

Police IG Japhet Koome Resigns



P.9

Former Police IG Japhet Koome



Political Opinion: President Ruto's Decision To Dissolve The Cabinet Is A Move In Right Direction P.11



News: Kiambu Governor Demands Public Apology Over Allegations P.13

MAGICAL Kenya

Enjoy Endless Wildlife and Safari Experiences in Kenya

VISIT MAGICAL KENYA

Magical Kenya

Karatina University Opens Substance Abuse Crisis Resource Centre

By: ODP



Dr Pauline Thuku explains to the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi how the the Substance Abuse Crisis Response Centre at the Karatina University will work, and includes a toll free number to deal with cases of suicide and addiction on 12th July 2024. Pastor Dorcas also attended the closing ceremony of the week-long “Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention and Management Workshop” at Karatina University, Nyeri County. Photo/ODP

Worth Noting:

- “This workshop will raise ambassadors who can speak out against alcohol and drugs in our communities. Young people who can see bars are open, and have the ability to say they will not go in, or even go in and remove a brother or relative who is in there,” said Pastor Dorcas.
- She told of losing her relatives, and those of the family of the Deputy President, and the pain parents, siblings, and family members experience from the scourge of abuse. She said that this was why she was so passionate about the war against alcohol and drugs.

The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has commended Karatina University for the establishment of the Substance Abuse Crisis Response Centre at the institution’s grounds.

During the closing ceremony of a one-week long workshop themed ‘Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention and Management Workshop’, Pastor Dorcas officially opened the centre, which will have a toll-free line for anyone in distress and contemplating suicide or affected by alcohol, drug, and substance abuse. It will

also have volunteering counselors and psychologists.

She commended the University for creating an environment to fight alcohol, drug, and substance use, curb cases of suicide and also raise ambassadors at a young age against the alcohol and drug menace.

“This workshop will raise ambassadors who can speak out against alcohol and drugs in our communities. Young people who can see bars are open, and have the ability to say they will not go in, or even

go in and remove a brother or relative who is in there,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She told of losing her relatives, and those of the family of the Deputy President, and the pain parents, siblings, and family members experience from the scourge of abuse. She said that this was why she was so passionate about the war against alcohol and drugs.

The workshop brought together pupils and students from primary, secondary, TVETs, colleges, and universities and also counsellors, teachers, lecturers, lead-

ers, national administration officers and rehabilitation experts from Embu, Meru, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Muranga, and Laikipia Counties, and also Nacada officers.

Some of the schools present included Kagumo High, Karatina Girls, Kanjuri Boys, and Tumutumu Girls among others.

Area MCA Jackson Kabingu pledged his support in the fight against alcohol, and drug abuse recognizing the great work in the nation by Pastor Dorcas in advocating and rescuing men from addictions. Also present were MCAs Julius Kamiri (Konyu Ward) and David Kabatha (Iri-iri ward).

“We support your fight against drugs, and it is important we work together,” said MCA Kabingu.


Nacada Officer Susan Maua said that alcohol abuse was the biggest challenge in the country. She also sympathized and warned the hundreds of pupils and students at the workshop, telling them that the abuse of prescription drugs was the biggest challenge in primary and high schools.

Vice Chancellor Karatina Linus Gitonga their goal was to touch the community with their research, and would focus on Mount Kenya region for their crisis response centre that had a toll free line, and would after the pilot-stage explore ways of upscaling it digitally.

Pastor Dorcas also spoke against drinking and driving, noting the numerous deaths caused along Langata Road, including many men imprisoned following the increased cases of defilement caused by drugs.

“Because of alcoholism and addiction, you will find young men in prison, HIV infected or bodaboda accident wards. Addiction results to cases of defilement, and as young men are imprisoned at a young age, for 20, 30, 40 years, their most productive years are behind bars, and they leave the correctional facilities as old men.

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@mountkenytimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenytimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenytimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenytimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenytimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenytimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenytimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>





NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

NEWS IN BRIEF



Standard Chartered Bank has launched the 21st edition of the Standard Chartered Nairobi Marathon, set to take place on October 27, 2024, at Uhuru Gardens. All proceeds will go towards the Future-Makers initiative, which supports youth community impact initiatives across three pillars: Education, Employability, and Entrepreneurship. The event has raised over Sh. 750 million from the race's proceeds over the last 20 years, helping disadvantaged Kenyans gain access to essential services and opportunities. The event received World Athletic Accreditation as a World Road Race last year, enhancing its prestige and providing elite athletes with a platform to compete and set records on an internationally acclaimed course. The Marathon features seven race categories: 42 km men and women, 21 km men and women, 10 km men and women, 21 km wheelchair men and women, 5 km Family Fun Run race, CEO Challenge, and Corporate Relay Challenge. The winners, first runner-ups, and second runner-ups will receive Sh. 2 million, Sh. 750,000, and Sh. 500,000 in the 42 km men and women, Sh. 300,000, Sh. 150,000, and Sh. 100,000 for both the 21 km men and women and 21 km wheelchair men and women races, and Sh. 200,000, Sh. 150,000, and Sh. 100,000 in the 10 km men and women category. Registration for the race is open on www.nairobimarathon.com, with an expected 23,000 participants this year.



Nyandarua County Governor Dr. Moses Kiarie Badilisha inspects musical instruments that were donated to the youth groups. The entrepreneurship programmes are going hand in hand with talent search and promotion in all sectors. Already, over 50 youth representatives have been trained on value addition; a similar number have been trained in filmmaking.



The Chairman of the Rarieda Sub-county BMU Network, Walter Kwenya, has announced that the Siaya County government's department of fisheries has destroyed 54 illegal fishing gears worth Sh9.6 million. Illegal fishing gears were confiscated in beaches within Bondo and Rarieda sub-counties over the last two months. Kwenya emphasised that the use of illegal fishing gears has led to serious fish depletion in Lake Victoria and warned fishermen to ensure the vice is stopped. Bondo Sub-County Fisheries Officer Samuel Okech blamed a lack of teamwork for the increased use of illegal fishing gears in Lake Victoria waters.



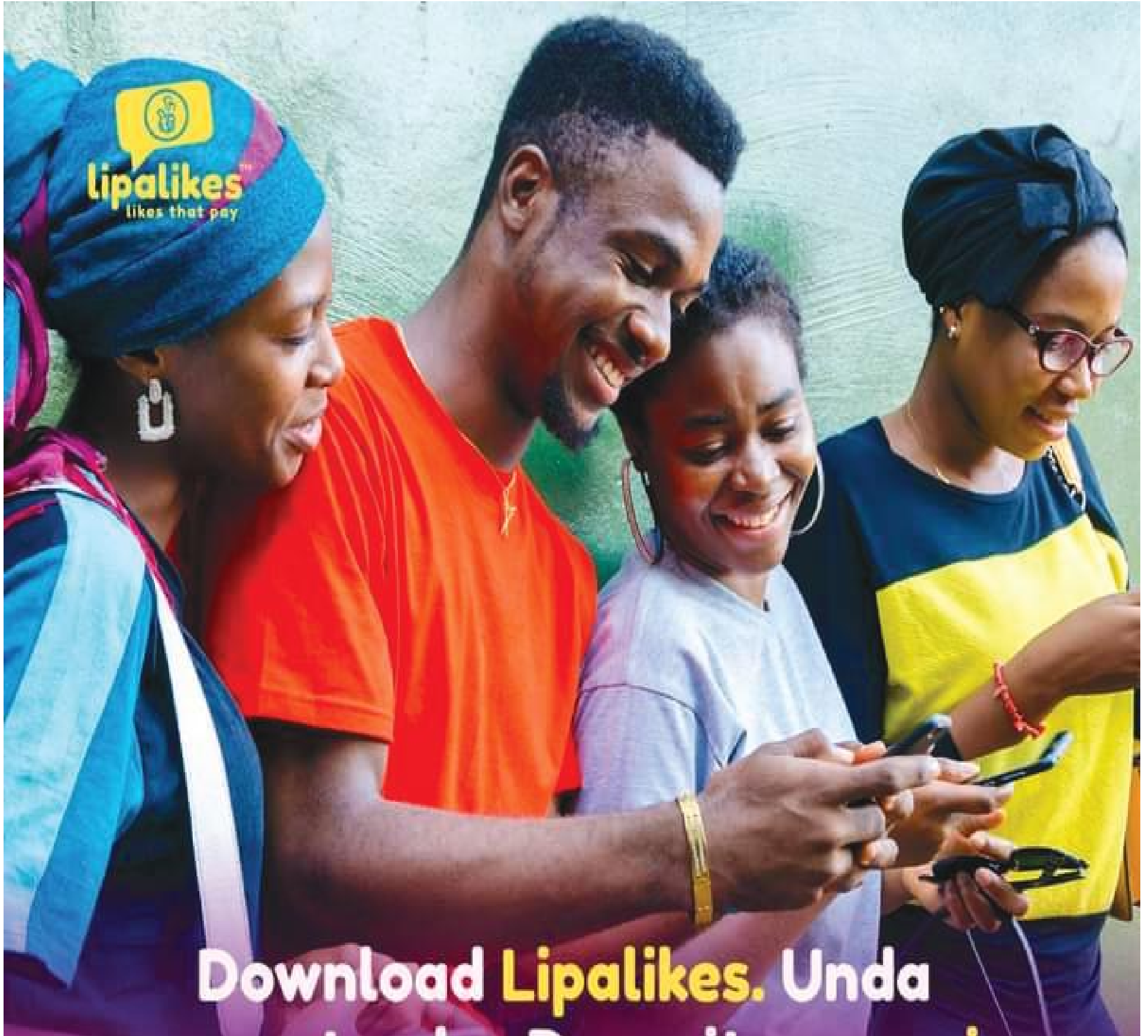
West Pokot women Representative Rael Aleotum has launched the distribution of free sanitary towels to 685 schools. The initiative is set to benefit 44,318 girls in all the five sub-counties in West Pokot. Speaking during the launch, Aleotum pointed out that the objective is to increase access of teenage girls to sexual and reproductive health products in order to increase their retention in school, transition to higher levels of education and enhance their academic performance "We aim to support girls from various schools who risk missing classes or dropping out of school due to lack of sanitary towels," said Aleotum.



Fiona Sandeman of Save Giraffe Now feeds a baby giraffe with milk at Ruko Community Conservancy in Baringo South, the foundation which funded the relocation of eight giraffes from Kruger Farm in Uasin Gishu at a cost of Ksh. 10 million, promised to continue partnering with the Conservancy.

The Kenya Union of Sugar Plantation and Allied Workers (KUSPAW) has faulted the distribution of sector workers' salary arrears as approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. KUSPAW General Secretary Francis Wangara faulted Agriculture Principal Secretary Paul Rono for unfair distribution of the funds which he said has disadvantaged workers in some state owned sugar millers. During the week, the Ministry of Agriculture approved Sh. 654 million to help struggling state owned sugar millers to clear debts owed to workers and farmers. In a letter to Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), Agriculture PS authorized Sh. 354 million to go towards clearing farmers' arrears at Nzoia, Muhoroni, Chemelil and South Nyanza (SONY) companies. The PS further authorized Sh. 150 million to clear three months' salary arrears for workers at Nzoia Sugar Company with the remaining Sh. 150 million to be shared by workers at Chemelil, Muhoroni and SONY.





Download **Lipalikes**. Unda account yako, Deposit **soo moja** na uanze ku appreciate **Mbogi yako** na ma **likes**.



Download and start earning



State Agency Collects Over Sh60 Billion Unclaimed Cash And Shares

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “We have really suffered to secure this money because there is a section of our community that believes that anything that is money should be stolen to benefit them,” he said.

- To ensure the money is handed over to the rightful owners, Dr Njenga said the agency has rolled out a partnership with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) and other state departments to create awareness so that the money is collected.



Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority senior officials addressing the media.

The Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority (UFAA) is holding more than Sh60 billion in cash and assets that it seeks to reunify with the rightful claimants.

The Board chairman Francis Njenga said the state agency has collected Sh32 billion in cash and an additional Sh1.7 billion unit shares worth Sh31 billion.

The figure, he said, is part of abandoned cash and shares in financial institutions and mobile money companies which the agency has gone all out to collect and hand over to the rightful owners.

Dr Njenga attributed the success in recovering the money from the institutions to partnership with other national government departments and the media which has enhanced voluntary submission of the assets.

The money, he added, has been se-

cured at the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in the form of Treasury Bills and Bonds to ensure that it is not misappropriated as the agency looks for the rightful owners.

“We have really suffered to secure this money because there is a section of our community that believes that anything that is money should be stolen to benefit them,” he said.

To ensure the money is handed over to the rightful owners, Dr Njenga said the agency has rolled out a partnership with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) and other state departments to create awareness so that the money is collected.

Speaking in Kisumu during a sensitization meeting for NGAO officers, Dr Njenga said so far UFAA has received over 30,000 claims worth over Sh2 billion already paid out.

He added that the agency has rolled

out regional clinics to sensitize Kenyans on the services while offering free legal assistance to initiate the process of reclaiming the money.

“We have a partnership with the Judiciary and we are appealing to all Kenyans to take advantage of this so that all succession cases are fast tracked for them to receive their money,” he said.

UFAA, he said has 21 million active accounts and through the various interventions, the agency targets to payout Sh 7-10 billion by the end of the year 2028.

To reach the target, he said the agency was working with the National Assembly to review the Unclaimed Financial Assets Act 40 of 2021 to reduce the turnaround time of processing claims.

“We are currently taking between one to three weeks to process the claims. With these reforms we hope to make

payments where possible within a day,” he said.

He asked Kenyans to reach out to the agency and find out whether they have any unclaimed financial assets so that they can claim.

“This is the only institution that calls you to come and collect your money at no cost,” he said.

UFAA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John Mwangi said the agency has organised a clinic in Kisumu from Tuesday to Friday next week to reach out to Kenyans in the area to check their status and know whether they have any unclaimed financial assets.

“We are holding a lot of money but most people are not aware. That is why we are going out to look for them and if we find the original owners we pay them,” he said.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

GLOBAL PRINT, BROADCAST OUTDOOR & DIGITAL ADVERTISING
SERVING YOU SINCE 1989



Digital **MARKETING** **EXPERTS.**

Grow your business
with us



OUR SERVICES:

- Digital Marketing
- SEO Campaign Strategies
- Web Design & Development
- Brand Build Business Strategies



Call us on

+91 811 576 6421 +966 53 879 2285



Visit our website

www.skyviewads.com

Farmers' Group In Naivasha Benefit From Improved Chicken Breeds

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Over 500 farmers in Olkaria ward of Naivasha have benefitted from a donation of 3,200 one month-old chicks from the Nakuru County Government.

Speaking in Naivasha during the distribution of the chicks to the farmers' groups on Thursday, Nakuru County Director of Livestock department Ms. Virginia Ngunjiri said the distribution was being done under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) which the county has been undertaking for several years now.

"After undertaking a public participation exercise, many farmers in Naivasha and some other parts of the country chose poultry since it's a fairly cheap and easy venture to undertake," Ngunjiri said.

She said they chose improved chicken breeds such as Kenbrew and Rainbow roosters from the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research

Organization (KALRO) because they are high yielding in terms of eggs and meat and they also mature very fast.

"Unlike the indigenous chicken which can take up to seven to eight months to mature, the improved breeds take up to four or five months, thus bringing better returns to the farmer," the Director of Livestock department stated.

The department has been organizing the framers in groups, vetting and training them before supplying them with the chicks.

Ngunjiri noted that the project will go a long way in improving incomes and nutrition of the families.

Olkaria Member of the County Assembly(MCA) Peter Palang'a said the farmers in his area chose chicken because the venture does not require much land which many people in the area don't have.

The groups were full of praise for the project and gratitude to the county government, saying it will improve their live hoods.

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture shows that farmers in Kenya in 2020 reared a total population of



Olkaria Member of the County Assembly (MCA) Peter Palang'a (L) and Nakuru County Director of Livestock department Ms. Virginia Ngunjiri (far left in white) issuing improved one-month chicks to a farmer' group in Olkaria in Naivasha on Thursday..

nearly 58 million birds, an increase from 44 million in 2016 most of them being indigenous chicken.

Over 80 per cent of these are Indigenous breeds which include; Rhode Island Red, Light Sussex, New Hampshire Red, Black Australorps,

and White leghorns, Plymouth Rock among others.

The poultry sub-sector contributes about 6.1 per cent to livestock sector Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 2.3 per cent of the Agriculture GDP and 0.7 per cent of the National GDP.

Poultry farming in Kenya is a profitable business if well planned and executed. Approximately 67 per cent of Kenya's population live in rural areas, with majority of households practicing small scale chicken farming for subsistence.

However, some of these farmers are not exploiting the full potential of their ventures, as a result of lack of proper training and capacity building to ensure they reap maximum benefits from this business.

Agricultural productivity in the country had stagnated in recent years as smallholder farmers and agricultural enterprises continue to face challenges growing their businesses and improving the quality and quantity of agricultural goods due to climate change and high skyrocketing prices of farm inputs.

It is for this reason that the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) delved into studies and research to develop appropriate breeds of chicken that can thrive in different climatic conditions as well as improve production.

NCPB Advices Farmers To Increase Subsidized Fertilizer Uptake To Boost Maize Production

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Chairperson of the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) Samwel Ragwa has urged farmers to increase subsidized fertilizer uptake to boost maize production.

Ragwa who spoke while visiting the NCPB depots in Migori County said that the rate of subsidized fertilizer uptake among the residents was low compared to other regions.

He, however, assured the farmers that the subsidized fertilizer at the NCPB was safe and of high quality urging them to ignore rumors of fake fertilizers in the depots.

The official also disclosed that the NCPB depots in the county have more than seven thousand bags of subsidized fertilizer for planting and top dressing.



National Cereals and Produce Board chairman Samwel Ragwa (left) with other officials in Migori County.

Ragwa called upon the county residents to sell their maize and other cereals to the government through

NCPB depots to realise good prices. "The maize price is standardised by the government and as of now we are

buying at Sh4,000 which is above the market price of Sh2,800," noted Ragwa.

He said there was no reason for farmers to plant without fertilizer yet the NCPB depots had enough subsidized fertilizer for all the registered farmers in the county.

He reiterated that the government is determined in its efforts to ensure food security in the country by putting up proper agricultural mechanisms like subsidized fertilizer for good quality and quantity cereal production.

Lake-Western Regional NCPB Manager Esther Chege who accompanied Ragwa affirmed that farmers are open to store their maize at the NCPB depots and sell it later.

Chege however cautioned the maize farmers to store their produce well to reduce the risk of aflatoxin that may hinder them from selling their maize to the NCPB depots across the county.

Police IG Japhet Koome Resigns

By: Prudence Wanza

Japhet Koome has resigned as the Inspector General of the National Police Service following mounting pressure over police brutality during the recent anti-finance bill protests.

President William Ruto has appointed Deputy Inspector General Douglas Kanja to take over in an acting capacity.

“His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, CGH, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, has on this 12th day of July, 2024, accepted the resignation of Eng. Japheth N. Koome, MGH, as the Inspector General of the National Police Service,” reads a statement by State House Spokesperson Hussein Mohamed.

The President has also ordered the re-deployment of Noor Gabow, who served as Deputy Inspector General in charge of the Administration Police.

Consequently, Eliud Langat now becomes the Acting Deputy Inspector General of the Kenya Police Service, while James Kamau takes over as Acting Deputy Inspector General of the Administration Police Service.

In the new changes, the President also appointed Patrick Mwitii Arandu as the Commissioner General of Prisons.

Arandu takes over from Brigadier (Rtd) John Warioba, who is proceeding on terminal leave pending the end of his tenure of office.

The changes also affected the heads of police units within the National Police Service as follows:

- Ranson Lolmodooni – Commandant of the General Service Unit (GSU)
- Gilbert Masengeli – Commandant of the Administration Police Training College (APTC)
- William Yiamboy – Director of Operations, Police Headquarters
- Kainga Mathiu – Commandant of the National Police Leadership Academy (NPSA), Ngong



Douglas Kanja takes over as police IG in an acting capacity

Investigations Launched After Human Remains Found At Mukuru Dumpsite

By: KBC Digital

Officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations have launched investigations after the discovery of human remains at a dumpsite in Mukuru kwa Njenga in Embakasi, DCI boss Mohamed Amin has said

At least six severely mutilated bodies, all female, were discovered by members of the public at an abandoned quarry that is currently filled with water in the area.

The bodies, at various stages of decomposition, were wrapped in nylon papers.

“Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) personnel from Embakasi quickly arrived at the scene, retrieving the bodies and documenting the area. Preliminary investigations suggest a similar mode of killing for the de-

ceased,” confirmed the DCI Director. The recovered bodies have since been transported to the City Mortuary, where they await postmortem examinations.

“Homicide detectives and officers from the Forensics Division of the DCI are currently analyzing samples to identify the bodies. The area has been cordoned off and designated as a crime scene as the investigation continues,” said Amin in a statement.

At the moment, the victims remain unknown and when their bodies were dumped in the area is also a mystery.



The six severely mutilated bodies in sacks, all female, were at various stages of decomposition.

Religious Leaders Advocate For Leaner Government And Economic Reforms

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

In a significant move aimed at reducing government expenditure and improving efficiency, religious leaders under the Ufungamano-Joint Forum of Religious Organizations (U-JFRO) have issued a call to President William Ruto to appoint a Cabinet comprising no more than 16 Cabinet Secretaries.

In a detailed statement released on Friday, the leaders emphasized the need for a streamlined government structure. They recommended appointing two Cabinet Secretaries per region and one Principal Secretary per ministry to ensure effective management and accountability.

“Appointment of two CSs per region is ideal. In terms of management, a ministry does not require more than one Principal Secretary. A Cabinet Secretary (CS) should be in charge of one Principal Secretary, who should be in charge of departmental heads,” the statement read.



Religious leaders under the Ufungamano-Joint Forum of Religious Organizations (U-JFRO) issuing their address to the media

Proposed Salary Cuts and Structural Changes

The U-JFRO leaders further proposed significant salary cuts for all state officers, including Members of Parliament (MPs), Senators, Governors, Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), and other senior public servants. They suggested a reduction of at least 40% in salaries to curb excessive government spending.

In a bid to streamline legislative representation, the clergy recommended reducing the number of constituencies and elected members of the National Assembly from the current 290

to 150.

“In many countries, MPs not only represent a much larger constituency but also provide a very high level of service. On the other hand, according to recent surveys and Hansard reports, some MPs attend Parliament but contribute very little to the debates,” they argued.

Reorganization of Counties

The religious leaders also called for a reorganization of the county system, proposing a reduction in the number of counties from 47 to 16. They suggested clustering the existing counties into viable economic

blocs, with the current counties becoming sub-counties.

“This could easily be achieved if the previous provinces were split into two counties each, the Rift Valley split into three counties because of its larger size, and Nairobi retained as one county,” they explained.

Senate Reforms for Gender Balance

In a move to promote gender balance, the leaders proposed that each of the newly formed counties should elect one male and one female senator, reducing the total number of Senators from 67 to 32.

“U-JFRO proposes that in the next General Elections, senators should be elected in the new reduced number of counties, and each county should elect one male and one female senator, similar to the US model,” the statement read.

Recent Government Actions

These proposals from U-JFRO come just a day after President Ruto dismissed all Cabinet Secretaries and the Attorney General, with the exception of Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi. This move has set the stage for potential structural changes in the Kenyan government, aligning with some of the recommendations made by the religious leaders.

The call for reforms by U-JFRO underscores the growing demand for a more efficient and economically sustainable government structure in Kenya. Whether these recommendations will be adopted remains to be seen, but they have certainly sparked a significant conversation on the future of governance in the country.



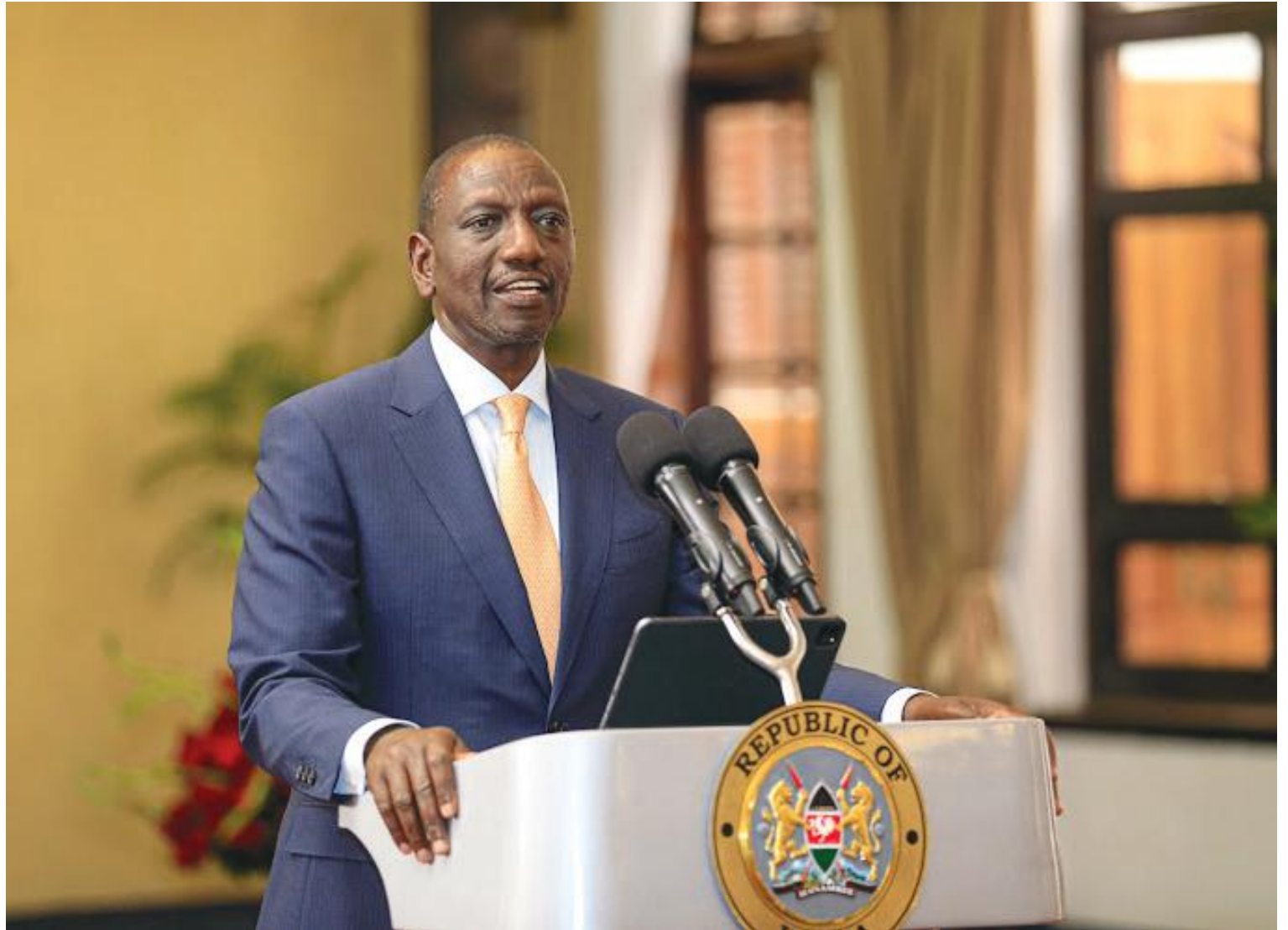
President Ruto's Decision To Dissolve The Cabinet Is A Move In Right Direction



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- With this, the President had drawn the line and it was only a matter of time before he cracked the whip and sent them home.
- As per the constitution, the prerogative to hire and fire members of the cabinet lies squarely with the President. The role bestowed on them is delegated. The President is the CEO of Kenya and he hires them to help him discharge the constitutional mandate of his office.
- Since he assumed office, the President curves a niche of being a strong believer in the tenet of democracy and rule of law.
- When addressing Kenyans in many parts of the country, he would always aver. Kenya belongs to all of us.



President William Ruto .

President William Ruto has made a bold move of dissolving the entire cabinet.

Coming hot on heels of the recent protests led by Generation-Z and millennials, the move demonstrated he is committed to walk the talk.

Reconstituting and creating a broad based and all-inclusive cabinet was one of the key demands of the young people.

The President had earlier read several riot acts to his cabinet secretaries (CSs). In the eyes of the public, your performance is below expectation.

Therefore, you have been letting down my government.

Some of you are totally clueless about what you are supposed to do.

I even know more than you regarding the mandate of your respective ministries.

So, I don't see the point of having you in my cabinet.

With this, the President had drawn the line and it was only a matter of time before he cracked the whip and sent them home.

As per the constitution, the prerogative to hire and fire members of the cabinet lies squarely with the President. The role bestowed on them is delegated. The President is the CEO of Kenya and he hires them to help him discharge the

constitutional mandate of his office.

Since he assumed office, the President curves a niche of being a strong believer in the tenet of democracy and rule of law.

When addressing Kenyans in many parts of the country, he would always aver. Kenya belongs to all of us.

So, his new-look cabinet will reflect the face of Kenya.

Already, the talk is rife that he is poised to form a government of national unity.

If this happen, President Ruto will follow the footsteps of former President Mwai Kibaki.

In the aftermath of 2007/2008 post election violence, Kibaki caved in to pressure and agreed to form a unity government with ODM leader Raila Odinga.

The only difference at the time was that the pressure came from the international community.

For President Ruto, he has so far managed to use his wisdom to contain pockets of violence and prevent Kenya from sliding into a full blown anarchy.

The other key demand raised by Generation-Z and millennials touched on reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

A few days ago, the President signed the IEBC Bill into law paving the way for the recruitment of the commission-

ers.

The Bill emanated from the talks held at the Bomas of Kenya.

The 10-member national dialogue committee (NADCO) was co-chaired by national assembly majority leader Kimani Ichungwah and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The President was flanked opposition leaders led by Raila Odinga during the signing ceremony held at KICC.

The new law to reform the IEBC is a product of the views and memoranda presented by the people of Kenya during the public hearings.

So, we have no reason to doubt that this process will lead to formation of a truly independent commission.

We want to assure Kenyans that the commissioners will conduct a free, fair and credible polls in 2027, the opposition leaders reiterated.

I have heard some members of Gen-Z expressing reservations to the steps that President Ruto has so far made.

A friend of mine told me. Those were extremists who had coined a Hastag of 'RutoMustGoNow'.

We know their ultimate goal was to attempt to overthrow President Ruto through popular uprisings.

So, they won't see anything good that the President was doing.

Why their bid won't see the light of

day? Majority of Kenyans abhor use of unconstitutional means to remove a democratically government from power.

It is worth to note the protests were triggered by Finance Bill 2024.

After Gen-Z failed to stop MPs from passing the Bill they turned the heat on the President. The President conceded and declined to sign the Bill into law. Besides, he rolled out a raft of austerity measures.

But some of the young leaders, who were perceived to be hardliners, would not call off protests.

For two days, the protests were infiltrated by goons and criminal gangs. The turnout was however low.

As majority of young leaders distanced themselves from these protests, they would pose. These criminal minded protestors, what were they up to?

The President has already conceded. We are contented.

He is our President until 2027 general election. In these elections, we will either renew his contract of five years or terminate it.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

The Evolution of Remote Work



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- There are however some challenges associated with working from home including interruptions by kids, partners, other family members, friends and pets. To avoid interruptions one should set aside some space designated as a home office, establish strict working hours which everyone respects. You should explain to family members and friends why it is important for you not to be interrupted during working times.
- It is inevitable to experience technological hiccups once in a while which result in delays in ones work. A mobile hotspot or cell phone tethering can help you save precious time when the internet goes down. The employer should ensure that the worker is equipped with reliable communication facilities and have scheduled intersections if teams are in different time zones.



Remote working in the sense that we see it today started several decades ago. The internet was actually invented in the early 1980s, creating a system that was able to link different networks. However, the concept and foundation of remote working had already been laid by a NASA Engineer Jack Nilles in 1973 and had named it 'Telecommuting'. Long before the turn of the 21st Century, a limited number of IBM workers were already working from home to test the effectiveness of telecommuting, conducted from respective homes over the telephone.

Advances in computer technology gave people the ability to use portable computers (laptops), the tablet and the smart phone. Machines that there before occupied entire rooms now fit into your back pack, purse or pocket. With the help of WiFi these devices can connect and interconnect everywhere in the world where there is internet access.

Websites and the 'cloud' – the great storage hub of all data that allows access and sharing of documents, files and software through cloud computing have taken remote working to a level that was not fathomable a decade ago. Companies can today be categorised as Remote-first and Re-

mote-friendly businesses.

Remote-first businesses have teams that are able to work from anywhere and everywhere and still manage to deliver high quality output as required by their customers, managers and colleagues.

Remote friendly companies are the traditional businesses with premises in fixed locations and teams that commute to and from the business location. However, they allow their employees to perform some of their tasks remotely.

Statistics show that most people who switched to working remotely would wish to continue that way for the rest of their working lives. It is also noted that allowing employees to work remotely helps boost their retention rates. Remote working employees no longer need to bother about the inconveniences of going to work together with its associated expenses and the disruption caused when a team member leaves the employment.

To the employer, the cost of establishing and maintaining a brick and mortar office premises are eliminated. The cost of managing teams of people working together as a group in a physical location is also done away with.

There are however some challenges

associated with working from home including interruptions by kids, partners, other family members, friends and pets. To avoid interruptions one should set aside some space designated as a home office, establish strict working hours which everyone respects. You should explain to family members and friends why it is important for you not to be interrupted during working times.

It is inevitable to experience technological hiccups once in a while which result in delays in ones work. A mobile hotspot or cell phone tethering can help you save precious time when the internet goes down. The employer should ensure that the worker is equipped with reliable communication facilities and have scheduled intersections if teams are in different time zones.

There is a tendency to overwork when one is working at home which can lead to fatigue, stress or even burnout. Work tends to be infinite – always having one more thing to check. To avoid this you should set appointments at the end of the day to get yourself out of the house. Set up reminders for time breaks. You can also create a physical boundary between your living space and your workspace so that you can actually

close the door to the office. If it is not possible to have a physical door, a simple act like putting away the laptop (out of sight) can help as long as you overcome the temptation to log back on. Turn off notifications on your phone and computer so that you are not lured back to work after your scheduled working hours.

Sometimes it becomes boring to work alone without the usual interaction with colleagues and one tends to get lonely. You should create time to catch up with co-workers regularly and sometimes go out and work from the coffee shop or library.

Security of confidential information, worker management and productivity are other challenges management has to contend with.

The pandemic accelerated the adaptation of remote working and it is now certain that career paths will have to accommodate an increasing degree of remote working going forward.

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

Kiambu Governor Demands Public Apology Over Allegations By Tatu City Management

By: Kenya News Agency

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has asked for a public apology from Tatu City management over claims of extortion.

Preston Mendenhall, the Chief Operating Officer of Tatu City on Thursday held a press conference alleging that the Governor wanted free land from the real estate company worth Ksh4.3 billion..

But in a press briefing on Friday, Wamatangi described Mendenhall's statements as malicious and damaging to both his reputation and the County's image.

Mendenhall had accused Governor Wamatangi of obstructing the approval of Tatu City's development master plan which he said had derailed development of the 5,000-acre mixed-use development with Special Economic Zone status based in Kiambu County.

Wamatangi refuted the allegations, stating the entity had operated in Kiambu for 14 years without surrendering any part for public amenities. In the master plan, 406 acres of land



Governor Kimani Wamatangi and other county officials addressing the media on Friday

had been reserved for public amenities; however, the governor said that the management scaled down to 103 acres.

"The expected land to be surrendered for public use ought to be 10 per cent of 5000 acres which translates to 500 acres which addresses the needs of ordinary members of the public," he said.

Wamatangi explained that the said part of the land to the county govern-

ment was informed by law as per the Physical and Land Use planning Act 2019 and also the development permission control regulations of 2021.

The governor further clarified that his administration is not seeking land for personal use as claimed by Mendenhall.

"My administration is not seeking land for personal or individual use. Our track record on public land speaks for itself. I have prioritised the

protection and proper utilisation of public land and this is a position I will not bend or compromise," Wamatangi said.

Wamatangi said he is willing to continue the conversation without compromising public trust and expectation.

According to the governor his request for Tatu City is to surrender 10 acres of land for social housing, 44 acres for a stadium, community cen-

tre social hall, hospital and administration office.

The governor further justified his asking for 2 acres of land for his residence saying this is accordance to the law with the law and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) guidelines.

"For avoidance of doubt this will be a public facility registered in the name of the County Government and not in the Governor's name," he clarified.

The governor said he his office has been in touch with the Tatu management through correspondence seven times since 18th September 2023 to July 6th 2024 on the way forward towards the development assuring his administration's commitment to providing a conducive environment for both local and foreign investors.

The debate has been sparked by the governors in approving the development of the land which has cost Sh 16 billion, in investment and created over 4,500 new jobs.

Tatu City is a 5,000 acres' special economic zone located in Kiambu County and is a flagship project of the Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint.

NEMA Announces Transition To Biodegradable Garbage Bags

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has implemented a directive that all organic waste collection must use 100 per cent biodegradable garbage bags.

As of 8th July 2024, the nationwide initiative to enhance waste management practices is now in effect, in accordance with the directive announced on April 8th, 2024.

NEMA had stipulated a 90-day grace period from the date of the announcement for all parties to adhere to the revised regulations.

During the period, all public and private entities, including County Governments and licensed waste service providers, were given time to switch to using biodegradable bags.

All garbage must now be disposed of in biodegradable garbage bags, as directed by the Authority.

Furthermore, all county govern-



ments and private waste service providers licensed by NEMA are required to supply their customers with 100 per cent biodegradable bags.

In a statement on social media, the environmental authority emphasized that all organic waste produced by households, businesses, institutions, and events must be sorted and stored

in biodegradable garbage bags or bin liners.

The directive which is in line with Section 12 of the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022 requires that both public and private sector organizations must separate non-hazardous waste into organic and non-organic categories that should then be disposed of in appropriately la-

beled receptacles, bins, containers, or bags with distinct color coding. Waste management service providers are required to collect, handle, and transport the segregated waste accordingly.

The enforcement of the ban on conventional plastic bags, which was introduced in 2017 under Gazette Notice Nos. 2334 & 2356, marks a

significant shift in environmental waste management policies in line with sustainable development goals.

The ban was also extended to include plastic carrier bags and flat bags commonly used in commercial and household packaging, as these were identified as major contributors to environmental pollution.

However, stakeholders in the garbage collection industry are now urging NEMA, to review the compliance period set in the biodegradable bags transition process so as to allow for adequate testing, certification and a meaningful multi-sectoral dialogue, stating that the authority had not provided clear guidance on the availability, cost and sourcing of certified biodegradable bags, raising concerns about potential monopolies and unfair competition, arguing that the 90-day compliance period was unreasonable, given the lack of testing and certification of alternative bags and the absence of designated waste material recovery facilities.

I Will Miss You, Mum



In every laugh
And all tender hug,
In every meal we shared,
Your love wrapped around me snug,
Showing how much you cared.

The days we talked
the nights we wept,
Your wisdom like a guiding light,
In my heart
those memories kept,
Through every day and every night.

Now as time pulls us apart,
And life's journey takes its course,

Know you're forever in my heart,
A love that's strong
a steady force.

Though distance separates us now,
And words may not suffice,
In every thought
in every vow,
Your love will be my paradise.

So though I'll miss you, Mum, it's true,
Your spirit carries on,
In everything I say and do,
In every dawn until the dawn.

Until we meet again one day,
In memories,
I'll find,
Your love will always light the way,
Forever,
you're entwined.

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
The Weeping Onion

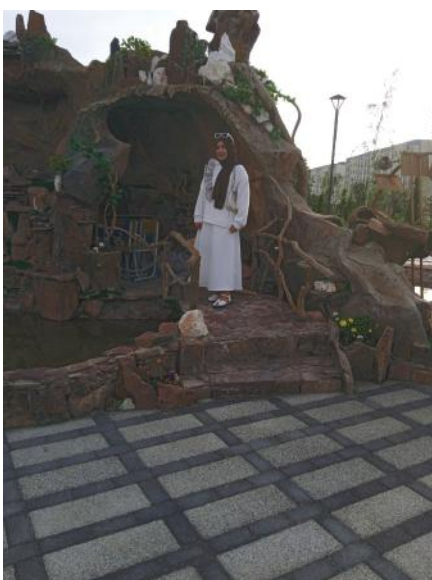
Ibragimova Fotima Kozimjon



IBRAGIMOVA FOTIMA KOZIMJON
daughter May 8, 2008 IBRAGIMOVA
FOTIMA, a 11th grade student of general
education school No. 3 in Jalakuduq
district of Andijan region, IBRAGIMOVA
FOTIMA participated in many international
competitions and has more than 122
international certificates.

Free ticket to the 2nd stage of the
"THE WAY TO MY " project, the
voucher holder, the 2nd place winner
at the "MUSHOIRA" night held by a
member of the Golden Wing, the 1st
place winner of the art project held at
the school, the author of many stories,
an active participant in the 2nd season
of the "SHINE WITH SHOHIDA" project,
the winner of the "good student of the
year" diploma, the 2nd place winner of
the MIGHTY GIRL'S intellectual game
ZAKOVAT held at the school - member
of the club, participant of many master
classes, coordinator of Andijan region,
grant hunter, won 2 grant to the
Malaysian conference and Thailand.

Personal Goals Of People



Personal goals are specific objectives individuals set for themselves to achieve desired outcomes in various areas of their lives. These goals provide direction, motivation, and a sense of purpose. They can range from short-term targets to long-term aspirations and typically fall into categories such as career, health, education, relationships, and personal growth. Setting personal goals involves identifying what you truly want, creating a plan of action,

and staying committed to the process, often leading to a greater sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Career Goals: Advancing in your profession, gaining new skills, or achieving specific job-related milestones.

Health Goals: Improving physical fitness, adopting a healthier lifestyle, or managing a medical condition.

Educational Goals: Acquiring new knowledge, earning degrees or certifications, or mastering a new skill.

Financial Goals: Saving for a major purchase, reducing debt, or achieving financial independence.

Relationship Goals: Building stronger connections with family and friends, improving communication, or finding a life partner.

Personal Development Goals: Enhancing self-awareness, building self-confidence, or cultivating new hobbies.

Vohidova Dilnavo was born in 2008, 8 July, in Fargona region. Now, she is a 11th year student at school.

Ibragimova Zuhra Kozimjon

IBRAGIMOVA ZUHRA KOZIMJON
daughter May 8, 2008 IBRAGIMOVA
ZUHRA, a 11th grade student of general
education school No. 3 in Jalakuduq
district of Andijan region, IBRAGIMOVA
ZUHRA participated in many international
competitions and has more than 85
international certificates. Free ticket to
the 2nd stage of the "THE WAY TO MY
" project, the voucher holder, the 2nd
place winner at the "MUSHOIRA" night
held by a member of the Golden Wing,
the 1st place winner of the art project
held at the school, the author of many
stories, an active participant in the 2nd
season of the "SHINE WITH SHOHIDA"
project, the winner of the "good student
of the year" diploma, the 2nd place
winner of the MIGHTY GIRL'S intellectual
game ZAKOVAT held at the school -
member of the club, participant of many
master classes, coordinator of Andijan
region, grant hunter, won a grant to the
Malaysian conference.



Kenya And Uganda Partner With International Stakeholders To Protect Consumers From Illicit Medical Products

By: Kenya News Agency

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) of Kenya and the National Drug Authority (NDA) of Uganda have forged a bilateral initiative which brings focus to the shared threat posed by illicit medical products.

This collaborative effort involves participation from counterpart agencies in the United States, United Kingdom, and the European Union, as well as multinational organisations and the regulated pharmaceutical industry.

Under an initiative known as Operation African Star, joint enforcement teams will target violative shipments of health products encountered via postal and air cargo in both countries in addition to reciprocal training.

Operation African Star aims to improve health outcomes by working collaboratively to better understand and disrupt the illicit trade in health products, pharmaceutical preparations, medical devices, and equipment across Africa.

PPB Chief Executive Officer Dr Fred Siyoi speaking over the course of four days, under the Operation African Star initiative, said that the threat



PPB Chief Executive Officer Dr Fred Siyoi .

posed by illicit trade in health products and technologies impacts global public health, and consumers.

“This risk increases when health products and technologies are obtained outside of the unregulated supply chain. Safety and efficacy which cannot be assured threatens the East African Community and public health at large,” said Dr Siyoi.

He said that PPB is committed to protection of public health through collaboration with domestic and international partner agencies and organisations.

“PPB is proud to partner with the NDA to design and execute Operation African Star. We envision this as an iterative initiative with the potential to develop into an internationally recognised best practice,” said Dr Siyoi.

He highlighted that the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya, adopted the multi-Agency approach in addressing the issue of illicit trade with participating Authorities and Agencies being drawn from Kenya Revenue Authority, The Immigration services, AntiNarcotics, National Intelligence Services, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kenya Airports Authority, the PostMaster General, Communication Authority of Kenya and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority.

Dr Siyoi said that valuable contributions were provided by a host of international organisations, including the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations International Narcotics Control

Board, Universal Postal Union, and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute. During Operation African Star, joint enforcement teams examined shipments of human medicines, biologic products, and dietary supplements.

NDA chairman Dr Medard Bitekyerezo said that a multilateral initiative like Operation African Star allows stakeholders to exchange and develop best practices as they position themselves to collectively combat current threats to public health and safety and prepare for those yet to come.

“As evidenced by the wide array of support generated for this initiative, there is a growing recognition that to effectively combat these types of dangerous products requires crosscutting partnerships,” he said.

Dr Bitekyerezo said that the NDA is also committed to fighting these types of shared threats to public health and safety by working across sectors and governments to target bad actors distributing these types of dangerous products.

“Individuals who purchase prescription medicines from unauthorized sources may be putting their health at risk because these medicines may be falsified, substandard, expired, or otherwise unsafe for use,” cautioned Dr Bitekyerezo.

United States Food and Drug Admin-

istration Assistant Commissioner for Criminal Investigations Justin Green said that while the global supply chain has made medicines more accessible, it has simultaneously made it increasingly challenging to identify illicit products and hold bad actors accountable.

“The FDA greatly appreciates the opportunity to work with Kenyan, Ugandan, and other key international partners to bring focus to a global public health threat and values the implementation of a pioneering initiative to combat it,” said Green.

Green said that Operation African Star benefited greatly from the existing strong and mutually beneficial relationships between the governments of Uganda and Kenya.

“Operational outcomes included the initiation of criminal investigations, seizures of violative products, and the exchange of actionable intelligence. Efforts are already underway regarding strategies to alert consumers of the dangers associated with illicit medicines and to aid in the decision-making of front-line personnel. Planning is ongoing regarding follow-on enforcement actions and training opportunities,” explained Green.

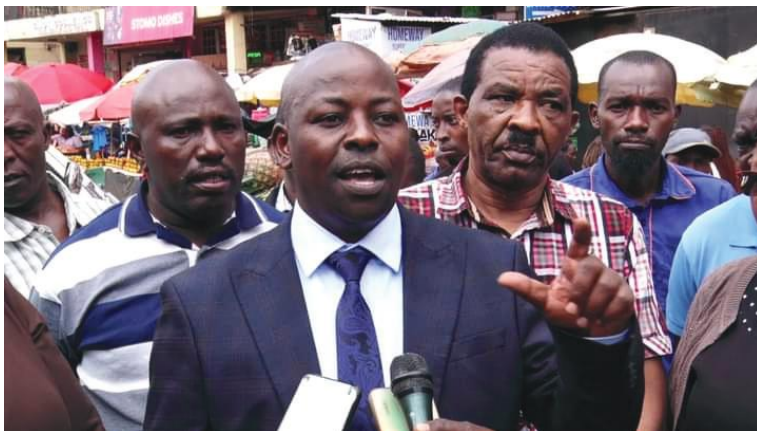
Thika Residents’ Fear About Elevation Of Town To City

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The proposal to have Thika town elevated into a smart city has met with opposition from a section of residents apprehensive about evictions and disruptions from the expected major infrastructural development.

Residents led by area MCA Kennedy Mwangi Kentams blamed the Kiambu county government for failing to sensitize them accordingly on the expectations as well as address their fears of losing their income generating ventures due to the expected livelihood disruptions.

Speaking during a public consultation meeting with the town traders on the proposals today, the MCA said the proposal had been opposed by residents during a public partic-



Residents airing their views

ipation exercise last year over fears that the city will come with numerous disruptions.

“Residents need to be assured that they will not be victims of disruptions when major infrastructure will be put in place. Traders too need assurances that they will not be evicted

from the town in favour of multinationals,” said Kentams.

Traders led by Joshua Kariuki said they will only support the proposal once the county government conducts a more inclusive public participation exercise and assures residents of the opportunities that they will get

in the event the town is elevated.

They called for a forum with Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi to air their views saying most residents have no idea of what is expected.

“We reject the proposed Thika Smart City in totality unless our fears are addressed. Up to now, no one knows the infrastructural development that is expected, the opportunities and challenges that emanate from such an upgrade,” said Kariuki.

Esther Wambui, another trader said they have only learned about elevating the town to a city through social media. They fear that once made a city, they will be evicted from the town’s CBD making them jobless.

Tuktuk and bodaboda operators too fear that once made a city, they too will be restricted from accessing the CBD which they have been operating from for years.

They said the streamlining of the transport sector within the town may

force them out of operation, calling for more insight to address those fears.

During a recent public participation in Thika, Governor Wamatangi said plans to kick-start the process of upgrading the town have commenced after setting up an ad-hoc and County technical committees to midwife the process.

He said Sh10 billion will be required to initiate a raft of development projects including roads, water, street lights, and markets among others.

The Governor added that 30 acres of land have been set aside to relocate the Thika GK Prison from the CBD to ease congestion challenges at the facility.

MCA Mwangi supported the move saying the prison land can be used to put up other amenities including markets and bus parks.

Inter-Parties Youth Forum On The Cabinet Dissolution



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The fertilizer scandal, which has rocked the nation's agricultural sector, was a focal point of the forum's discussions. Kidi Mwaga and other youth leaders expressed deep concerns over the widespread corruption and mismanagement that have marred the distribution of fertilizer, a vital resource for Kenya's farmers. The scandal involves the procurement and distribution of substandard fertilizer, which has not only failed to meet the needs of farmers but also posed significant health risks.

- In a surprising yet strategic move, the president recently announced the dissolution of the entire cabinet, a decision that has sparked widespread debate across the nation.



Kidi Mwaga, Inter-Parties Youth Forum leader addressing the press at Ufungamano house on matters of Cabinet Dissolution.

In a bold move that underscores the urgency for governmental reform, the Inter-Parties Youth Forum, led by the dynamic Kidi Mwaga, recently convened to address two pressing issues currently plaguing the nation: the notorious fertilizer scandal and the president's decisive action to dissolve the cabinet. The forum, which brought together youth leaders from various political affiliations, underscored the critical role of young voices in shaping Kenya's political landscape and pushing for accountability and transparency.

Fertilizer Scandal: A Symptom of Deep-Seated Corruption The fertilizer scandal, which has rocked the nation's agricultural sector, was a focal point of the forum's discussions. Kidi Mwaga and other youth leaders expressed deep concerns over the widespread corruption and mismanagement that have marred the distribution of fertilizer, a vital resource for Kenya's farmers. The scandal involves the procurement and distribution of substandard fertilizer, which has not only failed to meet the needs of farmers but also posed significant health risks.

"Corruption in the agricultural sector

is a betrayal of the trust that farmers place in the government," said Mwaga. "The livelihoods of millions of Kenyans depend on farming, and when corruption infiltrates this sector, it undermines food security and the economy."

The forum called for thorough investigations and stringent measures to hold those responsible accountable. Participants stressed the need for systemic changes to prevent such scandals in the future, including greater transparency in procurement processes and stronger regulatory oversight.

Cabinet Dissolution: A Step Towards Reform?

In a surprising yet strategic move, the president recently announced the dissolution of the entire cabinet, a decision that has sparked widespread debate across the nation. The Inter-Parties Youth Forum viewed this action as a potential turning point in Kenya's political landscape, offering an opportunity to address the inefficiencies and corruption that have long plagued the government.

"The dissolution of the cabinet is a bold statement that the status quo is no longer acceptable," remarked Mwaga. "It sends a clear message

that the government is serious about reform and is willing to take drastic measures to achieve it."

However, the forum also emphasized that the dissolution is just the beginning. The president now faces the critical task of appointing a new cabinet, one that is not only competent and capable but also committed to the principles of transparency and accountability. The youth leaders urged the president to ensure that the new appointees are free from past corruption allegations and possess a genuine commitment to serving the people.

Youth Involvement: A Beacon of Hope

A recurring theme throughout the forum was the indispensable role of the youth in driving political and social change in Kenya. The participants highlighted the need for young leaders to be actively involved in the decision-making processes and to hold the government accountable for its actions.

"The youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; we are the leaders of today," declared Mwaga. "Our voices must be heard, and our concerns addressed. We have the energy, the ideas, and the passion to transform

this country."

The Inter-Parties Youth Forum called for greater inclusion of young people in political appointments and decision-making bodies. They advocated for policies that empower the youth, providing them with opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

As Kenya navigates these turbulent times, the discussions at the Inter-Parties Youth Forum serve as a reminder of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The fertilizer scandal and the cabinet dissolution are symptomatic of deeper issues that require comprehensive and sustained efforts to resolve.

The forum concluded with a resounding call for unity, urging all Kenyans to work together towards a brighter and more equitable future. "We must seize this moment to create lasting change," said Mwaga. "The future of Kenya depends on our collective efforts to build a nation that is just, transparent, and prosperous for all."



PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.129,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
Great Oasis Gardens	NANYUKI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.399,000	Ocean View Ridge Vipingo	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.750M
Wema Gardens	NARO MORU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.439,000	Vuyanzi Gardens	KITALE	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Love Gardens	KAJIADO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.950,000	Achievers Paradise Phase 2	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
Shalom Gardens	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.450M	Joy Lovers Club	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes. 3.95M

Inclusive of Legal and Transfer fee

+254 790 300 300 | +254 723 400 500

www.optiven.co.ke | info@optiven.co.ke

The Pendulum of Justice: A Critical Analysis of Kenya's Supreme Court Ruling on Mandatory Minimum Sentences in Sexual Offences



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Sexual Offences.

Worth Noting:

- The Supreme Court's decision rests on a number of key pillars, chief among them being the distinction drawn between mandatory sentences and minimum sentences. This differentiation, while seemingly semantic, carries profound legal implications that ripple throughout the criminal justice system.

- The court took pains to elucidate that while mandatory sentences leave no room for judicial discretion whatsoever, minimum sentences merely establish a floor beneath which punishment cannot fall, still allowing judges the latitude to impose harsher penalties where circumstances warrant.

- This nuanced interpretation seeks to thread the needle between respecting legislative intent and preserving some measure of judicial discretion, a balancing act that has long bedeviled legal systems grappling with sentencing reform.

The recent Supreme Court of Kenya decision in the case of Republic v Joshua Gichuki Mwangi has ignited a firestorm of debate within legal circles and among human rights advocates, as it grapples with the contentious issue of mandatory minimum sentences in sexual offence cases. This landmark ruling, which overturned a Court of Appeal decision that had declared such sentences unconstitutional, has far-reaching implications for the administration of justice in Kenya and potentially beyond its borders. At its core, the judgment wrestles with the delicate balance between legislative prerogative and judicial discretion, a tension that lies at the heart of the separation of powers doctrine. The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the validity of minimum sentences prescribed by the Sexual Offences Act has been met with both applause and consternation, reflecting the deep divisions that exist on this issue. Proponents of the ruling argue that it respects the will of the legislature and provides a necessary deterrent against sexual crimes, while critics contend that it unduly fetters judicial discretion and may lead to disproportionate punishments. This case serves as a microcosm of the larger debate surrounding mandatory sentencing regimes, which have been adopted and subsequently challenged in various jurisdictions around the

world. As such, the Supreme Court's reasoning and conclusions in this matter warrant careful scrutiny and analysis, for they may well shape the contours of Kenyan criminal justice for years to come.

The Supreme Court's decision rests on a number of key pillars, chief among them being the distinction drawn between mandatory sentences and minimum sentences. This differentiation, while seemingly semantic, carries profound legal implications that ripple throughout the criminal justice system. The court took pains to elucidate that while mandatory sentences leave no room for judicial discretion whatsoever, minimum sentences merely establish a floor beneath which punishment cannot fall, still allowing judges the latitude to impose harsher penalties where circumstances warrant. This nuanced interpretation seeks to thread the needle between respecting legislative intent and preserving some measure of judicial discretion, a balancing act that has long bedeviled legal systems grappling with sentencing reform. By maintaining this distinction, the Supreme Court has effectively carved out a middle ground that attempts to reconcile the competing interests at play. However, critics argue that this distinction is more illusory than real, contending that in practice, minimum sentences often function as de facto

mandatory sentences, particularly in cases where judges feel compelled to defer to legislative guidance. The court's parsing of these concepts raises profound questions about the nature of judicial discretion and the extent to which it can be circumscribed by legislative fiat without running afoul of constitutional principles.

Central to the Supreme Court's ruling is its interpretation and application of the principle of stare decisis, a cornerstone of common law systems that ensures consistency and predictability in judicial decision-making. The court took the Court of Appeal to task for what it deemed a misapplication of the landmark Muruatetu case, which had previously addressed the constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty for murder. In doing so, the Supreme Court reasserted its role as the final arbiter of constitutional interpretation, emphasizing that lower courts are bound by its decisions and cannot extend their reasoning beyond the specific context in which they were made. This strict adherence to precedent has been praised by some as a necessary bulwark against judicial overreach and a safeguard for the rule of law. However, others view it as an overly rigid approach that stifles the organic development of jurisprudence and fails to account for evolving societal norms and values. The tension between fidelity to

precedent and the need for legal evolution is a perennial issue in constitutional democracies, and the Supreme Court's stance in this case throws this dilemma into sharp relief.

The judgment also delves into the complex interplay between international human rights norms and domestic legislative prerogatives, a dynamic that is increasingly relevant in an interconnected global legal landscape. While acknowledging the trend in some jurisdictions towards striking down mandatory minimum sentences on human rights grounds, the Supreme Court was careful to assert the primacy of Kenya's constitutional and legislative framework. This approach reflects a broader debate about the extent to which international human rights standards should influence domestic legal systems, particularly in areas as culturally sensitive as criminal justice. Proponents of the decision argue that it appropriately respects national sovereignty and the democratic will as expressed through legislative enactments. Critics, however, contend that it represents a missed opportunity to align Kenyan law more closely with evolving international human rights standards, particularly in the realm of proportionality in sentencing. The court's navigation of these competing considerations offers a window into the challenges faced by judiciaries in reconciling domestic legal traditions with the pull of international norms.

A significant aspect of the Supreme Court's reasoning centers on the proper procedural channels for challenging the constitutionality of statutory provisions. By emphasizing that such challenges should originate in the High Court and progress through the appellate system, the court sought to reinforce the hierarchical structure of the judiciary and ensure that constitutional questions receive thorough consideration at each level. This procedural emphasis has been lauded by some as a necessary safeguard against piecemeal constitutional adjudication and a means of ensuring that all relevant arguments are fully ventilated before reaching the apex court. However, critics argue that this approach may create unnecessary hurdles for litigants seeking to vindicate their constitutional rights, potentially delaying justice in cases where fundamental freedoms are at stake. The

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Raila Odinga's Government Inclusion Amidst IEBC and Protests: A Political Analysis

The recent decision by Raila Odinga, Kenya's prominent opposition leader, to join the government has sparked intense debate and raised significant questions about the country's political landscape. This move comes against a backdrop of ongoing protests and scrutiny of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), further complicating Kenya's political dynamics.

Raila Odinga's decision to join the government marks a notable shift in Kenya's political paradigm. Historically a fierce critic of the ruling establishment, Odinga's move has divided opinion among his supporters and adversaries alike. Supporters argue that his decision could foster political sta-

bility and enable effective governance by promoting dialogue and cooperation across party lines.

However, critics have voiced concerns about the implications for political pluralism and the credibility of the opposition's role in holding the government accountable. They fear that Odinga's alliance with the ruling party could weaken checks and balances, essential for a healthy democratic system.

Meanwhile, the IEBC, responsible for overseeing electoral processes, has come under scrutiny amidst allegations of irregularities and electoral malpractice. Recent protests have erupted across various parts of the country, with demonstrators demanding electoral reforms and transparency from

the electoral body.

The protests underscore widespread public discontent and skepticism regarding the fairness and integrity of future elections. Critics argue that without credible electoral reforms, any political realignment, including Odinga's decision to join the government, may fall short of addressing systemic issues that have plagued Kenya's democratic processes.

In response to these challenges, stakeholders, including civil society organizations and international observers, have called for inclusive dialogue and comprehensive electoral reforms. They emphasize the importance of transparent and accountable electoral processes to uphold democratic principles and re-

store public trust.

As Kenya navigates these complex dynamics, the upcoming dialogue scheduled for Tuesday, the 16th, assumes critical significance. It provides a platform for stakeholders to address these pressing issues, including electoral reforms and the implications of Odinga's government inclusion, on Kenya's political future.

The outcome of these discussions could shape Kenya's political trajectory in the coming years, influencing governance, electoral integrity, and democratic stability. As developments unfold, the nation watches closely, anticipating the resolution of these crucial issues that will define Kenya's political landscape moving forward.



Prepared by,
Mureithi Melvin George.
Certified Psychologist by The Counselors and Psychologist Board (C&P).
Diploma Counselling Psychology.
Pursuing BA Counseling Psychology
KCA University.
Email: mureithimelvin02@gmail.com

Herodotus Is The Father Of History



By: Ilyasova Nozikhan

Key words: Halicarnassus, Tyranny, Cicero, Greece, treatise, Olvia, Asia Minor, Athens, Furia, Phoenicia, Pericles, Myphia, Lydia, Persian state, Achaemenids, Olympic Games, Scythians, Massagetes, Euphrates, Tigris, phesus, Susa, Sardis.

Abstract: This article describes Herodotus and his personality, works, and life. Along with this, it will be explained where Herodotus was and which countries he traveled to. Heradot's actions throughout his life, his relations with the neighbor-

ing states, according to the territory of which state he was in, were highlighted in his works.

HERODOTUS PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

Herodotus of Halicarnassus (approx. 484-425 BC) is the first complete historical treatise, "History", describing the Greco-Persian wars and the customs of many peoples of his time. The author. Herod's works had a great place in ancient culture. Cicero calls him "the father of history" during his lifetime. Herodotus (Greek: Herodotos) (between 490 and 480 BC,

Halicarnassus in the south-west of Asia Minor - approx. 425 BC, Athens or Furia, Southern Italy) - the name "father of history" Greek historian who received In his youth, he actively fought against autocratic power (tyranny), but because of such a simple decision of Herodotus, he was not liked, and when such power was established in Halicarnassus, he was forced to leave his homeland. He lived in Samos for some time. Mil. av. tax In 455-447, all of Asia Minor, Egypt, Babylon, Phoenicia, Cyrene, Greek cities in the Balkans.

Traveling along the shores of the Black Sea (to the city of Olvia), the Scythians spoke about collected information. Lived in Athens for a long time; Herodotus' closeness to Pericles, the leader of the Athenian democracy, strongly influenced his

political views.

Herodotus approx. 443years ' Moved from Athens to Furia. The country where Herodotus was born was rich in historical adventures. Having heard such historical events, Herodotus later rightfully became the creator of historical events.

Herodotus's hometown of Halicarnassus is suppressed by the Paniasid in a rebellion against Lagdimids, governor of Halicarnassus. And Herodotus is banished from the country. After that, the future historian will travel around Asia.

During his travels along the coast of the Black Sea, Herodotus hears interesting information about Olivia and the Scythians living near them.

Herodotus had previously read about the Scythians and became interested in them. Herodotus spends some time on the island of Samos, and then travels around Asia. Herodotus first comes to Susa, the capital of the Achaemenid state.

It will be in the cities of Ephesus and Sardis. "Galis" in Asia Minor flows through the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in Mesopotamia. According to Herodotus, nomadic Massagetae lived on the banks of the Caspian.

Massagets ate fish meat, pardana and milky foods. The people of this land were very militant. It is said that even the king of Iran, Cyrus II (Kaykhusrav), could not subjugate them. Herodotus also spoke extensively about the nature of Mesopota-

mia and Babylonia.

There are two opinions about whether Herodotus came to the island regions or not. These places are close to the Aral Sea, and some researchers Herodotus if they say that they did not come to the countries, others say that they did.

Herodotus provides valuable information about Central Asia. It confirms the existence of several governorships in these lands, which are dependent on Iran.

These governorates are called by their name. Including Hyrcania, Bactrian Caspian Sogds, Khorasmites and Aryans, among the names that require an explanation here, "Aryans" were peoples located in the western part of Afghanistan. G.'s work is tentatively titled "History" and is dedicated to the most important political event in the history of the Greeks - the Greco-Persian wars (500-449 BC). Later, Alexandrian scholars divided G.'s work into 9 books according to the number of muses, each book was named after one of the muses.

The Muses are the daughters of Zeus, to whom Herodotus figuratively dedicated his works. The main idea of G. "History" is the struggle of the Greek world with the Eastern world. G. Lydia, Midia.

He skillfully described the history, natural conditions and complex life of the Achaemenid state, the past of its inhabitants, religion, unique customs and cultural monuments, and exten-

sively analyzed historical events. In the 5th book of the work, G. began to describe his main goal - the history of the Greco-Persian wars.

The life and lifestyle of the Scythians was first described in the ancient literature in the work of G. In particular, G. gave detailed information about the Massagets who lived in Central Asia, and skillfully described the battle of the Massaget queen Tomaris with the Achaemenid king Cyrus II. Herodotus' work contains valuable information about Greece, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Babylon, Iran, Turan and other countries. Herodotus He also collected information about the Greco-Persian war.

The great historian will read his work for the first time during the Olympic Games. He traveled to Egypt, Babylon, Syria, Asia Minor, and countries along the Black Sea coast in 455-477 BC. In general, Herodotus provides valuable information about the peoples of the world in his "History". Present-day Afghanistan regions in Central Asia, population of Uzbekistan, countries in the southern parts of Europe, Italy, Greece, Iran in Western Asia.

The great Greek historian Herodotus. avv. He died in 425.

Ilyasova Nozikhan, a student of the Faculty of History of Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami

The Pendulum of Justice: A Critical Analysis of Kenya's Supreme Court Ruling on Mandatory Minimum Sentences in Sexual Offences



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Cont'd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- A significant aspect of the Supreme Court's reasoning centers on the proper procedural channels for challenging the constitutionality of statutory provisions.
- By emphasizing that such challenges should originate in the High Court and progress through the appellate system, the court sought to reinforce the hierarchical structure of the judiciary and ensure that constitutional questions receive thorough consideration at each level.
- This procedural emphasis has been lauded by some as a necessary safeguard against piecemeal constitutional adjudication and a means of ensuring that all relevant arguments are fully ventilated before reaching the apex court. However, critics argue that this approach may create unnecessary hurdles for litigants seeking to vindicate their constitutional rights, potentially delaying justice in cases where fundamental freedoms are at stake.



Prosecuting Sexual Offences - JUSTICE

tension between procedural rigor and substantive justice is a perennial one in legal systems, and the Supreme Court's stance in this case highlights the difficult balancing act required of courts in managing their constitutional dockets.

The court's treatment of the separation of powers doctrine in the context of sentencing policy offers a nuanced perspective on the allocation of authority between the legislative and judicial branches. By affirming the legislature's prerogative to set sentencing parameters, including minimum sentences, the Supreme Court has effectively demarcated the boundaries of judicial discretion in this area. Proponents of this approach argue that it appropriately respects the democratic process and allows for public input into sentencing policy through elected representatives. They contend that minimum sentences serve important public policy goals, such as deterrence and consistency in punishment, which are properly within the purview of the legislature to determine. However, critics warn that this deference to legislative judgment may come at the cost of individualized justice, arguing that judges are best positioned to tailor sentences to the unique circumstances of each case. The debate over where to strike the balance between legislative prescription and judicial discretion in

sentencing remains a contentious issue, with valid arguments on both sides.

The Supreme Court's decision also grapples with the thorny issue of proportionality in sentencing, a principle that lies at the heart of many critiques of mandatory minimum sentencing regimes. While the court acknowledged the importance of proportionality, it effectively delegated the primary responsibility for ensuring proportionate sentences to the legislature rather than the judiciary. This approach has been defended on the grounds that it allows for a more holistic, policy-driven approach to sentencing that can take into account broader societal concerns beyond the facts of individual cases. Supporters argue that legislative bodies are better equipped to gather data, hear from experts, and craft comprehensive sentencing schemes that balance multiple competing objectives. However, detractors contend that this view underestimates the complexity of individual cases and the importance of judicial discretion in achieving true proportionality. They argue that no legislative scheme, however well-crafted, can anticipate the myriad factors that may make a particular sentence disproportionate in a given case.

The implications of the Supreme Court's ruling for the broader land-

scape of criminal justice reform in Kenya are profound and multifaceted. By upholding the validity of minimum sentences in the Sexual Offences Act, the court has effectively closed off one avenue for challenging similar provisions in other statutes, at least for the time being. This could have a chilling effect on efforts to reform what some view as overly punitive sentencing laws across the Kenyan legal system. Proponents of the decision argue that it provides much-needed stability and predictability in the administration of criminal justice, allowing law enforcement and prosecutors to operate with a clear understanding of the consequences of various offences. Critics, however, fear that it may ossify a system that is in need of fundamental reform, particularly in light of evolving understanding of rehabilitation, restorative justice, and the societal costs of mass incarceration. The tension between stability and reform is a perennial one in legal systems, and the Supreme Court's ruling has brought this tension into sharp focus in the Kenyan context.

The gender dimensions of the Supreme Court's decision cannot be overlooked, particularly given the gendered nature of many sexual offences. Supporters of minimum sentences for sexual crimes argue that they send a powerful message about

the seriousness with which society views these offences and provide a measure of certainty and justice for victims, who are disproportionately women and girls. They contend that judicial discretion in sentencing for sexual offences has historically led to lenient sentences that fail to reflect the gravity of these crimes or provide adequate deterrence. Critics, however, warn that rigid sentencing schemes may have unintended consequences, such as discouraging reporting or plea bargaining, which could ultimately harm victims. They also point out that such schemes may disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The intersection of gender justice and criminal justice reform remains a complex and contentious area, and the Supreme Court's ruling has significant implications for how this intersection is navigated in the Kenyan legal system.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court's decision in *Republic v Joshua Gichuki Mwangi* represents a pivotal moment in Kenyan jurisprudence, with ramifications that extend far beyond the realm of sexual offences. By upholding the constitutionality of minimum sentences, the court has staked out a position that prioritizes legislative prerogative and judicial restraint in the realm of sentencing policy. This approach has been met with both approbation and criticism, reflecting the deep divisions that exist on issues of criminal justice reform. As Kenya continues to grapple with the challenges of building a just and effective criminal justice system, the principles articulated in this judgment will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping future debates and policy decisions. Whether this ruling represents a definitive statement on the issue of mandatory minimum sentences or merely a waypoint in an ongoing evolution of legal thought remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that the tension between judicial discretion and legislative prescription in sentencing policy will continue to be a fertile ground for legal and philosophical debate in Kenya and beyond for years to come.

The writer is a legal scrivener and researcher

Nakuru Pioneers Cheaper And Environmentally Friendly Road Construction Method

By: Kenya News Agency

Nakuru County Government has adopted a new road construction method.

The devolved unit has embarked on constructing a 450-meter road utilising the soil stabilisation method road which will serve as a demonstration of the technology's capabilities and its potential to meet the infrastructure needs of the county.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of Roads, Transport and Public Works Engineer Michael Karanja said the technology was efficient and climate-resilient and will yield a road network that is a potential enabler of the long-term prosperity through facilitation of trade, improved access to jobs, education, healthcare, disaster management especially in remote areas and many other crucial services.

Through the project, spearheaded by Eco-Roads Consult Kenya, 200 meters will be developed as a trail, while the remaining 250 meters will be financed by the county government.

Engineer Karanja indicated that Governor Susan Kihika's administration was investing in a sustainable road infrastructure capable of withstanding the test of the elements adding that this meant addressing the negative effects of intensifying climate hazards like floods, storms, drought and other extreme weather events.

"Climate change is real. In planning, designing, constructing and maintaining our road network, proper attention must be accorded to its immediate and long-term impacts. In our road designs we are comprehensively covering evolving climate risks," he pointed out.

Engineer Karanja noted that adaptation and resilience is crucial in ensuring sustainable road infrastructure and that Kenya can avoid or at least significantly minimize the catastrophic loss of infrastructure from natural calamities by adopting a climate-smart approach.

"Soil stabilisation is a method that enhances the properties of natural soil, making it more suitable for road construction. It reduces the need for importing expensive materials like gravel and asphalt, leading to significant cost savings. The process typically involves mixing stabilizing agents, such as cement, lime, or admixtures, with the local soil. This creates a more stable, load-bearing foundation for roads, making them resilient to traffic loads and environmental factors," explained the CECM.

Speaking during the ground breaking ceremony for the project Engineer



Nakuru County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of Roads, Transport and Public Works Engineer Michael Karanja during the groundbreaking event.

Karanja who was flanked by Shabab Ward Member of County Assembly David Wathiai observed that traditional Road construction methods involve the extensive use of non-renewable resources such as gravel, asphalt, and concrete which he termed as resource-intensive and generate significant carbon emissions, contributing to climate change.

While noting that the constant need for maintenance and repairs for conventional tarmac roads exacerbates the environmental impact and that it was time to explore alternative approaches to mitigate these effects, the CECM said by utilising locally available soil, the method reduces the need for costly imported materials.

"Moreover, the enhanced durability of stabilised soil means fewer maintenance and repair expenses over the long term. This cost-effectiveness not only benefits government infrastructure projects but also private construction endeavors," he added.

The Eco-Roads soil stabilization method has already proven its efficiency in other African countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria, and Ghana thus creating durable and reliable road infrastructure.

Engineer Karanja observed that traditional road construction is heavily reliant on non-renewable resources and indicated that gravel, a fundamental component in road foundations, is often obtained through extensive quarrying operations, depleting

natural landscapes and habitats. He stated that the production of asphalt and concrete involves the extraction of raw materials, which not only consumes vast amounts of energy but also disrupts ecosystems.

The CECM pointed out that the entire life cycle of conventional roads, from material extraction to transportation, processing, and construction, generates significant greenhouse gas emissions which accelerate climate change, leading to adverse weather patterns, rising global temperatures, and other catastrophic environmental consequences.

Engineer Karanja stated that roads built with resource-intensive materials like asphalt and concrete require frequent maintenance and repairs and that this perpetual cycle of reconstruction further escalates the environmental impact as it involves additional resource consumption, emissions, and disruptions to surrounding ecosystems.

Engineer Karanja affirmed that roads constructed through the stabilized soil method can withstand various environmental factors, including weather, traffic loads, and erosion and that this durability ensures they last longer, reducing the need for frequent repairs and reconstructions.

"The extended lifespan of these roads means less disruption to traffic and lower maintenance costs, making them a sustainable choice for the long term. Soil stabilization also minimiz-

es the water absorption capacity of the soil, which is beneficial in flood-prone areas. It aids in effective storm water management and helps prevent soil erosion. This feature is not only advantageous for road construction but also contributes to the mitigation of flood-related issues in surrounding areas," the CECM pointed out.

Engineer Karanja explained that Roads built with stabilized soil offer improved load-bearing capacity and stability. This, he noted, means smoother rides for vehicles and reduced wear and tear on tires and suspensions. The enhanced performance of these roads, he added, contributes to safer and more efficient transportation networks, which are vital for economic growth and the well-being of communities.

The CECM stated that sustainable road construction should not be viewed as a concept but a practical and achievable reality that can make a significant difference in the way a nation builds and maintains our essential infrastructure.

"It's time for the construction industry to embrace these sustainable practices and pave the way to a brighter, eco-friendly future. By adopting this method, we can pave the way to a greener, more cost-effective, and environmentally responsible future. It's a collective effort that can drive positive change and contribute to a more sustainable world for future generations," Engineer Karanja observed.

Worth Noting:

- Engineer Karanja noted that adaptation and resilience is crucial in ensuring sustainable road infrastructure and that Kenya can avoid or at least significantly minimize the catastrophic loss of infrastructure from natural calamities by adopting a climate-smart approach.
- "Soil stabilisation is a method that enhances the properties of natural soil, making it more suitable for road construction. It reduces the need for importing expensive materials like gravel and asphalt, leading to significant cost savings. The process typically involves mixing stabilizing agents, such as cement, lime, or admixtures, with the local soil. This creates a more stable, load-bearing foundation for roads, making them resilient to traffic loads and environmental factors," explained the CECM.

Charting an Equitable Future for DNA and Ancient DNA Research in Africa

New Paper in the American Journal of Human Genetics Sets a Vision for Achieving Equitable Genomics Research in Africa Over the Next Decade

By: Cynthia Masibo and Clive Ayuko

@themkenyatimes

A new perspective piece published Friday in the American Journal of Human Genetics highlights the urgent need for an equitable and inclusive future in DNA and ancient DNA (aDNA) research across Africa. This groundbreaking paper, authored by an international team of 36 scientists from Africa, North America, Asia, Australia, and Europe, was spearheaded by Dr. Elizabeth (Ebeth) Sawchuk from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Dr. Kendra Sirak of Harvard University.

DNA from both ancient and living African populations holds critical importance for researchers studying human evolution and population history. Africa boasts the greatest human genetic diversity on the planet, yet only a small fraction of this diversity has been thoroughly examined. With scientific advancements accelerating over the past decade, the landscape is rapidly changing. Increasing amounts of genomic data from both ancient and contemporary African people are being published each year, positioning African DNA and aDNA research for significant expansion in the upcoming decade. Despite the growing international interest, African scientists remain starkly underrepresented in research teams and in the planning and execution of scientific projects.

Bringing African Research to the Forefront

“Step one is to discuss African research in Africa,” asserts Dr. Sawchuk, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s Associate Curator of Human Evolution. “Many African scholars face major barriers to attending genetics conferences held in North America and Europe, limiting their ability to lead and partner in DNA and aDNA research. Holding conversations in Africa allows voices and perspectives that have been historically sidelined to be heard.”

The new paper stems from the pioneering “DNAirobi” workshop held at the National Museums of Kenya in May 2023. Co-organized by scientists from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, National Museums of Kenya, Harvard University, and Rice University, DNAirobi



NMK scientists addressing the press at the Nairobi National Museum for the forthcoming paper in American Journal of Human Genetics..

brought together geneticists, archaeologists, and educators from across Africa and around the world to discuss the future of DNA and aDNA research on the continent. The article encapsulates the outcomes of these discussions and presents a bold vision for the research landscape over the next ten years.

A Collaborative Effort for Ethical Genomics Research

“This study involved researchers from both the Global North and the Global South and underscores the potential DNA and ancient DNA hold for understanding ancient and modern human populations,” said Dr. Fredrick Kyalo Manthi, Director of Antiquities, Sites and Monuments for the National Museums of Kenya. “It amplifies the need to train more African scholars, particularly in studies related to ancient DNA.”

The paper also addresses the challenges inherent in DNA and aDNA research in Africa and beyond. The study of genetic sequences, whether modern or ancient, necessitates great care due to the potential impacts on both the living and the dead. Scholars widely agree that such research should be the product of equitable partnerships, engage diverse audiences—including relevant com-

munities—and encompass a range of perspectives, all while fostering capacity building. Although a growing body of literature over the past decade has focused on the ethics of genetics research, adapting general best practice recommendations to specific geographic contexts remains difficult. Developing a roadmap for ethical DNA and aDNA research in Africa is particularly challenging, as fewer studies have been conducted on the continent, and guidelines developed elsewhere often do not fit well.

Beyond Guidelines: Structural Changes Needed

The new paper goes beyond establishing Africa-specific guidelines for genomic research. “We all want to carry out research that is equitable, engaged, and inclusive,” said Dr. Sirak, Senior Scientist in Genetics at Harvard Medical School. “Our paper examines some of the structural barriers that currently stand in the way of creating a research ecosystem that facilitates this type of research—for example, a lack of accessible training opportunities, ineffective communication between scientists and the interested public, and a history of exploitative research practices on the African continent. We attempt to

articulate how we as researchers can encourage the continued growth of ethical genomics research in Africa with high-level structural changes to the way that science is designed and supported, that we know must ultimately take place.”

A Vision for the Future

Ultimately, there is no singular path forward for DNA and aDNA research in Africa. As research landscapes evolve alongside science and society, scholars must remain flexible and adapt to new challenges and opportunities. To aid this process, the paper’s authors identify several “landmarks” to guide research teams toward an equitable and inclusive future for genomics research. These landmarks include changing how and with whom results are communicated, reimagining what equitable partnerships look like, and focusing on improving scientific literacy for all. Implementing best practices for ethical DNA and aDNA research requires addressing deep imbalances in power and resources.

“We seek to build a dynamic research ecosystem in which African scholars can effectively lead and partner in genomics research, and access the collaborators, labs, and funding they need to achieve their

goals,” said Dr. Christine Ogola, Head of Archaeology at the National Museums of Kenya. “The solution is not to immediately build population history-focused DNA and aDNA labs on the continent, which would be unrealistic at present to staff and maintain. Instead, we need to focus on building capacity and infrastructure in ways that sustainably support research leadership.”

A Call to Action

The authors conclude with a call to action for laboratories and funding bodies to commit more resources to African scholars, either directly or in cooperation with institutions that provide training and capacity-building opportunities. There is an inherent tension between the fast-paced nature of genomics research—driven by the need for labs to generate and publish results to secure funding—and the slower, more deliberate work of meaningfully engaging communities to build trust and equitable partnerships. Without the necessary infrastructural support to create an equitable research ecosystem, implementing best practices for African DNA and aDNA research will remain a challenge.

“Africans are the primary knowledge holders of African samples, data, and historical contexts. We want more access to DNA and aDNA research and the resources and training to support more African-led studies in the future,” says Dr. Emmanuel Ndiema, Head of Earth Sciences for the National Museums of Kenya. “An ethical and equitable future for African genomics research requires investing in entire societies and the next generation of scholars, work that will take decades and have impacts that go far beyond genetics research.”

This vision for the future marks a significant step toward ensuring that the rich genetic heritage of Africa is studied and preserved in a manner that is both ethical and inclusive, paving the way for groundbreaking discoveries in human history and evolution.

Mudavadi: Govt Keen To Safeguard Welfare Of Kenyans Working In Diaspora

By: OPCS

The government has assured Kenyans that measures have been put in place to streamline and enforce bilateral agreements Kenya has signed with foreign nations on labour and employment.

Speaking when he appeared before the Senate on Wednesday, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi, said this is in line with the government's initiative to safeguard the rights and welfare of Kenyans working in the Diaspora.

"We are working on a sessional paper that will be presented to Parliament soon, for the legislative arm to have an input on the policy, legal and institutional framework that support our bilateral negotiations," said Mudavadi.

He said collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Ministry of Labour is being scaled up to ensure Kenya competes favourably in the global labour migration market.

"I can give an example of the Labour migration agreement between Kenya and Germany that is close to completion being one of the more than 10 bilateral agreements we are pro-



PCS Musalia Mudavadi.

cessing as a government. This will create a system for skilled workers to move between the countries, while protecting Kenyan workers' rights," he noted.

He alluded to the past experiences that have befallen Kenyans working in the Gulf States and largely in diaspora assuring Kenyans that there will be a drastic change in policy and institutional framework for Kenyans to get value from engagement abroad.

"Kenyans workers in diaspora are varied in terms of the cadres of employment. We have the highly skilled professionals cascading down to la-

bourers who offer other services like the domestic workers. We are putting a consideration to all these groups to ensure that when we negotiate, we put emphasis on policies that will fit each and every cadre," said Mudavadi.

"We are putting each and every detail into scrutiny, proactively engaging basing on the diverse issues and areas of interest which range from one country to another," he added.

Mudavadi told the Senate that all the bilateral agreements that the government will sign will be made public and parliament will have an

opportunity to scrutinize each aspect to ensure there is transparency and compliance.

He said his ministry will run an open government approach in relation to all matters that concern the Kenyans in diaspora and no detail that warrants disclosure will be hidden, as the requisite laws and regulations will be adhered to.

"The Kenyan Foreign and Diaspora policy that is under review calls for closer collaboration between the government through the respective ministries and parliament not excluding other relevant stake-holders. This is an engagement that we are taking seriously to ensure we align our priorities to fit the needs of the global labour market and be beneficial to our citizens who get a chance to work in foreign nations," he told Senate.

The Prime CS said the government is tightening all loose ends that rogue recruitment agencies used to circumvent the set labour laws and regulations adding that over 700 agencies have been flagged and deregistered.

He said the ministry is working hard to ensure that its data is up to date in terms of the accuracy of figures and relevant information to ensure that the government tracks all the steps and engagements involving Kenyans working abroad.

"Our embassies and missions are being strengthened as we grapple with the issue of budgetary allocations to

ensure we are able to map all the details that will help government track and keep an update on the Kenyan workers abroad," he said

Embassies and missions are also working towards supporting Kenyans in their respective jurisdictions when it comes to matters of attending to distress, deportation or repatriation of the deceased while abroad.

He said depending on the nature of the issue at hand the ministry in liaison with the respective embassies or missions undertake the required approach to resolve any arising matter.

"It should be noted that not all Kenyans register with our missions abroad despite being sensitized on the importance of such registration. I appeal to all Kenyans to avail information on their whereabouts to our embassies and missions. This will help us tame this habit where fewer bad cases cloud the actual reality of the benefits of our workforce in diaspora," he said.

Mudavadi said the ministry can tabulate 416,548 Kenyans working in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq.

They are employed in various sectors including business, banking, maintenance, construction, information and communication technology, aviation, hospitality, agriculture, academia domestic services.

Stanley Kamau's Initiative Brings Dignity To Senior Citizens In Murang'a

By: John Kariuki

@themtkenyatimes

In a remarkable display of social responsibility, Ahadi Kenya Executive Director Stanley Kamau continued his mission of positive community transformation by addressing the needs of senior citizens in Mathiyoa, Murang'a County. On a recent visit to Karung'e Primary School, Mr. Kamau distributed 35 beds, along with clothing and foodstuffs, to bring comfort and dignity to the elderly members of the community.

The event was marked by the visible joy and gratitude of the senior citizens, many of whom have struggled with inadequate living conditions for years. For many, this gesture was not



Ahadi Kenya Executive Director Stanley Kamau giving beds and blankets to senior citizens in Mathiyoa, Murang'a County.

just a provision of physical comfort but also a symbol of respect and care they seldom experience. "We have several people here who have never had a dignified sleep. Others sleep on

the ground," Mr. Kamau remarked during the event.

In addition to providing these essential items, Mr. Kamau took the opportunity to address a pressing social

issue. He urged politicians to refrain from using funerals as platforms for political campaigns. "Politicians wait for people to die to go and seek votes in burials.

This is wrong," he stated firmly. He called on leaders to organize their own meetings rather than exploiting such solemn occasions for personal gain.

Reflecting on his past efforts, Mr. Kamau recalled his campaign against the jigger menace, which highlighted how poor living conditions and lack of basic necessities contribute to broader health issues. "Many diseases are a result of poor hygienic practices," he noted, emphasizing that preventive measures are more effective than curative solutions.

This latest initiative follows Mr. Kamau's recent distribution of blankets, demonstrating his ongoing commit-

ment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable. "Not a single person will ever sleep hungry, or go naked in the society. I will make sure every life is dignified. No one will wear a patched cloth again," he vowed.

The event concluded with a call for collective support for leaders who strive to make a difference, with Mr. Kamau encouraging attendees to "always say a prayer for us leaders" as they work towards a better future for all.

Stanley Kamau's efforts exemplify a profound dedication to community service and the belief that every individual deserves a life of dignity and respect.

Safaricom Announces Week One Winners In The Ongoing Shine Kenya Shinda Mamilii Kama Bingwa Campaign

Each won KES 1 Million, plus additional KES 250,000 to support various community projects of their choices.

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- She can now fulfil her daughter’s wishes to study psychology abroad and pay for her two other children to attend college in Kenya to study IT and nursing. She will spend the KES 250,000 community project money from Safaricom to buy uniforms for the less fortunate children in her community.
- “It was very unfortunate when my children had to be sent home because we could not afford the school fees for them to further their studies. But with this money, Safaricom has given me, my kids can now pursue their dreams. I want to thank Safaricom as it may not have been possible without them,” said Wangale.

Five Kenyans have each won KES 1 million in the ongoing Shine Kenya: Shinda Mamilii Kama Bingwa campaign. The five have also received an additional KES 250,000 each to support community-based projects of their choices courtesy of Safaricom Foundation, highlighting Safaricom’s commitment to both individual empowerment and fostering community development across the nation.

Elizabeth Sangale, a farmer and mother from Kabongwa, a small village in Uasin Gishu County, is one of the first lucky winners of the million-shilling draw. For a long time, the mother of three struggled to raise school fees for her children, whom she’ll now be able to send for further studies.

She can now fulfil her daughter’s wishes to study psychology abroad and pay for her two other children to attend college in Kenya to study IT and nursing. She will spend the KES 250,000 community project money from Safaricom to buy uniforms for the less fortunate children in her community.

“It was very unfortunate when my children had to be sent home because we could not afford the school fees for them to further their studies. But with this money, Safaricom has given me, my kids can now pursue

their dreams. I want to thank Safaricom as it may not have been possible without them,” said Wangale.

In addition, in support of her husband, who has hearing impairment, she plans to invest some of the money in a disability initiative in her area.

Mary Wambui Chege, a 20-year-old caregiver for the elderly, was sceptical when she first heard she was one of the winners. Her scepticism soon turned to joy when the Safaricom team assured her that she truly was one of the winners of the campaign. Mary, who hails from Gachie, Kiambu County, studied caregiving at college, and now, with her prize money, she can afford to study general nursing, her passion.

“I am excited for our first five millionaires from Shine Kenya: Shinda Mamilii Kama Bingwa. We are so grateful that we can be part of transforming our customers’ lives.

Times have not been easy, and we see how hard Kenyans are trying to make their dreams come true. So, this is our small way to support Kenya and to help them shine,” stated Peter Ndegwa, CEO, Safaricom PLC.

The third winner, Mohammed Khalif, a budding entrepreneur and clerical officer, will invest the KES 1 million into his local retail business

in El Wak, Mandera County, where he sells food to the community. Mohammed was aware of the campaign and would actively transact with his M-PESA to increase his number of draws and chances to win.

Kamwenga Tsimba, a 23-year-old stay-at-home mother from Mshomoroni, Coast Region, was surprised when she received the news that she had won KES 1 million. Excited about the win, Kamwenga, a wife and mother of one, wants to buy land, build a home and move her family from their rented space.

The fifth winner, Victor Omondi Onyango is a 26-year-old aspiring business owner from Ahero, Kisumu County, completed form four but hasn’t been able to get a job since.

Victor currently lives with his parents and wishes to use his winnings to start a business to sustain himself and to pay for his college fees to study to become a P1 teacher.

To participate, customers will need to transact on M-PESA or purchase the Shine Kenya Bundles. For every KES 200 transacted on M-PESA and any Shine Kenya bundle purchase of KES 20 and above, customers will earn an entry into the weekly draw.

Qualifying M-PESA transactions include Send Money (P2P), Lipa na M-PESA, any transaction made through the M-PESA app, My Safaricom app, dialling *444#, *544# or *334#.



Graduate Apprentices And Indentured Learners' Graduation

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Mr Manoj noted that the knowledge and skills gained over the past year formed an essential foundation upon which the Indentured Learners and Graduate Apprentices can build their dreams. This would ensure the continuity of his (Mr. Manoj) dream; to create job opportunities, to uplift individuals and strengthen the fabric of the society; making a difference in the world.

- Speaking at the event Nisheel Shah - CEO Osho Chemical Industry Ltd. acknowledged the 66 machine operators in the indentured learner's program noting the rigorous training and testing which ensured mastering of machine operations, basic maintenance, service, part replacement, and essential safety protocols.

Osho Chemical Industries Limited is the leading agricultural input supplier in the industry and has been a dominating force in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa since inception in 1993. The company specializes in manufacturing and distributing of quality and affordable agro products, industrial chemicals, public-health products and animal health products.

As part of continuous commitment to impacting change in the society, Osho Chemical Industries Ltd initiated an indentured learner's program in February 2022 taking through a rigorous training 66 machine operators. Later in September of 2022 an apprenticeship program commenced equipping 14 professionals with practical skills in various functions. Over 12 months down the line, this has culminated to a graduation ceremony to recognize the acquired knowledge and impact.

Osho Chemical Industries Ltd in conjunction with The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) Has Organized Graduate Apprentices And Indentured Learners' Gradu-

ation.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony held at Osho Chemical Industries Ltd offices, Manoj K Shah – The Founder of Osho Chemical Industries Limited encouraged the Indentured Learners and Graduate Apprentices to be bold and innovative using their newfound expertise to drive change and seek opportunities to mentor and support others.

Mr Manoj noted that the knowledge and skills gained over the past year formed an essential foundation upon which the Indentured Learners and Graduate Apprentices can build their dreams. This would ensure the continuity of his (Mr. Manoj) dream; to create job opportunities, to uplift individuals and strengthen the fabric of the society; making a difference in the world.

Speaking at the event Nisheel Shah - CEO Osho Chemical Industry Ltd. acknowledged the 66 machine operators in the indentured learner's program noting the rigorous training and testing which ensured mastering of machine operations, basic maintenance, service, part replacement,

and essential safety protocols.

Nisheel also recognized the 14 graduate apprenticeship program cohorts noting the practical work experience gained to equip them with skills required for future careers. He highlighted on their

potential to propel Kenya to greater heights as professionals in various functions even as 11 of them were absorbed within the Osho Group work force.

Speaking at the event NITA Chairman celebrated the successful partnership between NITA and Osho Chemical Industries Ltd. He noted the milestones achieved in Kenya's Industrial training which has evolved and provides skilled labour across all economic sectors, addressing Kenya's skills shortage, while promoting economic development and creating pathways for employment and career advancement.

Principal Secretary Ministry of Labour & Social Protection Hon. Shadrack Mwadime recognized the great partnership between NITA and Osho chemical Industries Ltd saying

that it has transformative potential for training and the society at large, through the development of a skilled workforce that is employable, productive, enterprising, innovative, adaptive and competitive therefore spurring economic growth and sustainable development.

Theresa Wasike, ag. Director General National Industrial Training Authority, applauded Osho Chemical Industries Ltd for participating in industrial training and collaboration in the advancement of Industrial Training and skills development. She reassured the commitment of NITA in support of initiatives towards ensuring a quality and steady supply of skilled manpower in Kenya.

Sports >> *The 2016 Paralympics 5,000m T11 champion Samuel Muchai enhanced his chances of a historic fifth appearance at the quadrennial competition when he won the men's 5,000m T11

Muchai Edges Closer To Paralympics History With Win At National Trials



Samuel Muchai (right) with his guide Jean Kipchumba at the national trials for the Paralympics on Friday

The 2016 Paralympics 5,000m T11 champion Samuel Muchai enhanced his chances of a historic fifth appearance at the quadrennial competition when he won the men's 5,000m T11 at the national trials at the Kipchoge Keino Stadium on Friday evening.

Muchai clocked 15:51.4 in first place, ahead of Eric Sang (16:36.8) and Wilson Bii (17:38.7) in second and third respectively.

The 2012 London Paralympics 1,500m T11 champion said qualifying for Paris Paralympics will be his biggest achievement considering his recent injury woes.

"It's my dream to make it to my fifth Paralympic Games and I hope lady luck will smile on me. I didn't perform well in Tokyo because I was coming from a nagging injury," Muchai said.

He added: "God has been good to me. I don't take it for granted. I call for his mercy and good health, hoping to get the slot and make history in Paris."

While Muchai is crossing his

fingers for a fifth appearance at the Paralympics, John Lokedi will be hoping for a debut at the grandest stage of his career.

Lokedi emerged tops in the men's 5000m T13, clocking 15:35.8 in first place.

"It's my dream to make it to the Paralympics for the first time and it's my hope that I have stated my case," he said.

Lokedi narrowly missed out on a medal at last month's World Para-Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan after finishing fourth in the global competition.

The 2023 World Para-Athletics 1500m T11 champion Nancy Chelangat cemented her place on the plane to Paris when she clocked 5:02.0 to clinch the women's 1500m T11.

Mary Waithera crossed the finish line in 5:05.4 to take second place as Prisca Jepkemoi clocked 5:10.9 in third.

Whereas Chelangat and Waithera have qualified, Jepkemoi will be hoping lady luck smiles on her.

"I keep my fingers crossed hop-

ing for the best. I know I have done my best and I shall qualify for Paris," Jepkemoi said.

Other athletes who have booked their slot in Paris include Wesley Sang (Men's 1,500m T46) in addition to Dedan Ireri Maina and Kennedy Ogada (cycling), Stacy Neema and Julieta Moipo (taekwondo), Asiya Sururu (rowing) and Hellen Wawira (powerlifting).

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has given Kenya National Paralympic Committee (KNPC) three more additional slots in para athletics occasioning the trials in men's 5,000m T11, 5,000m T13 and women's 1,500m T11.

Speaking after the trials, Kenya National Paralympics Committee (KNPC) head of technical Joseph Ochieng said they will fill the slots based on the results from the trials.

He also explained the rationale for allowing para athletes who have already qualified to participate in the national trials.

"We allowed them to compete to

push their colleagues to make the time," Ochieng said.

The Paris Paralympics August 28-September 8 in the French capital.

National trials for Paris Paralympics (Results)

Men's 5,000m T11

1. Samuel Muchai (Guide-Jean Kipchumba) – 15:51.4

2. Eric Sang (Guide- Andrew Ndiema) – 16:36.8

3. Wilson Bii (Guide-Vincent Langat) – 17:38.7

Men's 5,000m T13

1. John Lokedi – 15:35.8

Men's 1,500m T46

Advertisement. Scroll to continue reading.

1. Wesley Sang – 4:03.8

2. Evans Ruto – 4:08.5

Women's 1,500m T11

1. Nancy Chelangat (Guide – Geoffrey Rotich) – 5:02.0

2. Mary Waithera (Guide – James Boit) – 5:05.4

3. Prisca Jepkemoi (Guide – Kenneth Lagat) – 5:10.9

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Manchester United are close to completing a £33.7m deal to sign Dutch striker Joshua Zirkzee from Bologna.

Man United Close In On Signing Dutch Striker Zirkzee



United sources say the club are set to pay a slight premium on the £33.67m release clause in order to secure an extended payment period for the 23-year-old.

Manchester United are close to completing a £33.7m deal to sign Dutch striker Joshua Zirkzee from Bologna.

United sources say the club are set to pay a slight premium on the £33.67m release clause in order to secure an extended payment period for the 23-year-old.

The Premier League club are determined to comply with Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) regards loss limits and accept their present situation is tight and will require discipline in their transfer dealings.

Long-serving forward Anthony Martial left Old Trafford at the end of last season when his contract expired.

The Frenchman's extended absence because of injury, in addition to Marcus Rashford's drop in form, left new signing Rasmus Hojlund to shoulder the striking burden.

Hojlund ended up losing his place in Ten Hag's starting line-up for the FA Cup final win over Manchester City as the manager used Bruno Fernandes in a false nine role.

Zirkzee joined Bayern Munich from Feyenoord in 2017 before moving to Bologna for about £7.15m five years later after loan spells with Parma and Anderlecht. He scored 12 goals in 37 appearances last season as Bologna claimed a surprise spot in this season's Champions League.

Zirkzee was named in Ronald Koeman's Euro 2024 squad but made just two substitute appearances for the Netherlands, totalling four minutes, plus injury time.

He was introduced into Wednes-

day's semi-final defeat by England immediately after Ollie Watkins' winner.

BBC

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Fula Show By Artflame Theatre Network At Eugenia Amphitheatre-Kiambu

By: Ruth Koech
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The play doesn't just examine identity; It dares to reignite the fire within each and everyone, challenging us to embrace our roots and tradition with fierce pride. It boldly confront the harsh realities faced by all of us in both rural and urban jungles, urging us to reclaim our power and honor our heritage in an unapologetically vibrant celebration of self-discovery and cultural pride.
- On 6th July at Eugenia Park located at Exit 14 Kenyatta Road, 5KM Off Thika Highway hosted Fula show. There were two shows; First show was at 2PM Students GE Premiere Session and Second show at 5PM Adults GE Premiere Session, then Photo shoot, Meet & Greet. Faith Moko the General Manager and all workers of Eugenia Park did their best for the show to be successful.



Artflame Theatre Network is Theatre Production located in El-

Prof Kivutha Kibwana & Brian Mwanzo
(Director).

doret-Uasin Gishu County founded by Brian Mwanzo. It's a Company committed to bring new vitality to worthy stage plays and also performed setbooks in high schools. Fula is a captivating stage play written by Brian Mwanzo (Director/Playwright/Theatre Nerd), Workshopped by Wakio Mzenge, Lighting by Alacoque Ntone, Music by Oceray, Percussion by Kamau G, exploring the blend of modernity and culture. It has been performed in several places this year; Kveda Auditorium in Eldoret 25th Feb, Little Lambs Academy 1st March, Nakuru Theatre Players 31st March, Eka Hotel Eldoret Rerun 1st May, Testimony Academy 31st May and Eugenia Amphitheatre- Kiambu 6th July.

The story centers around a spiritually gifted young beautiful raucous woman Pula meaning Rain, who is stuck between two worlds, two cultures, two lifestyles and countless blinding opinions from the society she is caught in a dream of sorts, raised under a patriarch grandmother after the death of her father and her mother remarries overseas, she instinctively becomes inducted to the throne her grandmother occupied. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she discovers her ancestral calling. She is caught between city life and heeding to the call,



'FULA' STORY TELLERS



she is bringing a new perspective to her people on traditional beliefs and modern perspectives on climate change and action. The play attempts to revive the confidence of these women in a harsh environment, both from rural and urban areas and encourages them to be proud of whom they are and embrace their culture edition. The play interrogates issues of identity.

The play doesn't just examine identity; It dares to reignite the fire within each and everyone, challenging us to embrace our roots and tradition with fierce pride. It boldly confront the harsh realities faced by all of us in both rural and urban jungles, urging us to reclaim our power and honor our heritage in an unapologetically vibrant celebration of self-discovery and cultural pride.

On 6th July at Eugenia Park located at Exit 14 Kenyatta Road, 5KM Off Thika Highway hosted Fula show. There were two shows; First show was at 2PM Students GE Premiere

Session and Second show at 5PM Adults GE Premiere Session, then Photo shoot, Meet & Greet. Faith Moko the General Manager and all workers of Eugenia Park did their best for the show to be successful.

Prof Kivutha Kibwana the former Governor of Makueni County, Dr. Fred Mbogo Best Kenyan Playwright, Senior Lecturer at The Technical University Of Kenya, Department of Music and Performing Arts, Judge Ian Mbugua and others attended the show.

"An Exquisite drama and Perform-

mance. The traditional and Modern Must Interact for Africa's decolonization and the UBUNTU "-PROF KIVUTHA KIBWANA.

"Tapping into a program by United Nation COP meeting that was launched in 2015 on climate change crisis ARTFLAME THEATRE NETWORK has created a program GREEN THEATRE FESTIVAL. The climate crisis has been called a "crisis of imagination." The phrase refers to our inability to grasp the magnitude and violence of the changes we are facing, our reluctance to let the reality of it permeate our collective consciousness, and our resistance to envision positive futures. But imagination is the CURRENCY OF ANY ARTIST used to reflect on the ways in which we use to create the stories that will support us through, and lift us out of, this transformative moment of climate crisis. The power that theatre has in tackling climate change lies in its story-telling ability. Theatre can help to mold public opinion, and create empathy and emotion in visual and immersive ways-maybe even beyond our imagination These are series of climate change and theatrical activities exploring the intimate impacts of climate change on both individuals and communities' - Brian Mwanzo - Theatre Nerd.

Brian Mwanzo the Director is planning for another show that will be held on 12th October 2024 at University Of Nairobi- Main Campus. And an Outdoor Theatre curated by Mwanzo and Directed by Wakio, Board Games; Darts, Chess, Carrom Sunset Effect, African Authentic music, Bonding and Networking Coffee, Photographs & Reels and African Meals at Matunda City Mall and Resort on 14th September 2024.

