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Gachagua Graces The Launch Of Bahati's Empire

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Worth Noting:

- “Kenya as a society, we have values. We also have traditions and culture that we uphold. We have children, who watch your content. What are you (artists) telling them? Be mindful of our children. Come up with content that does not corrupt our young people,” the Deputy President told the forum which comprised leading Kenyans in the Creatives.
- In this debut show, Mr Gachagua said Bahati has shown other artists that it is possible to rise and break barriers, and insisted that content must cause positive impact to the society.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has appealed to artists to create content that promotes societal values and norms, across generations, especially children.

Mr Gachagua also urged artists of all genres to shun, and raise awareness on negative impacts of drug abuse for a healthy nation.

Speaking in Nairobi, at the launch of musician and filmmaker's Kevin Bahati and his artist wife Diana Bahati launched a reality show 'The Bahati's Empire' on Netflix, the Deputy President said artists have a huge role in shaping the moral direction of the society.

The Bahati Empire is the first Kenyan reality show to air via Netflix, the global entertainment platform that is home to over 222 million subscribers in over 190 countries globally.

While congratulating Bahati for this major feat, Mr Gachagua said it is possible to influence morals through creation of content that resonates with the realities of contemporary global society. He told

the star-studded event that good content is one that preserves, promotes and projects values and norms of the people.

“Kenya as a society, we have values. We also have traditions and culture that we uphold. We have children, who watch your content. What are you (artists) telling them? Be mindful of our children. Come up with content that does not corrupt our young people,” the Deputy President told the forum which comprised leading Kenyans in the Creatives.

In this debut show, Mr Gachagua said Bahati has shown other artists that it is possible to rise and break barriers, and insisted that content must cause positive impact to the society.

“While Bahati has pioneered in this reality show, we have a moment to also showcase what Kenya has to offer the world of entertainment through clean, captivating, informative and highly influential content,” he said.

Several artists in the various genres under the Creative Industry were present

during the launch.

Mr Gachagua asked them to avoid abusing drugs, and support the Government in the fight against this vice. The Deputy President has been leading the war on illicit brews, drugs and substance abuse in the country.

“Keep off drugs and other substances that can be harmful to your mental and physical being. It is critical for a successful future. Create content that highlights the dangers of drugs to the society. In so doing, you could have more impact on society,” the Deputy President said.

While commending Bahati for investing and philanthropy, Mr Gachagua encouraged the artists to be frugal with the money they make in their hay days.

“Money is good. Invest wisely when you are young. I encourage you to build houses for your families, not renting. One day, you will tell your children that you invested for them,” he said.

The Deputy President also challenged the artists to remember those who sup-

ported them to thrive in their career.

Mr Gachagua also he asked them not to pay attention to noses that can distract them from realising the full potential of their talent.

“The higher you go, the more the bullying. Never get swayed by cyberbullying. Please ignore bullying and be focused. I have been bullied. If I paid attention, I could not be where I am (Deputy President),” he said.

The Deputy President said he would not be distracted from his focus of assisting President William Ruto deliver on his promise to the people.

The Ruto Administration, he added, values the Creative Industry and will continue improving the ecosystem for the sector to thrive, adding that the President and him have full confidence in the potential of the youth in transforming the economy.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The African Movement for Earth Jurisprudence is advocating for the revival and revitalization of clan ecological governance structures in the Tharaka Community. The Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT-Kenya) has protected and restored 32 critical sacred natural ecosystems in Tharaka, with the latest re-introduction being the cultural system of governance “Gaaru” in Kithino, Tharaka Nithi County. Gaaru, run by elders with deep ecological knowledge, is tasked with creating a community space for local people to deepen their relationship with their roots. The re-introduction will supplement modern-day education by instilling discipline and respect in the young generation and society at large. Gaaru is expected to work closely with county and national governments as an alternative justice system.



The Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) CEO, Jacob Mwangi, emphasised the need for standardisation of affordable housing to provide necessary amenities and simplify unit cost calculations. The association is working to improve working conditions and turnaround times for clients, including individuals, counties, and national governments. Mwangi also highlighted the importance of international networking and borrowing from other parts of the world. The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is focusing on using technology to manufacture affordable and climate-sensitive construction materials to cut construction costs. The National Construction Authority (NCA) is a government body that ensures construction is done according to the law and has around 4,500 construction projects. The NHC is also attracting private sector support and promoting the use of new technology to reduce construction costs.

Labour and Social Protection CS Florence Bore held talks with Ms. Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting, which was also attended by Labour PS Shadrack Mwandime, focused on exploring strategies to leverage the partnership between Kenya and IOM to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in migration governance.

The discussion also centred on ensuring that migration contributes positively to sustainable development and the well-being of all Kenyans.

Both parties deliberated on ways to harness the networks of IOM to facilitate connections between Kenya and countries in need of labor, emphasising the importance of ethical recruitment practices to prevent exploitation.

The CS commended IOM for its support across various initiatives that align with the government’s agenda.

She underscored the importance of collaboration in creating job opportunities for Kenyan youth and leveraging migration as a catalyst for development and positive change.



The Sports Cabinet Secretary, Ababu Namwamba, said the government is actively working on various strategies to achieve socio-economic development in the country.

He highlighted the positive trajectory of the economy since the region took over two years ago. Namwamba urged citizens to be patient as policies and programmes are implemented to ensure common prosperity through the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Priority areas identified include agriculture, infrastructure development, value addition, and supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as catalysts for economic growth.



The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and Kiambu County have been working together since 2020 through the Keeping Food Markets Working Programme (KFMW). The market serves around 2000 people daily and 3,000 consumers on market days. GAIN has trained market leaders on food safety, hygiene, waste management, and compliance. The county government is being urged to provide cold rooms for traders to store their produce. GAIN has been supporting the Madaraka open market in Kenya through various projects, including reducing mud during rainy seasons, installing water tanks for sanitation, and distributing waste bins. The county government has also been working on garbage collection and issuing dustbins. The project aligns with GAIN’s efforts since the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring traders can access food commodities from outside counties and maintain safety. Kiambu County Government plans to build an ultra-modern market, but traders are still doing clean-up exercises to maintain cleanliness.



NEWS PAPER

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PCS Mudavadi Signs IGAD Protocol On Transhumance

By: OPCS

Worth Noting:

- This will help in promoting peaceful coexistence and reduce the risks associated with violence and lead to the protection of the rights and interests of pastoralist communities, including their access to land, water, and grazing resources; and further cooperation and coordination among neighboring countries in addressing common challenges across borders.
- The Protocol was adopted during the 72nd Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on 24th June 2021 and Kenya becomes the 5th Member State of IGAD to sign the Protocol after Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Djibouti.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has signed the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance following a successful meeting with the IGAD Secretariat Delegation led by Dr. Fatma Adan, IGAD Head of Mission in Kenya.

The Protocol provides a critical framework for free, safe, and orderly cross-border mobility of transhumant livestock and herders in search of water and pasture within the IGAD Member States.

It also regulates transhumance activities, including the movement of herders and their livestock across borders; sustainable management of natural

resources, including land, water, and pasture to support transhumance activities; conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

This will help in promoting peaceful coexistence and reduce the risks associated with violence and lead to the protection of the rights and interests of pastoralist communities, including their access to land, water, and grazing resources; and further cooperation and coordination among neighboring countries in addressing common challenges across borders.

The Protocol was adopted during the 72nd Extra-Ordinary Session of the

IGAD Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on 24th June 2021 and Kenya becomes the 5th Member State of IGAD to sign the Protocol after Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Djibouti.

The signing ceremony was presided over by the Registrar of Treaties, Ambassador Joseph Vungo, and was attended by Hon. Jonathan Mueke, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Livestock Development; Hon. Col (Rtd) Ali Raso Dido, the Parliamentary Pastoralist Group representative and Hon. Sarah Korere, MP Laikipia North.

Following the signing of the Protocol by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, it will be submitted to the Cabinet and thereafter to the National Assembly for approval of ratification by Kenya.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), is an eight-country trade bloc in Africa which aims to accelerate economic and social development and integration of the members of the region through integration efforts anchored on peace, prosperity and regional integration.

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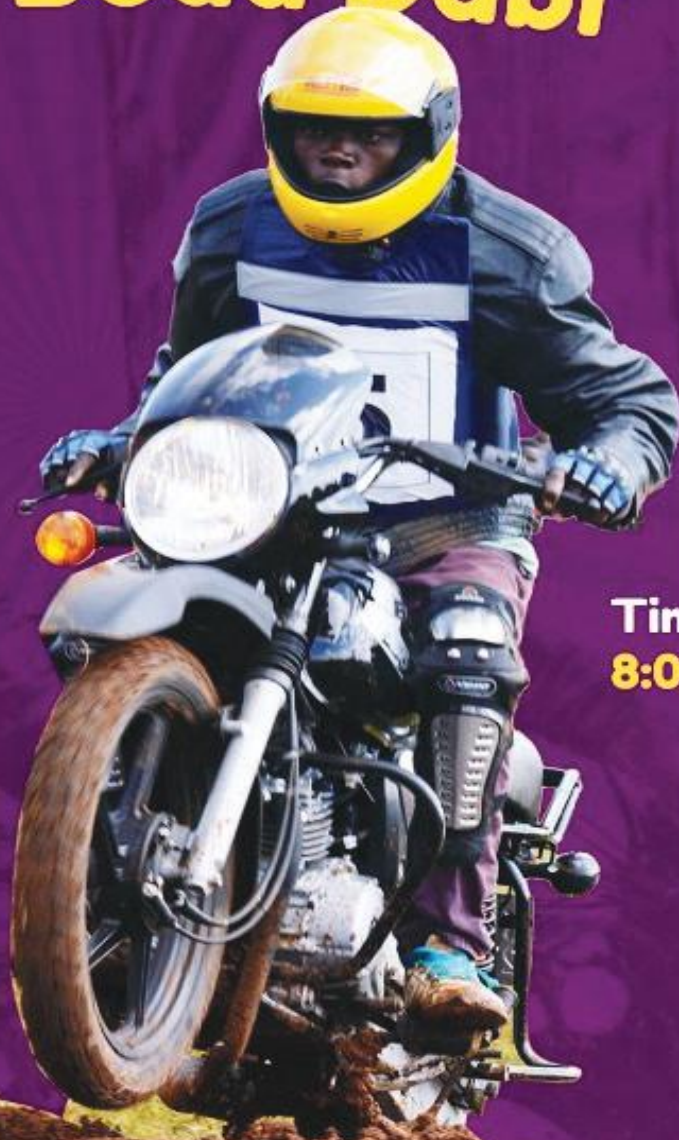
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Bid To Promote Tourism In Tharaka Nithi County

By: Mwenda Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

The Department of Culture and Tourism in Tharaka Nithi County is implementing a robust strategy for revamping the tourism sector.

The Director for the Culture and Tourism department, Mr Geoffrey Chabari on Friday held a meeting with Mt Kenya National Park, Chogoria Gate to deliberate on how to promote the entrance which is the most scenic but currently not doing very well.

Among the stakeholders were Mt. Kenya National Park Assistant Director and the Chogoria Forest Station Forester who lauded the county government led by Governor Muthomi Njuki for the plans.

“We are here as stakeholders to deliberate on how to promote our Chogoria gate which is the most scenic compared to Naru Moru, Kihari, Mawingu, Sirimon and Kamweti gates,” said Mr Chabari.

He noted tourists climbing the biggest mountain in the country like the Chogoria gate due to its terrain which

enables acclimatization.

The gate also leads one to point Lenana, Baren Table, Batian and the mountain lakes including Lake Michaelson which is popularly known for trout.

The tourists take photos of beautiful valleys and also adore watching elephants swim at the Mpaku Swamp.

For the history of our fight for freedom from colonialists, local and international tourists using Chogoria gate visit Mau Mau caves which have bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and guard rooms.

It is at the caves where freedom fighters planned serious operations and hid after attacking colonialists but only Mau Mau generals could be allowed to spend nights there.

Tourists entering through the Chogoria gate also have a chance to learn the Ameru culture including preparing traditional brew and porridge from millet, sorghum and finger millet.

The route has many tour guides and potters who help tourists go up the mountain.

The Department of Culture and Tourism is also preparing for the 2024 Ura Gate Cultural Festival which is held every year in August at the entrance



Tharaka-Nithi County Tourism and Culture Director Geoffrey Chabari (3rd left) when he met Mt Kenya National Park Chogoria gate stakeholders. Photo/Mwenda Njeru

of Meru National Park- Ura gate.

Already the department has held auditions in all the 15 wards for the

traditional groups to participate at the mega event that is tentatively scheduled for 27-31 August.

Juja Holds Baraza To Combat Violent Extremism

By: Sylvia Wanjohi
 @themtkenyatimes

In a proactive step towards combating violent extremism, Murera Assistant County Commissioner Aileen Mukiri has convened the first Kikao Baraza at the Assistant Chief’s Office in Juja Farm.

The meeting was aimed at addressing the pressing issue of Preventing Counter Violence Extremism (PCVE) within the community.

The Baraza was attended by other stakeholders including church leaders, the Bodaboda chairman and riders, youths, and local residents.

This collaborative effort underscored the community’s unified stand against the growing threat of religious extremism, which has been particularly affecting the youth in the area.



Reports indicate that young people are being targeted and lured into spreading false narratives that demonize other religions other than Christianity.

Mukiri urged the community to stand

together in combating the threat and to tolerate each other’s religion.

“Our community must stand together to combat the threat of violent extremism. This Baraza is just the beginning of our collective efforts to

ensure a safe and peaceful environment for all residents,” she said.

During the meeting, Wahome Macharia, a project officer at SOWED Africa, provided crucial education on identifying potential extremists. Em-

phasizing on community vigilance. “Education and vigilance are key in preventing the spread of extremist ideologies. Remember, when you see something, say something. Together, we can protect our community from harmful influences,” Macharia emphasized.

The inaugural Baraza marked the beginning of a series of such meetings aimed at fostering community awareness and resilience against violent extremism.

A second meeting is scheduled to take place on June 12 at the ACC office, continuing the dialogue and education efforts initiated on Friday.

The event reflects the commitment of local authorities and organizations like SOWED Africa to safeguard the community by promoting peace, tolerance, and unity against divisive ideologies.

Raila Rejects Finance Bill 2024 In Totality, Warns Economy May Collapse

By: Joseph Muia



Worth Noting:

- The opposition leader cited the economic areas which would be affected by the proposed increase of taxes and Value Added Tax (VAT) saying ordinary Kenyans will be subjected to hardships worse than in the last financial year.
- “The Bill is a regressive taxation proposal that goes ruthlessly after the poor. Should it be ratified, low-income people will be hit with taxes on multiple fronts and will end up paying more than people with higher incomes. It is obvious that tax on basic necessities such as food, cooking oil and money transfer disproportionately hurt the poorest of the poor,” he said.



Opposition leader Raila Odinga addresses the press during a joint briefing with Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi on June 5, 2024. PHOTO | COURTESY.

The Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition party leader Rail Odinga has slammed the government over the proposals contained in Finance Bill, 2024.

In a statement on Friday, Mr. Odinga took a swipe at the Kenya Kwanza regime terming the Bill as retrogressive and insensitive to the plight of the poor in the country, reiterating that its impacts will be worse than Finance Bill, 2023.

The opposition leader cited the economic areas which would be affected by the proposed increase of taxes and Value Added Tax (VAT) saying ordinary Kenyans will be subjected to hardships worse than in the last financial year.

“The Bill is a regressive taxation proposal that goes ruthlessly after the poor. Should it be ratified, low-income people will be hit with taxes on multiple fronts and will end up paying more than people with higher incomes. It is obvious that tax on basic necessities such as food, cooking oil and money transfer disproportionately hurt the poorest of the poor,” he said.

“The tax burden in Kenya is at its highest level since independence, but public services have largely remained

on their knees. As if this is not bad enough the Finance Bill 2024 proposes even more and higher taxes. Consequently, the people and the country will be way worse off at this time in 2025 if the Finance Bill 2024 does not undergo a radical surgery. Most of the tax proposals in the Finance Bill 2024 are as insensitive as they are callous.”

Mr. Odinga highlighted the new taxes imposed on basic commodities such as bread, edible oil, mobile banking transactions and sugarcane factories reaffirming that the same would subject Kenyans who are already hurting economically to more pain.

He also touched on the negative impact of the eco levy which is proposed to be imposed on manufactured products such as diapers, the 2.5 per cent tax on motor vehicles and new taxes on insurance and reinsurance services.

“The government is trying to make it more costly for people to send and receive money by phone and at the same time trying to kill remittances from the diaspora...When the government imposes a 25 per cent excise duty on edible oil as is being proposed in the Finance Bill 2024, the cost of cooked food, including those served in kibandas and kiosks that are

the refuge of millions of casual workers will rise,” he stated.

“We see no positive result that the country which is a net importer of nearly everything can derive from the proposal to raise import declaration fees from 2 per cent to 3 per cent. The impact is that the cost of goods will go up.”

According to the Azimio boss, the President William Ruto-led regime ought to learn from Finance Bill, 2023 which he says despite slapping Kenyans with more taxes in the name of raising the country’s revenues, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) still fell short of its targets.

He argues that the revenues decreased since most businesses were forced to shut down due to high operation costs resulting from high prices of fuel.

“It must be remembered that the tax measures put in place last year and which led to violent protests have subjected Kenyans to a great deal of trauma but bore no fruit. The intended purpose of the 2023 tax measures was to help the government raise more revenue,” he said.

“Instead, the Kenya Revenue Authority consistently failed to meet targets. The high taxes on petroleum

products occasioned a fall on the fuel levy raised. They led to closure and relocation of businesses.”

Mr. Odinga thus advised the current administration to reconsider its tax proposals warning that Finance Bill, 2024 may lead to the collapse of the country’s economy.

He consequently implored Members of Parliament to shoot down the Bill when it is tabled in Parliament in a bid to save Kenyans.

“If we expect businesses to invest in Kenya, then we cannot afford a tax policy to shoot up and down and keep swinging like a pendulum. We equally cannot afford taxation measures whose end result is to inflict more pain on the poor who expect relief... The tax proposals for 2024 will make an already bad situation worse. They could usher the collapse of an economy that is already severely suffocated and the poor will be the hardest hit,” he noted.

“Parliament must therefore inject very radical surgery on the outrageous proposals in the Finance Bill 2024. We will not accept the mistakes and pains inflicted on Kenyans by the Finance Act 2023 to be continued into 2025 through Finance Bill 2024.”

KTDA Affiliated Farmers To Elect 324 Directors

By: Rodgers Wagura
@themtkenyatimes

The elections of directors of 54 tea processing factories affiliated to the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) will be conducted at the end of the month.

In preparation for the June 28 exercise, the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) chairman Jacob Kahiu met with security agencies from Central and Eastern regions at FK Resort and SPA near Nyeri town.

“The importance of security agencies in the upcoming elections is to ensure free, fair and credible elections which will be overseen by Kenya’s electoral body Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)” Kahiu said while briefing journalists after the meeting.

He added that there have been cases involving directors election in the courts for over 3 years and government came into consensus with Tea

Board of Kenya on 14th April this year signed an agreement and taken to a constitutional court declaring that KTDA elections should be held by 1st July 2024 and the TBK came up with the date to honour the court decree.

“The exercise will happen in 1705 stations from 3700 tea buying centers in Kenya’s tea growing zones and this time it will be on secret ballot with one man one vote unlike earlier where voters were considered with the shares one had in a factory” Kahiu said.

He added that farmers should know that TBK has no preferred candidate and by using IEBC farmers vote will be respected as to the one they want.

“Besides signing contracts with individual factories for the conduct of election for its directors, IEBC will also handle dispute resolution functions emerging from the process. Ministry of Interior and National Administration has also committed to taking control of security so that there is no disruption,” Kahiu added. Central Regional Commissioner



Tea Board of Kenya Jacob Kahiu addressing journalists at FK Resort and SPA on Friday. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU.

Fredrick Shisia said that they are committed to provide security during the elections so as to ensure farmers rights are respected and their will is

done. “Without security, elections can turn chaotic and the will of the majority overturned and that’s why it is vital to

have enough security” he added.

Court Suspends Ruto’s State Corporations Reform In Urgent Suit

By: Sharon Resian
@themtkenyatimes

The High Court has suspended a directive by President Ruto on the management of state corporation staff and board members.

Friday’s conservatory order followed a lawsuit filed by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) contesting guidelines backed by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission as a direct usurpation by the Executive on the functions of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

LSK said the Guidelines violate Articles 230 and 234 of the Constitution citing an apparent attempt to establish a parallel public service under the Office of the President.

Judge Lawrence Mugambi gave a conservatory order restraining the respondents acting under their instructions from implementing the Guidelines on the Management and Terms and Conditions of Service for Board Members and Staff of State Corporations, pending an inter partes hearing.

Mugambi also suspended the

Gazette Notice No. 6265 Vol. CXXVI No. 70 published on May 24, 2024 proclaiming the Guidelines on the Management and Terms and Conditions of Service for Board Members and Staff of State Corporations.

“That a Conservatory order is hereby issued suspending the Executive Order No. 3 of 2024 promulgating the Guidelines on the Management and Terms and Conditions of Service for Board Members and Staff of State Corporations, 2024 and further, prohibiting the Respondents, their agents or any person acting on their behalf from acting or giving effect to the Executive Order No. 3 of 2024 pending the inter partes hearing of this Application,” the judge directed =.

The court ordered parties to file responses to the Petition and Application within 7 days from the date of service.

Infringement

LSK asked the court to term the Executive Order invalid, null and void. “A DECLARATION be and is hereby issued that the Guidelines on management and Terms and Condi-

tions of Service for Board Members and Staff of State Corporations, May 2024 are unconstitutional for violating the Powers and Functions of the Public Service Commission under Article 234(2) of the Constitution,” the LSK petitioned.

LSK asked the court to restrain the Attorney General and other respondents from implementing the guidelines on the management and terms and conditions of service for Board Members and Staff of state corporations.

The Law Society argued the President and the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service have infringed on the constitutional independence of the Public Service Commission contrary to Article 249 of the Constitution.

LSK sought the court to bar the President, the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, and the State Corporations Advisory Committee from developing, promulgating or issuing any guidelines on the management of terms and conditions of service in the public service without the authority or approval of the Public Service Commission (PSC). The petitioner cited Article 234(2)



of the Constitution, the PSC Act and PSC Regulations.

Executive action

In a notice published in the gazette on May 24, 2024, President Ruto ordered that the guidelines for the management of State corporations in 2024 shall and do supersede the Guidelines issued in November 2004.

“I do hereby direct all Boards of State Corporations to secure the immediate implementation of the 2024 Guidelines on the Management of State Corporations (May 2024),”

read the notice. Ruto said the revised guidelines will provide salary bands and allowances for CEOs, board members, vice Chancellors, Chancellors and members of University councils. The guidelines were also to provide a new standard for the governance and ethical behaviour of board members and staff of State corporations. Ruto said the guideline aims to encourage productivity at the agency and employee levels while encouraging the efficient, effective, and responsible use of public resources.

Gachagua Tells Leaders Not To Vilify Him Over One Man, One Vote Debate

By: PHIDEL KIZITO
 @themkenyatimes

Deputy president Rigathi Gachagua has called on leaders to stop vilifying him over his stance on the One Man-One Vote-one shilling push.

While welcoming Azimio Leader Raila Odinga and DAP-Kenya party leader Eugene Wamalwa's support public support on the issue, Gachagua maintained that he was entitled to his opinion and should not be criticized.

"The fact that I am deputy president does not extinguish my right as a Kenyan as per the constitution to have an opinion. But that opinion is not a command," he said.

Gachagua called for tolerance, urging leaders to engage in the revenue allocation formula devoid of abuse and labeling.

He stated that every leader should be accorded an opportunity to share their views on the revenue allocation formula.

"There is no need for hatred and abuse because of views," he said.

On Wednesday, Odinga endorsed the

One-Man, One-Vote, One-Shilling clamor championed by Gachagua.

Odinga declared his support for the campaign seeking additional allocation of resources to the populous Mt Kenya region during a meeting with the Limuru III caucus led by Jeremiah Kioni.

"In devolution, we talked about equity in the sharing of resources. That means we count of the number of people while sharing resources. Somehow it has been misrepresented as if it is discriminating against some parts of our country. Nothing could be further from the truth," he remarked following a meeting at Chungwa House.

He cited disparities with the government-funded bursary scheme under the Constituency Development Fund which he said favors some regions at the expense of others.

The proposal has since sparked a heated debate across the political divide pitting Deputy Gachagua against President William Ruto's allies who have labeled him ethnically biased.

Gachagua has been on an onslaught to woo the Mount Kenya region to rally behind him calling leaders opposed to his campaign traitors.



Deputy president Rigathi Gachagua

Court Grants Ian Njoroge Ksh700,000 Bond

By: KBC Digital

Ian Njoroge, the youth who allegedly assaulted and robbed a traffic police officer along Kamiti Road, has been released a bond of Ksh700,000.

Milimani Senior Principal Magistrate Ben Mark Ekhumbi did not grant Njoroge the option of a cash bail, citing the seriousness of the offense committed.

Njoroge was charged on Tuesday with causing actual bodily harm, resisting arrest, and robbery with violence following the incident that occurred on Sunday.

He was also produced before the Traffic Court, where he faced three counts of causing obstruction and carrying excess passengers.

According to the prosecution, Njoroge robbed a police officer identified as Jacob Ogendo of a police communication gadget and a Samsung phone worth Ksh50,000.



Demystifying AI: A Beginners Guide to Artificial Intelligence



By: David Ndirangu
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Limited Memory Machines imitate the way the human brain's neurons work together. They can go into the past and monitor objects or situations over time. Their actions are thus based on the present and past data. Example of Limited Memory Machines include the self-driving cars – they observe other vehicles on the road for speed, direction and proximity, traffic lights, curves, bumps and other features on the road.
- The Internet is another one. A network of physical devices – vehicles, other devices with sensors, software and connectivity that all collect and share data. It works with application programs that allow two or more people, programs or components to communicate with each other.



Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of computer systems and computer controlled robots performing everyday common tasks that are ordinarily performed using human intelligence. This involves simulation of human intelligence processes by computers and machines to perform problem solving tasks. It revolves around natural language processing, speech recognition and machine vision.

Natural language processing (NLP) allows computers to understand our human language while Machine or Computer Vision enables computers to identify objects and people in pictures and photos.

Graphical processing helps computers form graphics and images through mathematical calculations.

The US military was using AI as early as 1960s but research had been going on from the 1950s. Various types of AI currently in use even though a lot of research is still going on in several areas include;

Reactive machine - are AI systems with no memory. They are task-specific, process huge amounts of data

and deliver the same output. They react the same way and in a predictive manner. The difference with the average human beings is that humans would not be capable of processing the same amount of data so they would not necessarily react the same way when faced with a similar situation.

Limited Memory Machines imitate the way the human brain's neurons work together. They can go into the past and monitor objects or situations over time. Their actions are thus based on the present and past data. Example of Limited Memory Machines include the self-driving cars – they observe other vehicles on the road for speed, direction and proximity, traffic lights, curves, bumps and other features on the road.

The Internet is another one. A network of physical devices – vehicles, other devices with sensors, software and connectivity that all collect and share data. It works with application programs that allow two or more people, programs or components to communicate with each other.

Most of us may have possibly been

using AI without our knowledge. Maps and navigation applications have made our travelling much easier as opposed to using the traditional printed maps. Coupled with cab hailing applications, our lives have become more comfortable.

Using our faces as identification codes to unlock our phones and using visual filters when taking photos is also actually facial detection in AI. Face recognition is used for surveillance and identification of suspects by security agencies.

It has become fairly common to use text editors and autocorrect functions in our computers. Linguists and computer scientists have been working together to 'teach' grammar to computers for this purpose.

In customer service, we have Chatbots and virtual assistants that interact with customers to answer frequently asked questions. There are many advantages of having AI with us including fast and wider knowledge sharing, increased efficiency in doing things, reducing human error and quick decision making.

Some concerns and fears have been

raised about AI - such as possible loss of jobs due to automation of repetitive tasks, data privacy and security, lack of transparency by those holding such data and the fear that criminals including terrorists could use AI for their heinous activities.

There are some concerns relating to the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence – there are some who are concerned about the imminent loss of jobs due to automation of the tasks that they do. Cyber security and security of the massive data available in the AI space is also cause for alarm. Authorities have security concerns that the information could easily get into the hands of criminals and may be used for their illegal intentions like terrorism and such other activities.

David Ndirangu Bsc. International Business Administration (USIU-A) CPA (K), Business Management Consultant and Author of the book; *This is DAVE*. Email; ndiranguda-vid2023@gmail.com

SHOFCO Marks 20 Years Of Community Engagement Highlighting Key Wins

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- Its programs focus on education, healthcare, water and sanitation, economic empowerment, community mobilization, and youth development, with the overarching goal of improving the well-being and opportunities of residents living in urban slums and rural areas across Kenya.

- “I’m delighted to see what SHOFCO has achieved in the past 20 years. It began with a soccer ball and 20 cents in Kibera, the organization has now spread its wings across Kenya, touching lives of over four million people yearly.

- “We could not have done it without the support of our donors and the communities we serve. It has been an amazing journey and we look forward to more fruitful years ahead,” Odede said.



L-R: Jeremy Mindich, Chairman Board of Directors SHOFCO, Dr. Kennedy Odede, CEO and founder SHOFCO, co-founder Jessica Posner and Nairobi County Woman MP Esther Pasisi/SHOFCO

Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) on Thursday marked its 20th anniversary in a colorful event attended by several dignitaries.

Founded by Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner in 2004, SHOFCO has been at the forefront in addressing challenges facing slum residents.

SHOFCO is currently operating in 40 counties in Kenya, impacting over four million lives, and in 2018 became the youngest-ever organization to receive the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the world’s largest humanitarian prize awarded to non-profits that have made extraordinary contributions to alleviate human suffering.

The organisation’s work is grounded in a holistic approach to community development, addressing multiple dimensions of poverty and inequality to create lasting change.

Its programs focus on education, healthcare, water and sanitation, economic empowerment, community mobilization, and youth development, with the overarching goal of improving the well-being and opportunities of residents living in urban slums and rural areas across Kenya.

“I’m delighted to see what SHOFCO

has achieved in the past 20 years. It began with a soccer ball and 20 cents in Kibera, the organization has now spread its wings across Kenya, touching lives of over four million people yearly.

“We could not have done it without the support of our donors and the communities we serve. It has been an amazing journey and we look forward to more fruitful years ahead,” Odede said.

Under its education programme, SHOFCO is currently running two schools, Kibera School for Girls and Mathare School for Girls, with a student population of 580. The students are fully sponsored from grades one through eight while enjoying vital services, such as healthcare and water, together with their families.

Apart from primary school education, the organization also sponsors 125 students in secondary school, and 30 others in universities in Kenya and the United States under its Future Education Programme.

SHOFCO pioneered aerial water piping systems in Kibera to crack down on vandalism and theft of pipes and end contamination of water. The pipes terminate at 57 water kiosks lo-

cated in strategic parts of Kibera and Mathare slums, serving over 200,000 residents daily. The organisation also supplies water to 47 schools and five health centres in Kibera and Lang’ata sub counties for free.

The organization currently operates three Level 3 health centres in Kibera (2) and Mathare (1), serving over 600 patients daily.

“Our clinics were started from the idea that no one should die because of lack of healthcare. Our health centres treat people both within and outside of the slums,” Odede stated.

The organization has been carrying out healthcare outreaches in Nairobi, Mombasa, Siaya, and Kakamega counties and it has so far reached 467,087 as of 2023.

SHOFCO has reached 76,614 vulnerable women through its Sustainable Livelihoods programme where they are trained on various courses such as tailoring, handicrafts, and other soft skills to support their economic empowerment.

As of 2023, some 15,000 gender-based violence survivors had been supported by SHOFCO. The organization runs safe houses in Kibera and Mathare slums, and has support-

ed several GBV victims to get justice and empower them socially and economically.

SHOFCO Sacco gave out loans worth Sh272 million in 2023 up from Sh148 million it disbursed in 2022, registering an increase of 83 per cent. The Sacco, which was founded in 2015 and currently has 18000 members, allows residents of informal settlements to access credit without collaterals as long as they have savings as little as Sh1000. At least 86 per cent of the Sacco’s members are women. Since its inception, SHOFCO Sacco has given out loans worth over Sh1 billion.

In 2022, SHOFCO’S community-driven change became a model for global NGOs following a case study conducted by Bridgespan Group which had a close-up look at on-the-ground approaches that make the Kenyan organisation tick.

SHOFCO stood out among the other NGOs around the world with Bridgespan concluding that their model of community-driven change has achieved impact that lasts because the community feels a sense of ownership.

Education



Dear reader, the weather is beautiful today, isn't it?

I didn't know if it was because I didn't sleep enough, I was very sleepy in the first part of the lesson today. The mood of a sleepy person will not be very high. The class ended and I went home. On the way, I saw a little boy in the subway. He is about six or seven years old, but his tongue is burro-burro. There are a lot of people and the subway is a bit crowded, and someone stepped on the child's leg, apparently, looking at the older man, he said, "Brother, look at your eyes, don't you see?" I laughed.

I saw a woman standing in front of me, wearing a "cap" and a matching outfit. So, I thought that this woman must be his mother, but I was wrong. That "cap" woman's style of dressing was not very suitable for women, and I thought that this woman must have raised the boy from the behavior of the little boy next to him towards the older man. Whether we like it or not, the way we behave, dress and speak determines the first impression about us. On the other hand, a little kindergarten-age boy keeps asking his mother questions about trains and wagons. One of the most patient mothers in the world, this happy woman is also responding to her child without melting. The situation was very beautiful. I mean, on the one hand, the way you dress shows who you are, and on the other hand, your words and the people you raise in public speak about you. We live in a time when attention and responsibility are very important. At this time, of course, the role of older people

around them, especially parents, is important in the education of young people. Any parent who wants their child to grow up to be a good and moral person should first work on themselves. Everyone should pay attention to their actions and be a good example for their children. Such a moral society that we have been able to create is pleasing to the eye.

Life is not only negative. When I get off the subway, they refuse to let a much older uncle pass me, even girls my age. Their faces were so beautiful. I was happy to see it. After that, everywhere I looked, I saw smiles on everyone's faces. I felt even happier when I saw a little girl walking not far from me.

As always, when I think about it, life is very beautiful and wonderful. Well, difficulties will come, but they will pass. Happiness can be found in everything. You just need to be able to do it. A person can only educate himself. Asking God and making an effort, in shaa Allah, will give a beautiful result.

Just stop being apathetic. Educate yourself first and then those around you. Contribute to creating a beautiful society. Of course, one day you will enjoy this beauty.

I wish everyone good luck. I didn't just write this, I thought it might be useful to some people. We will achieve everything with God's permission, of course, if our intentions are sincere. Dear reader, may good results accompany you on your way to your goals!

Ochilova Sarvinoz Husan

Ochilova, daughter of Sarvinoz Husan, was born on December 1, 2003 in Guzor district of Kashkadarya region in an intellectual family. Currently, he is a 3rd-level grant student of Textology and Literary Source Studies, Uzbek Language, Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi. He can communicate in English and Turkish. The author of several scientific articles.

Our School



A school is called a mosque. Because, according to the words of the wise, a school is a brothel. Such a great dargah gave fatwa to some scholars from his hot heart.

Today, one of the holy places is the 43rd general secondary school located in the village of Uychichorbog, which belongs to the village of Talikuron, Karshi district. In this school, I am learning the lessons of life and the secrets of science. The construction work of the school started in 2008, and its current appearance is in the shape of a Russian "P". It accommodates 574 students. Our school has 350 seats and classes are held in two shifts. Out of 574 students, 251 are boys and 323 are girls. Our school is beautiful and its students are in the leading positions in the field of education and various laboratory rooms are available, and everyone can use them sufficiently.

School educates us, and family educates us. Education of children leads to school, and the knowledge gained from school is shown to the community. There is a difference between coming to school and coming. Some come to school to study and some to sleep. The school has all the amenities nowadays. Like our ancestors, we like to write a lesson on the earth and a letter on a tree trunk. We use special educational tools.

Our great fighters and generals have fought for our progress to this day. There is no way to say anything other than thank you for these days. School is our second home. If our house is peaceful, our school and room should be in the same order.

I liken a flower to a sunflower because even a sunflower opens and closes. The school is in the same order. For example, a sunflower blooms all

day, and the opposite in the evening. A sunflower, like a school, takes care of its tiny seeds in the same way that teachers teach them. Pupils will transfer the knowledge they have acquired from school to the hands of our peasant grandfathers, like the sun, and sunflowers will ripen their seeds. "Youth is a booty, time is an animation, whip the horse on occasion"

In the address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the youth, the above lines sound like an invitation to the future. Today, we young people sit at school desks, get knowledge and lay the foundation stone for our lives, and we are always ready for the call of our country's president. After all, we take steps towards a bright future and a bright perspective from school.

Dilbar Koldoshova Nuraliyevna born on March 5, 2007 in Karshi district of Kashkadarya region. Currently, he is a 10-B grader of the 43rd school. Dilbarkhan Koldoshova stands out from her peers with exemplary behavior and manners Dilbarkhan's favourite hobby are painting, writing poems and playing computer games.

Dilbarkhan Koldoshova the queen of poetry, the owner of creativity, the singer with a beautiful voice, the restless creator, the girl of ghazals, the Dilbarkhan Koldoshova.

He won the 1st place in the „Leader of the year“ competition.

The winner of the 1st place in the regional stage of the „Yuz g azal yuz javohir“ competition. „Bolalar forumi“ and was recognized as the 1st place in many competitions.

Currently, he is the coordinator of the Educational Department of Talikuron MFY of Karshi district.

Kamalok sardori captain of opposite district. He is the chief captain of the „Orasta qizlar“ club in school 43.

Mother Nature



Nature is an existence that existed before the appearance of man and with the participation of man. In general, this is the world, man, universe; micromacromegaworlds; inanimate and animate.

In the narrow sense, it is an object studied by natural sciences. Nature is subject to laws independent of people and society. Man is a part of nature. Man cannot change the laws of nature, he can only master the elements and parts of nature using the laws. The concept

of nature is also considered as a set of natural conditions for the existence of human society. Man works to live, work (for example, farming, construction, industry), brain activity and others change some aspects of nature. Material wealth created by a person, that is, in the process of social work, is conditionally called "second nature". There are also natural wealth. These are: trees, plants, air, water, soil, etc. Many measures are currently being taken to protect nature, which is necessary for us to appreciate these riches. For example, our president Shavkat Mirziyoyev is conducting various cleaning activities in each neighborhood, district and city. Up to now, improvement works have started in our school and neighborhood.

Yesterday we planted many trees with our school and cleaned the streets from garbage. And again I went home and planted seedlings with my parents. Because my father is a farmer himself, he understands nature well and loves it. I take care of the seedlings as my father told me.

Currently, many measures can be taken to protect nature, for example; Limiting emissions to the atmosphere and hydrosphere in order to improve the general environmental situation.

Creation of nature reserves and national parks for the preservation of natural complexes. Restriction of fishing, hunting to save some species.

Limit waste. And so on. Nature is our second half, we must always protect it. It is necessary to reach this nature to the people who will live after us. Nothing compares to mother nature. He gives us love, cares for us and grows in his bosom

9th grade student of the 292nd comprehensive school of the Yangi Hayot district of Tashkent city
Artikbayeva Shahzoda

I was born Artikbayeva Shahzoda on June 18, 2009 in the new life district of Tashkent city. Currently, I am a student of the 8th B class of school 292. In 2022, I took second place in the young reader city stage and became the owner of a laptop. My poems were also published in "Gulxon" magazine, "Morning star", "Yangi yer tong" newspapers. I participated in many events and competitions and won certificates and diplomas.

My Father



A laugh that echoes, deep and warm,
A heart that holds the world inside,
In every step, his spirit soars,
A father's love, forever wide.

In fleeting moments, memories bloom,
His legacy, a timeless thread,
In every heartbeat, every breath,
A father's love, forever spread.

In the quiet dawn, the shadows fade,
He rises with the light of day,
A gentle strength, a steady guide,
His love, a beacon, lights the way.

His hands are worn from honest toil,
Yet tender when they hold his child,
With stories told and lessons shared,
He leads with wisdom, calm and mild.

Through trials faced and battles fought,
His courage never seems to wane,
A pillar standing firm and true,
In joy and sorrow, loss and gain.

Tursunboyeva Nigora Abdumannob qizi was born on February 23, 2009, in Uzbekistan. Currently, she is a 10th grade student at the Is'hoqxon Ibrat Creativity School. She is proficient in writing poetry and stories and can freely speak in English, Russian, Uzbek and German. Her stories have been published in the prestigious Kenyan journal "Kenya Times" and in Germany's "Raven Cage" journal her story "Family" was featured. Her poems have appeared in the book "Stars of the Knowledge Arena" and she has been honored with a medal. In the American anthology "The Voices of Uzbekistan," under the title "O'zbekim Dilbandlari," her poems "Armon," "Bahorim," and "Endi she'r yozmasman" have been published. And she is an active member of the World Writers and Artists Working Group Juntos Por Las Letras.

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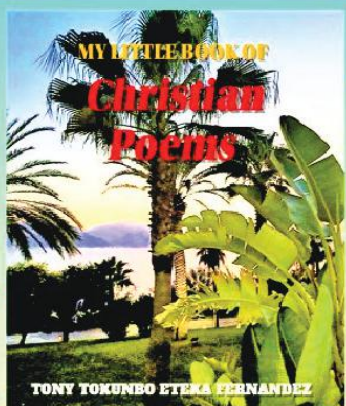
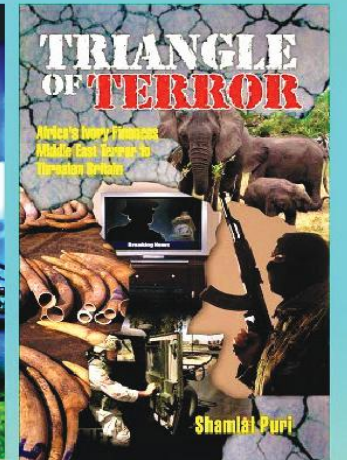
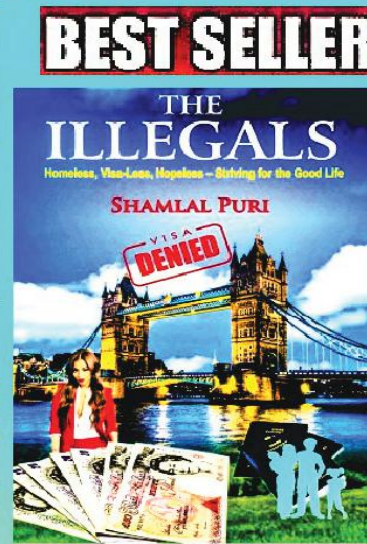
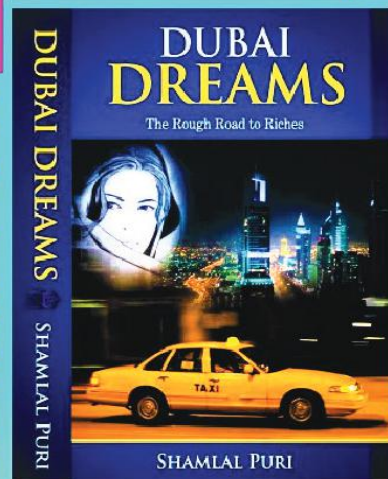
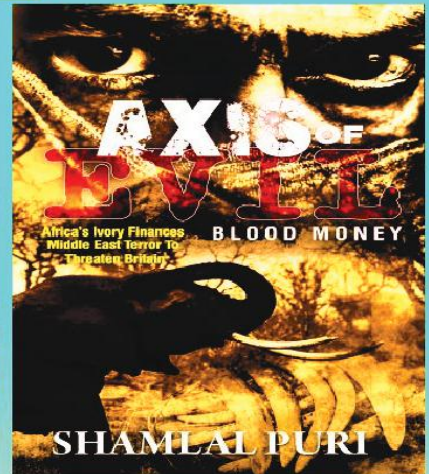
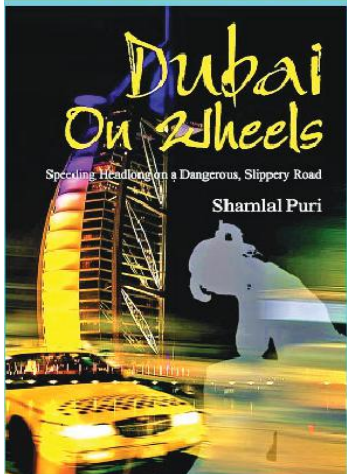
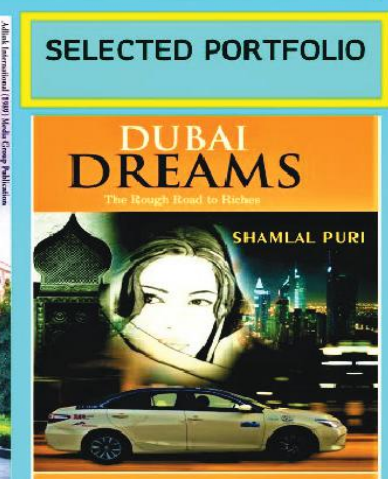
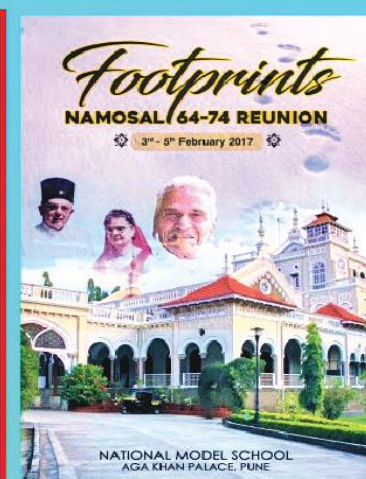
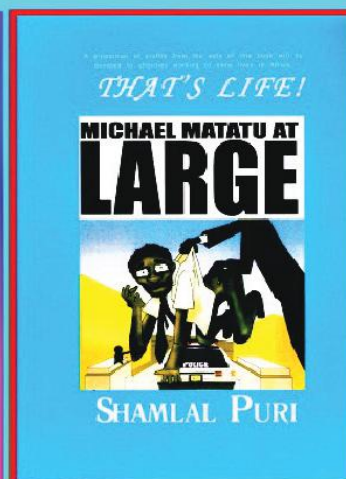
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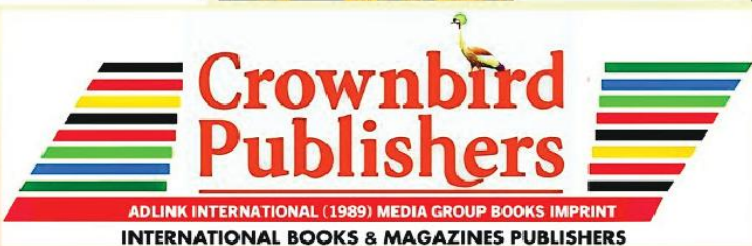
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HEALTH

The Silent Struggle: Bank Loans Are Leading Kenyan Teachers To Depression

By: Kamomonti Wa
Kiambati
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The issue is compounded by the lack of financial literacy among teachers. Many enter into loan agreements without fully understanding the terms and conditions, leading to excessive borrowing and unsustainable debt levels. In some cases, teachers are lured by predatory lenders who offer quick cash but charge exorbitant interest rates, pushing borrowers further into financial distress.
- The consequences of this debt crisis extend beyond financial hardship. Teachers burdened with debt often experience high levels of stress and anxiety, impacting their mental health and overall well-being. Depression, in particular, has become increasingly prevalent among Kenyan teachers, with many suffering in silence due to the stigma associated with mental illness.



Depression.

In Kenya, the teaching profession has long been regarded with respect and admiration. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the nation's future by educating and nurturing young minds. However, behind the facade of stability and respect lies a silent struggle that many Kenyan teachers face: overwhelming debt and financial stress. As Kenya Women Teachers Association (Kewota) initiates country wide walk to rescue their colleagues who have fallen into depression and address teachers' mental wellness, it is time to address the root cause: financial woes.

Recent studies have shown a worrying trend among Kenyan teachers, with many falling into depression due to the burden of bank loans. Despite their essential role in society, teachers in Kenya often struggle with low salaries that barely cover their basic needs, let alone unexpected expenses or investments in personal development. As a result, many turn to loans to make ends meet, leading to a vicious cycle of debt and despair.

The root of the problem lies in the inadequate remuneration system for teachers in Kenya. Despite their pivotal role in nation-building, teachers are among the lowest-paid civil servants in the country. The disparity

between their salaries and the rising cost of living has forced many teachers to seek financial assistance from banks and other lending institutions.

The issue is compounded by the lack of financial literacy among teachers. Many enter into loan agreements without fully understanding the terms and conditions, leading to excessive borrowing and unsustainable debt levels. In some cases, teachers are lured by predatory lenders who offer quick cash but charge exorbitant interest rates, pushing borrowers further into financial distress.

The consequences of this debt crisis extend beyond financial hardship. Teachers burdened with debt often experience high levels of stress and anxiety, impacting their mental health and overall well-being. Depression, in particular, has become increasingly prevalent among Kenyan teachers, with many suffering in silence due to the stigma associated with mental illness.

Furthermore, the financial strain placed on teachers can affect their performance in the classroom, ultimately compromising the quality of education provided to students. Teachers preoccupied with their own financial worries may struggle to focus on teaching effectively, leading

to a decline in student outcomes and academic standards.

Addressing the plight of Kenyan teachers requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both the root causes of the problem and its immediate consequences. First and foremost, there is an urgent need to reform the salary structure for teachers to ensure they receive fair and competitive compensation for their invaluable contributions to society.

Additionally, efforts should be made to improve financial literacy among teachers, empowering them to make informed decisions about borrowing and managing their finances responsibly. Providing access to financial education workshops and resources can help teachers navigate the complexities of personal finance and avoid falling prey to predatory lending practices.

Moreover, there is a need for greater regulation and oversight of the lending industry to protect borrowers from exploitation and abuse. Government agencies and regulatory bodies must enforce stricter guidelines on interest rates and loan terms to prevent lenders from taking advantage of vulnerable individuals, including teachers.

Beyond these immediate interven-

tions, there is also a broader societal need to address the stigma surrounding mental health issues in Kenya. Creating a supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable seeking help for mental health challenges is essential to breaking the silence surrounding depression and other mental illnesses.

In conclusion, the prevalence of bank loans leading Kenyan teachers to depression is a pressing issue that demands urgent attention and action. By addressing the root causes of the problem, improving financial literacy, and fostering a culture of mental health awareness, we can support teachers in overcoming financial hardship and reclaiming their well-being. Only then can we ensure that Kenya's educators are able to fulfill their vital role in shaping the future of the nation without sacrificing their own mental and financial health.

Kamomonti wa Kiambati teaches English and Literature in Gatundu North Sub County.

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Shelter Afrique's Transformation To Be Solidified At 43rd AGM

By: Cynthia Masibo and Aoma Keziah

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Shelter Afrique's DB Managing Director Thierno Habib Hann addressing the media at their headquarters in Nairobi.

Worth Noting:

- The AGM, themed "Sustainable Partnerships in the Affordable Housing Finance Value Chain," will convene key stakeholders including shareholders from the 44 member states, institutional shareholders like the African Development Bank and Africa Re, policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners. This assembly aims to strategize on advancing affordable housing across Africa.
- "This year's theme is important because the housing sector in Africa is intricately linked to partnerships in the region, influenced by various stakeholders throughout the housing value chain. Understanding these dynamics is essential for addressing the challenges and opportunities in providing affordable and sustainable housing for all," Mr. Hann concluded.

Shelter Afrique Development Bank (ShafDB) is poised to mark a pivotal moment in its evolution at the 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled from June 11-13, 2024, in Kigali, Rwanda. This AGM is anticipated to cement the institution's transformation into a dynamic development bank, a journey that began with a significant decision at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in October 2023 in Algiers, Algeria. There, shareholders approved revised Articles of Association, setting the stage for Shelter Afrique's elevation into a premier pan-African housing and urban development finance institution.

In a recent media briefing in Nairobi, ShafDB Managing Director Thierno Habib Hann emphasized the AGM's critical role in redefining the institution's strategic direction. "This year's AGM will serve as an ushering step in solidifying Shelter Afrique Development Bank's transformation journey," Mr. Hann stated.

Alignment with International Standards

The transformation is set to align Shelter Afrique with international standards, positioning it among leading housing financiers and comparable Development Finance Institutions

(DFIs). This alignment is not merely cosmetic but strategic, intended to enhance the bank's capacity to mobilize funds for innovative projects. These projects will include climate change-resilient housing, initiatives promoting home ownership for women, support for women in the construction sector, and financing for SMEs involved in real estate. Additionally, the institution aims to address housing needs for migrants, refugees, and the diaspora, broadening its impact across diverse segments.

"The impact of this transformation will be seen in concrete measures such as increased financing and construction of housing units, and improved access to decent, sustainable, and affordable housing," Mr. Hann remarked.

A Holistic Approach to Housing

The AGM, themed "Sustainable Partnerships in the Affordable Housing Finance Value Chain," will convene key stakeholders including shareholders from the 44 member states, institutional shareholders like the African Development Bank and Africa Re, policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners. This assembly aims to strategize on advancing affordable housing across Africa.

"This year's theme is important because the housing sector in Africa is intricately linked to partnerships in the region, influenced by various stakeholders throughout the housing value chain. Understanding these dynamics is essential for addressing the challenges and opportunities in providing affordable and sustainable housing for all," Mr. Hann concluded.

Key Focus Areas

Shelter Afrique's transformation focuses on several critical areas:

Climate-Resilient Housing Projects: By prioritizing climate-resilient housing, Shelter Afrique aims to address the pressing issue of climate change and its impact on housing stability and sustainability.

Women's Home Ownership and Employment: Initiatives are tailored to promote home ownership among women and support women working in the construction sector, fostering gender equality and economic empowerment.

Financing for SMEs and Real Estate Trade: The institution plans to provide targeted financing for small and medium enterprises in the real estate sector, facilitating growth and innovation in housing solutions.

Support for Migrants, Refugees,

and Diaspora Housing: Recognizing the unique housing challenges faced by migrants, refugees, and diaspora communities, Shelter Afrique is committed to developing projects that cater to these groups.

Concrete Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of this transformation are substantial. Increased financing is expected to lead to a significant boost in the construction of housing units, thereby improving access to affordable housing. These efforts align with broader goals of sustainable urban development and economic growth across the continent.

Conclusion

The 43rd AGM of Shelter Afrique Development Bank in Kigali is more than a meeting; it is a milestone in the institution's journey towards becoming a leading force in housing finance and urban development in Africa. By consolidating its transformation agenda, Shelter Afrique is set to play a crucial role in addressing the housing deficit and promoting sustainable development across the continent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reality About Campus Relationships



Going to campus means entering a new chapter of life. It's a stage of self-reliance and self-discovery. We do not only study and experience new environment but we also have new relationships. These can be friendships relationships or romantic relationships.

Today, campus relationships are at the peak, most students get into relationships to go with the flow and not to feel left out. Its common especially with freshmen to be swayed into love affairs in the name of experiencing new things. The freedom with varsity life makes it a better place to fall in love, the fun and thrill that no parent is going to question your ways. In campus you will always sport a duo in love holding hands along the university corridors, dressed in matching outfits. In lecture halls others share seats and at times forsake lectures to be in town for a picnic or a date in some posh hotel.

Of course there is always a famous campus couple that everyone admires. Students will joke about love being a common course and others make a mile of living under the same roof. All this will make them fathom to the cliché: love is a beautiful thing. All this glamour, some relationships thrive but others end in tears, there are emotions that get stirred up, it's here in campus that one can experience the most of a heartbreak, emotional attachments, frustrations and stress.

Lucky ones who had principles for their relationships walk away with life spouses. It's true, in campus most of the young couples do not have clear knowledge of whom they are dating, and they don't know deeply the background of their lovers. As young and energetic couples with unlimited freedom, campus students who are dating engage in sex. They will make

love without knowing the health of the partner, mentioning a visit to VCT would be like calling the relationship to an end. Knowing the health status is important to avoid sexual transmitted infections.

In campus, it's a generation that tend to value intimate love and many who indulge in love affairs invest alot in them, from occasional date appointments to spending little cash they arguably get from parents to make their lovers happy. Dating during university life has its own ups and down, truth is the ones who choose the right road and journey through it with all the challenges and learning across it reach their destinations.

Jane Wanjiru
Rongo University



Government Provision Of Free Sanitary Towels To Public Schools Help Retain Teenage Girls In Kenya

The government passed a bill to ensure provision of quality free and sufficient sanitary towels in all public institutions and is going well with the provision. "Sanitary towels are provided for children throughout the year," Says Gladys Boss Shelei Deputy speaker National Assembly and woman representative Uasin Gishu. Over 800 students in Uasin Gishu from grade five to grade eight have been provided with sanitary towels for almost three months use.

Teenage years of every child are challenging emotionally, physically and psychologically especially for the girl child. Studies have indicated that one out of ten girls miss school during their menstruation periods and as a result drop out.

Girls may face social stigma and isolation during their periods, impacting their social interceptions and overall school performance.

On health issues without proper sanitary products, girls might result

to using unhygienic alternatives and other health complications.

This initiative of providing free sanitary towels supports the broader goal of gender equality in education and empowers young girls to pursue their studies without hindrance of menstrual hygiene issues.

Adrian Martin
Rongo University



Opportunities For Today's Youth



When talking about the opportunities given to today's youth, it is necessary to point out several important directions. In the modern world, there are many opportunities for young people in the fields of education, technology, entrepreneurship, and international relations.

First of all, it is necessary to emphasize the changes in the field of

education. There are online education platforms, distance courses, and international grant programs for young people. Thanks to these opportunities, young people can learn and improve their skills in the field of their choice. For example, through platforms such as Coursera, edX, Udemy, it is possible to take lessons from the most prestigious universities in the world.

Secondly, great opportunities have been created in the field of technology. Young people can innovate and develop themselves in fields such as IT, artificial intelligence, robotics, and data analysis. Many start-up incubators and accelerators support young people and help them bring

their ideas to life.

Thirdly, many opportunities have been opened for young people in the field of entrepreneurship. Many countries have special programs, grants, and loans to support young entrepreneurs. Through these programs, young people can start and develop their own businesses. For example, in Uzbekistan, the state program "Youth is our future" aims to provide financial support to young entrepreneurs.

International relations and exchange programs also provide great opportunities for young people. Erasmus+, Fulbright, and many other international programs provide opportunities for young people to study abroad,

gain experience, and get to know different cultures. This serves to expand their worldview and increase global competitiveness.

All the above opportunities open great doors for young people. However, in order to take full advantage of these opportunities, young people need to constantly work on themselves, acquire new knowledge and master new skills. The modern world is changing rapidly, and it is up to the youth to adapt to these changes.

Thus, the opportunities given to today's youth contribute greatly to making their future bright and successful. Effective use of these opportunities is in the hands of young people.

Zaripova Sevinch is a student of the 6th grade of the 11th grade



Sakaja Confident To Win Nairobi Chairmanship As He Meets UDA Elections Board

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has expressed confidence in winning Monday's contest for the chairmanship of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) in Nairobi emphasising his commitment to unity.

By: Capital Correspondent

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has expressed confidence in winning Monday's contest for the chairmanship of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) in Nairobi emphasising his commitment to unity.

Sakaja spoke on Thursday when the party's National Elections Board (NEB) met candidates for the election initially slated for Friday.

He reaffirmed his confidence in winning the UDA County Chairmanship banking on some 240 delegates slots his campaign secured constituency-based polls out of 340.

"We're ready for this. Victory is certain," he said on Thursday night, affirming his commitment to Siasa Safi, Swahili for clean politics.

Sakaja, up against a camp backed by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, voiced confidence even as his main competitor, Embakasi North MP James Gakuya, cast doubt over preparations for the election.



Sakaja spoke on Thursday when the party's National Elections Board (NEB) met candidates for the election initially slated for Friday/FILE.

Transformative Power Of TTI's

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Technical Training Institutes or formally known by a more popular term as TVETS (Technical Vocational Education Training), are pivotal in ensuring access to education for all.

Initially very few students were lucky to join university, with a majority left to fend for themselves in the informal sector, the jua kali sector.

Emining Technical Training Institute (TTI) located Mogotio, Baringo established in 2014 currently boasts of a two thousand student population and it's under the very wise and able leadership of the principal Jacob Kotut.

Students enroll in this top institution

to pursue Artisan, Craft, Certificate and Diploma courses.

Kotut welcomed all students enrolling to pursue technical courses, including graduates from the Kenya National Youth Service (NYS).

He said courses offered include Science, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Engineering, Mathematics, Business, Driving, Cosmetic and Hair dressing.

"All our courses are examined by National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), KNEC and KASNEB" Principal said.

At the same time he added, "All our courses are assessed and examined by TVET CDACC, an assessment that offers practice and theory."

Jacob Kotut principal Emining TTI in Baringo.



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**EXPONENTIAL
INTERNATIONAL**

Sports >> *Athletics Kenya (AK) have invited over 250 athletes for next week's national trials for the Olympics at Nyayo Stadium.

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Fireworks Expected As AK Invite Hundreds For Olympics National Trials



Ferdinand Omanyala cruises to victory in the 100m race. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu.

Athletics Kenya (AK) have invited over 250 athletes for next week's national trials for the Olympics at Nyayo Stadium. It promises to be non-stop action across the track and field as top athletes go head-on for a ticket to represent Kenya at the quadrennial games. Fresh from smashing the world record for the women's 10,000m at the Prefontaine Classic, world cross country champion Beatrice Chebet will be running the women's 5000m where she will be battling against world champion Faith Kipyegon, African champion Caroline Nyaga and the world record holder for the women's 10km, Agnes Ngetich. Double world record holder

Kipyegon — who will be competing for the first time this year — will also be in action in the women's 1500m where stiff opposition awaits her in the form of Africa Games champion Mary Ekiru, the 2021 World Under-20 champion Purity Chepkirui and rising star Nelly Chepchirchir, among others. The men's version of the same race also promises fireworks, what with the involvement of African Games champion Brian Komen, the resurging — 2019 world champion — Timothy Cheruiyot, world cross country mixed relay champion Reynold Cheruiyot and the 2022 world indoor bronze medalist Abel Kipsang.

Having secured his place on the men's 10,000m — by virtue of finishing second at the Prefontaine Classic — Nicholas Kimeli will be out to repeat the trick in the men's 5000m where he will be meeting familiar faces. Among those hoping to finish in the top three in the same race include the world 10,000m silver medalist Daniel Simiu Ebenyo, world 5000m silver medalist Jacob Krop and the 2022 world cross country junior champion Ishmael Kipkurui Rokito. In the men's 800m, many would expect world road mile record holder Emmanuel Wanyonyi to punch his ticket to his first-ever Olympics, although it won't be easy considering the stellar star-

list. Advertisement. Scroll to continue reading. Those to keep an eye on in this one-lap race include the 2022 world indoor silver medalist Noah Kibet, United States-based Festus Langat, Commonwealth Games champion Wycliffe Kinjamal and Olympics silver medalist Ferguson Rotich, among others. World 800m champion Mary Moraa will be in action in the women's 800m where she will be joined by her baby sister, Sarah Moraa, Lillian Odira, the 2021 shuttle hurdles relay silver medalist Naomi Korir and Nelly Chepchirchir, among others. Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Wiseman Were will be one of the busiest at the two-day event, competing in the men's 200m, 400m and 400m hurdles. Were has already secured Olympics qualification, having clocked 48.57 at the Kip Keino Classic in May. Also a category to keep an eye on is the men's 100m where Commonwealth Games champion Ferdinand Omanyala will be up against 20 other sprinters, including former national record holder Mark Otieno. The last national trials for the Olympics — Tokyo 2021 — was a firecracker as far as this race is concerned with Omanyala and Otieno booking their tickets to the games. It was also the first time Omanyala had beaten Otieno — clocking a then national record of 10.00 to secure first place. All eyes will be on the duo to see what becomes of the latest episode in what has been normally a tantalising competition between them.

Citizen Sport

Sports >> *Chelsea have signed defender Tosin Adarabioyo from Premier League rivals Fulham on a free transfer.

Chelsea Sign Fulham Defender Tosin Adarabioyo



Tosin Adarabioyo of Fulham in action during the Premier League match between West Ham United and Fulham at the London Stadium in Stratford, on April 14, 2024. (Photo by MI News/NurPhoto) (Photo by MI News / NurPhoto / NurPhoto via AFP).

Chelsea have signed defender Tosin Adarabioyo from Premier League rivals Fulham on a free transfer.

The 26-year-old former Manchester City trainee, who has agreed a four-year deal, will move on July 1 after the expiry of his contract at Craven Cottage.

“Chelsea is a huge club and this is a full-circle moment for me,” centre-back Adarabioyo said in a Chelsea statement on Friday.

“I was born three miles away

from Stamford Bridge and made my professional debut there. I’m very excited and looking forward to helping push the club in the direction we want to go.”

Co-sporting directors Paul Winstanley and Laurence Stewart said: “We are delighted to bring Tosin to Chelsea.

“Throughout his career, he has showcased his maturity and defensive qualities and has gained a wealth of experience in the Premier League in recent seasons.”

Adarabioyo, who joined Fulham in 2020, is Chelsea’s first signing since Enzo Maresca was announced as manager on a five-year deal earlier this week. The Italian replaced Mauricio Pochettino, who left by mutual consent following the end of the league season.

Adarabioyo’s arrival follows the departure of veteran centre-back Thiago Silva, who has joined Brazilian club Fluminense.

Chelsea have spent more than £1

billion (\$1.28 billion) on signings since a consortium led by Todd Boehly and private equity firm Clearlake Capital bought the club in May 2022.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Result Of Work



By: Bozorboyeva Mehribon
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- May God make your face bright and may you receive a professor's diploma, insha'Allah. If you are lucky, your son will become a professor, mother, you sit and pray, if you are lucky, it will be auspicious, the bride prayed. Insha'Allah, my prayers for you and my father will always be helpful to us. ...We have come to school. Be careful guys.
- Do what your teachers say, study well and get good grades, my children! It will be fine, grandmother - said Nazira's grandchildren. The children entered the school. I'll be a big man when you're young. Insha'Allah, let it be true. Of course, they say that "Your intention is your companion."

- Mother, are you ready!?

- Yes, dad, we will be ready in five minutes. Everyone get off, I'll get the car ready.

- Yes, okay now. Hey, can you help me? Let's not keep your son waiting. Guys, if you're ready, let's go to the car.

- I'm done, my daughter, walk. Did you come ride? Mother, say one prayer. "O Allah, I thank you for all the blessings you have given me.

O Allah, give my children complete sustenance, development and good luck in their work. Make our path clear and our faces shine. Insha'Allah, may your careers be greater than this. May Allah always support us and protect us all, Aumin Allahu Akbar" he prayed. Nazira mum. Now we take the children to school and then we go to the meeting. My child, your hard work for so many years is paying off, God willing. May God make your face bright and may you receive a professor's diploma, insha'Allah. If you are lucky, your son will become a professor, mother, you sit and pray, if you are lucky, it will be auspicious, the bride prayed. Insha'Allah, my prayers for you and my father will always be helpful to us. ...We have come to school. Be careful guys. Do what your teachers say, study well and get good grades, my children! It will be fine, grandmother - said Nazira's grandchildren. The children entered the school. I'll be a big man when you're young. Insha'Allah, let it be true. Of course, they say that "Your intention is your companion. If we make our intention good and thank God for even a little blessing, God will give us more," said his daughter-in-law Sabahatkhan. You are right, my daughter, there is a lot of wisdom in making intentions and gratitude... Will we ever forget those times! During the holidays, as usual, Muhammadans go to the fields early in the morning. The weather is great. The sun is shining in the sky. The birds perched on the trees are chirping in unison. The water flowing in the pond is gently gurgling. Cars fly like the wind on the asphalt. Someone is going to work and others are going somewhere else. There are



The Result Of Work.

also many people in the field. Many earn their livelihood by working in this field. Village people are sincere, hardworking people who do not shy away from work. Muhammadali, his mother, brothers, sister and brother are among these hardworking people who are also working hard.

- Hey, let's rest for a while, we're tired.

- Okay, let's go and rest under the shade of that tree.

- Hey, if a person has good intentions and works towards his goals, he will definitely achieve them? Of course, intention matters a lot. Whatever you set your mind to, you will achieve, my children. Look, I will still study a lot, I will be educated. These is our neighbor Abdullah, and I will be a big rich man like him, I will have a great car. I work in a good place. Luckily, I'm a scientist will be... With luck, my children, you will all achieve your goals, God willing. Then his brothers: When you grow up, don't forget us, brother, they laughed. After that, he set great goals for himself. Even though he was tired from the field, he did not rest, his dreams did not give him sleep, he read books and searched at night. Years later, he was accepted to study on the basis of a grant. Of

course, he achieved this through a lot of study and tireless work. Today is the exciting moment when he will see the results of his research. It's time for him to show his knowledge, projects and experiences in his field. They arrived at the meeting on time. Muhammadali felt a little excited as he entered the hall. At that moment, he thought that he was one step away from the realization of his dream, and as he boldly stepped inside, he saw that the hall was beautifully decorated, and he thought that he would be standing on the podium in front of scientists, professors, and experts in the front row. The meeting has begun. All gathered. His mother and wife were also included. He started to show his projects while standing on the pulpit. At that moment, he caught sight of his mother, and seeing her joy in her eyes, he continued energetically.

After a while he finished his speech. The presentation is about to end. Then a professor and scientist came to the pulpit and said: "Dear members of the presentation! Today, we announce that Muhammadali Rajabov has been awarded the Diploma of "Doctor of Technical and Philosophical Sciences" due to his selfless work, considering all the projects he

has made and many achievements he has made," he said. The hall was filled with applause. The tears of joy in the mother's eyes, the feeling of pride in her child... A day that will never be forgotten! Yes, he made it. He fulfilled his dreams. He is living a happy life with his family and parents. Yes, we will definitely achieve our dreams, God willing. Those who have achieved success have certainly not achieved it easily. My God, who has given quick and easy results in return for the tireless work and goals that they have done over the years. Believe and rely on God, you will achieve your dreams. Tell me, what boy or girl does not want to see the joy in the eyes of their parents when their prayers and efforts bear fruit, and to feel that they are proud of their child!? Let's think about how we spend our time, which is one of the greatest gifts we have been given. Are we spending our time reading, researching and learning, or are we falling asleep? The conclusion is from yourself.

Bozorboyeva Mehribon

She is a 10th grade student of school No. 20 in Yangibozor district, Khorezm region