



Interior Principal Secretary Reaffirms That Police Reforms To Cost Sh108 Billion In Four Years
 The Kenyan government requires Sh108 billion to implement extensive reforms within the police force, prison services, and the National Youth Service (NYS). This financial estimate is part of the recommendations put forth by the Maraga task force, which identified 598 specific areas needing reform.

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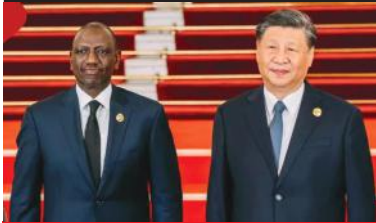
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News>> China-Kenya Cultural Exchange Flourishes with TV Programme Releases

P. 8. The enduring friendship between Kenya and China continues to thrive as the two nations maintain robust economic cooperation and cultural exchanges.



News>> Children Living With Disabilities Plant Trees At Karura Forest Marking World Environment Day 2024

P. 12. Karura forest on World Environment Day 2024 was host to some unique visitors who planted tree seedlings to mark the global event.

Finance Committee Pledges To Protect The Manufacturing Sector

 The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is keen to make Kenya a manufacturing country rather than a trading one, the chairperson Kimani Kuria has said.

Kuria made the assurance during engagements with various stakeholders who appeared before the committee to make submissions on the Finance Bill, 2024.



National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning chairperson Kimani Kuria

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National Assembly Passes Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024

By: PSCU



National Assembly .

Worth Noting:

- It authorizes the National Treasury to issue a KSh102.3 Billion out of the Consolidated Fund and apply it towards certain services before the financial year.
- “Honourable Speaker, A lot has changed when it comes to our interest rates. Therefore, we have had to revise our Cash Flow Statements (CFS) to reflect the current Dynamics in the interest rate market and the exchange rate Market for our financial obligations both domestically and externally,” declared Nyoro when substantiating the revision in the estimates.

The National Assembly has passed the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024 provides statutory authorization for public spending until the end of the month.

It is based on the Supplementary II Estimates of Expenditure for the current financial year and allocates funds for recurrent and development expenses.

The Act seeks to authorize the issuance of certain sums of money from the Consolidated Fund and apply it towards the service of the year ending 30th June and appropriated for certain public services and purposes.

It authorizes the National Treasury to issue a KSh102.3 Billion out of the Consolidated Fund and apply it towards cer-

tain services before the financial year.

“Honourable Speaker, A lot has changed when it comes to our interest rates. Therefore, we have had to revise our Cash Flow Statements (CFS) to reflect the current Dynamics in the interest rate market and the exchange rate Market for our financial obligations both domestically and externally,” declared Nyoro when substantiating the revision in the estimates.

“Generally speaking, in creating this Supplementary II, we are channeling funds to where the Kenyans are. That is why we have targeted agriculture through fertilizer allocation as well as giving money to the education sector, and the Security sector which is the core of any Government administration,” he added.

The Bill underwent first reading, second reading, Committee of the Whole House, and third read sequentially. This is after the House unanimously passed Nyoro’s motion to reduce the publication period from seven days to one day, in line with Standing Order 120 of the National Assembly.

During the third reading of the Bill, Tharaka MP and the Chairperson of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, George Murugara emphasized that Parliament was capable and ready to fulfill its key duties of representation, budgeting, and oversight.


“As the Government moves to execute what we have allocated to them, we as Parliament will be there to ensure that there is prudent utilization of public

Funds,” assured Murugara.

Seme MP, Dr James Nyikal in echoing sentiments made by the leader of the Majority Party Kimani Ichungw’ah called on the treasury to ensure that there is timely release from the exchequer to ensure that all appropriated funds are utilized as intended by the Supplement.

He further called on the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA’S) allocated Funds to ensure that they utilize the said funds fully or else they be sanctioned by Parliament.

Editor’s Desk




The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



A team working on the Implementation and Coordination Framework on the Chief Justice (Rtd) David Maraga Taskforce Report on Reforms in the National Police Service (NPS), Kenya Prisons Service (KPS), and the National Youth Service (NYS) has identified four strategic key areas for implementation. The team aims to provide an integrated approach to reform priorities and strengthen the three security agencies to deliver effective and efficient services to the citizenry. The four areas identified are leadership, oversight, and accountability, institutional capacity development, human resource management and development, and operational preparedness and logistical capacity. The strategic framework considers the Kenya Constitution, Kenya Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium-Term Plan 2023–2027, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the East Africa Community Vision 2050. The team will also implement modernization projects, automate human resource functions, enhance gender mainstreaming, prevent sexual harassment and gender-based violence, enforce professional standards, provide training, provide human rights protection, and develop comprehensive welfare policies.



Murang'a County Commissioner Joshua Nkanatha leads other national government administration officers to plant trees at Gatara Forest in Aberdares. Murang'a County aims to plant 134 million seedlings by 2032, with over six million seedlings already planted. The administrator has directed all local chiefs and their assistants to have tree nurseries within their areas of jurisdiction, saying officers from KFS will train them on how to establish the nurseries.

Narok County aims to plant over 2.5 million tree seedlings by the end of the year to conserve the environment. Governor Patrick Ntutu announced that 1.5 million trees have been grown in various parts of the county, thanks to development partners who collaborated with the county and national government. He encouraged residents to continue planting trees in their homes, schools, churches, and government offices to avoid mudslides and floods during heavy rain seasons. Narok County Commissioner Kipkech Lotiatia emphasised the need for tree nurseries in every location to help the government purchase tree seedlings.



The Vice Chairperson of the parliamentary committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity, Liz Chelule, has assured residents of Homabay County that their views will not be ignored by the National Assembly. Chelule, who is also the Women Representative for Nakuru County, assured the residents that their views would not be shot down by MPs. "Your views will not be shot down by MPs. We are a recognised committee; the findings of this committee will be respected, and that is why we are here; that is why we have come to collect your views," she said. The bill aims to ensure equity for Kenyans, citizens, people living with disabilities, youth, and tribes, aiming to unite the country. The committee was present at a public hearing on the national cohesion and integration bill.



The affordable housing project Thika town is 20 per cent complete, with seven out of the 16 floors already completed.

The project is expected to be completed by July next year, with more houses set to be constructed in the Starehe, Deport, and UTI estates.

Thika MP Alice Ng'ang'a and site engineer Miles Mwangi said the project is expected to be handed over to the government by July.

The project is expected to improve livelihoods by sourcing doors, windows, and timber from local carpenters and welders.

The legislator called on residents to take advantage of the project and own a house, stating that the demand is high and they need to register early.

Eng. Mwangi, while noting that they are on track to complete the project on time.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Residents Cry Foul As Houses Are Demolished For Road Construction

By: Karen Charo and Emmanuel Masha

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Act seeks to authorize the issuance of certain sums of money from the Consolidated Fund and apply it towards the service of the year ending 30th June and appropriated for certain public services and purposes.
- It authorizes the National Treasury to issue a KSh102.3 Billion out of the Consolidated Fund and apply it towards certain services before the financial year.



Scores of Maweni residents in Malindi town, Kilifi County, are crying foul after their houses were demolished to pave the way for the construction of a road.

The residents claimed that they had not been given adequate notice to vacate the land earmarked for the construction of the road from Pentagon area to the Jesus Cares Centre (JCC) church.

Some said they had lived in the area for more than 30 years, and had been promised that they would be relocated to an alternative land, something the Kilifi County Government had not done prior to the demolition.

They watched in disbelief as the permanent and semi-permanent structures were being demolished by bulldozers while others made frantic efforts to salvage their property to avoid more

losses.

Balozi Raphael Ramadhani, a resident, said they were not aware that the land on which they had constructed their houses had been earmarked for construction of the road and added that they had agreed with the authorities to be relocated to either Shakahola or near the Malindi Garbage Dumpsite in Mayungu area.

“This issue started during the Moi era. During the Kibaki era, then Malindi Member of Parliament Gideon Mung’aro (now Kilifi Governor) promised that we would be given alternative land, but now we do not know what is going on,” he lamented.

He pleaded with the county government to keep their promises and give them alternative land that they had agreed on.

Julia Mapenzi, who owns a palm

wine joint (mangwe) in the area said more than 50 women had been affected by the demolition and pleaded with Malindi Member of Parliament Amina Laura Mnyazi to come to their aid.

“This place has been holding more than 50 single mothers who are taking care of their families. We have loans to settle. Where are we going to get money to pay for our children’s school fees?” lamented Mapenzi.

Fredrick Ngumbao, a resident, said that county government officials had earlier identified land measuring nine metres wide for the construction of the road and wondered why after the work had commenced, the authorities decided to increase the road’s size to thirty metres.

“What is more painful is that we were not given adequate time to remove our items, and as I speak, the bulldozer

is destroying a lot of our household goods,” he lamented.

Efforts to contact the Malindi Sub County Administrator, Mr. Dadu Chome, were fruitless as he did not pick calls.

However, a representative of Shella Ward Member of County Assembly Twahir Abdulkarim said the residents had been duly informed of the intention to build a road in the area and that public participation was carried out before the commencement of the project.

He explained that initially, the contractor had started work on private land and had to be stopped so that the correction was cleared for work to resume.

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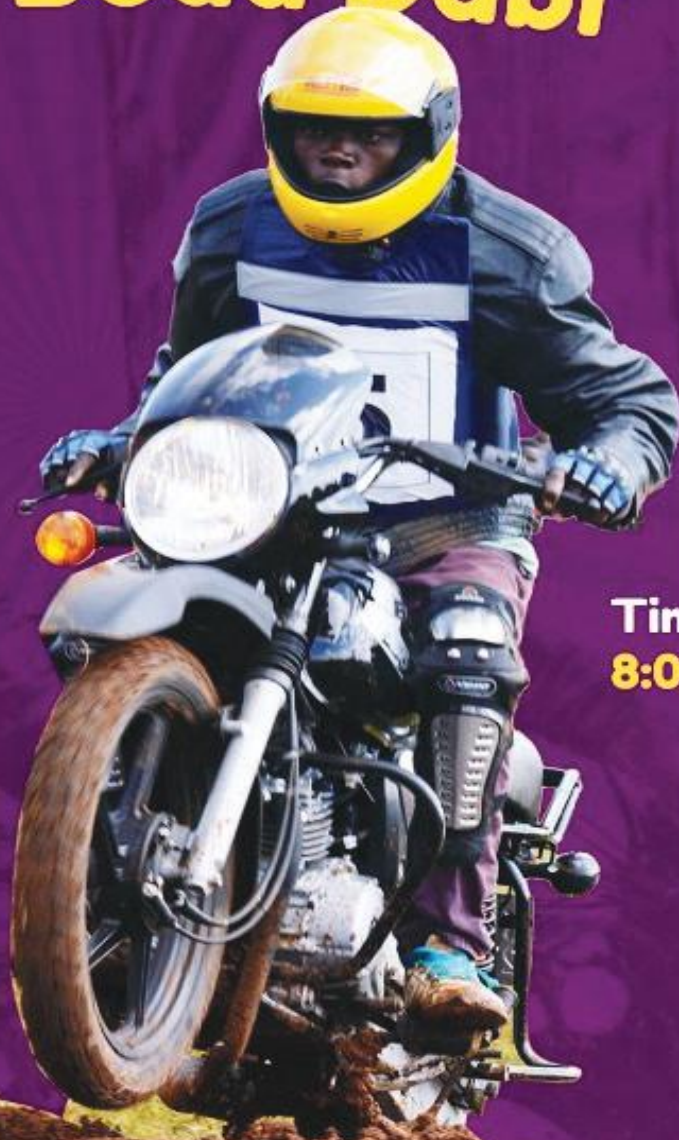


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China-Kenya Cultural Exchange Flourishes with TV Programme Releases

By: MKT Correspondents

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The enduring friendship between Kenya and China continues to thrive as the two nations maintain robust economic cooperation and cultural exchanges.

In recent years, Kenya's rapid development has been enhanced by learning from other nations, including China, whose film and television productions have made their way into Kenyan homes through translation and dubbing into local languages.

In 2024, three notable Chinese productions have premiered on Kenyan local channels Rembo TV, Bliss TV, and PPP TV via the StarTimes platform. These include the TV series "Shujaa Wangu," the documentary "China na Maendeleo ya Kidigitali," and the third season of "Hadithi Kwenye Njia ya Hariri."

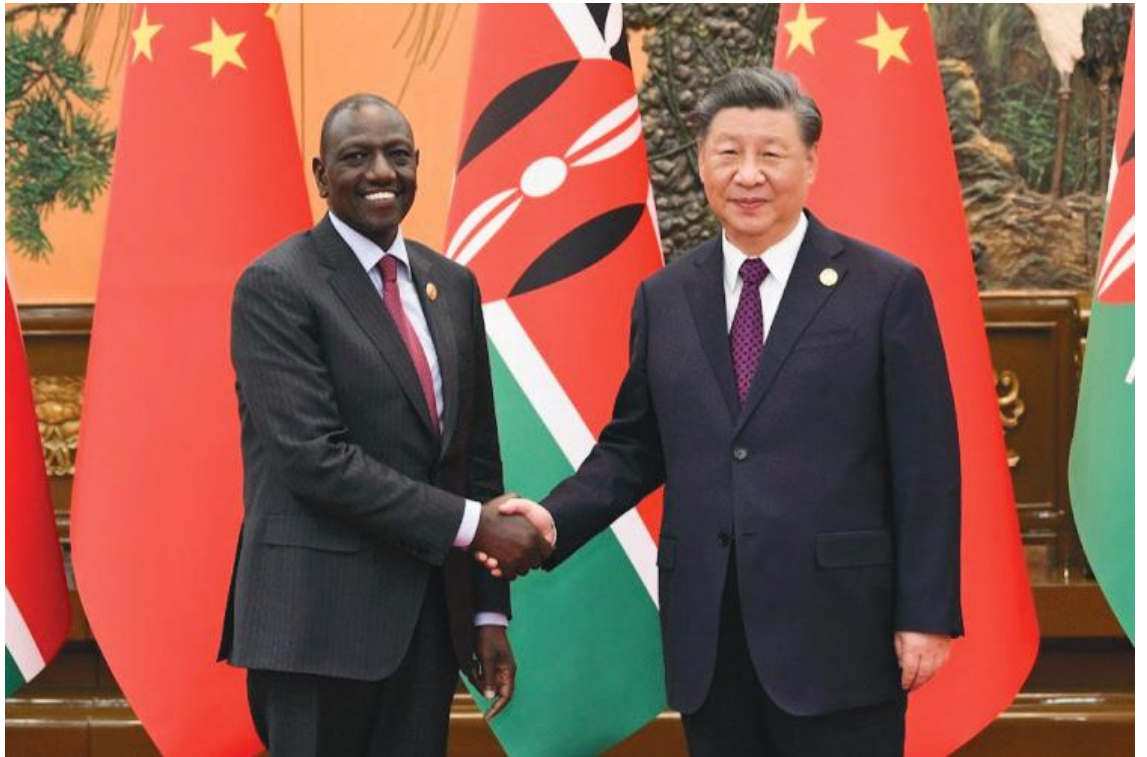
Among these releases were the Chinese series Shujaa Wangu, the documentary China na Maendeleo ya Kidigitali, and the third season of Hadithi Kwenye Njia ya Hariri.

Shujaa Wangu follows the inspirational journey of ordinary individuals striving to become heroes, improve themselves, and achieve success in both their personal and professional lives. Through the lens of urban life, the series depicts the aspirations of everyday people for a better future.

China na Maendeleo ya Kidigitali utilizes numerical data to narrate China's development narrative, translating abstract digital concepts into relatable everyday scenes. By providing tangible examples, the documentary allows viewers to tangibly experience China's development, social progress, and lifestyle changes.

The third season of Hadithi Kwenye Njia ya Hariri showcases stories of cooperation and co-construction, highlighting the progress and mutual benefits experienced by countries along the "Belt and Road" initiative. Through compelling narratives, the series vividly portrays the evolving landscape of international cooperation and development.

These Chinese film and television works not only entertain audiences but also serve as windows into distant cultures, offering Kenyan viewers insights into the lifestyles and tradi-



President William Ruto with his China counterpart President Xi Jinping when they met at the Great Hall of the People on October 18 last year.

tions of other nations.

In reciprocity, Kenya aims to enhance cooperation in various fields to showcase its own rich cultural heri-

tage through film and television to the world.

This exchange of cultural content reaffirms the enduring bonds of

friendship and collaboration between Kenya and China, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation between the two nations.

Kathwana And Marimanti Towns Set For A Major Facelift

By: Mwenda Njeru

@themkenyatimes

Kathwana and Marimanti towns in Tharaka Nithi County are set to witness major developments during phase two of the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KSIP) that has already kicked off.

The project is a partnership of the World Bank, National Government and County Government and is aimed at enhancing living standards in the informal settlements.

The phase two prioritizes social inclusion and community-led development through Labour Intensive Community Works (LICWs).

The program includes the construction of water tanks, pipelines, and ablution blocks with modern sanitation facilities and elevated reservoirs to ensure the availability of reliable

clean water.

"These initiatives will not only enhance infrastructure in Kathwana which is our county headquarters and Marimanti town, Tharaka constituency headquarters but also provide direct and indirect employment opportunities for both skilled and non-skilled locals and especially the youths," said Mr Giti Kijiru, the county executive in charge of roads and infrastructure.

The residents of the two towns which have great potential for growing will also have safer and more accessible streets with bicycle paths, pedestrian walkways and improved drainage systems to do away with water logging and destruction of property during floods.

Bodaboda operators will also directly benefit from the construction of sheds in the areas where they wait for customers.

The project will also focus on environmental sustainability and the

county Project Coordination Team has planned to plant 10,000 trees some in the towns and on their outskirts.

Phase one of the project saw the installation of floodlights and streetlights in Kathwana and other towns not only improving security but also enabling 24-hour economy.

Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project in Kathwana town. Kathwana and Marimanti towns are set for a major facelift. Photo/Mwenda Njeru.



Finance Committee Pledges To Protect The Manufacturing Sector In Bill Consideration

By: PSCU and MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Even as he made the assurance, Soft drinks manufacturer, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa Proprietary Limited urged the committee to consider dropping the provision that imposes a 10 per cent levy on locally manufactured plastics.
- The company appealed to the legislators to consider dropping the proposed amendment to Section 42 (G) of the Excise Duty Act by deleting the word “imported” on all plastics.
- The Excise Duty Act currently imposes a 10 per cent excise duty on only imported plastics under the tariff heading 3923.30.00 and 3923.90.90.
- John Mwendwa, the Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Director posited that the introduction of the excise duty on imported plastics was meant to protect the local industry.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is keen to make Kenya a manufacturing country rather than a trading one, the chairperson Kimani Kuria has said.

Kuria made the assurance during engagements with various stakeholders who appeared before the committee to make submissions on the Finance Bill, 2024.

This followed concerns from the stakeholders that some of the proposals in the Bill such as the introduction of excise duty on locally produced plastics would make Kenya less competitive as compared to her neighbours in the region.

He however sought to reassure them that the Committee would not contemplate adopting revenue raising measures that would muzzle the local manufacturing sector, forcing the players to shift base to other countries within the region.

“I want to assure you that we have all intentions to protect our manufacturers. We want to make Kenya a manufacturing country rather than a trading one”, he noted.

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The Excise Duty Act currently imposes a 10 per cent excise duty on only imported plastics under the tariff heading 3923.30.00 and 3923.90.90.

John Mwendwa, the Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Director posited that the introduction of the excise duty on imported plastics was meant to protect the local industry.

He informed the committee that vibrant plastics’ manufacturing industry in Kenya which makes products for use by consumers and for use by other manufacturers to package their products.

He noted that with excise duty for plastic products in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda being zero rated, Kenya was likely to lose business to her neighbours.

“By imposing excise duty on locally produced plastics, this will increase the cost of production and thus increase the cost of goods that require use of plastic packaging,” Mr Mwendwa said.

“Coupled with other proposed lev-



The committee with some of the stakeholders whom they met.

ies on plastic packaging, this will result in multiple taxation on the same product, further increasing the costs of businesses and consumers.”

While acknowledging this, Kuria agreed with Mr. Mwendwa that deleting the word “imported” in Section 4G of the Excise Duty Act would essentially mean levying a 10 per cent excise levy on all plastics whether locally or imported thus making local products more expensive than the imported plastics.

The company also urged the committee to scrap the proposed eco levy which seeks to impose a Kshs. 150 per kilogramme on all articles of plastic packaging materials.

Mr Mwendwa argued that the imposition of the eco levy will increase the inflationary pressures, diminish disposable income, and deter both foreign and domestic investment activities within Kenya.

“The proposed levy should be removed in order to ensure that taxes or levies imposed are equitable and sustainable,” Mr Mwendwa said.

Coca Cola further urged the lawmakers to consider exempting commercial and agricultural vehicles from the 2.5 per cent car circulation levy. They further proposed to the committee to lower the proposed rate from 2.5 per cent to one per cent.

Also seeking protection, Tile & Carpet Centre limited urged the Committee to consider exempting white cement of tariff 2523.21.00 EAC CET 2022 from excise duty, or allow preferential importation of this product through duty remission scheme for manufacturers.

Their justification was that there is no local producer of white cement within EAC, a key raw material for tile adhesives, grouting and other

cement-based products.

They further called for the removal of export and investment promotion levy of 3 per cent customs value covering sanitary fixtures, as there is only one local manufacturer who is still building capacity.

On their part, Technology Service Providers of Kenya (TESPOK) urged the Committee to drop the proposed amendment of the Excise Duty Tax Act 2015 to increase the excise duty on telephone, internet and data services to 20 per cent and instead substitute the rate with 10 per cent.

The organization argued that Kenya has the highest tax contribution at 37 per cent of total market revenue compared to the Sub-Saharan average of 26 per cent.

TESPOK also proposed the removal of SIM Cards and cellular phones from the list of excisable services.

Appearing together with TESPOK, Wananchi Group proposed that the Committee considers retaining excise duty on internet at 15 per cent

or consider lowering the rate to enhance connectivity, penetration of ICT Services in remote areas and promote growth within the industry.

Meanwhile, the Committee Members led by

Umul-Kheir Kassim (Mandera County) have called for regular stakeholder engagement post-approval of the Finance Bill, to assess the impact of the law on the economy.

“Do not just engage with us during the consideration of the Finance Bill. Let us engage regularly to assess the impact of the approved law so it can inform how we approach the next Finance Bill,” she urged.

So far, the committee has engaged 105 organised groups with 71 others set to have their memoranda received.

The stakeholder engagements continue tomorrow with the committee set to conduct a public hearing at the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC).



National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning chairperson Kimani Kuria

The Holy Spirit Never Gets Tired Of Loving And Working



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

No matter what the devil tries, if there is someone who loves you and keeps persisting, the devil will lose. Sometimes the flesh gets tired, but the Holy Spirit never gets tired of loving. It is wonderful to see what God does. Pastor Hayes gives an account and struggle with his daughter, and the eventual victory, he states: "The greatest thrill of my life was seeing my daughter sitting on the front row at church and Christian meetings, and later, seeing her get up and speak at meetings. For three years, I went through hell with her. She did not darken the door of the church during that time. She would not even go to one service."

Sometimes a case may seem hopeless. But the love of Jesus works for

everybody. Just keep loving them, but do NOT allow those people to cause confusion for others. People are controlled by evil spirits without even knowing, they find themselves doing things that are wrong, and according to them, they believe they are in the right. Even after revealing to them the truth of the matter, they are still adamant, and even get approval and support from others. In fact, they get infuriated because you have revealed to them the truth, and even resolve to attack and defame you. Indeed, as it is written in 1 Thessalonians 2:4 "For we speak as MESSENGERS APPROVED BY GOD to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, NOT people. HE ALONE examines the motives of our hearts."

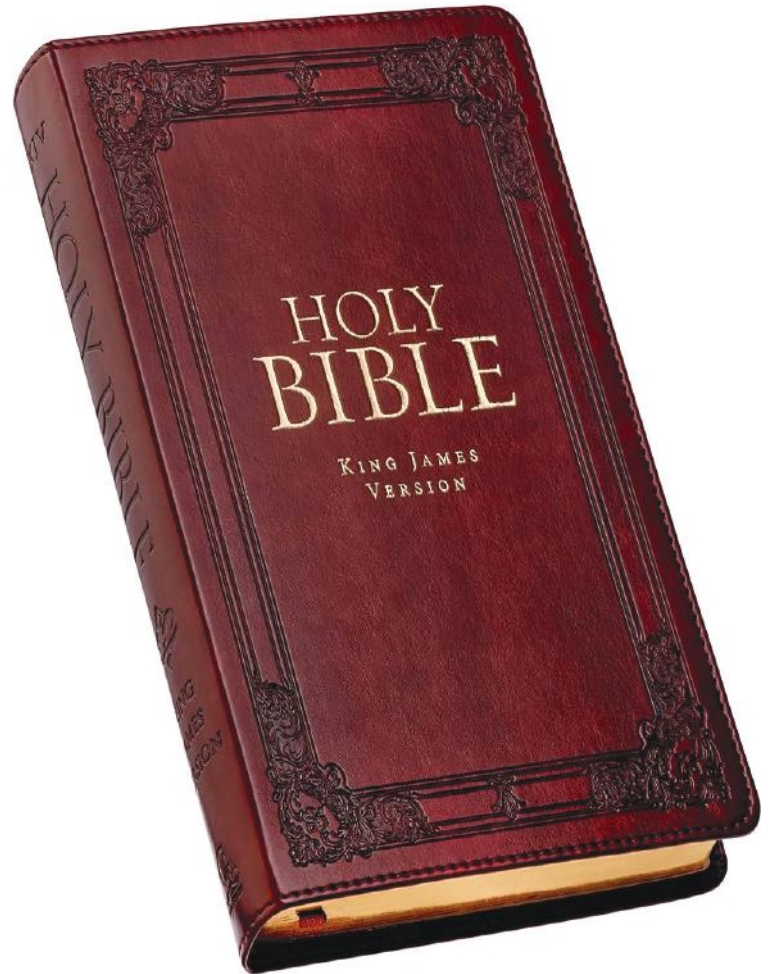
What else can it be that afflicts people to these wrongs and idle talks; except the guiling and deceptive spirits of evil? It is a reality which most people do NOT know; that people are infested and oppressed by evil/foul spirits that affect or determine their character, how they talk and their perspective of life. Even in an

effort to hide it, it eventually comes out and those with a discerning/understanding Spirit of God are able to recognise what it is. It is a sad affair, and that is why as ministers/servants of God we must dive deeper into fervent prayers and always pray in the Spirit. For in the Spirit of God, there is victory.

SELAH! TO GOD BE THE GLORY NOW AND FOREVER : AMEN.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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



The Fourth MTP County Dissemination Forums

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Zachariah Njeru was the Chief Guest during the County Dissemination Forum in Nakuru town. The CS read the Statement on behalf of President William Ruto. The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary for State Department of Environment and Climate Change Eng Festus Ng'eno, Principal Secretary for State Department of Lands and Physical Planning Nixon Korir and Nakuru Deputy Governor H.E Kones.

The Medium Term Plans (MTP) 2023-2027 is geared towards reducing the cost of living, eradicate poverty, create 1.2 Million new jobs annually, expand the tax base, improve foreign exchange balance, and enhance inclusive growth.

This important function is achieved through targeted investments in five core pillars comprising of:

Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Economy (MSMEs), Housing and Settlement, Healthcare,

and Digital Superhighway and creative economy.

The program is implemented through five sectors as follows:

Finance and production, Infrastructure, Social, Environment and Natural Resources, and Governance and Public Administration.

The 4th MTP incorporates international obligations and commitments including the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the Africa Agenda 2063. It informs preparation of sector plans, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Contracts for Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

In implementing this MTP, the government through the National Treasury and Economic Planning, has undertaken planning process and implementation as per the Executive Order No.1 of 2023.

In discharging its mandate for the 4th MTP, the State Department for Economic Planning is spearheading the dissemination of information and sensitization of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, County governments, the Legislative, the Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions and



The CS was flanked by the Deputy Director Irrigation Management Mr. Maurice Opondo and Nakuru County Commissioner Loyford Kibaara and his Security team

Independent Offices, Development Partners, Diaspora Communities, Academia and the general public.

This program will benefit Nakuru's priority projects in the following areas:

Operationalization of Naivasha Special Economic Zone, Construction of a Maize Milling Plant at Naivasha Prisons, First and only green ener-

gy data center in Africa at Ol-Karia, Completion of 605 affordable housing units in Bondeni, Construction of Dundori market stalls, Install and maintain the intelligent traffic system (ITS) on main junctions in Nakuru, and Modernize and equip Nakuru Depot at Nakuru Railway Station to enhance cargo handling among other priority projects to be undertaken.

Later the CS answered questions from the invited audience as well as addressed the Media on the same. Since the government's policy on tree planting was introduced to plant 15 Billion by 2032, the CS led both teams from the National and County governments to plant trees in Nakuru Girls School, Nakuru county.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Bamburi Cement PLC has partnered with E-Manage Africa and Seed Balls Kenya to plant 13,000 trees in Haller Park, Mombasa, in line with World Environment Day's theme of land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience. The initiative aims to reduce Bamburi Cement PLC's ecological footprint and contribute to the restoration of vital ecosystems. Bamburi Cement PLC Director of Sustainability and Geocycle Jane Wangari highlighted the company's strides towards digitising its processes and the synergy between technology and environmental stewardship. The newly established forest cover, 'Forest Ecosafi', will leverage cutting-edge seed ball planting innovation, revolutionising the process by reducing planting time and increasing output efficiency. Wangari emphasised the long-term biodiversity value of these efforts for the city and people of Mombasa.



Elgeyo Marakwet County Director Stephen Kimutu has urged residents to protect wetlands by planting indigenous trees or pasture along riparian land. He emphasised the importance of preserving wetlands, which provide water during dry seasons, and advised against planting eucalyptus trees along riparian land. The Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) will provide 20,000 trees for the Singore wetlands, with 10,000 indigenous trees planted within the riparian land and 10,000 seedlings for forest plantations. The county aims to plant 150 million trees in the next 10 years to meet the 15 billion tree target by the national government.



Uncontrolled tree harvesting in Kibwezi is causing negative impacts on climate change. The Assistant County Commissioner of Kibwezi East, Agnes Maswai, has urged locals to stop cutting trees for charcoal burning, as it has reduced rainfall and affected food security. She urged them to consult their government officers, especially Kenya Forest Service (KFS) officers, for best practices in conserving the environment. Maswai also emphasised the need for residents to grow trees and nurture them to maturity.



St. Paul's University has planted 1,500 trees at its Limuru campus as part of its broader goal to plant 130,000 trees, contributing to Kenya's tree cover restoration. The university's Vice Chancellor, Rev. Canon Prof. James Kombo, emphasised the university's commitment to environmental preservation and the need for collaboration with local communities, leaders, and schools. "We aim to plant about 1,500 trees today. While we are still far from restoring the 30 percent tree cover, we at St. Paul's University are committed to achieving this goal. The initiative aims to create more carbon sinks and reduce the greenhouse effect, with the aim of a greener future and clean air. "To commemorate and celebrate World Environment Day, we want to think globally but act locally. We aim to plant more trees to create more carbon sinks and reduce the greenhouse effect," said Kombo.



Kisumu County unveils a restoration programme to address the inadequate 2% forest cover

The county plans to plant three million trees in collaboration with partners. Residents and government staff are required to plant and monitor their growth.

The county executive has developed a policy to make environmental conservation a core duty, and all county government workers will be

appraised to ensure they meet their set targets.

The county government will allocate resources through the budget towards environmental management, adaptation, and mitigation programmes.

Other initiatives include establishing tree nurseries across eight sub-counties, strengthening institutional capacity, and protecting water towers.

The county is a beneficiary of the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLoCA) project, which will build resilience and climate adaptation interventions.

Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti has urged residents to refrain from charcoal burning, citing it as the primary cause of environmental degradation. She urged authorities to take action against residents found cutting trees for charcoal burning. The governor also called on residents to use alternative energy sources, saying, "I call upon residents to use modern energy-saving jikos to curb deforestation. As a county, we have already distributed close to 2,000 such jikos as a way of curbing charcoal burning," said Wavinya.



She called on schools and institutions of learning to support efforts in tree-planting: "I call upon schools and other institutions of learning to come on board and back up our efforts through spearheading trees growing across the county."

Children Living With Disabilities Plant Trees At Karura Forest Marking World Environment Day 2024

By: OSDP



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi distributes tree seedlings to schools and those with disabilities at Karura forest during the World Environment Day on 5th June 2024 where they planted 350 tree seedlings and distributed 2,000 for planting in other parts of the country. Photo/OSDP.

Chege, Former Captain Harambee Stars Musa Otieno, and CEO Special Olympics Susan Masila among others.

Special Olympics Kenya acknowledged the partnership with the OSDP. "This is a unique gathering of people who have often been overlooked. We now have a voice where we could not even whisper," said Ms Masila.

Ms Masila, however expressed concern that people with disabilities were most likely to die in the event of a disaster necessitating the need for caring for the environment.

Thuo said, "The gathering today is a beautiful picture of inclusion, bringing together those with disabilities, widows and reformed men.

He called on the forest management in the country to allow those with disabilities, and are registered with a disability card, to take walks in the forest without need to pay a fee.

Such incentives would encourage more inclusion in the society for those with disabilities.

There are 193 forest estates across the country.

Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas who is also the patron of Special Olympics Kenya that advocates for the rights of those with mental disabilities, and encourages their participation in sports locally and abroad. She urged Kenyans to continue working towards the Presidential Directive of 15 billion trees by the year 2032.
- The event also included the launch of the Unified Football Cup. The game is called 'Unified' because it includes players with disabilities and those without. The electrifying match between Team Courage and Team Determination ended with a 3-3 draw, but Team Determination broke the tie through a penalty shootout.
- Present were forest officers, Special Olympics Kenya Chairman Thuo Chege, Former Captain Harambee Stars Musa Otieno, and CEO Special Olympics Susan Masila among others.

Karura forest on World Environment Day 2024 was host to some unique visitors who planted tree seedlings to mark the global event.

Children with mental disabilities, the deaf and those with other different disabilities convened at the forest to contribute in greening the environment.

There were also widows and reformed men from addictions who joined in the event that was attended by the spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi.

There were 350 tree seedlings planted on site, and 2,000 tree seedlings distributed to participating individuals and schools for planting at different locations.

Pastor Dorcas walked through the area designated for tree planting for the day by forest officers, encouraging the children with disabilities to plant the tree seedlings.

In her speech, she made a commitment to continue advocating for the vulnerable, saying, "I shall be the face of the faceless, the voice of the voiceless, and the feet of those who cannot walk. We all matter and our environment matters most."

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by the year 2032.

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between Team Courage and Team Determination ended with a 3-3 draw, but Team Determination broke the tie through a penalty shootout.

Present were forest officers, Special Olympics Kenya Chairman Thuo



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi greets team players of those who took part in the Unified Cup at Karura forest during the World Environment Day on 5th June 2024 where they planted 350 tree seedlings and distributed 2,000 for planting in other parts of the country. The unified cup included those with disabilities, and involved Team Determination and Team Courage, where Team Determination won in penalty shootout. Photo/OSDP

Court Of Appeal Judges And Prosecutors Visits Embu Prison

By: MKT Correspondents

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Office of Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) led by Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions Mr. Solomon Naulikha and Senior Prosecution Counsel Ms. Scolastica Nyika yesterday joined the Nyeri Court of Appeal judges led by Lady Justice Wanjiru Karanja on a visit to Embu Maximum Prison to engage inmates with matters before the Court of Appeal.

The inmates who were drawn from Embu Maximum and Women Prison presented their memoranda to the judges for response. The memorandum addressed issues such as resentencing, appeal delays, lawyers assigned to appellants failing to interact with their clients, and missing files.

Earlier, the ODPP led by Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Solomon Naulikha from Nyeri and Senior Prosecution Counsel Ms. Sco-

lastica Nyika from Embu took part in a bar bench meeting with the Court of Appeal Judges held at Embu Law Court.

Ms. Nyika who represented the Lower Eastern Regional Coordinator Mr. Daniel Karuri at this event, presented a memorandum on judicial matters to the judges.

ODPP brought to the bench's attention a number of service delivery challenges related to the operation of the Appeal Court.

ODPP further highlighted concerns about cases filed at the Court of Appeal taking long to be issued with mention and hearing dates.

Mr. Naulikha and Ms. Nyika urged the Court of Appeal Judges to consider rotational sittings at Embu and the proposed gazettement of the station as a Court of Appeal station.

The ODPP also recommended that the cause list includes the High Court station from where the appeal originated from to aid in the tracking of appeals filed or finalized.

ODPP also pointed out the challeng-



es the appellants face in receiving communication from the court regarding withdrawals of their appeals filed, hence hampering access to justice.

Rotarians Take Part In Tree Planting As World Celebrate World Environment Day

By: David Wandeto

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Rotary Club Kutus branch representatives planted avocado trees at Kiamiciri Primary School in Gichugu constituency, Kirinyaga County to mark the World Environment Day. Rotarian Samuel Mwangi, the interim president of the Kutus Rotary Club branch, said they decided to plant the avocado trees as they had the potential to raise income for the institution and its surrounding community after maturing.

Mwangi who led the tree planting exercise called on other non-governmental organizations to come up with more such projects to enable Kenya attain 15 billion trees target in ten years as directed by President Dr William Ruto.

He also called on the government to revive the 4K clubs in learning in-

stitutions saying the clubs had many benefits to learners.

Jackson Njugi, a director of projects at the Rotary Club, said they anticipate to plant more trees to mitigate climate change.

Ngugi added that they chose the school in order to demonstrate to the pupils how trees are planted and nurtured.

He added that they aim to be planting 100 trees in every primary school they visit at a cost of approximately Sh50,000 each.

Kiamiciri Primary School deputy headteacher Benson Njoka, promised to ensure the trees are well nurtured to maturity by learners.

Njoka also promised to engage more with the Rotary Club to have more trees planted within the school compound to conserve the environment and as well for economic gains.



My Mother Is Coming...

is coming.

Her lullabies are like a soothing breeze to my ears,
Her hands are like a cradle rocking gently.
Her footsteps are the pathways to my paradise,
A paradise-like, loving mother is coming.

Your presence alone is a blessing to me,
I'll conquer worlds just for you.
Do not worry, my mother, for me,
The most cherished, the most precious, my mother is coming...

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



My heart is joyful, my beloved mother is coming,
A soul that embraces my worries is coming.
A sun that lights up our path,
The most patient, the most hardworking, my mother is coming.

My mother is coming, there's light in my paths,
My mother is coming, there's stability in my hands,

My mother is coming, I lack nothing,
With a joyful heart, a radiant face, my mother

Why Can't Fathers Be Kind...?



"I wanted to dedicate this article to my dear father, who brought me to this point and gave me unconditional love."

I thought a lot about why there are so many poems and ghazals about mothers, but so few about fathers. Is it that we don't love our fathers or that no one in the world loves their fathers? Why can't we feel the love of fathers? Why do they work tirelessly? Why are we more afraid of our fathers than our mothers?

Of course, there is no limit to these questions. Undoubtedly, a father is like a candle that illuminates our lives. He is an angel who lights our way in dark nights. If we go astray, he is the protector who will do everything he can to guide us back to the right path. "It's easy for men, they only work, and we women have to sit at home and do housework," we complain.

But isn't the most responsible task assigned to our fathers? Our Prophet Muhammad, said beautiful hadiths about fathers: "The father enters through the middle door of Paradise. You can open it if you want, or you can waste it and close it to your face" (narration of Imam Termiziy). See, our fathers are allowed to enter through the highest middle door. Understanding and feeling a father's love might be more complex compared to a mother's love. A mother's affection is often visible, direct, and emotional, while a father's love is expressed through actions, responsibilities, and protection. The father is often the provider, the leader, and the silent yet firm support for the family. To understand their love and affection, one must look deeper and feel with the heart.

Do you know how invaluable a father's role is in a daughter's life? A father is very important for a daughter. A father remains his daughter's first hero, first love, and greatest support in life. Through her father, a daughter learns about the world, understands how to interact with people, and feels protected. A father not only shows love and affection but also prepares her for challenges, boosts her confidence, and teaches her to be

independent. Therefore, a father is an invaluable and significant person for a daughter. My father is also a very precious person to me. He is so kind that he would sacrifice his life for me. He understands me and supports me. Even if my mother scolds me, he always takes my side, saying, "It's okay, she's just a kid." My father's kindness and patience play a significant role in my life. In every difficult situation, his advice and help strengthen me and push me forward. Therefore, my respect and love for my father are boundless. Every action, every word from him is valuable and unforgettable to me. My father's place and influence in my life will never diminish, but always increase. People who invest heavily in my education but never expect anything in return.

They work tirelessly for my future and provide me with the best opportunities. My father's hard work and dedication constantly inspire me and motivate me to live up to their expectations. Therefore, I greatly appreciate their significance in my life and will never forget it. One day after leaving school, I called my father and told him, "Dad, I don't have any money left, can you put some money on my card?" As soon as I said that, even though there was no money on his cards, he went out and transferred the money from someone else. I felt like crying. Maybe this incident is ordinary for others, but it is not ordinary for me—it is of the highest significance. Even if he doesn't have it himself, he will find it from somewhere else and give it to me. My dear father, who raised me like a princess, I love you so much. It's true that I don't often tell him how much I love him, but I always do, and he is always dear to me.

The world envies their perseverance,
May no harm come to their faith and beliefs,

May no stain tarnish their family's name,

Do not make fathers cry, life.

If they must cry, let it be from joy,
Let them dance at their children's weddings.

May their hearts and eyes rejoice on their pilgrimage,
Do not make fathers cry, life.

Toxirova Madina

My University Is My Family



It should be said that one of the brightest periods of a person's life is the student period. It is not for nothing that student life is compared to the golden age of human life. Because a person is lucky to be a student once in his meaningful life. After all, studentship is an unrepeatable and unforgettable spring of a person's life. Studentship is a wonderful period in the life of every boy and girl. It is the student years, interesting and unforgettable.

My goal was to graduate from school in 2021 and enter the university. It was May 2021. The desire to be a student was insatiable. In May, I applied to the Singapore Management University and was accepted to study there. Unfortunately, due to family circumstances, I could not study at this university. After that, I transferred to state institutions. I couldn't get into public institutions after getting high marks in the exams. After that, the goal of becoming a student began to fade. My mother applied to various private universities. And I entered these non-state universities. I had to choose one of them. Al-Fraganus University was named after our grandfather al-Farghani, so I transferred to this university. I was accepted to study in 3 different courses of this university. I graduated from the Faculty of Economics.

This university gave me many opportunities and revealed aspects of myself that I did not know. The first international conference was held at our university. Professors came from Turkey and other cities. I spoke with them easily because of my knowledge of English. After that, the competition for October 21 was announced. I participated in this contest and won. I met one person in this contest. He was a very kind person. He took my hand and showed me the

right path when I lost interest in life. Her name is Kamola teacher. He noticed my leadership skills and turned me into a student leader. Whenever I start something, I always consult with my teacher. After that, whenever there was any event, we actively stood in front of our teacher. In addition, I met very close people. For example, I met Rukhshona, Azizbek, sister Feruza, Farida, Mastona and other students. We always saw each other. We became a family. There were times when we collected votes for our university. Another memorable event was when I wrote an article for the first time. This article is about al-Farghani. At that time, the chairman of scientific affairs was brother Nazim. Brother Nazim explained to me one by one how to write an article. Brother Nazim explained to me the same way his father explained to his son. Every teacher sees us as their own children. I have been active for 1 year and received various diplomas. One day, I read an announcement on the channel of Al-Fraganus University about the possibility of receiving 15 grants. I started collecting documents for this grand. The result was released at the end of August 2023. I thought I could win this grand. I opened the result with excitement. I am among the grand winners. I was very happy to see this.

I am currently studying this major. When one of the new students sees me, he starts asking how you got your degree. I bet it's as simple as you can be active and get good grades and you can win. Only theoretical knowledge is given at the Faculty of Economics of our university. I hope that they will put it into practice next year. In addition, in my 2nd year, there was a student of the year competition, but the results were not announced. I hope that the results will be announced next year. It is not for nothing that it is called the golden age of students. I learned to value my work, I began to value time

Al-Fraganus University Faculty of Economics,
World Economy and International Economic Relations 2nd year course and My intellectual property group chief coordinator Khalilova Muslimakhon

NCPD Launches Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023 on Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development

By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes



From left Dr Mohamed A. Sheik Director General NCPD, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, Cabinet Secretary National Treasury and Economic Planning, Mr. James Muhati PS, State Department for Economic Planning and Parveen Sigey- Board of Directors NCPD during the launch

Worth Noting:

- The new policy aims to address critical population issues that impact Kenya's socio-economic growth and development. It outlines strategies to manage population growth, enhance the quality of life for Kenyans, and ensure that population policies are aligned with the nation's development goals.

- Principal Secretary for Economic Planning Mr. James Muhatia, emphasized the importance of The policy noting: "The Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development is a Crucial framework that will guide the development and implementation of population Programs. It ensures policy coherence, leverages actions and resources, and anticipates actions based on evidence. This policy is a testament to our commitment to improving the quality of life for all Kenyans." He highlighted.

National Council for Population and Development has launched the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023, the Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development which shifts focus to a sustainable human Development model that places Kenyans at the heart of national development.

The policy framework emphasizes the maximization of human capital potential with the focus To harness the demographic dividend to achieve sustainable development goals.

Speaking during the launch event in Nairobi, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u said that the fourth National Leaders' Conference (NLC) on Population and Development, held in May 2021, played a pivotal role in the policy's formation. During this conference, Prof. Ndung'u noted, critical population issues were discussed, and A consensus was reached. This was followed by recommendations from the NLC which were Incorporated into the draft policy and were subsequently presented to Members of Parliament For further discussions and refinement.

"The revision process of this critical policy was comprehensive and inclusive, involving a Multi-sectoral, participatory approach. Extensive and intensive reviews of relevant Information and data were conducted. Consultations with leaders, policymakers, and a broad Spectrum of stakeholders from both the national level and all 47 counties were integral to This process. Key Informant Interviews with policy-

makers and policy dialogues with Representatives from the private sector, religious leaders, and youth leaders provided Valuable insight" said CS Ndung'u

The new policy aims to address critical population issues that impact Kenya's socio-economic growth and development. It outlines strategies to manage population growth, enhance the quality of life for Kenyans, and ensure that population policies are aligned with the nation's development goals.

Principal Secretary for Economic Planning Mr. James Muhatia, emphasized the importance of The policy noting: "The Kenya Nation-

al Population Policy for Sustainable Development is a Crucial framework that will guide the development and implementation of population Programs. It ensures policy coherence, leverages actions and resources, and anticipates actions based on evidence. This policy is a testament to our commitment to improving the quality of life for all Kenyans." He highlighted.

"The implementation of the policy will be carried out at both national and county levels, Utilizing a multi-sectoral approach. The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) will spearhead the efforts, ensuring that all

sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and Programs are aligned towards achieving the policy's objectives" noted Dr. Mohamed Sheikh Director General, NCPD

The Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023 highlights key areas of focus, including family planning, reproductive health, education, and gender equality. It also addresses the challenges posed by rapid urbanization, youth unemployment, and the need for sustainable resource management.

During the launch, various stakeholders, including government officials, development partners, and representatives from civil society organizations, expressed their support for the policy. They underscored the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the policy's provisions.

The launch event also featured panel discussions on the implications of the population policy for various sectors, including health, education, and economic development. Experts highlighted the need for data-driven decision-making and the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation to track progress and address emerging challenges.

As Kenya continues to navigate the complexities of population dynamics, the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023 serves as a crucial tool for guiding the country's development trajectory. The NCPD's commitment to implementing this policy underscores the nation's dedication to ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for all its citizens.



BUSINESS

Zoho Announces Early Access To CRM For Everyone, New Pro-Code Tools

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Deal Name	Amount	Stage	Closing Date	Account Name
Sigma Corporation	\$ 340,000.00	Qualification	05/31/2024	Sigma Corporation
Scriptorium - New York	\$ 340,000.00	Qualification	04/18/2024	Scriptorium
Commercial Press - Miami	\$ 500,000.00	Qualification	04/26/2024	Commercial Press
Malthill Inc	\$ 12,000.00	Negotiation/Review	03/17/2024	Malthill Inc
King - Mariner	\$ 230,000.00	Needs Analysis	03/17/2024	King
King	\$ 600,000.00	Identify Decision Makers	03/17/2024	King
Truhlar And Truhlar Attys	\$ 450,000.00	Identify Decision Makers	03/17/2024	Truhlar And Truhlar
Commercial Press	\$ 450,000.00	Value Proposition	03/17/2024	Commercial Press
Morlong Associates	\$ 350,000.00	Value Proposition	03/17/2024	Morlong Associates
Chapman	\$ 700,000.00	Proposal/Price Quote	03/17/2024	Chapman
Printing Dimensions	\$ 250,000.00	Value Proposition	03/17/2024	Printing Dimensions
Feltz Printing Service	\$ 450,000.00	Identify Decision Makers	03/17/2024	Feltz Printing Service
Chemel	\$ 700,000.00	Needs Analysis	03/17/2024	Chemel
Chanay	\$ 550,000.00	Identify Decision Makers	03/17/2024	Chanay
Benton	\$ 2,500,000.00	Qualification	03/17/2024	Benton

Zoho CRM for Everyone.

Worth Noting:

- Zoho CRM for Everyone allows sales teams, the primary custodian of customer relationships, to communicate and coordinate with other customer-facing teams from a single place—the CRM application—instead of holding fragmented discussions. It enables account managers, for example, to pull in a solutions engineer to coordinate a product demonstration for a customer. A marketer can perform win-loss analysis for specific deals.

- A community specialist can manage advocacy engagements like case studies. They may all use different core applications for deep work but can now converge on the CRM for managing shared responsibilities towards the customer.

- Besides opening up CRM access cross-functionally, Zoho CRM for Everyone also empowers every team to manage their own workflows autonomously within the corporate IT framework.

Zoho Corporation, a leading global technology company, today announced early access to Zoho CRM for Everyone, a new set of industry-first capabilities aimed at democratising CRM to all teams involved in customer operations activities. The company also unveiled significant enhancements to its offerings for professional developers and app development teams. These include early access to new services within Catalyst, the company's pro-code full-stack development platform, and the general availability of Zoho Aptics, an application analytics solution that enables developers to track the in-app usage and performance of applications built on iOS, macOS, Android, and other platforms.

“Businesses are looking for unified solutions that help them optimise for value, maximise their competitive advantages, and tap into new market opportunities amid tough economic conditions,” said Veerakumar Nataraajan, Country Head, Zoho Kenya. “At Zoho, we’re focused on continuously deepening our current offerings and expanding others to serve business needs. Zoho CRM for Everyone, for instance, is the first true democratisation of the CRM paradigm and helps unify all customer operations teams onto the CRM to deliver better customer experiences. Likewise, the upgraded Catalyst and the privacy-focused Aptics solution work hand-in-hand to deliver an unmatched developer experience from concept to code, and deployment to analytics.”

Zoho CRM for Everyone

Zoho CRM is one of the top selling products in Kenya. The product recorded a 38% YoY growth in 2023 in the country.

Zoho CRM for Everyone allows sales teams, the primary custodian of customer relationships, to communicate and coordinate with other customer-facing teams from a single place—the CRM application—instead of holding fragmented discussions. It enables account managers, for example, to pull in a solutions engineer to coordinate a product demonstration for a customer. A marketer can perform win-loss analysis for specific deals. A community specialist can manage advocacy engagements like case studies. They may all use different core applications for deep work but can now converge on the CRM for managing shared responsibilities towards the customer.

Besides opening up CRM access cross-functionally, Zoho CRM for Everyone also empowers every team to manage their own workflows autonomously within the corporate IT framework. The new capabilities stand to improve visibility for every stakeholder in the customer journey, mitigate gaps in coordination, reduce turnaround time, and improve the quality of the customer experience.

To make CRM for Everyone possible, the following capabilities have come together in Zoho CRM:

Team Modules and Requesters: Under team modules, business teams can create their own team-level data mod-

ules (in addition to organisation-level modules) by themselves while being governed by IT teams. Requesters is a new user profile in Zoho CRM that allows a team member to raise a request for colleagues in different teams and track the request status.

Refreshed User Experience: To enable this fundamental shift in usage, the interface of Zoho CRM has been redesigned for better usability across roles and functions. With this release, Zoho CRM is also making a major stride in accessibility with capabilities covering areas like vision, motor activity, and interactions.

New Custom App Development Capabilities in Catalyst

Building custom solutions out of a disparate mix of tools has consistently been a source of frustration for developers. Catalyst unifies pro-code development efforts and streamlines the entire lifecycle by abstracting away complexities, providing pre-built components, and offering a comprehensive suite of developer tools.

Catalyst's newest offerings, available under early access, expand on developer logic, design, and delivery: **Signals:** Routes events from sources like Zoho services, third-party sources, or custom applications to handlers (like Catalyst Functions, Circuits, etc.) using topics and subscriptions.

NoSQL Database: Allows users to store structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data while supporting diverse data types and scaling dynamically with high performance.

Slate: A fully managed frontend platform that lets developers easily build highly customised interfaces that leverage frameworks such as React.js, Next.js, Sveltekit, etc.

CI/CD Pipeline: Automates tests and builds for continuous delivery pipelines, streamlining development workflows for faster time-to-market.

Catalyst seamlessly integrates with the Zoho ecosystem and third-party applications, enabling developers to leverage existing infrastructure and data sources. The platform stands out with its transparent and cost-effective pricing model, empowering organisations of all sizes by eliminating hidden fees and offering predictable, scalable pricing.

Privacy-Friendly Application Analytics:

Zoho Aptics delivers an extensive digital analytics platform designed for every stakeholder involved in application development and management. The solution consolidates analytics across app usage, performance, user engagement, and growth metrics into a centralised console, then synthesises these multifaceted data streams into actionable insights presented visually in dashboards and reports.

This unified view empowers organisations to make informed decisions, optimise app experiences, drive user engagement, and fuel sustainable growth throughout the application lifecycle. Aptics provides multi-platform analytics support, covering Android, iOS, macOS, tvOS, watchOS, iPadOS, Windows, React Native, Flutter, and Unity, with web analytics capabilities coming soon.

Aptics stands out by offering a unique capability to prompt Android and iOS users for app ratings and updates directly from the Aptics console. Integrated app store reviews management helps in streamlining the process of analysing user sentiment. Additionally, Zoho Aptics prioritises data privacy and security, exceeding industry best practices and regulatory compliance standards. User information is safeguarded behind encryption and access controls, ensuring analytics insights are leveraged responsibly without compromising individual privacy.

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Interior Principal Secretary Reaffirms That Police Reforms To Cost Sh108 Billion In Four Years

By: Cynthia Masibo and Aoma Keziah
 @themkenyatimes



PS Interior Raymond after a roundtable meeting with developments partners on the implementation of police reforms.

able implementation process to ensure that the reforms yield the desired outcomes.

Government's Commitment to Reforms

Dr. Omollo reiterated the government's unwavering dedication to seeing through the proposed changes. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the substantial budget requirements but maintained that the long-term benefits of a reformed police force, modernized prison system, and revitalized NYS far outweigh the initial costs.

"These reforms are not just about enhancing our security apparatus but are fundamentally about ensuring justice, human dignity, and efficient service delivery," said Dr. Omollo. "We are committed to working closely with our development partners to realize these goals and to ensure that every Kenyan benefits from these changes."

Conclusion

The implementation of the Maraga task force recommendations marks a significant step towards improving Kenya's internal security and correctional services. While the financial demands are high, the collaborative efforts between the government and development partners provide a hopeful outlook for the successful execution of these reforms. As the process unfolds, continued transparency and accountability will be crucial in achieving the envisioned transformation.

Worth Noting:

- **NYS Reforms:** Strengthening the organizational structure, expanding skill development programs, and ensuring better integration of NYS graduates into the workforce. Support from Development Partners
- The roundtable meeting witnessed significant engagement from various development partners who expressed their support for the reform agenda. These partners commended the government's commitment and the pace at which the reforms are being executed. They acknowledged the ambitious nature of the reform plan and its potential to substantially improve the security and correctional services in Kenya.

The Kenyan government requires Sh108 billion to implement extensive reforms within the police force, prison services, and the National Youth Service (NYS). This financial estimate is part of the recommendations put forth by the Maraga task force, which identified 598 specific areas needing reform. The task force's report has outlined a transformative agenda aimed at enhancing efficiency, accountability, and service delivery within these critical sectors.

Reform Agenda and Financial Requirements

During a roundtable meeting at a hotel in Nairobi, Dr. Omollo, Principal Secretary for Internal Security, provided an update to development partners on the progress of reform implementation. He highlighted the government's commitment to carrying out the reforms, despite the substantial financial implications. Dr. Omollo emphasized that the Sh108 billion budget is essential to address structural weaknesses, modernize facilities, and improve personnel welfare across the police, prisons, and NYS.

The Maraga task force's comprehensive report outlines key areas such as:

Police Reforms: Enhancing training programs, improving working conditions, increasing accountability mechanisms, and deploying advanced technology for crime detection and

management.

Prison Reforms: Overhauling the prison infrastructure, ensuring humane treatment of inmates, introducing rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and boosting the welfare of prison staff.

NYS Reforms: Strengthening the organizational structure, expanding skill development programs, and ensuring better integration of NYS graduates into the workforce.

Support from Development Partners
 The roundtable meeting witnessed significant engagement from various

development partners who expressed their support for the reform agenda. These partners commended the government's commitment and the pace at which the reforms are being executed. They acknowledged the ambitious nature of the reform plan and its potential to substantially improve the security and correctional services in Kenya.

Representatives from international organizations and donor agencies pledged both financial and technical support. They highlighted the importance of a transparent and account-



The key development partners.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Is Dragon Fruit Is Gaining Popularity In Naivasha

Dragon fruit, a tropical fruit is gaining popularity among the farmers, fruit vendors and the general public in Kenya.

The fruit which is native to the native Mexico and Central America goes by many names including Pitaya, Pitahaya and Strawberry pear.

Hannah Muthaki, a fruit vendor in her 60's has been selling the fruit for the past three years in Naivasha town. She was attracted to the business after discovering that the fruit had immense healing property when it relieved her stomach ulcers symptoms years back.

"I was experiencing painful stom-

ach ulcers for more than a decade before I started to consume the fruit. In fact, I attribute my miraculous healing to this dragon fruit", stated Hannah.

According to Hannah, most of her customers are patients suffering from different chronic health conditions and diseases like cancer and some of them have experienced similar health benefits from dragon fruit.

Hannah observes that in a good day, she may make more than 3,500 Kenyan shillings from selling the fruit and on a bad day Ksh1000. Her customers are mostly through medical referrals from doctors in local hospitals.

Agnes Wanjiru sells dragon fruits in Naivasha town. Her store is in-front of Naivasha sub-county hospital since she is also targeting patients with chronic conditions who have been referred by medical doctors inside the hospital to consume the fruit.

Wanjiru said that she was attracted to venture in of selling dragon fruit 2 years ago after discovering its nutritious value. She said that an average red dragon fruit costs Ksh 150 per piece and on a good day she can earn Ksh 3000 from the venture.

However, Wanjiru observes that the main challenge of selling dragon fruits

is its seasonal attribute.

"There are times when dragon fruits disappear from the market, especially during rainy seasons. That is the main challenge that I face as a vender and that is why I decided to incorporate other fruits on my business" Stated Agnes Wanjiru.

Cecelia, a nutritionist at Naivasha sub-county hospital on the other hand denied that the hospital has been telling its patients to buy dragon fruits. She believes that in as much as dragon fruits seem nutritious, every fruit is packed with a distinct nutrition value to the body.

Cecelia also observed that the dragon fruits are not only new in the market but they are also highly priced and that most local people can't afford it.

Medical research online shows that dragon fruits are packed with several antioxidants properties which reduces the level of cholesterol and lowers the risk of heart related diseases in a person.

*Jane Wanjiru
Rongo University.*



Prioritizing Men's Health: A Call To Action

Emotions are integral to who we are, society says men should not behave like the women, they should man up or boys Don't cry but remember tears doesn't mean your weak but it's a testament to being human, a necessary natural release that helps us reset and push forward.

June is Men's Health Awareness Month, a time to shine a spotlight on the unique health challenges faced by men and boys. This annual observance serves as a critical reminder of the importance of proactive self-care and preventative measures to address the leading causes of illness, disability, and mortality among the male population.

Far too often, men neglect their health, putting off regular checkups and screenings. This behavior can have serious consequences, as many life-threatening conditions, from heart disease to cancer, are more treatable when detected early. Men's Health Awareness Month encourages men to take charge of their wellbeing and make their health a top priority.

One of the key focus areas of this campaign is raising awareness about mental health. Men are significantly less likely than women to seek professional help for issues like depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Destigmatizing these challenges and empowering men to prioritize their emotional and psychological needs is

a crucial step toward improving overall health outcomes.

Regular physical activity is another essential component of men's health. Unfortunately, many men struggle to maintain an exercise routine, citing factors like a lack of time or motivation. Men's Health Awareness Month promotes the myriad benefits of an active lifestyle, from reduced disease risk to increased energy and mood enhancement.

Nutrition also plays a vital role in men's wellbeing. A diet rich in whole, nutrient-dense foods can help prevent chronic conditions, boost immunity, and support healthy aging. Yet, poor dietary habits, including excessive consumption of processed

and high-fat foods, remain a concern among many men.

Screening tests for conditions like prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and heart disease are also emphasized during Men's Health Awareness Month. These screenings can detect issues early, when treatment is most effective. Encouraging men to schedule regular checkups and participate in these crucial preventative measures is a key objective of this campaign.

Beyond individual health, Men's Health Awareness Month also shines a light on the broader societal and systemic factors that contribute to disparities in men's health outcomes. Addressing issues like access to

healthcare, work-life balance, and harmful gender norms can help create an environment that empowers men to prioritize their wellbeing.

By raising awareness, fostering open dialogues, and promoting proactive self-care, Men's Health Awareness Month aims to inspire men to take charge of their health and live fuller, healthier lives. This annual observance serves as a vital call to action, urging men to prioritize prevention, seek support when needed, and become active participants in their own healthcare journeys.

*Devina Adhiambo.
Media student Rongo University*

Why Landlords Should Not Arbitrarily Increase Rent For Newly Joining University Students In Kenya

As a tenant, it's essential to understand your rights and protections when it comes to rent increases.

Kenyan law provides guidelines for rent increments. The Rent Restriction Act Cap 296 and The Landlord and Tenant Cap 301 outline the rules governing rent and landlord-tenant relationships.

Landlords must follow legal procedures when increasing rent, including serving tenants with proper notice.

Before raising rent, landlords must serve tenants with a notice of at least one month.

The notice should clearly state the reasons for the rent increment or any changes to the tenancy agreement.

Tenants have the right to object to rent increases or changes in their tenancy terms.

Within 30 days of receiving the notice, tenants can inform the landlord of their objection.

If a tenant objects, the matter can be referred to the rent tribunal.

The notice becomes ineffective until the tribunal makes a determination.

This process ensures fairness and protects tenants from arbitrary in-

creases.

Landlords who unfairly increase rent can be penalized.

If a tenant successfully challenges the increase, the landlord may be compelled to compensate the tenant.

New university students often face financial challenges.

Arbitrary rent hikes can create undue burden, affecting their ability to focus on studies and overall wellbeing.

Affordable housing near universities is crucial for students' convenience.

Excessive rent increases may force

students to seek accommodation far from their institutions, leading to long commutes and reduced participation in campus life.

Quality of Life and Academic

Adequate housing contributes to students' mental and physical health.

Stress from high rents can negatively impact their academic performance.

Landlords should engage in fair negotiations with tenants.

Rent increases should be reasonable and considerate of students' financial situations.

Landlords who prioritize fair treat-

ment build positive relationships with tenants.

A supportive housing environment contributes to students' overall success.

Stephen Ochieng Rongo.

In The Energy Transition, Research Holds A Key To Affordable, Reliable And Accessible Energy

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Stakeholders in the energy sector have been encouraged to embrace research and innovation, especially in emerging areas, to develop energy solutions that are affordable, accessible and reliable for consumers. This was during the 2024 Research and Innovation Conference organized by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA).

By embracing research in areas like energy storage, e-mobility and local innovations for rural electrification, researchers, universities and innovators can develop solutions that directly address the needs of Kenyans.

Daniel Kiptoo, Director General at EPRA said: "As Kenya strives towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future, the research community should focus their efforts on emerging areas of the energy transition. This research has the potential to unlock innovative solutions that directly benefit Kenyan consumers by lowering costs, increasing access

to clean energy, and creating a more secure and reliable power supply."

Kenya's unique challenges provide fertile ground for groundbreaking research, with promising areas including energy storage solutions. Currently, the country is implementing a 100 MW Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project under the Kenya Green and Resilient Expansion of Energy (GREEN) program. Birthed from research and innovation efforts, the project will optimise grid operation by storing excess energy and releasing it during peak hours. The BESS will also act as a buffer, mitigating the intermittency of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. This will help to stabilise the grid, reduce power outages, and ensure a more reliable energy supply for Kenyans.

This year's conference themed, 'The Energy Transition' focuses on promoting sustainable energy access, decarbonisation, and energy market developments. By showcasing cutting-edge research and innovative solutions, the conference aims to inspire actionable strategies for building a sustainable energy future.



Research and Innovation Conference.

Public Service Commission Appoints Paul Famba As CEO

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya.
Public Service Commission of Kenya

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has appointed Paul Famba as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for five years, effective August 1.

Famba, currently the Secretary of Administration in the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Arts degree in Peace and Conflict Management from Kenyatta University.

He replaces Dr. Simon Rotich, whose tenure ends next month.

Famba brings extensive experience as a career administrator, having served in senior positions in the government.

He was awarded the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear and the

Paul Famba Public Service Commission CEO.



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**EXPONENTIAL
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Sports >> *France head into Euro 2024 as quite possibly the standout candidates to lift the trophy but their prospects may to a large extent depend on Kylian Mbappe not being distracted by his club future

All Eyes On Mbappe As France Aim To Live Up To Euro 2024 Billing



(FILES) France's forward #10 Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring a goal during the UEFA EURO 2024 Group B qualifying football match between France and Gibraltar at the Allianz Riviera stadium in Nice, southeastern France, on November 18, 2023. Kylian Mbappe has signed for Real Madrid, according to the club, AFP reports on June 3, 2024. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP)

France head into Euro 2024 as quite possibly the standout candidates to lift the trophy but their prospects may to a large extent depend on Kylian Mbappe not being distracted by his club future.

Mbappe's long goodbye from Paris Saint-Germain and switch to Real Madrid have dominated headlines in France and Spain in recent months.

The 25-year-old's presence for PSG over the last three months of the season could no longer be taken for granted and he did not look at his sharpest in his final appearances for the French champions.

However, he still scored 44 club goals in the campaign just finished and France coach Didier Deschamps has no doubt that his captain will be firing on all cylinders at the European Championship.

"The context around the France team is different," Deschamps said last week as his squad started to gather to prepare for the

Euros at their Clairefontaine training base deep in the forest an hour outside Paris.

"Kylian has always considered himself to be part of a collective. Obviously he has responsibilities with his club. He also has responsibilities, if not more, with France."

Mbappe has scored 46 goals in 77 appearances for his country, including an astonishing hat-trick in the memorable final of the 2022 World Cup in Doha, which France lost on penalties to Argentina.

However, neither Mbappe nor his country have happy memories of the last Euros three years ago.

He did not score a goal as Les Bleus were eliminated in the last 16, losing on penalties to Switzerland after Mbappe missed the crucial kick in the shootout.

Before that, Mbappe had only just emerged at Monaco, and had not yet played for France, when Deschamps' team agonisingly lost the Euro 2016 final on home

soil, going down in extra time to Portugal.

"It is true that I have not won the Euros as a coach, but then lots of coaches have not won it," Deschamps, who led France to glory at the 2018 World Cup, pointed out to AFP in a recent interview.

"Demands on us are so high because we have made so much progress.

"After the World Cup there is nothing bigger than the Euros. And there is some logic to the idea that we are among the favourites, like other teams, after everything we have done."

France breezed through qualifying, winning seven straight games before a 2-2 draw in Greece which came after their place at the finals in Germany was already secured.

But performances in recent friendly matches, while perhaps not enough to set alarm bells ringing, were a reminder that the top-ranked team in Europe should not take anything for granted.

They were well beaten 2-0 at home by Germany in March, before labouring to a 3-2 win against Chile a few days later.

-Kante back, Griezmann key- Deschamps' team has changed since the Qatar World Cup, with goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris having retired along with centre-back Raphael Varane.

Olivier Giroud is now 37 and Marcus Thuram, scorer of 15 goals for Italian champions Inter Milan in the season just ended, looks set to lead the line.

Deschamps will hope key midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni recovers fully from the foot injury which saw him miss the Champions League final with Real Madrid last weekend.

Concerns about Tchouameni were what led Deschamps to recall N'Golo Kante, who is now playing in Saudi Arabia and had not appeared for his country in two years.

Antoine Griezmann, at 33, will again play a big role in the middle of the park, just as he did so majestically in Qatar.

"We are going to be the favourites, certainly, but we need to prove it on the pitch," pointed out the Atletico Madrid man, as France prepare to take on the Netherlands, Austria and Poland in Group D.

Deschamps insists it is "a difficult group", although if all goes to form they could find themselves on a collision course to face England in the semi-finals.

"Like other nations we have the potential to maybe go all the way, but we must not already be thinking about the semi-finals or a possible final," the coach said. "The Euros are very difficult, with eight of the top 10 teams in the world rankings involved."

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *English Premier League clubs voted yesterday in favour of continuing to use the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system next season.

Premier League Clubs Vote To Retain VAR



(FILES) A screen displays the 'No Goal' decision following a VAR review during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, on November 6, 2023. VAR was supposed to help cut out egregious and costly refereeing mistakes but the technology has come under heavy fire from Premier League managers who have lost faith in the system. (Photo by Glyn KIRK / AFP)

English Premier League clubs voted yesterday in favour of continuing to use the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system next season.

Although the statement did not contain figures for the ballot, held at the Premier League's annual general meeting, the BBC reported that 19 of the division's 20 clubs had voted to retain the controversial technology.

The BBC said only Wolves -- who last month called the vote to scrap the system -- had backed the abolition of VAR.

The Midlands club had accused

VAR of "undermining the value of the Premier League brand" after another season of several debatable decisions.

VAR was introduced in the Premier League in 2019 with the aim of helping referees avoid clear and obvious errors that had marred matches in the past.

But there were numerous controversies surrounding the technology during the recently concluded 2023/24 campaign, with Premier League managers and fans growing increasingly vocal in their disdain for the system.

Following Thursday's vote,

however, the Premier League acknowledged improvements were required.

"While VAR produces more accurate decision making, it was agreed that improvements should be made for the benefit of the game and supporters," the league said in a statement.

Semi-automated offside technology is set to be introduced next season in the hope this will reduce the length of time needed for offside checks, while in-stadium announcements will be made where an on-field decision is changed following a VAR intervention to

keep fans at the ground informed.

The Premier League added the "high threshold" for intervention would also be maintained.

AFP

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The Essence Of The History Of The Turkic Peoples In Central Asia



By: Mirsaidova Ozoda
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Today there are many peoples of European origin in Central Asia, most of them live in Kazakhstan 7 million Russians and 500,000 Ukrainians in the region. Although the contribution of Central Asia in world history was underestimated during the period of Orientalism, today's historiography recognizes the "central" importance of the history of Central Asia.
- The history of Central Asia is determined by the climate and geography of the region. The aridity of the region's climate made agriculture difficult, while the remote location from the seas made the region's trade relations difficult.



Turkic Peoples In Central Asia

The Turkic peoples are a group of Turkic-speaking peoples living in northern and central Eurasia. These peoples have more or less common culture and traditions. Turkic peoples do not belong to a certain race; the element that connects them is mainly the Turkic clans and languages that are located in their ethnogenesis.

In the pre-Islamic period and during the introduction of Islam to the region, peoples who spoke the Iranian language and had culture lived in Central Asia. Bactrians, Sogds, Khorezms and semi-nomadic Scythians and Dakhs lived in the region. With the migration of Turkic peoples, Central Asia gradually became the homeland of Turkic peoples such as Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Tatars, Turkmens, Kyrgyz and Uighurs. With the exception of Tajikistan, the Iranian languages used in the region were replaced by Turkic languages.

Historically, Central Asia was connected to the Great Silk Road and served as a crossroads for the exchange of people, goods and ideas between Europe and the Far East. Most of the countries of Central Asia are still an important component of the world economy today. From the end of the 19th century to the end of the 20th century, Central Asia was colonized by the Russians. The region was first incorporated into the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union, which led to the migration of Russians and other Slavic peoples to the region. Today there are many peoples of European origin in Central Asia; most of them live in Kazakhstan 7 million Russians and 500,000 Ukrainians in the region. Although the contribution of Central Asia in world history was underestimated during the period of Orientalism, today's historiography recognizes the "central" importance of the history of Central Asia. The history of Central Asia is determined by the climate and geography of the region. The aridity of the region's climate made agriculture difficult, while the remote location from the seas made the region's trade relations difficult. For this reason, there are a num-

ber of large cities in the region, and the region has been under the rule of steppe nomadic tribes for thousands of years. Relations between nomadic tribes and settled peoples in Central Asia have been hostile for a long time. Despite the fact that the nomadic way of life was very suitable for the military and lacked internal organization, nomadic steppe peoples formed the most powerful military force in the world for a long time.

If internal organization among them was sometimes achieved, it was also due to the Great Silk Road passing through Central Asia. Throughout history, sometimes great leaders, or historical circumstances, would cause several tribes to unite into a single force that would later become an almost unstoppable force. Examples of these are the Huns who invaded Europe, the Five Barbarians in Ancient China, and especially the Mongols who conquered a large part of Eurasia. Before Islam and in the early periods of Islam, peoples speaking Iranian languages lived in Central Asia. Among the oldest

Iranian peoples, the Sogds and the Khorezms lived a settled life, while Iranian tribes such as the Scythians and later the Alans lived a nomadic or semi-nomadic life. The main migration wave of the Turkic peoples took place between the 6th and 11th centuries, during which the Turkic peoples spread to almost all parts of Central Asia. In the steppes of Eurasia, instead of the Iranian peoples who speak Indo-European languages, groups with origins in East Asia and Mongolia began to gain a dominant position. By the 8th century, the Arab caliphate and Islam entered the region, but the population demographics did not significantly affect the condition. The conquest of the region by Mongol tribes in the 13th century caused great demographic changes in the region, but did not affect the cultural or linguistic status of the peoples

Mirsaidova Ozoda, a student of the 2nd stage of Anthropology and Ethnology, Faculty of Eastern Civilization and History, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies