

Ruto: Youths I've Heard You

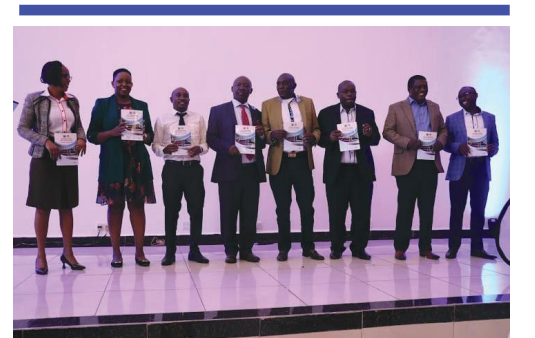


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President William Ruto



Political Opinion: President Ruto Enhanced Austerity Measures Seeks A Budget Cut Of Sh177 Billion **P.11**



The country's leading water and sanitation agency has launched an ambitious five-year strategic plan that is expected to boost the provision of the services in the Mountain region.

News: Tana Water Works Development Agency Launches KSh63.7B Strategic Plan **P.13**



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Managing Chronic Diseases Effectively



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- This individualised approach to treatment helps in prevention of complications and improves care coordination. For instance failure to effectively manage diabetes can lead to complications such as heart disease, nerve damage, kidney problems and vision impairment.

- In order to prevent such complications, the patient and/or care giver should ensure that; there are regular follow up and check-ups by the doctor for early detection of any complications, self-management of medication at home by the patient, lifestyle changes – diet, regular exercise, stop habits like smoking and taking alcohol.

A chronic disease is a health condition that lasts a year or longer. It requires ongoing medical attention and can affect the patient's activities of daily living such as eating, drinking, bathing and movement. Most chronic diseases can only be managed but not cured.

The disease can have a significant effect on the patient's life. It can result in severe complications such as impaired physical and mental health, disability and premature deaths thus the need to effectively manage the disease.

Research has shown that the when the patient is actively involved in management of the chronic disease, it has a significant contribution to effectiveness of treatment. Management of the disease normally happens at home which includes correctly taking medications, monitoring of signs and symptoms and decisions of how to do daily activities including feeding, exercises and others.

This individualised approach to treatment helps in prevention of complications and improves care coordination. For instance failure to effectively manage diabetes can lead to complications such as heart disease, nerve damage, kidney problems and vision impairment.

In order to prevent such complications, the patient and/or care giver should ensure that; there are regular follow up and check-ups by the doctor for early detection of any complications, self-management of medication at home by the patient, lifestyle changes – diet, regular exercise, stop habits like smoking and taking alcohol.

Vaccination and preventive treatment of some common ailments like flu and pneumonia also help in preventing emergence of complications. The patient and/or caregiver should embark on self-education to learn as much as they can about the chronic disease affecting the patient.

Most chronic diseases require medication and other therapeutic options like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapy and others. There is therefore need for coordinating the care from the different health practitioners which can be satisfactorily done by the regular doctor. The patient and the caregiver have a critical role of sharing information on different treatments with the providers for efficient care coordination.

In view of the above, it is clear that the patient or his caregiver should be the primary manager of the chronic disease guided by the doctor or other medical practitioner. They should work as partners in developing strategies of how the patient would be able to reduce physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of the disease. There is need to educate the patient and caregivers on self-regulation, observation of signs and symptoms, making correct judgements

and reacting realistically and appropriately to prevailing situations.

In the absence of a health practitioner, it is the patient or caregiver who will determine what to do to prevent attacks or deterioration of the disease symptoms. It is imperative to note that patient education is not just a matter of passing information about the disease to the patient but should enable the patients and caregivers to make sensible judgements and feel confident to make appropriate decisions. They should also be trained on the correct use of necessary tools such as the glucometer for diabetic patients and blood pressure monitor for hypertensive cases.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



After days of pursuit, detectives based at DCI Dagoretti successfully rescued a 7-year-old boy and arrested the culprit behind his abduction that took place last Sunday in Kawangware. On the fateful day, the victim was abducted within the precincts of his father's church, Apostolic Pentecostal Church in Congo area of Kawangware to the agony of the clergyman's family. After days of relentless pursuit, the boy was found in Ruku area of Wangige, and the suspect, Juston Musundu, 33, arrested in possession of different SIM cards and mobile handsets used by him to cover his trails.



Four more suspects linked to the arson incident where CDF offices were looted and torched in Kikuyu Constituency have been arrested and several recoveries made from their houses. From the house of 28-yr-old Samuel Muiri Ruiyi who is a driver at a primary school in Nderi area, a 32" TV set was recovered, before he led the officers to his accomplice Samuel Wanjohi, 23, who was also in possession of another 32" Sony TV belonging to the CDF offices. A 16-yr-old form three boy from a Kabete school was also among those arrested, after he was captured on a CCTV footage disappearing with a bluetooth speaker. The speaker was also recovered. In Rironi area of Limuru, Paul Kuria Njenga, 23, was also arrested after he was seen stealing several equipment that he later sold to unsuspecting buyers in Kitengela.



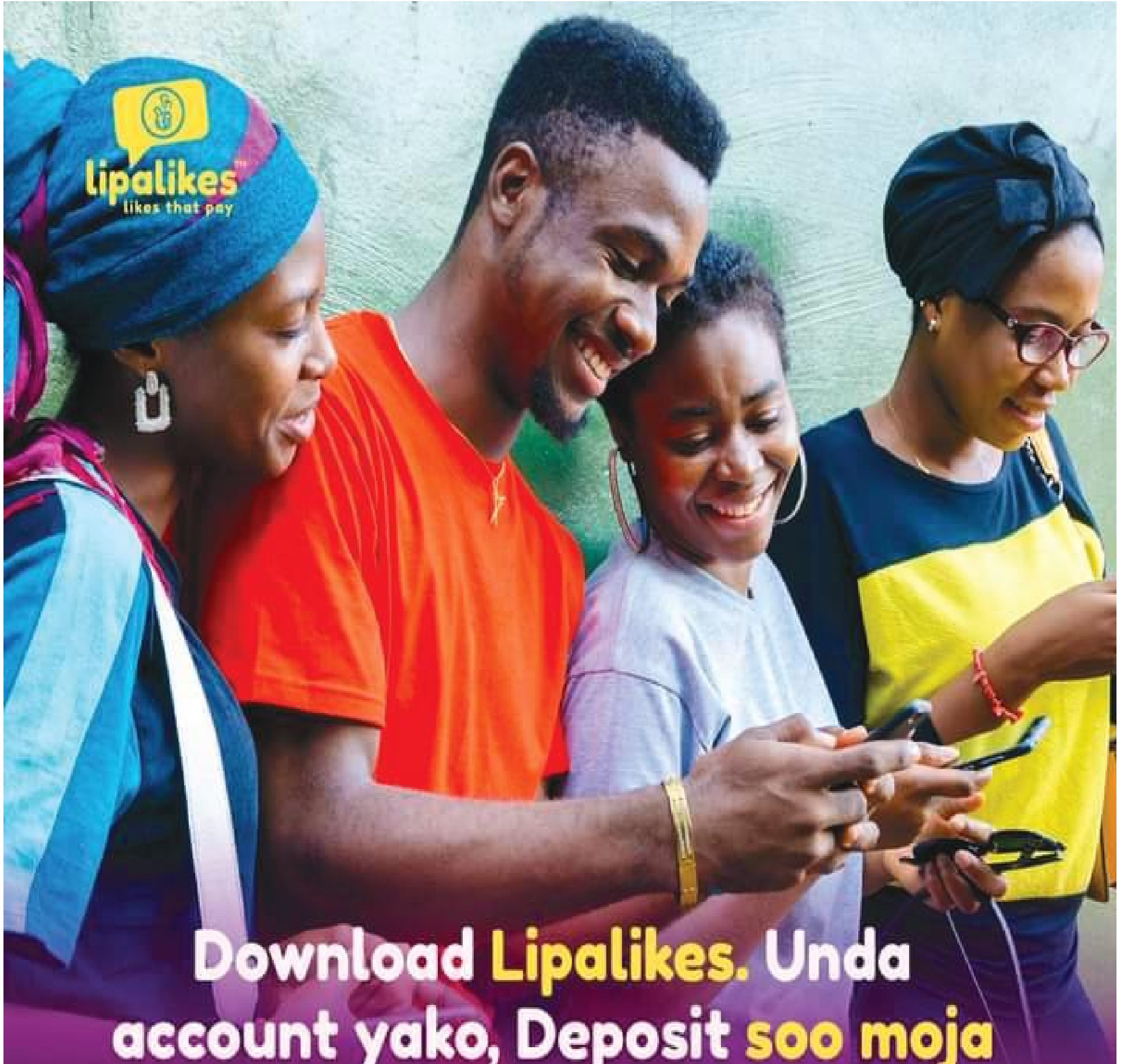
Detectives based at DCI Katulani in Kitui County have successfully apprehended a suspect believed to be the architect behind the ghastly murder of Lucy Kam-bu Mwenda in Kalimani village, Kathunguni sub-location on May 22, 2024. On that ill-fated night, with only the moon as a silent witness, the deceased was tragically discovered lying lifeless in a pool of blood just outside her property's perimeter fence. The malefactors had callously stabbed her twice at the back of her head, leaving her for dead, blood seeping from her mouth. At the crime scene, the hawk-eyed investigators found crucial evidence: a blood-stained machete, a light blue jug, a paper bag containing a broken egg, and a note written in the Kamba language carefully placed atop an empty cup. After days of intelligence gathering and analysis, officers embarked on a scrupulous pursuit for the main suspect. Their efforts paid off when the suspect, traveling aboard a white canter truck from Mombasa to Nairobi landed in their dragnet. In collaboration with DCI Mtito-Andei, they intercepted Vilonicah Mueni at the Mtito-Andei police roadblock as she attempted to evade a mounted checkpoint. The suspect was cornered and arrested, thereafter being arraigned at the Kitui Law Courts before being remanded at Kitui GK Prison awaiting mental assessment. The case is slated for mention and possible plea taking on July 23, 2024.



Nakuru County Deputy Governor David Kones (in red tie) visits a stand at the Nakuru ASK show ground when he officially opened the agricultural show on Friday. With him is ASK Chairman Perminus Migwi (in blue tie) and Agriculture CEC Leonard Bor.



The Nyeri county government has received an Endoscopy machine worth Sh4 million from an Italian based non-governmental organization, Goal Smile. The machine will help in the diagnosis of cancer of the colon, stomach and the esophagus. Speaking at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Nyeri governor Mutahi Kahiga, termed the arrival of the machine a huge milestone in the fight against cancer in the county. Kahiga said that the machine is set to drastically reduce the cost of diagnosis and also reduce the reliance of residents on private facilities by easing access to cancer screening and treatment services.



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Reconsider The Plight Of Private Security Officers

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Despite offering complementary roles to state security officers in protecting life and property, the guards were left vulnerable and to the mercy of God.
- Many have been seriously injured and hospitalized as a result of the demos.
- I appeal to the Government to boldly address the existing and emerging challenges in the sector which range from poor working aura, remuneration, obsolete tools of trade, inadequate capacity building and their welfare challenges.



Dr. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW) National General Secretary - KNPSWU.

Dr. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW) the National General Secretary, KNPSWU the sole and legal Union representing guards in Kenya appealed to the President of the Republic of Kenya H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH to relook into the suffering of guards and enforce existing policies and laws geared towards cushioning the rights and welfare of the officers.

Addressing the 4th estate team, Dr.

Andabwa cited the challenges witnessed and met to the officers during the Anti- Tax protests across the country.

Despite offering complementary roles to state security officers in protecting life and property, the guards were left vulnerable and to the mercy of God.

Many have been seriously injured and hospitalized as a result of the demos.

I appeal to the Government to bold-

ly address the existing and emerging challenges in the sector which range from poor working aura, remuneration, obsolete tools of trade, inadequate capacity building and their welfare challenges.

By doing these, the sector will effectively and adequately address the thorny issue of unemployment and further supply sufficient human capital for export in line with the Government's BETA policies, said Dr. Andabwa .

He further appealed to the Government to equally address the squalid working conditions in the police force in terms of housing, salaries, uniforms and general welfare.

The actions of GEN-Z's are an eye opener to All and in particular to our leaders right from presidency, executive, state offices and county governments.

I appeal to GEN-Z's to heed and accept the Presidents olive hand and structurally embrace dialogue in pursuit of getting holistic solutions to the existing challenges bedeviling Kenya for posterity and not just about the finance bill 2024

Dr. Andabwa took swipe with the political class for hypocrisy and double-speak. The current challenges affecting Kenya have been inherited from previous regimes and the late Kofi Annan within the Agenda 4:pin-pointed inequality, land and historical injustices, poverty, electoral malpractices, unemployment among the youths and women as key issues affecting Kenya.

The then handshake and subsequent governments have done little to address the issues leaving them to balloon and escalate to what we are witnessing.

Dr. William Ruto CGH , should not bear the brand as an individual. added Dr. Andabwa.

I appeal to the political class and Kenyans at large to reconsider the BBI and now the NADCO reports and adopt a harmonized document that focuses at addressing equality, inclusivity, ethnic antagonism, land and electoral injustices for fairness, good leadership and governance moving forward.

We have a beloved Country called Kenya and at any given moment let us not turn it into anarchy, added Dr. Andabwa.



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Judiciary Holds Dialogue On Habitat Protection

By: Rop Janet
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There is a need to streamline legal frameworks that foster land use management in order to ensure sustainable development and habitat protection.

Speaking in Kimana, Kajiado County during a stakeholder's forum dubbed 'Judicial Dialogue on Habitat Protection and Sustainable Development', Justice (Prof.) Joel Ngugi said proper land use will enhance biodiversity protection and secure wildlife spaces for conservation.

Justice Ngugi noted that there were existing gaps and challenges in the environment and wildlife conservation matters and streamlining the legal frameworks will enhance justice and promote environmental and wildlife conservation for posterity.

"We have to ensure our habitat and wildlife is protected by ensuring proper land use. Legal frameworks must be streamlined to ensure environmental justice," he said.

The dialogue brought together different stakeholders such as the

Judges and Magistrates, Big Life Foundation, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), County Government, Amboseli Ecosystem Trust, group ranch leaders and members of the public.

The judges and magistrates were sensitized on environmental challenges in Kajiado county, introduced to the applicable legal regimes and sensitized on local issues related to habitat protection and sustainable development.

Kajiado County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, Urban Development and Municipalities, Hamilton Parseina, revealed that a county spatial plan that guides land use management is already in place.

The spatial plan which was launched in 2023 defines areas set aside for human, wildlife and livestock settlement, agricultural activities and modern modulated pastoralism.

According to Benson Leyian, CEO Big Life Foundation, proper land use will ensure environmental and wildlife conservation thus reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Leyian said members of the public should be sensitized on the spatial



plan so as to enable them to understand specific areas set aside for wildlife, livestock rearing and human settlement.

This, he emphasized, will ensure that any investor buying land in Kajiado county knows is aware of the restrictions in place on how one can

develop his property.

The Chairperson of Amboseli Ecosystem Trust Board of Directors and Olgulului Group ranch, Mr. Daniel Leturesh identified community conservancies as crucial wildlife and habitat areas which provide land connectivity and dispersal areas for

wildlife in the Amboseli.

He added the need to develop a legal framework that will empower conservancies to become entities that can drive economic and social benefits to the local communities through meaningful engagements with the National and County Governments.

Patriotism Paramount In Prevention Of Violent Extremism – NCTC Official

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Citizens have to embrace patriotism in order to confront the issue of radicalization and violent extremism in the society, the Principal Liaison Officer at the National Counter Terrorism Centre Gatama Nderitu has said. Nderitu stated that it was only through putting the country first that this nation would free herself from the danger of radicalization and attendant consequences.

The officer, who was addressing the County Engagement Forum (CEF) members during a capacity building forum, stated that they were transitioning from the National Strategy to Countering Violent Extremism (NSCVE) (2016) to the National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (NSPCVE) (2024-

2029).

He informed the participants that the new strategy has prioritized building resilience, creating awareness, building capacity, policy and practice as well as considering inclusivity and protection unlike the previous one which focused on education, law enforcement, economic empowerment, ideology and the media to address the menace.

The Liaison Officer added that the health strategy laid emphasis on immunization (prevention) rather than cure and that is why they also wanted the communities to be sensitized in time so that they become vigilant.

Vihiga Sub County Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Florence Sitawa appreciated the NCTC and the Champions of Peace (CoP) for spearheading the campaign against terrorist activities in the country and pledged to continue collaborating with them in this noble cause.

The DCC pointed out the CEF had



adopted a strategy of mainstreaming information in all forums and functions including public barazas, special interest group meetings, church services among others to ensure as

many people as possible got the message.

She noted that her office would work hand in hand with the various sector working groups to ensure the efforts

towards preventing terrorism activities bear desirable fruits.

Ruto Suspends Hiring Of CASs, Number Of Advisors Slashed, 47 Parastatals Dissolved

By: KBC Digital



President William Ruto

President William Ruto has announced further austerity measures to reduce expenditure in the government following the withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024.

Some of the major changes announced by the President include the suspension of hiring of Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs).

Parliament had already made the necessary legislative approvals that paved the way for the appointments that had been opposed.

The number of advisors in government will also be reduced by 50pc within the public service, with immediate effect.

Addressing the nation on Friday from State House, Ruto said 47 State Corporations with overlapping and duplicative functions will be dissolved, resulting in the elimination of their operational and maintenance costs, and their functions will be in-

tegrated into the respective line ministries.

Staff currently employed by the affected corporations will be transferred to ministries and other state agencies.

Additionally, public servants who have attained the retirement age of 60 years will be required to immediately proceed on retirement, with no extensions to their tenure of service.

Other measures outlined are the removal of budget lines providing for the operations of the offices of the First Lady, the spouses of the Deputy President, and the Prime Cabinet Secretary.

Also, budgetary provisions for confidential budgets in various Executive offices, including the President's office have been removed. Similarly, the Budget for renovations across

the government has also been reduced by 50pc.

Retirement

Public servants who have attained the retirement age of 60 years have been directed to proceed on leave.

"Public servants who attain the retirement age of 60 years shall be required to immediately proceed on retirement, with no extensions to their tenure of service" he said.

Harambees by state and public officers have been banned including non-essential travel.

"All non-essential travel by state and public officers is hereby suspended. No state officer and public servant shall participate in public contributions/ Harambees henceforth. The Attorney General is hereby directed to prepare and submit legislation to this effect and develop a mechanism for structured and transparent contributions for public, charitable, and philanthropic purposes", he said.

The Head of State also suspended the purchase of new motor vehicles by the government for 12 months, except for security agencies. During this period, a new policy on transport for public officers will be developed.

"We are determined to carry out these and other changes to improve the quality, efficiency, and transparency in serving the people of Kenya and ensure that citizens receive maximum value for their resources from a public sector that prioritizes their welfare" he added.

X Space: I've Heard You, Ruto Pledges To Address Kenyans' Concerns

By: KBC Digital

President William Ruto has promised action on a range of concerns raised by Kenyans, including the behavior of certain leaders and officials in the government.

Speaking during an engagement with Kenyans on X space, the head of state revealed that he has on several occasions held sit-downs with nominated Senator Karen Nyamu and Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wa over their conduct.

"This obnoxious opulence displayed by some doesn't just anger the public alone. I have had to sit Karen Nyamu down, as a father told her to change and do things differently. Some of these young people get excited and do the wrong things," Ruto said.

"On arrogance, not everybody un-

derstands communication. Sometimes we say things we do not mean. The young man (Molo MP) has a bright future, he is among the young people am mentoring and I apologise on his behalf. I even called Ichungwa. I have a responsibility to mentor them. I will correct them," he added.

The President also assured that he will take decisive action against corrupt officials in the government.

"If there are verified allegations against a minister or any state official and they are taken to court, I will fire them. I will not wait for the court process," he said.

The President further mentioned that he will consider appointing a youth advisor to address issues affecting young people.

"As of today, we have 149,000 people working in different parts of Kenya because I have a very clear plan for digital jobs. These Kenyans are monetizing their talent. Last



President William Ruto

year, 120,000 went to work abroad. We are signing 19 bilateral labor agreements that will allow more Kenyans to work abroad. We want to

export labor, and we are creating an ecosystem for that," he stated.

He added that next week, 3,600 professionals in the construction field

will be hired, with an advertisement to be placed soon.

Kenya National Qualifications Authority Unveils Strategic Plan 2023-2027

By: Aoma Keziah and Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) has officially launched its Strategic Plan for 2023-2027, setting the stage for transformative changes in the country's educational and vocational landscape. The event, held today in Nairobi, was attended by key stakeholders from the education sector, government officials, and representatives from various educational institutions.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 outlines the KNQA's vision to enhance the quality, relevance, and accessibility of qualifications in Kenya. It aims to create a robust and internationally recognized qualifications framework that will facilitate better recognition of skills and competencies acquired by learners and workers alike.

In her keynote address PS State Department for TVET Dr. Esther Muoria representing the Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, lauded

the KNQA for its forward-thinking approach and commitment to enhancing the country's education system. "The launch of this strategic plan is a significant milestone for Kenya. It will not only enhance the quality of our education and training but also ensure that our graduates are well-prepared to compete in the global job market," Muoria stated.

The plan focuses on several key areas:

Standardization and Quality Assurance: Enhancing the quality assurance mechanisms to ensure that all qualifications meet the required standards.

Recognition and Equivalency: Improving processes for the recognition and equivalency of foreign qualifications, making it easier for individuals to use their qualifications across borders.

Stakeholder Engagement: Strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, including industry players, educational institutions, and government agencies, to ensure that the qualifications framework meets the needs of

the economy and society.

Capacity Building: Investing in capacity building for institutions and personnel involved in the development and management of qualifications.

Technological Integration: Leveraging technology to improve the management and accessibility of qualifications data and information.

In her address, Dr. Alice Kande, The director General KNQA, emphasized the importance of the strategic plan in aligning Kenya's qualifications system with global standards. "This plan is a critical roadmap for our efforts to ensure that the qualifications awarded in Kenya are credible, comparable, and globally competitive. It is designed to address the current gaps and future needs of our education and training systems," she said.

The strategic plan also highlights the KNQA's commitment to supporting lifelong learning and promoting the recognition of prior learning. This initiative aims to provide opportunities for individuals to have their informal and non-formal learning experiences recognized and certified.



Director General / CEO KNQA Dr Alice Kande and PS State Department for TVET Dr. Esther Muoria during the launch of Kenya National qualifications Authority (KNQA) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan..

As the KNQA embarks on the implementation of this ambitious plan, it calls on all stakeholders to collaborate and support its efforts to create a more cohesive and inclusive qualifications framework. The successful

execution of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is expected to significantly contribute to Kenya's socio-economic development by ensuring a well-qualified and competent workforce.

Catalyzing Change: Kericho's Female Mechanic Reshaping Automotive Tradition

By: Kenya News Agency

In the bustling KCC area of Kericho Town, amidst the rhythmic clatter of wrenches and the aroma of motor oil, one figure stands out, Daisy Otieno, clad in a grease-stained overall, deftly maneuvering under the chassis of a vehicle.

At just 22 years old, Daisy is not just a mechanic but a trailblazer, challenging norms and blazing a new path in the traditionally male-dominated realm of automotive repair.

Daisy's journey is a testament to resilience and passion, born from humble beginnings as an orphan with an unwavering fascination for engines since her early years.

"My curiosity for machinery began in primary school," Daisy shared with KNA, reflecting on her deep-seated desire to explore a field where women are pioneering a path.

Guided by her elder brother, himself a seasoned mechanic and mentor,

Daisy said, she honed her technical skills and pursued formal education at Ahero Vocational Training in Mechanical Engineering.

She disclosed that her graduation in 2022 marked the beginning of her professional career path in automotive engineering in Kericho town, where she faced the formidable challenge of establishing herself amidst skepticism in a male-dominated industry.

However, she swiftly dispelled doubts with her adeptness and meticulous approach to intricate repairs and maintenance tasks with her reputation for precision and reliability soon spreading among truck and lorry drivers across the county, cementing her garage as a trusted bastion of automotive expertise.

Despite the initial hurdles, Daisy pointed out that her determination and skill have proven to be lucrative earning at least Sh3,000 a good day from her labour, demonstrating not only her technical proficiency but also her ability to thrive in a competitive market traditionally dominated by men.

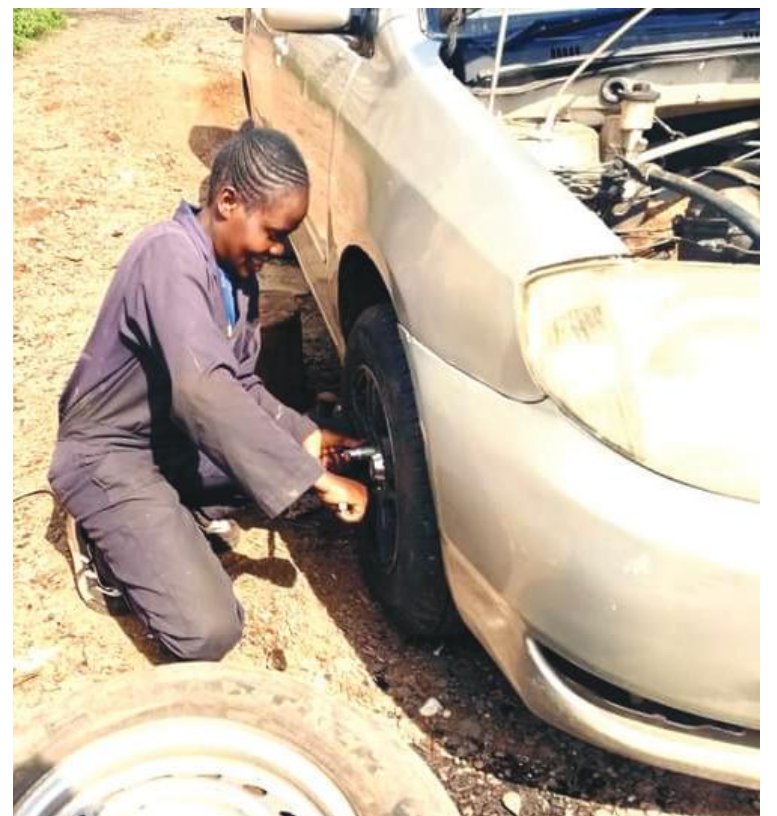
"This financial success not only supports my livelihood but also enables me to invest in my vision of providing a brighter future for disadvantaged children in my community, just as a way of giving back," added Daisy.

The challenges she faces daily such as navigating the ever-changing weather patterns of Kericho and overcoming the financial constraints of acquiring tools and spare parts are testament to her resilience and entrepreneurial spirit.

She expressed optimism that each day presents a new opportunity for growth and learning, further solidifying her reputation as a trusted and sought-after mechanic.

"As I continue to grow my business, I aspire to inspire young women to pursue careers in mechanics. What men can do, women can do better," Daisy affirmed.

As Daisy continues to revitalize engines and transform lives, her dedication serves as a powerful reminder that determination and hard work pave the way to success, inspiring all who dare to dream.



Daisy Otieno

President Ruto Enhanced Austerity Measures Seeks A Budget Cut Of Sh177 Billion



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



President William Ruto.

Worth Noting:

- How will this happen? President Ruto unveiled a raft of austerity measures. He said he will shortly submit the proposals to parliament.
- My plan is to see a budget cut of Sh177 billion and borrow the balance to bridge the gap.
- In the shelved Finance Bill 2024, we had planned to raise Sh346 billion more.
- It is worth noting that this is not the first time the President is pitching tent for austerity measures. During the National Prayer Breakfast at Safari Park Hotel held two days after returning back to the country, Dr Ruto stepped out to set the record straight.
- Contrary to the false hoods that were being peddled around, the trip to the US only cost the Kenyan tax payer less than Sh10 million.

For the first time since he assumed office, President William Ruto's leadership recently came under a vicious attack and strong test.

For two weeks, the young people, under the banner of Generation-Z, took to the streets to express their reservations in the way he was running the government.

Many feared this would morph up into a full blown rebellion that would culminate to toppling him from power.

The President however had a different opinion. This youth protests did not pose any threat.

He had already crafted a counter strategy to deflate the threats. He was waiting for the right time.

The enhanced austerity measures stood out as one of the key measures.

When unveiling this intervention, the President stated. As you are aware, I heeded the call of the young people and refused to sign the Finance Bill 2024.

I want however to assure Kenyans that my government will implement all the projects that had been lined up.

How will this happen? President Ruto unveiled a raft of austerity measures. He said he will shortly submit the proposals to parliament.

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Contrary to the false hoods that were being peddled around, the trip to the US only cost the Kenyan tax payer less than Sh10 million.

I hope this debate will now come to an end.

He however assured Kenyans that the relevant arms of the government were looking at this matter. The critics had alleged without providing any evidence that he had spent Sh200 million to hire the presidential jet.

The President added: It is good to have genuine friends.

Under my leadership, I have managed to reach out to well-connected and endowed individuals across the world and they are now our friends.

These friends paid the lion share of money we spent in this trip.

To me, Sh10 million was a just a drop in the ocean.

This is if we compare to the goodies President Ruto secured during this state visit.

After the bilateral talks with his host, President Joe Biden, the two leaders addressed a joint press conference. Kenya reaped big. The agreements and deals that Kenyan delegation signed with the US government and her companies were worth Sh1.2 trillion.

I had earlier written an article in this column. These were my observations.

In recent past, I heard the critics of President William Ruto claiming that his austerity measures were not bearing the fruits.

To me, these arguments were speculative, ill-advised and malicious.

This is because they were not based on evidential based research and analysis.

A few weeks ago I read a statement released by National Treasury cabinet secretary Njuguna Ndungu.

He unveiled the new directive by President William Ruto to have the employees of all State Corporations and Parastatals be subjected to austerity measures.

The directive took effect immediately. This once again reaffirmed the commitment of the President to walk the talk.

As we know, Cabinet Secretaries (CSs) are nominated and formally appointed

by the President to help him undertake and discharge his constitutional mandate.

As such, the CS minced no word in stating that all Kenyans including the President himself must continue to live within our means.

This is the only way we would steer and return our economy back on track.

After assuming office, President Ruto faulted the outgoing 'handshake' government for harboring insatiable appetite and reckless borrowing of foreign loans.

As a result, we have inherited the highest debts ever. There is no miracle when it comes to repayment. All of us are required to tighten our belts.

The President would also enumerate other challenges that stood in his way. They included the biting drought rated to be the worst in 40 years; Russia-Ukraine war and Covid 19 pandemic. Kenya was recovering from these pandemic that had ravaged the whole world.

After the President pronounced himself, the relevant arms of the government moved with speed to unveil a raft of interventions that would see budgets allocated for travels, accommodation of state officers within and outside the country drastically slashed.

Subsistence and out-of-pocket allowances were also targeted.

Ndungu warned the top managers of state corporations that stern action will be taken against those flouting the directives which had already been approved by parliament.

All budgets allocated for expenditures must be approved by the executive boards of directors of these public entities.

The members of boards have been properly briefed. When reviewing the budgets, they must give priority to the issue of austerity measures.

It is worth noting that the 'handshake' government of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his co-principal Raila Odinga regime had borrowed more than Sh9 trillion from the foreign lenders.

Dr Ruto assumed office at a time when loans' repayment shedule had started maturing

He knew the consequences of failing to abide by the terms of the repayment agreements were dire.

In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international development partners and lenders.

This explains why President Ruto did not take the matter lightly.

He has so far lived up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.

This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign debts. President Ruto reiterated this recently when he attended a church service in Meru.

We are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for develop-

ment and recurrent expenditures.

This is showed our economy is still not doing well.

But President Ruto has been leaving nothing to chance. He is working day and night in order to ensure our economy is back on track.

In a circular released earlier by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, the head of state banned the senior government officials from making unnecessary travels abroad.

The travels banned include those meant for benchmarking, training symposium and exhibitions.

The travels which are necessary will be approved by his office, he stated. He also reduced the number of the staff accompanying the officer on travel.

For cabinet secretary, one or two persons. For the others, one or travel alone.

The President issued this directive after it came to his attention that these travels were consuming a huge chunk of tax payers' monies.

During his tenure, former President Uhuru Kenyatta had rolled out some austerity measures. I'm sure Dr Ruto, who at the time was the deputy President, learn some big lessons.

Unlike Kenyatta, we know Dr Ruto is a hand-on President.

Given this scenario, I have no reason to doubt Ruto's commitment to ensure a strict adherence to the austerity measures.

For the officers who will make luxurious travels, there will be no reimbursements and per diems. They will have to cater for all the expenses from their own pockets.

As for the necessary and approved travels, the officers will not enjoy the luxury and comfort as it used to be.

The budgets for air tickets, accomodation and allowances have been drastically cut.

They will no longer use the Aeroplane's First Class.

While in the host countries, they will stay in less expensive hotels.

President Ruto is setting a good example. He has been avoiding attending unnecessary foreign travels.

He would only make trips that he knew would bore the fruits for Kenya. Kenyans would reap big and become the biggest beneficiary. When Dr Ruto visited the US recently, he came back with goodies amounting to billions of shillings.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and political analyst based in Nairobi

Research Shows Organic, Conventional Systems Can Be Equally Productive

By: Kenya News Agency



SysCom Kenya Project coordinator at ICIPE Dr Edward Karanja .

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Karanja was speaking during a stakeholder meeting meant to disseminate research findings of the project which has been researched in the last 17 years at KALRO Horticulture Research Institute in Kandara, Murang'a County.
- KALRO Director of Natural Resource Management Dr David M. Kamau representing KALRO Director General Dr Eliud Kiplimo Kireger during a stakeholder meeting at KALRO Horticulture Research Institute in Kandara, Murang'a County.
- "We have been comparing conventional and organic agriculture at high input level, representing commercial production and low input level, representing subsistence production" said Karanja.
- He said the three-year crop rotation cycle of maize, leafy vegetables, legumes and potatoes has been repeated five times. Trial management has been adopted throughout the years especially during 5th rotation.

A long-term field research trial has shown that organic and conventional systems can be equally productive in terms of their productivity levels over time.

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) together with Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) of Switzerland, and other partners including Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) among others, have been implementing research trials on organic and conventional farming systems since 2007.

The trials carried out under a project dubbed SysCom Kenya, have been comparing the performance in terms of productivity and sustainability of conventional and organic farming using local farming systems.

SysCom Kenya Project coordinator at ICIPE Dr Edward Karanja said that 15 years of continuous cropping showed that organic and conventional systems can be equally productive if organic systems are managed holistically and if it is adopted to agro ecological and sociocultural contexts.

Dr. Karanja was speaking during a stakeholder meeting meant to disseminate research findings of the project which has been researched in the last 17 years at KALRO Horticulture Research Institute in Kandara, Murang'a County.

KALRO Director of Natural Resource Management Dr David M. Kamau representing KALRO Director General Dr Eliud Kiplimo Kireger during a stakeholder meeting at KALRO Horticulture Research Institute in Kandara, Murang'a County. "We have been comparing conventional and organic agriculture at high input level, representing commercial

production and low input level, representing subsistence production" said Karanja.

He said the three-year crop rotation cycle of maize, leafy vegetables, legumes and potatoes has been repeated five times. Trial management has been adopted throughout the years especially during 5th rotation.

"Crop yield in a long term organic versus conventional farming system trial since 2007 show that yield gap is partially closed by the adoption of a system approach namely system diversification and high quality inputs and holistic pest management" he said

The Syscom project which is to be conducted for a period of 20 years, has the farming system established in the sub humid agro- ecological zones of Kandara-Murang'a County (at KALRO) and Chuka-Tharaka Nithi County (at Kiereni primary school) in Kenya.

Karanja underscored the importance

of biodiversity in maintaining and ensuring optimal agricultural productivity noting that over time we have been losing biodiversity from our systems.

"Organic farming is a suitable alternative and can have additional benefits for soil fertility, biodiversity as well as human and environment health" he said Karanja who is also a postdoctoral scientist.

He further said the project is also implementing a participatory on-farm research (POR) trials together with farmers at Chuka, Kianjugu and Kangari sites, based on the identified challenges experienced by farmers.

"Through a participatory approach 1049 farmers have been trained on the various aspects of farming including composting techniques, agroforestry, water harvesting, pest and disease control, animal housing and welfare among others" he divulged.

KALRO Director General Dr. Eliud Kiplimo Kireger has said the project has since been used as a reference trial by learning institutions, researchers, farmers and young scientists, seeking to learn about organic farming and independent groups and teams involved in the drafting of organic agriculture policies.

In his speech read on his behalf by KALRO Director of Natural Resource Management Dr David M. Kamau, Dr. Kireger said as an open learning site, the SysCom project has always had a strong capacity building component since its inception receiving over 4900 visitors over the years.

"The research conducted so far aimed at establishing a scientific base for discussions on the performance and potential of conventional and organic agricultural production systems in the tropics" said Kireger

He said in all of these trainings, farmers adopting the technologies

and using the information shared report higher productivity for all crops and livestock, better income and profits and greater resilience especially during the drought episodes

Student wise, the project has trained four PhD, six Master in science degree and ten Bachelor in Science degree between 2007 and 2022, while a number of students are presently undergoing training in the current funding phase

FiBL Senior Scientist Dr Milka Kiboi said organic is knowledge intensive, and should be supported through research and extension, as well as a shift in funding schemes.

Dr. Kiboi said the yield gap could be closed between organic and conventional high input systems in the fifth crop rotation.

"Maize, baby corn and common beans have lower yield gap (10 to 15 percent) while vegetables, French beans and potatoes have higher yield gaps up to 60 percent," she said.

Murang'a County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Devolution Dr Kiringai Kamau in his closing remarks said the county became the first one in Kenya to adopt an Agro ecology Policy and ACT that has helped the county lobby for organic farming among its residents.

Dr Kiringai said this has seen the county government establish demonstration farms that are used to train farmers on the right agro ecological farming practices and the health benefits of consuming organically grown food.

The Syscom Kenya project is being funded by Coop Sustainably Fund, Biovision Foundation, The Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) and Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation



Tana Water Works Development Agency Launches KSh63.7B Strategic Plan

By: William Muchiri

[@themkenyatimes](#)

The country's leading water and sanitation agency has launched an ambitious five-year strategic plan that is expected to boost the provision of the services in the Mountain region.

The agency; Tana Water Works Development Agency is eyeing increase access to quality Water and sanitation services for the more than four million residents of Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Embu, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties.

The nearly KSh64 billion plan was launched during a colourful ceremony at Bantu Africa Resort and SPA near Nyeri town.

Among the strategic objectives is increase access to quality water services from 57.8 per cent to 90 per cent by 2027.

On sanitation, the agency whose chairman is Wanyaga Gathaka plans to increase the services from 8.1 per cent to 30 per cent by the end of the strategic plan.

This will be achieved by among others, enhancing research, innovation



Tana Water Works Development Agency board of directors with Mr Stephen Kihara holding copies of the strategic plan. Photos/PAUL WANJIRU

and uptake in technology, enhancing partnership and collaborations, enhancing stakeholder participation and engagement as well as improve the customer satisfaction index from 88 per cent to 90 per cent by 2027.

Further, other strategic objectives include, enhancing financial sustainability, improving institutional processes and operations as well as enhancing human resource capacity.

Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Administration Secretary Mr Stephen Kihara presided over the

launching ceremony that was graced by stakeholders from the region and beyond. He represented Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Dr Julius Korir who was slated as the Chief Guest.

The forum was informed that the strategic plan will be implemented through an elaborate action plan indicating targets and responsibilities for each key activity, through setting of annual targets

Moreover, the agency has developed an action plan which constitutes



From Left; Bantu Africa Resort and SPA chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Administration Secretary Mr Stephen Kihara, Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka and the agency Chief Executive Officer Eng Philip Gichuki during the launch of the five-year strategic plan on Friday. Photos/PAUL WANJIRU

the strategic issues, strategic goals, key result areas, outcomes, strategic objectives, key activities, expected outputs, outputs indicators, annual budgets, annual targets and responsibility for execution of the plan.

The agency will develop annual work plan drawn from implementation matrix. The work plan will have clear targets, performance indicators, budgets and assigned responsibilities.

The agency Chief Executive Officer Eng Philip Gichuki said he was optimistic his team of staff with the support of the board will deliver the plan.

The agency board chairman called for continued concerted effort among the different players so as to effectively discharge their duties with the Administration Secretary lauding them for coming out with such a plan.

Fourteen Youth To Be Charged With Stealing From MP Kuria Kimani

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Police in Molo sub-county have recovered stolen property and apprehended 14 individuals implicated in the theft and destruction of property of MP Kuria Kimani during the youth led anti-government protests last week.

Molo Sub-County Police Commander (SCPC), Timon Odingo, confirmed the incident saying that they have successfully recovered a portion of the stolen property and added that the search is still ongoing until all culprits are brought to book.

"Among the items recovered are four cows out of the seven that were reported missing, with one already slaughtered. Additionally, various household items including duvets, tables, chairs, electronics and a printer have been recovered as well," he



said.

Odingo expressed concerns over the possible involvement of rogue politicians in inciting youths and instigating the chaos that led to the theft and subsequent protests warning further that they will not be spared if found involved in such criminal activities.

"We suspect that the theft and subsequent disturbances were orchestrated by political interests," remarked Odingo. "Our investigation is ongoing, and we are committed to bringing all perpetrators to book, regardless of their status," he added.

The situation escalated when pro-

testers from Nakuru and other areas joined the demonstrations, turning what initially seemed like peaceful protests to destruction of property.

He cautioned against the escalation of violence and looting, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace and order in the region during such

occurrences.

"We commend the initial peaceful protests by Gen Z but regret the infiltration by outsiders that resulted in violence and damage to property," said Odingo. "Anyone found looting or participating in the destruction of property will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," he warned.

Local residents have been urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities and assuring the community of ongoing efforts to stabilize the situation and prevent further unrest.

As the investigation progresses, the 14 suspects are set to be arraigned in court to face charges related to theft and vandalism.

The recovery of stolen property marks a significant milestone in restoring calm in Molo, even as police continue to pursue leads and maintain a strong presence to prevent further escalation of disturbances.

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You are my destiny,
My happiness,
Free and prosperous Motherland!

I grew up in this land,
I found perfection in the land of freedom.
I am happy that you are a free country,
My destiny is a prosperous country.

My grandfather Temur always
supported me,
Free space is blooming,
The hands are always in prayer,
That's all, we can't be happy.

Long live our president
Good left bad,
You are still in my heart
You are fate, mother earth.

lucky you
You are lucky
You are a mine of goodness,
I am ready to be at your service.

Today you straightened your waist,
You've recovered.
sing in tongues,
Let the past come to pass.

The key to your heart is Sitor,
The drawing of the picture is in the
spring.
Happy Motherland!
Happy free country!

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Monologue (Mother)

Different cities, different people,
Longing steps.
An unknown ghost is looking for

someone,
Mothers are dear, holy women.

What time is the morning?
They do not understand each other's
value at all.
Your mother who walks next to you is
sometimes tired,
Don't let your mother grow old.

Sometimes you bend, sometimes you are
proud
Sometimes slander, you are proud of
your name
Don't worry about your mother for
once, my friend.
He was able to receive duasin while he
was still alive.

You also believed in lies
You suddenly did not know whether it
was a friend or an enemy.
When the day comes when your loved
one dies,
Your mother comforted you, is it a lie?

© Mavlonova Madinabonu
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Mavlonova Madinabonu daughter of
Alisher was born in the city of Yangiyer,
Syrdarya region. She is a 3rd-year
student of the Faculty of Natural
Sciences of Gulistan State University.
She is one of the most active students
in the life of the university. , the author
of articles at national conferences. On
April 22, 2024, "ACTIVE RESEARCHER"
participated in the 3rd round of the
international scientific-practical
competition organized on the scale of
the Commonwealth of Independent
States (CIS) and was awarded the
"Active Researcher" badge.

Iskandar Is The Embodiment Of Justice And Wisdom



Regardless of the criteria by which the
works of certain creators are approached,
if they do not deviate from the universal
values and realities of life, then their legacy
will remain equally readable throughout the
ages. There is this aspect in all the poetry
and prose composed by the great wordsmith
Navoi, and the evaluations given to him by
the representatives of each past generation
are clear proofs of this. So, today, living
with Navoi's thinking, feeling his experiences,
learning from his dreams, and busying himself
with the realization of the poet's dreams will
only serve the development of our society.

For more than five centuries, Navoi's
personality, works and services have been
covered the most, especially the various
aspects of the writer's artistic skills are
highlighted. We would like to dwell a little on

the topics he wrote, the literary heroes he
created, artistic findings, beautiful images,
the concept of justice, the image of a wise
king, and the image of a perfect human being
among the incomparable symbols. In particular,
in the images of the image of Iskandar,
brought to life in Navoi's imagination and given
a great educational burden, a great figure
who sought wholeness, perfection, beauty,
truth and truth in the history of mankind is
shown.

The image we are talking about appears
in many places in one form or another, for
special purposes, from the first years of the
poet's work to his last works. For example,
in one of the ghazals from the "Badoye
ul-wasat" collection, Iskandar is portrayed
as a wise, entrepreneurial, masterful person.
But the beautiful mistress is more skilled
and wiser than him. Also, in these verses,
according to the legends, there is also
a reference to the fact that Alexander
returned empty-handed when he found the
"Obi Yazun" ("Water of Life") after suffering
many difficulties.

Shodiya Otanazarova

Journalistic Problems



Journalism, although the second oldest
profession, is still and does not have a
consistent and universally recognized theory.
Even today, journalism we don't know what it
is. Is it a form of social consciousness and a
means of changing life or like painting, music,
architecture, theater and cinema?
Or does literature include poetry, drama,
prose, and literary translation as a separate
concept? The works of many influential
scientists on the theoretical issues of
journalism, despite all their importance
and depth, contain contradictions and,
unfortunately, do not fully answer the
questions.

The question of journalism and the journalist's
role in modern human life
seems very important. A journalist is, of
course, a creator of a text for the mass
media, or rather a media text, but today a
media text is a feature film, commercial, could
be a gameplay demo or a composite photo.
That's why what distinguishes journalism
from other writing professions today?

We must understand. In my opinion, the main
thing in journalism
is to rely on the truth, the real events of
reality.

A journalist is always true is also a literary
worker who works with existing "raw
materials", that is, with the events of the
event.

In order to understand what kind of society
we live in, it is very important to answer
the question about the role of journalism
and journalists in our life and attitudes as
professionals, in our worldview, in the space
of personal life.

This process is not simple and ambiguous,
because the modern man in society gradually
loses his exclusivity, his uniqueness, he
becomes a part of mass consumer society,
and in politics he is less and less taken into
account by decision-makers.

When talking about the responsibility of the
journalist, we should not forget that the
responsibility in the mass media is divided
into different "responsibilities": for example,
the responsibility to the owner and the
responsibility to the society can directly collide.

A journalist abstractly represents his
audience, the people who read and listen to
him, and he is responsible for them, but often
the person who pays him is more important
to him.

In addition to these forms of responsibility,
others can be named.

Erkinboyeva Hulkar Anvarbek qizi

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OPINION

New Health Insurance Scheme; The Devil Is In The Guidelines



By: Peter Ngure
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The recent reforms and regulatory frameworks set forth in the Social Health Insurance (General) Regulations, 2023 are designed to enhance healthcare accessibility, affordability, and quality.
- An analysis by Pathways Policy Institute suggests that the 2.75% deductions from employed Kenyans through the SHIF could potentially double the total contributions from Kshs. 60 billion collected by National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) annually to Kshs. 125 billion, such an increment brings significant implications for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in Kenya as the legislation also aims to enhance their access and quality to health, focusing on the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and adolescents.

The Kenyan constitution 2010 provides under 43 (1, a) that Every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care; Article 43 (2) also recognizes that A person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment. It recognizing the role of the Government as a duty holder and is responsible to ensure health services does not expose the citizens to financial hardships.

Indeed, one of the most critical challenges faced by Kenyan Health systems is the generation of a sustainable financing mechanisms capable of delivering universal health coverage for her people as most informal sector workers representing 83.3% of the total Kenyan workforce and have no health insurance, exposing entire families to impoverishment and risk of reversing progress made in achieving health outcomes in the country.

Kenya despite the hurdles is committed to achieving universal health coverage with the current government making strides to its realization by passing four of the Universal Health coverage laws including the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), Facility Improvement Financing, Digital Health and Primary Health Care. This proposed shift comes at a time when reliance on donor funding has declined given the county elevation to a low-middle income country and poses a risk on progress made in achieving the SDG Goal 3 focusing on reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and in achieving the Kenya 2016 RMNCAH investment framework which focuses on strategies to address these major bottlenecks and gaps.

Provisions in NHSIF Regulations

The recent reforms and regulatory frameworks set forth in the Social Health Insurance (General) Regulations, 2023 are designed to enhance healthcare accessibility, affordability, and quality. An analysis by Pathways Policy Institute suggests that the 2.75% deductions from employed Kenyans through the SHIF could potentially double the total contributions from Kshs. 60 billion collected by National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) annually to Kshs. 125 billion, such an increment brings significant implications for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in Kenya as the legislation also aims to enhance their access and quality to health, focusing on the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and adolescents. Importantly, specific services such as antiretrovirals (ARVs), HIV testing, family planning, anti-malaria, and vaccinations are provided at no cost to the patient, enhancing accessibility and affordability.

Under the Primary Healthcare Fund, outpatient care services that are accessible at Level 2, 3, and 4 primary health care referral facilities have a tariff set at KES 900 per person per annum with the and can only be accessed by a family in the Primary Care Network in which they are mapped under. Facilities are mapped to a Primary Care Network (PCN) with a global budget allocated based on population and patient visits. The Primary Healthcare fund however will only be disbursed at the end of each quarter meaning the facilities have to foot their initial bills; if a fa-

cility isn't able to do so, this will lead to citizens chipping in using the Out of Pocket.

RMNCAH services within the primary healthcare framework include comprehensive reproductive, maternal, and child health services as defined by the Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines. This includes immunizations, minor surgical procedures, and the management of endemic diseases, thereby ensuring holistic care from preconception through adolescence. Maternity services are particularly robust, covering antenatal care, various forms of delivery (normal, assisted, and caesarean), aftercare for both mother and newborn, midwifery services, immunizations, and the management of complications.

These services are available at Level 2-3 facilities with tariffs set at KES 11,200 for normal delivery and KES 32,600 for a caesarean section, covering hospital stays of up to 48 hours for normal deliveries and 72 hours for caesarean sections. The challenge with this provision is on a disclaimer that incase of peripartum and postnatal complications, then per diem rates takes effects and claims will have to undergo surveillance before being granted. It also indicates that management of complications for the newborn will be charged separately from the mother at a daily rebate rates for inpatient services meaning that post the 48/72 hours, the costs start being incurred by the patient, be it as a per diem rate.

Financial Protection and Accessibility

Financial protection and accessibility are also key features of the Act. It

aims to reduce the financial burden on families seeking RMNCAH services by providing a structured financing mechanism through the Social Health Insurance Fund and the Primary Healthcare Fund. This ensures that essential healthcare services are accessible to all, regardless of financial status. The Act includes provisions for financial assistance to households in need, ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable populations can access RMNCAH services without financial hardship. By covering a wide range of services, the Act significantly reduces out-of-pocket expenditure for families, making healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Impact on Maternal, reproductive and Child Health Outcomes

While the Act and guidelines comprehensive coverage and quality assurance measures are expected to significantly improve maternal and child health outcomes, the costs and guidelines are leading citizens to worry about full access and choice.

For instance, under imaging, a household can only access Mammography services 2 times per household per year. MRI including specific obstetric conditions can only be done at the rate of two images per household per year. The Two images and scans per family limits the enjoyment of the right to healthcare for paid up members, especially when a household has more than 2 females.

Other challenges include the access rules of outpatient services where outpatient visits are limited to 4 per person thus seemingly dictating that one can only fall ill 4 times a year!

Mr Peter Ngure is the Founder Pathways Policy Institute



PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.129,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
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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
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Enhancing Transparency, Efficiency, And Accountability In Public Finance Management In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Ensuring reliable cash for service delivery and public investment is another critical component of the PFMR Strategy. This includes strengthening cash management, improving the reliability of funding for service delivery, and enhancing the management of public investments. The strategy also aims to achieve value for money in procurement and contract management, as well as in staffing for service delivery.
- Strengthening the financial management capacity of education institutions, health facilities, and other service delivery units is another key focus area. This involves empowering these institutions to effectively manage public resources, improve accountability, and enhance service delivery.
- Disciplined financial management and accurate reporting are also prioritized in the PFMR Strategy.

The Public Financial Management Reforms (PFMR) Secretariat in Kenya has been at the forefront of strengthening the country's public financial management (PFM) systems. Established in 2006, the Secretariat aims to enhance transparency, accountability, equity, fiscal discipline, and efficiency in the management and use of public resources for improved service delivery and economic development.

The PFMR Secretariat has implemented a comprehensive reform strategy for the period 2018-2023, which builds on the successes of the previous reforms. The strategy is anchored in the Medium-Term Plan 2018-2022 (MTP III) and Vision 2030, Kenya's long-term development blueprint. The reforms have focused on establishing a solid foundation for PFM, including enacting key legislation, rolling out the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), and improving financial reporting and revenue mobilization.

Despite these achievements, significant challenges remain in the PFM landscape. Recent studies have revealed issues such as the increasing cost of domestic debt service, limited fiscal space for delivering development priorities, and challenges in the prioritization and funding of public investments and service delivery. The PFMR Strategy 2018-2023 aims to address these challenges and further strengthen the PFM system.

One of the key focus areas of the PFMR Strategy is sustainable and predictable fiscal space to deliver government programs. This involves enhancing revenue mobilization, improving debt management, and ensuring efficient and effective use of public resources. The strategy also

emphasizes strategic and transparent spending on public investments and service delivery, aligning with national and county policy commitments.

Ensuring reliable cash for service delivery and public investment is another critical component of the PFMR Strategy. This includes strengthening cash management, improving the reliability of funding for service delivery, and enhancing the management of public investments. The strategy also aims to achieve value for money in procurement and contract management, as well as in staffing for service delivery.

Strengthening the financial management capacity of education institutions, health facilities, and other service delivery units is another key focus area. This involves empowering these institutions to effectively manage public resources, improve accountability, and enhance service delivery.

Disciplined financial management and accurate reporting are also prioritized in the PFMR Strategy. This includes improving the timeliness and quality of financial reporting, strengthening internal controls, and enhancing the use of financial information for decision-making.

Accountability is a crucial aspect of the PFMR reforms, and the strategy emphasizes the role of audit, oversight, and follow-up mechanisms. This includes strengthening the capacity of oversight institutions, such as the Office of the Auditor General and the Parliament, to effectively monitor and hold the government accountable for the use of public resources.

The PFMR Secretariat has also been working closely with development partners, including the World Bank,

the European Commission, and various bilateral agencies, to implement the reforms and draw on international best practices. This collaboration has been instrumental in providing technical and financial support for the PFM reforms.

At the county level, the PFMR reforms have also been implemented, with mixed results. A review by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) found that while county governments have made considerable efforts to establish the foundations for sound PFM systems, there are still challenges in areas such as own-source revenue mobilization, procurement transparency, and public participation in budget processes.

To effectively tackle the multifaceted challenges confronting county governments, the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) proposes a comprehensive set of strategies aimed at fortifying Public Financial Management (PFM) systems. This ambitious initiative encompasses a spectrum of critical reforms designed to bolster the financial framework within counties, thereby fostering sustainable governance and economic stability. Among these pivotal measures is an imperative focus on enhancing fiscal discipline, which involves instituting rigorous controls and protocols to curtail expenditure and ensure adherence to budgetary frameworks. By cultivating a culture of prudence and accountability, county administrations can mitigate fiscal risks and optimize resource allocation, thereby fortifying the fiscal resilience essential for long-term prosperity.

KIPPRA underscores the importance of improving resource allocation

mechanisms within county governments. This entails streamlining processes to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of how funds are distributed and utilized, ensuring that financial resources are directed towards priority areas that yield maximum societal benefits. Concurrently, fostering transparency and accountability emerges as a cornerstone of these reforms, demanding robust mechanisms for disclosure and public scrutiny of financial transactions and decision-making processes. By fostering an environment of openness, county governments can engender trust among stakeholders and promote responsible governance practices that uphold the public interest.

The imperative of strengthening oversight mechanisms features prominently in KIPPRA's recommendations. This involves empowering regulatory bodies and enhancing their capacities to monitor financial activities rigorously. By bolstering oversight capabilities, counties can preemptively identify and rectify potential financial irregularities, safeguarding public funds from mismanagement or misappropriation. Additionally, optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery represents a linchpin of these reform efforts. By streamlining administrative processes and leveraging technological advancements, county governments can expedite service provision, enhance service quality, and ensure equitable access to essential public services across diverse communities.

The institutional framework for transparency and accountability in the public service in Kenya has also been reviewed. While the government has introduced various control mechanisms to fight corruption, such as performance contracting and stakeholder participation, the implementation of these measures has been uneven, and corruption remains a persistent challenge. Continuous research and training on ethics and integrity in the public service are recommended to address this issue.

Overall, the PFMR Secretariat's efforts to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public finance management in Kenya are commendable. However, sustained commitment, effective implementation, and continuous improvement are crucial to ensure that the reforms achieve their intended objectives and deliver tangible benefits for the citizens of Kenya.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Mr. President, Make Your Actions Be In Tandem With Your Sentiments, Gen Zs Are Disillusioned

The generation Zs have etched an indelible mark in the annals of governance of our country through the nationwide demonstration not because of laziness or perversity as many Kenya Kwanza apologists would want us to believe. However, they have slithered around in the Slough of Despond, thus making them feel disillusioned and abandoned amidst flowery statements and promises that you've ever mastered since electioneering time to date.

They have woken up to the reality that their vitality and independence are being emasculated by the very government that they had hoped would emancipate them from their economic woes - if your bottom-up mantra were to be taken by the gist of its letters.

The great faith they had in your gov-

ernment has seemingly fickle and the vision they shared has dimmed thence subjecting them to a state of bewilderment and self-absorption. It therefore, paints a picture of a nation that has fomented 'a neurotic generation' of alleged malcontents whose only 'crime' is to agitate for justice that is vested on meritocracy in their motherland. In the mix of that agitation, your government reared it's ugly tyrannical face to satiate your ego. The inhumane way with which the protestors were sprayed with live bullets wasn't warranted. While I bemoan the lost young souls, my heart goes out to the 12 year old boy who was caught in the crossfire. Does it mean that these were children of a lesser god? Are yours, who enjoy state protection, the only legitimate children

of God? Remember, King Nebuchadnezzar of old had a bloated ego, but God had to debase him to a point of realigning his alimentary system to that of herbivores. He had to feed on raw herbs for three good years while being content in a jungle as his new habitat - from the palace. Talk of the mighty fall!

Mr. President, you have ever projected a pious personality and your repository of biblical verses is unmatched. The hippocampus part of your brain is welling up with God's word which could spur the country to great heights of moralism and justice, if not development. Your mastery of the bible, if not pretence, can make the salient believer envious. But I have come to realize doesn't put on Kaunda suits. Maybe he

doesn't also wear multi-million priced wristwatch in a nation where more than 60 per cent live in abject poverty. Perhaps, he also love luxurious pampering. But I wouldn't tell all these with certainty because Satan isn't my model of life. e that spiritual aphorisms and biblical clichés don't translate to piety; even Satan, the prince of lies in his elemental regale spews biblical verses like the very son of God. The only mismatch is that Satan

All of us regardless of our social economic leaning need to be woke to the reality that history is neither out of control nor meaningless. It keeps both our vile moves and our virtuous gestures. In the fullness of time, the gen Zs will remember that there once lived a president whose government killed

their comrades in struggle in cold blood with utter abandon while what they were agitating for was total adherence to constitutionalism. I'm neither a gen Z nor even a baby boomer; I belong to the silent generation. But the current happenings within our boarders ironically wouldn't allow me to be silent. Creation of political posts like Prime CS, CASs to appease the cronies serves to load it over the citizenry isn't a palatable a thing. Wasteful expenses coupled with runaway corruption in our nation would even make the dead national figures cringe with disapproval in their tombs.

Thanks!

Simon Bodo

Simplifying Children Life

By: Irfan Khan

Facilitating and enlightening the life of children obviously manifests very crucial as they are always teemed 'our future treasure'. Children in most of developing countries, including Pakistan trench in extremely miserable and harsh conditions due to dearth of governmental support, indicating scarce facilities. Apart from this unfortunate, the life of many(children) moves towards deterioration due to their own parents' incessant negligence, appearing this feat harmful. In order to offer a bright and shining future, parents are first of all liable as they perennially live in the company of their children.

There are some vague mistakes that all members of society perpetrate in one form or the other, but these can engender unfavourable consequences in the long run, dire to bright future of children. Undeniably, parents, holding immense significance, are not solely responsible to glean food, clothes and shelter to children, but paramountly clinch the task to keep an eye on the company and daily routine of latter. Let's, with deep concentration, elaborate all those breached circles that need to be amended, in order to shape an enlightened future

for children. Safeguarding this precious segment of society requires fostering awareness, and significantly sheer attention from parents' side.

Amongst the greatest mistakes, putting children in the race of competition to yield good marks in academics during examinations, looms the most significant one, requiring prompt attention. Most of parents, may be literate or illiterate, who always exhort and motivate the former to endeavour, and work harder to clinch what they wish. This emanates good, but not at all, as this most of time remains unfeasible to achieve the parents desired objectives, depending on children's own interests. In this scenario, pressure and stress to some extent is also triggered out, grabbing the latter's internal contentment, and undermining the latter's naturally gifted skills.

In our most of homes, children confront a discouraging environment only for not securing remarkable marks in exams, highlighting family members' wrath and resentment. This feat surely devises bleakness, discouragement as well as mental stress. In this regard, what manifests extremely imperative, in the best of children, is to recognise their natural

skills and interests, as well as provide an inspiring environment that enhances and stimulates their natural potentials. Children should be enticed to swell self study habits, and it perports sublimely fruitful effort that can generate delighting and staggering consequences in the long run.

Likewise, as the world is getting advanced in technological development with each passing day, it can be observed that today every child holds an easy access to internet facilities and smartphone. According to Mental Health Experts, the latter is apparently good in promoting thinking level, fulfilling entertainment level and and thriving one mentally. However, the overuse of this productive tool unleashes a sort of perpetual addiction, debilitates thinking ability, affects eyes vision and devises laziness, underscoring its bashing impacts. Similarly, time, which is money, is top of all wasted imperceptibly.

All these crises, unfortunately, can be witnessed in our children, demanding tangible and substantial response. It is necessary to discourage the overuse of this aforementioned tool in children, and kindle the latter's interest in other supporting and fruitful activities. What becomes re-

ally unfortunate is that we have always made this tool available to children, but have never provided them the opportunity to take participation in physical activities and sports games. The latter being beneficial assists in revamping the function of muscles inside the body and helps in eradicating a number of diseases. Appreciating the interest of children in sports is truly an indicative towards moulding a vigorous and healthy future for children, a bare reflection of an enlightened future.

The sublime words" Life without health is not a life, it is a state of languor and hunger, an image of death" said by Mahatma Buddha elaborate the unimaginable worth of this mentioned gift[Health] and entail attention to the latter as the fundamental task of every individual. These worthy words urge to head off unhygienic meals, and to remain careful in eating and drinking menus.

It is really regretting that most of parents accentuate monstrous carelessness in the form of not dispiriting children from the overtaking of cool drinks (stealth to health) as the latter contain huge chunks of carbonates and glucose, fatal to body cells. Is it not our negligence that we have ap-

parently deprived our offsprings from taking fruits and vegetables(extremely beneficial)? Is this not inevitable to abstain children from added sugar products and spicy meals?

Assuredly, first of all, parents and teachers need to apprise children about the negative impacts of aforementioned meals. Top of all, dissuading children from the increment use of soft drinks is quite necessary. All these mean that providing good and healthy life to children is an indicative of offering an enlightened future to children.

Let us all wrestle to enlighten and ease the life of our children in form equipping them with good health, sports activities, self confidence, discipline and study habits.

The writer is a student, and can be reached at: irfankhantareen10@gmail.com

Cabinet Adopts Kenya-UAE Trade Deal

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

The two countries concluded early this year negotiations for the initial phase of the agreement.

In Summary, it was signed by Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano and her UAE counterpart Thani bins Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

As part of the negotiations, the two countries will also engage with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat to create further market access to goods in the region.

The government has endorsed a trade agreement with the UAE in yet another significant deal aimed at expanding its global economic footprint.

The Kenya-UAE Economic Partnership Agreement was considered and approved by the cabinet.

It is part of the government's commitment towards enhancing access to foreign markets.

The two countries concluded early this year negotiations for the initial phase of the agreement.

"We are pleased to announce today the successful conclusion of

technical negotiations for Phase I of the UAE-Kenya Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)," a joint communique dated February 22 reads.

It was signed by Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano and her UAE counterpart Thani bins Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

Parliament is now set to debate and approve the document for it to come into force.

If ratified, the treaty will see Kenyan products including tea, meat, fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers have preferential market access to the UAE.

"It is set to deepen trade relations and enhance investment flows between the two countries by improving market access for services," it states.

It will also remove unnecessary trade barriers while providing new opportunities for economic and technical cooperation.

As part of the negotiations, the two countries will also engage with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat to create further market access to goods in the region.

Miano has noted that the conclusion of the talks reflects the strong bilateral relationship and longstanding

friendship between the two nations.

"The CEPA also represents the shared commitment by the UAE and Kenya to achieving greater economic progress for peoples and business communities in both nations," she said.

The Kenya-EU partnership agreement came into force on July 1.

It provides duty-free, quota-free EU market access to all exports from Kenya as soon as it enters into force, as well as partial and gradual opening of the Kenyan market to imports from the EU.

According to the Economic Survey 2023, EU was Kenya's second-largest export market in 2022 accounting for Sh133.2 billion in revenues, a 15 percent increase from Sh115.8 billion in 2021.



Trade Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano .

Kenya Airways And IOM Kenya Unite To Combat Trafficking In Persons And Protection Of Migrants

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

Kenya Airways and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kenya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a strategic partnership aimed at intensifying the fight against trafficking in persons and enhancing the protection of migrants.

The collaboration brings together IOM Kenya's expertise in migration governance and Kenya Airways' extensive aviation network, to implement robust measures that will identify, prevent, combat trafficking in persons and facilitate regular pathways. This partnership is a testament to the commitment of both organizations to uphold human dignity and support the most vulnerable individuals on the move, promoting regular pathways.

Kenya Airways Group Managing



IOM Kenya Chief of Mission Sharon Dimanche and Kenya Airways CEO Allan Kilavuka signed the MOU Friday at IOM offices in Lavington.

Director and CEO, Mr. Allan Kilavuka, said, "The collaboration with IOM Kenya demonstrates our dedication to corporate social responsibility and the well-being of all travellers.

We are committed to providing our staff with the necessary training and resources to assist migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations." Ms. Dimanche Sharon, IOM Chief

of Mission, stated, "This MOU marks a significant milestone in our efforts to safeguard the rights and dignity of migrants. By joining forces with Kenya Airways, we can enhance

our outreach and impact, ensuring that migration is safe and beneficial for all."

Key initiatives under the MOU:

Training and Awareness: Kenya Airways staff will receive specialized training from IOM to recognize and respond to improve coordination to assist migrants in vulnerable situations.

Policy Development: Joint efforts will be made to advocate for policies that create a safer travel environment and disrupt traffickers' operations.

Information Sharing: A framework for sharing information between the airline and IOM will be established to facilitate timely interventions.

The partnership represents a significant step towards ensuring the well-being and rights of migrants are upheld, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive society. Together, they will make a difference

Migori Business Community Put On Notice For Violation Of NEMA Guidelines

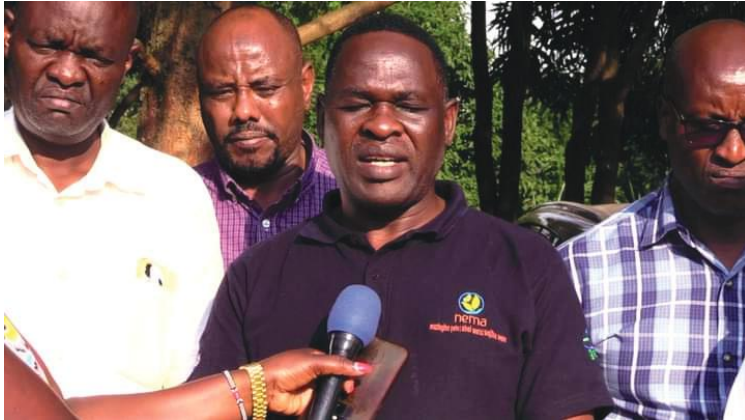
By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has issued a stern warning to both large and small-scale traders in Migori County over violation of waste management procedures.

Following persistent public outcry over poor waste management and disposal of effluents into river Migori, NEMA launched an inspection and enforcement exercise in Migori town targeting various facilities that were non-compliant in safeguarding the environment.

The inspection team was dismayed after confirming a trend of disposal of effluents into river Migori which is the main source of domestic water that has exposed river water users to serious health hazard.

Several facilities were found violating the environmental regulations and their administrators were arrested.



Institutions and facilities found perpetrating the vice included hospitals, hotels and petrol filling stations operating within Migori town.

Such institutions, among them Naas Hotel, located within the town center, lacked appropriate sewage treatment systems, according to Mr. Robert Orina, who led the inspection exercise.

While briefing the press soon after the raid, Orina noted that the hotel has poor waste treatment mechanism with a narrow pipe that often burst and releases waste onto the streets of Migori

town.

“Naas Hotel does not manage its waste well and is polluting the streets of the town and it has now forced us to arrest the manager,” said the official.

He expressed challenges Nema faced saying most of the facilities do not have civic education on safeguarding the environment and few of these facilities do not take time to conduct environmental impact assessment.

He also highlighted the guidance they gave out to facilities for application of a compliance letter which



appear to have been ignored.

“At Heritage hotel, our focus was on how they manage their waste and we discovered a leaking septic tank that was spilling open waste matters on the streets,” added Orina.

County NEMA Director Tom Togo emphasized the importance of taking care of the environment as a personal responsibility adding that the inspection exercise would be continuous and that they would not relent in their efforts to ensure a clean environment is maintained.

Moreover, he expressed dismay over an incident where the team encountered a vehicle being washed in the river which supplies water to various people for domestic services, an-

nouncing that the culprits were immediately apprehended.

NEMA is concerned with the bad environmental situation in Migori town which does not have a sewage system leaving the residents at the mercy of God, the director rued.

He warned of harsh punishment to those who would be found discharging toxic effluents into River Migori, the only main source of water in within the town and its suburb.

Togo challenged the County government to urgently come up with a project to help set up a working sewer line and treatment plant to safeguard the environment and protect the lives of the town dwellers.

Ministry Of Health Launches Deworming Programme For Pupils

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health official has launched a deworming programme targeting over six million pupils across the country.

The official launched was at Kanjuu Primary School in Gichugu, Kirinyaga County presided over by the Director Medical Services Stephen Katii on behalf of the Principal Secretary.

Katii emphasized the critical need for this initiative, stating that worms adversely affected children’s nutritional status, concentration, and cognitive performance.

“Worms impair the concentration and cognitive performance of pupils, affecting their overall nutrition status. As a nation, we must initiate good hygiene practices, improve sanitation, and provide safe, locally-produced medication to support local manufacturing. Eliminating



worms is part of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, and when you eliminate worms in a population, it becomes much easier to prevent other diseases,” Katii said.

The programme targets children aged 2 to 14 years, particularly those in schools, aiming to reach a population of six million.

Katii highlighted the importance of

this step, expressing confidence that the project would significantly benefit the children’s health and academic performance.

The Director of Primary Education Stephen Baroko revealed that 28,000 teachers have been thoroughly trained by the Ministry of Health to facilitate the deworming process.

“By training the teachers, it’s easier

to help the children because they trust their teachers more. We thank the ministry officials for their support and hope that the targeted children will be effectively treated,” Baroko said.

George Karoki, Kirinyaga County Executive Member for Health, pointed out the local challenges posed by bilharzia due to plantations

in Mwea irrigation Scheme and issues with water and sanitation.

He reported that 680 teachers and 84 health workers have been trained and were actively supervising the primary schools where the deworming exercises are taking place.

“We are determined to reach our target. With this project, students will be able to concentrate and improve their education,” Karoki stated.

The Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health Mawila Mungania, who attended the launch said the programme covers sixteen counties with a high burden of worms under slogan, “Kwa Afya na Elimu Bora Tuangamize Minyoo,” and praised the Ministry of Health for its support in the treatment efforts.

This extensive deworming initiative represents a significant step towards improving the health and educational outcomes for millions of children across the country.

Sports >> *.....

SPORTS
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Merino's Extra-Time Heroics Fire Spain Past Germany, Into Euros Semis



Spain's midfielder Mikel Merino scores his team's second goal during the UEFA Euro 2024 quarter-final football match between Spain and Germany at the Stuttgart Arena in Stuttgart on July 5, 2024. (Photo by Tobias SCHWARZ / AFP)

A Mikel Merino goal in the penultimate minute of extra time grabbed Spain a dramatic 2-1 win over Germany to send them into the Euro 2024 semi-finals and keep their dreams of a record-breaking fourth European Championship title alive.

After a fiery yet goalless first half, Spain's Dani Olmo latched onto an inch-perfect pass from 16-year-old Lamine Yamal to give La Roja the lead on 51 minutes.

Niclas Fuellkrug struck the post with 14 minutes remaining but with the hosts starting at an exit, Florian Wirtz slammed in a Joshua Kimmich knock-down in the 89th minute to take the game to extra time.

With the game looking set for penalties, Olmo lofted a cross for Merino, who headed Spain to victory and a semi-final meeting with either France or Portugal.

"Well, I'm dead, really. The adrenaline is taking its toll on me now. It has been a special moment," goalscorer Merino

said after.

Olmo said he was "exhausted really", adding: "It is a source of pride, what a great team we have, how we have fought until the end."

Germany's elimination ends the hosts' hopes of a fairytale Euros victory after a decade of poor performances at major tournaments, while also lowering the curtain on Toni Kroos' stellar career.

"We played a good tournament but when you're so close, to be eliminated like that, it's bitter," Kroos told ARD.

The battle between the two most successful Euros nations, with three titles apiece, was billed as a final come early, with the in-form Spaniards against Julian Nagelsmann's reborn hosts.

Spain nominated Kroos as Germany's most dangerous player pre-match but the midfielder had a huge, even if unintended impact early, colliding with Pedri, who was then substituted with a leg injury for Olmo.

Germany, with the oldest squad at Euro 2024, struggled with Spain's speed during the first half, frequently coming into tackles a fraction too late, but the two best chances of the opening half fell to the hosts - and both to Kai Havertz.

The Arsenal forward leapt highest to head a cross directly at Unai Simon early and then scuffed a tame shot at the goalie later in the half with just the 'keeper to beat.

Nagelsmann took off surprise starter Emre Can for the pink-haired Robert Andrich, while the ineffective Leroy Sane was replaced by Wirtz.

Olmo Strikes

The substitution who would make his mark however was Olmo, who gave Spain the lead six minutes into the second half, slicing through the sleepy Germany defence to perfectly place a Yamal pass past Manuel Neuer into the bottom left corner.

The goal kicked Germany into gear with Wirtz particularly

dangerous.

The Bayer Leverkusen starlet linked with Fuellkrug on the counter with a quarter of an hour remaining but the striker, under heavy attention from the Spanish defence, could only hit the post.

With 10 minutes remaining Nagelsmann made his final substitution, bringing veteran Thomas Mueller from the bench.

But it was Wirtz - 13 years his junior - who made the difference, skimming a Kimmich header across the grass and in at the far post.

Mikel Oyarzabal, on for Nico Williams, curled a 104th-minute shot just wide of the post and Wirtz did the same a minute later with the goal beckoning.

Germany appealed strongly for a penalty in the second period of extra time, after a Jamal Musiala shot hit Marc Cucurella's hand, but after a VAR check the original decision to not award a spot-kick stood.

Minutes later, Olmo curled in a cross for Merino, who leapt high to head the ball past Neuer and put Spain into the semi-finals.

Luis de la Fuente will be forced into changes for Tuesday's semi, after Dani Carvajal received his marching orders for hauling down Musiala for a second yellow card of the match.

Centre-back Robin Le Normand and captain Alvaro Morata will also be suspended for picking up yellows, with the Spain skipper earning a late caution for his celebrations in the aftermath of Merino's winner.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The Confederation of African Football (CAF) said Friday they had fined Cameroon football federation president Samuel Eto'o a total of \$200,000 for a brand deal

Samuel Eto'o Fined By CAF For Ethics Violation



The Confederation of African Football (CAF) said Friday they had fined Cameroon football federation president Samuel Eto'o a total of \$200,000 for a brand deal they determined to be an ethics violation.

The former Barcelona and Inter Milan star had been accused of "alleged manipulation of football matches", of which the CAF disciplinary board found there was "insufficient proof", the organisation said in a statement.

But they determined Eto'o had "violated the principles of ethics, integrity and sportsmanship" by accepting a paid brand deal with an online gambling company, and dealt him a fine of \$200,000.

In a statement, Eto'o's lawyers said the decision was "surprising

in several respects". "The alleged facts do not result from a competition organised by CAF," said the ex-player's lawyers. They further added that CAF did not have the jurisdiction to hand down the ruling, particularly when "CAF has neither a code of ethics nor an ethics commission".

Eto'o is set to "appeal the decision before CAF's appeals board", according to his lawyers. The former international striker, 43, recently made headlines after a heated exchange with Cameroon national team coach Marc Brys, who was chosen by the country's sports ministry without the approval of Eto'o.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Peaceful Protests Serves Justice To The Environment, Preventing More Natural Calamities



By: Tonny O. Blair
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The environmental impact of tire burning extends beyond air pollution. The ash and residues left behind can leach into the soil and water sources, contaminating them with heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and zinc. These contaminants can disrupt local ecosystems, harm wildlife, and enter the food chain, ultimately affecting human health. In agricultural regions like kitale etc, soil contamination can reduce crop yields and affect food security, disproportionately impacting poorer communities that rely on especially, local farming.
- The destruction of property, including houses, businesses, and public infrastructure, during protests also has significant environmental repercussions. Rebuilding efforts require substantial resources and massive debts including raw materials like timber, concrete, and metals, contributing to deforestation, mining, and other environmentally harmful activities.

In recent days, protests around Kenyan vicinity have become a common avenue for citizens especially Generation Z to voice their discontent with governmental policies, social inequalities, and other pressing issues. While these protests are often driven by a desire for justice and change, some of the methods employed, such as burning tires, destroying property, and the police's use of tear gas have unintended consequences. These actions contribute significantly to environmental degradation and perpetuate social injustices, creating a cycle of harm that affects both the planet and the most vulnerable populations.

One of the most visible and immediate impacts of protests involving the burning of tires is the severe air pollution it generates. Tires are composed of a mix of natural and synthetic rubber, along with various chemicals and metals. When burned, they release a cocktail of toxic substances, including sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants can cause respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases, and other serious health issues in both protestors and innocent Bystanders.

The black smoke from burning tires contains fine particulate matter, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. This not only affects human health but also contributes to atmospheric pollution, exacerbating issues like smog and acid rain. With the ongoing violent protest, Kenya is likely to suffer the cumulative effect of tire burning that may significantly degrade air quality, posing long-term health risks to the her entire citizens.

The environmental impact of tire burning extends beyond air pollution. The ash and residues left behind can leach into the soil and water sources, contaminating them with heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and zinc. These contaminants can disrupt local ecosystems, harm wildlife, and enter the food chain, ultimately affecting human health. In agricultural regions like kitale etc, soil contamination can reduce crop yields and affect food security, disproportionately impacting poorer communities that rely on especially, local farming.

The destruction of property, including houses, businesses, and public infrastructure, during protests also has significant environmental repercussions. Rebuilding efforts require substantial resources and massive debts including raw materials like timber, concrete, and metals, contributing to deforestation, mining, and other environmentally harmful activities. Additionally, the waste generated from the demolition of structures adds to the burden on landfills and waste management systems, which are often already strained in many parts of the country.

The environmental degradation caused by protest activities like tire burning and property destruction often exacerbates existing social injustices. Vulnerable populations, including low-income communities and marginalized groups, are disproportionately affected by the health impacts of pollution. These communities typically have less access to healthcare and are more likely to live in areas with poor air quality and inadequate waste management systems. As a result, they bear the

brunt of the health consequences, further entrenching social and economic inequalities.

The destruction of homes and businesses during protests has led to displacement and loss of livelihoods for many individuals eg Nairobi, Migori just to mention a few. Displaced persons may find themselves living in temporary shelters with inadequate facilities, increasing their vulnerability to health issues and social marginalization. The loss of businesses can devastate local economies, particularly in areas where small enterprises are the primary source of income, since Kenya is still a developing country. This economic disruption can lead to increased poverty as observed in some parts of the nation and social instability, creating a cycle of disenfranchisement and protests.

The use of tear gas by police on the other hand during protests adds another layer of environmental and social harm. Tear gas is composed of chemical compounds that cause severe irritation to the eyes, skin, and respiratory system. While its effects are intended to be temporary, repeated exposure can lead to long-term health problems, particularly for individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma or other respiratory related complications.

Tear gas can persist in the environment, contaminating soil and water sources. The chemicals can harm local wildlife and disrupt ecosystems. In urban areas which are highly populated, the use of tear gas can exacerbate air pollution, compounding the effects of tire burning and other protest-related activities. The environmental persistence of tear gas means that its impacts are felt long after the protests have ended, affecting both the natural environment and human populations like it has been frequently observed in our nation.

To mitigate the environmental and social harms associated with protests, there needs to be a concerted effort to promote non-violent methods of demonstration. Peaceful protests, such as marches, sit-ins, and the use of art and social media, can effectively communicate dissent without causing environmental damage or exacerbating social inequalities. Non-violent protests further-

more, also reduce the likelihood of a violent response from law enforcement, decreasing the overall harm to the citizens.

Additionally, there must be greater accountability for law enforcement agencies in their use of crowd control measures. Policies should prioritize de-escalation and the protection of human rights, limiting the use of tear gas and other harmful tactics. Independent oversight bodies should help ensure that law enforcement practices adhere to international standards and do not disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

In areas affected by protest-related environmental damage, there should be efforts to clean up and remediate polluted sites. This can involve community-led initiatives to remove debris, restore contaminated soils, and rehabilitate damaged ecosystems, this also promotes the act of responsibility amongst her citizens. Governments and organizations can support these efforts by providing resources and technical expertise, helping to restore affected areas and prevent long-term harm that may be related to environmental degradation.

Finally, protests are a vital part of democratic societies, allowing citizens to express their grievances and demand change, as Generation Z has always expressed. However, when protests involve environmentally damaging activities like tire burning and property destruction, and when law enforcement responds with tear gas, the consequences can be far-reaching and harmful to the ecosystem. By adopting non-violent protest methods, ensuring law enforcement accountability, and addressing the environmental damage caused by demonstrations, society can move towards a more sustainable and just approach to civic engagement. This shift is essential for protecting both the planet and the rights of all individuals, particularly the most vulnerable among us. Remember, prevention is better than cure, we all have a role to play in ensuring that we conserve the environment sustainably.

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