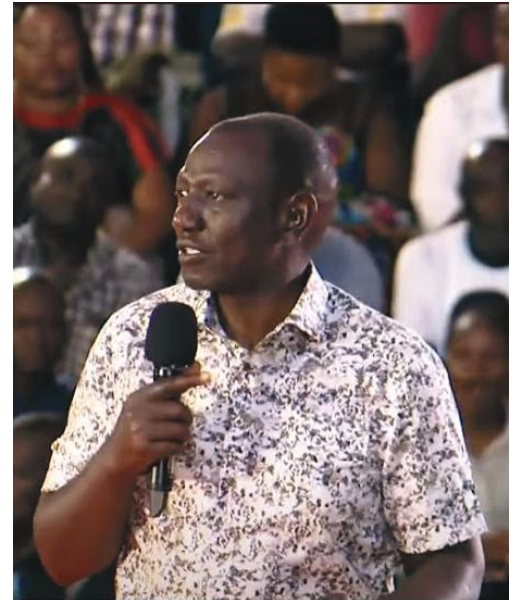


Ruto Hints At Future Alliance With ODM

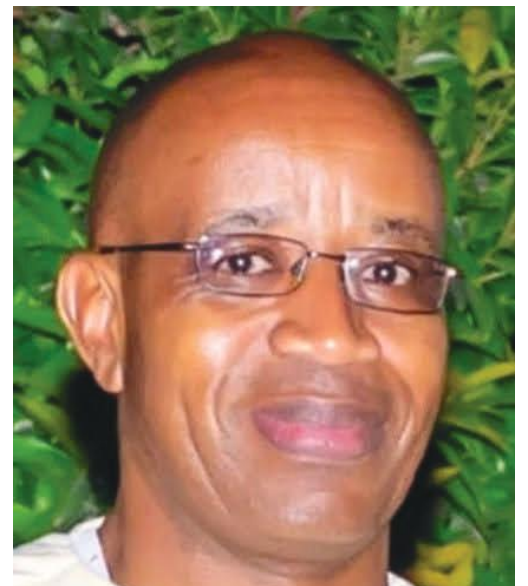


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President William Ruto



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Increased Financial Strength For Widows Following Sacco Launch

By: ODP



Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas, who started working with widows since her university days has also attended a widows conference at the UN in Newyork, and also the Africa Widows Summit in Zanzibar where she spoke passionately of widows.
- As a former banker, Pastor Dorcas has also emphasized the importance of financial freedom for widows, even advocating for a widows sacco in the country. The launch of the two saccos - Nyeri and Loitokitok - makes this vision a great reality in the lives of thousands of widows.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi cuts the ribbon during the launch of the Loitokitok Widows Sacco on Thursday at Kimana Ward in Kajiado South during a widows empowerment meeting. She was also the chief guest of the Nyeri Widows Sacco launch months ago, and also the DIMKES DT SACCO 25th anniversary celebrations in Kiambu. All these saccos strengthen the financial muscle of widows and women. Photo/ODP.

The launch of the Loitokitok Widows Sacco on Thursday cast a positive spotlight on the plight of widows in Kenya during an event attended by local leaders from Kajiado County.

This happened months after the launch of the Nyeri Widows Sacco that was hosted by Governor Mutahi Kahiga, and also local leaders from the county government and also the grassroots.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi was the chief guest during the two events cementing her commitment in uplifting the lives of widows, who are vulnerable in the society following the loss of their spouses.

Pastor Dorcas, who started working with widows since her university days has also attended a widows conference at the UN in Newyork, and also the Africa Widows Summit in Zanzibar where she spoke passionately of widows.

As a former banker, Pastor Dorcas has also emphasized the importance of financial freedom for widows, even advocating for a widows sacco in the country. The launch of the two saccos - Nyeri and Loitokitok - makes this vision a great reality in the lives of thousands of widows.

“When we save the little we have in the Sacco, and engage in economic activities, we shall prosper and do great things in our lives and nation. I believe in women and their ability to work hard. A Sacco asks; what do you have in your hand? And as we bring this resources together, they become a big thing,” said Pastor Dorcas.

In Loitokitok, the widows received 50 goats from wellwishers to enhance milk production for their nutrition and also to generate income for their households. The widows have also started other projects,

that include establishment of tree nurseries to help them generate an income.

The First Lady of Kajiado County, Edna Lenku, and Nominated Senator Peris Tobiko were present during the launch of the Sacco and encouraged the widows in the vision of uniting through finances, even as they the widows were officially handed the Sacco certificate.

“When a woman has KSh500 or KSh1000, it will do a lot of work, and even the man will find it at home in form of food and other things, but not so the man; he might go through the butchery and other places, and the money will all be spent,” said Sen Tobiko.

Widows who attended the event were more than three thousand, and appreciated the goat donations, and also dry food-stuffs distributed.

Kikoran Kirasi, 81 years old, appreciated the kind gesture towards widowhood, saying that the donations of goats and foodstuffs would cushion the lives of the vulnerable widows from the lack they face almost on a daily basis.

Serah Loomputua, 56 years old, said that the issues of land, property and inheritance remained problematic for widows especially in families where polygamy is rampant.

Pastor Dorcas also attended the 25th anniversary celebrations for DIMKES DT SACCO last month, on July 19, a Sacco that was started by members of the Mothers Union of the Anglican Church of the Mount Kenya South Diocese.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Mama Judith Ogoro MEDICAL APPEAL

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NEWS IN BRIEF



High school teacher wins 10,000,000 Sportpesa. Derrick Kasyoka, a high school teacher from Ivumbuni, Mumbuni ward in Machakos, has won a massive sum of 10,000,000 Sportpesa free to play games. The game, which does not require payment, challenges players to predict the first team to score and the exact minute the goal will be scored in three different games. Kasyoka, who discovered the game through advertisements, credits his success to his parents who struggled to educate him through several challenges.

He is now looking forward to making significant changes and development in his family and community. The game requires players to share their bet slips on social media to encourage participation and engagement. Kasyoka expressed gratitude for the win and plans to take time to relax and think about how to improve his life with the money.



Bungoma County has put on notice County Revenue Collectors involved in fraudulent activities, attributing the decline of the county's revenue base to their corrupt activities. Speaking on Thursday during a ceremony to hand over motorcycles to Ward Revenue Officers at Mabanga ATC, Governor Kenneth Lusaka emphasised that any officers found engaging in such activities would face severe consequences. He stated that the county is committed to boosting its revenue base, noting that counties could no longer solely rely on allocations from the National Government. Lusaka also cautioned Law Enforcement Officers against overstepping their mandate by posing as revenue collectors.

Maasai Council of Elders has called on the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to strike a deal with Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) in a bid to restore normalcy in the education calendar. The Council of Elders' Chairman Kelena Ole Nchoe said the strike was impacting negatively on the young learners who could be forced to extend their academic term, despite having reported to school on schedule. "The young learners are the ones being affected because they are in school wasting time. This stalemate should be resolved quickly so that learning can continue as usual," he said.



Deputy Inspector General of Police Eliud Lagat visited Embu West Sub-county police headquarters on a familiarisation tour. The DIG is on a tour of various stations across the country to familiarise and find out about operations and issues affecting police officers. Lagat expressed satisfaction with the work and conduct of officers and promised to improve the station's appearance in the future. He also promised to look into the operationalisation of an office block put up through Manyatta Constituency NG-CDF in 2021 at a cost of Sh10 million. "This is one of the matters I will take up to ensure the office block is put to use and alleviate some of the challenges with regard to the poor working environment for our officers," he said.



Cabinet Secretary (CS), Finance and Economic Planning, John Mbadi, has pledged to work tirelessly to revive the country's economy. He expressed gratitude to President William Ruto for his appointment and promised to ensure his efforts yield results within a year. "We are one nation called Kenya. We should do away with politics of ethnicity and division and concentrate on development," Mbadi said.



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Ministry Of Health Confirms Third Case Of Mpox

By: Prudence Wanza

Worth Noting:

- Regularly wash hands with soap and running water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Practice good hygiene and avoid close contact with individuals exhibiting Mpox-like symptoms.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, utensils, or clothing.
- If you or your loved one exhibits signs and symptoms of Mpox or has been in contact with someone who has, visit the nearest health facility for assessment by a qualified health professional.
- Exercise caution around wild animals and avoid the consumption of uninspected meat and meat products from wild animals.



Dr Patrick Amoth, Director General for Health..

The Ministry of Health has confirmed Kenya's third case of Mpox.

According to an update issued by the Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth, the patient is a 30-year-old woman who recently traveled to Uganda.

She is currently in stable condition and is receiving treatment in an isolation unit in Nairobi.

The new case brings the total number of Mpox cases in the country to three, with previous cases reported in Taita Taveta and Busia counties.

Dr. Amoth stated that efforts are ongoing to monitor and contain the spread of the disease, with active surveillance continuing across the country to identify any additional cases.

He also revealed that the second patient diagnosed with Mpox in Kenya

has fully recovered, although 17 contacts remain under close observation.

So far, a total of 89 samples have been tested, with 79 returning negative results, 3 confirmed as positive, and 7 samples still under analysis.

Additionally, a total of 582,847 travellers have been screened at the 26 designated Ports of Entry across the country.

The Ministry has urged Kenyans to remain vigilant and adhere to recommended public health measures, including regular handwashing, avoiding close contact with symptomatic individuals, and limiting travel to countries with significant Mpox outbreaks.

"We wish to reassure the public that our healthcare facilities are fully prepared to diagnose and manage this dis-

ease, and there is no need to panic. To reduce stigma and prevent the spread of the disease, we shall continue to share important information through our official social media accounts, the press, and other public health forums countrywide," stated Dr. Amoth.

He added that the Ministry is working closely with County Governments and other partners to ensure a coordinated response to the outbreak.

In addition, Public Health Emergency Operation Centres have been activated nationwide, and Incident Management Teams, as well as Rapid Response Teams, have been established to oversee the response at both national and county levels.

Mpox Prevention Measures

- Regularly wash hands with

soap and running water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Practice good hygiene and avoid close contact with individuals exhibiting Mpox-like symptoms.

- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, utensils, or clothing.

- If you or your loved one exhibits signs and symptoms of Mpox or has been in contact with someone who has, visit the nearest health facility for assessment by a qualified health professional.

- Exercise caution around wild animals and avoid the consumption of uninspected meat and meat products from wild animals.

- Limit non-essential travel to countries currently experiencing significant Mpox outbreaks.

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Stakeholders Met In Nairobi To Discuss Innovative Plant Pest And Disease Risk Management System

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) hosted a critical meeting on the Risk Management System for Plant Pest and Disease Surveillance, Response, and Monitoring. This gathering brought together key stakeholders from the agricultural sector to discuss the progress and future plans of the initiative aimed at safeguarding Kenya's agricultural backbone from the growing threats of plant pests and diseases.

Agriculture plays a vital role in Kenya's economy, contributing approximately 33 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the sector faces increasing challenges, including climate change, declining soil fertility, and the rising threat of plant pests and diseases. These challenges pose significant risks to crop production and, consequently, to food and nutrition security in the region.

One of the key issues highlighted

at the meeting was the lack of comprehensive data on the occurrence of plant pests and diseases. The absence of a harmonized framework for monitoring, reporting, and managing these threats has hindered effective responses. Additionally, climate change has exacerbated the problem, causing shifts in the geographic and temporal patterns of pest and disease occurrences, increasing their frequency, persistence, and impact.

In response to these challenges, the Plant Protection and Food Safety Directorate (PP&FSD) and RCMRD, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF), launched a collaborative initiative to develop a Risk Management System for plant pests and diseases. This innovative system integrates Earth Observation data, socioeconomic information, and surveillance data in a geospatial format, enabling real-time monitoring and analysis of pest and disease occurrences. The web-based platform is designed to support decision-making by providing timely information that triggers preventive and corrective actions.

The main objective of meeting was



Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza Director General RCMRD, Senior Program Office BMGFlow Dr. Tess , The Agriculture Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mr. Marangy Collin and other Executive Committee members during the meeting.

to update stakeholders on the status of the project and to discuss mechanisms for data access and information sharing. Participants were introduced to the tools and infrastructure available within the integrated risk management system, which is expected

to play a crucial role in enhancing early warning capabilities and improving pest management strategies and have a deeper understanding of the system's potential to transform plant pest and disease management in Kenya.

The collaborative effort aims to strengthen the country's agricultural resilience in the face of evolving environmental and economic challenges, ensuring sustainable crop production and food security for future generations.

Laikipia County Receives Water Drilling Machines

By: KNA

Laikipia County Governor Joshua Irungu said they had partnered with Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA) in a bid to drill boreholes which would benefit farmers through irrigation and boost food security for the residents.

The governor revealed that the machines, which included tippers, caterpillars, water bowzers, and water drilling trucks, had minor mechanical problems, but his administration would set aside some funds from a supplementary budget to repair them and kick off water drilling from the month of September.

"We have settled on an agreement as County Government on putting aside some finances to repair some of these machines that have been laying here without giving services just because of some minor mechanical issues," revealed the governor.

For water bowzers, the governor said

during the rainy season, a lot of water was lost and therefore needed to be harvested and used in dry spells.

Additionally, Irungu pointed out that the machines would also be used to construct dams for livestock use, hospitals, schools, and community conservancies to bolster the tourism sector in the vast Laikipia County.

"In partnership with ENNDA, we can do major projects and address the problem of water harvesting and irrigation. When we put our resources together, we can be able to achieve more," said the governor.

On his part, ENNDA Managing Director Eng. Ali Ibrahim Hassan said that the water drilling machines would go a long way in improving water infrastructure in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASALs).

"We have had the discussion on how we can collaborate and improve the water infrastructure in Laikipia using this equipment," said Eng. Hassan.

He extended an olive branch to other ASAL counties in the Northern region to join hands aimed at mitigating water shortages.



President Ruto Hints At Future Alliance With Raila’s ODM Party

By: KBC Digital

Worth Noting:

- “Our challenges are minimal compared to the opportunities that Kenya can take advantage of,” President Ruto said.
- Meanwhile, the President told Cabinet Secretaries and all government officials to serve Kenyans with dedication and fairness.
- He said there must be no room for bias and exclusion in his administration.
- “I want Cabinet Secretaries and all government officials to understand that there is no place for bias, discrimination, sectarianism and exclusion. All Kenyans must be served equally. We must move together as one people,” he said.
- He announced that in the ongoing Last Mile Electricity Connectivity Programme, Siaya has been allocated KSh1.3 billion to connect 17,000 households to electricity.



President William Ruto during in Ugunja during a thanksgiving ceremony for Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wanday

President William Ruto has reiterated that the recent appointment of Cabinet Secretaries from Raila Odinga’s ODM party is a strategic move aimed at promoting national unity, peace, and prosperity. Speaking during a thanksgiving ceremony for Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi at Sitindi grounds in Ugunja, the President said his close working relationship with Raila is for the greater good of the nation. “To my elder brother Raila Odinga, I know you’ve been my competitor but today we’ve come together, shoulder to shoulder, for the greater good of the country. I salute you,” he said. The President hinted at the possibility of the ruling alliance working Raila’s ODM party after the next three years. At the same time, he urged all leaders to take the lead and champion national unity among Kenyans. He said it is through unity that Kenyans can unlock Kenya’s potential for the great good of the nation. “Our challenges are minimal com-

pared to the opportunities that Kenya can take advantage of,” President Ruto said. Meanwhile, the President told Cabinet Secretaries and all government officials to serve Kenyans with dedication and fairness. He said there must be no room for bias and exclusion in his administration. “I want Cabinet Secretaries and all government officials to understand that there is no place for bias, discrimination, sectarianism and exclusion. All Kenyans must be served equally. We must move together as one people,” he said. He announced that in the ongoing Last Mile Electricity Connectivity Programme, Siaya has been allocated KSh1.3 billion to connect 17,000 households to electricity. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said it was time for the new Cabinet to serve Kenyans with humility and dedication. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi pointed out that the partnership between President Ruto and Mr Odinga was for the benefit of the

country. National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa said Kenyans should ignore leaders propagating regional and ethnic politics. Earlier, President Ruto commissioned the Mageta Island Solar Grid, which will connect 1,400 households to electricity. The project will also support fish trading by powering cold rooms and improving public service delivery in hospitals and schools. President Ruto said the installation of seven solar mini-grids, under the Kenya Electricity Modernisation Project, will enhance access to clean and reliable power supply. “This will reduce power costs for businesses and supply electricity to more than 4,000 households in Siaya County,” he said. He said the project will have a huge impact on the lives of Mageta Island residents, and described it as a gamechanger for the community. “It not only brings clean, renewable energy to the community, but also paves way for economic growth, improved healthcare, enhanced ed-

ucation and better security,” he said. Later, the President commissioned the Usonga Siriwo Rice Mill that will facilitate increased food production in Siaya and Busia counties. While in Siaya town, he broke ground for the construction of the Siaya Integrated Modern Market in Alego Usonga that will provide conducive working spaces to more than 1,000 traders. Additionally, the President announced that 11 new markets will be built in Siaya County and will enable value addition to farm produce and farmers and traders to earn more. President Ruto also laid the foundation stone for the Alego Usonga Affordable Housing Project, an 882-unit residential facility with modern houses equipped with essential amenities and infrastructure. Several Cabinet Secretaries, Governors and MPs accompanied the President.

SRC Recommends Structured Approach In CBA Negotiations

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) has recommended the establishment of a single body or multisectoral body to handle collective bargaining agreements for public servants in Kenya.

SRC Chairperson Lyn Mengich emphasised the need for a single-body approach model that addresses performance, harmonisation, sustainability, and avoids multiplicity in institutions requesting negotiations. saying the process should be taken step by step, considering the impact on other sectors and sustainability.

“The single-body process should be taken step by step until we get to the place where we desire,” she stated.

The cost of living affects all citizens, and the Commission aims to balance the interests of employees, taxpayers, and the country’s ability to manage pay rises.

She said the incoming commission-

ers will be looking at streamlining the allowances where inequitable pay happens in order to achieve harmonisation, noting that disparities in the allowances create a lot of inequity, noting allowances in some institutions go higher than 200 percent of basic salary.

Mengich added that SRC developed the allowances policy guideline for public service 2021 to provide a structured approach for streamlining the management and administration of allowances to improve transparency, accountability, equity, and fairness.

The incoming team will continue the process of harmonising and streamlining allowances to achieve fairness and transparency.

“SRC advises that public service employment be done on approved staff establishments vis-à-vis in-post establishments, and employees’ composition and in-post staffing levels be on the sustainability of the wage bill in the national government,” said Mengich.

To the commissioners who will take



Salaries and Remuneration Commission Chairperson Lyn Cherop Mengich (L) and Vice-Chairperson Dr. Amani Yuda Komora sharing a light moment during the media breakfast meeting on the Commission’s SRC End-of-Term Report (2018/2019-2023/2024) at Swiss-BelHotel International in Nairobi.

over from them, Mengich advised them to protect and adhere to the constitution and sovereignty of the people of Kenya and to put the interest of the citizenry first.

“They should balance what the public and public servants want. It is not always a comfortable position to be liked, but doing what is right as entrusted by the citizens,” she advised.



Ruto Is Walking The Talk In His Pledge To Slay The Dragon Of Corruption



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- It is worth to recall during the 2022 presidential election campaigns, the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition brigade depicted Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate Dr William Ruto as a person 'who did not believe in the war against corruption'.
- Dr Ruto would always hit back. My competitors are envious of my growing popularity across the country. They know I will defeat them and that is why they are targeting me with fake stories. As you are aware, I have been challenging them to prove their claims and take me to court if they have evidence. None of them will dare to do this because they know they were lying.

A few days ago, the principal magistrate of the Anti-Corruption Court delivered a landmark ruling.

For the first time since the promulgation of the 2010 constitution that created the 47 devolved governments, former Sumburu county governor Moses Lenolkul was found guilty of corruption charges and convicted.

The governor and his proxy will each spend eight years in prison. The magistrate however gave them an option of each paying a fine of Sh83 million.

The eight chief officers who served in Lenolkul's administration were each sentenced to four years or pay a fine of Sh700,000.

The Magistrate rightly noted. Corruption has become a cancerous disease in this country. It was ruining our economy at a high speed. This explains why I have come up with deterrent measures in this case.

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Dr Ruto would always hit back. My competitors are envious of my growing popularity across the country. They know I will defeat them and that is why they are targeting me with fake stories. As you are aware, I have been challenging them to prove their claims and take me to court if they have evidence. None of them will dare to do this because they know they were lying.

At the time, the 'handshake' government was at the helm of power. A number of corruption cases facing governors were pending in various courts.

President Uhuru Kenyatta left before anyone of them being convicted.

After he assumed office, President William started firing warnings to corrupt riddled state officials that their days were numbered. In this war, there will be no sacred cows and very soon you will start to see heads rolling.

This reminded me of when the devolved governments were introduced in Nigeria, the pioneer governors thought it was the time to eat.

While behaving like 'mini presidents', many of them embarked on an orgy of massive looting, wastage and mismanagement of taxpayers' money.

The public bore the greatest brunt. The actions of thier governors drastically hampered the provisions of the critical services and rolling out of meaningful development projects that would turn-around and better thier lives.

During the campaigns, they had made a lofty promises. It turns out that this was just a political card aimed at luring us to vote for them.

In the meantime, the President of Nigeria at the time kept warning these governors to shun the vice, failure to which they will face the full force of law.

As the President, I have a constitutional duty to protect the public funds and



Former Sumburu county governor Moses Lenolkul

other resources.

So I will not sit and watch you sabotage and run down our economy.

Your days are numbered. You owes it to the public to account for every penny of the funds that had been allocated to your respective devolved units.

Half of them, who failed to respond to the audit queries, were arrested and charged in various courts. They were found guilty and locked up in jails without an option of fine.

In Kenya, the story is the same. Though no conviction has ever been secured, the vice had permeated the core of the devolved units.

Since the 2010 constitution birthed the devolved units, a number of the current and former governors were on the spotlight.

Some had already been arraigned in courts after the anti-graft bodies concluded the Investigations.

We would only be treated to a drama when each was having a day in court.

After this appearance, the county CEO would be let off the hook by being released on a bond or a cash bail.

The county governments started operating during the reign of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Any time Uhuru pointed accusing finger at the governors, they would always hit back.

You have no constitutional power to tell us to quit. We were elected by the people the same way as you. It is only people who can remove us from the office. This is after five years when we shall go back to seek fresh mandate from them.

Again, you have no power to investigate leave alone prosecuting anyone of us.

This power is vested in the hands of

independent offices created by the constitution.

This would leave Kenyans with many questions. Where did we go wrong? Did we fail to interrogate the draft constitution and pass it blindly during the referendum?

This is because the governors seems to be untouchable and were behaving like 'small god'.

As such, this makes the president we elected to look like a toothless bulldog.

The other day the leadership of the 47 county governments in Kenya convened the eighth Devolution Conference that coincided with the marking of 10 years since the devolved units were established.

In his opening remarks, President William Ruto minced no word in calling on the governors to shun corruption, wastage and mismanagement of public resources.

I will not sit down and watch you engage in this vice at the expense of meeting the public expectations.

Kenyans want development projects and provisions of the services that would better their lives. That is why they elected you.

If your business now is stealing, then you are not worth to be called leaders and the law will follow its course.

As we know, the President took the oath office to manage and protect public resources of all Kenyans.

These resources must be spent prudently and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and other laws that governs public financial management.

So, will President Ruto succeed from where his predecessor failed?

For me, I think he will. First, the law is on his side. He is the overall CEO of this whole nation.

So he has a responsibility to safeguard the interests of all Kenyans.

As a governor, you have no legal power to tell him not to pursue you when you commit a crime. The constitution only shields the President from being prosecuted during his or her tenure in office.

It is true the President will not come for you (governor) directly.

He is however entitled to call on the investigative arms and the judiciary to pull up thier socks and take action against you. This is because the buck stops with him if the country goes into the wrong direction.

The other reason is. Dr Ruto is a decisive hands-on President. So you would not expect him to throw up his hands and ask 'what do you want me to do'.

Former President Uhuru had at one time surprised Kenyans when he posed that question.

This was during a meeting held at State House that brought together heads of anti-graft bodies and security agencies.

The public reactions was swift and many Kenyans observed. You have heard what the President has said. We are now on our own. Our fate now lies in the hands of God.

As I conclude, allow me to say this. The corrupt riddled governors were taking advantage of the Constitution and Judiciary to shield themselves. I therefore support the position of those saying that we need to review and amend some provisions of the constitution.

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

Digital Health: Kenya's Key Achievements Highlighted At Africa eHealth Leaders Forum



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Digital Health Act 2023, passed into law last year, lays the groundwork for integrating technology into Kenya's healthcare system. By establishing the Digital Health Agency, the government has created a dedicated body responsible for steering the country's digital health agenda.
- This agency plays a crucial role in coordinating the various digital health projects, ensuring they align with national healthcare goals, and leveraging technology to enhance service delivery.
- At the heart of these efforts is the Kenya Digital Health Superhighway, a groundbreaking project that aims to interconnect health facilities across the country through a robust digital infrastructure.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Medical Services, Mr. Harry Kimtai

Kenya's commitment to digital health took center stage at the Africa eHealth Leaders Forum held in Nairobi, where Principal Secretary for the State Department for Medical Services, Harry Kimtai, provided an optimistic update on the country's progress.

The forum, a significant gathering for health sector leaders across the continent, spotlighted Kenya's leading role in the digital transformation of healthcare.

During the forum's opening session, Kimtai highlighted Kenya's ambitious digital health initiatives, marking a major milestone in the country's journey toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC). Central to this progress is the Digital Health Act 2023, a legislative framework that has catalyzed the creation of the Digital Health Agency and the Kenya Digital Health Superhighway. These initiatives are pivotal in transforming how healthcare services are delivered, monitored, and managed across the nation.

The Digital Health Act 2023, passed into law last year, lays the groundwork for integrating technology into Kenya's healthcare system. By estab-

lishing the Digital Health Agency, the government has created a dedicated body responsible for steering the country's digital health agenda.

This agency plays a crucial role in coordinating the various digital health projects, ensuring they align with national healthcare goals, and leveraging technology to enhance service delivery.

At the heart of these efforts is the Kenya Digital Health Superhighway, a groundbreaking project that aims to interconnect health facilities across the country through a robust digital infrastructure.

According to Kimtai, the project is already 70 per cent complete, reflecting the government's dedication to accelerating the deployment of digital health services.

This digital superhighway will enable real-time data sharing between health facilities, improve patient outcomes through better diagnostics and treatment planning, and enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system.

One of the forum's key themes was the importance of leadership and governance in the successful implementation of digital health initiatives. Mr.

Kimtai underscored the government's proactive approach in this regard, noting that strong leadership and a clear governance framework have been instrumental in overcoming challenges related to infrastructure, funding, and capacity building.

The forum also served as a platform for sharing best practices and learning from other African countries that are making strides in digital health.

Participants from across the continent exchanged ideas on addressing common challenges such as inadequate digital literacy, limited internet access in remote areas, and the need for sustainable financing models to support digital health initiatives. Kenya's experiences and solutions were particularly highlighted as exemplary models for other nations aiming to digitize their healthcare systems.

Kenya's progress in digital health is not just a national achievement but a significant contribution to the broader African agenda of enhancing healthcare through technology. The country's efforts align with the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa, which envisions a digitally empowered continent by 2030.

By advancing its digital health infrastructure, Kenya is positioning itself as a leader in this continental initiative, offering valuable lessons in the application of digital tools to improve health outcomes.

As the forum concluded, Mr. Kimtai reiterated the government's commitment to continuing its investment in digital health, ensuring that all Kenyans have access to quality healthcare services regardless of their location. He expressed confidence that with the completion of the Digital Health Superhighway, Kenya would be well on its way to achieving UHC by leveraging technology to overcome the traditional barriers of distance, cost, and accessibility.

The Africa eHealth Leaders Forum not only highlighted Kenya's achievements but also reaffirmed the importance of regional collaboration in advancing digital health. As the country continues to build on its successes, it stands as a beacon of progress, demonstrating the transformative power of digital health in achieving a healthier, more equitable society.

Boda Boda Riders: Exposure To Risk Of Erectile Dysfunction



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- My medic brother recently narrated to me how after a boda boda ride on a rough stretch of road, he was left with a dull numbing pain in the groin area. It was as if someone had given him a few well aimed small kicks between the legs.
- He went further to explain the reason behind the pain and the possible effects in case of exposure over an extended period of time.
- According to research done by The Urology Research & Practice of Turkey in 2021, prevalence of erectile dysfunction among male motorcycle riders who did relatively long rides was at 57.7%.



Bodaboda operators waiting for customers

There are over three million public service motor cycles, Bodaboda in Kenya according to recent data from the Ministry of Transport.

Boda boda riders in all parts of Kenya by far exceed their Public Service Vehicle (PSV – or matatu) colleagues in the zeal to break traffic rules.

You will rarely find a boda boda rider wearing a safety helmet or other safety gear. They will at times carry up to four passengers and their luggage. They are known to carry all manner of loads – in a certain rural area a boda boda was once spotted carrying a fully grown cow together with its owner. In the cities and other urban areas, you will see boda bodas moving along verandas and pedestrian walk ways and footbridges in total

disregard of the danger posed and inconvenience caused to the pedestrians. I have never understood why they ride as if the devil is continuously yawning behind them - at break-neck speeds even on extremely rough surfaces. All this notwithstanding, the boda boda sector is a very essential player in the economy with a contribution of close to five billion shillings daily.

My medic brother recently narrated to me how after a boda boda ride on a rough stretch of road, he was left with a dull numbing pain in the groin area. It was as if someone had given him a few well aimed small kicks between the legs.

He went further to explain the reason behind the pain and the possible

effects in case of exposure over an extended period of time.

According to research done by The Urology Research & Practice of Turkey in 2021, prevalence of erectile dysfunction among male motorcycle riders who did relatively long rides was at 57.7%. The dull numbing pain my medic brother felt was contributed by the narrow bike seat that did not fully support his pelvis 'sit' bones and off course the knocking effect in that vital zone on being thrown up and down as the bike sped over the rough stretch of road. That area between the anus and the scrotum is known as Perinium. In the perineum we have the perineal artery which takes blood to the scrotal area (testes and surroundings) and the artery

of bulb which supplies blood to the male organ. There is also the superficial perineal nerve which serves the same area.

Therefore, the narrow bike seat puts pressure on these nerves and arteries thus reducing blood supply to the surrounding area and the dull numbness and pain are the symptoms. Inadequate supply of blood to these organs results in insufficient sperm production and possibility of erectile dysfunction. For our boda boda riders, this pressure and the constant pounding on the perinium as they race through rough roads at high speeds can only make things worse. A keen observer will notice that our riders sit partly on the seat and partly on the fuel tank. This is due to being accustomed to carrying 2 or 3 passengers forcing them to move forwards in order to create space. It implies that their "mirigo" (goods) are literally resting on the metallic fuel tank. The damage is of course compounded by the hard metallic surface. According to medics, it was the creator's intention by design that the male reproductive apparatus should remain in a hanging position for good health and functionality. What is most worrying is that during the slow section of the day especially late afternoons, instead of our riders taking their rest on the benches provided within their sheds, they insist on continuing to sit on their bikes in the same riding position. So in a nutshell, we can conservatively estimate that for several hours each day, we have about two million young Kenyan males literally sitting on their 'nuts' and thus unknowingly at risk of getting erectile dysfunction and if they eventually manage to rise to the occasion, they will most probably be shooting blanks.

You may relate to the experience of my medic brother or maybe to that of a close boda boda rider which might add credence to my hypothesis. It is however imperative that our experts conduct comprehensive research in the boda boda sector to assess the extent of the perceived occupational hazard. In the meantime, whenever you can, please advise those fellows to get off their bikes and sit on the benches as they wait for their customers.

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

Spring



Spring comes; there is a blossom on the ground,
The messenger of spring is this beautiful snowdrop,
The trees wake up like a bride,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

The Sun rises and spread its rays around,
The days start to be warm and cheer up,
Flowers begin to grow and create the garden,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

The land is green, the grass has grown,
The birds sing beautifully in the sky,
The breeze blows gently many times every day,

Spring is unique among the seasons.

Every morning the dew falls on the leaves,
This beauty is indescribable to anyone,
Everywhere is full of spring smells,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

It's raining softly, there's a gentle breeze,
The smell of soil spreads, it is a scented,
Streams are overflowing, dust is disappearing,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

The falling drops from the sky are a miracle,
Who draws a rainbow in the spring sky?
Colorful rainbows and rain are gorgeous,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

All people love the season of the spring,
Every year on these days they wait for renewal,
Nature is rejuvenating, it's a wonderful time,
Spring is unique among the seasons.

Author: Yuldosheva Marjona Nasrullo

I Have Many Questions



By: Rakhmatova Umida, Uzbekistan

Why did our ancestors of the last century fight so much for us to be independent, to develop, to learn, to be able to think freely? What are we, the people of the 21st century, doing so much, what can we do? We are just proud of them. Even many of our current youth, who are our ancestors, who are Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, Babur, Mirza Ulugbek, Ibn Sina, Said Ahmad, Cholpon, Furqat, Abdulla Avloni, Otkir Hashimov, what did he do, who was he, what did he do for society and freedom they don't know what they did, what they gave up. They are not interested in how this peaceful, peaceful, developed world became like this, who shed blood, who was our friend, who was our enemy, why so many innocent women and children died, why

so many scientists were exiled and hanged for no good reason. Not only the children, but also their parents do not know about it, even if they do, they turn a blind eye and do not introduce their ancestors to their children. What is this ignorance? Watching the every move of foreign singers and actors without knowing the identity and history of the people who died for you? Where is society going? Why do you forget so easily the people who fought for you?

If at that time they did not fight, if they did not start the Renaissance period, if scientists and virtues did not come out of us, would we be the present-day peaceful, peaceful, developing Uzbekistan, where the people can freely express their opinion? Read and listen to these over and over again. How can you benefit the society now after so many sacrifices?

I think that this applies not only to Uzbekistan, but every nation that is proud of and loves its country should respect its history and culture.

Mother...



By: Komilova Ozoda Olim

A mother's love is simple to do the humanly impossible is an enabling fuel.
(M.C. Garrett)

Mother... For some, it's just a three-letter word. And for me, when I stumble from life's shocks, my mother is the person who motivates me to get back up from where I stumbled, who gives order and meaning to my life, she is an angel on earth given by God, she is a faithful friend, she spends a lot of time with her little child. Mother is the first teacher who gives the first knowledge about the world. In fact, there are not enough words in these languages to describe mother. However, it should be polished and described with beautiful words. After all, let the hearts that hear your words be moved. Yes, mother is such a creature that poems and epics are written about her, and the hearts that read them tremble. Mothers are the same

in reality, they raise their children with love, they see the best things in their lives for their children, they put their children first in their lives. As Victor Hugo said, "A mother's hands are made of love, in which children sleep peacefully." Mother's unconditional love, attention, love, selflessness are feelings and moments that we can never get back from anyone. Why don't you say that, because there will be a day when you will thank your best friend for doing something good for you. A mother's love and affection is infinite, it cannot be compared with any relationship. You will never find a pure mother-daughter or mother-son relationship. Being a mother is not an easy task, because she has to put aside her own happiness every day in order to focus on the happiness of her children. Even if mothers hold their children by their hands until they grow up, when their children grow up, they will still be their little ones in their hearts. Mothers are heroes who only know how to give love and attention and expect nothing in return. But this does not mean that they will not be happy with unexpected gifts. Therefore, life is one day, and it is today, don't wait for tomorrow, take care of your mother from this moment, spend more time with her, make your mother the meaning of your life, as you are the meaning of your mother's life. Your mother deserves all your love, attention and gratitude. Express your love for him sometimes with sweet words and sometimes with unexpected gifts.

My Mercy, My Soul, My Teacher



There is no limit to your mercy, teacher,
The teacher is satisfied with the students.
You are an incomparable teacher.
My mercy, my soul, my teacher

May your faces never be wet?
My love is in the net of my heart.
Even write a ghazal for you
My mercy, my soul, my teacher

May God bless you,
Let them give us your way.
May God bless you in your old age?
My mercy, my soul, my teacher 🍀

Murodillovaeva Mohinur 🍀

Your bright eyes like the sun,
What you said is an example.
A little girl like you
My mercy, my soul, my teacher

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Nakuru Reviews Tourism Marketing Strategy

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives, Stephen Kuria, has announced the establishment of the Nakuru County Tourism Board to enhance Nakuru's visibility in the global tourism market.

The board will focus on marketing aspects of tourism products that have not been marketed in Nakuru, such as the Menengai Crater, Hyrax Hill Museum, and Kariandusi prehistoric site.

"There are aspects of tourism in Nakuru that have not been marketed, and these are the ones we are seeking to leverage on to attract more visitors to the tourist town," he said.

The Nakuru County Tourist and Marketing Act provides a comprehensive legal framework for the development, management, marketing, and regulation of sustainable tourism in the county.

"We have begun paying attention

to marketing in particular because that is the persuasive element of the strategy.

It is marketing that will get us our rightful consideration among potential tourists and help us realise our rightful numbers," said Kuria.

The board will market Nakuru at national, regional, and international levels as a premier tourism and filming destination, identify market needs, advise tourism stakeholders on market trends, recommend culturally, archaeologically, and ecologically sensitive tourism areas for gazettement, establish and develop county tourist health facilities, and promote water sports and big game fishing activities.

Kuria believes that globalisation has increased competition in Kenya's tourism sector, and the board must exploit this potential for devolution.

The CECM noted that both the national and county governments have ensured adequate security and developed infrastructure to promote tourism.

NaxCity Kenya CEO Ms. Catherine Kanyi highlighted the need for



innovation and change in marketing strategy for the development of the tourism sector, emphasising the importance of promoting intra-Africa tourism and focusing on the rich potential of the region.

"There are countries in Africa that attract up to seven times the number of tourists as we do with fewer and less stunning attractions than we have," she said.

"We also need to start thinking

about promoting intra-African tourism. Africa has a population of about 1.2 billion people but only receives 62 million tourists, which is disappointing," Ms. Kanyi pointed out.

Gov't Launches Public Participation Exercise On Maisha Card Regulations

By: KBC Digital

The government is next week set to begin public participation on regulations to govern issuance of Maisha Card as well as birth and death certificates.

Regional and country commissioners will coordinate public and stakeholder participation forums on the planned launch of the IDs.

Immigration PS Julius Bitok who chaired a meeting with regional and county commissioners to plan public participation for the regulations at the Kenya School of Government, said the government was aiming at extensive and interactive forums to enrich the draft regulations.

He assured the public that their feedback on the draft regulations will be taken seriously as the government hopes to avoid the pitfalls that have dogged previous attempts to introduce new ID cards in the country.

"Public participation is not merely

a procedural obligation but a fundamental aspect of our democratic system. It presents a unique opportunity to dispel misconceptions about Maisha Namba and Maisha Card, ensuring that citizens grasp the benefits and scope of these initiatives," said Bitok.

He said the planned forums will be a continuation of similar ones held with other stakeholders and interest groups.

"Over the past year, we have conducted 800 public engagement exercises, and we will continue until every Kenyan comprehends and embraces the Maisha Namba system," he said.

The PS, however, clarified that the expiry of a Maisha Card will not amount to a loss of citizenship, with the bearer only required to renew the document.

Bitok added that all new applications of maisha cards will cost Ksh300.

So far, the government has printed 1.6 million Maisha Cards.



Julius Bitok, Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary..



PROJECT CATALOG

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

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Navigating The Legacy Of Colonialism And Embracing Indigenous Heritage



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- During one of our late-night study sessions, my fiancée Conso and I found ourselves deep in discussion about precolonial religious practices in Kenya. I argued passionately that the Kikuyu, among other Kenyan communities, worshipped under the Mugumo tree, emphasizing the significance of such practices in maintaining their spiritual connection and cultural heritage.
- I contended that these practices were not merely relics of the past but living traditions that held immense value in understanding the historical and cultural identity of the Kenyan people.
- Consolata, however, was taken aback by my assertions and responded with visible frustration. Her reaction was a mixture of exasperation and a demand for clarity. She questioned, "So what's your suggestion?"



Colonialism and Embracing Indigenous Heritage.

Lord Macaulay's 1835 address to the British Parliament serves as a chilling reflection of colonial attitudes towards the African continent. Macaulay's declaration reveals a deep-seated belief in the superiority of British values and culture, coupled with a disdain for the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of African societies. He argued that the only way to ensure the dominance of the British Empire over Africa was to undermine its ancient systems of education and cultural practices. According to Macaulay, if Africans began to value foreign, particularly English, ideas and institutions above their own, they would lose their self-esteem and cultural identity, thus becoming easier to control and dominate. This view epitomizes the colonial mindset that sought to replace indigenous cultures with European norms, not only to exploit resources but also to reshape the very essence of African societies.

Religion played a significant role in this cultural erosion. In precolonial Kenya, various communities had rich spiritual practices deeply intertwined with their daily lives. For instance, the Kikuyu people worshipped under the Mugumo tree, a sacred symbol of their connection to their ancestors and the divine. This tree was not merely a natural object but a central component of their religious rites and societal structure. The Kikuyu believed that the Mugumo tree was a place where they could communicate with Ngai, their creator god, and seek guidance or blessings. Such practices

were integral to their identity, providing a sense of community and continuity through generations.

During one of our late-night study sessions, my fiancée Conso and I found ourselves deep in discussion about precolonial religious practices in Kenya. I argued passionately that the Kikuyu, among other Kenyan communities, worshipped under the Mugumo tree, emphasizing the significance of such practices in maintaining their spiritual connection and cultural heritage. I contended that these practices were not merely relics of the past but living traditions that held immense value in understanding the historical and cultural identity of the Kenyan people.

Consolata, however, was taken aback by my assertions and responded with visible frustration. Her reaction was a mixture of exasperation and a demand for clarity. She questioned, "So what's your suggestion? Understanding our heritage requires a balanced view. We must honor our ancestors' traditions while also embracing change. It's about integrating history with progress, not rejecting either." Her response reflected a deep-seated concern about my stance on the role of religion in our discussions. The argument about precolonial religious practices had evidently touched a nerve, highlighting a tension between traditional beliefs and contemporary viewpoints.

Realizing that our discussion was escalating into a more heated exchange, I took a step back to dilute the conver-

sation and address her concerns more thoughtfully. I reassured her that my intention was not to undermine the value of religion but to explore and appreciate the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage. I acknowledged the importance of these traditions in shaping our understanding of history and identity while also recognizing the need for respectful dialogue about how these practices fit into modern contexts.

By steering the conversation towards a more collaborative exploration, I aimed to bridge the gap between our differing perspectives. I emphasized that the discussion was not about rejecting or diminishing religious practices but about understanding their historical significance and their place in our contemporary lives. This approach helped to calm the situation and allowed us to engage in a more constructive dialogue, appreciating the depth of our cultural heritage while navigating the complexities of modern beliefs and practices.

The episode with Consolata underscores the broader issue highlighted by Macaulay's address. The attempt to replace indigenous cultures and religions with foreign values and systems not only disregards the rich heritage of African societies but also disrupts the spiritual and cultural continuity that has shaped their identity for centuries. The conversation with Consolata, while challenging, also serves as a reminder of the need to engage in respectful and informed discussions about our cultural and

spiritual heritage.

In reflecting on Macaulay's perspective and its implications, it becomes clear that the preservation of cultural and spiritual practices is crucial in maintaining the identity and autonomy of any society. The impact of colonialism on African cultures has been profound, leading to the erosion of traditional practices and the imposition of foreign values. However, the resilience of these cultures and the ongoing efforts to reclaim and celebrate them are a testament to the enduring strength of indigenous identities.

Ultimately, the struggle to balance respect for traditional practices with the demands of modernity is a complex but essential endeavor. It involves recognizing the value of historical practices while also embracing the need for adaptation and growth. Through thoughtful dialogue and mutual understanding, we can navigate these complexities and ensure that our cultural and spiritual heritage continues to enrich our lives and shape our collective identity.

The richness of precolonial practices, like those of the Kikuyu worshipping under the Mugumo tree, exemplifies the deep connection between cultural heritage and spiritual beliefs. These practices were not just about religion but were integral to the social fabric of the communities, influencing their worldview, ethics, and way of life. By appreciating and respecting these traditions, we honor the legacy of our ancestors and contribute to a more inclusive and informed understanding of our cultural heritage.

Macaulay's address serves as a historical reminder of the colonial intent to undermine indigenous cultures and the importance of preserving and valuing our spiritual and cultural heritage. The discussion with Consolata highlights the need for respectful and open dialogue about these issues, ensuring that we recognize and celebrate the richness of our traditions while navigating the complexities of the modern world. By doing so, we honor our past and build a more inclusive and respectful future.

This article was scripted by:
MIDMARK ONSONGO
(Sustainable economist, Geopolitics strategist)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Case for Dividing Mt. Kenya: A Path to Empowerment or Division?

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

Mbeere North MP Geoffrey Ruku's proposal to divide the Mt. Kenya region into Mt. Kenya East and West has ignited significant political discourse. Advocating for the leadership of influential figures like Cabinet Secretaries Kithure Kindiki and Justin Muturi, Ruku's call reflects a growing frustration with ongoing power struggles within the region. This proposal not only highlights the need for localized governance but also underscores the broader issues of representation and political identity in Kenya's evolving landscape.

The Mt. Kenya region has historically been a political powerhouse, but recent tensions have revealed deep divisions among its leaders. Ruku's suggestion to split the region is a response to these fractures, aiming to create a more cohesive political environment for Mt. Kenya East. By focusing on independent development goals, Ruku believes that the region can better address its unique challenges without the overshadowing influence of broader regional politics.

Critics of Ruku's proposal argue that dividing the region could further fragment its political influence on the national stage. Deputy President

Rigathi Gachagua and Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri have been at the forefront of this debate, with Gachagua positioning himself as the leader of the entire Mt. Kenya region. Kiunjuri's opposition to Gachagua's leadership reflects a broader concern that a singular leadership approach may not adequately represent the diverse interests of the region's constituents.

Ruku's comments during a church service in Embu County resonate with many who feel disillusioned by the constant political maneuvering that has characterized the region's leadership. His call for a split is not merely about political boundaries; it symbolizes a desire for a more focused and effective governance model that prioritizes the needs of local communities. This sentiment is echoed by constituents who are weary of political infighting that detracts from essential development initiatives.

The timing of Ruku's proposal is crucial, as political factions are solidifying ahead of the 2027 General Election. With various leaders vying for dominance, the question of who will emerge as the region's kingpin remains contentious. Ruku's advocacy for a split could be seen as a strategic move to consolidate support for Kindiki and Muturi, who are viewed as capable

leaders with the potential to unite Mt. Kenya East.

Moreover, Ruku's proposal reflects a growing trend among Kenyan politicians to seek localized solutions to national problems. The push for a more decentralized approach to governance aligns with calls for constitutional amendments that would ensure fair representation and resource allocation. This resonates with many voters who feel that their voices have been marginalized in the current political framework.

However, the potential for increased division raises concerns about the long-term implications for the region's unity. Leaders like Kiunjuri warn that fragmentation could weaken Mt. Kenya's influence in national politics, making it more challenging to advocate for the region's interests. The delicate balance between pursuing localized governance and maintaining a unified front is a critical consideration for all stakeholders involved.

As discussions around Ruku's proposal continue, it is essential for leaders to engage in constructive dialogue that prioritizes the needs of their constituents. The focus should be on building consensus and finding common ground that fosters collaboration rather than division. Only through unity can the



Mbeere North MP Geoffrey Ruku.

Mt. Kenya region effectively navigate the complexities of Kenya's political landscape.

In conclusion, Geoffrey Ruku's proposal to divide the Mt. Kenya region is a reflection of the underlying tensions and aspirations within the area. While it presents an opportunity for localized governance, it also poses challenges that require careful consideration. As the region moves forward, the emphasis must be on fostering unity and col-

laboration among its leaders to ensure that the voices of all constituents are heard and represented. The future of Mt. Kenya may depend on how well its leaders can balance the pursuit of localized interests with the need for collective strength in national politics.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Kenyan Police Contingent Secures Critical Infrastructure, Restores Hope In Haiti

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The Kenyan police contingent deployed to Haiti as part of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) has made significant progress in the two months since their arrival, according to Acting Inspector General Gilbert Masengeli. Despite initial delays and concerns, the Kenyan forces have successfully secured critical infrastructure, restored public safety, and enabled the return of thousands of displaced Haitians.

The Kenyan police have taken control of the main international airport in Port-au-Prince, which was previously under gang control. This strategic move has been crucial for restoring order and facilitating humanitarian efforts in the country. Additionally, the contingent has pacified threats to public safety, reducing violence in areas heavily affected by

gang activities and creating a more stable environment for the local population.

One of the most significant achievements of the Kenyan police has been their role in enabling the return of thousands of displaced Haitians to their homes. By securing neighborhoods and opening up critical roads, the officers have provided a sense of normalcy and hope for many families who have been forced to flee their homes due to the escalating violence.

Masengeli commended the dedication and patriotism of the MSS Force Commander Godfrey Otunge and his team, praising their efforts in the face of numerous challenges. The mission has received additional equipment and vehicles from France and the US in recent weeks to aid their operations, highlighting the international community's commitment to supporting Haiti.

The Kenyan-led mission in Haiti was authorized by the UN Security Council in October 2023 to help stabilize the country from criminal gangs. This deployment follows a request from the Haitian government, which has faced escalating violence and political instability since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021.

Despite initial delays due to legal challenges and concerns over past interventions, the Kenyan police have begun to make strides in addressing the pervasive gang violence that has plagued Haiti. The mission aims to assist the Haitian National Police in restoring security and stability amid a humanitarian crisis affecting millions.

The Kenyan police contingent, part of a larger multinational force, includes officers from various countries, emphasizing global cooperation

in addressing Haiti's challenges. The mission is primarily funded by the United States, highlighting the international community's commitment to supporting Haiti.

As the situation evolves, Masengeli has expressed confidence in the mission's ability to restore peace and stability in Haiti. The Kenyan police continue to work closely with local authorities and international partners to ensure the success of their operations.

The mission's success is critical not only for the safety of the Haitian people but also for the broader regional stability in the Caribbean. The Kenyan police's efforts are a testament to international solidarity in addressing complex security challenges faced by nations in crisis.

However, the mission is not without its challenges. Language barriers, concerns over past interventions,

and the sheer scale of the violence in Haiti pose significant obstacles to the Kenyan police's efforts. Nonetheless, their achievements in securing critical infrastructure, restoring public safety, and enabling the return of displaced Haitians demonstrate the potential for progress in the face of adversity.

As the mission continues, it is crucial that the international community remains committed to supporting the Kenyan police and the Haitian government in their efforts to restore peace and stability. With continued cooperation and a steadfast commitment to addressing the root causes of the violence, there is hope for a brighter future for the people of Haiti.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Kenya Secures Sh40bn Chinese Loan To Revive 15 Stalled Road Projects

By: Irene Mwangi
@themkenyentimes

The government has secured a Sh40 billion loan from China to complete 15 stalled road projects across more than ten counties, easing the burden of unfinished infrastructure. Ndindi Nyoro, Chairman of the Budget and Appropriation Committee, announced that construction, will begin next month and is expected to span three years.

The Kiharu MP revealed that the agreement was a result of ongoing negotiations following President William Ruto's state visit to China last October. "We identified around 15 projects that have not progressed beyond 20 percent. Contractors are expected to be on-site by September," Nyoro stated. The announcement comes amidst growing public concern over stalled projects initiated by both the Jubilee and Kenya Kwanza administrations. Lawyer David Morara recently gained attention for launching a nationwide tour to inspect these projects,



/KURA..

including one of the 15 prioritized for completion. President Ruto has emphasized that his administration will prioritize the completion of ongoing road projects over initiating new ones. Nyoro added that the Ksh 40 billion loan will also help reduce pending bills and the backlog of stalled projects. The government has allocated Ksh 60 billion for road projects in the current financial year, focusing on supporting ongoing work amid financial constraints. "We are channeling our limited resources towards domestic contractors to complete these road projects," Nyoro affirmed. Delays in disbursements and budget cuts have forced many contractors to slow down or abandon projects, further stalling development. The National Treasury currently owes contractors over Ksh 150 billion for completed road projects nationwide. "For the last ten years, we've taken on more than we can manage, leading to numerous stalled projects, especially in roads, where commitments exceed Ksh 800 billion," Nyoro noted.

Prioritized Projects

Among the projects to be prioritized is the 64.5-kilometer Metembe-Owalo-Rioma-Marani-Ng'enyi/Ting'a-Bobaracho-Ragogo-Kegogi-Nyakoora-Rioma-Gesieka-Nyaore-Mararo road, previously flagged as a failed project. Other key projects include: The 75.92-kilometer Kaibot-Kapkatembo-Kipkaren Selia-Kaiboi, Maili Nne-Tuiyo, Soko-Tuiyo-Aturei road, which will be completed under the Chinese funding agreement within three years. The Ksh 15 billion Barpelot-Tot-Marich Pass road (43 kilometers) connecting Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, and West Pokot counties. The 42-kilometer Kanyaumbora-Kamomo-Kageri/Muvakari-Kanyumbora/Gachoka-Gachuriri/Kangeta-Kiumbuini Roads in Embu and Kirinyaga Counties. The 55-kilometer Piaimurinduko, Mumbuni-Kiumbuini-Ndindiruku-Marurumo-Kiandegwa road in Kirinyaga County. The 56-kilometer Ndaragwa-Maili Kumi/Ndaragwa-Kanyagia-Subuku, Ndaragwa-Ngamiini-Uruko, JnctB5-Karagoini Secondary School-Wakohoti Cent-

tre-Leshau Boys Secondary School, and Pesi-Kilimanjaro-Shamata Roads in Nyandarua County. The 40.2-kilometer Ichamara-Thangathi-Rutune-Kariru-Kimathi/Mihuti-Rutune and Maseno River Sagana-Githuani-A2 Kariti Roads in Nyeri County. The 40-kilometer upgrading of the Njoro-Beeston-Nesuit/Beeston-Lawina-Elburgon/Mauchesururu roads in Nakuru County. Advertisement. Scroll to continue reading. The 61-kilometer Eronge-Ke-buse-Kahawa-Memisi-Tembwo/Border-Borabu TTC-Omonyanya, Amakara-Isoge-Chebilat, Chenchasimbauti-Tindereti-Nyansiongo Mission, Kineni Junction road in Kisii County. The 50-kilometer Kinyany-Ar-ror-Kapsowar Road in Elgeyo Marakwet and the 63-kilometer Tim-boroa-Miteitei-Kopere road in Nandi County. The 25-kilometer Cess (Nghonji)-Rekeke-Lake Jipe Road in Taita Taveta County. The 31.5-kilometer Tawa-Nguluni Road in Makueni County.

Human Rights Groups To Present Names Of Those Abducted To President Ruto

By: Sharon Resian
@themkenyentimes

Human Rights activist groups said they will send a delegation to State House on September 4 to present a list of those killed and disappeared to the President in efforts to stop extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the country. Speaking on Friday, Vocal Africa group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Hussein Khalid said extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances have become a major human rights concern in the country since the onset of GenZ protests. Khalid also questioned the delayed DNA results two months after retrieving at least 42 women's bodies from the Kware dumpsite in Embakasi, demanding justice. He called on the government to own up to the escape of prime suspect of the Kware Killing Collins Jumaisi. "We can no longer remain silent

over the issue. Justice must be done now. These tragic discoveries remind us of the urgent need for justice and accountability. We stand with the families as they seek answers and fight for the truth," Khalid said. The suspect Jumaisi escaped with 12 other Eritreans who had been detained at the station for illegal immigration from Gigiri Police station. Additionally, the Police Reforms Working Group, a human rights lobby, also raised concerns about three individuals who the group claims are still missing and were abducted on the 19th of August in Kitengela during the Gen Z protests. The Lobby team described the situation, stating that Bob Njagi, Aslam Longton, and Jamil Longton have been missing for eleven days now in unclear circumstances, which demonstrates a total disregard for the rule of law. "We call upon Inspector General of Police to investigate and reveal the identities of the men who abducted the three men and have them presented before court of competent juris-

diction in line with the constitutional provisions and orders issued by the High Court," read a statement. The Lobby has however called on President Ruto to uphold the promise of addressing the rising cases of enforced disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrest and ensure all state agencies abide by law when executing arrests. They called on the government to take immediate responsibility to hold those responsible in these violations accountable and prevent further occurrences. "Your current leadership on this matter is crucial in restoring justice and upholding the human rights of all Kenyans. We call on the National Assembly to remain seized by and act on these constitutional violations and enact legislations to protect Kenyans against forced disappearance, abductions, and investigate those responsible for such," read the statement. This comes as the country celebrates the International Day for Victims of Enforced Disappearance usually held every year on August 30.



On 21 December 2010, a United Nations General Assembly resolution expressed "deep concern at the increase in incidents of enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and at the increasing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses to disappearances or relatives of disappeared persons." The same resolution welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and declared 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

Investing In Education: Police DT Sacco Hands Over School Infrastructure To Utumishi

By: KBC Digital

The Kenya National Police DT SACCO marked a significant milestone in its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives on Thursday by handing over newly constructed classrooms, a multipurpose hall, and 440 sets of school furniture to Utumishi Comprehensive School in Gilgil. The SACCO stated that it utilized its impressive financial resources in the exercise. This includes an asset base of over Ksh 55 billion, a loan portfolio exceeding Ksh 46 billion, and total deposits surpassing Ksh 32 billion. The SACCO also noted that this gesture showcases the cooperative's dedication to fostering education and community development. The new facilities will enhance the learning environment, accommodate 800 more students, and support a wider range of educational and extra-curricular activities. "Investing in education is not just a philanthropic act, it is an investment

in the future of our nation," said Mr. Solomon Atsiaya, CEO of the Kenya National Police DT SACCO. "This project is a tangible demonstration of our commitment to building a brighter tomorrow for the leaders of tomorrow. It is particularly significant given that 30% of Kenyan schools lack adequate infrastructure, impacting the education of over 4 million students nationwide. By investing in Utumishi Comprehensive School, the SACCO is helping to bridge the educational divide and ensure that all students have equal opportunities to succeed," added the CEO. The SACCO's involvement in the project extends beyond the physical infrastructure. They have actively engaged with the local community to ensure the project's sustainability and alignment with community needs. Additionally, the SACCO has implemented initiatives to improve financial literacy among students, empowering them to make informed financial decisions. "The Kenya National Police DT SACCO's investment in education



sets a new standard for corporate social responsibility in Kenya. By prioritizing the well-being of future generations, the SACCO is demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development and its role as a responsible corporate citizen," said

Atsiaya. According to the CEO, this project has important implications for the Kenyan landscape. he says it not only addresses the urgent need for educational infrastructure but also contributes to the government's goal of

achieving universal access to quality education. Furthermore, he concluded that this project serves as a powerful example of how private sector entities can effectively drive change.

Tessie Mudavadi Urges Youth To Exploit Online Platforms For Business, Jobs



The spouse to the Prime Cabinet Secretary Tessie Mudavadi has called youth in the country to exploit online platforms to do business and create jobs and wealth for a robust economy. Mudavadi says social media, while ubiquitously used for information and entertain-

ment, can as well help savvy users to develop and expand markets for skills and products produced locally for gainful income. She was speaking in Nakuru during the launch of Ushirika Wema initiative that brought together more than 1,000 young entrepreneurs drawn from various parts of Nakuru County in a capacity building programme in commerce and innovation. The youthful participants ply various trades in manufacturing, Information and Communication Technology, transport and hospitality sectors. Mudavadi noted that youth are key participants in Kenya's quest for a middle income economy by the year 2030 saying innovation and networking are key levers to this goal. Echoing her sentiments, Nakuru County Trade, Cooperatives and Tourism Executive Committee Member Stephen Kuria urged young people to take advantage of available trading facilities that have been established by the County Government and tax breaks to improve their livelihoods. Kuria said besides trading infrastructure, the County Government of Nakuru has allocated Ksh.100 Million in this financial year to support startups of youth and women in the County.

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Sports >> *Arsenal's new signing Mikel Merino has been ruled out for several weeks with a shoulder injury that will force the Spain midfielder to wait for his debut.

Arsenal Hit By Merino Injury Blow



Euro 2024 - Quarter Final - Spain v Germany - Stuttgart Arena, Stuttgart, Germany - July 5, 2024 Spain's Mikel Merino celebrates scoring their second goal
REUTERS/Heiko Becker/File photo.

Arsenal's new signing Mikel Merino has been ruled out for several weeks with a shoulder injury that will force the Spain midfielder to wait for his debut.

Gunners boss Mikel Arteta revealed Merino suffered the injury setback in his first training session with the club when teammate Gabriel Magalhaes accidentally fell on him.

Merino only joined Arsenal from Real Sociedad earlier this week and was in contention to make his first appearance in Saturday's Premier League clash with Brighton.

Instead Merino, who came off the bench to help Spain win the Euro 2024 final against England, will spend his first few weeks in north London on the treatment table.

"It's very unfortunate. Yesterday (Thursday) he had a collision and he's got a shoulder injury and it looks like he'll be

out for a few weeks," Arteta told reporters on Friday.

"It was in his first session with us. It's really bad luck, we were all excited, everything was looking good. He landed on the floor, Gabriel fell on top of him and it looks like he has a small fracture. "He was in so much pain, we have to see. He'll do more tests which will have more conclusive answers."

Meanwhile, Arteta said Arsenal are set to sign a goalkeeper before the transfer window closes on Friday evening.

England keeper Aaron Ramsdale left Arsenal to join Southampton on Friday after losing his place to David Raya last season.

The Gunners are reported to have agreed a loan deal for Bournemouth's Neto to serve as Raya's back-up.

- 'Build the numbers' -

"When he joined he brought a

lot of joy, charisma and energy and he was good at that time," Arteta said of Ramsdale.

"Things developed and there was a situation where things were difficult for him and he insisted that he is happy when he plays so we had to fulfil that desire he had.

"We lost Aaron and Karl (Hein), we need to replace them both."

Arteta has also been linked with Raheem Sterling, but refused to comment on a potential move for the out-of-favour Chelsea forward.

"You know that I can't talk about any other player," he said.

"In terms of the numbers and the quality, can we improve the squad? For sure there are margins there.

"We know about the depth of the squad and it's something that we cannot change dramatically in one or two seasons.

"We are constantly trying to

build the numbers, which is something critical, and on top of that bring more quality."

Arsenal have won their opening two games of the season as they look to finally end Manchester City's reign as champions after finishing second for the last two years.

But Brighton could pose a tricky test for Arteta's men, with the Seagulls' new manager Fabian Hurszler masterminding a pair of victories including last weekend's surprise success against Manchester United.

"We try to prepare like every manager and team. We have to do the same against a team tomorrow who are doing really well against a coach who brings a new regime in what will be a tough match," Arteta said.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Team Kenya’s captain, Samuel Mushai, was Friday unlucky after he was disqualified in the Paris Paralympics men’s 5000m T11 final that was won by Júlio César Agripino of Brazil

Kenya’s Mushai Disqualified At Paralympics 5000m T11 Final



Kenya’s Mushai Samuel and his guide (L) races to win the gold medal followed by Wanyoike Henry 15 July 2007 in the handisport 1500m-Men T11 final at the 9th All-African-Games 2007 in Algiers AFP PHOTO / Fayez NURELDINE (Photo by FAYEZ NURELDINE / AFP).

Team Kenya’s captain, Samuel Mushai, was Friday unlucky after he was disqualified in the Paris Paralympics men’s 5000m T11 final that was won by Júlio César Agripino of Brazil in a new world record of 14 mins 48.85 seconds at Stade de France.

The decision saw the two-time Paralympics champion’s dream to reclaim his Rio 2016 title dashed after failing to adhere to the International Paralympics Committee (IPC) competition rules.

The two-time world champion, who landed in Paris as the eighth

fastest this season, is a multiple Paralympics medallist after winning silver in 1500m T11 in 2008 Beijing Games before improving to gold medal in 2012 London Games.

He clinched gold in 5000m T11 in the Rio Games four years later but relinquished the title in Tokyo in 2021 where he failed to make the podium.

Meanwhile, Kenyan para-rower Asiya Sururu timed 12mins 8.84 seconds to finish sixth in Heat 1 of women’s single sculls that was won by Moran Samuel of Israel.

Sururu however has a second chance to redeem herself through the Repechage route on Saturday at 10:30am.

Sururu, who is Team Kenya’s deputy captain, became the first Kenyan para-rower athlete to compete at the Paralympics in the Tokyo Games.

Also in action on Friday was Julieta Moipo who lost 19-4 to Marija Micev of Serbia in the women’s round of 16 under 57 kilogrammes K44.

Citizen Sport

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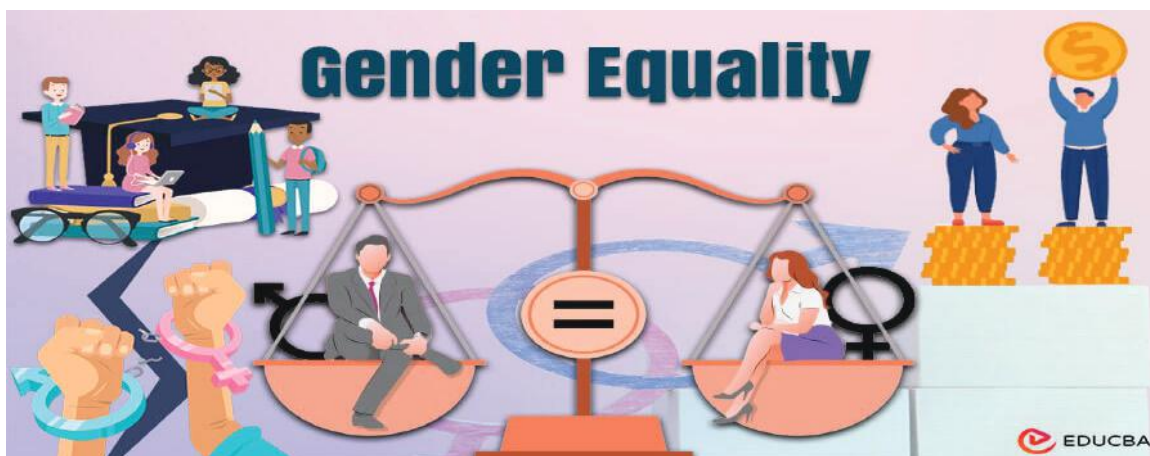
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The Essence Of The Concept Of Gender Equality In New Uzbekistan



By: Sayram Boymurodova
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Based on this decision and laws, starting from 2020, the “Women’s register” system was launched, in 2021, women’s entrepreneurship programs were activated, 2 thousand girls were admitted to higher education on the basis of a separate grant.
- It is noteworthy that 32% of the deputies elected to the Oliy Majlis chamber are women. And in the Senate, this indicator reached almost 25%. 31 percent of active women are active in local councils.
- The introduction of women’s activist positions in 9309 neighborhoods is a sign of the high attention paid to women’s issues in our country. These indicators also show that the attitude towards women has risen to the level of state policy.

Abstract: In this article, we will protect the rights and freedoms of women in our country, increase their social activity, strengthen their influence in the family and society, achieve the principles of gender equality in the updated legislation of Uzbekistan, and put an end to such situations while identifying oppression and violence against women. Issues were discussed. After all, protecting women in every way and supporting them in various fields is the priority of our society.

Keywords: Gender equality, Development strategy, “Women’s notebook”, neighborhood women activist, “Smart women” movement, PMTI, respondent.

The issue of women, girls and the family is a decisive factor that determines not only our present, but also our future.¹

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

The large-scale reforms that are being carried out within the framework of the guarantee of human rights and freedoms and the protection of their legitimate interests in our new Uzbekistan are commendable. We know that there are a number of factors that show how popular any country and society is. Among them, we can include the relations and opportunities created for young people and women. It is no secret to any of us that our country, which is moving towards high development, aims to join the ranks of the leaders. In this regard, measures such as building a democratic society, protecting the rights of all people, especially women, preventing their discrimination, ending oppression and violence, and strengthening their participation in

the political life of the state are being implemented.

As a result of socialization processes, even the most conservative societies recognize the need for gender equality. Every society is deeply aware that this concept is necessary for economic and social development.

Today, in developed countries and legal-democratic societies, we see that the weight of work in the field of ensuring comprehensive equality of men and women, and deepening the understanding of the essence of the concept of gender is increasing. In particular, in Uzbekistan, the results in this regard are improving year by year. On September 2, 2019, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” was adopted, and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “Supporting Women and Girls’ Active Participation in Community Life” in 2021 The President’s decision “On measures to further improve the provision system” and the Cabinet of Ministers’ decision “On additional measures for social support of women and girls” will implement measures in this direction. serves as an important legal basis for implementation.

Based on this decision and laws, starting from 2020, the “Women’s register” system was launched, in 2021, women’s entrepreneurship programs were activated, 2 thousand girls were admitted to higher education on the basis of a separate grant. It is noteworthy that 32% of the deputies elected to the Oliy Majlis chamber are women. And in the Senate, this indicator reached almost 25%. 31 percent of active women are ac-

tive in local councils. The introduction of women’s activist positions in 9309 neighborhoods is a sign of the high attention paid to women’s issues in our country. These indicators also show that the attitude towards women has risen to the level of state policy. In addition, it is no exaggeration to say that in the “Development Strategy” for 2022-2026, the issue of creating decent conditions for women and supporting their initiatives is not without reason defined as one of the most important areas.

In particular, the development of a program to support women’s education and the adoption of the “Business Women” program are among the current reforms. The proposal of the head of state to establish the “Smart Women” movement, consisting of respected and educated women, proved that “the cultural level of any society on earth is determined by its attitude towards women”. At this point, it is permissible to note that the words of the President, “not a single woman is left out of the attention of the state and society” entered the hearts of the women of our nation, without a doubt, inspired them.

However, any society has certain shortcomings. If we analyze the shortcomings of women’s issues in our society, we will find out how appropriate these comments are.

Roli Asthana, who participated in the next 14th summit of women leaders of the parliaments of the inter-parliamentary union member states in our capital, believes that there are many women leaders in Uzbekistan. They pointed out Senate chairman Tanzila Kamalovna as their shining example. The fact that our country, which has risen to the

37th place among 190 national parliaments in terms of the number of women in the parliament, occupies the 45th place in the world ranking of “Women Politicians” makes us all proud.

Despite this, PMTI experts attribute the low economic activity of Uzbek women to their busyness with household chores. In addition, working women earn 39% less than men and start their careers in their 30s.

Analysis by experts of the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research (PMTI) showed that 22% of Uzbek women’s time is spent on housework and child care. 300 women working in various fields took part in the survey conducted by them. This survey was conducted in October 2022 and included women aged 16 to 65. 68% of women with higher education, 13.6% with a scientific degree, 20.6% with secondary specialized and 7% with general education participated in the survey. 88% of the respondents believed that women should work, some said that it is better for women to be housewives, and some said that they give more advantages to men in any leadership.

In conclusion, taking into account the current development trends, the conditions and opportunities created for women in Uzbekistan will be the basis for their activity in the political life of the country and the increase of their social influence in the future. If we look at the experience of Uzbekistan, the activity of women in various fields is clearly visible in recent years, and this gives rise to hope that leading women will develop.

Article 46 of the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that “women, girls and men have equal rights” increased the importance of the innovations in the draft laws. Another guarantee of their political rights.

The progress of the society in democratic changes is determined by the increase in the influence of women in the life of this society and their participation in cultural and spiritual spheres. The basis of the development of our new Uzbekistan lies in fulfilling the highest task of providing direct support to women.