



Strengthening Coordination And Performance Management In Kenya's Public Finance Sector: A Strategy For Effective Implementation Of Priority Programs

Kenya's public finance sector plays a pivotal role in the nation's socioeconomic development, serving as the backbone for resource mobilization, allocation, and utilization across various governmental departments and agencies Page 18

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News>>Clinicians End Three-Month Strike, Governor Njuki Lauds The Move

P. 8. The Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCCO) yesterday called off a three-month nationwide strike after brokering a deal with the Council of Governors



News>>The Courage Of Kenya's Youth: A Call For Peace And Justice

P. 12. I began writing this article in a conciliatory tone but found myself enraged by the tragic events that have overshadowed the peaceful demonstrations conducted by Gen-Z and Millennials. The events of Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, were particularly disturbing.

Raila, Mudavadi Seek EAC Ministers' Backing

 **Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga made a case for his African Union Commission chairmanship bid Sunday at the East African Community (EAC) Ministerial Retreat on Peace and Security in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. Raila took time to explain to the EAC Ministers why he wanted to be the next AU Commission chairperson.**

"I am Africa and based on my experience over the years, I have the ability to go to this institution and transform it," said Raila



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga

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No Violence Was Seen In Uhuru Park, Gen Zs Should Not Be Blamed For Violent Protests - MP Makali Mulu

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “There was no violence, you could see they were armed with their mobile phones water bottles, and some with masks,” said Mulu.
- “They conducted themselves in a way that at the end of the day they went home, nobody was hurt no stone was thrown no shop was broken into.”
- Mulu therefore said that the violence witnessed in the past demonstrations cannot be linked to the Gen Zs and other parties should be blamed for it.



File image of MP Makali Mulu. Photo:Courtesy

Member of Parliament (MP) for Kitui Central Makali Mulu has lauded the Kenyan Gen Zs for their peaceful conduct on Sunday during the Saba Saba Memorial Day at Uhuru Park in Nairobi.

Youths assembled at the public grounds to honour those who were killed during the anti-government protests.

They erected white makeshift crosses bearing the names of Kenyans who died during anti-tax protests, adorning them with the Kenyan flag.

Speaking yesterday MP Mulu stated that youths exhibited orderly conduct and met for a noble cause.

“There was no violence, you could see they were armed with their mobile phones water bottles, and some with masks,” said Mulu.

“They conducted themselves in a way that at the end of the day they went home, nobody was hurt no stone was thrown no

shop was broken into.”

Mulu therefore said that the violence witnessed in the past demonstrations cannot be linked to the Gen Zs and other parties should be blamed for it.

“All we have been seeing last week was other people who came and pretended to be part of GenZ. When they came to the streets without anyone else interfering with their arrangements they were very peaceful,” he said.

The legislator also called on all parties involved in ironing out the demands made by the youth to find a proper way of ensuring that they are heard.

“We would imagine the ways we have been doing things you go throwing tear-gas, police are there it is outdated. We need to think of a new way of engaging these young people so that we understand them,” he said.

“I think this new idea of talking to them

and trying to understand them is very critical if we have to move forward as a country.”

The MP stated that it is time for the country to take a reset despite the various political stances people may have.

Anti-tax and anti-government protests that have occurred over the last three weeks have forced President William Ruto to bow to pressure and withdraw the unsavory Finance Bill 2024.

This was also followed by demands made by the youth calling for austerity measures and accountability by the government which forced President Ruto to announce a raft of austerity measures across various government agencies.

Addressing the nation from State House in Nairobi on Friday afternoon, Ruto announced that at least 47 government bodies with almost similar mandates will now be dissolved and their staff absorbed

into parent ministries.

He also suspended the decision to fill the position of Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) and that the number of advisers attached to the Executive will be slashed by 50 per cent.

Calls for the ousting of President Ruto are still gaining prominence as many are asking him to hold authorities accountable for the deaths recorded during the protests.

The state claims that 25 people have been killed and 400 have been injured but the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) says that at least 43 people were killed and over 600 were injured in varying degrees.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has handed over Karuri Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT), a clinic for drug addict rehabilitation, to Kiambu County Government and Kenya Prison Services after five years. The clinic began enrolling people who use drugs (PWUDs) in September 2019, providing access to a medical substitute for opioids like heroine, reducing related health risks and deaths, and improving the lives of people who use drugs. Since its inception, the clinic has helped 1,619 people, with 556 currently receiving care. The handover was made possible by training healthcare workers and the County Department of Health Services and Kenya Prisons Services commitment to providing services to drug users. "We have Healthcare Workers who now have knowledge on patient care and the management of the clinic," said Dr. Elius Maina, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health. The clinics are located close to patients' homes, enhancing adherence to treatment. The harm reduction approach aims to reduce the negative health, social, legal, and financial consequences of drug addiction. The clinics also provide two weeks of dosage for patients who cannot make it to the facilities daily.



The Chairperson of the Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Jimmy Kahindi, has urged county governments and other procurement entities to collaborate to address challenges in the procurement process. The initiative follows PPRA's observation of low compliance rates across various procurement entities nationwide. Kahindi noted that many national and county government staff members were unfamiliar with the PPRA digital system, which is crucial for uploading details about contract advertisements and awards. He urged the public to report cases of contractors failing to deliver on awarded contracts directly to PPRA, rather than to other bodies such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). Kilifi County Governor Gideon Mung'aro welcomed PPRA's support, noting that it would aid his administration in monitoring awarded contracts and ensuring accountability from contractors.



The NDMA has provided 81 watertanks to schools, enabling them to practice farming and provide food for learners. Additionally, 69 schools have planted 5,000 fruit trees to address climate change issues. The NDMA technical committee chairman, Koome Kiragu, revealed that a fruit tree-growing initiative in dry parts of Laikipia has been successful, with a survival rate of over 97 per cent. Segera ward Member of County Assembly Salim Edum urged residents to embrace donor-funded projects aimed at uplifting their lives.



Nakuru County, in partnership with Daraja 360 and the Afro-Hoops Premier League, is set to hold a Basketball Tournament on August 10th and 11th. The tournament aims to promote sports, healthy living, youth development, community engagement, and economic impact through skill improvement. The County Chief Officer for Youth, Sports, and Talents, Alex Maina, emphasised the importance of sports in driving social change, fostering economic growth, and providing meaningful opportunities for youth. She also highlighted the role of popular local players as role models and the potential for hosting tournaments to attract visitors, boost local tourism, and attract more investments and development opportunities.



Gender Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa has affirmed the government's commitment to forming a National Kiswahili Council to promote and develop the language. She spoke during World Kiswahili Day in Mombasa, under the theme "Kiswahili: education and culture of peace." A draft bill is at the Office of the Attorney General before it is tabled in the National Assembly to be enacted into law. CS Jumwa urged the Head of State to lobby legislators to pass the bill that would facilitate the Council's formation before the end of the year. She also reiterated the need to designate a day for the speaking of Kiswahili in the country, where people would be transacting business using the lingua franca. Professionals were praised for the development of Kiswahili, with Kiswahili being taught from the nursery level in Kenya and Tanzania. The CS urged Disc Jockeys (DJs) not to play beats of the National and EAC Anthems to allow citizens to sing them as a manifestation of patriotism. "It shouldn't be just music and beats. We should recite the words that unite the country and convey the message of peace and love in our nation," said CS Jumwa. The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Culture, the Arts and Heritage Umami Bashir called on the use of technology in the promotion of Kiswahili through innovation.



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Kenya Ordered To Pay Ksh.10M To Family Of Slain Pakistani Journalist Arshad Sharif

By: Dzuya Walter

The government of Kenya has been ordered to pay the family of Pakistani TV journalist Arshad Sharif Ksh.10 million as compensation following his mysterious murder in 2022.

High court judge Stella Mutuku ruled on Monday morning that Sharif's murder was unconstitutional and that his rights to life and protection were violated.

Sharif's family, led by his widow Javeria Siddique, sued the government for their kin's killing, arguing that he had the right to be protected and was wrongfully killed.

The state has however asked the court to suspend the ruling for at least 30 days to allow them to file an appeal which the court granted.

Sharif, who had fled Pakistan citing threats to his life, was shot dead by Kenyan police in Nairobi on October 23, 2022.

Kenyan officials said it was a case of mistaken identity and police hunting car thieves opened fire on his vehicle as it drove through a roadblock without stopping.

A two-member fact-finding team set up by the Pakistani government to probe the killing said it found several contradictions in the version given by Kenyan authorities, and believed it was a case of pre-planned murder.

The team travelled to Kenya and conducted a number of interviews, examined and reconstructed the crime scene and examined the deceased's phones and computers.

"Both the members of the (fact-finding team) have a considered understanding that it is a case of planned targeted assassination with transnational characters rather than a case of mistaken identity," said the report, copies



The late senior Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif poses for photograph for his talk show at a studio, in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Dec. 15, 2016. Pakistani investigators claim that his killing in Kenya was a "planned assassination," according to a report released Dec. 7, 2022. PHOTO/COURTESY: VOA.

of which were submitted to Pakistan's Supreme Court.

"It is more probable that the firing was done, after taking proper aim, at a stationary vehicle," it said.

Kenyan authorities declined to comment on the specifics of the report.

"The investigation into the matter is still ongoing, so there is not much I can tell," said Kenya National Police Service spokesperson Resila Onyango.

CASE OF TREASON

Sharif had fled from Pakistan citing threats to his life after the government registered several treason cases against him.

One of the treason cases stemmed from reporting Sharif did that led to an accusation he had spread a call from an official in a previous government, led by former cricket star Imran Khan, for members of the armed forces to mutiny.

Both Sharif and the official in the previous government denied inciting mutiny.

Former prime minister Khan said Sharif had been murdered for his journalistic work. He and his successor Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, not related to the journalist, had called for a judicial investigation.

The fact-finding team's report also pointed out apparent contradictions

in the autopsy reports in Kenya and Pakistan.

The post-mortem report in Pakistan identified 12 injuries on Sharif's body whereas the Kenyan report identified just two injuries pertaining to gunshot wounds.

The team's report also said that doctors believed the injuries may be the result of torture or a struggle, but it could not be established until verified by the doctor who conducted the post-mortem in Kenya.

Worth Noting:

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Clinicians End Three-Month Strike, Governor Njuki Lauds The Move

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themkenyentimes

The Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO) yesterday called off a three-month nationwide strike after brokering a deal with the Council of Governors (CoG).

In a joint press briefing in Nairobi, CoG Health Committee Chairperson, Governor Muthomi Njuki and KUCO Secretary General George Gibore said they had signed a return to work formula that also directs the members to immediately return to work.

The strike began on April 1, after a seven-day strike notice, which was issued on March 25, which the health workers insisted that it would go on until their demands were fully met.

“We are officially declaring that our strike has come to an end and our members shall resume duty today and not later than 24 hours,” said Mr Gibore.

Njuki who is also the Tharaka Nithi Governor lauded the clinicians for agreeing to end the strike and for



Council of Governors Health Committee Chairperson and Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki (left) during signing of return to work formula with Clinical Officers Union ending a three-month strike. Photo/Mwenda Njeru

signing the return to work formula. “This is a welcome step towards the government’s march into Universal Health Coverage and the rollout of Social Health Insurance,” said Governor Njuki.

The Chairperson called upon the cli-

nicians to immediately report to their workstations as agreed in the return to work formula so that they can continue to serve Kenyans as they also endeavor to meet the agreements. “We call upon them to expeditiously resume serving the people at our

health facilities so that to enhance service delivery,” he said.

The clinicians had outlined 10 issues that they were demanding addressed and by the end of the strike only that on career progression had been agreed upon.

On May 9, the Employment and Labour Relations Court ordered the employers to enter into a return-to-work agreement with the clinicians and register the same in court on June 25.

The government had upheld that it lacks the resources to implement some of their demands such as promotions and employment of more healthcare workers before they returned to work.

The clinicians were also demanding the two levels of government issue confirmation letters on permanent and pensionable terms to Universal Healthcare (UHC) staff hired to help battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

The KUCO was also demanding a total of 20,000 unemployed clinical officers employed on permanent and pensionable terms to cover the existing shortage.

The other demand was that the government provides comprehensive medical cover for all clinicians working in the public sector.

Murang’a Becomes The Second County After Nairobi To Operationalize Digital Land Records

By: Kenya News Agency

The Lands Cabinet Secretary, Alice Wahome, has launched the Ardhisasa platform in Murang’a County.

The Ardhisasa system is a digital platform that will enable local residents to access services in the local land registry as it strengthens the security of land tenure by removing human interference with land ownership records.

The system is designed to alert landowners by telephone and email when there is an attempt to conduct a transaction on their land.

“I want to assure you that beginning today, the familiar problems with the land registry will be history. No one will be able to fraudulently tamper with your land ownership records,” said CS Wahome.

The digitization process began in 2021 at the Murang’a land registry, with 387,635 registers and 269,694 files successfully scanned and transmitted to Nairobi’s data centre.

The Ardhisasa system is designed to alert landowners when transactions attempt to occur on their land.

The government is also working to streamline land transactions, expunging cartels and brokers who have defrauded residents seeking services in the land registries.



Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome

Raila, Mudavadi Seek EAC Ministers’ Backing For AUC Post

They told the EAC ministers regional integration is important as a building block to continental unity

By: Eric Biegon

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga made a case for his African Union Commission chairmanship bid Sunday at the East African Community (EAC) Ministerial Retreat on Peace and Security in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

Raila took time to explain to the EAC Ministers why he wanted to be the next AU Commission chairperson.

“I am Africa and based on my experience over the years, I have the ability to go to this institution and transform it,” said Raila

He told the ministers how regional integration is important as a building block to continental unity even as he reiterated his suitability to take continental aspirations a level higher than it is today.

“I believe AU is an institution that can do more than it is doing today. That’s why I want to go there,” he said

Top on his agenda if elected to suc-

ceed Moussa Faki, Raila indicated he wants to promote peace and security initiatives in the continent which he singled out as the most important feature for development.

“There can be no development without peace. AU has a Peace Fund but that peace fund has not been properly developed. Some countries make contributions but it is still very little. We need to expand that fund so that Africans can be able to deal with issues of conflict in the continent themselves,”

The opposition leader also promised to revisit the Resolution that was passed at the AU aimed at Silencing the Guns by 2020, but only ended up being just on paper.

“We still have a lot of guns around. We should see how we can use the peace fund to help bring peace across the continent. That is one of the things I intend to promote,” averred Raila

At the same time, Raila spoke of the need to see African people benefit from the bountiful resources the continent has been blessed with.

“Africa is the richest continent on planet earth in terms of resources. The paradox is that the richest in



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga (R) and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

terms of resources is also the poorest in terms of the living conditions of the people. We can make a paradigm shift and change this and make Africa one of the most developed continents,” he said

The Azimio la Umoja Coalition leader was introduced to the summit by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi to speak about his candidature at the AUC.

“I urge fellow EAC ministers to

support this visionary and transformative leader, to champion Africa’s integration, growth and prosperity,” said Mudavadi

While reiterating President William Ruto’s support for Raila’s candidacy, Mudavadi told the Ministers their backing underscores the unity and collaboration vital for advancing Africa’s agenda globally. He thanked the organizers of the retreat for giving Odinga a chance to address the

summit.

“I can only appeal that please, give his (Raila Odinga’s) candidature a favourable consideration based on the issues he has been able to highlight,” he said

The EAC Ministerial Retreat brings together Partner States’ Ministers of Foreign and EAC Affairs to discuss critical issues affecting the EAC region.

Clinical Officers Call Off Strike After Signing Agreement With Counties

Counties will begin negotiating a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) to be concluded within 60 days.

By: KBC Digital

The Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO) has signed a return-to-work agreement with county governments, ending a three-month strike.

In a statement issued Monday, the union asked all clinicians to report back to work within 24 hours.

According to the agreement, counties will begin negotiating a collective bargaining agreement to be concluded within 60 days.

The devolved units will also begin the process of promoting and re-designating clinical officers within one month.

Counties also agreed to pay the clinical officers of risk allowances and

provide medical cover by September 1, 2024.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health will allocate budgets to county governments to cover the salaries of Universal Healthcare workers and COVID-19 employees.

The two parties further agreed that there would be no victimization of clinical officers who participated in the strike.

The clinical officers began their strike on March 25 to push for a review of salaries for Universal Health Coverage-UHC clinicians, risk allowance, and the absorption of a section of their lot on permanent basis.



North Rift KUCO Chapter hold procession in Eldoret (FILE)

Nakuru Selected For Pilot Project On Sustainable Waste Management

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES-Kenya), the Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP), and the Civil Justice Alliance (PACJA) have launched a pilot project in Nakuru County aimed at enhancing civil society engagement for sustainable urbanisation.

The three-year project aims to improve the capacity of civil society organisations to promote sustainable water and waste management in order to create a just and livable city.

The initiative involves mapping actors in waste and water management value chains and training research assistants to use digital tools for comprehensive data collection.

FES Kenya advocates for a social democratic approach, promoting the concept of “just cities” that fosters inclusivity and social equity.

The project collaborates with various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, trade unions, national government representatives, the private sector, the media, and academia, to create a more socially equitable urban development in Kenya.



UN Peace Mission In Haiti, Kenyan Troops Receives APCs From US



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- The new Prime Minister of Haiti thanked Kenya for responding to their distress call. We are very grateful to the people of Kenya and we request GoK to send more police officers.
- The initial reports indicated that the total number of officers to be deployed stood at 1,000.
- It is worth noting the deployment of the first batch came just few days after the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Japheth Koome hosted a delegation of police officers from Haiti at police headquarters in Nairobi.
- The IGP assured them that the government of Kenya has finalized plans to deploy Kenyan police officers to Haiti.
- Being one of the countries that heard your cry, Kenya is committed to help in restoring peace and stability in your country.

Recently, the Government of Kenya (GoK) sent the first batch of Kenyan police officers to the troubled nation of Haiti.

The deployment had been delayed because of three main reasons.

One, clearing the hurdles placed in the way of anchoring this process in law.

Two, the camp where the officers would stay had not yet been completed.

Three, the resignation of the Prime Minister of Haiti.

This created a power vacuum. The GoK had to wait for this matter to be sorted out.

Media reports indicated that on arrival the Kenyan troops were warmly received by the great people of Haiti.

Thereafter, they started undertaking the specific security operations of patrolling capital city.

The US is playing a key role in this United Nation (UN) peace keeping mission.

This explains why a few days the US supplied Kenyan officers with Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs).

So far so good. Media reports have indicated the officers were doing well.

This is contrary to the impression created by the critics of President William Ruto that they had been sent into a death-trap.

For starters, the main objective of this operation is restore peace in this troubled country.

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Being one of the countries that heard your cry, Kenya is committed to help in restoring peace and stability in your country.

It is worth noting that this operation is being carried out under the banner of Multilateral Security Support Mission (MSS).

During this visit, the leader of Haiti police delegation thanked President Ruto and his government for responding positively to their distress call. He assured the Kenyan police that they will work closely with them and provide them with necessary support.

An advance team led by Deputy IG Noor Gabow which had a few days earlier visited Haiti to assess the situation had just returned back to country.

Besides Kenya, Chad, Burundi and Nigeria are among the countries in Africa which have so far agreed to send officers for the same mission.

They join those from Jamaica, Chile, Paraguay, Barbados, Brenda, Germany, France and Canada.

Contrary to the impression created by one of the mainstream newspaper, the deployment of the Kenyan officers had not been designed to coincide with President William Ruto's recent state visit to the United States of America (USA).

The decision to deploy 1,000 officers had been made before President Joe Biden made the decision to invite him.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Singoei kept updating the country on why deployment had been delayed.

He always denied rumors being peddled around that the government had developed cold feet.

We have made this decision because of the resignation of the Prime Minister Henri Ariel.

Also, some ministers and top police officers have also been forced by the Haitian gangs to resign and flee.

So, there was no government in place to receive our officers and direct them on how to carry out the operations.

The Government of Kenya believes in the constitution and rule of law. So, in Haiti, it looked forward to work with a constitutional authority, PS Singoei reiterated.

This position would be adopted by other countries that had agreed to join the United Nation led Multilateral Security Support Mission (MSS). The Haitian transitional council has since appointed a new Prime Minister.

I had earlier written an article in this column. I noted.

The critics of President William Ruto wants Kenyans to believe that Kenya is the only country sending officers to that country. This is not true.

President William Ruto had earlier hosted the Prime Minister of Haiti Henri Ariel at State House Nairobi. The two leaders signed an agreement paving the way for deployment. The PM resigned a few days later.

Reports indicate that Kenyan parliament and the Court of Appeal had okayed the deployment. This showed the law was being followed to the letter and spirit.

So the claims by Dr Ruto's critics that he was forcing the decision down the throat of Kenyans did not hold any water.

Having read sections 107,108 and 109 of the National Police Service (NPS), I'm persuaded to believe that the decisions that the President had made so far were within the law.

I heard the Cabinet Secretary for Interior Kithure Kindiki elaborating this matter further.

He stated that the deployment cannot be done without an approval of Parliament. Granted, I'm persuaded to believe President Ruto equally shares his sentiments.

The constitution is the supreme law of the land.

It is wrong to point an accusing at President Ruto.



Kenyan Troops in UN Peace Mission in Haiti

Given this scenario, the grounds cited by those opposed are weak.

Kenyans can only listen to them if they manage to convince the court that the three sections are unconstitutional and should be removed from NPS Act.

As we know, the people of Haiti had been in big trouble. The vicious marauding criminal gangs have forcibly taken over and overrun their country.

For the starters, I want to share with them some of the atrocities that were being committed there.

The gangs were raping women and chopping the heads of their fellow citizens. The children were not spared.

The hospitals and schools had been closed and the main roads blocked. More than ten Police stations have run down. A prison have been broken into and thousands of prisoners secured their 'freedom'.

The staff of humanitarian and charitable organizations were being targeted. They were blocked from accessing the camps where hundreds of thousands of Haitians had sought refuge to offer them food and medications.

This is the reason why Haitian leaders, who were on the run and some besieged, had pleaded with UN to intervene.

If you ask historians, this is what they would tell you about Haiti. This was the first country to emancipate itself from the colonial slavery. The people living in this caribbean nation are Africans.

President Ruto remembered this while explaining why Kenya is touched with their pains and agony.

The people of Haiti are human beings just like us. Taking cognizant that Kenya is a member of the community of nations, it is wrong to sit and watch when they are suffering.

It is worth noting this is not the first

time that the government of Kenya is sending security personnel to join the Africa Union or United Nations peace keeping missions.

The history of the previous Kenyan administrations is replete with this.

The previous deployments were approved at a time when Kenya had fallen far short of meeting the UN requirement of the ratio of 1: 450. This means one police officer taking care of 450 citizens.

How come Ruto's critics never raised it during the reigns of the previous governments?

So, their comments reeked more of hypocrisy and insincerity.

I also totally disagree that President Ruto was doing this in order to earn international recognition, mostly from the white people.

The President had already carved a niche of a renowned leader because of his style of leadership at home.

The world leaders particularly liked him because of strongly believing in tenets of democracy, constitution and rule of law.

Besides, Dr Ruto believes in the concept of Pan-Africanism. This has thrust him into the international stage where he has been championing the course of our people.

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

The Courage Of Kenya’s Youth: A Call For Peace And Justice

By: Waithira Mbuthia Protano



Worth Noting:

- It disturbed me to hear that President Ruto deployed the military against peaceful demonstrators. Normal and progressive leaders don't use violence against their own people. In a true democracy, citizens are welcomed to air their grievances, question, and disagree with representatives without being threatened. Hence, these servants of the people should pay attention to their citizenry's concerns.
- Our youth have a lot to grieve about. Many of them, the majority of whom are university graduates, are jobless and see no prospects in their future. These are kids whose struggling parents sacrificed everything to afford them a higher education.



Violent protests rocked Kenya in June/July 2024 sparked by the rejection of the Finance Bill 2024..

I began writing this article in a conciliatory tone but found myself enraged by the tragic events that have overshadowed the peaceful demonstrations conducted by Gen-Z and Millennials. The events of Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, were particularly disturbing.

According to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), after “unleashing terror on demonstrators and a section of protestors engaging in violent acts, the police officers moved into residential areas of Githurai and Juja,” where they “allegedly shot civilians” indiscriminately. The commission reports “unverified accounts of scores of residents killed by stray bullets” and has promised to continue its investigation.

I still believe that peace and calm are the way forward, but the callous killings of our youth, the majority of whom were young, are not only wrong and immoral but diabolical. The actual numbers of the dead and wounded nationwide are yet to be determined, but it appears that when all the tallies are in, they will be disturbingly high. KNCHR has placed the number so far at 41.

Following the murders of young men on Parliament grounds, President William Ruto held a press conference and defiantly told the people that, in essence, he didn’t appear remorseful. Ruto not only refused to acknowledge the tragic and senseless loss of lives but proceeded to call the protestors “treasonous” and

“dangerous criminals.” Wananchi were understandably incensed by this apparent lack of empathy, and when hours later the leader tried to change his tune, they weren’t listening. Who can blame them?

On Wednesday, when Ruto was forced to accede to the people’s demands and announce that he would not sign the bill, the no-nonsense Gen-Zs essentially said, no deal. Without going into details, the youth reportedly delineated seven reasons for rejecting Ruto’s statement, saying that the president’s speech was “delivered more than 30 minutes late (while he was) accompanied by suspicious characters.”

Explaining why they felt ignored, disrespected, and not taken seriously by the leader for whom most of them reportedly voted, the Gen-Z’s declaration continued: “The context of your statement is quite telling. You missed the point when you were accompanied by the same people who earlier today authorized the KDF to be on the streets just before their appearance at your press briefing. Allegations of bribes are rife within their ranks. Indeed, when a journalist asked about development today, they mockingly laughed at us. They are the same people who have made parliament a laughingstock of the world.”

In other words, after so many of their comrades’ lives had been lost, the youth saw no need to engage further with someone who obstinately ignored their concerns, leading to the

death of their colleagues. No rational Kenyan can argue with this sentiment.

Granted, I’m not thrilled with the idea of breaking into parliament and destroying the government’s property—or anyone else’s, for that matter. However, the protestors were orderly and peaceful until the police unleashed tear gas on them and violence against them at the direction of the president.

As a mother and baby boomer, my heart swells with pride to see young people who are well-versed in government and demand their right to be heard. Any leader who has the best interest at heart for his country would appreciate and celebrate the peaceful manner with which these protestors have conducted themselves. Instead, excessive force, arrests, kidnappings, and even death have been used to scare, intimidate, and discourage people from exercising one of the civil rights enshrined in the constitution. This is not how functioning democracies work.

It disturbed me to hear that President Ruto deployed the military against peaceful demonstrators. Normal and progressive leaders don’t use violence against their own people. In a true democracy, citizens are welcomed to air their grievances, question, and disagree with representatives without being threatened. Hence, these servants of the people should pay attention to their citizenry’s concerns.

Our youth have a lot to grieve about. Many of them, the majority of whom

are university graduates, are jobless and see no prospects in their future. These are kids whose struggling parents sacrificed everything to afford them a higher education.

Nairobi is known as an “international business hub,” and for good reason. There are countless foreign companies with thriving businesses. However, how much of this money is truly benefiting the ordinary mwana-nchi? One of the things that distresses me most when I go to Kenya is seeing so many college graduates, some with multiple degrees, being reduced to working as cashiers in grocery or clothes stores and other menial jobs that pay below living wages. Not just the youth, the population is chronically unemployed. Meanwhile, those lucky enough to secure a job are being choked by exorbitant taxes. Any leader who does not expect or want people to express their discontent about such glaring problems reveals not only his disconnectedness and apathy but how ill-equipped he is to hold office.

Teachers and doctors, as well as civil servant workers in Kenya, rarely get paid on time. In hospitals, cancer patients and others with serious ailments are suffering unnecessarily and dying early due to late diagnoses, lack of medicines and proper equipment, as well as scarcity of doctors and staff. A nation’s success and progress are measured by the way it takes care of its children, the elderly, and the infirm. Kenya, I’m afraid to say, has miserably failed in all these areas. Is it any surprise then that people are disgruntled, feel disenfranchised, and crave change? Yet, when they dare to protest, they are met with brutal force—and death.

It was very disconcerting to read about how Dagoretti South MP and erstwhile comedian, John Kiarie, dubbed the Gen-Z’s grievances as “fake” when they dared question his voting for the bill. Claiming to be a “photo expert,” the lawmaker argued that “certain images circulating (on the internet) were outdated and had been digitally altered to mislead the public.”

Of course, the politician was forced to eat crow and apologize, although the damage was already done. Maybe Kiarie should have stuck to comedy where he could continue to entertain instead of dealing with serious matters that affect Kenyans’ lives.

Kiarie’s insults to the Gen-Z protest-

The Courage Of Kenya’s Youth: A Call For Peace And Justice

By: Waithira Mbuthia Protano

Contd from Page 12



Violent protets rocked Kenya in June/July 2024 sparked by the rejection of the Finance Bill 2024.

Worth Noting:

- Explaining why they felt ignored, disrespected, and not taken seriously by the leader for whom most of them reportedly voted, the Gen-Z’s declaration continued: “The context of your statement is quite telling. You missed the point when you were accompanied by the same people who earlier today authorized the KDF to be on the streets just before their appearance at your press briefing.
- Allegations of bribes are rife within their ranks. Indeed, when a journalist asked about development today, they mockingly laughed at us. They are the same people who have made parliament a laughingstock of the world.”

ers, however, paled in comparison to the remarks made by the Kikuyu Constituency MP, Kimani Ichung’wah. In addition to dismissing the protest as a “Movement of privileged urbanites in Nairobi,” the lawmaker also ridiculed the young demonstrators as “KFC-eating, uber-riding city dwellers” who had no “understanding of the bill,” erroneously claiming that the youth had “little understanding of hardship” or what “lacking electricity means.” Just like his fellow politician, the mheshimiwa apologized, but it was too late. The damage was done.

How condescending, arrogant, and disconnected can some of our elected representatives be! Ichung’wah’s remarks, especially, were not only unpalatable but demonstrate why the man should never have been the choice for public office. Wananchi, tafadhali, let us think twice before we give our treasured vote to people who neither deserve it nor respect and care about our needs.

Again, I couldn’t be prouder of the courage, resolve, and dedication that our youth have displayed in not only rejecting the proposed Finance Bill 2024 but other forms of injustice. Despite being exposed to daily tear gas and violence, the Gen-Z and Millennials have resolved, as the young would say, to “stand on business.” Indeed, children are our future.

Like any normal Kenyan, I am extremely distressed by the deaths of innocent young civilians. Reading

about a police officer’s hands being torn off by a tear gas canister that misfired grieves me just as much. I abhor all forms of violence and hope that dialogue can be the way forward for the country that I truly love.

If there’s one positive thing that has come out of all the chaos and tragedy—and “positive” might sound like an odd characterization given the events of the past few days—it’s the unity that I’ve observed during the countrywide protests. Kenyans seem more united now than ever before, and this gives me hope about the direction the country is headed. I saw my fellow wananchi come together regardless of tribe, religion, or status and lend a hand. In Nairobi, for example, unemployed doctors offered services to the injured at Jamia Mosque; some companies provided protesters with links for those who might require medical help; store owners gave them water, while portable toilets and sanitary napkins for women were made equally available. This really warmed my heart. It made me think that the suffering and deaths will not be in vain.

Sadly, however, in life, there are those who build and those who destroy. It’s clear that the latter was in motion when some unscrupulous forces bent on diluting, hurting, escalating chaos, and even hijacking the Gen-Z’s good cause reportedly hired goons to vandalize, loot businesses, and, in some cases, burn down buildings in cities like Nairobi and Eldoret.

Obviously, the small and big business owners, who had worked their whole lives, were devastated and traumatized to see their investments literally and figuratively go up in smoke. I would never condone the destruction of property and hope the culprits will be brought to book. Considering the accusations and counter-accusations that are already being bandied about, this is not going to be easy.

In the words of the late South African leader, Nelson Mandela, “It is so easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build.”

In my humble opinion, the Gen-Z and Millennials are the heroes who are striving to make peace and build a new Kenya. The best the older generation, especially those in power, can do is either try to help the youth realize this goal or get out of the way. Hurting them in any way or fashion will not be tolerated by decent people of goodwill within and without Kenya. The eyes of the world are watching, and history will never forget. It is, therefore, important for politicians to remember what many say during campaigns: Kenya is bigger than any one of us. The country belongs to all; its fruits should be enjoyed by everyone. This reminder would prevent elected officials from being offended whenever the citizenry takes to the streets to express discontent. Reminding themselves of the proclamations they made before their current positions might help the powers that

be empathize more with wananchi and, hence, do the right thing.

To reiterate, no Kenyan should have to fear intimidation, beatings, arrests, kidnappings, or being killed just because he or she chooses to express dissatisfaction with how things are being run. This kind of oppression happens in dictatorships, not free democracies. Violence, whoever the perpetrator is, can never be the solution. Therefore, Ruto and his government must rethink their approach. In the meantime, I urge my beloved fellow Kenyans to continue exercising calm and good judgment.

The social media images which I and many other people have seen attest to the fact that the protesters who took to the streets to express their grievances only carried water bottles and olive branches, not weapons. Hence, the excessive force and tear gas used against them and other civilians who were simply exercising their civil and constitutional rights were absolutely unnecessary. Just as unjustified was Ruto’s ill-advised decision to deploy the military to kill unarmed protesters. Unequivocally, all this must stop. Kenya belongs to and is big enough for all of us.

The Gikūyū said, “Where there’s talk there’s understanding.” Yaani, kwaria nī kwendana. For the sake of our collective survival, especially that of our children and progeny, let us talk. We owe the children this much, for they are the future. The country belongs to them. So, let us selflessly prepare them to take the reins. It is one thing to see the president engage the youths on X-Spaces, but will he keep his promise and implement all the promises he made? That is what matters most.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt and deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and those recuperating from their injuries. May the sweet memories and courage of their kin bring them peace and comfort. In the eyes of millions of Kenyans, the children who were murdered or injured were neither “treasonous” nor “dangerous criminals,” as President Ruto derisively dismissed them. They were courageous heroes and martyrs who’ll go down in history as defenders of civil rights and freedoms.

The author is a former university adjunct lecturer and high school English teacher, as well as an active writer who publishes in both English and Kikuyu. She resides in New York, USA, with her husband.

She Is A Beautiful Rose



I didn't know how talented she was.
She was really kind to me and I didn't
know
that I will be very happy with her.
I felt safe with her too.
She is not like other girls.
She and I into the stars lived a magical
life together.

Parul Alok



I met her in college.
She came to me and I came to her and
into the stars we go.
We began to enjoy each other's
company and we were
feeling good with each other.
I didn't know that she was beautiful and
good for me.
She was a sweet girl with pretty eyes
and
good talent.
She was really hardworking girl.
She loves to read and write like me.

She is my best friend because she is
just like me.
But she is different and best in my list.

Interpretations And Theories Of The Images Of Alexander In The Eyes Of Scientists



..... By: Shodiya Otanazarova
The story is about how Prince Iskandar,
considering himself unworthy and not
ready, at first refused to take the throne,
accepted the kingdom according to the
people's demand, did many good deeds
for the interests of the people and the
country, illuminated the world with the
sun of justice, and oppressed people. It
consists of the details of his throwing
from the earth. And then there is the
problem of justice. At the beginning, it
talks about justice as a philosophical-
legal category in general, especially the
necessity of justice for rulers, it is
emphasized that it is the only criterion
for evaluating their activities. In particular,
the important conclusion that the rulers
of the country are judged not according
to their religion, but only according to
whether they are just or unjust in their
activities, is advanced in the first part of
the chapter: "Anushurvangarchi was an
infidel", but because he ruled the country
with justice, every above all godly kings,
worthy of infinite praise and praise, and,
on the contrary:

Well, someone, oppression is not enough
for him,

In this world, the poor are bad!
This advanced idea is demonstrated
once again in the "evidence" in the story
of Shah Mahmud, who received eternal

pleasure and honor in "he world" for his
righteous deeds:

The slogan of justice
Ato obeyed the command.
To Alexander's question about what
results a ruler can achieve through
justice, the sage replied that "the result
of justice is worldliness" and that "worldly
happiness will reach the just":

Shahikim, he will die justly
As a result, my property will die well!
Alexander, who made justice his "motto",
divided his property, and then he won the
entire surface, even the water level. Navoi
describes the details of his opposition to
Darius as a clear example of such fair
marches and achievements of the king.
In short, he is pious, constantly worried
about the fate of citizens and the
country, considers himself equal to
"ordinary servants", punishes oppressors
and puts an end to any violence, strict
discipline and peace in his country, society
a Among his members, he is embodied as
a just ruler, an ideal king who can maintain
honesty and integrity. He is a physically
and spiritually mature entrepreneur with
deep knowledge and experience, a well-
rounded person who believed in the power
of science, kept wise men with him, and
patronized artisans.

Neglect Of Young People



By: Davlatnazarov Davlatnazar

The youth crime rate is rising rapidly in many
countries. What are the reasons for this trend?
What can parents and teachers do to solve it?
Nowadays, bringing up children well requires
much dedication. It is clear that crime level
among young generation is on the rise. I tend to
think that the main reasons behind this scenario
could be lack of parental control and peer
pressure. To tackle this issue caretakers should
involve more in their activities and teachers can
repeatedly explain the differences between good
and evil.
On the main culprits for this problem can be
that parents cannot give their focus on childrens

behavior. This is because most of them are
busy to make a living abroad. This dictates many
children grow up on their own or their elderly
grandparents who usually pamper them. The
possible result is that children feel independent
to do any activity without a thought. Another
possible reason is social pressure. This means
people in their teen years are prone to imitate
their fellows actions and sometimes have
trouble to resist friends temptations.
As every lock has its key, I believe this issue
can be prevented (addressed) (solved) by
taking some measures. First and foremost,
parental observation can play a pivotal role to
improve their behavior. It does not mean that
they always control their activities but by
setting good role models, they help their kids
to develop good ways of habits. Secondly, most
time of children is spent at schools. That is to
say, teachers can help them to correct their
mistakes. They should explain possible outcomes
of certain behavior. It is also shown with real-
life examples. This can even be strengthened
through organized trips to prisons.
In conclusion, incidents among youngsters tend
to happen more frequently due to the fact
that parents give much less attention to their
children and friends have an adverse impact on
each others mindset. In my opinion, with the
support of parents and teachers, it can be
avoided.

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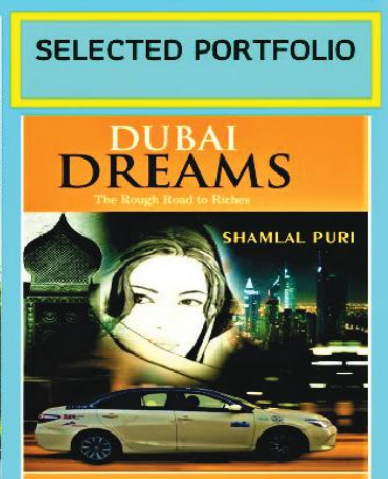
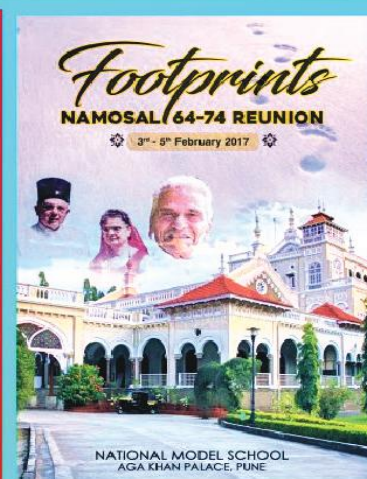
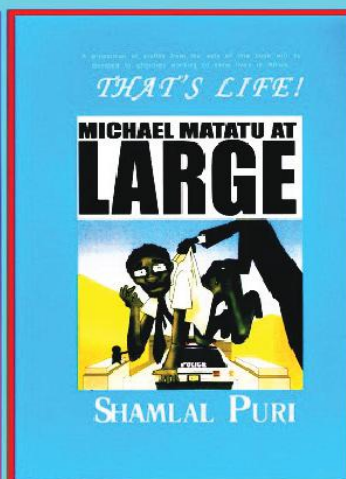
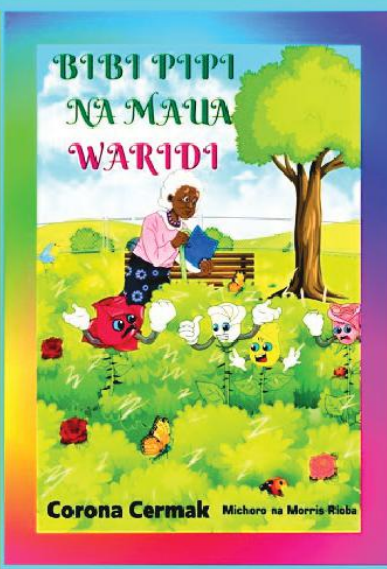
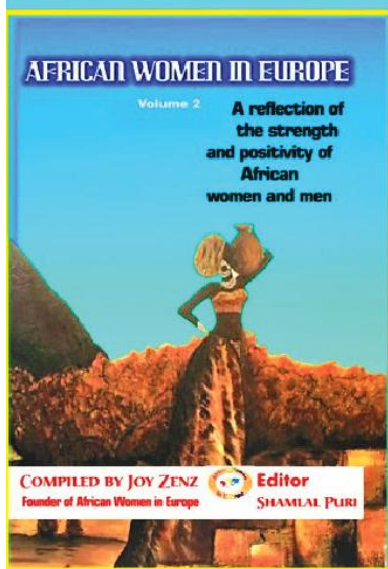
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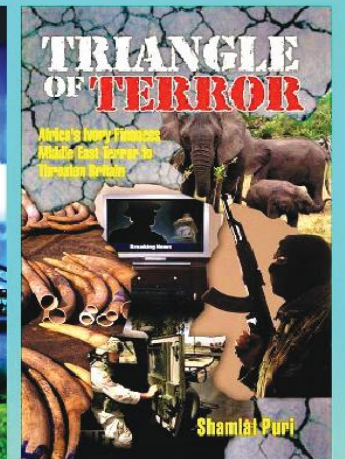
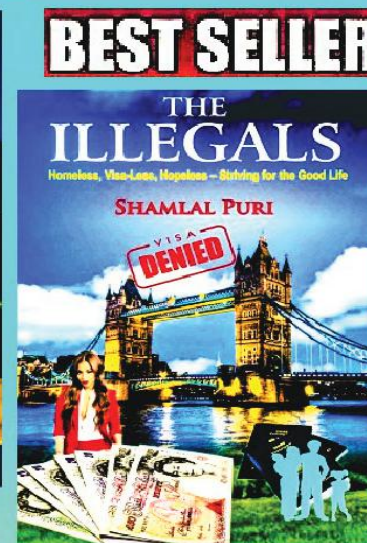
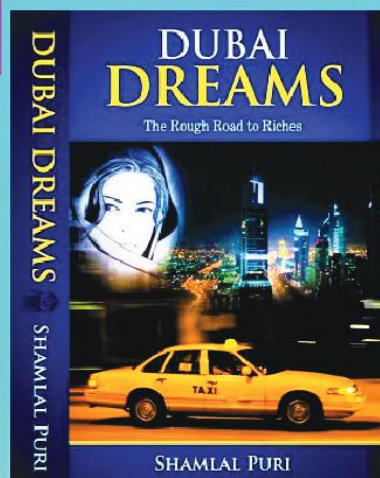
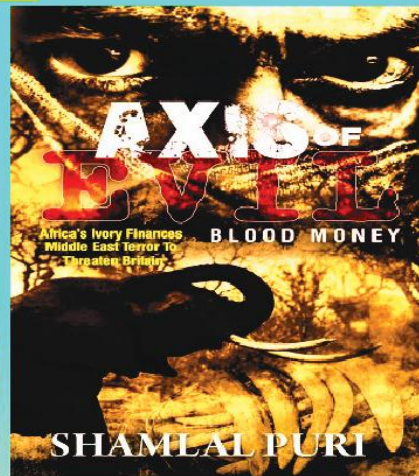
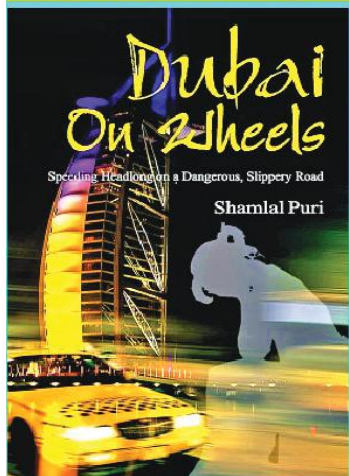
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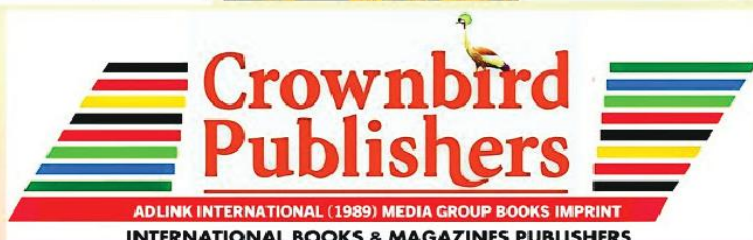
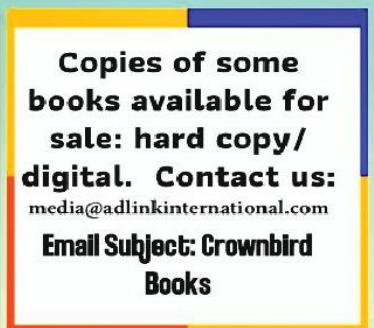
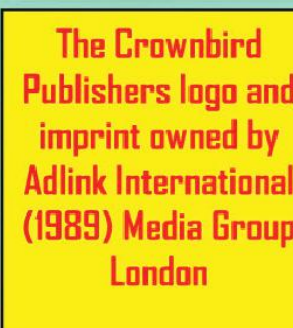
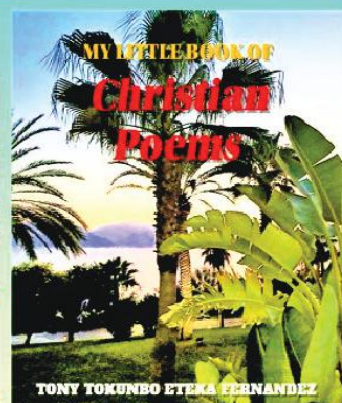
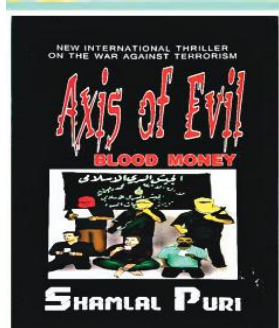
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Gov't Seeks Alternatives For Road Levy Amid Cost Of Living Concerns

By: Beth Nyaga
@themtkenyatimes

The government is exploring alternative ways to raise the Road Levy without impacting the cost of living, announced Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen yesterday.

In a media statement, Murkomen shared that his ministry is actively seeking alternative methods to secure the necessary funding for road maintenance without increasing petrol prices, as recommended by citizens.

"A decision will be made only when we are certain that any revenue measures adopted will not result in a rise in the cost of living," stated Murkomen.

He emphasized the importance of reviewing all public responses and basing the final decision on these recommendations.

Murkomen extended his gratitude to Kenyans who provided their feedback through email, social media, and handwritten comments.

He noted that many expressed con-

cerns that a proposed 39 per cent increase in the levy would worsen the cost of living crisis.

"I thank Kenyans across the country for turning up in large numbers to give their views on the maintenance of our roads," Murkomen said.

"We will only make this decision when we are certain that any revenue measures adopted will not result in a rise in the cost of living."

The Transport CS highlighted that Kenya is currently facing a maintenance deficit of Ksh. 78 billion for the fiscal year 2024, with the figure projected to rise to Ksh. 315 billion by 2028/2029.

The expansion of Kenya's road network, from 166,451 km in 2016 to 239,122 km currently, necessitates regular maintenance.

Murkomen explained that road maintenance is funded by the Ksh. 18 per litre Road Maintenance Levy and many roads under the Low Volume Seal program have been neglected for a decade and are at risk of being lost entirely.

"The Roads Maintenance Levy Review is intended to fill this gap," he



Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen.

added.

The Transport Ministry had earlier urged the National Assembly's Finance and National Planning Committee to approve a 39 per cent increase in the levy from Ksh. 18 to Ksh. 25, arguing that the current rates, last reviewed in 2016, do not account for inflation in road construction and maintenance costs over time.

Views Of Residents Over The Proposed Transfer Of Amboseli National Park To Kajiado County

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Mombasa residents have opposed the proposed transfer of Amboseli National Park, a national natural resource, to Kajiado County.

They argue that the transfer would lead to discrimination against other communities that rely on national revenue for services.

Joshua Muthoka, a resident of Mombasa, believes that the Maa community should receive a share of the total revenue collected by the national government.

Benard Molo from Nyeri believes that the transfer will prompt other counties with similar natural resources to prepare proposals for the transfer of resources to their respective county governments.

Abdallah Salim, from Kisauni sub-county, believes that the Kajiado County Government may formulate policies that may favour the Maa community at the expense of other Kenyans.

Mariam Beyawa from Kisauni sub-county, however, supports the move, stating that the Maa community has proven peaceful coexistence with wildlife in the area.

Cleopa Mwawasi from Jomvu sub-county supports the move, stating that the Maa community can co-exist peacefully with wildlife in the area.

The Advisory Committee on the Transfer of the Amboseli National Park aims to convert the land from public land held by the national government to community land under Kajiado County's management.





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Strengthening Coordination And Performance Management In Kenya's Public Finance Sector: A Strategy For Effective Implementation Of Priority Programs



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The implementation of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector is frequently hampered by a lack of clear performance metrics and accountability frameworks. The absence of well-defined key performance indicators (KPIs) and standardized evaluation methodologies makes it difficult to assess the impact and effectiveness of various initiatives.
- To rectify this situation, a comprehensive performance management system must be instituted, one that encompasses all levels of the public finance ecosystem. This system should incorporate cutting-edge performance measurement tools, regular monitoring and evaluation protocols, and feedback mechanisms that facilitate continuous improvement.
- By implementing such a system, Kenya can enhance transparency, foster a culture of results-oriented management, and ensure that resources are allocated to programs that demonstrate tangible outcomes.

Kenya's public finance sector plays a pivotal role in the nation's socio-economic development, serving as the backbone for resource mobilization, allocation, and utilization across various governmental departments and agencies. The efficacy of this sector is paramount in ensuring the successful implementation of priority programs that are designed to uplift the lives of Kenyan citizens and propel the country towards its development goals. However, the sector faces numerous challenges that impede its optimal performance, necessitating a comprehensive strategy to enhance coordination and performance management. This essay delves into the intricacies of strengthening these crucial aspects within Kenya's public finance sector, exploring the multifaceted approaches required to achieve effective implementation of priority programs.

At the heart of Kenya's public finance sector lies a complex web of institutions, each with its own mandate, operational procedures, and organizational culture. The Ministry of Finance, the National Treasury, the Central Bank of Kenya, and various other financial regulatory bodies form the core of this intricate system. The interplay between these entities is often characterized by bureaucratic inefficiencies, overlapping responsibilities, and communication gaps that hinder seamless coordination. To address these challenges, a paradigm shift in institutional arrangements is imperative, one that fosters synergy and promotes a unified vision across all stakeholders. This transformation necessitates the establishment of robust inter-agency coordination mechanisms, the harmonization of policies and procedures, and the cultivation of a collaborative ethos that transcends institutional boundaries.

The implementation of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector is frequently hampered by a lack of clear performance metrics and accountability frameworks. The absence of well-defined key performance indicators (KPIs) and standardized evaluation methodologies makes it difficult to assess the impact and effectiveness of various initiatives. To rectify this situation, a comprehensive performance management system must be instituted, one that encompasses all levels of the public finance ecosystem. This system should incorporate cutting-edge performance measurement tools, regular monitoring and evaluation protocols, and feedback mechanisms that facilitate continuous improvement. By implementing such a system, Kenya can enhance transparency, foster a culture of results-oriented management, and ensure that resources are allocated to programs that demonstrate tangible outcomes.

One of the most significant impediments to effective coordination in Kenya's public finance sector is the prevalence of information asymmetry among various stakeholders. Different agencies often operate in silos, with limited access to crucial data and insights that could inform decision-making and policy formulation. To overcome this challenge, the implementation of an integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) is paramount. This system would serve as a centralized repository of financial data, enabling real-time information sharing, enhancing transparency, and facilitating evidence-based decision-making across all levels of government. The successful deployment of IFMIS would require substantial investment in technological infrastructure, capacity building for personnel, and the development of robust data governance frameworks to ensure data integrity and security.

The human capital dimension plays a crucial role in the effectiveness of Kenya's public finance sector. The sector often grapples with skill gaps, high staff turnover, and inadequate capacity to adapt to evolving financial management practices. To address these challenges, a comprehensive human resource development strategy must be formulated and implemented. This strategy should encompass targeted training programs, professional development initiatives, and the creation of a talent pipeline that ensures a steady influx of skilled professionals into the sector. Additionally, the implementation of performance-based incentive systems and career progression frameworks can help retain top talent and motivate staff to contribute to the sector's overall objectives.

Effective coordination in the public finance sector is intrinsically linked to the quality of governance structures and decision-making processes. Kenya's current governance framework in this sector is often characterized by fragmented authority, unclear lines of accountability, and susceptibility to political interference. To strengthen coordination, a recalibration of governance structures is essential, one that clearly delineates roles and responsibilities, establishes robust checks and balances, and promotes transparency in decision-making processes. This recalibration should be underpinned by legislative reforms that reinforce the independence of key institutions while ensuring adequate oversight mechanisms to prevent abuse of power.

The successful implementation of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector hinges on the availability of adequate financial resources. However, the sector often grapples

with budget constraints, inefficient resource allocation, and challenges in mobilizing domestic resources. To address these issues, a multifaceted approach to resource mobilization and management is required. This approach should encompass strategies to enhance tax revenue collection, optimize public expenditure, and leverage innovative financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships and green bonds. Furthermore, the implementation of zero-based budgeting techniques and program-based budgeting can ensure that resources are allocated based on strategic priorities and expected outcomes rather than historical allocations.

In the era of rapid technological advancement, the digitalization of public finance processes presents immense opportunities for enhancing coordination and performance management. The adoption of emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics can revolutionize the way financial transactions are processed, monitored, and audited. These technologies can enhance transparency, reduce the risk of fraud, and provide real-time insights for decision-making. However, the successful implementation of these technologies requires a comprehensive digital transformation strategy that addresses issues of infrastructure development, cybersecurity, and digital literacy among public finance personnel.

Effective coordination in Kenya's public finance sector necessitates robust stakeholder engagement mechanisms that facilitate dialogue and collaboration among various actors. These stakeholders include government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The establishment of structured platforms for stakeholder engagement, such as public finance forums and consultative committees, can foster a shared understanding of priorities, promote knowledge exchange, and build consensus on key policy issues. Moreover, leveraging the expertise and resources of non-governmental stakeholders can enhance the sector's capacity to implement priority programs and achieve desired outcomes.

The implementation of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector is often hampered by weak monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. The absence of robust M&E frameworks makes it challenging to track progress, identify bottlenecks, and make evidence-based adjustments to program implementation. To address this gap, a comprehensive M&E strategy must be developed and operationalized across all levels of the public finance sector. This strategy should incorporate real-time mon-

itoring tools, participatory evaluation methodologies, and mechanisms for feeding evaluation findings back into the policy-making process. By strengthening M&E systems, Kenya can enhance accountability, improve program effectiveness, and ensure that limited resources are utilized optimally.

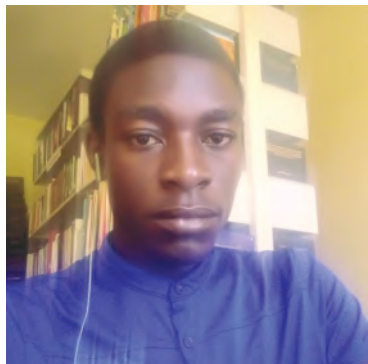
Risk management is a critical aspect of effective coordination and performance management in the public finance sector. Kenya's public finance landscape is exposed to various risks, including fiscal risks, operational risks, and reputational risks. To mitigate these risks and enhance the sector's resilience, a robust enterprise risk management framework must be implemented. This framework should encompass risk identification, assessment, mitigation, and monitoring processes across all public finance institutions. Additionally, the establishment of a centralized risk management unit within the National Treasury can facilitate the coordination of risk management efforts and ensure a consistent approach to risk mitigation across the sector.

The success of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector is intricately linked to the quality of public financial management (PFM) systems. Strengthening PFM systems requires a holistic approach that addresses various dimensions, including budget formulation, execution, accounting, reporting, and auditing. The implementation of accrual-based accounting standards, the enhancement of internal control mechanisms, and the strengthening of external audit functions are crucial steps in this direction. Furthermore, the adoption of performance-based budgeting techniques can ensure that resource allocation is aligned with strategic priorities and expected outcomes, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of priority programs.

Effective coordination in Kenya's public finance sector necessitates a robust legal and regulatory framework that provides clear guidelines for financial management, promotes accountability, and deters malfeasance. The current legal framework, while comprehensive, often suffers from implementation gaps and inconsistencies that undermine its effectiveness. To address these challenges, a systematic review and harmonization of public finance laws and regulations is essential. This process should aim to eliminate contradictions, close loopholes, and align the legal framework with international best practices

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAMPUS LOVE TALE



A story by: Telewa Job

About four years ago, when our teachers urged us to join campus and focus on studying, they emphasized the importance of academics over entertainment, attractive companions, or the freedom that campus life supposedly offered. Despite my commitment to academic excellence, my true aspiration was to connect with the captivating ladies I observed in lecture halls. The teachers' motivating stories fueled my determination to pursue this vision. However, my challenge lay in overcoming my shyness and unconventional dressing style. I was often referred to as "Kienyeji" due to my reluctance to conform to the typical campus attire of that time.

Eager to date a campus lady, I found myself under a green, flowering fig tree near the school's library one day. There, I spotted a lady in official attire with Abuja-style braids, a brown bag on her shoulder, and a Samsung Galaxy smartphone in hand. Her suspicious movements caught my attention, and our eyes met as she approached. Seizing the opportunity, I pretended to engage in a phone call in our local dialect (Murien). Surprisingly, she responded, understanding the Bukusu word I had spoken. This gave me the courage to initiate a conversation. We exchanged greetings in our local language, and to my surprise, she was from Kakamega county, making us hometown companions despite different counties. She graciously accepted my invitation to sit, and we introduced ourselves. Her name was Shakky.

Despite my initial shyness, we engaged in conversation, sharing jokes and getting to know each other in the refreshing breeze of that cool environment. Our connection deepened as we continued to spend time together, sharing stories, dreams, and laughter. It turned out Shakky and I had more in common than just our hometowns – our interests, values, and sense of humor aligned in unexpected ways. As the time went by, I gained confidence in our budding relationship. Shakky's

warmth and understanding helped me overcome fear.

A lady selling lollipops approached us while we were sitting. She shouted, "Buy a beautiful lollipop, leave yours." Realizing I had something in my pocket, I quickly checked my back pockets, finding her phone digits.

She handed a big lollipop to Shakky and continued her business on campus. I tore the lollipop and gave it to Shakky to enjoy the sweetness. She raised her hand, offering me a taste. Shakky, silent with raised eyebrows, whispered, "Can I tell you something special?" I eagerly said, "Yes," as she softly replied, "I need you." My mind filled with questions, but I responded with a simple "Yes."

As I checked my wristwatch, the time was precisely 1 pm, and I realized I had a lecture lined up for 2 pm. Examining myself with a tinge of pity, a specific point infiltrated my thoughts: the notion that men are not inherently born to succumb to fear. This singular slogan began to shape my perspective, inspiring me with determination on how I could successfully capture the attention and admiration of the lady I was interested in.

In a moment of admiration, I couldn't help but express, "You are truly beautiful," as my fingers traced a gentle path along her back. The sincerity in my words echoed my genuine feelings, and I added, "You're the kind of lady I envision in my future," emphasizing the depth of my admiration for her.

Her response was met with a delightful, "Woow, nice," accompanied by a warm smile that mirrored the positive energy of the moment. The mutual appreciation between us was palpable.

Eager to extend our connection beyond the present, I swiftly reached for my phone and opened the contact list. With a subtle excitement, I conveyed my intention to exchange contact information. She graciously reciprocated, spelling out her name with precision, ensuring there would be no mistakes. In return, I shared my own digits, solidifying the potential for future conversations and the continuation of a connection that had sparked in that moment.

As the clock approached 2 pm, and with 15 minutes remaining, she swiftly gathered her belongings, holding my hand in the process. The embrace she gave me was remarkably warm, prompting an unusual reaction in my abdomen. After the hug, she assured me of a post-class phone conversation, emphasizing that I should initiate the call if feasible. We separated, each heading towards their respective destinations for the communicated venues.

I entered the class with vibrant energy, hoping to capture someone's heart. Spotting my friend Obed immersed in his tweets to the right, I chose the empty chair next to him. A friendly greeting was met with his shocked expression, hinting at something delightful behind me – a joyous surprise for me. Despite my readiness to engage in the lecture, thoughts of a beautiful lady lingered in my mind.

As the lecturer commenced, my focus wavered, making it challenging to take notes or turn the pages. The lecture concluded at 4 pm, and we dispersed to our respective hostels. Eager to make a phone call, I received a "please call me" from Shakky. Surprisingly, my phone lacked credit but displayed a substantial balance in my M-Shwari account.

I dialed the phone;

Shakky: Hello dear, have you finished your lecture? I'm waiting for you at the black market.

Me: Yes! I'm also trying to find you down here.

Shakky: Alright, I've spotted you. Come to this side of the yellow flowering tree; I'm seated on a metallic bench.

Me: Ok.

I quickly went to the suggested spot and saw her sitting on a bench with one leg crossed over the other. Without delay, she asked if we could go to my home. However, a thought crossed my mind about whether I had cleaned my dishes or organized my room. Despite these concerns, I had done those chores before heading to my afternoon class. We began our usual journey, but I suggested taking a shortcut through the university's wooded area. As we walked, we held onto each other's shoulders, giving off the vibe of a confirmed couple.

As we approached my residence, there stood a quaint kiosk where I usually purchased a variety of items. Shakky halted by the roadside, allowing me to procure some bread and other ingredients, a customary gesture in our culture to welcome visitors with a special meal.

Upon our arrival, we entered the room hand in hand, her head resting on my shoulder. Without delay, she reclined on the bed while I ignited the gas to prepare our shared meal. As the room filled with the aroma of the cooking, we exchanged amusing stories, laughing heartily while awaiting the brewing of our tea.

In no time, the tea was ready, and I took it upon myself to serve her, presenting a pristine white Soviet for her bread and tea. We relished our meal, infused with laughter and enjoyment.

Her gaze was sharp and unwavering, and with the rain pouring outside, it was precisely 7:30 pm when I posed the question, "Will we spend the night here?" Her hesitant yet affirmative response lingered in the air.

Spending a night with a lady wasn't a commonplace occurrence for me, but that day was an exception as it had been prearranged. Despite my usual reservations, I couldn't help but wonder if she found satisfaction in the meal, a customary inquiry rooted in our Bukusu culture.

The ambiance was rich with the warmth of our connection, and every detail of the room seemed to play a part in this unfolding story. The laughter, the shared glances, and the culinary preparations intertwined to create a tapestry of intimacy and companionship.

She requested that we sleep at the exact time she's accustomed to, aligning with her early morning class schedule. Following her request, I switched off the lights. Covering both of us with a single blanket proved challenging, a departure loop from my accustomed sleeping habits.

I carefully loosened the red rectangular Maasai sheet, which served as the bed entrance barrier. Slowly, I joined her on the bed, noting that she was sleeping against the wall, perhaps influenced by African cultural norms. Despite the silence enveloping our home, her gaze remained fixed on me.

As our deep breaths filled the room, she gently raised her hands, tenderly exploring my stomach and caressing my neck. The subtle touches stirred unfamiliar sensations, leaving my usual self in a state of confusion. The smoothness of her hands conveyed a depth of emotion, transforming each point of contact into an intimate experience. Eventually, she turned me around, and we faced each other, deepening the connection.

I pondered the morning's arrival, contemplating the extended nights of the summer season. With a serene mind, I boldly traced the contours of her smooth hips, unaware of the emotions I stirred within her. A soft "wee aha" escaped her lips, and we continued our intimate connection.

As time ticked away, the initial motivation surfaced. Amidst the birds' harmonious tunes, we reluctantly rose to commence our daily routine. Her raised eyebrows betrayed concern, questioning the time. Alas, it was 7:30 am, a painful realization as she had a morning class. Hastily donning her clothes, she implored me to accompany her, a request I obliged.

As we departed, I securely locked the

door, pondering if she would return. Despite my reassurance that I hadn't harmed her, lingering questions lingered. She used to stay at Jersey Hostel, a massive accommodation for two thousand students near the university's main gate.

Approaching Nelson Mandela, a neighboring hostel, her phone abruptly rang. Curiosity led me to eavesdrop on a conversation with a commanding voice interrogating her about her night's whereabouts. Sensing potential danger, I inched closer to grasp the unfolding situation.

The call ended, leaving the lady visibly shaken. Despite my inquiries, she remained tight-lipped. An unsettling feeling compelled me to escort her back to her residence. Near the hostel's end, a robust figure on the balcony of Cypy Hostel observed our movements, instilling a deep sense of unease. As the boy vanished, an unsettling fear lingered within me.

In less than two minutes, the boy arrived, brandishing a stick. What astonished me was the girl's courageous smile, which fueled my determination as I thought, "I can run." The energetic boy swiftly captured the girl's movements, embracing her tightly and sharing an intimate moment. His gaze on me resembled that of a smoked monster.

As they turned, suspicion lingered in their eyes. I overheard the boy whispering a threat to kill me, causing beads of sweat to form on my knees and chin. Swiftly, I removed my shoes, taking advantage of their distraction with the tender kisses they exchanged.

Beyond them, a dense bush surrounded Peter's hostel, serving as my escape route. Within moments, I sprinted away; the boy's size hindered him from navigating the bush. Following the path by the Blue Barrel hotel, I aimed to conceal my route and evade any pursuit.

I found a sunny spot on some big stones and took a break before heading home. I couldn't shake off the worry about how Shakky would handle the injuries caused by the boy – especially since I played a part in bringing someone's lover to my hostel. I hoped I'd get through it with a bit of luck and God's help.

Despite the uncertainties, I thought it might not be the right time to get romantically involved with Shakky. Looking back at the past four years, the initial hope had faded away, and it seemed best to let go and move on.



The Apostolic Faith Mission Is Hosting National Youth Conference In Mahalapye



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

Worth Noting:

- Everyone must know the venue which is the AFM Botswana Conference Centre, Mahalapye-Dilaene ward: From Mahalapye hospital go north towards the circle, then turn the second exit which goes into Dilaene ward, our conference center plot is along the road on the left, about 1.5-2 km from the circle.
- The conference shall begin on the 13th July; we will have 4 sessions which will include an official opening, and 3 sessions where the word of God will be shared alongside offering praise and worship to God Almighty; 14th July-2 panel discussions on Kingdom Influence in the Market Place, and building relationships grounded on Kingdom principles



Poloko Kefithile, the AFM National Youth Secretary

All roads leads to Mahalapye village, on the 13th to 15th of July, the AFM shall host a national youth conference and the beauty about it is that, Camp wear, overalls, jeans and white T-shirts are hyping up the excited youth individuals who are preparing to meet over the holidays. The midweek sun reporter met the national youth secretary to discuss how the preparations are ongoing and he had to say this; The Conference shall be held on the 13-15 July 2024.

The theme of this year’s conference is Kingdom Influence, 1 Timothy 4:12-16 : We are in a journey of raising a generation of youth who reflect God’s kingdom in their character, career, and any other aspect that defines their lives.

Mr Poloko said that the church is still growing in terms of building better youth friendly facilities hence there is a Conference fee of P150, to make some developments and meals.

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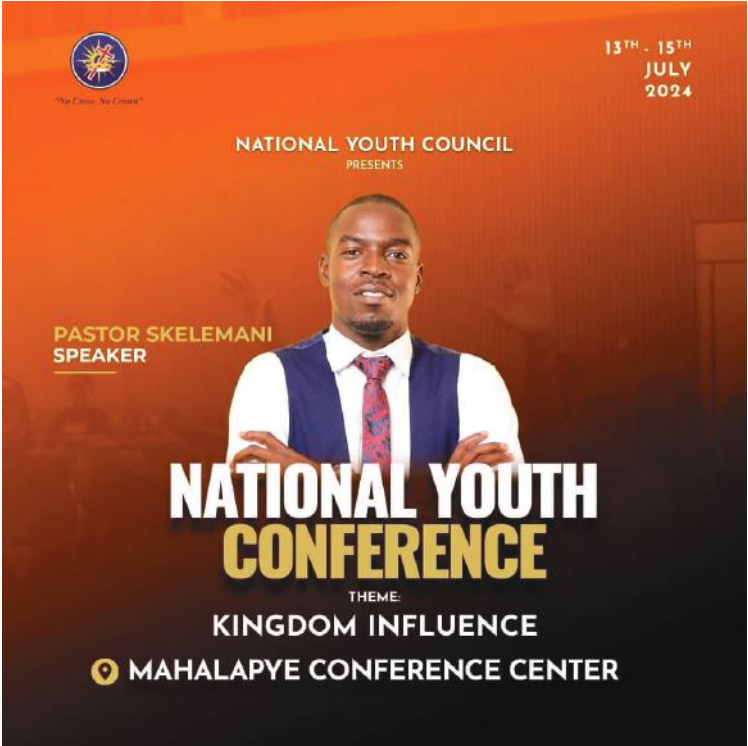
July-2 panel discussions on Kingdom Influence in the Market Place, and building relationships grounded on Kingdom principles

The expected speakers are AFM National Youth Chairperson, Professor Fidelis Nkomazana (for Official opening) various pastors in AFM, and several experts in the business industry.

All AFM Botswana assemblies will be in attendance, over 40 Assemblies.

As the church we are well aware that multiple factors, including depression, joblessness, and rejection, among others, drive the youth to ultimately resort to the use of drugs and abuse of alcohol. It often feels like a solution when one starts, except the end is always injurious to the user, their family, and the nation at large. Mr Poloko said that he implored the youth to seek professional help whenever they feel even a slight feeling of hopelessness or rejection. Over and above that, their doors are open as AFM, across all our assemblies in Botswana for free counseling and guidance on how to deal with various issues bedeviling our youth across the nation.

Mr Poloko further said that he invites all to join them at their conference in Mahalapye. There could be no better time to look up to God as a nation than now, especially given the rise in social ills we are witnessing as a nation. Let’s come together, join hands in prayer, and build our youth and nation.



KNCCI Barometer Third Quarter Report Launched

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry launched the KNCCI Business Barometer Report Q3/2024 at the Radisson Blu Hotel at Upperhill, Nairobi.

The KNCCI Q3 2024 Business Barometer Report aims to elucidate businesses' expectations for Q3 2024, drawing insights from their Q2 2024 experiences regarding financial performance and the broader business environment. This provides a forecast into the country's business environment ensuring that all our efforts in advancing the economy are proactive. This particular report was focused on the Why; reasons behind the different expectations of the business enterprises identified.

"The businesses are more confident in the reduction of their primary input cost compared to Q2 though manufacturing is coming out at the least optimistic sector on this metric. There is a need for increased efforts to support this struggling yet vital sector," Dr. Eric Rutto, KNCCI President.



Dr Erick Rutto KNCCI President alongside PS State Department of Investment Promotion, Abubakar Hassan Abubakar during the official launch of the KNCCI Barometer Report Q3/2024..

One of the most significant insights from this report is the resilience and adaptability of our SMEs. It is encouraging to see that similar to Q2, majority of businesses sampled are optimistic about the growth of their revenue (71%) and staff size (66%) in Q3. Despite the challenges posed by the global economic downturn, our small and medium enterprises have demonstrated remarkable tenacity. They have pivoted, innovated, and

found new ways to thrive. This spirit of resilience is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit that is the backbone of our economy.

The Chief Guest, the PS State Department of Investment Promotion, Abubakar Hassan Abubakar commended the good work KNCCI on the unwavering commitment to advancing the interests of the business community. "As the State Department of Trade, we are committed to

addressing these issues head-on. We will work closely with the KNCCI and other stakeholders to create a conducive environment for business growth. This includes streamlining regulatory processes, enhancing access to finance, and fostering Ban ecosystem that encourages innovation and competitiveness," Abubakar Hassan Abubakar – PS, State Department of Investment Promotion.

Unfavourable taxes and levies (44%) was identified as the main cause of the unfavourable regulatory environment challenge. "The best thing this government can do to the business community is to pay pending bills," Kiprono Kitonny, Chairman, Nairobi Securities Exchanges (NSE). This will guarantee commercial vibrancy in Kenya.

In his remarks, Patrick Nyangweso, KNCCI CEO, recognized the significant challenges and opportunities in the business community. "The report is an instrument that will be used to support and empower our members with information they need to decide on resource allocation to improve the business landscape in Kenya, Patrick Nyangweso," KNCCI CEO.

The education and agriculture sec-

tors are most optimistic about a drop in primary input costs, while hospitality & tourism, and manufacturing are less optimistic. Majority of businesses (69%) are intentionally applying some climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in their business operations. The mining and energy sectors lead in applying climate mitigation and adaptation actions, while the retail and wholesale sector lags behind. Similar to Q2, businesses expect limited financial resources (32%), unfavorable regulations (22%), and supply chain instability (22%) to majorly affect their performance in Q3, high interest rates (31%) and limited access to credit (30%).

In the Q3 Business Barometer Survey, KNCCI engaged 1011 businesses across the country, in all sectors, both members and non-members of KNCCI, and from the formal and informal sectors. The data collection was conducted through an online survey spanning 2 weeks as well as physical interviews in Nairobi. The physical interviews using enumerators is an addition to the data collection efforts of the Q2 Barometer Survey that only employed the use of an online survey.

Strengthening Coordination And Performance Management In Kenya's Public Finance Sector: A Strategy For Effective Implementation Of Priority Programs

Contd from page 18

in public financial management. Additionally, the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms and the empowerment of oversight institutions can enhance compliance and deter financial impropriety.

The implementation of priority programs in Kenya's public finance sector requires effective change management strategies to overcome resistance and foster a culture of continuous improvement. The introduction of new systems, processes, and performance management frameworks often faces resistance from stakeholders accustomed to traditional ways of working. To navigate this challenge, a comprehensive change management strategy must be developed and implemented. This strategy should encompass stakeholder engagement, communi-

cation campaigns, capacity building initiatives, and the establishment of change champions within key institutions. By effectively managing the change process, Kenya can ensure smoother adoption of reforms and enhance the likelihood of successful implementation of priority programs.

In conclusion, the task of strengthening coordination and performance management within Kenya's public finance sector represents a multifaceted and intricate challenge, necessitating a holistic and sustained approach. The strategies delineated in this essay encompass a spectrum of initiatives, each addressing specific facets of the sector's functionality, from institutional reforms to technological advancements, human capital development, and enhancements in the legal framework. These strategies collectively form a comprehensive roadmap aimed at bolstering the sector's efficacy and responsiveness to the nation's developmental needs.

By systematically implementing these strategies in a coordinated and

sequenced manner, Kenya stands to significantly augment its ability to execute priority programs efficiently. Effective coordination ensures that various government agencies, departments, and stakeholders work in concert, minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of public expenditures. Furthermore, enhanced performance management mechanisms enable better monitoring and evaluation of outcomes, thereby facilitating informed decision-making and resource allocation.

The success of these endeavors hinges critically upon several factors. Foremost among these is political will, which serves as the driving force behind the implementation of reforms and the adoption of necessary policy changes. Equally vital is securing buy-in from stakeholders across the spectrum, including governmental bodies, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and the general public. Their support is indispensable for fostering a conducive environment for reform imple-

mentation and sustaining momentum over the long term.

The availability of adequate resources is pivotal. Financial allocations must be optimized to ensure that investments in institutional capacity building, technological upgrades, and human resource development yield maximum dividends in terms of improved public service delivery and socioeconomic outcomes. This necessitates prudent fiscal management practices and transparency in financial operations to build trust and confidence among domestic and international stakeholders.

As Kenya navigates the complexities of public finance management in the 21st century, the imperative of strengthening coordination and performance management looms large. These efforts are not merely technical exercises but rather fundamental to achieving sustainable socioeconomic development. They underscore Kenya's commitment to advancing its governance structures, enhancing service delivery mecha-

nisms, and fostering an environment conducive to investment and economic growth.

In essence, the roadmap outlined herein offers a clear path forward for Kenya to realize its development aspirations. By fortifying coordination mechanisms, refining performance management frameworks, and embracing innovative solutions, Kenya can optimize the utilization of its resources and accelerate progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable development. The journey ahead will undoubtedly present challenges, but with commitment, collaboration, and a steadfast focus on reform implementation, Kenya can position itself as a beacon of effective public finance management in the region and beyond.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

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Sports >> *England's history at major tournaments is littered with penalty pain but they put that tortured past behind them to beat Switzerland and reach the semi-finals of Euro 2024.

England Turnaround Penalty Torment To Reach Euros Semis

England's history at major tournaments is littered with penalty pain but they put that tortured past behind them to beat Switzerland and reach the semi-finals of Euro 2024.

The Three Lions were perfect from the spot with all five kicks in Duesseldorf, while goalkeeper Jordan Pickford continued his fine penalty record by saving from Manuel Akanji.

It was quite a contrast to the penalty heartbreak that Gareth Southgate's England side went through three years ago when they lost the final of Euro 2020 on home soil.

As a player Southgate also suffered the ignominy that comes with missing in a shoot-out more than most after his penalty was saved in the Euro 96 semi-final exit to Germany.

But the England manager's attention to detail is helping turn the tide on their record with three wins from four shoot-outs under his watch.

England won a World Cup shoot-out for the first time in their history against Colombia in 2018 en route to the semi-finals.

Victory in Saturday's quarter-final was just their second ever in a Euros in six attempts, while they also beat the Swiss in a third-place playoff at the 2019 Nations League finals.

"We think we've got a good process. We've been in four, we've won three," said Southgate.

"Of course, we got absolutely crucified for the one we lost and that's always going to be the case because it is outcome based.

"We refined that process a little bit. We have more regular penalty takers in the squad now than then and more that have been in shoot-outs."

- Point to prove -

England's poise from the spot was all the more impressive with Harry Kane replaced in extra-time due to fatigue.

The average age of the five tak-



England's midfielder Jude Bellingham (L) and teammates thanks fans after the UEFA Euro 2024 Group C football match between England and Slovenia at the Cologne Stadium in Cologne on June 25, 2024. (Photo by JAVIER SORIANO / AFP)

ers was just over 23 and all had their own point to prove.

Bukayo Saka, who kept England in the tournament with a stunning strike 10 minutes from time, made amends after missing the decisive penalty in the shoot-out against Italy three years ago.

"You can fail once but you have a choice of whether or not you're going to put yourself in that position again. I'm a guy that's going to put myself in that position," said Saka.

"I believed in myself and when I saw the ball hit the net I was a very happy man."

Ivan Toney replaced Kane and justified his inclusion in the squad as a penalty specialist.

Cole Palmer is yet to start a match in Germany, while Trent Alexander-Arnold was dropped after failing to take his chance in a midfield role.

Meanwhile, Jude Bellingham had been cleared to play just a day before the Switzerland clash after a UEFA investigation into his crotch grab celebration to

save England from an embarrassing exit to Slovakia in the last 16.

Southgate has long dismissed the cliché that penalties are a lottery.

While working as a TV pundit, he suggested after England's exit at Euro 2012 the need for players to work with a psychologist.

In his eight years in charge, he has employed specialists to help on the finest details, including breathing techniques and the optimal time for players to take a penalty to avoid rushing the process.

That work has borne fruit in three wins from four compared to one win in seven prior to his appointment.

"It's my responsibility but on a night like tonight it's the players that deliver," added Southgate.

"What I want to do is take the pressure for them. They were so composed. The whole process was really calm."

Southgate also reserved special praise for his goalkeeper.

Pickford's energetic, at times manic, demeanour does not portray an ice cold temperament.

Yet, he is a specialist under the most intense pressure.

The Everton stopper has saved at least one penalty in every shoot-out he has been involved in.

Even in the one he lost at Wembley three years ago, Pickford saved two of Italy's five penalties.

His preparation was picked up by the cameras with a water bottle that had instructions of where to dive for every Swiss penalty taker.

"The goalkeeper will always make at least one save, so that gives us another chance," Southgate added.

AFP

Sports >>> *Bayern Munich have signed French forward Michael Olise from Crystal Palace, the German giants announced on Sunday.

Bayern Sign French Winger Olise From Crystal Palace



France's midfielder #07 Michael Olise (R) runs with the ball during the U23 friendly football match between France and Paraguay at Jean Dauger stadium in Bayonne, southwestern France, on July 4, 2024, in preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. (Photo by GAIZKA IROZ / AFP).

Bayern Munich have signed French forward Michael Olise from Crystal Palace, the German giants announced on Sunday. German magazine Kicker reported Bayern paid a release clause of 70 million euros (\$75 million) to the Premier League club to secure Olise's services on a five-year deal. Olise, 22, completed a medical in the Bavarian capital on Sunday. "It's a great challenge, and that's exactly what I was looking for," Olise said. "I want to prove myself at this level and play my part in ensuring

that we win as many titles as possible with our team in the coming years." Born in London, Olise has represented France's youth teams and will play for Les Bleus under coach Thierry Henry at the Paris Olympics in August. Olise scored 10 goals and provided six assists in 19 Premier League games last season for the London club. He is Bayern's second major arrival of the summer after Japan defender Hiroki Ito who arrived from Stuttgart. Bayern finished third behind

champions Bayer Leverkusen and Stuttgart last season, breaking a streak of 11 straight Bundesliga titles. Other than England captain Harry Kane, who scored 36 goals in 32 Bundesliga games, Bayern struggled for goals last season, with only Jamal Musiala (10 goals) reaching double figures. "We want new impetus in our team, new energy, new ideas — that's what players like Michael Olise stand for," Bayern sporting director Max Eberl said in a statement. "We're very much looking for-

ward to having him here. He will enrich our game." Bayern are also reportedly close to finalising a deal for Fulham midfielder Joao Palhinha, while Leverkusen defender Jonathan Tah and RB Leipzig forward Xavi Simons are also on their shopping list.

AFP

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Regarded As One Of The Shining Stars Of Uzbekistan, Alexander Feinberg's Life And Poetry Illuminate The Literary Landscape With Their Brilliance



By: Safarova Zarnigor Zokhid
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Some people in life leave a permanent mark on the human mind. There are innumerable images on Earth, but each one has its own inner world. They are like snowflakes that are never identical. There are figures who uncover the human heart with their words, and they possess a great talent from God. These talented people, called poets, communicate the feelings and experiences of people in beautiful manners through their art works.

One of these talented people is the poet, translator, screenwriter Alexander Feinberg. The poet, who experienced the tough times of World War II in his childhood, was born in 1939 in Tashkent. His name and work are dear to Uzbek readers and poetry lovers. His works display the kindness, generosity and goodwill of the Uzbek people.



"Literature is an essential part of a society as it reflects the spiritual beliefs and values of the people. In the current challenging times, it is crucial to utilize the influential force of literature to connect with people's emotions and motivate them towards virtuous objectives. We should learn from our ancestors' legacy and create remarkable literature that represents our rich culture. When literature, art, and culture thrive, the nation and its people unite, and humanity coexists harmoniously".

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Uzbek writers have always been in the hearts of the whole world. There are many poets who have their place in the world. Among them, Alexander Feinberg contributed a lot to this. With his works and translations, he managed to win the love of Uzbeks, Russians and many other peoples. Although stability was not observed in his work, his written works indicate that the poet has deep meaning. With his translations, Feinberg proved to the whole world that the literature of the Uzbek nation is distinguished by its attractive tone. Even if our poets have been writing for years, we can say that they have

reached the pinnacle of literature. This proves that our poets have a mature character.

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The poet obtained his degree at the Faculty of Journalism of Tashkent State University (now the National University of Uzbekistan) in 1965. He was a consultant in the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan

from 1965 to 1969. Numerous of his poetry collections have been published in Tashkent, Moscow and St. Petersburg. For example, in 1965 "Velotracks" and then "Etude" (1967), "Seconds" (1969), "Poems" (1977), "Far Bridges" (1978), "Answer" (1982), "Short wave" (1983), "Spread string" (1984), "Liberal sonnets" (1990), "Sheet" (2008).

Alexander Feinberg is a member of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan. He supervised the Seminar of Young Writers of Uzbekistan for several years. Feinberg is a proficient translator. He displayed to readers across the world that Uzbek artists have great skills and experience. The poet translated Erkin Vahidov's epic "Ruhlar isyoni" (Rebellion of Spirits), poems by Abdulla Aripov, Omon Matchon, Sirojiddin Sayid, Khosiyat Rustamova from Russian. He contributed greatly to the publication of Alisher Navoi's works in Russian.

"The sun, the air, the earth, and the water sustain all living things, and the life of the people encourages the writer. The more talented the writer, the more experienced the penman, the more the people will admire

him, the more they will respect his work and literature in general," said Abdullah Qakhor. Feinberg's great contribution to the improvement of Uzbek literature was honored by our government, and he was given the honorary titles of "Honored Cultural Worker of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "People's Poet of Uzbekistan" as a mark of our limitless respect for this great man.

Safarova Zarnigor Zokhid's daughter student of Uzbekistan State World Languages University. She is a young aspiring researcher. She is the author of several scientific articles on gender in linguistics. Her scientific works, poems, reviews, theses, and articles have been published in national and international newspapers, conferences, and journals. She has published 3 books internationally, and her books are available for sale on Amazon and several other sites.