not grow up with complications from the disease,” noted Dr. Karekezi.

NCDAK Executive Director Dr. Catherine Karekezi said NCDAK is running a newborn screening programme to determine if children are carriers or have sickle cell disease, and it is also conducting pre-marital counselling to inform decisions about marriage and having children.

“It is the responsibility of the government to provide treatment and care for the citizens, including those with sickle cell disease, and other partners are willing to support the efforts of the government,” Karekezi noted.

The MOH is also working with individuals living with sickle cell disease to train them on advocacy and self-management. The MOH is also collaborating with organisations, research institutions, and universities to conduct continuous surveillance on the disease.



Were These Protests Being Sponsored, If Yes, By Who?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- 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. But for Generation Z and millennial, Kenyans were being taken for a ride.
- 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.



Reject finance bill protest.

Well, one of the renowned political analyst had alleged a foreign power was behind these protests.

But the organizers were quick to dismiss these claims. The protests had been held in 18 counties. Ask yourself. Is it possible to bankroll the members of Gen-Z in all these counties.

It is worth noting these protests started on a day that a financial report prepared by the chairpersons of the two powerful committees of the National Assembly namely Budget and Appropriation and Finance and National Planning was tabled in parliament.

The report had taken into consideration the views of Kenyans opposed to the Finance Bill 2024 collected during the public participation.

While tabling the report in parliament, the chairpersons listed a raft of proposed taxes and levies 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.

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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.

But for Generation-Z and millennial, Kenyans were being taken for a ride. The government gives with one hand and takes away with the other.

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 taxes 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.

The Finance Bill 2024 has so far gone through the first reading and second reading.

It is now waiting to go through the third reading on Tuesday. The second and final voting for the Bill will take place on that day.

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.

Everyone of us has a duty to develop our country.

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

I said the pain of tightening your belt will be 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 ser-

vices to Kenyans.

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

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 urge those who were not paying taxes to emulate these patriotic Kenyans, Mashujaa.

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.

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

Gov't Committed To Streamlining Mining Licensing At The Coast

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Artisanal miners from Kwale and Kilifi counties have been appointed as official members of the Artisanal Miners Committees (AMCs) by Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi.

The AMCs assist Mine directors in granting or revoking mining permits for artisans in the country.

The department expects the committee to expedite the process of issuing mining permits to marketing cooperatives.

The country has at least 1 million artisanal miners, highlighting the need to streamline this lucrative sector.

Mwangi urged miners to collect their over 300 trading and dealership licenses and to follow up on applications received.

The Ministry has established a min-

eral testing laboratory at the Mombasa port to speed up testing and authentication processes.

A team from the Ministry visited Base Titanium in Kwale County to address post-mine abuse cases and prepare the community for mining operations.

Deputy County Commissioner Ronald Mwiwawi praised the commissioning of the AMCs, stating that it will help thousands of youth gain meaningful livelihoods as artisans in the lucrative mining sector.

Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi.



NEMA Warns Landlords And Abattoirs Over Effluent Discharge In Kajiado

By: Kenya News Agency

The Deputy Director in Charge of Enforcement at the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Salome Machua, has warned landlords and abattoirs in Kajiado County of the dangers of releasing raw effluent into the environment, feeder roads, and rivers.

Machua revealed that developers are often releasing effluent at night and during rain to avoid detection, posing a risk to residents and posing a risk of water-borne diseases.

She ordered developers to ensure proper waste disposal systems in their buildings or risk arrest.

Machua also directed slaughterhouse owners to install functional waste water



treatment plants and apply for an Effluent Discharge Licence (EDL).

Failure to comply could result in closure, prosecution, imprisonment, or a fine of up to 2 million or both.

During the crackdown, the proprietors of Isinya slaughterhouse and King Quality Meat were arrested for discharging effluent without an Effluent Discharge License.

Construction Of 220 Affordable Houses In Machakos Almost Complete

By: Kenya News Agency



The Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in Machakos County is nearing completion, with 220 houses valued at Sh515 million being built.

The project, which includes 60 bedsitters, 60 three-bedroom, 60 two-bedroom, and 40 one-bedroom units, is expected

to be completed in September.

State Department for Housing Don Kagicha, the Nairobi Metropolitan Regional Lead, praised the project for promoting social and economic growth in the region and attracting local Jua Kali artisans.

Melita Kipury, the State Department for Housing's Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises (MSME) Inclusion Lead, emphasised the importance of Jua Kali inclusion in the project.

ect.

Kipury assured that the Jua Kali sector has the capacity to provide the necessary inputs, stating that the sector has the resources and workmanship to mass produce and supply the necessary materials on time.

More than 300 Jua Kali artisans have been contracted to provide doors and windows for the housing project.

Tribulations DP Is Facing Are Personal - Governor Njuki

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki has cautioned Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua against dragging the Mt. Kenya region in his woes, insisting what is going on between him and president William Ruto is personal.

According to the governor, communities residing in the 11 Mt. Kenya counties stood to lose out if they took sides this early and abandoned the government they fought so hard to put in place.

Njuki said he will disassociate the residents of his county from what he describes as a defeatist argument.

The political space that is the Mt. Kenya region seems to be restless by the day as politicians in the ruling United Democratic Alliance take sides in a feud setting the party leader who is also the president William Ruto and his deputy.

Whilst Gachagua says he is being persecuted for agitating for the unity of Mt. Kenya, there are those pushing

the narrative that he has fallen out with his boss for selfish reasons.

Tharaka Nithi governor Muthomi Njuki believes the war, if any, should not involve the people of Mt. Kenya as they did not rally behind the duo in the 2022 elections only for them to cause friction this early

Njuki who spoke in Maara constituency at the burial of Humphrey Riungu Mwongera, father to medical services and ICT Chief Officer Aggrey Riungu, said the war within UDA should be the least of worries for the people of Tharaka Nithi and thus they should not be forced to take a position on it.

Gachagua has been on a mission to unite the people of Mt. Kenya; one he says is almost succeeding.

On Friday, at a church function in Ruiru, Kiambu County, Gachagua castigated some leaders from Mt. Kenya who were against his unity calls, saying those not in his fold were few leaders who are yet to move with the winds of change.

Gachagua has also noted he would be seeking to join forces with former president Uhuru Kenyatta in his unity quest

But governor Njuki doubts his inten-



Tharaka Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki interacts with members of the Gituri Women's Circuit group at the Gituri Methodist Church during a funds drive for their group. Governor Njuki urged the people of Tharaka Nithi not to involve themselves in the feud between President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

tions, urging the people of Mt. Kenya and Tharaka Nithi especially, not to 'get lost in the bush' following the deputy president blindly without asking what he was offering as development to them.

The battle lines are drawn as those in president Ruto's corner and those in Gachagua's corner continue preaching their gospel, discrediting the other in the hope their voices will be louder and yield fruits.

SALT CEO Challenges Tharaka Nithi County Government To Better Support Culture

By: Denis Mutua
@themkenyatimes

Speaking at YMCA Mugona grounds during the first day of Maara Cultural Festival Season 2, Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT) CEO Simon Ndonco Mitambo criticized the Tharaka Nithi County Government for its lack of enough support for cultural initiatives.

Ndonco pointed out that, unlike other counties such as Kilifi, Tharaka Nithi has not debated or passed any bills in the assembly to support the county's diverse cultures.

He noted that aside from the Ura Gate Cultural Festival, which he and others founded in 2016, the county government does not support any other cultural events.

"Tharaka Nithi should benchmark with Kilifi County on how cultural policies are developed. Our county lacks a framework to support cultural activities," Ndonco remarked.

"It is poorly funded and supported because of this lack of framework.

Ura Gate Culture Festival is not even an initiative of the county government," he added.

Ndonco argued that the county government should fund events like the Maara Cultural Festival and other initiatives aimed at reviving and conserving culture, rather than focusing solely on the Ura Gate Cultural Festival.

"It is by supporting these small initiatives on culture started by community-based organizations that will make Tharaka Nithi a haven of culture," he said.

Further, Ndonco who is an expert in cultural matters, discouraged the competition of cultural groups during such functions, stating that it does not aid in reviving and conserving culture.

He suggested that all groups should be given a chance to participate in the festivals without competition.

Although this challenge was not welcomed by officials from the county government officials, residents especially culture enthusiasts agreed that the county government should do more to support culture.

In a heated debate by members of



Society for Alternative learning and Transformation SALT C.E.O address attendees of Maara Cultural Festival Season 2 at YMCA Mugona grounds in Mitheru Ward.

the public regarding Ndonco's remarks on SALT's official WhatsApp platform, the devolved unit was criticized for fighting critics instead of learning and rectifying the respective areas.

"On matters of culture, what happens in Tharaka Nithi is just a smokescreen to conceal misappropriation of public funds. A mere event in August or September can't qualify to represent culture since everything in the county revolves around the governor and doesn't allow any room for independent thinking," a participant on the platform wrote.

Another participant remarked that the act by the county government using staffers to fight people who understand culture instead of supporting them will end up diluting culture in the communities in the county.

The Maara Cultural Festival, a two-day event, concluded yesterday, ahead of the Tharaka Cultural Exhibition - Nkondi chapter next week, and the Annual Ura Gate Cultural Festival in August.



By: Jumanazar Yoldosh

- Another hopeless morning dawned...
Munisa, who was suffering from illness and had the last spark of a vital symptom in her weak body, sighed heavily as she stared at the window where the morning dew was falling.

"Why do you call me my daughter?" You will recover as if you were not yet old! Sister Nuria's attempt to wait for such a vain day was ineffective for Munisa. Because he felt from his very being that his death was inevitable, he spent every day as a moment of saying goodbye to the world, and asked God to forgive his sins. I seem to live to die. I would like to live to live, but not all wishes can be fulfilled...
- My daughter, despair is the devil. Think good things, think of me. After all, you are my one and only daughter, the apple of my eye... It kills me to imagine being separated from you!

Sister Nuria couldn't stop crying secretly (so as not to affect her daughter even worse) since her daughter was nailed to the bed. Her words and eyes, which expressed her willingness to part with her life, were more heartbreaking than her plight. No matter how much she tried to hope for her daughter to get back on her feet and get better, it was in vain, and this again affected her flickering, weak hope. But sister Nuria thinks that a person should be strong-willed when needed, and with this, it is as if she gave herself strength, and based on this strength, she took care of her daughter. Munisa liked her mother's care, because she thought that she would be one of the lucky ones if only one person could cry after the dying person, and she saw that only person in her mother. The mother brought the steaming hot mastava to her daughter. Munisa looked at the food and laughed for some reason, but still sat up with difficulty. Sister Nuria took the cup in her hand and began to drink to her daughter.

- What does a person eat?
Ever since she got sick, Munisa had made a habit of asking strange questions, which made her mother think and wonder.

- To enter the body.
what does a man with power do?
- Lives: works, plays, laughs...
- Why should I eat, after all, I can't do these things.
- You get better, then you can do...
Munisa laughed again. The fact that he did not get a satisfactory answer to his questions could be seen from his dull face, and it was evident that he was not eating without appetite.

- I have had enough. Tell me something about hope, something about life.
Sister Nuria put the half-baked cup aside in her mind, thinking about what to say. He liked to tell his daughter fairy tales and stories, because only then did his daughter's face light up and her depression seemed to disappear a little.

- Once upon a time there was a dove, she waited a long time for her egg to hatch. In the end, the egg cracked open and came out. He is very small and quiet. He lacked agility and strength like the others. He mumbled: "I can't fly, my wings are weak, I'm not like others." Then his father said to him: "I believe in you more than anyone, you will surely conquer the sky, the sound of your wings will spread to the whole sky."

The weak pigeon was encouraged by these words, overcame his fear and began to practice flying without stopping. His efforts were not in vain, he began to fly, although he was low. After the opportunity passed, the wings grew stronger and finally the wings began to darken in the sky. He really flew freely in the sky because of the trust and hope shown to him...

Munisa listened quietly and thoughtfully. He knew that his mother loved pigeons, so he knew that she had told stories about this bird.

- Hey, why did dad leave us?
It was painful for Nuria to answer this difficult question. The despondency of any abandoned woman was now visible on her face in a way that Munisa had never seen before. He felt a pain in his heart as if a vein had been cut off.

- Your father... was a good man. I was bad. That must be why...
Munisa was asking this question for the first time, her mother always tried to change the subject when talking about

her father, she almost didn't say anything. Later, when his mind became capable of many things, he noticed what kind of person his father really was...
- If he was a good person, would he leave?
Munisa uttered this sentence involuntarily, but it was an exclamation that had been kept in her heart for a long time, waiting to be released.
- Don't say that, he will be your father after all. Without him, you wouldn't exist either.

Munisa squeezed her mother's hands sympathetically.
- It's all because of my stupid illness. That's why I'm talking nonsense. The mother strokes her daughter's hand without blaming.
- I have many dreams about you, my daughter. Only when you get well, that's it. I want to see you grow up happy. I want to marry a good person, and I want to see grandchildren.

The daughter sighed deeply. Usually, a person who is disappointed with life or the serum of unfulfilled dreams sighs in the same way.

- I once loved a guy very much, oh...
"Really?" You didn't tell me. Would you keep a secret from me?
- I didn't say. I didn't want to say. I don't even know what I'm talking about now...
Maybe I want to be lighthearted?...
- Did he love you too?
- I didn't know. Maybe he loved, maybe not. That guy didn't tell me what he meant. But I always felt that he was not indifferent to me. Our relationship probably didn't reach the stage... Then my illness became known and we completely broke up...

Mother shook her head sadly.
- Did he move away from you? Or yourself?
- Me before he walked away from me I couldn't handle his, so...
- My daughter, don't be sad! If you're still recovering, you'll find something even better!

"I don't need anything better than that..."
- Why do you say that?
- He was like me, his heart is like my heart... He made me my whole being,
- Was it the same for him?
- Maybe it was!
- Then it won't be easy for him to live without you, my daughter...
- After all, this is fate. Takes some getting used to...
Mother's eyes moistened. He pressed his

daughter's weak body in his arms.
- If it was possible to take over your fate, I would get sick for you, I would give my life. God, why did you send this scourge on your young head of saltiness?!
- Don't cry, honey. Don't cry at all!
Munisa grabbed her mother's shoulder, wiped her eyes, but there were no tears in her eyes, as if she had forgotten to cry, or she had run out of tears...
- This world is not worth crying. This world is for those who don't cry.
The mother quickly came to her senses when she realized that she had cried too much as if she were losing her daughter.
- Okay, girl, rest a little.
- Hey, I want to fly away from here like a dove. Far away...

- ...
- Open the window, honey. I need fresh air...
Sister Nuria pushed the shutter and opened the window. It was snowing really white outside.
- It started snowing!
Munisa smiled happily.
- Do you know why snow is white?
His mother shook her head.
- I think that snow is the joy, joy, happiness, dream of the sky. I always think so. I've always dreamed of leaving in this position, when it's snowing...
Sister Nuria could not say a single word to her daughter, she was looking out the window at the white sky and praying to herself...

Jumanazar Yoldosh was born in 1997 in the village of Shomohulum, Khiva district. He graduated from the Faculty of Uzbek Philology of Urganch State University. His stories were published in regional, regional, republican and international newspapers. Samples of creativity are included in the collections "Song of the Circles", "Orzu va Deniz", "Mushtarak Dilar", "Ijod Gulshan", "The Song of Uzbek Homeland", "Yeni Nefes" anthologies. Participant of the Republican Zomin seminar held in 2018. The winner of the "Spring of Uzbekistan" (Season II) republican creative Festival held in Khiva in 2019.

His stories were translated into English, Russian, German, Turkish, Azerbaijani, and Vietnamese languages and published in newspapers, magazines, and literary websites of countries such as the USA, Russia, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

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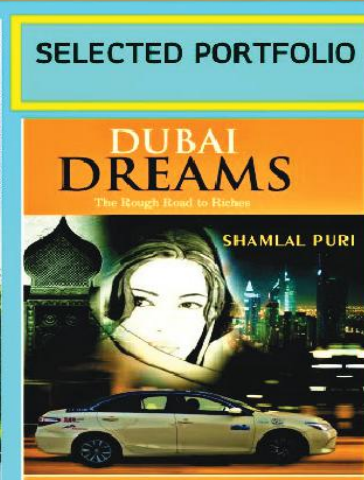
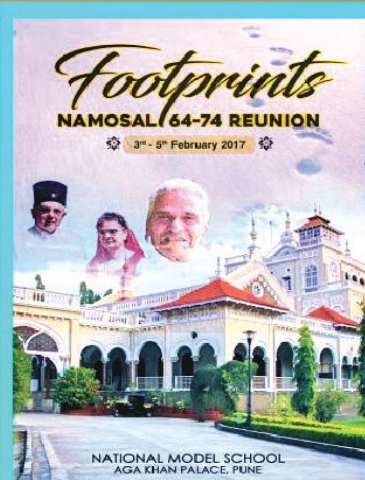
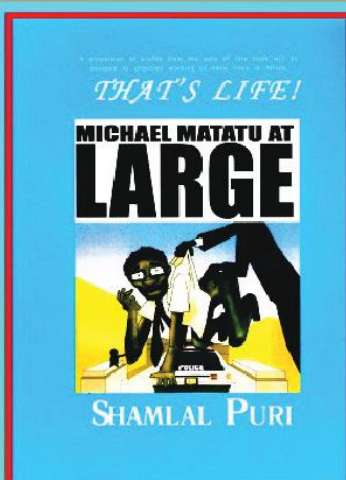
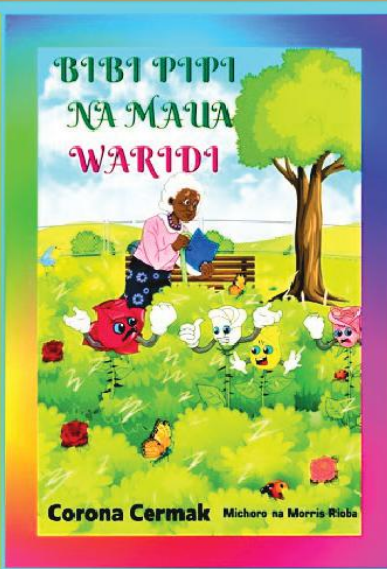
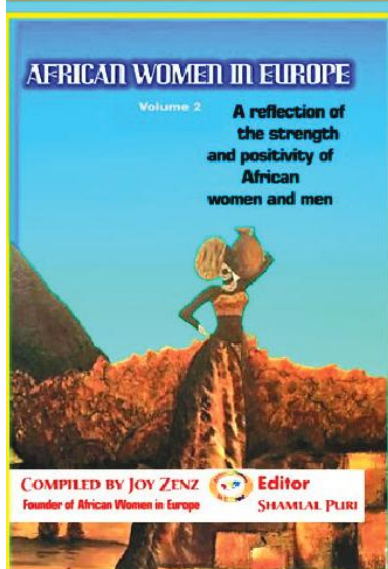
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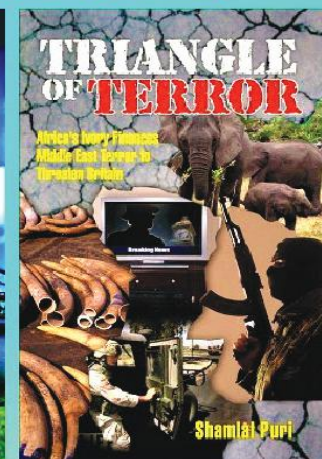
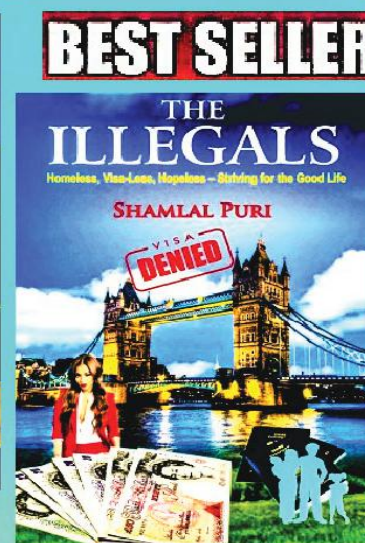
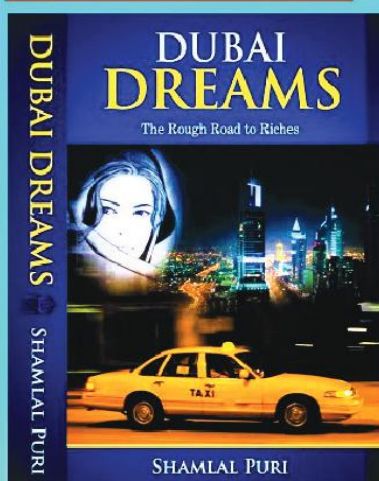
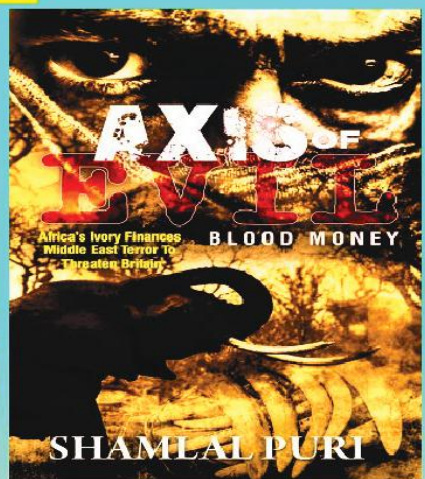
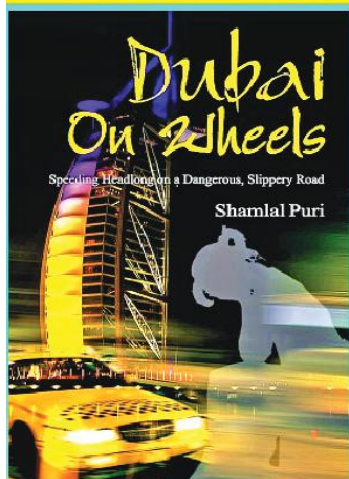
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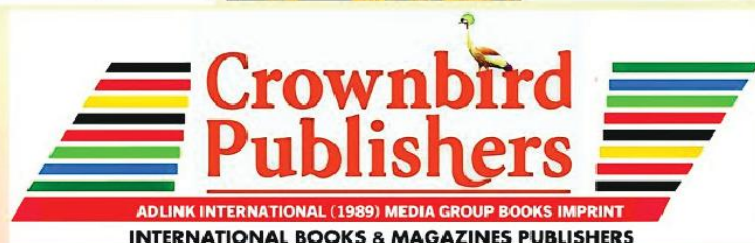
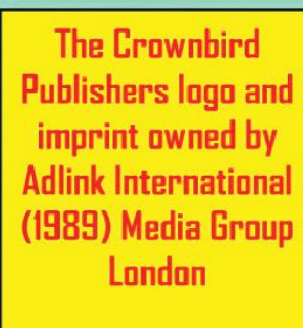
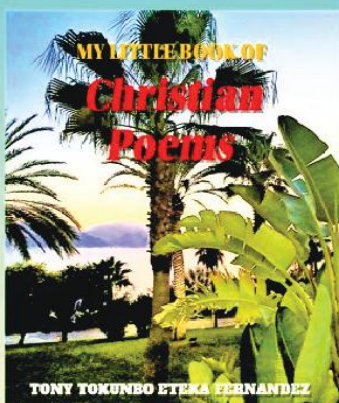
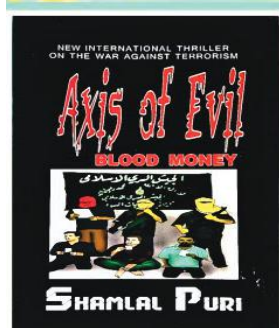
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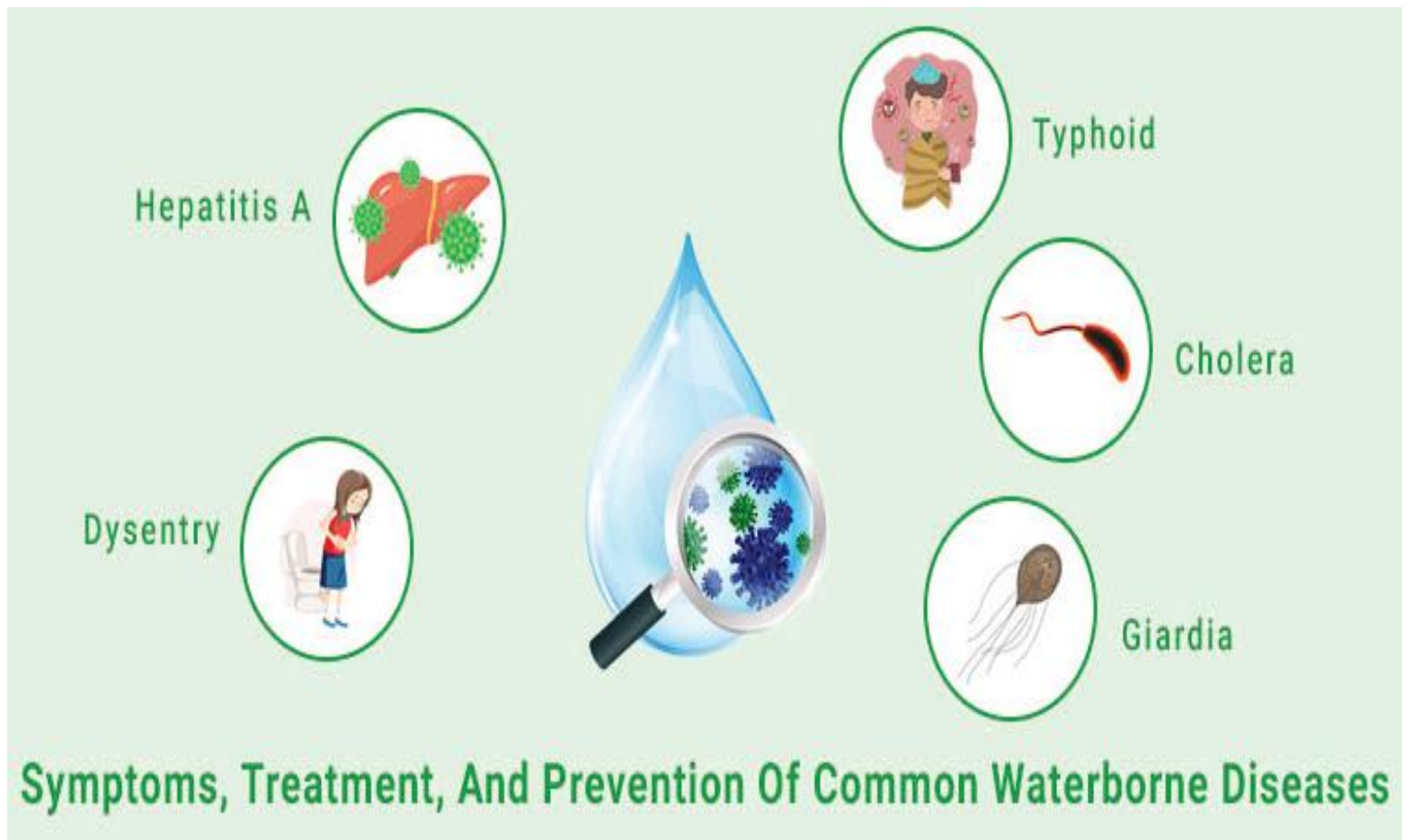


By: Dennis Wendo

Email: dambehi@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- It has advised the citizens to be vigilant and on the lookout for potential floods, flash floods and poor visibility, with water levels in rivers, lakes and dams expected to remain high.
- The floods havoc highlights the government's moral imperative to prepare for and promptly respond to the calculable impacts of climate change and natural disasters.
- In its National Climate Change Action 2023-2027 and its disaster response plans, Kenya identified flooding as a risk. Though it failed to outline an action plan, the government set aside at least Ksh10 billion in preparation for a nationwide response. Parliament further approved an additional Ksh 8.2billion.



The government has a human rights obligation to fend off foreseeable harm from climate change, extreme weather occurrences and protect its citizens when disaster strikes.

The recent heavy downpours caused devastating floods, leading to hundreds of deaths, thousands of displacement and extensive destruction. Majority of the worst affected were people living in informal settlements, with less solid structures, congestion and poor sanitation infrastructure.

Many Kenyans believe the flooding was augmented by lack of investment by the government. They cite its tepid response despite the early warnings in May last year by the met department. Moreover, the weather forecast department has issued an advisory on the likelihood of heavy rainfall, strong winds and large ocean waves in the offing.

It has advised the citizens to be vigilant and on the lookout for potential floods, flash floods and poor visibility, with water levels in rivers, lakes and dams expected to remain high.

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flooding as a risk. Though it failed to outline an action plan, the government set aside at least Ksh10 billion in preparation for a nationwide response. Parliament further approved an additional Ksh 8.2billion. It remains unclear on how the monies were utilized. The Public Finance Management Act requires county governments to set aside 2 percent of their annual budgets for disaster response.

At the peak of the floods, Kenya Red Cross Society reported an increase in waterborne diseases like cholera. The disease is an acute diarrheal infection caused by eating or drinking water that is contaminated with bacterium vibrio cholera. The virulent disease can be endemic or epidemic and can kill within hours of infection. Kenya is not yet off the hooks and ill effects of Covid-19 sub variants. A resurgence of isolated instances of omicron KQ.1, BA.2, and GE.1 have been revealed.

Cases of cholera and diarrheal were reported in the counties of Tana River, Marsabit and Migori and more likely to spread across the country as the rains press on with.

Several risk factors are contributing to the spread of this deadly disease. The main one being the destruction of sanitation facilities, resulting in the collapse and filling of latrines with

flood water. Proactionary, the situation needs to be pugnaciously curbed lest it spirals to undesirable intensity.

According to WHO, every year there are 1.3m to 4m cases of cholera and 21,000 to 143,000 deaths worldwide from the disease. Speed remains of the essence in the response to save lives and contain an outbreak.

A multifaceted approach is salient in curbing Cholera and reducing deaths. A combination of surveillance, water sanitation and hygiene, social mobilization, treatment and oral cholera vaccines by and large should be adopted.

County governments should not relent in setting up robust responsive measures to ensure high rates of access to health care and WASH services. The unemployed, largely the youths, should be utilized in implementing programs geared towards environmental sanitation.

Cholera surveillance should be part of an integrated disease surveillance system that encompasses feedback at the local and information sharing at the counties and national governments.

The Division of Disease Surveillance and Response (DDSR), Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Program (FELP) and County departments of health should be fully supported in their Cholera responsive measures

that includes field investigations, enhanced surveillance, laboratory testing and case management to prevent further spread of the disease and optimally manage outbreaks. The vaccination and awareness drives should be progressive.

Long term solution for cholera lies in economic development and universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. There is a need to champion actions targeting the environment to adapt long term sustainable WASH solutions. These will boost the use of safe water, basic sanitation and good hygiene practices in the hotspot counties. Such interventions prevent a wide range of other water borne illnesses such as Hepatitis A, Dysentery, Typhoid fever, Salmonella and Giardia.

Let us be cautious within our midst right from food vendors to social gathering places like churches, mosques, eateries and entertainment joints, funerals and weddings by maintaining increased levels of hygiene standards.

Prudently nurturing the culture of being sensitive to the environment will impact positively towards taming the Cholera menace.

Dennis Wendo
Integrated Development Network
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WIN with Abiria ni Mayai Boda Boda Dabi

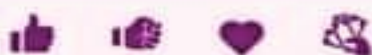


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The Unbreakable Bond: Universities, Critical Thinking, And The Struggle For Democracy



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- In the face of such a threat, autocratic governments have employed various tactics to undermine the autonomy of universities and stifle academic freedom. Censorship, surveillance, and the imposition of ideological curricula are among the tools used to maintain control over the flow of information and limit the scope of intellectual inquiry. Dissenting scholars and students are often targeted, facing imprisonment, persecution, or exile for daring to voice their critiques openly.
- Yet, despite these repressive measures, universities have remained resilient bastions of resistance. Academic associations and faculty organizations have formed the backbone of opposition movements, providing a platform for collective action and amplifying the voices of those who dare to challenge the established order.



University of Nairobi

Throughout history, autocratic regimes and oppressive governments have viewed universities and academic institutions with a wary eye. The very essence of these bastions of higher learning poses an existential threat to the established order - the unrestrained exchange of ideas, the nurturing of critical thinking, and the relentless pursuit of truth. It is precisely this culture of intellectual freedom that autocrats fear, for it undermines the foundations of their control built upon the suppression of dissent and the propagation of sanctioned narratives.

Universities foster an environment where ideas are born, nurtured, and unleashed upon the world. Within their hallowed halls, scholars engage in rigorous debates, challenging conventional wisdom and questioning the status quo. This process of intellectual discourse is anathema to regimes that demand unwavering obedience and the acceptance of their ideological dogmas. Each academic inquiry, each new theory or critique, represents a potential crack in the facade of their carefully constructed reality.

Moreover, universities serve as incubators for the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and agents of change. Young minds are exposed to

a vast array of perspectives, instilling in them a deep appreciation for critical analysis and a hunger for knowledge that transcends the boundaries of indoctrination. This cultivation of intellectual curiosity and independent thought poses a direct threat to the continuity of autocratic rule, which relies heavily on the passive acceptance of its citizenry.

Historically, universities have played pivotal roles in catalyzing social and political movements that have challenged the foundations of oppressive regimes. From the student-led protests that toppled dictatorships to the academic discourse that fueled revolutions, the power of unconstrained thought has proven to be a formidable force against the entrenchment of authoritarianism.

In the face of such a threat, autocratic governments have employed various tactics to undermine the autonomy of universities and stifle academic freedom. Censorship, surveillance, and the imposition of ideological curricula are among the tools used to maintain control over the flow of information and limit the scope of intellectual inquiry. Dissenting scholars and students are often targeted, facing imprisonment, persecution, or exile for daring to voice their critiques openly.

Yet, despite these repressive measures, universities have remained resilient bastions of resistance. Academic associations and faculty organizations have formed the backbone of opposition movements, providing a platform for collective action and amplifying the voices of those who dare to challenge the established order. Their unwavering commitment to the principles of academic freedom and intellectual integrity has served as a beacon of hope in the darkest of times.

Within the confines of university campuses, intellectual debates on issues of national and international importance take place, fostering a vibrant discourse that transcends the boundaries of the classroom. These discussions not only critique existing political and social conditions but also offer alternative visions and solutions, contributing to the broader struggle for democracy and human rights.

Furthermore, the research conducted within universities has often provided the empirical foundation for exposing the flaws and injustices of authoritarian regimes. From documenting human rights abuses to uncovering corruption and systemic oppression, the rigorous inquiries undertaken by academics have served as powerful

weapons against the propagation of falsehoods and the erosion of truth.

It is this commitment to truth, coupled with the inherent strength of unconstrained intellectual discourse, that poses the greatest threat to autocratic rule. Regimes built upon the suppression of dissent and the manipulation of information cannot withstand the scrutiny of free and open inquiry. Each academic paper, each lecture, and each classroom discussion represents a chink in the armor of oppression, challenging the very foundations upon which these regimes rest.

The international nature of academia and the cross-pollination of ideas across borders further amplify the threat posed by universities. Scholars from diverse backgrounds and perspectives converge, exchanging knowledge and fostering a global community of critical thinkers. This interconnectedness ensures that the spark of intellectual resistance cannot be easily extinguished, as it transcends the confines of any single nation or regime.

Ultimately, the conflict between autocratic regimes and universities is a battle between the forces of control and the forces of liberation. Governments that seek to maintain a stranglehold on power view the unfettered pursuit of knowledge as a direct challenge to their authority. In contrast, universities represent the unwavering commitment to intellectual freedom, the willingness to question and critique, and the pursuit of truth without fear or favor.

It is this fundamental tension that has long defined the relationship between universities and oppressive regimes. As long as the thirst for freedom and the pursuit of knowledge burn brightly within the halls of academia, universities will continue to be perceived as threats by those who seek to extinguish the flames of critical thought and independent inquiry. For it is in this realm of unconstrained intellect that the seeds of resistance are sown, and the struggle for democracy and human rights is nurtured and sustained.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Junior Secondary School Teachers’ Situation: A Call For Permanent Employment

Teachers are the foundation of a country’s educational progress. However, behind the scenes, a silent struggle continues among junior secondary school (JSS) teachers, echoing the demand for permanent employment in the face of precarious intern agreements with the government. This moving story emphasizes the critical need for long-term solutions to inspire and recognize these educators’ dedication. The plight of JSS teachers is more than just a statistic; it is a human story filled with aspirations, frustrations, and a steadfast commitment to shaping young minds. These educators, armed with passion and expertise, are tethered to the uncertainty of intern agreements,

lacking the stability required for personal and professional development. JSS teachers’ vow not to return to their classrooms until their call for permanent employment is heard echoes a collective plea for recognition and dignity. It reflects a sobering reality: the current system fails to recognize these educators’ invaluable contribution, condemning them to a cycle of uncertainty and insecurity. Opinions on this matter differ, but they all agree on the fundamental principle of justice and equity. Many argue that the government’s reliance on intern agreements perpetuates an exploitative system by denying teachers the rights and benefits that come with perma-

nent employment. Others emphasize the long-term negative impact on educational quality, as teachers face job insecurity and limited opportunities for professional development. Critics may argue about budgetary constraints or administrative hurdles, but such justifications pale in comparison to the moral imperative to recognize JSS teachers’ hard work and dedication. Education investment is more than just a financial decision; it represents a commitment to raising a generation that is knowledgeable, critical thinking, and resilient. Furthermore, the issue at hand goes beyond educational policy; it addresses broader societal values like fairness

and inclusivity. By ignoring JSS teachers’ demands, we risk perpetuating a cycle of inequality that undermines the foundation of our social contract. In the face of adversity, hope emerges in the form of collective action and activism. JSS teachers’ solidarity sends a powerful message: they will no longer be marginalized or overlooked. Their resilience mirrors the resilience that they instill in their students on a daily basis, demonstrating education’s transformative power. As a society, we face a choice between complacency and progress, between perpetuating injustice and promoting equity. The call for permanent employment for JSS teachers is more than just

a demand for better working conditions; it is also a demand for dignity, respect, and recognition of educators’ critical role in shaping the future. To summarize, the plight of JSS teachers highlights the critical need for systemic reform and a reaffirmation of our commitment to educational excellence. It is time to answer their call, not only for the sake of teachers, but also for the generations they inspire and the future they help shape. Only then can we truly honor the noble profession of teaching and keep the promise of a better future for all. *Perpetual John And Veronica Stella. Rongo University Media Students.*

Managing The Twin Crisis: Flooding And Job Shortages Jeopardize Future Prosperity

In the midst of job interviews, a moving image is visible across the country: a wave of young people full of hope, some of them traveling long distances for a shot at work. This stunning scene reveals a sobering reality: a chronic labour shortage jeopardizes the country’s future. However, this financial situation is exacerbated by periodic floods that devastate property and claim lives. When a country faces these two crises, the essential question is what can be done to secure its future. The increase in job seekers demonstrates how difficult the financial situation is in our nation. Even with advancements, our children’s future plans are still clouded by the con-

cern that they won’t have a job. The increase in job seekers demonstrates how difficult the financial situation is in our nation. Even with improvements and different progress made, our children’s future plans are still clouded by the concern that they won’t have a job mainly based on their career choices. A harmonised response is desperately needed, as evidenced by the large number of candidates. Teamwork and togetherness between governmental agencies, nonprofits, and private companies is very key for the development of sustainable solutions. Disasters, such as the recent series of floods, highlight our communities’ vulnerability. Life lost,

homes destroyed, and livelihoods devastated is an incalculable cost. Although we mourn the losses, we must look forward to determination. Reducing the impact of these disasters and boosting resilience requires proactive measures. Organizations that prioritize humanitarianism and have a strong grassroots presence are essential to disaster response and recovery efforts. Through resource mobilization, relief aid provision, and community support, these groups offer glimmer of hope during gloomy times. However, the government needs to act and create strong policy frameworks in order to support them. The government is largely responsible for addressing the

threat posed by natural disasters and the scourge of unemployment. Intentionally allocating resources towards infrastructure development, job creation programs, and social safety networks could cultivate an atmosphere that supports economic expansion and resilience among the young people in the country. For the protection of people and property, effective disaster preparation measures like early warning systems and evacuation plans are also crucial especially around the dangerous areas. There has never been a greater need for group action as we address the problems of employment shortages and natural disasters. Establishing cooperation between governmental

bodies, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and civil society is crucial for paving the way for a future that is both safe and profitable. Through utilizing our combined creativity and empathy, we may successfully navigate through these challenging times and come out stronger, more resilient, and more unified than before. When faced with hardship, let’s not back down but rather rise to the challenge, motivated by our common goal of creating a brighter world for future generations. *Perpetual John, Kitui County*

The Role Of Education In Shaping Young Minds

By Masika Situma Samuel Education is a powerful tool that has the potential to transform lives and shape the future of nations. It is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about instilling values, fostering creativity, and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. In today’s fast-paced world, the importance of education cannot be overstated. It provides individuals with the skills and knowledge they need

to succeed in life, both personally and professionally. Moreover, education plays a crucial role in promoting social and economic development, empowering individuals and communities to build a better future for themselves and future generations. One of the key benefits of education is its ability to unlock individual potential. By providing access to quality education, we can help young people discover their talents, develop critical thinking skills, and pursue

their passions. This, in turn, not only benefits the individual but also society as a whole, as it leads to innovation, progress, and positive change. Furthermore, education plays a vital role in promoting social cohesion and tolerance. By exposing students to diverse perspectives and ideas, education helps build understanding and empathy, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society. However, despite its many benefits, access to quality education remains a

challenge for many around the world. Factors such as poverty, gender inequality, and conflict can hinder access to education, depriving millions of young people of the opportunity to fulfill their potential. To address these challenges, it is crucial to prioritize education and invest in initiatives that ensure access to quality education for all. This includes providing adequate resources, training teachers, and creating safe and supportive learning environ-

ments. In conclusion, education is a fundamental human right and a key driver of social and economic development. By investing in education and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, we can build a brighter future for all.

Governor George Natembeya Opposes The Proposals In The Contentious Finance Bill 2024, Says It is Killing Businesses

By: Sefu Sabila
@themkenyetimes

Trans Nzoia County governor George Natembeya has opposed the proposals in the Finance Bill 2024 by the Kenya Kwanza government.

According to Natembeya, the bill poses a threat to businesses across the country. He said the new tax policies have created a hostile environment for investors who have moved to neighbouring countries.

“As the taxes continue to rise, companies have moved to Tanzania, Rwanda and other countries. The tax is not only a threat to common mwananchi, but has also destroyed the economy,” he said.

The contentious Bill made through to the second reading stage after 204 who voted for it, against 115, who voted against the Bill on Thursday, June 20. The second reading is set for June, Tuesday 25.

Following the proposals in the Finance Bill 2024, Kenyans have across the country have been on the street

protesting against the Bill calling for rejection, as the Bill is punitive and burdens common mwananchi.

Under the hashtag #RejectFinance-Bill2024, they rallied fellow youths to call out MPs who failed to listen to them, sharing their personal phone numbers on X.

Natembeya urged leaders to listen to their electorates, and constant have a one on one meet ups with them, to directly discuss issues affecting them.

According to Natembeya the biggest challenge is unemployment as the demonstrating youths have been adversely affected by Finance Bill, after companies laid down employees following new tax policies.

“The biggest challenge is unemployment. These youths are educated, after a painful struggle of their parents to provide them education. It saddens them that after struggle, the are still at home unemployed. This must be sought out,” Natembeya urged.

Before tabling of the Bill, Budget and Finance Committee chair Kimani Kuria while at State House announced removal of taxes on bread, mobile money transfer and the motor vehicle tax earlier proposed in the

Bill.

President William Ruto said the government had listen to the people’s concern, and urged the Members of the National Assembly to pass the Bill, to allow resources reach common mwananchi.

Governor George Natembeya has opposed the Finance Bill 2024 says it threatens to cripple businesses in Kenya.
Photo: George Natembeya



St Peter’s Orthopaedic And Surgical Specility Centre Hospital Cleared Of Fraudulent Claims By National Insurance Health Cover

By: Eric Wanjala
@themkenyetimes

National Assembly Health committee led by its chair Hon Pokose has officially cleared of allegations regarding fraudulent claims under the national insurance health cover. St Peters hospital had faced scrutiny over allegations that it had improperly billed the national insurance program for services not rendered or exaggerated in nature.

Following a thorough investigation by national assembly health committee, including audits and reviews of billing records, it was determined that the hospital had adhered to all guidelines and protocols set forth by the national insurance health cover. The committee has confirmed that there was no evidence of deliberate

wrongdoing or fraudulent activity on the part of the hospital, however they are required to pay for

“The National Insurer immediately lifts the suspension of St Peters Orthopaedic and Surgical Speciality Centre and pays the outstanding verifiable claims,” reads the final report of the committee.

Following these revelations, the committee ordered that some of the hospitals that benefited from the fraud be closed.

In response to the findings, St Peters Authopaedic hospital which is based in Kiambu County expressed relief and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining transparency and integrity in all financial dealings. The hospital’s administration emphasized its ongoing efforts to provide high-quality healthcare services while ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.

This development marks a significant milestone for the National Assembly health committee, as it underscores the importance of accountability and adherence to regulatory requirements within the healthcare sector.

At the Moment the Director of Criminal investigation is investigating potential collusion between service providers and the NHIF’s Claims Management Division, focusing on the division’s manager and service providers involvement in pre-authorising overseas treatment.

St Peter’s Orthopaedic And Surgical Specility Centre Hospital .



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Double Book Launch: Mrs Lorato Moalosi Launches Two Books



By: Paula Otukile
Francistown-Botswana

The 22nd of June 2024 is a date to remember as a Mrs Lorato Moalosi brought together family, friends, authors and book lovers to Winston Gate Hotel to celebrate her milestone of writing two books, being Moemedi The Bully Beater, a children’s book about a kid who stood up and stopped a bully. The second book, is named “Letlharapana la Modisa!” This story tells rags to riches and creating a balance in life, after an immaculately consistency. The most loved author of “Ya Le Nna Babilona, Pelo E E Setlhogo, and others, Mr Obakeng Otlaadisang graced the event and it was a bookish moment. The Mulher Forte African Literature group made an awesome presentations and hosting and the woman of the moment took everyone on her journey when she was interviewed by Mrs Shirley Tshambane and refreshments were served. The host for the day or Master of ceremonies was one and only Mulher Forte African literature representative Mrs Otsile Pule.



Mr And Mrs Moalosi and Mr Obakeng Otlaadisang



The Author; Mrs Lorato Moalosi.



The attendees; at Winston Gate Hotel, Francistown.



The First PQP Edition Breathes Air On The Future

Read-Us Africa Contests



By: Recheal Babirye
@themtkenyatimes



Read-Us Africa Contests.

Worth Noting:

- The contest was divided into three main segments: poetry, quiz, and public speech. The poetry and quiz tested the students' knowledge and ability to craft poems and respond to questions related to health and well-being. The segment was challenging but revealed the depth of understanding the students had about the theme.
- The public speech contest was the highlight of the day. Each participant delivered a speech on various aspects of SDG 3, and the speeches were a testament to the students' research and passion.
- The judges, including Mawerere Jolly Joy, Evas Bashagire, and Onyait Churchill for poetry; Aloikini Praise Opoloje and Edmund Ayesiga for public speech; and Adweek Aaron Kiwanuka and Mahad Kisuze for quiz, made the final decision of the winners.

The PQP (Poetry, Quiz, and Public Speech) contest was the first of its kind that marked a significant shift in the traditional READ US AFRICA annual writing competitions to a more interactive and immediate contest. The decision in a shift was well received by our initial participants that have always been participating in the writing competitions. This change aimed at ensuring the authenticity of the participants' work, and eliminating concerns over ghostwriting, which had plagued the previous editions.

The contest was a day one tournament and the first edition that happened on Saturday, 15th June 2024, in Kisubi High School's auditorium under the theme of "SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being." The aim of this was to engage young people in promoting good health and well-being as a way to accelerate progress since secondary school students represent a critical demography with the potential to be the change agents in the communities they dwell in.

The day was filled with excitement and a sense of healthy competition as students from various schools, including: Ekitangala Transformation High School - Nakasongola, Hope Senior School - Bbira, Mother Kevin College - Mabira, Kateta Hill View Secondary School - Serere, St. Paul Secondary School - Fort Portal, Namagabi Secondary School - Kayunga, Kololo Secondary School

- Kampala, and Kisubi High School - Entebbe that made up a total of 9 Schools. This saw enthusiastic participation of students' eagerness to engage in the discussions around good health and well-being.

The day's activities commenced with a warm welcome from the host school's principal, whose speech set a motivational tone for the day, reminding the young participants of the significance of their voices in shaping a healthier future and not looking at the contest as a mere competition but as a way of building skills that can better their lives in the future.

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quiz, made the final decision of the winners.

At the end of the day, Ngabo Lav Terry from Hope Senior School - Bbira emerged as the overall winner of poetry, and Akampurira Dianah from Hope Senior School - Bbira as the overall winner of Quiz. In the public speech contest, Menya Favour from Namagabi Secondary School clinched the top spot with his compelling speech. The runners-up were equally impressive, with Inshuti Vanessa Aimee from Kololo SS (1st Runner-Up poetry) and Gwampala Brian from Mother Kevin College - Mabira (2nd Runner-Up poetry); Nakanyike Rahmantulla Menil from Namagabi Secondary School (1st Runner-Up public speech); Orombi David Mugisha from Ekitangala Transformation High School (2nd Runner-Up public speech); Goy Solomon from Kisubi High School (1st Runner-Up quiz); and Namuli Daniella from Mother Kevin College - Mabira (2nd Runner-Up quiz).

In recognition of their outstanding performances and following up on our aim, the winners, runners-up participants, and schools received a special package that included certificates, Read Us Africa shirts, trophies, and medals. More importantly, winning contestants earned the opportunity to participate in the 4th Annual African Readers Conference (ARC) in September, with all

expenses covered by READ US AFRICA. Their pieces will also be published in the African Readers Conference anthology, providing them with a platform to reach a wider audience and further hone their skills.

We must also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who played a crucial role in making this event a success. These included Hipipo, My Doctor, Writer's Folia International, SoarAway, Amara Furniture and Interiors, and Kisubi Schools which provided valuable resources and support. Their collaboration ensured that the event ran smoothly and that the theme of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being was highlighted effectively throughout the contest.

This first edition of the Poetry, Quiz, and Public Speech Contest has set a new standard for our annual literary events. By fostering immediate and interactive engagement, we have ensured the authenticity and integrity of the competition.

As we look forward to the ARC in September, we are confident that our young poets and speakers will continue to shine and inspire others with their words and ideas. The success of this event has laid a solid foundation for future editions, proving that when students are given the platform to express their genuine thoughts and creativity, the results are truly remarkable.

State To Scale Up LPG Consumption - Kuria

By: MKT Correspondent

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria announced plans to increase liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption from 6.5 kilogrammes to 15 kilogrammes per capita in the next three years.

increasing LPG consumption using various incentives, including subsidised 6-kg cylinders for low-income households.



Youths Take Finance Bill Demands To Churches

The government has been urged to engage the youth on the bill

By: KBC Reporters

Politics dominated the Sunday sermon as the clergy delved into the contentious Finance Bill 2024.



Similar calls were repeated across churches. In Nyahururu, Right Rev Rt Major Bishop Samson Mburu Gachathi pledged to amplify the voice of the church on national matters.

Walking The Talk, An Insight Into The Life Of Youthful Politician Petro Ochieng



By: Peter Aowa
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Determined to complete his studies in the middle of challenges, Ochieng sought to have an audience with the then area MP Jakoyo Midiwo who he met later at the NG - CDF office and shared at length his plight.
- Upon doing the necessary enquiries about his family background, the MP pledged to support the young Ochieng to a tune of Ksh. 5,000 every year from the bursary kitty.
- This, he says, was a great sigh of relief to both his eldest brother and his mother who were hawker and peasant farmer respectively.
- The late MP kept his promise to the later and three years later, Ochieng successfully sat for Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)



Aspiring UDA Organizing secretary Mr. Petro Ochieng (First from left) together with other party leaders at the UDA party headquarters | Photo courtesy.



Born three decades ago in Gem, Siaya county, Ochieng has had both bad and good times but consistently used every opportunity to live to his personal treasure against all odds

His academic life begun at Ober primary school before proceeding to Apuoyo Secondary after missing a chance to join Ambira high school where he had been called due to financial constraints

"I performed outstandingly well in KCPE and was called to Ambira High School but due to financial constraints my mother couldn't afford to foot the fee and instead opted for a day school." Mr. Ochieng said

While the decision to join a day secondary was a sigh of relief to Ochieng's eldest brother who was the breadwinner for the family of five, it later turned out to be unmanageable since in his first year in school, he was on and off due to huge fee arrears.

Determined to complete his studies in the middle of challenges, Ochieng sought to have an audience with the then area MP Jakoyo Midiwo who he

met later at the NG - CDF office and shared at length his plight.

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The late MP kept his promise to the later and three years later, Ochieng successfully sat for Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)

With high expectations of joining College, Ochieng hustled in the village as he waited for the results alongside his peers with whom he had sat for the national exams but as fate would have it, his peers left the village to join colleges and universities while he went on with hustling hoping to also join a college.

Turning point

After months long hustle in the village without any possibility of joining a college, Ochieng reached out to his eldest brother and persuaded him to set up a small shop to accommodate him as he looked for ways to move to a town.

"I convinced my brother who had then moved from Kisumu to Ndori to set up a small shop to accommodate me as I tried to find footing in the town and he gladly agreed." Mr. Ochieng said during an interview with this publisher

A year later, while on his daily errands, he met a smartly dressed gentleman who would then ask him for

directions to a prestigious school where he had an appointment with a teacher.

The youthful politician says that he felt something deep inside that the man was his destiny helper and swiftly presented his predicament to him.

It was apparent to him that the man was a polished insurance consultant who at the time was working as a manager in one of the most sought-after insurance companies in Kisumu.

Ochieng would later be introduced to the insurance industry by this man, something he said he did exceptionally well and would later secure a chance in a Nairobi based company.

Through the support of the company (Pioneer Insurance) under the headship of then regional manager Mr. Edward Omutho, Mr. Ochieng was offered partial academic sponsorship, undertaking Executive Certificate of Proficiency at the Kenya College of Insurance domiciled at the Rift Valley Technical and Training Institute (RVTTI) and subsequently a Diploma in Insurance and business management from the same institution.

Active politics

Towards the end of the year 2021, Ochieng left the insurance industry and joined politics as a digital media influencer for Engineer Adrian Ouma, a Parliamentary contestant for Gem Constituency. Mr. Adrian however did not get to the ballot due to political negotiations but managed to secure an appointment to a public office.

Later he met seasoned politician and architect JT Okinda who at the time

was running for Siaya county senator. As a bold, straight - forward and dedicated young man, Okinda in his wisdom appointed Mr. Petro as his Personal and Office Assistant.

Mr. JT who vied as an independent candidate however lost to ODM's candidate Dr. Oburu Oginga after emerging second in a hotly contested race.

After officially joining the ruling party United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Petro Ochieng is keen on his approach to politics in the run up to the party's leadership elections and has since joined the race for organizing secretary in Siaya county, a position he believes he'll emerge victorious and help popularize the party in an ODM dominated zone.

He urges youths to debunk the narrative of youths being the leaders of tomorrow and instead be part of the transformational leadership they long to see.

"When young people are disenfranchised from political processes, a significant portion of the population has little influence in decisions that affect group members' lives." He said

He is urging the government to give a listening ear to the emerging Generation Z and consider addressing some of the critical concerns they are raising on the financial bill 2024.

Petro who is aspiring to undertake a BA in Political science and Public Administration concludes by a rallying call to the youths across the country to team up and be part of the transformation since there's no better time other than now.

SPORTS
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Sports >> *Benson Omalla hit a brace as champions Gor Mahia edged hosts Bidco United 4-3 to spice up their coronation at the Machakos Stadium

Champions Gor Mahia Coroneted, Muhoroni Relegated From FKF-PL



Gor Mahia FC players, joined by Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo, FKF president Nick Mwendwa and Gor Chairman Ambrose Rachier celebrate after officially being crowned the FKF-PL champions for season 2024 at Machakos Stadium in Machakos County on June 23, 2024. Photo by Kelly Ayodi, Sportpicha

Benson Omalla hit a brace as champions Gor Mahia edged hosts Bidco United 4-3 to spice up their coronation at the Machakos Stadium, as the Football Kenya Premier League curtains for season 2024 came down yesterday.

Omalla thus won the Golden Boot with 19 goals, and the thriller ensured K'Ogalo amassed a total of 73 points, eight more than closest challengers Tusker FC. His closest challengers Titto Okello of Kenya Police and John Mark Makwatta finished the season with 16 each.

In Muhoroni, hosts Muhoroni Youth had to swallow a bitter pill as Posta Rangers forced them to a 1-1 draw, which confirmed their relegation to the National Super League. They ended the season at 17th with 32 points, four lesser than Sofapaka – at position 16.

Muhoroni's survival was also to depend on Soafapaka FC's result at the Dandora Stadium – Nairobi, and the 2009 champions em-

phatically avoided the chop beating Nzoia Sugar 3-1, the latter also ending their Premier League forgettable campaign in tears.

Keegan Ndemi, Darius Msagha and Jacob Onyango netted one each for Soafapaka, while Joseph Oyogi scored Nzoia's consolation.

Sofapaka will however need to confirm their Premier League status for next season with a playoff match against second runners up of the National Super League – Naivas FC.

At the SportPesa Arena in Murang'a, Shabana FC overcame hosts Murang'a SEAL to ensure their safety in the Premier League next season, a win that ensured they finish 14th with 38 points – hence will not be subjected to relegation playoff.

Defensive Resilience

At the Dandora Stadium, the match kicked off with both teams displaying early determination and in the 5th minute, Elisha Wekesa's cross found Emmanuel

Osoro, whose close-range effort was brilliantly saved by Sofapaka keeper Victor Augo.

The intensity heightened with both sides creating opportunities, and Sofapaka's defensive resilience was tested, notably when Onyango set up Msagha, whose shot narrowly missed the target.

The deadlock was broken in the 31st minute when Oyugi of Nzoia expertly weaved past Augo after a precise through-pass from Victor Maliachi, giving Nzoia a 1-0 lead.

However, Sofapaka responded swiftly with Ndemi leveling the score just three minutes later.

Nzoia came close to regaining their advantage when Wafula's effort struck the crossbar, denying them a second goal. Sofapaka's defense held firm under pressure, ensuring the score remained 1-1 going into halftime.

The second half started explosively for Sofapaka as they took the lead in the 48th minute through Onyango, who capitalised on defensive lapse in the

opponents' goal to make it 2-1.

The 2009 champions extended their lead to 3-1 in the 66th minute when Msagha, a former Bandari FC striker, lost his marker to and beat keeper Fred Shiundu to seal the victory.

Sofapaka head coach Zedekiah Otieno was over the moon for guiding the team to safety at least by the close of the regular season, having joined the team way late in the campaign with a sole mission – to keep the in the top league.

"We were fighting not to be relegated. I'm so happy today we got the three points which just confirmed that. We want to focus and prepare for our opponents next week in the playoff, so that we can confirm conclusively what we have showed here today," he explained.

In other results of the day, AFC Leopards beat Ulinzi Stars 0-1, Bandari FC sunk FC Talanta 1-2, Kenya Police drew Kariobangi Sharks 2-2 while Tusker edged visitors Kakamega Homeboyz 1-0.

KCB FC also closed the season in style, stopping Nairobi City Stars 3-2, finishing at position 10.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *England wasted the chance to secure their place in the Euro 2024 knockout stages as Group C winners as they were fortunate to take a draw from a dismal display against Denmark in Frankfurt

England Miss Chance To Reach Last 16 After Draw Against Denmark



England wasted the chance to secure their place in the Euro 2024 knockout stages as Group C winners as they were fortunate to take a draw from a dismal display against Denmark in Frankfurt.

Gareth Southgate's side would have topped Group C with a win after the earlier draw between Slovenia and Serbia – but were ultimately grateful for a point from a disorganised, shambolic mess of performance.

Harry Kane scored in his fourth successive major tournament to give England an 18th-minute lead but, as so often under manager Southgate, this was the signal for them to shrink into their shell to allow Danish domination.

Denmark got the equaliser they deserved when Morten Hjul-

mand struck a thunderous 25-yard equaliser after 34 minutes.

Phil Foden struck the post after the break and, while England are still at the head of their group, they must deliver vast improvements against Slovenia.

As an audition for potential favourites to win Euro 2024, this was a disappointing failure.

England's dreadful display was placed firmly in context by the fact manager Southgate, hardly known for hasty or rash changes, made four substitutions with more than 20 minutes left.

The England fans inside Frankfurt Arena also made their displeasure known, with several bursts of loud jeering well before the final whistle and a hostile send off at the end.

It is a long time since England looked as disorganised as they did here, especially in midfield where they were outpassed for long periods by Denmark, with veteran Christian Eriksen pulling the strings.

The central partnership of Declan Rice and Trent Alexander-Arnold looked horribly ill-at-ease and outmanoeuvred. This, presumably, will be the last time it is used.

Jude Bellingham, England's great talisman and match-winner against Serbia, could not rescue them this time as even he looked jaded and unable to exert any influence as they struggled desperately.

England's players were often seen complaining about the state of the playing surface, which did

cut up early on, but there can be no cheap excuses when they perform as badly as this.

Once again, a goal subdued England rather than inspired them as they found themselves overrun and prone to far too many errors all over the pitch.

The old, nagging habit of going into retreat after going ahead returned. Serbia were not good enough to take advantage in England's first game but Denmark were not passing up the invitation.

KBC

SPORTS NEWS

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Beware of The Suicide Nerve



By: Dr. Mayukh Pandit
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Sometimes due to certain etiological factors, compression could occur in this pair of nerves leading to development of serious chronic vascular compression disorder.
- Out of the 12 pair of cranial nerves when compression occurs in the fifth pair of cranial nerves known as the trigeminal nerve which could produce world's most excruciating pain ever witnessed by humanity. This unbearable pain is also triggered by day-to-day activities such as shaving, brushing our teeth or in case of female by simply putting makeup, eating or even talking to someone.
- So suffering from this unpredictable episodes of unbearable pain in face and temples region for long time, patient starts developing psychiatric disorders, which could lead one to contemplating suicide.



Fig 1: Human Brain

Source credit : <https://neurospinesurgical.com/2018/01/04/5-facts-didnt-know-human-brain>.

Our brain is the most complex and one of the largest organs of human body. It is approximated that human brain contains 100 billion neurons and weighs between 1-1.5 kg. Our brain is the supreme commander of our nervous system. In other words human brain is just like computers controlling the body's function and metabolism very systematically and functionally. Human brain along with spinal cord forms our central nervous system (CNS).

The delicious cuisines you taste, wonderful odor you smell from deodorant, mesmerizing classical music you enjoy and feeling sensation in your body are all controlled by a set of 12 pair of nerves known as cranial nerves which are located in back of our brain. So this twelve

pair of nerves connects our brain to different parts of head, neck and even trunk of our body. Sometimes due to certain etiological factors, compression could occur in this pair of nerves leading to development of serious chronic vascular compression disorder. Out of the 12 pair of cranial nerves when compression occurs in the fifth pair of cranial nerves known as the trigeminal nerve which could produce world's most excruciating pain ever witnessed by humanity. This unbearable pain is also triggered by day-to-day activities such as shaving, brushing our teeth or in case of female by simply putting makeup, eating or even talking to someone. So suffering from this unpredictable episodes of unbearable pain in face and temples region for

TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA

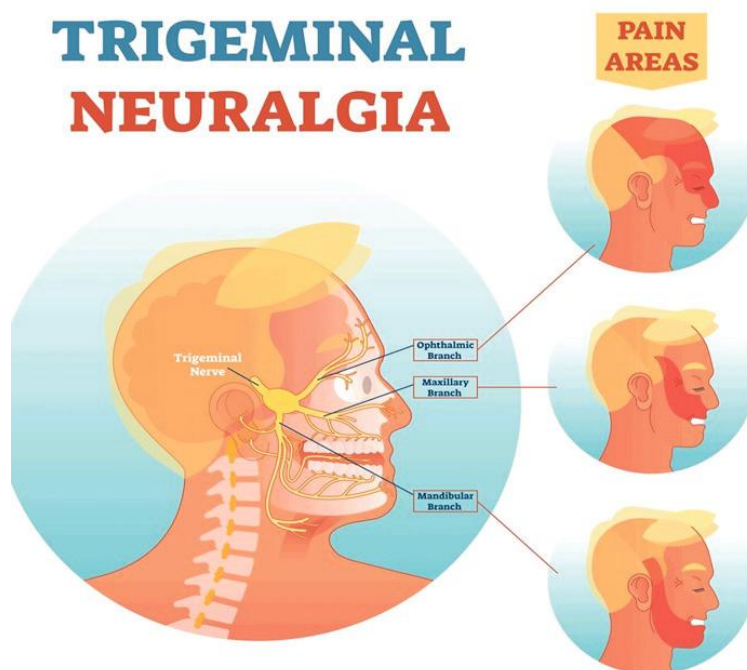


Fig 2: Pain areas of Trigeminal Neuralgia

Source credit: The Johns Hopkins University, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Johns Hopkins Health System.

long time, patient starts developing psychiatric disorders, which could lead one to contemplating suicide. This is the reason trigeminal neuralgia and its name as Suicide disease also known as Fothergill Disease, tic douloureux or Trifacial neuralgia.

Let us all acquire information & be ready to battle Suicide Disease together.

Suicide disease is one of the most difficult task for a clinician to diagnose because its symptoms resemble to other facial pain disorder. It has been reported that this disease is mostly misdiagnosed with continuous dental pain or persistent temporomandibular joint disorders. So I would like to draw our readers attention with vital signs and symptoms of this disease because if it is diagnosed and detected at early stages then there are every possibilities to cure it permanently. So according to Medical News Today and Mayo Clinic these are the following key symptoms which one should always remember :-

1. Sudden severe attacks of brief stabbing pain which last from few seconds to several minutes.
2. This excruciating episodes of pain is mostly localized too lower or upper jaw region, teeth & cheek and very rarely in the forehead or orbital region.
Note :- Trigeminal neuralgia usually affects the maxillary division and mandibular division of trigeminal nerve and very rarely the ophthalmic division of the trigeminal nerve so for this reason, forehead and orbital remains unaffected.
3. This pain might feel like an electric shock which is localized on one side of the face at a time.
4. Pain might occur with facial spasm according to a data provided by Mayo Clinic
5. Attacks would become more frequent and progressive overtime.

It also has been frequently reported that suicide disease has significantly affected people over the age of 50 years. This disorder is also very common in women as compared to men. According to one official report provided by National Institute of health that one in every 8000 people are affected with this disease per year. Person suffering from this excruciating painful condition often starts suffering from psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety and stress disorders resulting in the development of suicide ideation

in them.

The aim of my article was to spread the awareness among my readers so that they could obtain basic information on this world's most excruciating and painful disease humanity have ever witnessed and to seek medical treatment at earliest. It also becomes the prime responsibility for a clinicians to conduct corrective and precise investigation to confirm the presence of trigeminal neuralgia, MRI scan must be carried out which would rule out suicide disease by showcasing any blood vessels compressing the trigeminal nerve hence causing this disease. As it is always correctly quoted that "a correct diagnosis is 3/4 the remedy".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Mayukh Pandit is recognized as Humanitarian Doctor, Board Certified Researcher, Medical Lecturer & HOD (Anatomy), Author, Editor in Chief of JAD & Diplomat. He is also the recipient of Asia's Best Researcher in Anatomy in 2020, India's Most Eminent Researcher of the year from Indian Medical Association JDN at ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar & honored with KRMB Title from Royal Aristocratic House of Indonesia from daughter of first President of Indonesia Suakarno for his commendable humanitarian service for mankind. He is also serving as Editorial and Peer Review Committee Board Member in 45 International and National Journals and have been awarded with Best Peer-Reviewer award in 2021 from Journal of Clinical Anatomy & recipient of Best Editor Award from Indian Journal of Neuroscience in 2023. He have made a record of over 20+ peer-reviewed publications which were published in various prestigious Journals along with 4 published learning material and books for NUCHMT, Ghana & was behind establishment of Africa's first accredited holistic medical University in Ghana by serving as National Accreditation Occupational Standard committee member in The Commission of Technical and Vocational Education Training, Ministry of Education Ghana. His news article is published in West Africa leading national newspaper in Modern Ghana, The Chronicles, The Business Times official and Daily Graphic national newspaper. He have been invited as Chief Guest Speaker in India's largest virtual medical conference as well as honored as Guest of Honor and Speaker from many recognized international conferences globally.