



Judicial Bench Book On Human Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation Launched

Kenya continues to have one of the highest rates of human trafficking in Africa, with those for sexual exploitation being one of the most common forms. Despite the enactment of the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, prosecution and conviction rates for human trafficking cases remain low.

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News>> President William Ruto Nominates Dorcas Oduor As Attorney General

P. 8. President William Ruto nominated Dorcas Agik Oduor to the position of Attorney General (AG) yesterday.



News>> NOREB Leaders Welcomes Conferment Of Eldoret To City Status

P. 12. Leadership from the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), have welcomed the conferment of Eldoret Municipality into a City, an historic event, which will take place next Thursday and will be graced by President Dr. William Ruto.

Bring It On!



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Kahiga, a close ally of the Deputy President said Kenyans who support Gachagua were keenly watching the unfolding scenario over the matter.

“Bring it on!!!!,” Kahiga busted as he said Gachagua had done nothing wrong to warrant such a move, which he quarried whether President William Ruto would sanction as he added, “such move has its consequences”.



Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga

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A Story Of Resilience As Blind Widow Knits Beautifully

By: ODP

Worth Noting:

- “My friends pick me up at my house, and we have been attending this program for months. It has given me hope, and I look forward to attending,” said Ms Mwololo as she displayed her knitted work.
- “I used to sell clothes at Gikomba market, but because of the challenge with my sight, people would steal from me, and I stopped. I still depend a lot on well-wishers for my provision but this program has redefined my life,” said Ms Mwololo.

Anne Mwololo, 52 years, has overcome physical, social, emotional and mental challenges since she lost her husband in 2006, and also lost her sight in 2010.

Ms Anne was involved in a fatal accident on her way to Makueni, an occurrence that left her using a white cane. Widows carry a lot of emotional and psychological pain, and the story of Ms Mwololo is one of double tragedy as widowhood and disability converge.

“I was lucky to survive the road accident, but I lost my sight. I visited many hospitals seeking treatment, but I was told the accident had caused extensive damage that resulted in loss of my sight. My son was also hurt, and experiences pains in his back every now and then,” said Ms Mwololo.

She spoke while attending a knitting session at the House of Grace Church, Nairobi West, where more than 250 widows meet under the Widows and Orphans Program initiated by the spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi. The Nairobi Chapter also has other projects that include tree nurseries, detergent making, beadwork, and dressmaking.

The widows program has been therapeutic for Ms Mwololo, who attends the sessions together with her friends who live in Kibera.

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The projects under the widows program are intended at empowering the widows with skills and knowledge where they can become self-sufficient and productive. It also includes therapeutic sessions (safari ya ujane) where the widows share their experiences for their emotional healing. They have sessions with legal experts on succession, inheritance, and land matters.

Other similar programs are running in

Migori, Embu, Bomet, Nakuru and Kakajiado with projects tailor-made for the regions. Pastor Dorcas, who was brought up by a widow, advocates for the empowerment of widows in Kenya, Africa and the world.

She spoke passionately about widowhood at the United Nations in 2023, and also attended the first Africa Widows Summit held in Zanzibar in June 2024, among tens of other widows meetings in different parts of Kenya.

To build the leadership skills of the widows, different champions are identified to lead the different projects and ensure widows are nurtured in all areas of life. The Nairobi program has a health champion, spiritual nourishment champion, candle making champion, crocheting champion, sports champion, and soap making champion among others.

The role of the champions is to keep the groups focused on their mission, and motivated.

The champion of the knitting and crocheting project in Nairobi, Margaret Khatenje, is passionate and keeps the widows motivated whenever they meet for sessions.

Florence Naomi has also made beautiful doormats under different themes that include logos of media stations, and heart-felt themes.

Ms Florence hopes to sell the mats and empower her life economically.



Widows, together with Anne Mwololo, attending the Widows & Orphans Program at the House of Grace, Nairobi West, a program under the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi. Pastor Dorcas, who was brought up by a widow, advocates for the empowerment of widows in Kenya, Africa and the world. She spoke passionately about widowhood at the United Nations in 2023, and also attended the first Africa Widows Summit held in Zanzibar in June 2024, among tens of other widows meetings in different parts of Kenya. Photo/DPC.

Editor's Desk

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Mama Judith Ongoro MEDICAL APPEAL

Our Mother, Mrs. Judith Ongoro is battling Cancer of the Oesophagus. She has been referred to India, Apollo Hospital, for treatment and management. We have started the first course of urgent treatment at MP Shah Hospital, Nairobi. The Ongoro Family is seeking your humble and generous support to enable the doctors commence urgent and immediate treatment at the cost of:

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Department of Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho was paid a courtesy call by the incoming Country Director for KfW Ms Krostina Laarman and the outgoing Country Director Mr. Oskar von Maltzan at his office. The Department is implementing several programmes under financial cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through KfW among them; the Smallholder Irrigation Programme for Mt Kenya Region (SIPMK) Phases I-IV, the Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya (DRPNK)- Turkana and Marsabit counties and the Lower Nzoia Irrigation Programme (LNIP)- in partnership with World Bank Financing Locally Coordinated Climate Action (FLoCCA). Kimotho acknowledged and appreciated the fruitful collaborations engineered by the outgoing Country Director Oskar von Maltzan during his five years tenure and Welcomed Ms Krostina while calling on more fruitful partnerships. Th outgoing and incoming Country Directors appreciated the privileges of participating in such programs that are geared towards improving the irrigation sector while directly impacting farmers for a better livelihood.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua’s three senior officials have been grilled over an ongoing probe seeking to establish those who could have financed the anti-government protests. Sleuths are said to have visited the offices of the officials in Karen, Nairobi for their statements in a session that took several hours. The detectives attached to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations are investigating the violent protests and looting of businesses in several parts of the country.

Kenya’s Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) has closed a section of the 57.1-kilometre Kasoiyo-Tenges-Saos-Eldama Ravine road following a landslide in the Borowonin area of Baringo County. The closure will allow a contractor to assess the damage and repair the affected points before it is certified for public use. KeRRA will collaborate with security personnel to direct vehicles at the two entry points of the road, Kasoiyo in Baringo Central and Saos in Koibatek Sub-counties. The road is a crucial infrastructure linking Eldama Ravine and Kabarnet, the county headquarters. Eng. Felix Kimaiyo, Baringo Deputy Governor, praised KeRRA and other stakeholders for their prompt response to the natural disaster.

All religious institutions in Kenya are set to register afresh under strict vetting procedures, taskforce reviewing laws governing churches has recommended in report handed over to President William Ruto yesterday. Other proposals include the need to revise the basic education curriculum to strengthen religious tolerance, caution the public against religious extremism and relook at civic education materials on the rights and responsibilities of religious organisations and citizens.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said that the government has not signed any agreements with Adani Airports Holdings Limited over upgrading the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) infrastructure. In a paid up press statement, Mudavadi said the proposal by Adani Holdings is currently undergoing due process including reviews and negotiations. He said this is in compliance with the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Act & insists that the country’s interests would come first in the deal. He further insisted that the proposed expansion and modernization of JKIA will be done in strict observance of the Constitution and legal frameworks established by the PPP Act.



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Luhya Leaders Meet In Kakamega, Is It A Looming New Dawn For Mulembe Nation?

By: Sefu Sabila
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Expressing their dissatisfaction of the president's nomination, a section of leaders from the Luhya community met in Kakamega on Monday to deliberate the state of the community in the country's political sphere, dubbed Mulembe People's Assembly.
- The leaders led by Trans Nzoia governor George Natembeya, United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party Secretary General Cleophas Malala, former Cabinet Secretary Rashid Echesa and MPs from the larger western counties.



Governor George Natembeya, UDA SG Cleophas Malala, former CS Rashid Echesa among other leaders from Western Region during the Mulembe People's Assembly in Kakamega County on Monday, July 29. Photo : Cleophas Malala..

After President William Ruto's nomination of four Orange Democratic Movement Party (ODM) members to his cabinet, mixed reactions have been expressed by leaders from different political divide.

Ruto's list was filled with close allies of opposition leader Raila Odinga, ODM deputy leader Hassan Ali Joho to lead the ministry of mining, Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi to the ministry of Energy and nominated MP John Mbadia was nominated to the ministry of National Treasury.

Expressing their dissatisfaction of the president's nomination, a section of leaders from the Luhya community met in Kakamega on Monday to deliberate the state of the community in the country's political sphere, dubbed Mulembe People's Assembly.

The leaders led by Trans Nzoia governor George Natembeya, United Dem-

ocratic Alliance (UDA) party Secretary General Cleophas Malala, former Cabinet Secretary Rashid Echesa and MPs from the larger western counties.

In the assembly, the leaders came out with six resolutions for the Mulembe people in the quest of aligning the community in the country's political sphere.

Among the six key resolutions of the meeting include use of the community's numerical strength to form or bargain with the government, elected political leaders must discard their political differences and pull together towards a unified center, future finance bills will passed based on benefits assured to Mulembe Nation.

The leaders from the region have been urged to firmly hold their positions in trust of the people, and be accountable to the people of Mulembe, the selected oversight committee to take

note of all development projects initiated in Western region, and lastly the next meeting will be centered towards matters of progress of projects in the current budget as highlighted by the selected multi-sectorial committee.

Natembeya said the community's negligence in shaping the country's politics has been witnessed for long, despite being the second largest community in the country, has largely remain behind in shaping the politics of the country.

"We are the second largest community in the country, where is the voice as of Mulembe. When people are planning of their community what is our place as a community. Who is the leader of the Mulembe when the politics of the nation are being discussed? Politics is about the numbers, as community how have we utilized our numbers to stop asking for what positions we have

been given," Natembeya stated.

Echesa decried the failure of the Kenya Kwanza government to keep its promise in ensuring the community receives 30% share in government, triggered the call for Mulembe People's Assembly.

"The 30% we were promised by the Kenya kwanza government was not upheld, that is why were are here to unity our people and chant our way forward as a community," he lamented.

However, the community received one nomination to the cabinet, of former Kakamega governor Wycliffe Oparanya was selected to spearhead the Cooperatives and MSMEs ministry previously held by Simon Chelugui.

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President Names New AG And Regional Community Nominees



By: Sefu Sabila
@themtkenyetimes

President William Ruto nominated Dorcas Agik Oduor to the position of Attorney General (AG) yesterday. Her nomination comes after former Cabinet Secretary previously nominated after the president dissolved his entire cabinet and the AG, declined the offer and nominated to the ministry of tourism and wildlife.

In a press statement released by the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, Ruto said the senior counsel is fit for the position following her vast experience in the field of law and justice and service as public servant.

The AG Nominee is a graduate of bachelors of Law Degree from the University of Nairobi and a post graduate diploma in law from the Kenya School of law, with over 30 years experience in public service.

“In her long and distinguished career as a jurist who has contributed im-



Attorney General Nominee Senior Counsel Dorcas Oduor. Photo: PSC.

mensely to the development of law in Kenya through litigation, draughtsman and legal advisories, senior counsel Oduor has demonstrated an unimpeachable integrity, impressive professional competence and steadfast commitment to the rule of law,” Ruto stated.

If the National Assembly approves her nomination, senior counsel

Oduor will serve as the first ever AG in the country since independence. The position was being held by Justin Muturi who has been nominated to the ministry of public service and human capital development.

Oduor is the current secretary of public prosecutions in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). Before advancing her career



Beatrice Askul Moe nominated as the Cabinet Secretary for East Africa Community Affairs.

at the office of the ODPP, she served as the Deputy Chief State Counsel and State Counsel at the office of the AG.

According to the constitution of Kenya Article 156, the AG is the legal adviser of the government, as well as represents the government in court proceedings and shall also perform any other function delegated to

them by the president or act of parliament.

Additionally, Orange Democratic Movement party National Election Committee Board member Beatrice Askul Moe has been nominated as the Cabinet Secretary for East Africa Community Affairs (EAC) and Regional Development.

KRA Official In Court Over KSh5M Bribe

By: ODPP

David Omondi Omogo, an employee of the Domestic Taxes Department at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), was yesterday arraigned at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court on four charges of receiving a bribe, in violation of the Anti-Bribery Act.

The charges allege that Omogo solicited a financial bribe of KSh5 million from Pascal Ovinda Purporting to influence a reduction in tax arrears owed by Infinity Benefits Limited to the Kenya Revenue Authority, totalling KSh25,213,378.

Appearing before Chief Magistrate Thomas Nzyoki, Omogo pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on a cash bail of KSh3 million or a bond of KSh6 million with one surety of an equivalent amount.

The Magistrate also ordered that Omogo surrender his passports to the court and refrain from interfering with any witnesses involved in the case.

The case is set for mention on Thursday next week.

David Omondi Omogo when he appeared in court yesterday.



Bring It On! Nyeri County Governor Mutahi Kahiga Dares

Nyeri County Governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga Dares The Introduction Of An Impeachment Motion Against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua Saying Those Supporting The Second Most Powerful Political Leader In The Country Will Not Take It Lying

By: MKT Reporters
@themtkenyatimes

Vocal Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga has challenged a section of Members of Parliament to make good their threats of tabling an Impeachment motion against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Kahiga, a close ally of the Deputy President said Kenyans who support Gachagua were keenly watching the unfolding scenario over the matter.

“Bring it on!!!!,” Kahiga busted as he said Gachagua had done nothing wrong to warrant such a move, which he quarried whether President William Ruto would sanction as he added, “such move has its consequences”.

While calling on leaders to consider putting efforts on serious issues af-

fecting Kenyans, the governor noted that the country has many pressing issues that leaders should be addressing instead of focusing on such trivial matters.

Kahiga who has of late come out as the fearless defender of the Deputy President said the grounds of impeachment being flouted by those behind the scheme were frivolous and would not hold any case against him.

“One of the ground is that he opposed the Finance Bill in the cabinet. If this is true, we should clap for him because Kenyans rejected it. It shows he had ground information which most of the other leaders lack,” Kahiga said while fielding questions from journalists in Nyeri.

He was accompanied by his deputy, David Kinaniri and other senior officials of his administration.

He criticised leaders who he said were like puppets and did what they are ordered to do saying such were not of any help to citizens as they



Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga addressing journalists yesterday...

were more concerned by their individual welfare at the cost of masses.

Saying the country had lost months in bickering, Kahiga urged leaders to ensure whatever they prioritise was what was beneficial to the public.

He urged the president not to be held

hostage by some individuals saying the country has millions of qualified citizens who were equal to any task.

A few days ago, a section of leaders are said to have met and deliberated on possibilities of filing a motion to impeach the Deputy President over

various claims, among them insubordination, opposing some government policies and supporting protests against the Kenya Kwanza administration.

Nakuru County Gov’t To Support And Nurture Darts Players

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County Chief Officer for Youth, Sports and Talent, Alex Maina, has pledged to support the Darts leadership of the County and nurture talents across the county.

He said resources have been allocated to establish mini stadiums in the eleven sub counties to nurture the sport as both a talent and a potential career path for players.

He was speaking at a hotel at Njoro Sub-county where thirty teams from Nakuru, Kiambu, Baringo and Nairobi Counties participated during an event organized by Kenya Darts Association Council leadership.

The Chief Officer assured the players that the County will pursue public-private partnerships to develop frameworks and policies for the support and sponsorship of darts and commended County employees who are key players of the game and the significant role they have played in

promoting the sport.

He further emphasized on the significance of teamwork and sportsmanship in teaching young individuals’ valuable lessons.

The Nakuru County Branch Darts Chairperson Peter Kariuki, pledged to collaborate with the County leadership to promote Darts competitions, targeting youth to address idleness and combat drug abuse.

The chairperson urged the institutions to embrace the game since it not only provides a recreational space but enhances mental and emotional stability.

Emphasizing on the importance of promoting darts, he observed that the game holds several significant benefits, encompassing social, health, and economic aspects.

Darts, according to Kariuki, fosters community and social cohesion by bringing people together and being accessible to all ages and skills. Furthermore, regular practice of a sport can improve cognitive functions, relieve stress, and enhance hand-eye coordination, focus, precision, and patience, according to the speaker



Nakuru County Chief Officer for Youth, Sports and Taktent Alex Maina showing his prowess in playing Darts.

Why Does God Allow Suffering?



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We’ve to know that what we consider as tragedy in our lives, might have been actually been sent by God. The bottom line is that, the soul(which is eternal) is more important than the body which perished. We get a great example of this from the life of Job, specifically in Chapter 3:

“After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job spoke, and said: 3 “May the day perish on which I was born, And the night in which it was said, ‘A male child is conceived.’ 4 May that day be darkness; May God above not seek it, Nor the light shine upon it. 5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.

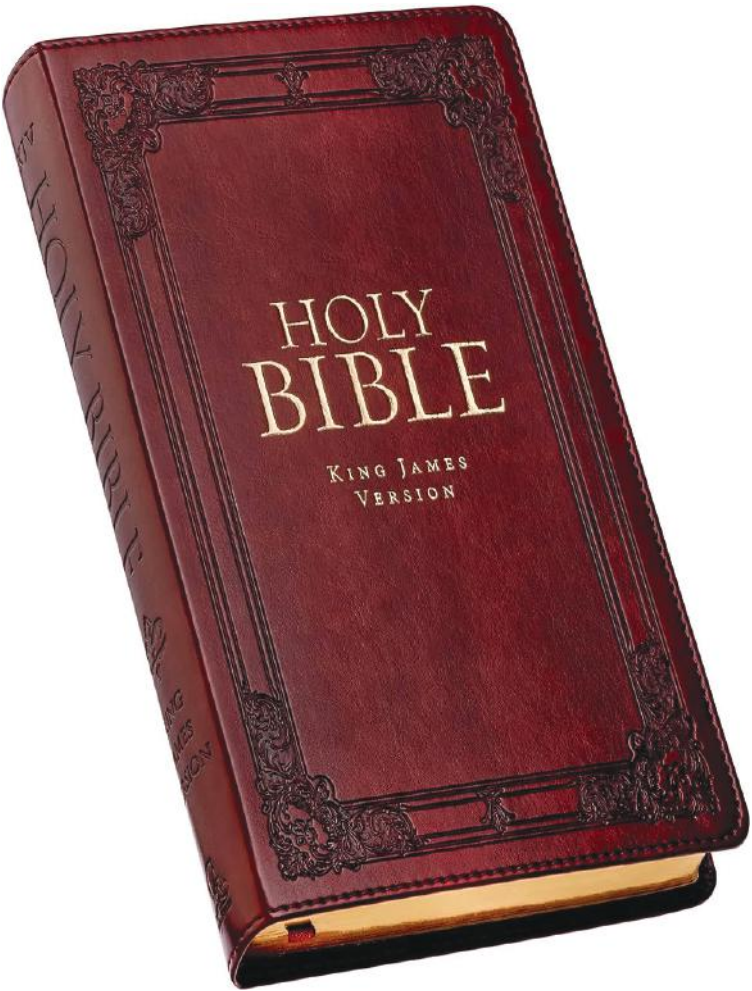
6 As for that night, may darkness seize it; May it not rejoice among the days of the year, May it not come into the number of the months.7 Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it! 8 May those curse it who curse the day, Those who are ready to arouse Leviathan. 9 May the stars of its morning be dark; May it look for light, but have none, And not see the dawning of the day; 10 Because it did not shut up the doors of my mother’s womb, Nor hide sorrow from my eyes.”

We clearly see, sometimes God allows the body to suffer in order to bring the spirit to Himself. The accomplished, most committed Apostle Paul cried three times , but God said and said, “ I will show you what MY GRACE.”As it is written in 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10 “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace

is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.”

HALELUJAH. WHAT AN UNFATHOMABLE, WONDERFUL, AMAZING GOD WE SERVE IN JESUS CHRIST.

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



The Next one will be Messy! My reflection on the Gen-Z clamour for change



By: Peter Ngure
mutuandong@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- There is another school of thought that the Gen-Z's recent reactions are a product of their parents' frustration! Today's parents (mostly from the X generation) are living in very tough economic times and unlike the older folks who kept their frustration away from their children, the current crop of parents are quick to show their anger on government policies to their children.
- Exhibited when a parent asks their son or daughter to monitor the news on the 14th of every month to see how much they will add to fuel prices, complains each year about MP's salary hikes and their opulence, or asks their teenage daughter not to put on the hot water shower for more than 5 minutes due to the ever-rising electricity bills, the Gen-Z feel directed targeted and impacted negatively by the government's decisions.



Gen-Z clamour for change

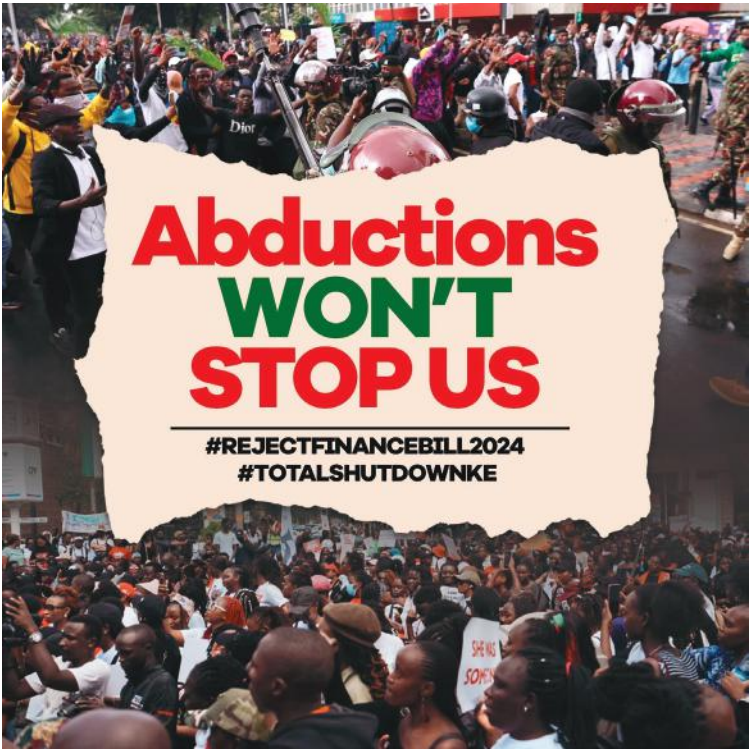
Recently, a friend of mine came worried to us; 'I swear I don't know what to do with this child', she lamented in pain referring to her 17-year-old daughter. The reason was that our friend had asked her daughter why she came home past her curfew hours and the daughter asked 'What time do you want people coming to your house'? The 'Your house' bit is what was shocking. How dare a child speak to a parent like that? The Gen-Z generation is a complex one; on one hand, they live in an age with so much information and one that is heavily rights-based while their parents grew up in an age of parental approval and constraints. Raising Gen-Z must be on different terms than what we (I am a Millennial) were raised on. Secondly, Gen-Z's life choices are purely based on their peers and not 'older folk'. For this reason, the sons and daughters of politicians being seen on the streets of Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, and even Laikipia was purely 'to belong'. One son was heard saying 'I would rather my Dad is mad at me than my pals be'. Indeed, it is being said that some of the politician's children who came to the streets did so to protect their image! Interestingly, a lot of people have asked where could Gen-Z be getting data like pay slip information, contacts, etc. The Gen X leaders are still burying their heads in the sand on the fact that Gen-Z's are the current bankers, Doctors, teachers, police officers, parliamentary clerks, etc. They are half of the Kenyan population! There is another school of thought that the Gen-Z's recent reactions are a prod-

uct of their parents' frustration! Today's parents (mostly from the X generation) are living in very tough economic times and unlike the older folks who kept their frustration away from their children, the current crop of parents are quick to show their anger on government policies to their children. Exhibited when a parent asks their son or daughter to monitor the news on the 14th of every month to see how much they will add to fuel prices, complains each year about MP's salary hikes and their opulence, or asks their teenage daughter not to put on the hot water shower for more than 5 minutes due to the ever-rising electricity bills, the Gen-Z feel directed targeted and impacted negatively by the government's decisions. It is important to note that this is the same generation we 'bought' space for in schools, we again 'bought' police force and army jobs for, we bribed CDF offices to give them bursaries etc.; making the complexity even worse! A Gen-Z who has missed school for close to two terms in their lifetime due to teachers' strikes as they demand their salaries and has seen teachers, doctors, etc. on the streets fighting for their rights has a mindset that the government only listens to chaos. And from the recent events, chaos is adrenaline for that age! So frustrated parents and teachers whose approval Gen-Z aren't seeking and Gen-Z, who are united, armed with all the information they can gather, and are willing to take matters into their hands is the perfect recipe for chaos for a government that is still rul-

ing with the Gen X mentality of loyalty, submission, and use of brute force. But I am more worried about 2027! These Gen-Z protests are a precursor to a very turbulent 2027 election! It began with the 2023 finance bill protests, the 2024 ones went a notch higher, and the next one will even be worse! Not to be a doomsday conspirator but Gen-Z's way of acting is a little more personalized than the Gen X have seen in elections. The poor policies in the country have affected the Gen-Z in a personal way

and so their reaction is Personal! Politicians with no morals have led Gen-Z to this desperate point. The extent they are willing to go is taking us to the precipice of dark times. While everyone is seizing the moment to be part of 'today's wins,' Gen-Z has their eyes set on a new tomorrow!

Peter Ngure Is The Founder Pathways Policy Institute



NOREB Leaders Welcomes Conferment Of Eldoret To City Status

By: Kenya News Agency

Leadership from the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), have welcomed the conferment of Eldoret Municipality into a City, an historic event, which will take place next Thursday and will be graced by President Dr. William Ruto.

The leaders who spoke during a consultative forum with various stakeholders, including business community and investors, hosted by Uasin Gishu Governor, Dr. Jonathan Chelilim, in Eldoret town, as a way to beef-up preparations to welcome the new 'baby' in nearly a week to come, The Eldoret City.

The leaders led by NOREB Governors' Chairman and Nandi Governor, Stephen Sang, praised the bestowment of the city status to the most strategic town, dubbing it 'a regional city' that will play a significant role in accelerating the growth of the nearby towns such as Iten in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kapsabet in Nandi and others in terms of promoting economic, cultural, tourism and other sectors growth.

Governor Sang noted that Eldoret Town, now turning into a city, is a strategic metropolitan for all, since it is the home and the heart of the region.

"The forthcoming event of 8th of August is not an end itself, the City status will be officially unveiled and starting from that point, we all need to escalate with all the stakeholders on board. We thank the first Governor of Uasin Gishu for initiating the process and the second Governor for concluding and completing that journey," said the NOREB chairman.

He added that the role of ensuring Eldoret City attains or lives to its new status will not be played by the government alone, it will be a role played by all stakeholders in the region and all of the counties surrounding Eldoret city.

"We as a leadership for the entire region, will work together with the stakeholders here, to ensure this dream of Eldoret City is achieved," added Governor Sang.

He indicated that the benefit of the new city will not just benefit the region within the County government of Uasin Gishu government alone, but it is going to escalate to other NOREB counties like Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia and the entire Rift Valley Region.

He assured the business community of numerous opportunities coming in like big businesses and hotels as part of the infrastructure to support the new city status, noting that they want to be part and parcel of that journey and they will also be approaching the National Government for a marshal



Nandi Governor Stephen Sang briefing journalists as other NORED leaders listens..

plan on infrastructure.

"We need a huge bypass in this town, we need over flyers in this region, expansion of the airport, this is going to mean a lot and am sure in the next five years, we will be surprised at how this new status will have expanded and even Nandi, Kitale, Iten and other towns will grow," he noted.

Governor Chelilim affirmed his Administration's commitment to receive the new city status that will open-up innumerable business and employment opportunities for the people, noting that Eldoret is strategically located and serves as the gateway to western part of Kenya up to the neighbouring East Africa countries including Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi among others.

"We have met with all leaders from MCAs, MPs, Senators and Corporate leaders, as regards the August 8 event, we had various deliberations, we welcome our President as we await our town to be 'born' anew as the fifth city in this country," said the Governor.

He assured business community of sufficient security and a peaceful environment, suitable for business and investment.

"We are very prepared; we have given the business people a waiver on painting their buildings anew and also doing beautification at their business premises, as they welcome the new city status," he noted.

Senator Jackson Mandago, the country is prepared for the occasion, noting that the City is not going to be a city of Uasin Gishu County alone, but a regional city and a catalyst to development in the region in terms of

attracting investment, taking advantage of the placement of the city both in terms of geographical location and even in terms of the ease of transportation in and out of County.

He urged all Kenyans, potential investors and people who want to scout for investment in the region which comprises Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Baringo, and Turkana, including the neighbouring towns like Kakamega and Bungoma, that the region has great potential for investment and to take advantage of the historic day to know what is available in terms of investment opportunities in the region.

"We want to thank the private sector, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the Jua Kali sector, and all the stakeholders who have come together to support the County Government in making sure that this day becomes great and memorable day," he said.

He expressed concern that the region, for a very long time has not been able to attract sufficient resources, particularly urban resources, noting that the new city status will bring in additional resources to support the infrastructure growth, particularly in areas of water, sewerage and road network.

"We are very hopeful that this is going to expand this region. We shall now see towns like Iten growing much faster and bringing out the best in the region in terms of new additional menus in the tourism sector," added Mandago.

"For many Kenyans, they don't really understand that there are hidden treasures in this region, Elgeyo Marakwet for example is in the Guinness book of world record as the best paragliding place in the world, we are telling Kenyans when you come to Eldoret, you can spend another 35 minutes and at least you can stand somewhere that has been acknowledged in the Guinness book of world records so that you can also write history," explained the Senator.

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Uasin Gishu Chapter Chairman, Willy Kenei, pointed out that Eldoret will be transformed and that the members of the business community will be main beneficiaries as a result of many investors coming, a lot of infrastructural development many other benefits, including hospitality industry.

"I want to urge the business community in Eldoret to take the advantage of the 10 days waiver by the County government to make the required renovation, to beautify Eldoret to fit the city status through painting with the recommended colours for they will not be charged for the renovation fee," he said.

He further urged the business people to install CCTV cameras on their buildings and to take good care of trees planted in front of their premises on behalf of the business community in order to add on to the aesthetic aspect of the newest city.



Worth Noting:

- "The forthcoming event of 8th of August is not an end itself, the City status will be officially unveiled and starting from that point, we all need to escalate with all the stakeholders on board. We thank the first Governor of Uasin Gishu for initiating the process and the second Governor for concluding and completing that journey," said the NOREB chairman.
- He added that the role of ensuring Eldoret City attains or lives to its new status will not be played by the government alone, it will be a role played by all stakeholders in the region and all of the counties surrounding Eldoret city.

Edible Oil Saga: KNTC MD And Manager In Court

By: ODP

Two former employees of the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) were charged today in the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court with offenses related to procurement law violations and abuse of office.

The two, Pamela Nduku Mutua, former Managing Director and Amos Juma Sikuku, former Supply Chain and Logistics Manager, face charges of Wilful Failure to Comply with Procurement Laws and Abuse of Office, respectively.

Pamela Nduku Mutua is charged with five counts of Wilful Failure to Comply with procurement regulations.

The court heard that as Managing Director and Accounting Officer, she failed to report to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority after the issuance of Notifications of Awards to Purma Holdings Limited, Multi Commerce FZC, Standard Petroleum LLC, and Makram Imports & Exports.

She also allegedly did not obtain

the necessary approvals before commencing the procurement of bulk commodities.

Amos Juma Sikuku is accused of having issued a prejudicial professional opinion in a tender for bulk commodities procurement, allegedly compromising the interests and rights of the Republic.

They are alleged to have committed the offences between November 8, 2022, and December 5, 2022, within the Republic of Kenya.

Both accused individuals pleaded not guilty to the charges before Chief Magistrate Thomas Nzyoki.

The Magistrate granted Pamela Nduku Mutua bail of KSh 1.5 Million or a bond of Ksh. 5 million with one surety of the same amount while Amos Juma Sikuku on the other hand was granted bail of Ksh. 500,000 or a bond of Ksh. 1 million.

They were also ordered to deposit their passports with the court and warned not to interfere with prosecution witnesses.

The case prosecuted by Wesley Nyamache and Delroy Mwasaru, is scheduled for a pre-trial conference on August 12, 2024.



Pamela Nduku Mutua and Amos Juma Sikuku when they appeared in court

Kwale Man To Serve 20 Years For Defiling A Schoolgirl

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

A Kwale court has sentenced Evans Ogega to 20 years in prison for the defilement of a 15-year-old schoolgirl.

The offence occurred on September 8, 2021, in Mwaoni area, Diani location, Kwale County.

Kwale Resident Magistrate Ruth Ogolla ruled that the evidence presented by the prosecution, which included Allen Mulama, Wangari Mwaura, Nandi Rosemary, and Collins Orwa, was compelling and irrefutable. Five prosecution witnesses provided consistent and corroborative testimonies, leading to a conviction.

The court was informed that Ogega ambushed the victim as she entered her family house to fetch water while her mother was outside.

He forcibly assaulted her, silencing her with a cloth to prevent her from screaming.

The court further heard that concerned by the delay, the mother went to find out what was happening only to discover the accused leaving the premises and found her daughter in distress, with her school skirt stained.

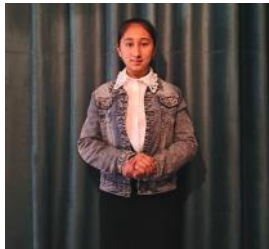
The mother notified neighbors, who responded with anger. A swift police intervention prevented the mob from harming Ogega. The officers managed to calm the crowd and safely transported Ogega, who had locked himself in his house for fear of being attacked, to Diani police station, where he was charged with defilement.

When he was placed on his defence, Ogega argued that he was falsely accused and framed by the victim's family.

Despite his claims of innocence and his plea for acquittal, Ogolla determined that the prosecution had successfully proven the critical elements of the case: the victim's age, the occurrence of penetration, and the accurate identification of Ogega as the perpetrator.



Parkentim



Years, even centuries
Yuksalaver, Parkentim.

Shoabdullaeva Ziyodabanu

Shoabdullaeva, daughter of Ziyodabanu Bunyod, daughter was born on August 4, 2009 in the Parkent district of Tashkent region. She is currently an 8th-grade student of the 43rd general secondary school.

At the same time, his creative works were published in the German magazine "Raven Cage". He actively participated with his beautiful poems in international anthologies called "To my goals", "Children of Uzbekistan", "First step" in Great Britain, "Dilants of Uzbekistan" in America, and "Creators of the Year" in Canada.

In Uzbekistan, he participated with his creative works in the anthology of creators called "Wingless Dreams", "Satlar Forori" and "Steps to Rise".

He participated in the "Smile" magazine published in Uzbekistan with the poem "Let's live for the motherland" and received a special certificate. Samples of his work were published in newspapers. He participated in the Thai "Kenya Times" magazine with his poem Mother Tongue. He also appeared in the collection of his meaningful poems in the Globe and Just

My native land,
Beautiful, beautiful Parkentim.
It was meant for you.
My best poems.

always in your sky,
The sun laughs every day.
Active, young people too,
It ends in this corner.

The people of this nation,
Hardworking and honest.
I did not spare help,
They are pure people.

Clear waters from the mountain,
It rises and flows.
In gardens, tulips,
They will open up.

Yashnaivergin Parkentim,
Magic, my land of space,

History And Culture Of Namangan Region



By: Omonova Dilnura Torajan

Annotation. This article provides scientifically very useful and accurate information about the history and culture of Namangan region.

Key words. Namangan region, history, culture, lifestyle, people.

Namangan region is a region within the Republic of Uzbekistan, established on March 11, 1941 (on January 25, 1960, it was added to the Andijan and Fergana regions. It was reorganized in 1967).

The area is 744 thousand square kilometers. The population is 27204 thousand people [2018]. Kosonsoi is in the northern part of the economic geographical region of Namangan region. In the eastern part of the region, surrounded by high mountain ranges, the climate is relatively mild, it rains a lot, there are many natural meadows, and the conditions for spring farming are very favorable. In the western part of the province, there is little rain and there are few rivers. Accordingly, the number of people fit for work is increasing rapidly.

Namangan is the administrative, economic and cultural center of the region. From the topic of

settlements, find out how Namangan city ranks in the republic in terms of population. The city is located on the banks of Namangansoy. It provides 60 of the regional industrial output. There are 3 higher educational institutions in the city. Our people call Namangan the "city of flowers".

The culture and recreation park named after Mashrab in the center of the city is one of the most beautiful parks in the country. Broad and smooth streets that radiate from the city center to the outskirts connect the city center with microdistricts.

Uzbeks make up the majority of the population, as well as representatives of Tajiks, Virgiz, Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, Azerbaijanis, Jews, Belarusians, Armenians, Kazakhs and other nationalities.

Chust is the district center. It is located on the highway from Namangan to Tashkent and Kokan. The city has a sugar factory, a sewing factory, handicraft enterprises, many artels, cultural and household institutions. Chust is famous for its sharp knives. There are technical rubber and shoe factories in Pop. In the future, the factory will start processing rubber tires. Uchkurgan district center. There are highways to Andijan, Namangan and Tashkent. A hydroelectric power plant was built on the Norin River near the city. There are large cotton gins and oil factories operating in the city. The main branches of agriculture are: grain growing, cotton growing, vegetable growing, horticulture and grape growing, meat and dairy farming, cocoon growing. The main branches of industry are: electric power, machine building, construction materials, light and food.

Omonova Dilnura Torajan, January 6, 2006, Gova village, Chust district, Namangan region.

How Many Trials Have Come To The Head



You were always by my side
I only offended ignorantly
I'm glad you're here, brother

You are the balm for my aching heart
May the Lord help you always
May there be more brothers like you all the time
I'm glad you're here, bro

Your sister Nigora is happy because of you
You are the reason for the golden throne
Your sister is like sz
I hope you are healthy, brother

👉 Nigora Yoldasheva

Nigora Yoldasheva Sadiqjon's daughter was born on May 29, 1999 in Yangikurgan district of Namangan region.

AlFraganus University Faculty of Pedagogy,
1st stage student of psychology.
The owner of the "Al-Farghani" badge.
She is the owner of the "Propagator of Oriental Education" badge

Sometimes someone hurts me
You took my heart right away
It was not even known about the slaughter in winter
I'm glad you're here, brother

You have always supported me
If I fall down, I will die a thousand times
If you are lucky, you will be full of joy
I'm lucky to have you brother

When it comes to my head, something is wrong

I Loved Him Who Did Not Love Me



I loved him who did not love me

I was lost in my heart, cutting my chest
I finally buried here
Making the most terrible mistake in life
I loved him who did not love me

I was born in Kitab District, Kashkadarya Region, the daughter of Rozimurodova Sevinch Sunnatillo. I went to school for the first time in 2010, and in 2021 I graduated and became a student. Currently, I am a 4th year student at AlFraganus University, one of the most prestigious universities in Tashkent. I have made many achievements during my studies. Regarding Zakovat, I also lead a group of Farghani scholars and conduct various projects, published my poems and articles in several newspapers and magazines, and continue to research.

The worst punishment is actually death
I knew there was something wrong with him

Wondering how you are doing?
I loved him who did not love me

He taught me why to die every day
And taught to resurrect today
I even gave my life
I loved him who did not love me

I didn't have enough patience until today
I was fast on the big mountains
Change the days to a dark night

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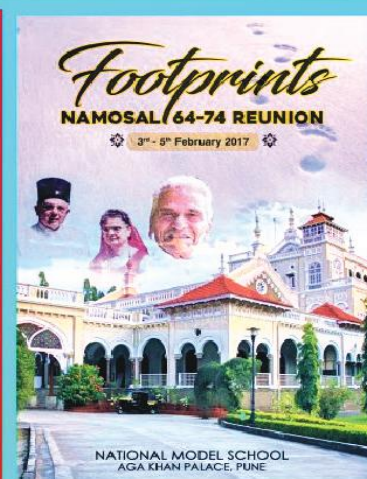
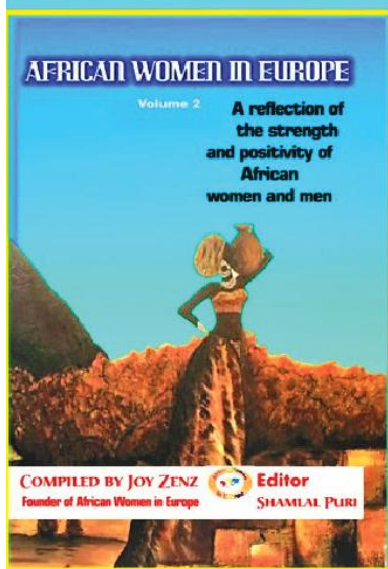
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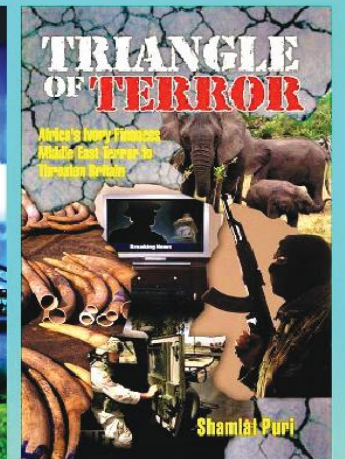
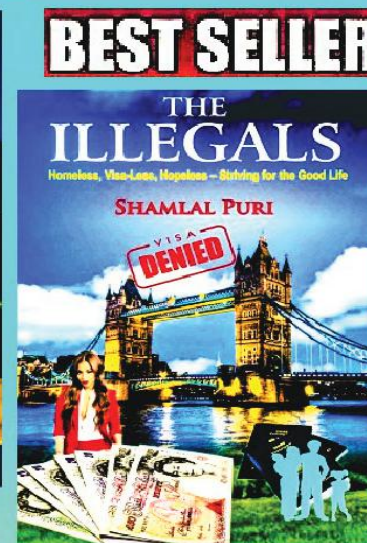
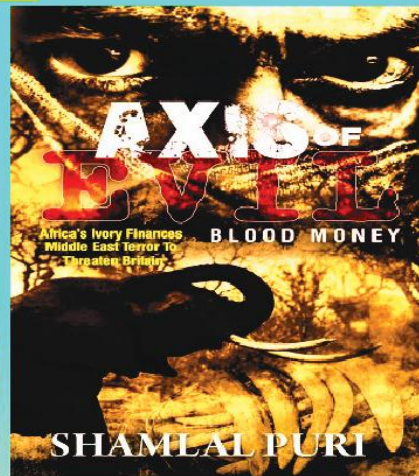
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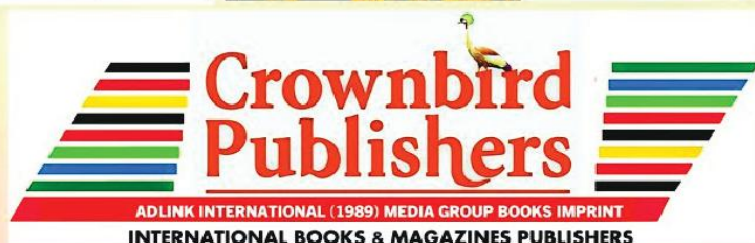
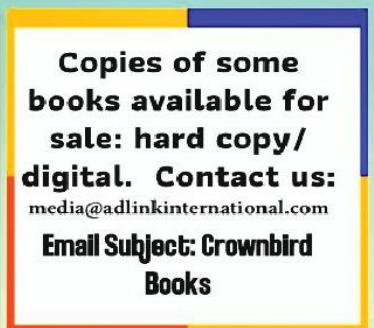
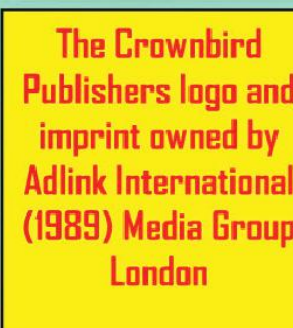
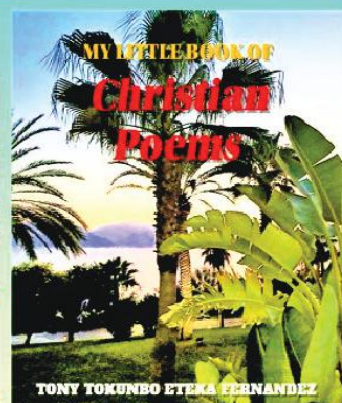
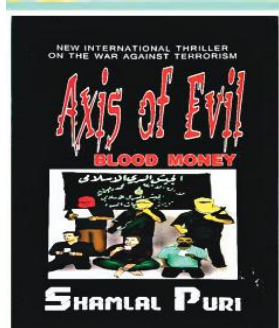
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NLP Party Alleges Rigging In IEBC Selection Panel Representation



By:Aoma Keziah
@themkenyetimes

National Liberal Party (NLP) has raised red flag over recruitment of panel to vet Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) penalist.

The party’s Augustus Muli alleges that Wiper Leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka is attempting to rig him out of representing the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) at the Selection Panel.

Muli voiced his concerns during a press briefing yesterday, accusing Kalonzo of manipulating the selection process to undermine his candidacy.

Addressing the media in Nairobi, Muli said Kalonzo wants Koki Muli

to take the position, despite PPLC holding its elections that saw him win with 16 votes against Muli’s 7 votes.

“This is a blatant attempt to rig me out of my rightful position. I will not stand by and let this happen. I will fight to ensure the law is followed,” Muli declared.

He further alleged that Suna East MP Junet Mohammed is colluding with Kalonzo to ensure he is excluded from the selection panel.

He emphasized the importance of a fair and transparent selection process for the IEBC commissioners, noting that any interference could undermine the integrity of the electoral body.

He called on relevant authorities to investigate the matter and ensure that the selection process is conducted in accordance with the law.

The IEBC Selection Panel is a crucial body responsible for the appointment of commissioners who oversee the electoral process in Kenya. The allegations raised by Muli, if substantiated, could have significant



Dr Augustus Kyalo Muli Party leader of the National Liberal Party and the NLP leadership, Addressing the media in Nairobi

implications for the credibility of the electoral body and the upcoming selection process.

As the situation unfolds, all eyes will be on the PPLC and the IEBC Selection Panel to see how these allegations are addressed and whether measures will be taken to uphold the integrity of the selection process.

Kenya Reviews AMR Communication Strategy, Plans New Approach

By: Christine Muchira
@themkenyetimes

The Ministry of Health and the Red Cross have initiated a review of Kenya’s National AMR Communication Strategy, implemented between 2018 and 2022.

This evaluation aims to inform the development of a new strategy for the period 2024-2028.

A workshop bringing together key stakeholders is currently underway to assess the previous strategy’s performance, identify gaps, and explore opportunities for improvement.

Speaking at the workshop’s opening, Dr. Emmanuel Tanui, the Ministry of Health’s focal person for AMR, underscored the crucial role of technology in effectively conveying AMR risks to the public.

He also expressed gratitude for the significant support provided by partners, particularly the Red Cross, in bolstering AMR communication efforts.

The forthcoming strategy will adopt a One Health approach, addressing antimicrobial resistance holistically across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.





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Judicial Bench Book On Human Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation Launched



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The bench book is designed to sensitize judicial officers, including judges, magistrates, and other court users such as prosecutors, advocates, and probation officers, on understanding the dynamics of trafficking for sexual exploitation. It aims to help them identify potential victims, be alert and responsive to their need for support and protection, and adopt responsive strategies for dealing with trauma.
- Additionally, it highlights the legal issues that arise in trafficking for sexual exploitation cases. The book includes special features such as unpacking common misconceptions related to sex trafficking that can impact the ability of the courts to prosecute and adjudicate effectively. It calls for all actors to adopt a human rights and trauma-informed approach when handling cases of sex trafficking.



Honorable Chief Justice Martha Koome giving an address about the Judges launch first ever bench book to tackle sex trafficking in Kenya.

Kenya continues to have one of the highest rates of human trafficking in Africa, with those for sexual exploitation being one of the most common forms. Despite the enactment of the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, prosecution and conviction rates for human trafficking cases remain low. To address this challenge in the judicial system, the International Association of Women Judges in Kenya, in partnership with Equality Now, a non-profit organization using the law to address gender injustices globally, launched the “Kenya Judicial Bench Book on Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation” on World Day Against Trafficking of Persons. Acknowledging the importance of this judicial bench book, Chief Justice Martha Koome said, “This Bench Book on trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation seeks to facilitate a greater understanding of this form of trafficking, further bringing attention to the elements of this crime, including the institutional barriers, to

support access to justice for victims and survivors.” The Kenya Judicial Bench Book on Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation is the first bench book on sex exploitation to be launched in Kenya but the second one on human trafficking in the country. It complements existing Bench Books and other legal resources developed by and for the Judiciary in Kenya, including the Bench Book on Labour Trafficking (2022) and the Bench Book on Criminal Procedure (2018). The bench book is designed to sensitize judicial officers, including judges, magistrates, and other court users such as prosecutors, advocates, and probation officers, on understanding the dynamics of trafficking for sexual exploitation. It aims to help them identify potential victims, be alert and responsive to their need for support and protection, and adopt responsive strategies for dealing with trauma. Additionally, it highlights the legal

issues that arise in trafficking for sexual exploitation cases. The book includes special features such as unpacking common misconceptions related to sex trafficking that can impact the ability of the courts to prosecute and adjudicate effectively. It calls for all actors to adopt a human rights and trauma-informed approach when handling cases of sex trafficking. It also cites 87 cases and judgments taken on sex trafficking in various countries, including Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Australia, Canada, Seychelles, Netherlands, Philippines, and Romania. Kenya is a signatory to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol), and has domesticated the treaty through the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) among other legislation, thus providing a national framework for Kenya to effectively prevent and prohibit trafficking in persons, including for purposes of

sexual exploitation. The book is a welcome initiative to the numerous policy efforts the Government of Kenya has made to combat trafficking, including increasing investigations, prosecutions, and specialized anti-trafficking police units. For example, in February 2024, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions established a specialized unit dedicated to countering trafficking in persons where previously, the trafficking prosecutions unit was housed in the Gender-Based Violence Unit. The Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010 criminalizes sex and labour trafficking and prescribes penalties of 30 years to life imprisonment, a fine of not less than KSh30 million or both. Despite progress, systemic challenges persist. According to Marion Ogeto, Equality Now’s program officer, “We welcome the steps taken by the government; however, prosecution of human trafficking is dismal, especially trafficking for sexual exploitation despite Kenya’s robust legislative framework.” In 2023, the government reported prosecuting 19 trafficking cases, including three sex trafficking cases. In 2022, 48 trafficking cases were prosecuted. Ogeto emphasized the need for enhanced law enforcement, specialized counter-trafficking police units, and a centralized data collection system to address underreporting and improve response to trafficking crimes. The book also highlights the gendered nature of sex trafficking, with women and children being particularly vulnerable. The National Crime Research Center reported in 2022 that women accounted for 41% and children for 33% of sex trafficking cases. The rise in online child sexual exploitation further complicates the issue. The Kenya Judicial Bench Book on Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation marks a significant step towards a more effective judicial response to sex trafficking, bolstering efforts to protect the most vulnerable.

Governor Mwangaza Survives Fourth Impeachment Bid

By: Muraya Kamunde and Jeff Mwangi

Meru’s embattled Governor Kawira Mwangaza has survived her fourth impeachment after Majority Leader in the County Assembly dropped the motion leveled against her. The development comes barely a day after the High Court referred the case pitting Governor Mwangaza and Meru County Assembly to the Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders for determination. Judge Linus Kassan said MCAs who had prepared another impeachment motion against the governor should appear before the elders alongside the county chief to resolve their long-running feud. “It is hereby ordered.... That the

parties therein are directed to appear before Njuri Njeke with their advocates before Wednesday 31 day of July 2024,” the Judge said in a ruling. In a rejoinder, the Njuri Ncheke declined to handle the matter saying they only handle civil matters. The MCAs had accused Mwangaza of gross violations of the Constitution, national and county laws, and alleged abuse of office. 10 County Assembly legislators who initially signed in favor of the proposed motion made a U-turn, asking the mover to withdraw the motion and allow for dialogue between the two arms of government.



Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza

All Aboard – Kenyan Marines Getting Into Ship-Shape

The Kenyan Marine Commando Unit (KMCU) has taken part in action-packed training exercises delivered by the UK Royal Marines.

By: KBC Digital

The Kenyan Marine Commando Unit (KMCU) has taken part in action-packed training exercises delivered by the UK Royal Marines, as part of a visit to Kenya by HMS LANCASTER, a British Royal Navy Frigate. After Royal Marines from 42 Commando delivered training and practical demonstrations, Kenyan Marines-in-the-making took on the challenge of completing visit, board, search, and seizure exercises – tactics frequently used to counter piracy, terrorism, and smuggling. These exercises are in addition to the basic training that the KMCU receive and show the UK and Kenya’s continued commitment to build a strong, capable, and adaptable Kenya Defence Forces as an anchor of regional stability and security. The creation of the KMCU is a five-year partnership between the UK and Kenya to establish a self-sustaining

training cycle through which the Kenyan Navy will be able to train their own Marine Commandos. The KMCU made history in May 2023 when the first-ever cohort of Kenyan Marines completed a rigorous training programme which largely mirrors that undertaken by the Royal Marines. The US Military have also played an integral role in the creation of the KCMU by ensuring this specialist and formidable force are equipped to the highest standard. British High Commissioner to Kenya, Neil Wigan, said: “It’s fantastic to see that the UK and Kenya have taken advantage of this opportunity to add serious value to the Kenyan Marines training programme – a great example of how our security partnership is making a real difference to Kenya’s military capacity and capability. Together, we’re going far – making Kenya, the UK, and the region safer and more secure.” On his part, Commander Chris Sharp Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS Lancaster (Port) noted that; “HMS Lancaster’s visit to Kenya is a



fantastic opportunity for Lancaster’s Royal Marines to train and exercise boarding operations with the Kenyan Marine Commando Unit, contributing to the UK and Kenya’s joint commitment to improve regional stability and security.” HMS LANCASTER visited the Port of Mombasa for a short operational break from patrols and as part of Combined Task Force 150, where it has recently conducted drug busts and completed other maritime security serials. It will then return to her long-standing presence in the Gulf region, focussed on promoting peace and stability. Her visit to Mombasa provides an opportunity to demonstrate the close, historic relationship between the UK and Kenyan Armed Forces. The UK-Kenya Strategic Partner-

ship is an ambitious five-year agreement delivering mutual benefits for the UK and Kenya and keeping our people safe; it is underpinned by the Defence Cooperation Agreement that provides the framework for this training programme.

The Construction Of Talanta Sports Stadium Is On Course

By: PSCU

The construction of the Talanta Sports Stadium in Nairobi is progressing well.

President William Ruto yesterday inspected the construction progress and said the sports facility will be completed before the end of next year in readiness to host the Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) in 2027.

“I have come here today to inspect the progress of the construction works of this stadium. We will employ more people to ensure the work is completed before the end of next year,” he said.

The stadium will serve as a venue for some of the Afcon matches. The project will redefine Kenya’s

sporting profile and result in an iconic facility and infrastructural upgrade for Nairobi City and the nation, the President explained.

He noted that Kenya was keen to develop and implement a comprehensive sports and creative industry infrastructure master plan.

He said the government is upgrading various sports infrastructure facilities to provide quality training for sportspeople and, at the same time, developing sporting talent across the country.

Earlier, President Ruto visited Lenana School Primary, where more classrooms are being built to accommodate the increasing number of learners at the institution.



Taskforce On Shakahola Massacre Advises Regulation Of Religious Affairs In Kenya

By: Eric Biegion

The presidential taskforce on the Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework Governing Religious Organisations in Kenya has concluded its work and handed its report to President William Ruto yesterday.

In the report, the task force has recommended, among other things, enacting statutes for religious organizations, establishing a Religious Affairs Commission and adopting a hybrid regulatory model of self-regulation and government oversight.

“The recommendations in the report advocate the safeguards and protection of the freedom of religion, while concurrently mitigating the potential to inflict harm upon the Kenyan people,” Statehouse noted in a statement.

The task force further recommends developing and revising materials for civic education that explain and clarify the rights and responsibilities of religious organizations and citizens and underscore the dangers of religious extremism.

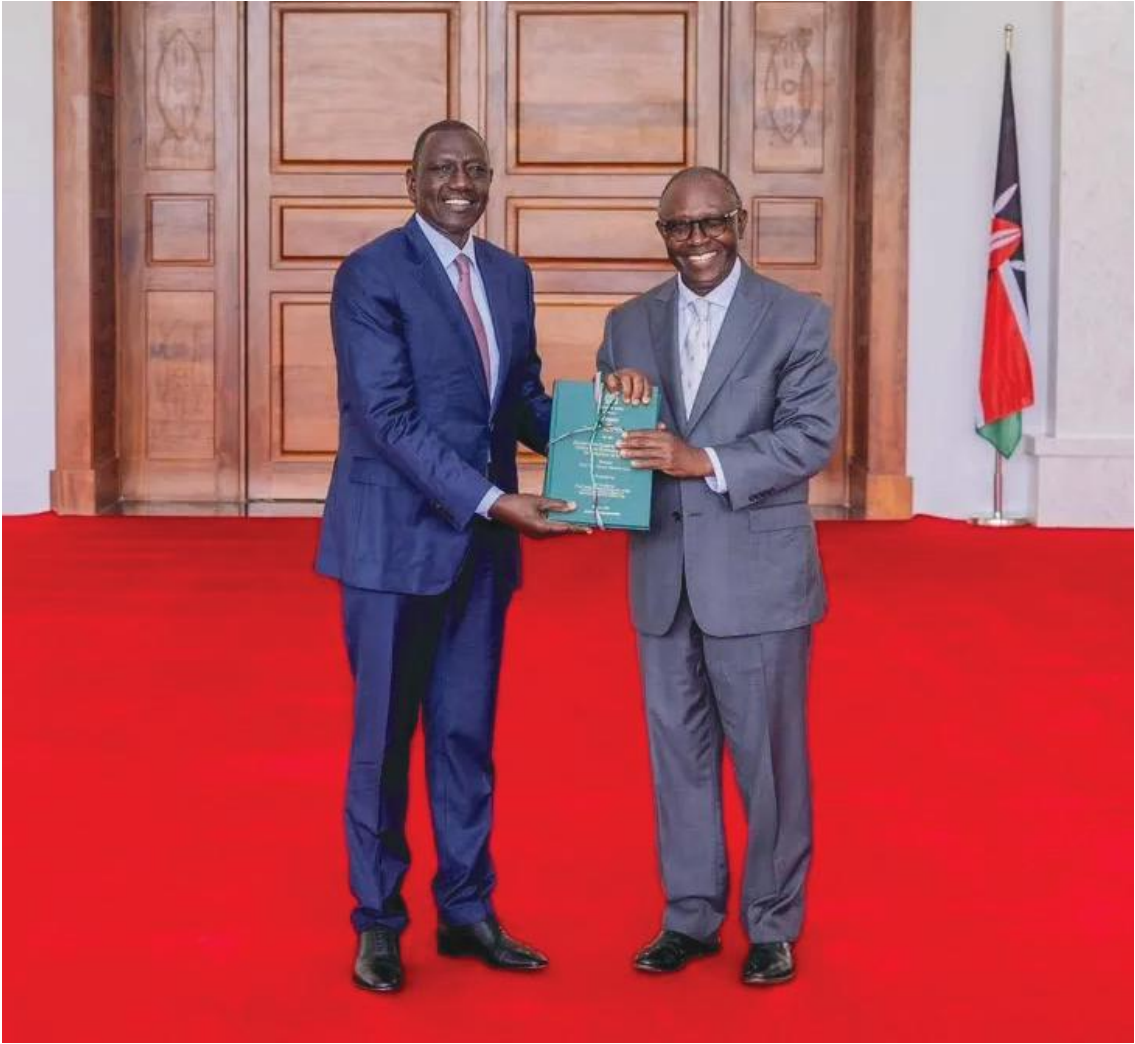
It also called for developing and

revising the basic education curriculum to address the significance of religious tolerance and educate and caution the Kenyan public against religious extremism.

To institutionalize the recommendations, the Taskforce has developed a Draft Religious Organisations Policy, 2024, a Draft Religious Organisations Bill, 2024, and a Draft Regulation of Organisations (General) Regulations, 2024.

The task force was established in May last year in response to the Shakahola tragedy that claimed the lives of numerous lives over what the state has described as “religious extremism and sinister misrepresentation of faith.”

President William Ruto (R) and the taskforce Chair



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Sports >> *Inclusion of more ladies' competitions in National Sevens Circuit (NSC) will go a long way in elevating the quality of rugby 7s among the womenfolk in Kenya, Mwamba RFC team coach John Oduk believes.

'Why We Need More Ladies' Competitions In National Sevens Circuit'



Action between Mwamba RFC and Impala in the finals of the Christie 7s. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Inclusion of more ladies' competitions in National Sevens Circuit (NSC) will go a long way in elevating the quality of rugby 7s among the womenfolk in Kenya, Mwamba RFC team coach John Oduk believes.

Oduk says consistent competitions for ladies will unearth more talents in the game and provide a talent pool for the national team, Kenya Lionesses.

"That should be the ultimate goal...the more games they are exposed to, the better they get. You see our Lionesses performing at the international tournaments. Rugby is a matter of repetitions...the more reps you can get, the more you get to implement your systems and structures. If we can get more legs for the ladies in the circuit next year,

I think it would be good for the growth of the women's game," Oduk said.

The coach further observed that competition in women's rugby is improving by the year, adding that it won't be long before the game is no longer dominated by Impala and Kulabu.

"The competition is stiffer than last year as much as people will say that it is just two teams that are dominating. The other teams are coming up... Harlequin, Northern Suburbs as well as Western Spears. There is improvement and the game is growing and we can only hope it will grow further," Oduk said.

The former Strathmore Leos and Mwamba RFC player is praying for an outpouring of investments into the women's game, noting

that Kenya can go places as far as ladies rugby is concerned.

"Most of these players are trail-blazers...they are role models to many young players. Anyone who is willing to invest in women's rugby to just come on board and help improve the ladies' game because if you see them play, they are quite skillful. All they need is that financial support to just take them to the next level," he said.

Oduk was speaking on the sidelines of the past weekend's Christie 7s at the RFUEA Grounds where Kulabu lost 22-10 to Impala in the final.

The coach expressed satisfaction with their final position in the competition although he acknowledged the need to cure their ills before their next leg at

the Kabeberi Sevens.

"Being the first tournament and being runners-up, I think that's where most teams would want to be. As a coach, I am proud of the ladies for the effort they have put in. I just look forward to building up from where they have left off this week, going into the next tournament in three weeks' time," he said.

With both teams favourites to clash again in the finals of the Kabeberi Sevens, Oduk is not thinking about revenge for their loss at Christie 7s.

His sole focus is on churning out a better performance at the competition, which will be hosted by Kulabu.

"I wouldn't say revenge...that is a term I wouldn't want to use. The focus is to just improve on the areas we fell short; the defence and a bit of our fitness off the ground. We have three weeks to work on that and I am sure the next time we will turn out, we will put in a better performance," he said.

This year's Christie 7s attracted eight women's teams, which were grouped in two pools.

Capital Sport

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Sports >>> *Fulham have reached an agreement with Arsenal to sign midfielder Emile Smith Rowe for an initial £27m (Sh4.5bn) with the potential of £7m in add-ons.

Fulham Agree Club Record Fee For Arsenal's Smith Rowe



Emile Smith Rowe. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA.

Fulham have reached an agreement with Arsenal to sign midfielder Emile Smith Rowe for an initial £27m (Sh4.5bn) with the potential of £7m in add-ons. Smith Rowe is a club record signing for Fulham and sources say the add-ons are based on Cup and European success for the Cottagers. The 23-year-old has been left out

of Arsenal's past two pre-season matches as the deal was completed. Smith Rowe is an academy graduate and a popular figure among supporters but has dropped down the pecking order at Arsenal behind Gabriel Martinelli, Leandro Trossard and Bukayo Saka. The midfielder has three England caps, the last of which came in

2022. Meanwhile, Arsenal have signed Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori from Bologna for a fee of up to £42m. **BBC**

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

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People Pay Me To Draw And Caricature Them - Malawian Artist, RyanArt



By: Munyal Markus Manunyi
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “At times, people send their pictures for me to draw them in funny ways like I do, and I charge them fairly as compared with my normal portrait charges. Because, besides making fun with people’s pictures I also draw normal portraits.”
- Harrison said he likes to joke so much, until he started seeing himself manifesting his jokes in his artworks.
- According to him, his journey into the art world began when he was six years old, even before he enrolled in primary school.
- He explained that he inherited the talent from his late father who was a great artist, adding that it’s his father that motivated him into drawing.

Making caricatures of people may look offensive or funny to some people, but to the young Malawian artist, Bryan Harrison, popularly known as RyanArt, it’s a means of earning livelihood.

The 31-year-old artist told You & Literature Today that people contact and pay him to draw and caricature them, while he charges them some tokens.

Harrison said: “Funny drawing to promote your music or business, I charge \$23 only, you’ll be mentioned and tagged in a post. While funny drawing and posting with no tags, I charge \$12 only.

“But I started drawing people’s pictures funny as a way of getting awareness to people about my talent as an artist.

“Sometimes I randomly take celebrities’ or my fans’ pictures and draw them in a funny way, and when it finds the owners, they get surprised and laugh over how funny it looks. No one has ever overreacted to my comics just because I emphasise the humour in it.

“At times, people send their pictures for me to draw them in funny ways like I do, and I charge them fairly as compared with my normal portrait charges. Because, besides making fun with people’s pictures I also draw normal portraits.”

Harrison said he likes to joke so much, until he started seeing himself manifesting his jokes in his artworks.

According to him, his journey into the art world began when he was six years old, even before he enrolled in primary school.

He explained that he inherited the talent from his late father who was a great artist, adding that it’s his father that motivated him into drawing.

The young artist therefore described artwork as “a paying profession, especially when you meet the right people or the clients who really value art, and when you meet them, they really appreciate it warmly, though it’s not common to find such people in our land.

“On the other hand, as an artist I can generalise that we face more challenges, such as people not rec-



Ryan Harrison, Malawian Artist

ognizing art as our profession. Like I said, there are only a few that value our profession.

“Currently, art is my profession. I do painting and drawing, T-Shirt printing, Signwriting, Designing, Photography videography etc” he said.

“I’m yet to see the best moments ahead of me, as I see now a lot of people are getting interested in my funny portraits.

“I would like to thank all my fans and followers for showing their love and support. I ask them to keep it burning, and the best is yet to come.”

Harrison advised the upcoming artists to keep working hard on their talent, explaining that “Behind every success there are challenges to be solved.”

The artist also highlighted his plans of venturing into comic books in the near future to help manage people’s stress as a means of entertainment.

