

Gov't To Register Independent Mediation Institutions To Fast-Track Resolution Of Matters Of Succession

By: Kenya News Agency



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi with Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga and commissioner National Gender and Equality Commission Dr Margaret Karungaru being taken through some of the activities that widows in Nyeri undertake..

Worth Noting:

- The DP's spouse has also appealed to men to embrace the culture of writing wills. She noted that most of the widows in the country are disenfranchised because their husbands did not leave behind a will indicating how their wealth should be shared out upon their death.
- "Disenfranchisement of a woman starts when she gets married. When she is supposed to be empowered, she finds that everything is centred on her husband in terms of economic base and leadership. So if a man doesn't care to leave a will, many widows and her children are left to suffer and struggle," she said.

The government is in the process of registering mediation institutions to fast track the resolution of matters of succession pitting widows and their families, the spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, has said.

Pastor Rigathi said that the goal is to ensure that both widows and widowers are able to access inheritance left behind by their kin and to lessen the amount of time taken in resolving succession disputes.

"We have come up with a policy of registering mediation institutions that will enable widows and widowers to access wealth that is left behind at a faster and cheaper pace. In the near future we are fore seeing a situation where matters of mediation will not be limited to courts because we will have many institutions including churches where individuals can access justice faster," said Pastor Rigathi.

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in the country are disenfranchised because their husbands did not leave behind a will indicating how their wealth should be shared out upon their death.

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Pastor Rigathi was speaking in Nyeri during the launch of the Nyeri County Widows Sacco. In her remarks, she termed the launch of the sacco as a huge milestone which will not only empower widows economically but also address gender equality and inclusion issues in the county.

"I believe economic empowerment is a gateway through which all economic, social and cultural barriers can be broken. Through empowerment of widows, they

will now be able to make independent decisions and overcome these challenges," she said.

According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019, out of the country's population of 759,164, a total of 65,288 of the residents are widows. The County's Gender, Youth and Social Services County Executive Committee said that in the run-up to the launch, her department had registered a total of 91 registered widow groups and trained them on sacco formation.

The Sacco, which is a brain child of the first Nyeri governor, Nderitu Gachagua, will allow widows residing in the county to save their money, grow their savings and later have access to affordable loans.

While addressing the over 800 widows at the function, the county boss, Mutahi Kahiga pledged his commitment to addressing the unique challenges that widows face.

He said the sacco will create a financial

platform to access affordable credit and enable them to support their livelihoods. In addition, Kahiga said that the county will extend financial literacy programme to enable the women to venture into entrepreneurship.

"Widows in our society face unique challenges. Often, they are denied inheritance rights, face discrimination and abuse, they encounter financial instability, social isolation, and emotional hardship," said Kahiga.

"Through the Widows Sacco, we aim to provide access to affordable credit, enabling widows to start or expand small businesses, secure education for their children, improve their overall quality of life and promote social cohesion and solidarity among widows," he added.

The event was graced by Nyeri Deputy Governor Warui Kinaniri, the County Commissioner Pius Murugu and Dr Margaret Karungaru, a member of Gender and Equality Commission.

Editor's Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Council of Elders and religious leaders in Uasin Gishu County have condemned the destruction of property and disturbance of peace following the recent protests over the 2024 Finance Bill. The Chairman of the Miyot Council of Elders, Uasin Gishu, Alexander Mursi, said that peaceful demonstrations are a constitutional right but should not be misused to cause chaos and violence. He called on the youth to embrace peace, seek advice from parents, and engage in peaceful interventions through courts and consultations without causing rampages on the streets. Bishop Luka Maiyo of the African Inland Church (AIC) expressed condolences to those who lost their loved ones and urged the youth to use other forums allowed by the law to express their interests and embrace peaceful dialogue. The demonstrations saw a public library, vehicles, and other public and private property destroyed across the municipality of Eldoret. The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK)-Eldoret, Bishop Dr. Christopher Ruto, underscored the importance of love for the nation and focusing on peace by engaging in lawful activities that create a humble environment that fosters development. He emphasised the need for economic zones to open up opportunities for the youth to earn a living and live a better life, while respecting their heritage.



Three farmers in Bungoma County have received 33 goats from the Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (KelCOP). Under the project each of the farmers received one male and ten female goats that will be used for breeding and after multiplication the breeds will be distributed to other farmers in the area. The Bungoma County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture Mr. Herbert Kibunguchi asked farmers to give maximum care to the goats in order to achieve the intended purpose of the project which is aimed at improving on the livelihoods of the community. The CEC who was speaking at Mabanga Agricultural Training College where the presentation was done today said that the project had come at an appropriate time and asked the beneficiaries to utilize the opportunity well. The project Coordinator Rose Khisa said that the goats, the Gala type were chosen because they are suitable for the weather in the area and that they grow at a faster rate. She asked farmers to take care of the animals as per the technical advice given by the livestock staff so that they can multiply for distribution to other farmers. This she said will meet the high demand of goat meat and milk in the area.



Principal Secretary for Education, Belio Kipsang has urged school heads to involve young people in decision-making processes to influence the future.

He underscored the importance of tailoring education pathways to individual students' unique talents and interests.

Kipsang emphasised the need for student-centred, flexible, and inclusive education, addressing the needs of those with disabilities.

The Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) emphasises the practical application of knowledge, preparing students for real-world challenges.

The government plans to invest heavily in laboratories and science-based learning areas in day schools, as they constitute 72% of the learning environment.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has praised the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA) for its role in providing strategic interventions, particularly in the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). Gachagua emphasised the importance of flexibility in the educational system, stating that significant challenges will arise in the future if the system is not adaptable. The CBC system is designed to be student-centred, flexible, and inclusive, with three pathways: social sciences, arts and sports, and science and technology, engineering, and mathematics. The government has identified junior secondary and senior secondary schools as crucial stepping stones for modelling students professionally. The government is investing more in expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across the country to complement universities and provide a seamless transition from secondary schools for students. The government is set to employ 2,000 more tutors in the 2023–2024 financial year to bridge the capacity gap and ensure diverse options for higher education and skills development.

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MAISHA NI
kuchungana.



Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua
kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya
familia yako



The African Public Square: A New Era For Africa's Intellectual And Strategic Renaissance



By: Cynthia Masibo

@themtkenyatimes



The APS convened a public debate on key discussions along with key partners, an initial intergenerational group of African public intellectuals.

Worth Noting:

- To elevate Africa's position in the world, the APS employs a three-part intervention strategy:
- A Convening Platform:** This element of APS will gather new and established voices, constituting an intergenerational community of African public intellectuals. By bringing together diverse perspectives, APS aims to catalyse the repositioning of Africa within the global order.

The African Leadership Centre (ALC), in collaboration with the Africans for the Horn of Africa (Af4HA) Initiative, officially launched the African Public Square (APS) yesterday, June 27, 2024. This ambitious platform aims to harness Africa's intellectual power and inter-generational agency, fostering a rethinking of the continent's responses to its marginalisation on the global stage and the evolving challenges in managing its security and development.

A Response to Marginalisation and Norm Reversal

The APS emerges as a timely intervention, addressing the need for Africa to assert itself against established global agendas that disadvantage the continent. By offering new solutions and proposals, APS seeks to re-energise Africa's normative and response

frameworks, opening up possibilities for the continent's renewal. The platform aims to expand the constituency of actors representing Africa, especially when traditional state and continental spaces for action and engagement are restricted.

Three-Part Intervention Strategy

To elevate Africa's position in the world, the APS employs a three-part intervention strategy:

A Convening Platform: This element of APS will gather new and established voices, constituting an inter-generational community of African public intellectuals. By bringing together diverse perspectives, APS aims to catalyse the repositioning of Africa within the global order.

Annual High-Level Forum: APS will host an annual African/global public debate, drawing prominent African

intellectuals and various interlocutors. This forum will frame and propose alternative engagement frameworks on contemporary issues shaping Africa's trajectory, fostering robust discussions and innovative solutions.

Inter-Generational Community of Intellectuals: A key feature of APS is its commitment to co-leadership by an inter-generational community of African public intellectuals. These intellectuals will spearhead special interventions, proposing new ideas and fostering collaborations to address Africa's challenges and reshape global engagement to elevate Africa's status on the world stage.

Inaugural High-Level Forum

The inaugural high-level forum, a centerpiece of the APS launch, promises to be a critical platform for dialogue and debate. The forum convened

an initial intergenerational group of African public intellectuals, alongside key partners, to open a public debate on a pressing question: Can Africa escape the twin tragedy of deinstitutionalisation through "militiafication" and externally imposed templates?

Focusing on the contexts of Sudan and South Sudan, the forum explored how African societies can rebuild peaceful states that serve the collective good rather than narrow interests. This critical discussion aimed to identify pathways for overcoming the challenges of militia-driven governance and external interventions that often undermine indigenous solutions.

A Vision for Africa's Future

The APS represents a bold vision for Africa's future, leveraging the continent's rich intellectual heritage and dynamic inter-generational voices to drive change. By challenging entrenched global agendas and offering fresh perspectives, APS aspires to create a more equitable global landscape where Africa can thrive. The initiative underscores the importance of intellectual agency and collaborative efforts in crafting solutions that resonate with Africa's unique contexts and aspirations.

With its official launch in Nairobi, APS has set the stage for a new era of African intellectual and strategic renaissance. This initiative embodies the hope and determination of a continent ready to chart its own course, reclaiming its rightful place on the global stage. The APS is not just a platform but a movement, empowering Africa to speak for itself and shape its destiny in the 21st century.

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Over 1500 People In Kirinyaga Get Free Eye Treatment And Surgeries As Experts Link Spike In Eye Ailments To Lifestyle Diseases

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



A Medic attends to a patient as officials look on

Worth Noting:

- “This particular trend of rise in non-communicable diseases is causing a big problem of the eye. We are very grateful for this particular support from these organizations because it has helped us reach out to more people who had not gotten treatment for eye problems,” he said.

- He emphasized that Governor Anne Waiguru has prioritized healthcare as one of her deliverables and this what informed initiative to set up an ultra-modern eye unit at the Kerugoya County Referral Hospital.

- “We have invested in establishing a state-of-the-art eye clinic complete with staff, an ophthalmologist, and a fully equipped theatre for eye problems,” he added.

Over 1500 people with eye complications in Kirinyaga County have benefitted from free treatment and cataract surgeries during a medical camp held at Kimbimbi Sub-county Hospital.

This comes even as medics raised concern over a rise in the number of people having eye complications in Mt. Kenya region. This rise has been attributed to increase in non-communicable diseases.

During the three day medical camp organized by the County Government, Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) and Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB), 36 people underwent cataract surgeries to remove clouding of the lens of the eye.

One of the patients had lived with cataract on both eyes which had caused clouded vision for five years making it difficult for the victim to see clearly.

Patients were issued with glasses, medication and white canes for free.

Speaking during the medical camp, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Medical Services, Public Health, and Sanitation George Karoki, blamed rise in eye ailments in Mt. Kenya to increase in non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cancer and hypertension.

“This particular trend of rise in non-communicable diseases is causing a big problem of the eye. We are very grateful for this particular

support from these organizations because it has helped us reach out to more people who had not gotten treatment for eye problems,” he said.

He emphasized that Governor Anne Waiguru has prioritized healthcare as one of her deliverables and this what informed initiative to set up an ultra-modern eye unit at the Kerugoya County Referral Hospital.

“We have invested in establishing a state-of-the-art eye clinic complete with staff, an ophthalmologist, and a fully equipped theatre for eye problems,” he added.

Karoki urged residents to undergo regular eye checkups, noting that early detection and diagnosis could lead to quicker treatment and prevent further complications.

The Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) lauded efforts by for its efforts to offer specialized eye treatment so as to help in the eliminating avoidable blindness.

KSB Chief Executive Officer Samson Waweru said establishment of an eye unit at the Kerugoya County Referral Hospital has ensured people facing eye problems do not have to travel to Nairobi for specialist treatment.

Waweru said about 10 million Kenyans are at a risk of getting blind, however, 85 to 90 percent of those who are likely to go blind have treatable cases if they are screened earlier.

He said the lead cause of blindness

in the country is uncorrected refractive errors, cataracts, trachoma and other lifestyle diseases.

“The statistics of visually impaired people according to the 2019 census stands at 334,000 legally blind individuals across the country. But the concerning statistics from the Ministry of Health is that 10 million Kenyans could wake up tomorrow to find themselves blind. This means that one out of every four Kenyans could face blindness, which is why this medical camp is crucial, as 85-90% of these cases are treatable,” he emphasized.

REREC Board Director Mark Nderitu explained that while REREC’s primary mandate is rural electrification, their involvement in the medical camp is part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.

“REREC is running 322 electrifi-

cation projects across nine counties in the Mt. Kenya region, targeting to electrify over 15,500 households. In Kirinyaga, REREC has 20 projects aiming to electrify 1,250 households,” he said.

Nderitu said expansion of electricity connection to unreached areas will help eliminate use of firewood for cooking and kerosene for lighting in homes.

Studies have linked inhaling of smoke that comes from cooking with firewood, charcoal, and kerosene as a health risk and major contributor to respiratory diseases, natal complications, eye problems, heart diseases.

He expressed gratitude to the Kirinyaga County Government for partnering with REREC, saying, “we are pleased with the massive turnout and the opportunity to impact the lives of the community.”

Lydia Mugo, a 78-year-old resident of Murinduko area in Mwea East, expressed her gratitude for the camp.

“I have never seen a free eye medical camp offering surgeries. We are thankful to have these free services through the Kirinyaga County Government and REREC. I have been attended to and my eyes can now see clearly,” she said.

Stephen Njeru, a 70-year-old from Kanjo Sub-location, shared his relief after undergoing a cataract surgery at the camp.

“I had cataract issues and needed surgery and medication. I struggled for over 3 years and was told I needed Ksh. 70,000 for treatment. Yesterday, I came to this medical camp, had the surgery done for free and now though the eye hasn’t healed completely, I have started seeing clearly images than before. I can see well, and the problem is gone. I am grateful,” Njeru stated.



President Ruto Signs Appropriations Bill 2024

By: Christine Muchira

@themkenyentimes

President William Ruto has assented to the Appropriations Bill 2024 and instructed the National Treasury to immediately prepare supplementary estimates to reduce expenditure by the amount of revenue that was expected to be generated by the rejected Finance Bill 2024.

In a statement, the Head of State also sent the County Allocation of Revenue Bill back to Parliament for expenditure cuts.

“I have assented to the Appropriations Bill 2024 and instructed the National Treasury to immediately prepare supplementary estimates to reduce expenditure by the amount of revenue that was expected to be gen-

erated by the rejected Finance Bill 2024.” He stated.

He said the reduction in expenditure, amounting to Ksh. 346 billion, will be borne equitably by both levels of government.

“With respect to the National Government, the reduction will be borne by the executive, legislature, judiciary and constitutional Commissions.” He added.

President Ruto further directed the National Treasury to immediately submit to Parliament amendments to the Division of Revenue Act 2024 to reflect the reduced revenues occasioned by the rejected Finance Bill.

Treasury was also instructed to direct all accounting officers to ensure that only critical and essential services are funded, using no more than 15pc of the budget, until the supplementary budget is approved.



President William Ruto .

Duale Confirms KDF Deployed Countrywide Until Normalcy Returns

By: Eric Biegon

Defense Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale confirmed Friday night that the recent deployment of Kenya Defense Forces covers all parts of the country.

In a new Gazette Notice arising from High Court ruling requiring the CS to indicate the scope of the deployment of military internally, Duale indicated the men and women in the army will assist the police to restore and maintain order countrywide.

“Based on the prevailing threats to national security planned and orchestrated through various platforms in the cyber space, the deployment will cover the Forty-Seven Counties within the Republic of Kenya where critical installations and infrastructure are located in order to assist the National Police Service preserve life, preserve the internal security of the State, protect property as well as maintain law and order,” Duale noted in Gazette Notice No. 7868.

As to how long the latest deployment is to last, the CS confirmed that

KDF will work alongside their police counterparts until law and order returns to all parts.

“The deployment shall continue until normalcy is restored,” noted the notice

On Thursday, High Court Judge Lawrence Mugambi directed that the terms of military engagement, and duration of engagement be clearly defined and gazetted within the next two days to alleviate public fear that their constitutional liberties could be in jeopardy and also to give public confidence that their liberties will be observed during the duration of military engagement.

“Deploying the military in a blanket manner without defining the scope or nature of the intervention, the duration of such intervention, is a dangerous trend that can bring about militarization of the country which is antithetical to the enjoyment of rights and freedoms,” he argued



Defense Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale

Joblessness Blamed On Deepening Youth Mental Health Issues

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Lack of employment has deepened cases of mental health and drug abuse among the youths, a Kenyan born-US based philanthropist has revealed.

Rop who was speaking in Kapsabet town said youth joblessness remains a big challenge that Kenyan leaders must address in order to reduce the soaring cases of mental health.

He regretted that unemployed youths' hopelessness has driven them into heavy consumption of alcohol and drugs.

"Joblessness has pushed them into hopelessness as we saw during recent demonstrations and become reason for drug abuse, smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol," Rop said.

He said the National and County Governments should fund thousands of unemployed youths who graduate from universities and colleges to initiate investment projects.

"I pray and hope that the National and County Governments can set

some money aside to help them have some money for investment because these young people are very bright and can even develop apps that we can use in phones," he suggested.

If engaged meaningfully, Rop believes that "our educated youths can solve many tech challenges experienced in many sectors in our economy."

Rop, a mental health Doctor suggested that the Kenyan population comprise approximately seventy percent youths who he noted cannot be ignored adding: "We need to support these youths, we need to have dialogue, and we need to put them on a platform, let's talk to them and let us see exactly their proposals on governance."

He noted that youths who are graduating from school and colleges should be prepared and empowered to become productive members of the society as opposed to a situation where they are ignored and idle. "They are now key stakeholders and we need them to be involved in community progression, they need to be productive," he added.

He thanked the government for the



Rop speaking in Kapsabet town

efforts to address increasing mental health challenges in the country but observed that more mental health counseling experts should be hired to help in solving cases of relationships breakups majorly affecting young people.

He regretted that cases of youths committing suicide due to broken relationships are on the rise which calls

for the two levels of governments to take action. "I think we need to put more money on mental health, have counsellors, and have people who can talk to them," Rop observed.

Rop who is the founder of HOKIL Foundation has constructed state of the art Hokil Resource Centre in Morsoriot, aimed at equipping the youths with tech knowledge useful in apply-

ing online jobs.

As a way of giving back to the society, Rop appealed to Kenyans working abroad to change their villages by sponsoring bright and needy students and also initiating projects that can create employment to millions of Kenyan jobless youths.



Communities Urged To Stop Stigma Against Children With Disabilities

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) has urged North Easter region communities to stop stigmatization of children with disabilities and instead bring them out to hospitals for therapy to improve their health.

Speaking during an outreach disability assessment session in Garissa Town, NCPWD's chairperson Winfred Mbugua said they are working in collaboration with hospital officials to diagnose and start early medication for children with disabilities to enable them walk or talk in future.

According to Winfred, the two-day outreach program in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Special Education, Garissa Referral Hospital and Hope Mobility is targeting to reach at least 250 children in Garissa County for assessment, therapy and assistance with wheelchairs and other assistive devices to improve the mobility of the children.

Some of the causes of the developmental disabilities and disorders include prolonged labour especially for people who are far away from hospitals, home delivery, infections during birth and premature births.

"There is a lot of stigma in the communities especially with cerebral palsy where parents keep their children hidden or secluded from others even making it hard for these children to be brought for assessment and medication," Winfred said.

"We also have a challenge in accessing children whose parents stop bringing them for therapy hence losing all the improvement achieved. Due to this, we have been training some parents the basic home therapy technics so that they may be able to help their children while they await appointment dates," she added.

She said that taking their disable children for therapy and schools will help them in the future especially for economic purposes where with knowledge they can be able to earn a living on their own.

Apart from donating assistive devices, the council is also doing other programs which include cash trans-



fers for parents and guardians of children with disabilities, scholarships programs, building friendly infrastructure for special schools among others.

Benjamin Sifuna, an occupational

therapist urged the government to invest in training more therapists noting that there are only three therapists at the Garissa level 4 Hospital who are overwhelmed by more than 30 patients per week.

He called on all parents with children living with disabilities not to shy off from bringing them to receive the required medication to ease the severity of the disabilities.

Inferno Guts Down Children's Home In Embu

By: Kenya News Agency

Over 30 children living with various forms of disabilities at Jomo Kenyatta Children's Home in Embu Town have been left homeless after a fire razed down their sanctuary in the wee hours on Friday morning.

No one was injured during the 3 am inferno as the 12 children who were at the home were evacuated to safety with the rest said to have gone home for the mid-term break.

The home established 48 years ago is run by Kenya Red Cross Embu Branch.

According to KRS County Coordinator in Charge of Embu and Kirinyaga Martin Kagunda, the blaze started at an office near the main entrance to the home and spread quickly to the adjacent structures including kitchen and dormitory.

He said they were only able to evac-

uate the children to safety and salvage a few items before all the structures were engulfed in fire leading to losses running into millions of shillings.

"The damage is extensive and we do not know where the children will spend the night and how we shall accommodate the others who are set to come back on Monday after the mid-term break," he said while appealing for help from well-wishers.

It took the intervention of the neighboring Tharaka Nithi County that sent two fire extinguishers to put off the inferno with questions lingering on the preparedness of Embu County Government in disaster response as all the three fire Engines are said to be broken down.

"We called the County Government and they were able to get us fire engines from Tharaka Nithi County that arrived two hours later," Kagunda said.

The cause of the fire has not been established and authorities commence investigations.



LSK Faults Ruling On KDF Deployment, Insists Grounds For Military Intervention Inadequate

Law Society President says the ruling was an incurably dangerous precedent for the threshold needed to warrant military involvement in internal affairs

By: Eric Biegon

The Law Society of Kenya has expressed its dissatisfaction with the decision made by the High Court on Thursday allowing the state to deploy the military to quell violence arising from widespread anti-tax protests.

While disagreeing with High Court Judge Lawrence Mugambi, LSK President Faith Odhiambo reiterated that whereas deployment of the military can be done in instances where there is instability, unrest, and situations of emergency, the ruling was “an incurably dangerous precedent for the threshold” needed to warrant KDF involvement in internal affairs.

The LSK boss argues that the Constitution provides an elaborate threshold of what constitutes an emergency that necessitates deployment of the military and insists the present situation does not warrant military intervention.



LSK President Faith Odhiambo

ment of the military and insists the present situation does not warrant military intervention.

“We respectfully disagree with the court. We maintain that the violence that has been witnessed during the

protests has been perpetuated by or as a reaction to excesses of police force and arbitrariness,” she said

Ms Odhiambo holds the view while the disruption of both public and private property and infrastructure is unacceptable, there is no evidence to indicate that the police are incapable of containing the current situation if they perform their duties within the limitations of the law.

“The present action by the state is both procedurally unsound, not in conformity with article 241 and is outright disproportionate. In our view, the drastic measure of inviting military intervention in a controversy that is primarily political should not be taken lightly,” she said

“Our defense forces is highly respected for its independence, professionalism, impartiality and respect for civilian rule. We should not taint it by liberally interpreting the limited scope of Article 241,” she adds

The LSK boss indicated they are

waiting for the full reasoned version of the ruling in order to enable the society to evaluate other options available on the matter.

“We commit to consider the written ruling and take the next course of action in defense of the Constitution and the rule of law,” she said

In his ruling Thursday, Judge Mugambi said the state did not err in deploying KDF to come in given the police appeared unable to control protestors.

“The intervention of the military in supporting the National Police is necessary in view of the need to preserve order, peace, public safety and critical infrastructure as it in conformity with the Constitution and the relevant statute and was properly invoked,” the judge ruled

KNEC Dispatches 2022 KCSE Certificates To Schools

By: Margaret Kalekye

Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) has directed all students who sat the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) to collect certificates from their respective schools.

The council announced Friday it had dispatched the examinations’ certificates for verification and issuance to the bonafide candidates through their respective Sub-County Directors of Education (for Private Candidates) and Principals of Secondary Schools.

“The 2022 KCSE examination certificates for all eligible candidates have been dispatched to schools through their respective sub-county director of education offices. Candidates and parents/guardians are hereby requested to collect the certificates from their institutions at the earliest opportunity” KNEC said on



X. Queries which should be submitted online through the Query Management Information System (QMIS) must reach KNEC not later than 30 days after the release of the certificates.

“Queries about examination results/certificates must be made t within thirty (30) days after the date of dis-

patch and will attract a fee of Kshs. 5,000.00 payable through the Paybill number generated by QMIS after verification of the application submitted. Certificate queries submitted in hard copy will not be accepted” said the examination body.

Candidates who have not submitted passport-size photographs by the time of printing will not be issued

with the document.

EXPLAINER: What you should do upon receiving the certificate

The following details must be counter-checked before the Issuance of the certificates to candidates:

2.1 Accuracy of details:
#Centre name and candidate’s names;

School code;
Candidate’s Gender.
2.2 Quality of printing (that the certificate has no smudged or faded print; and are in good condition).

2.3 Embossing of hologram and candidate’s passport size photograph.

The passport size photograph embossed on the candidate’s certificate is exactly the same as what was submitted to KNEC during the registration of the candidate.

2.4 The number of certificates delivered are as indicated in the Checklist provided for each examination centre and for all candidates who qualify for award of the certificates.

Any discrepancies should be indicated in the Acknowledgement form and forwarded to KNEC through the SCDEs’ offices.

881,416 candidates who sat for the examinations, 443, 644 were male while 437,772 were female, representing 50.33 per cent and 49.69 per cent of the total candidature respectively.

Kenyan Students To Participate In Two International Mathematics Contests

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) National Trainer in charge of Coding Martin Mungai

Worth Noting:

- Mr Mungai explained that the 12 students were best overall in this year's Kenya Mathematics Olympiad that is organised annually from 2022 by CEMASTE A in partnership with the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing from the University of Waterloo Canada and the University of Nairobi.
- While noting that a further 24 Kenyan students had participated in the Second edition of the East African Mathematical Olympiad that was organized by the Uganda Mathematical Society and took place on April 24, 2024, the National trainer stated that the competitions offer Kenyan students an opportunity to interact with some of the world's most talented and 'smartest' mathematicians.

Twelve students from Kenyan schools will represent the country at two of the world's most prestigious Mathematics tournaments.

Six students will participate in the 65th edition of International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), a World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students that is held annually on rotational basis in different countries.

This year's event will be held from 11 July 2024 to 22 July 2024 at University of Bath in the United Kingdom, and will have participants from over 100 countries from North America, Europe and Asia, with countries like Canada, USA, China, India, and South Korea represented.

While making the announcement, Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) National Trainer in charge of Coding Mr Martin Mungai also indicated that 6 other Kenyan students will compete in the 37th Pan African Mathematics Olympiad that will be hosted at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in South Africa from August 10, 2024 to August 20, 2024.

In an interview with journalists, the CEMASTE A National Trainer indicated that the over 1,000 students who will participate in the two contests will be tested in various topics, including Algebra, Geometries, Calculus, number theory, combinatorics, and advanced problem-solving techniques.

Mr Mungai explained that the 12 students were best overall in this year's Kenya Mathematics Olympiad that is organised annually from 2022 by CEMASTE A in partnership with the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing from the University of Waterloo Canada and the University of Nairobi.

While noting that a further 24 Kenyan

students had participated in the Second edition of the East African Mathematical Olympiad that was organized by the Uganda Mathematical Society and took place on April 24, 2024, the National trainer stated that the competitions offer Kenyan students an opportunity to interact with some of the world's most talented and 'smartest' mathematicians.

"Participating in such an event is a thought provoking, challenging and motivating experience. It not only raises the students' profiles for future career advancement but could also be an advantage for those aiming to join Ivy League universities such as Harvard," he stated.

During the first round of Kenya Mathematics Olympiad which was held in May this year, 258 students from form 1 and 2 countrywide were selected in the junior category after attaining the 116 cutoff points in a 60 minutes' mathematics examination.

Another 504 form 3 and 4 students were selected in the senior category whose cutoff mark was 120 points.

Mr Mungai stated that the annual competition aims at improving performance and promoting excellence in Mathematics among high school students in the country.

He said that on the overall, the goal was to create a group of critical thinkers who are able to apply their classroom knowledge when solving real life problems.

"Generally, we are looking into the learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. We give them questions that have real life application so that they can think mathematically," he said.

"At the end of the day, we have a learner who doesn't have a disconnect between the real world and what they are doing in the classroom," added Mr

Mungai.

The students qualify for the second round of the contest if they successfully participate in the first round, before gunning for the third round of the Kenya mathematical Olympiad.

A certificate of participation is offered to all students who participate in the Kenya Mathematics Olympiad while a certificate of merit is granted to the top 50 students, who are thereafter invited to the third round of the contest.

The CEMASTE A official said the contest has boosted students' ability to solve mathematical problems using critical thinking.

Mr Mungai also pointed out that CEMASTE A, the University of Nairobi (UoN), and the Centre for Mathematics and Computing (CEMC), in a joint partnership, were advocating for improved performance in Mathematics in Kenyan schools, particularly using problem-solving strategies.

"Mathematical problem-solving methods concentrate on teaching students how to use mathematical ideas and critical thinking abilities to solve real-world situations, and this approach promotes a better grasp of the topic and enables students to comprehend the practical importance of mathematics," he added.

During the competitions, students are barred from using books, notes, calculators or any other computational aids.

"We want more girls to be part of this because the competition is not just about mathematics. It's also a learning experience that helps one build their self-esteem and confidence," Mr Mungai added.

To get more students involved, the official asked teachers in various schools to identify students talented in maths, adding that CEMASTE A was also targeting rural and disadvantaged students.

This, he said, will give them an oppor-

tunity to interact with some of the most talented students in the subject worldwide.

He added that for vision 2030 to be achieved mathematics and science must be put on the frontline in schools.

"Mathematics will enable the students and the world at large to solve complex challenges they face daily by use of mathematics. We want to ensure students love mathematics and appreciate it as any other course or subject in school. These contests will enable our students and teachers alike to boost their critical thinking," noted the head trainer.

Mr Mungai also acknowledged that the contests have created cultural integration among Kenyans adding that it has also helped in boosting the morale of students taking part in the Olympiads.

"We must debunk the myth that Maths is a difficult subject among our students if we want to have experts who can analyze and offer correct economic predictions that can help grow our economy. The Kenya Mathematics Olympiad has really assisted our girls to improve in mathematics simply because it's about application questions, and this contest has really encouraged them to do well," he indicated.

The first of the International Mathematical Olympiads (IMOs) was held in Romania in 1959. The oldest of the International Science Olympiads, the IMO has since been held annually, except in 1980.

That year, the competition initially planned to be held in Mongolia was cancelled due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Pan African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO) is an annual prestigious event of the African Mathematics Union (AMU) organized each year, since 1987, in an African Country where the best pupils in mathematics of secondary education who are less than twenty (20) years old, are invited to compete. Kenya has hosted PAMO twice in 1991 and 2018.

The East African Mathematical Olympiad is an annual high school mathematics contest targeting the Eastern Africa countries that was inaugurated last year.

Mr Mungai explained that the East African mathematical community came to an understanding that a regional competition would be of crucial value in enhancing appreciation of mathematics as well as a great tool for preparing students for the international Mathematical Olympiad, and finally enabling young contestants to meet and share their passion for the subject.

14 POEMS

How Is Our Language Getting Richer?



Abstract: The article provides information about how the Uzbek language is becoming richer. We also touched on the history of the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language. By reading this article, you will be more convinced that our language is a very unique language. You will be convinced of the importance of the service of foreign languages and the role of additions in the development of our language.

Key word: Dictionary, annotation, language, word, layer, Persian, Greek, Arabic, Turkish word.

The Uzbek language is one of the languages with an ancient history. The Uzbek language went through many stages and periods before reaching this level. During this period, the number of lexemes increased, some words came from foreign languages. As a result of the addition of Uzbek suffixes to words that came from this foreign language, the layer of Uzbek words became richer.

Due to the serious changes in the vocabulary of the Uzbek language, there was a need to create an explanatory dictionary that meets the requirements of the time, and under the leadership of our Academician A. Hojiyev, the Institute of Uzbek Language, Literature and Folklore of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (5-volume "Annotated Dictionary of the Uzbek Language" was created and published by a group of lexicographers of the former Alisher Navoi Institute of Language and Literature. This source contains about 80,000 words and phrases that are widely used in the Uzbek literary

language, terms related to the fields of science, art, culture and technology, historical terms and words used in the dialect.

In 2020, this annotated dictionary was revised under the editorship of Abdurahob Madvaliyev, Ph.D. reprinted and made available to the general public. The 1st volume of this dictionary talks about the letters A and F. If we focus on the information about the letter "A", there are a total of 1535 words in this letter.

Uzbek words	956
Other languages words	308
Arabic words	198
Persian words	59
English words	9
Russian words	5

If we take these 1535 words as 100%, we express the words as a percentage.

Uzbek words	62,2%
Other languages words	20,08%
Arabic words	12,8%
Persian words	3,8%
English words	0,5%
Russian words	0,3%

We can divide the words that came from other languages into groups. There are 308 words from other languages - 20,08%.

Greek	113 ta - 7,4%
Latin	113 ta - 7,4%
French	41 ta - 2,7%
Italian	7 ta - 0,5%
Femish	10 ta - 0,7%
Dutch	2 ta - 0,13%
Mongolian	1 ta - 0,7%
Words formed by addition	31 ta - 2,01%

Look, we can learn how rich and beautiful our mother tongue is through these facts. Each of us is responsible for the purity of our language and its further development. Therefore, let us contribute to the development and progress of the Uzbek language.

Abdulahidova Farangiz, 2nd stage student of Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov
Abdukhalilboyev Alisher Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad Al-Khorazmi
3rd grade student

Hongera James



Uirekebishe ndia, isije ikakutoka
Nakuombea Jalia, Ilahi Mola Rabuka
Nakuhongera James, siku yako mahafali

Nikiona cheti chako, hima moyo na furahi
Ninajawa na chereka, masomo ume yawahi
Na hayapo masumbuko, zamani yali yawahi
Nakuhongera James, siku yako mahafali

Yamekufika mengine, na ilaisha nguvu
Ukayaona manene, ila leo ni angavu
Na hata hao wengine, wanakuona
mwangavu
Nakuhongera James, siku yako mahafali

Nakuombea kwa Mungu, uwapate yale
mema

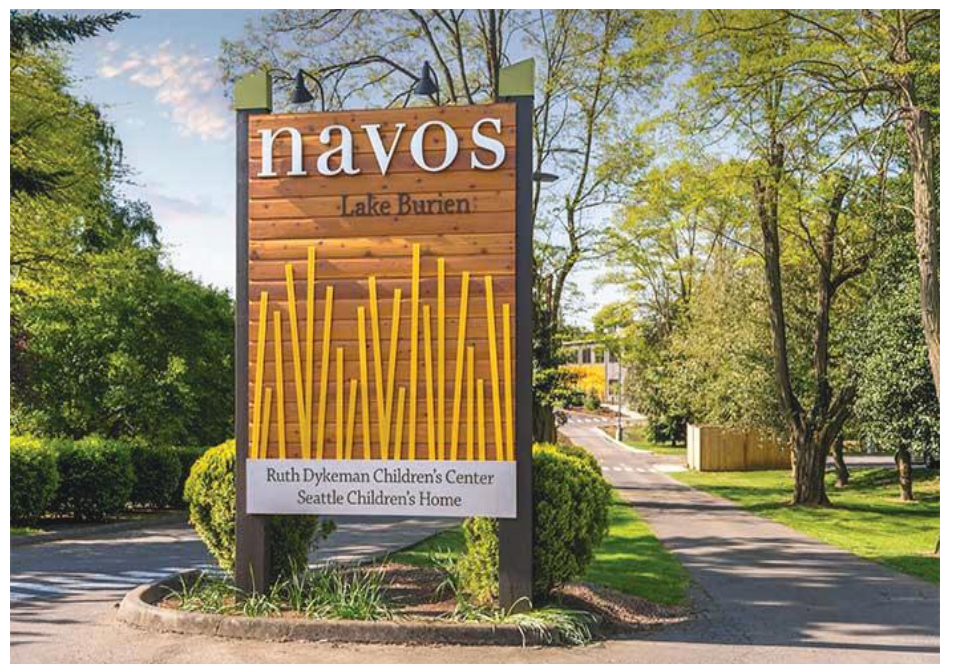
Yasikufike machungu, leo na hata daima
Ukiwa kwa ulimwengu, mazuri yaje waama
Nakuhongera James, siku yako mahafali

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

Hongerani mahafali, wakati umewadiya
Kweli Umetoka mbali, cheti ukakipokeya
Sasa unazo akili, za kuendesha duniya
Nakuhongera James, Siku yako Mahafali

Dunia yetu dunia, wasomi inawataka

Village Navos



During my three month vacation,
I went to my village.
Sweet - sweet apple,
I ate my fill.

A heart-warming song,
The air is burning.
Apricots, cherries, apples,
A sweet moan.

And the chirping of birds,

There are few bad people.
Many good intentions,
Children always say "hope".

Ihomova Mohichehra is a student of the
7th grade of the 9th general secondary
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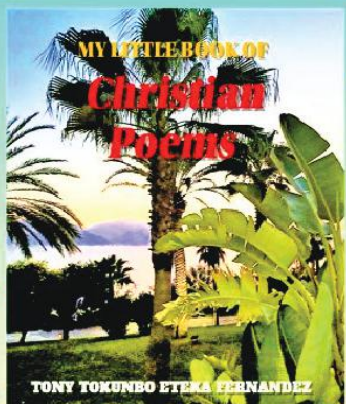
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Urgent Call To Initiate An Expeditious Comprehensive Independent Forensic Audit Of Kenya Debt From Financial Year 2011/12 to 2023/24

The Social Unrest Rising Due To Economic Deprivation And Anger Amongst Kenyans Calls For Drastic Economic And Fiscal Response Not State Violence. Without Resolving The Debt Distress Facing The Country, It Will Be Foolhardy To Wish Away The Economic Crisis



By: Ndung'u Wainaina

Below is a Statement issued by International Center for Policy and Conflict (ICPC) Executive Director Ndung'u Wainaina

1. ICPC notes with deep concern the unjustified and unacceptable Kenya Government brutal and cruel response to public protests against deep-seated economic deprivation grievances. Rising Kenya citizenry anger about economic deprivation problems cannot be resolved by state violence. With history of police impunity in Kenya, we urge United Nations High Commission on Human rights to expeditious open an independent investigations into police brutality and violations with direct recommendations on accountability and redress for victims, and dismantling police systematic criminality

2. Kenya is facing significant debt distress which is sinking the economy. Debt is causing unacceptable economic and financial throbbing to Kenyans. The country is possibly heading to default if already it is not there. According to Parliamentary Budget Office the economy is in real danger of liquidity crisis. This is demonstrated by the inability of government to meet its essential development and services obligations. Kenyans are facing the unbearable pain.

3. The country's economic crisis is consequent of fiscal profligacy financed by borrowed and stolen unexplained and illegal debt. The economy has reached its limit due to decades of low productivity growth, significant private sector investments reduction, public investments budgeted for stealing, history of declined exports and terrible government expenditures that are beyond its means. Thus to adopt a tax revenue raising measures only as solution is grossly defeatist. There has to be a comprehensive debt audit combined with radical fiscal policy reforms anchored on revenue increases and radical government expenditure rationalization to reduce fiscal deficits and deep growth enhancing structural reforms.

4. The crucial debt sustainability indicators including debt service to revenue ratio and debt to Gross Domestic Product ratio are deeply troubling. The revenue collections are falling in spite of high taxes

and the debt repayments surging perilously. The unpredictable fluctuating exchange rates, adverse fiscal conditions and natural disasters are only making the matters riskier by day.

5. The escalating high costs of debt repayments of both external and domestic obligations calls for drastic measures. The debt as per cent age of GDP has reached 69.7% i.e. Ksh.11.2 Trillion from 46% in 2010. The debt service payments are equivalent to 63% of ordinary revenue and interest repayment has risen to 30.1% of ordinary revenue. Regrettably, the sovereign people of Kenya cannot see and or attribute direct improvement to their living standards with this humongous debt. Something is terribly wrong with the Kenya public debt,

6. Consequently, this is URGENT CALL for the IMF, World Bank and all lenders both domestic and foreign to Kenya government to withdraw any further loans lending and initiate a comprehensive independent forensic audit of the country's domestic, foreign, concessional and commercial debts including the total amount of state guarantees to all state owned enterprises and governmental agencies in order to track exactly what has happened with all the loans money.

7. For purpose of independent forensic audit transparency, it will be important for the process of identifying the audit agency to be made public. Further, the rapid publication of the audit's terms of reference as a means for external stakeholders to verify the details of the audit agreement.

8. The forensic audit agreement expected to investigate and establish not only on how the loans were acquired and authorized, but also how the money was actually spent. The sovereign people of Kenya must get a comprehensive picture of the nature of debt, what it was borrowed for, whether it was utilized for the purpose it was borrowed, was there value for money, and authorization to borrow debt.

9. The agreed and appointed independent forensic audit agency must be allowed unlimited and unconditional access to: Obtaining comprehensive debriefs from key stakeholders; Requesting and obtaining

relevant information and data from all relevant government's ministries, departments and agencies; Summoning specific individuals deemed appropriate by the audit agency; and, allowed an initial review and analysis of documentation and other material relating to the government financial, banking and authorizing institutions including but not limited to National Treasury, Central bank of Kenya, Parliamentary, Controller of Budget, Office of Auditor General among others.

10. The forensic audit agency must be provided and responded to formal information requests including: original loan agreements and fee letters from the banks; final versions of supply contracts and appendices, and internal correspondence files from the Contractors and suppliers; government guarantee documentation from the National Treasury, and information to support the audited financial statements where relevant, supporting documents for transactions and transfers.

11. The independent audit agency must be allowed to work with local and international criminal and civil investigatory agencies for purpose of sanctioning individuals, banks and institutions culpable for any illegal and unconstitutional loans as well as assets and funds recovery.

12. The forensic audit agreement must allow independent monitoring of the auditing process and indicates production of two audit reports: the first a public document aimed primarily at tracing all the loans money, what loans did, and authorizing to borrow; and the second a comprehensive forensic audit report that will specific time bound action recommendations and apportion responsibilities.

13. In lieu of this, we demand as follows:

a. That all lenders both domestic and foreign must stop forthwith lending any loans to the Kenya government until the independent forensic audit is completed. Local banking and financial institutions have been major conduits of illegal and unconstitutional domestic debt. They must be held culpable for lending loans to government contrary to The Constitution and budget laws.

b. That while independent debt audit is proceeding Development partners supporting specific essential service sector can continue with support to those sectors.

c. That the FY2024/25 budget be completely overhauled. This is to allow the budget to be prepared afresh in accordance with the Constitution and budget laws. The new budget must be prepared based on zero budgeting model with realistic revenue targets and be balanced. In order to realize this budget cutting and drastically reduce government expenditures following measures are critical: first, National government Ministries, departments and agencies must be fundamentally restructured reformed and aligned to accord with and respect devolved system of governance to remove duplication and wasteful allocations. Second, Financial delinquency must end by scrapping all illegal unconstitutional offices, illegal public funds allocations to amorphous illegal offices, and removal or consolidation of scattered sectoral funds including unconstitutional NG-CDF. Finally, government consumption expenditure must be radically cut and rationalized with every budget item allocation justified with evidence.

d. That Kenya government seriously consider entering into part of the bonds and loans debt restructuring negotiations for a minimum period of 5 years. It is no longer tenable to rely only on fiscal adjustments with supplementing funding from IMF and World Bank. This part restructuring will significantly address the debt burden and restore path to debt sustainability and economic stability.

e. That radical reforms to overhaul and change National Treasury. Treasury is conflicted. It has been graveyard a fiscal and budget discipline including overseeing budget padding. An independent Budget Office must be established from the National Treasury.

f. That a new predictable, competitive and certain tax policy be adopted. The tax policy must be of minimum three years.

Worth Noting:

- The country's economic crisis is consequent of fiscal profligacy financed by borrowed and stolen unexplained and illegal debt. The economy has reached its limit due to decades of low productivity growth, significant private sector investments reduction, public investments budgeted for stealing, history of declined exports and terrible government expenditures that are beyond its means.

- Thus to adopt a tax revenue raising measures only as solution is grossly defeatist. There has to be a comprehensive debt audit combined with radical fiscal policy reforms anchored on revenue increases and radical government expenditure rationalization to reduce fiscal deficits and deep growth enhancing structural reforms.



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Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
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Rights Issues In Kenya: A Comprehensive Guide To Process, Regulations, And Implications



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Rights issues are a common method for companies to raise additional capital by offering existing shareholders the opportunity to purchase new shares at a discounted price. In Kenya, this process is regulated by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and involves several steps before, during, and after the issue.

Before initiating a rights issue, Kenyan companies must first obtain approval from their board of directors and shareholders. This typically involves holding a general meeting to pass the necessary resolutions. The company must then prepare a detailed information memorandum or prospectus, which outlines the terms of the rights issue, including the number of new shares to be issued, the price, and the rights ratio.

Once the internal approvals are in place, the company must submit its application to the CMA for review and approval. This application includes the draft information memorandum, financial statements, and other relevant documents. The CMA scrutinizes these materials to ensure compliance with regulations and to protect investor interests.

After receiving CMA approval, the company announces the rights issue to the public through various media channels. This announcement typically includes key dates such as the book closure date, which determines the shareholders eligible to participate in the rights issue.

During the rights issue period, eligible shareholders receive their rights, which they can choose to exercise, trade on the secondary market, or let lapse. The company and its appointed advisors manage the subscription process, collecting payments and applications from shareholders who wish to participate.

Following the closure of the rights issue, the company allocates the new shares to subscribers and processes any refunds for oversubscriptions. The new shares are then listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), and the company submits a post-issue report to the CMA detailing the results of the rights issue.

Throughout this process, Kenyan companies must adhere to various regulations set by the CMA and the NSE. These include disclosure requirements, pricing guidelines, and

timelines for each stage of the rights issue. Companies must also ensure fair treatment of all shareholders and maintain transparency in their communications.

Rights issues offer several advantages to Kenyan companies. First and foremost, equity offerings present a financially advantageous means to procure capital when juxtaposed against alternative methods like traditional bank loans or the complexities associated with public offerings. The rationale behind this lies in the fact that the company engages directly with its current shareholders, individuals who possess an intimate understanding of the company's ongoing activities, its future potential, and its underlying trajectory.

By leveraging this pre-existing relationship, the company can minimize the costs typically associated with acquiring funds through more conventional channels. This approach not only streamlines the process of capital acquisition but also mitigates the administrative burden and regulatory hurdles often encountered in public market transactions.

Furthermore, the familiarity between the company and its shareholders fosters a sense of mutual trust and confidence, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency and speed of the fundraising endeavor. Consequently, the company can allocate resources that would otherwise be spent on navigating external financial markets towards bolstering its core operations and strategic initiatives. Ultimately, this synergistic alignment between the company and its existing shareholders underscores the inherent advantages of equity offerings as a pivotal mechanism for securing capital in a cost-effective and expedient manner.

Secondly, rights issues serve as a crucial mechanism for companies to raise capital while preserving their current ownership structure. By offering existing shareholders the opportunity to purchase additional shares at a specified price and

in proportion to their existing holdings, companies can ensure that all shareholders have an equal chance to participate in the new issuance. This proportional participation helps maintain the balance of ownership, preventing dilution for shareholders who opt to exercise their rights. This aspect is particularly advantageous as it allows companies to garner funds without significantly altering the ownership dynamics, thereby maintaining stability and continuity in shareholder influence and control over corporate decisions.

Rights issues are viewed favorably by investors because they offer a clear and equitable method for raising capital. Unlike other forms of equity financing that might dilute existing shareholders' stakes by issuing shares to new investors at potentially lower prices, rights issues respect the interests of current shareholders by giving them priority in purchasing new shares. This not only fosters a sense of fairness and transparency but also enhances investor confidence in the company's management. By leveraging rights issues, companies can strategically bolster their financial resources while upholding shareholder trust and minimizing the risk of discontent or resistance from existing investors who might otherwise object to dilution of their ownership stake. Overall, rights issues stand out as a prudent financial strategy that harmonizes the interests of companies and their shareholders, promoting both capital growth and investor satisfaction in the long term.

Thirdly, the issuance of rights can be interpreted as a favorable indicator within the market ecosystem, conveying a robust vote of confidence from the company's leadership regarding its forthcoming trajectory and a steadfast commitment to augmenting its operational capacities. This strategic move underscores a pivotal moment wherein management demonstrates unwavering belief in the company's prospective growth avenues and affirms its

dedication to fortifying existing infrastructures. By opting for a rights issue, companies broadcast a resolute message to stakeholders and investors alike, asserting a definitive stance on leveraging additional resources to propel future expansion initiatives. Such actions are often perceived as a strategic maneuver reflective of management's proactive approach to capitalizing on burgeoning opportunities and navigating potential challenges with a calculated foresight, thereby bolstering the company's overall market positioning and enhancing shareholder confidence in the process.

The decision to undertake a rights issue serves as a tangible manifestation of the company's forward-thinking strategy, underscoring a proactive stance toward harnessing growth potentials and solidifying its operational footprint. This deliberate step not only showcases management's astuteness in capital deployment but also signifies a willingness to fortify the company's financial framework, thereby fostering a resilient platform for sustained development. By opting for a rights issue, companies can effectively mobilize additional capital in a controlled manner, enabling them to explore new avenues for expansion, bolster research and development initiatives, or even pursue strategic acquisitions. Such deliberate actions resonate strongly within the investment community, instilling a sense of assurance regarding the company's ability to navigate market dynamics and capitalize on emerging opportunities with a disciplined approach.

The issuance of rights can be perceived as a strategic maneuver aimed at fortifying the company's balance sheet and enhancing its liquidity profile, thereby positioning it favorably amidst evolving market conditions. This proactive approach underscores management's commitment to fortifying the company's financial resilience and ensuring adequate resources are in place to support fu-

ture growth initiatives. Moreover, by opting for a rights issue, companies can effectively bolster their financial flexibility, enabling them to pursue ambitious growth strategies without compromising existing operational capabilities. Such initiatives are often indicative of a proactive management style that prioritizes long-term sustainability and value creation, thereby resonating positively with investors and stakeholders who perceive such actions as a testament to the company's strategic foresight and commitment to enhancing shareholder value over the long haul.

However, rights issues are not without their critics. One common criticism is that they can put pressure on shareholders to invest additional funds or face dilution of their ownership stake. This can be particularly challenging for smaller investors who may not have the means to participate fully. If a shareholder does not exercise their rights, their proportional ownership in the company will decrease as new shares are issued.

Another criticism is that rights issues can sometimes be seen as a sign of financial distress, especially if a company frequently turns to this method of fundraising. This perception can negatively impact the company's stock price and investor sentiment. Investors may view repeated rights issues as a red flag, questioning the company's ability to generate sufficient cash flow from operations to fund its growth and operations.

Lastly, some critics argue that the discounted price offered in rights issues can lead to a temporary depression in the stock's market value, potentially harming shareholders who do not participate. The discounted subscription price represents a cost to shareholders, which is avoided to the extent a shareholder exercises their rights to subscribe for their pro-rata entitlements to new shares. However, any shareholder who does not fully participate in the offer would suffer dilution to their investment, as the value of the discount would be transferred to underwriters and other shareholders taking up those rights to subscribe to new shares.

Despite these criticisms, rights issues remain a popular tool for companies to raise capital, particularly when they are seeking to reduce debt or fund growth opportunities. However, companies must balance the need for additional capital with the potential negative impact on existing shareholders. Careful consideration should be given to the subscription price, the intended use of proceeds, and the potential dilution impact on non-participating shareholders.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meet Campus Students Juggling Motherhood And Studies



Student mothers interviewed for the research paper about their experiences of institutional culture at UCT reported receiving some support, but said it wasn't consistent. Photo Michael Hammond..

By **Victor Ouko**

As the world continues to move towards a more inclusive society, the role of women has evolved significantly. Women are now taking on more leadership roles, pursuing higher education, and even balancing the demands of motherhood with the pursuit of their education.

For many, it is a daily struggle and a challenge that they are determined to overcome but for the campus mothers, it's a way of life. Depression aside, the moment they face reality that they are soon going to become parents, everything changes so abruptly and stigma hits even harder. Things sound much worse if at all they were raised by harsh or strict parents. They gradually begin losing the courage of facing their parents or guardians and to some, the family gap starts widening. Some automatically feel like they are a disgrace to their families and the society at large.

Many a time's parents always find themselves in a critical state of joy and sorrow whenever their children qualify to join campus. For many reasons, they tend to make a series of congratulatory notes, buy gifts and even host celebrations. Relatives get notified about the success of their nephews and nieces and they even initiate them with names such as: 'daktari' or 'rubani'. That takes the joyful part of it, forgetting that their sons and daughters can

as well push them to a sorrowful end full of regrets. Rarely do they remember that they are in the realm of getting surprised with poor grades or a grandchild from their children on campus. That notwithstanding, being a campus mother is no easy feat. While most college students are worried about their grades, exams, and social lives, student parents have to juggle between academic responsibilities and parenting duties, often feeling overwhelmed and isolated. Many university students often find themselves in the family way after conception and they begin thinking of better ways of raising their children after delivery. However, the challenges faced by parents on campus is an issue that should never be understated.

Marion, 21, a student at Rongo University narrates her painful story of how she got pregnant immediately after joining campus. For Marion, the struggle of balancing motherhood and studies was a constant battle. Marion had enrolled in a degree program after her secondary education, determined to provide a better life for her family. However, her plans were interrupted when she unexpectedly became pregnant with her firstborn child. "I was barely 19 when I realized I had conceived. At first, I thought my periods were playing a trick on me but after two months, I decided to go for a pregnancy test so as to be sure of my weird condition. Under close supervision

of my friend, we took the self-test kit and eventually the results turned out to be positive. I felt like I could lose my mind because I had graduated into another stage in life. That I will soon have a kid. I immediately took a shot of the results and sent it to my boyfriend who was also a student in another university. I kept checking my phone for any response, but there was none. I tried to reach out for him only to find out that he had blocked me. He then responded to my WhatsApp message the next day and all he could say was, 'OK'. That reply was a clear indication that I was alone in this. I really couldn't understand what he meant by that, whether he had accepted the pregnancy or he could deny it. We stayed for two weeks without any communication. He later called me and suggested, no, insisted on taking an abortion. That alone shocked more than amazed me. I fell into a depression stage for two months. All I did was to cry everyday whenever it crossed my mind that I was expectant. Rarely did I eat. I was in a dilemma, I lost weight, became an introvert and had low self-esteem. The main puzzle was how I could face my furious father with the news that he least expected," says Marion.

Marion was overjoyed to have a child, but the reality of being a student parent was overwhelming. She had to attend classes, complete assignments, and take exams while taking care of her child's needs. Marion often found herself staying up late into the night, trying to complete her coursework while her child slept. Despite her efforts, Marion's grades suffered, and she found herself struggling to keep up with her classmates. She felt like she was failing both as a student and as a mother, and the stress and anxiety were taking a toll on her mental health.

Marion was not alone in her struggles. Across campus, other campus mothers were facing similar challenges. They too had to deal with the guilt of not being able to spend enough time with their children while trying to complete their degrees. They had to sacrifice their leisure time to meet their obligations, often feeling like they were missing out on the college experience.

Being a campus student, she tried all she could to take good care of herself and the fact that she had strict parents made her reveal her pregnancy two weeks before delivery. This becomes a challenge to most girls who stumble along their academic journey and some opt to keep off from home.

"I called my dad on the very day of delivery just to keep him informed be-

cause he had been mad at me since the day I broke the news to him. However, I developed complications after giving birth. I faced several challenges having given birth for the first time. I didn't know what to do whenever the baby cried, I was in a quandary because different people advised me differently so I couldn't take sides. I did not attend classes for two months since I had not fully recovered, at times some lecturers threatened that I would retake the course due to prolonged absenteeism because there was no daycare facility around," Marion reveals.

Through the support of her fellow campus mothers, Marion found the strength to keep going. She began to attend study groups with other student parents, sharing tips and tricks on how to balance academics and parenting. She also began to take advantage of the university's support systems, which helped to ease some of the burden of motherhood and studies.

According to Mr Benson Asugo, the Dean of students at Rongo University, "we are concerned about the academic life as well as the students' lives outside class. We don't hesitate offering solutions if our students are getting weighed down with personal and emotional issues such as health, accommodation, catering and general welfare that can interfere with their studies. However, many girls fall pregnant in the course of their studies and this interferes with their academics. Some are forced to retake courses whereas some fail to finish school but the office of the dean is primarily concerned with students' welfare from the time they enter into the university to the time they graduate," he says.

Despite these challenges, Marion was determined to pursue her studies and provide a better life for her family. She found creative ways to balance academic and parenting responsibilities, such as studying at night after her child has gone to bed or bringing her child to class with her.

"I was at times forced to introduce my child to bottle milk at a tender age because I could attend part time classes for long hours which translated to other expenses because the kid could have diarrhea after consuming the bottle milk. This was a challenge to me because I had no money to cater for my child's hospital bills since my boyfriend had neglected his responsibility and I was forced to ask for financial aid from people who were also not willing to help back at home," remarks Marion.

Mr Tobias Maina (not his real name),

a medical expert, reveals his experience with students who seek services at the school facility. "At our university clinic, we have seen the firsthand challenges faced by campus mothers. These challenges can have impacts on their health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

One of the most significant challenges faced by campus mothers is the lack of access to affordable childcare. This can lead to stress, anxiety, and sleep deprivation, all of which can have a negative impact on a mother's physical and mental health. Many campus mothers also struggle with financial constraints, which can make it difficult for them to access healthcare services and support systems.

Another challenge is the lack of support from family members and partners. This can lead to social isolation and feelings of loneliness, which can also have a negative impact on mental health. Additionally, the stigma associated with motherhood and education can lead to feelings of shame and inadequacy, which can also impact a mother's self-esteem and overall wellbeing," he says.

Responding to another question during the interview, Tobias had the following to say, "Universities can take several steps to better support campus mothers. For example, they can create support groups and mentorship programs for campus mothers to help them connect with other mothers facing similar challenges. Additionally, they can work to reduce the stigma associated with motherhood and education by promoting a culture of inclusivity and support for all students, regardless of their parenting status. Overall, it is essential for universities to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by campus mothers and provide the necessary support and resources to help them achieve academic success while maintaining their health and wellbeing."

As the semester drew to a close, Marion looked back at her journey with a sense of pride and accomplishment. She had overcome the challenges of motherhood and studies, proving that anything is possible with hard work and determination. While the journey was tough, the lessons she learned and the connections she made with other campus mothers were invaluable. Marion now looks forward to the future, confident that she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

Food Foresight Transformation Systems For Food Programme

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The Food Foresight Transformation Systems (FFTS) programme is collaborating with Nakuru county government in planning strategies for the future food structures in the county.

The Head of Food Foresight Ms. Joyce Nyamweya while speaking at a Nakuru hotel Thursday said the platform aimed at creating a proactive approach to addressing future food related challenges by ensuring that policies and strategies were better aligned with long-term goals and were adaptable to changing circumstances.

She said Foresight for food refers to the systematic exploration of future scenarios and trends in the food system to anticipate and prepare for potential challenges and opportunities.

She said the approach involved understanding the complex interplay of factors such as population, policy

changes that impact food production, distribution and consumption.

Ms. Nyamweya noted that it's important to develop multiple plausible future scenarios to explore how different factors might interact and impact the food system in the country.

Emphasizing the importance of trend analysis, she said the current developments that could influence the future of food were consumer preferences, advancements in agriculture technology, and shifts in global trade patterns.

She observed that involving a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, scientists, and consumers would assist the experts in gathering diverse perspectives and insights.

Also, she said evaluating the potential impacts of different scenarios on food security, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and economic visibility was of paramount importance for the future security of the country.

Giving an example of Nakuru County, she said it heavily relied on smallholder farmers, who contributed a



Joyce Nyamweya

great percentage of the county's food supply. However, crop yields have consistently fallen below population requirements in the recent past, she

noted. Chief Officer for Resource Mobilization Ms. Alice Abuki, who represented the county highlighted the

importance of foresight analysis in building resilience and improving decision-making processes.

Losses After Gen Zs Destroyed Laikipia County Assembly, Stole Crucial Gadgets

By: MURIMI WANJIKU
@themkenyatimes

As thousands of youths stormed Parliament on Tuesday protesting over the draconian Finance Bill 2024/2025, some of them invaded Laikipia County Assembly where they destroyed the facility and stole a number of key items.

Speaking to the media in his Nanyuki town office, Laikipia County Assembly Speaker Lantano Nabaala said irate youths, terming themselves as Gen Zs, stormed the premises during the protests and damaged it by hurling stones.

Nabaala said the protesters further destroyed vehicles belonging to MCAs and staff before storming into the House's chambers where they destroyed several items.

The Speaker was inside his office when hundreds of youths invaded the facility and damaged a Hansard system which cost Sh60 million and a CCTV system that cost Sh35 million. He said the entire estimated damage is about Sh150 million.

"All electronic gadgets were stolen.



Laikipia County Assembly chambers in Nanyuki town. Protesters stormed the facility, damaged and stole properties. PHOTO BY MURIMI WANJIKU.

"We have deployed teams that are probing this incident, and they will come up with the total loss incurred. A loss of over Sh150 million was a huge loss for the people of Laikipia and the people's representatives who had no hand in the Finance Bill which was being rejected," Nabaala said.

At the same time, a section of youths in Nanyuki town have raised an outcry, accusing Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri for allegedly threatening them over the Tuesday's

protests that led to massive destruction of premises.

Patrick Wahome alleged that the lawmaker had called him via his mobile phone, making unspecified consequences for leading the protests over the Finance Bill.

Wahome, who was flanked by several youth leaders, said he had reported the matter at Nanyuki police station.

The youths claimed they had severally received threats for rejecting the Bill that was fronted by President



Laikipia County Assembly Speaker Lantano Nabaala addressing the media in his Nanyuki town office. PHOTOS BY MURIMI WANJIKU

William Ruto's administration.

"It is unacceptable for a leader, whom we respect, to threaten us for airing our views over the Finance Bill. This regime must protect us instead of threatening us and our families," Wahome said.

Former Laikipia East MP Mutahi Kimaru called on President Ruto to hearken to the protesting youths and also focus on lowering the cost of living.

Kimaru said the dissenting voices

raised by Kenyans should inform the Kenya Kwanza administration to learn to listen to its electorates before making crucial decisions affecting them.

"We are glad that our President decided to backtrack on his stance over the controversial Bill. Now, we want him and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua to unite

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To Thrive, Digital Transformation Must Take Precedence In The Insurance Industry



By: Fred Ruoro

@themtkenyatimes



CIC General Insurance

Worth Noting:

- Mobile phone penetration which stands at 62.96 million as of last year, translating to a device penetration rate of 124.5% where smartphones account for 58.3% and feature phones (better known as Kabambes) being 66.2% can play a big role in enhancing the new mode of insurance products consumption.
- Digital transformation can also significantly improve operational efficiency within the insurance industry. Introducing automated systems, reducing administrative costs and improving the speed and accuracy of policy issuance, claims processing, and customer service could significantly improve service delivery and hence increase the uptake.
- This not only benefits insurance companies potentially increasing their profitability but also enhances the overall customer experience, leading to greater satisfaction and retention.

In Kenya, as in many parts of the world, the insurance sector is fundamentally revered as a provider of financial security and stability to individuals and businesses alike. However, despite its importance, the industry has often been perceived as a slow adopter of new technologies in favour of its traditional modus operandi.

To truly expand and thrive in the post pandemic era, it is imperative that the Kenyan insurance industry embraces digital transformation and innovation in line with evolving consumer patterns.

According to the 2023 Economic Survey by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya's insurance penetration rate is at 2.3%. This differs in comparison to regional leaders like South Africa at 10 percent and is below the global average of seven percent, highlighting an urgent need for a paradigm shift in favour of deployment of new technologies.

The 2024 Insurance Outlook report by Deloitte further underscores this seismic shift with artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud technology identified as key drivers in amplifying operational efficiencies and catalysing innovation in product development.

One of the primary benefits of embracing digitisation is the potential to reach previously underserved or untapped markets.

By harnessing technology, insurance companies can extend their reach to everyone in urban to remote areas and offer microinsurance products tailored to people in the low-income bracket.

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Digital transformation can also significantly improve operational efficiency within the insurance industry. Introducing automated systems, reducing administrative costs and improving the speed and accuracy of policy issuance, claims processing, and customer service could significantly improve service delivery and hence increase the uptake.

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retention.

Moreover, technology enhances risk management and fraud detection mechanism. Through advanced analytics and machine learning algorithms, insurers can mitigate fraud claims, minimizing their losses and enhancing the integrity of their operations, ultimately leading to a more sustainable sector.

However, for technology and digitisation efforts to truly transform the Kenyan insurance industry, there is need for concerted efforts from all stakeholders.

Insurance companies must be willing to invest in technology infrastructure and talent development to build the capabilities necessary to drive digital transformation. Recently, CIC Group announced investments towards digital technological upgrades this year.

Part of this investment went towards the launch of a digital motor insurance cover dubbed Easy Bima. The product was informed by the needs of customers seeking a flexible comprehensive motor insurance cover. This service has been made possible through technology with clients having the option of paying an equal monthly premium spread across twelve months.

Additionally, collaboration between underwriters and industry players is essential to foster innovation and drive the adoption of new technologies. This will create an enabling environment to not only increase the uptake of insurance solutions but also enhance efficiency which will benefit entities within the ecosystem.

In conclusion, the future of the Kenyan insurance industry lies in embracing digital transformation and innovation. By leveraging technology to reach new markets, improve operational efficiency, enhance risk management, and foster innovation, insurers can position themselves for long-term success in an increasingly digital world.

The writer is the Managing Director of CIC General Insurance Limited.

Kenya Christian Lawyers Fellowship Calls for Urgent Reforms in Governance



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

KENYA CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP



Worth Noting:

- KCLF supports the President's call for a National Dialogue, urging it to be a representative process that addresses fundamental issues beyond the Finance Bill
- Following reports of unaccounted individuals during recent protests, KCLF calls for a transparent process to report and locate missing persons.
- KCLF demands financial and institutional support for those injured during demonstrations and for bereaved families.
- Acknowledging concerns over excessive force by police, KCLF urges a special investigation by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), Kenya Human Rights Commission, and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).
- KCLF calls for a reorganization of the government, suggesting that new faces and fresh ideas are needed to restore public confidence and deliver the promises of the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto.

The Kenya Christian Lawyers Fellowship (KCLF) has issued a comprehensive statement addressing the current state of the nation, urging urgent reforms to address public discontent and improve governance. The KCLF commends young Kenyans for their aspirations and demands for accountability in managing national resources, and they acknowledge the government's recent change of stance on the Finance Bill 2024, following President William Ruto's speech on June 26, 2024.

"The Finance Bill 2024 was a symptom that galvanized a sentiment of dissatisfaction in our systems of governance," KCLF stated. They emphasized that the nation's young leaders are pushing for substantive change and good governance.

Key Action Points

1. Transformation through National Dialogue:

KCLF supports the President's call for a National Dialogue, urging it to be a representative process that

addresses fundamental issues beyond the Finance Bill. They propose forming a task force to tackle social and economic challenges affecting the youth. This dialogue must be concrete, with clear rules of engagement, allowing all voices to be heard and followed by actionable steps.

2. Accounting for Missing Persons:

Following reports of unaccounted individuals during recent protests, KCLF calls for a transparent process to report and locate missing persons. They stress the involvement of human rights organizations as observers to ensure transparency and accountability. The National Security Council, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, and the National Police Service should establish a helpline and guidelines for response.

3. Support for the Injured and Bereaved Families:

KCLF demands financial and institutional support for those injured

during demonstrations and for bereaved families. They suggest coordinating with county governments and relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health, to provide free medical services and support to the affected families.

4. Inquiry into Police Actions:

Acknowledging concerns over excessive force by police, KCLF urges a special investigation by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), Kenya Human Rights Commission, and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK). They emphasize the need for a proper audit report to be presented to the nation, holding unprofessional officers accountable while commending those who acted professionally.

5. Change the Face of Government:

KCLF calls for a reorganization of the government, suggesting that new faces and fresh ideas are needed to restore public confidence and

deliver the promises of the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto. They urge the President to consider dropping the appointment of Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs) and reorganizing key leadership positions to enhance goodwill from the public.

6. Bold Economic Stimulus Program:

To spur economic transformation and job creation, especially for the youth, KCLF recommends tax incentives for Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), attracting foreign investment, and establishing a dream team of progressive business minds. They highlight the need for a robust investment program to create new jobs and provide young Kenyans with opportunities.

7. Identifying Quick Wins:

Immediate issues, such as the funding model for university education and the need for a permanent dialogue forum between current and emerging leaders, need urgent attention. KCLF suggests adopting technology for traffic law administration, introducing compliance profiling legislation, and creating an efficient feedback mechanism for government services.

The KCLF concludes with a call for the government to reintroduce a meritocratic welfare system for university students, establish mentorship programs, and create an efficient feedback mechanism for government services.

"God bless Kenya, God bless our Young Leaders," the statement concludes, emphasizing hope for a brighter future through these proposed reforms. The KCLF believes that these actions will help Kenya navigate its current challenges and set a foundation for sustainable growth and good governance.



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Accelerating Food Systems Implementation in the IGAD Region

Facilitating the Sharing of Best practices between Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan, Strengthening Alignment with Regional Commitments, and Accelerating National and Regional Implementation

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatomes

Background: Following, and in line with, the commitments made at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) High-level Ministerial meeting held in October 2022, IGAD, the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) – Technical Support Unit and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition carried out consultative missions to Ethiopia and Somalia with the aims of identifying key priorities and areas of coordinated support to the governments to strengthen and accelerate the operationalization of national food systems pathways. Building on these missions, a two-day workshop in Naivasha, Kenya and a Ministerial meeting in Nairobi, Kenya were held from June 26-28 to exchange perspectives and jointly identify common ways forward, while reaffirming high-level national commitments. The meeting convened senior experts and policy makers from Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan. The meeting was carried out against the following objectives:

- Facilitate the sharing of good practice and knowledge exchange between Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan
- Consolidate a harmonized and coordinated approach to food systems strengthening in line with regional commitments – this includes the identification of successful actions that can be replicated within the region and highlighting remaining common challenges or bottlenecks that need to be addressed to accelerate implementation
- Identify common priorities to accelerate food systems transformation across Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan and ensure that progress in taking forward these priorities is anchored in appropriate global, regional and national support mechanisms
- Secure Ministerial Approval: Obtain official validation and endorsement of the identified priorities and corresponding activities during the two-day technical meeting to ensure progress is anchored in



FAO Resilience Team Leader for Eastern Africa Cyril Ferrand, IGAD Head of Mission in Kenya Dr. Fatuma Adan and EU Delegation Kenya Programme Manager Stephen Wathome share thoughts during the IGAD Ministerial Meeting on identifying common opportunities and gaps in implementing and accelerating sustainable national pathways for food security systems transformation in the IGAD Region..

high-level political support.

Therefore, we, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations from IGAD Member States comprised of Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan having met in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, on June 28, 2024, on the occasion of the high-level regional meeting, reaffirm our commitment to strengthen and accelerate national and regional efforts to address the prevalent food insecurity in the region, while pursuing longer-term development efforts that enhance the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable communities;

Appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the conference delegates by the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya, as well as the efforts being made to address food crises in the context of the commitments made by the Member States, IGAD, and development partners;

Further appreciate the initiative taken by IGAD through its Climate

Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and the support provided by the Global Network against Food Crises (GNAFC) to bring together delegates and regional-level partners from the IGAD Member States to share a collective understanding of the regional food insecurity, its evolving dimensions and drivers.

Recognize the scale of the challenges at hand, as recent data indicates that approximately 24% of the population in East Africa faced significant food insecurity in 2023[1]. Among this group, more than 12 million individuals were categorized as being in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with an additional 80,000 individuals expected to reach Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Somalia and South Sudan. Between April and June 2024, it is projected that more than 7 million individuals in South Sudan and over 3 million in Somalia will face severe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher) [2]. Likewise, an estimated 16 million people in Ethi-

opia are expected to need emergency food assistance in 2024 (Ibid).

Acknowledge that the persistent food crises are worsened by systemic risks and a range of contributing factors, including conflict-induced displacement and climate-related and economic shocks at national, regional, and global scales.

Further, acknowledge that these combined factors lead to fragile food systems which adversely affect the socio-economic wellbeing and long-term development of the countries and populations in the region.

Appreciate the role of the HDP Nexus principles in food systems transformation through inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement, national ownership, multi-sectoral coordination and people-centered approaches, and hereby;

1. Declare our joint commitment to regional and national capacity-building that translates strategic policy commitments into actionable results that promote sustainable food

systems and the prevention of food and nutrition crises.

2. Encourage efforts to extend national-level progress in food systems strengthening to sub-national levels through an inclusive approach that prioritizes the needs of those most vulnerable to and affected by food and nutrition crises.

3. Reaffirm national leadership, supporting coordination and harmonizing ministerial priorities and translating these priorities into national development planning frameworks.

4. Urge IGAD and partners to initiate the development of a regional (IGAD) food systems communications strategy to sustain high-level political support, at the national, regional, and global levels.

5. Commit to further strengthening coordination mechanisms within government and between government and key stakeholders, to prioritize regional and national needs, and continue to highlight longer-term investment and building resilience.

6. Commit to the building of data management solutions that reference accurate, updated data, and employ monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) frameworks, consolidating relevant analysis through the development of food systems dashboards and research products accessible at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

7. Recommend appropriate financing mechanisms to strengthen food systems, drawing on the full range of financing flows, including national budget allocation, development partners' resourcing priorities, and private sector investments.

8. Strive to ensure a strategic balance between humanitarian and development priorities, focusing on rehabilitation efforts, development, sustainable programming, and durable solutions that incorporate humanitarian-development-peace approaches and address food crises at their roots.

Sports >> *Walker-Peters, 27, who has two England caps, is entering the last year of his contract at St Mary's.

SPORTS NEWS

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West Ham Discuss Swap Deal For Southampton's Walker-Peters



Walker-Peters, 27, who has two England caps, is entering the last year of his contract at St Mary's. The former Tottenham full-back joined the Saints in 2020 and has played 167 games. He could become the Hammers' third signing of the transfer window after goalkeeper Wes Fod-

deringham and Brazilian winger Luis Guilherme. Downes, 25, who had a successful season on loan at Southampton as they earned promotion to the Premier League through the Championship Play-Off final against Leeds, could move in the other direction.

The negotiations are another example of a potential swap deal in the Premier League, which could help the financial position of both clubs, amid restrictive profit and sustainability regulations. Multiple similar deals involving Chelsea, Newcastle, Aston Villa, Leicester and Everton have been

discussed this week. It has turned the June 30 accounting deadline into a mini-transfer deadline day for clubs and incentivised the sale of academy players.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Double world record holder Faith Kipyegon will make a sensational return to the Meeting de Paris where she broke the 5000m world record last year

Kipyegon To Olympic Dry Run At Paris Diamond League



(FILES) Kenya's Faith Kipyegon reacts as she breaks the World record in the women's 5000m event during the IAAF Diamond League "Meeting de Paris" athletics meeting at the Charlety Stadium in Paris on June 9, 2023. (Photo by Jeff PACHOUD / AFP)

Double world record holder Faith Kipyegon will make a sensational return to the Meeting de Paris where she broke the 5000m world record last year after the Kenyan was confirmed for the eighth Diamond League of the season set for July 7.

Kipyegon will return to the scene of her 5000m world record where she will headline a sparkling array of world beaters, just a few weeks before attempting a historic 1500m three-peat triumph in the same city.

The 1500m and one-mile world record holder threw down the gauntlet earlier this month after easing to victory during the Summer Games trials held at Nyayo Stadium where she reigned supreme in 5000m and 1500m to

grab the two tickets.

Kipyegon clocked 14:05.20 to obliterate the 12-and-half-lap race record last year which was later broken by Gudaf Tsegay, but the Kenyan still ended the season as Diamond League champion, claiming her fourth career Diamond Trophy in the 1500m.

Remarkably, Kipyegon's record-breaking performance in the 5,000m came one week after she set a world record in the 1,500-meter event at the Florence Diamond League.

Kipyegon and Duplantis are among the six reigning world champions on the Paris entry lists, with Ukrainian high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh, Dominican Diamond League 400m champion Marileidy Paulino, Serbian long

jumper Ivana Vuleta and Bahraini steeplechaser Winfried Yavi also set to compete.

The Meeting de Paris will be an Olympic dress rehearsal for many of the sport's biggest names, with pole vault world record holder Mondo Duplantis and German long jump star Malaika Mihambo both already confirmed to compete at the Stade Charléty.

Yavi, who broke an Asian record on her way to the Diamond League title in Eugene last year, will go up against Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech, who has held the steeplechase world record since she clocked 8:44.32 at the Monaco Diamond League back in 2018.

Additional material sourced from Diamond League website.

Citizen Sports

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Kirabo Writes Magazine: Review Of Climate Action Poems



By: Nagwere Gerald
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

In "The Blades of the Mighty Sword" by Emmanuel Tumwesigye, he artfully employs symbols and personification to paint an image of how man has recklessly destroyed the environment. Phrases such as "...gases of anger...", "...the soil is running mad...", "...the wetland is crying...", and "... shamelessly shaving the earth..." altogether depict how much harm is doing to the environment, which in the long run gravely affects climate.

To the climax of this SDG (Climate Action) in Kirabo Writes Magazine is Samuel Atwijukire's poem, "The Voice", in which he personifies a 'grieving tree' (which represents the environment as a whole). This disillusioned tree laments of how man "And his tools" have brought to an end its siblings (other trees and nature): stanza two.



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Kirabo Writes Magazine

Reviewed by: Nagwere Gerald (nagwereg@gmail.com)

I have known Owembabazi Bennitah (Kirabo Writes) for her unwavering passion for art, poetry in particular. It's undoubtedly this passion that has led to her founding of Kirabo Writes Magazine. In the magazine's first issue, Owembabazi brings together several passionate African writers who artfully weave words on different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among these SDGs is Climate Action which is well painted in poetry, by four different poets.

Richmond Peters' "Living World", I would call it a melody, is curated with a rhythm which lulls the beauty and the imperativeness of the environment. The vividly rich apostrophe employed by Peters' adds a sweet flavour to the melodious tone of the poem which gets the reader

stuck in love with the beauty of the world, and the importance of such beauty. Despite its quite lengthy nature, Peters' artfully selected and simple diction hooks us to read the poem to the last dot thus undoubtedly appreciating the importance and the beauty of the environment, as painted herein.

However, the other poets who write the same environment show us a defiled image of Peters' beautiful world!

In "The Blades of the Mighty Sword" by Emmanuel Tumwesigye, he artfully employs symbols and personification to paint an image of how man has recklessly destroyed the environment. Phrases such as "...gases of anger...", "...the soil is running mad...", "...the wetland is crying...", and "... shamelessly shaving the earth..." altogether depict how much harm is doing to the

environment, which in the long run gravely affects climate.

To the climax of this SDG (Climate Action) in Kirabo Writes Magazine is Samuel Atwijukire's poem, "The Voice", in which he personifies a 'grieving tree' (which represents the environment as a whole). This disillusioned tree laments of how man "And his tools" have brought to an end its siblings (other trees and nature): stanza two. In the fourth stanza, the tree notes how it has loved the human race, and therefore needs care and adoration too. The sad tone used herein, and as summed up in the last stanza portrays how disillusioned nature is, about its survival from the indifferent human race.

Inasmuch as Samuel Atwijukire and Emmanuel Tumwesigye show us devastated nature, there's hope!

Ssekandi Jebri's "Isn't it sad...?" rhetoric questions in the poem,

"Traitor to the Planet" reawakens us to find answers to the harm man has done to nature. He gives us reassurance of what we benefit from a healthy environment. We just need to preserve it! With a sweet rhyme scheme employed in the poem, Ssekandi perfectly implores us to collectively take up the measures to save and protect nature.

With this rich exploration of the thirteenth Sustainable Development Goal, Climate Action (and of course others SDGs), I highly recommend the Kirabo Writes Magazine, just as its Junior editor, Godwin Mwanguzi notes; "listen to this young magazine, whose strong voices scream in our ears, give it the attention it deserves..."

You can get yourself your free e-copy of the Kirabo Writes Magazine by requesting for it via email at kirabowritesmagazine@gmail.com.