



The Opiate of the Masses: Stripping Away the Role of Religion in Perpetuating Poverty in Contemporary Kenya

"When the Missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the Missionaries had the Bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible." - Jomo Kenyatta

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News>> Trade PS Roots For International Measurement Standards For Africa's Economic Growth

P. 8. The Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Trade, and Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana has encouraged African economies to embrace accurate and internationally accepted measurements to unlock the continent's economic potential.



News>> A Sober Society Is A Productive Nation

P. 12. Various agencies are consolidating efforts of protecting gains made as the government increases its tempo of eradicating illicit alcohol and drugs abuse in the country. The efforts, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said, are guided by stringent measures adopted in March this year.

Trail Of President Ruto's Legal Setbacks

Over the past year, President William Ruto's administration has suffered major legal setbacks in the courts, with at least four consequential decisions impacting the regime's defining moments. From the quashing of 50 appointments of Chief Administrative Secretaries to decisions on revenue mobilization measures and the universal health coverage agenda, the President's team has been kept busy defending laws that had faced intense criticism in Parliament, only to end up losing in court.



STORY ON PAGE 9

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Admirable Scorecard Of Pastor Dorcas Rigathi In The Empowerment Of PLWDs

By: ODP

Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas also added she had visited special schools that included Ol-Ng'arua school for the disabled in Laikipia County, Kivulini in Kilifi County, Olkalau School for the Disabled in Nyandarua County, St Teresa in Nairobi County, Wamuini Special School in Trans-Nzoia County, and Kisii Autism Unit.
- "I am planning to visit all counties, God willing, because persons with disabilities have the right to have good conditions, live independently, enjoy equal opportunities and participate fully in the life of their community. And it is our obligation, as a community, church, neighbours, government and everyone who is around to ensure their full participation in society, on an equal basis with others," said Pastor Dorcas.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi tries her hand at assembling a wheelchair on the first day of equipping 120 children and adults with disabilities with specialized wheelchairs at ACK St. Mathews Church in Karen grounds. The beneficiaries with spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and amputees were assessed, measured and fitted with wheelchairs best-suited for them. In the last one year, Pastor Dorcas has visited 20 counties where she has distributed more than 300 wheelchairs, 100 tricycles, and 80 white canes, and she plans to spread the PWD program across all the 47 counties. Photo/ODP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has said she plans to visit all the 47 counties in the country and better the lives of as many Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs).

She said in the last one year, she had already traversed 20 counties, distributed more than 300 wheelchairs, more than 100 tricycles and more than 400 white canes in collaboration with different partners.

Pastor Dorcas also added she had visited special schools that included Ol-Ng'arua school for the disabled in Laikipia County, Kivulini in Kilifi County, Olkalau School for the Disabled in Nyandarua

County, St Teresa in Nairobi County, Wamuini Special School in Trans-Nzoia County, and Kisii Autism Unit.

"I am planning to visit all counties, God willing, because persons with disabilities have the right to have good conditions, live independently, enjoy equal opportunities and participate fully in the life of their community. And it is our obligation, as a community, church, neighbours, government and everyone who is around to ensure their full participation in society, on an equal basis with others," said Pastor Dorcas.

She spoke at the ACK St Matthews Church Grounds in Karen during the

assessment, measuring and fitting with wheelchairs of 120 children and adults with disabilities in collaboration with Hope Mobility.

"I have also organized, together with partners, medical camps targeting persons with disability where more than 1,000 persons and their caregivers have benefited. Recently, we also did assessment for fitting of prosthetics for 10 persons, and in September we shall undertake an assessment targeting over 300 persons across the counties of Mombasa, Kisumu, Meru, Nairobi and Kisii," she said.

Pastor Dorcas is also patron of Special

Olympics Kenya that comprises those with intellectual disability. In 2023, she accompanied the team to Berlin, Germany where they won 25 medals that included 15 gold medals.

The Area Vicar, Rev Parin Kabeu said he appreciated providing the church ground for persons with disabilities to be empowered through the issuance of wheelchairs, and said this was the greatest calling for the church, to make the life of people better.

"I appreciate bringing hope and the right equipment to those with disabilities. I am pleased to know that you don't just give a wheelchair, but it must be fitted to a specific person, and a specific condition," said Vicar Kabeu.

Jack Muthui spoke on behalf of Hope Mobility and called on churches in Kenya to make sure all their facilities were accessible for those with wheelchairs, and other assistive devices to encourage inclusion for all.

"Our team shall be here for two-days, assembling the wheelchairs. The devices are medical, and fitted in accordance with the World Health Organisation standards."

"Every wheelchair is specialized for a given individual, and if transferred to someone else could end up hurting them instead of helping them. In future, Hope Mobility, plans to start offering artificial legs and therapy," added Mr Muthui.

Wheelchairs take time to assemble, and this is dependent on the level of expertise and experience of the person assembling, and also specialization of the wheelchair. Hope Mobility has trained personnel who ensure those with disabilities are assessed, measured and fitted with the best wheelchairs according to disability, and use among other factors.

Also present were Disability Service Officers from Kiambu County Josphat Mukuit and Nairobi County Wamugo. The beneficiaries of the specialized wheelchairs were from Nairobi, Kiambu, and Kajiado Counties.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kakamega County government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Practical Action and Regen Organics on collection and management of waste. Regen organics, an agricultural engineering group, is establishing an organic fertiliser plant at Matawa in Mumias West that is expected to convert waste into organic fertiliser. The two partners are also expected to establish Material Recovery centres across the county that will process waste that is generated in Kakamega. Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa said the MOU embodies the shared commitments on issues of sustainable waste management.



Kenya Wildlife Service personnel in Migori have set up traps to capture hyenas that have been terrorising residents of Lichota-Suna West Sub County. The operation, coordinated by Kenya Wildlife Services officials and residents, aims to trap and capture hyenas that have been straying from the Lichota forest and preying on domestic animals. Elphas Wasike, a resident of the Lichota area, reported that the hyenas have created fear among the community and posed a danger to school-going children.



Senior staff of the Machakos County Executive including County Executive Committee Members (CECM) and Chief Officers (COs) are set to undergo 100 days of training on corruption prevention by the Ethic and Anti-Corruption Authority (EACC) in a bid to improve transparency and accountability in the County's service delivery to the residents. The training, that is the brain child of Governor Wavinya Ndeti, is to curb corruption cases in the County and improve on transparency and handling of the County's public and private assets. The EACC Commissioner Colonel Alfred Mshimba while speaking during a joint briefing with the Governor at the Governor's office in Machakos, said that the proactive approach of training the Executives is set to improve integrity and prevent corruption. "At EACC we believe that prevention is better than cure and we are here to work together and seal all loopholes in areas that are prone to corruption and that training is collaborative," said Mshimba. The Governor on her part sent a stern warning to public officials against engaging in corrupt practices and urged them to cooperate with the EACC team in improving service delivery and the reputation of Machakos county.



About 40,000 underprivileged students in Ruiru, Kiambu County, are set to benefit from Sh80 million in bursaries provided by the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF). The funds provide much-needed relief to thousands of parents who are facing financial difficulties in raising school fees due to the challenging economic conditions in the country. Ruiru MP Simon King'ara announced that they had set aside Sh80 million for bursaries; with the amount being insufficient given the large number of deserving and needy applicants. Ruiru is the most populous constituency, boasting a population of over 700,000 residents.



Isiolo County Commissioner, Geoffrey Omoding has urged area residents to practice restraint and desist from taking law into their hands when aggrieved. Reacting to chaos that erupted during the election of a new board for the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) at the end of the week, Mr. Omoding said it was unfortunate that lack of restraint during the event led to loss of one life. "Something very unfortunate happened during the NRT board elections where one person lost his life and another person who was seriously injured is still healing from gunshot wounds," Omoding said. Condemning the people who took the law into their hands, Mr. Omoding said that the security organs will ensure the culprits were prosecuted.



The Kenya Red Cross Society Secretary General, Dr. Idris Ahmed, announced that the Red Cross and the Red Crescent movement will set up the first international field school in Africa and the second in the world to be domiciled at the Kenya Red Cross offices in Lkuroto village in Samburu West Sub County. The school will equip international and local staff with the skills to deliver humanitarian relief assistance and design projects for communities, including water and food security. The school is expected to host two-week international training per quarter, with trainees supporting local communities in health outreaches, water system design, and veterinary issues.

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**THEME: "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and
Trade Initiatives for sustainable Economic Growth"**



The Peer To Peer Conference: Promoting Free Movement Of Services In The EAC



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- During his address, Mr Kuol shared key insights and takeaways from the event, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve the EAC's vision.
- The conference brought together policymakers, business leaders, and representatives from various sectors to discuss the barriers and opportunities related to the free movement of services within the EAC. The event was marked by robust discussions on policy harmonization, regulatory frameworks, and the role of technology in facilitating cross-border service provision.

In a bid to foster regional integration and economic growth, the Peer to Peer Conference was recently held, attracting a diverse group of stakeholders from the East African Community (EAC).

The conference aimed to promote the free movement of services across the EAC, a strategic objective crucial for the region's development.

One of the major attendees was Ambassador Ring Deng Kuol, representing South Sudan. His participation underscored the significance of including South Sudan in regional dialogues and highlighted the country's commitment to EAC's goals.

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The conference brought together policymakers, business leaders, and representatives from various sectors to discuss the barriers and opportunities related to the free movement of services within the EAC. The event was marked by robust discussions on policy harmonization, regulatory frameworks, and the role of technology in facilitating cross-border service provision.

Mr Kuol highlighted the need for harmonized policies and regulatory frameworks across EAC member states. He noted that inconsistent regulations and bureaucratic hurdles often impede the seamless movement of services. Harmonization would not only simplify processes for service providers but also enhance the region's attractiveness to foreign investors.

"Achieving policy harmonization requires a concerted effort from all



Ambassador Ring Deng Kuol, representing the Republic of South Sudan

member states," said Mr Kuol.

"It's about creating a conducive environment where businesses can operate smoothly across borders, thus boosting regional trade and economic growth."

Another significant takeaway from the conference was the emphasis on capacity building and skills development. Mr. Kuol stressed that to fully capitalize on the benefits of free movement of services, there must be a focus on equipping the workforce with the necessary skills and knowledge. This includes investing in education and training programs tailored to the needs

of the EAC's service sectors.

"We must invest in our human capital to ensure that our workforce is prepared to meet the demands of a dynamic service industry," he said. "This will not only enhance service quality but also create employment opportunities and drive economic growth."

Mr. Kuol also highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnerships among EAC member states. He noted that achieving the goal of free movement of services requires collective action and mutual support. This involves sharing best practices, fostering public-private partnerships,

and engaging in continuous dialogue to address emerging challenges.

The Peer to Peer Conference served as a platform for meaningful discussions on promoting the free movement of services within the EAC. With key insights from representatives like Mr. Ring Deng Kuol, the event highlighted the critical steps needed to achieve this strategic objective.

As the EAC continues to pursue regional integration, the conference underscored the importance of policy harmonization, technological advancements, capacity building, and collaborative efforts.

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Trade PS Roots For International Measurement Standards For Africa’s Economic Growth

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- He pointed out that Africa’s commodity-based economies, heavily reliant on extractives and agricultural exports, cannot thrive without a solid foundation of measurement.
- Dr. Mukhwana, who was accompanied by National Standards Council member, Ms. Nyaboke Nyabonyi, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Director of Quality Assurance and Inspection, Dr. Geoffrey Muriira, observed that Africa was facing a huge challenge to stay abreast of technological developments and to meet health, safety and sustainable environmental requirements.
- He said this directly relates to the continent’s ability to prove measurement equivalence and provide analytical assurances for export products.



Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana (right) presents a plaque to Dr. Wynand Louw (left) in appreciation for his service as AFRIMETS Secretariat Chair from 2006-2023, during the organization’s 17th General Assembly hosted by KEBS in Nairobi.

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana has encouraged African economies to embrace accurate and internationally accepted measurements to unlock the continent’s economic potential.

Dr. Mukhwana said there was a need for African economies to standardize their products for intra-Africa trade to thrive and to tap into global trade, and called on Africa to prioritize measurements in order to boost industrialization

The Principal Secretary spoke at the Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi yesterday while officially opening the 17th General Assembly of the Intra-Africa Metrology System- AFRIMETS.

The General Assembly, whose theme is “Measurement for Sustainability”, has attracted delegates from across the continent.

Dr. Mukhwana pointed out that despite having the youngest population and an abundance of raw material, Africa still relied on foreign markets for the supply of 85 percent of its manufactured products.

He said it was imperative that Africa develops systems and policies around metrology that can supplement industrialization so that the continent can consume more of what it produces.

The Principal Secretary emphasized the need for accurate and reliable

measurements to accelerate and promote industrialization and trade in Africa. “As we develop these measurements, we need to ask ourselves one question, what difference will they make to our people,” PS Juma posed.

Dr. Mukhwana said accurate measurements were the cornerstone of quality infrastructure and have a profound impact on every aspect of our lives, from industry to innovation, commerce to conservation.

He underscored the importance of accurate measurement and monitoring for sustainable growth amid the shift towards sustainable future development.

He pointed out that Africa’s commodity-based economies, heavily reliant on extractives and agricultural exports, cannot thrive without a solid foundation of measurement.

Dr. Mukhwana, who was accompanied by National Standards Council member, Ms. Nyaboke Nyabonyi, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Director of Quality Assurance and Inspection, Dr. Geoffrey Muriira, observed that Africa was facing a huge challenge to stay abreast of technological developments and to meet health, safety and sustainable environmental requirements.

He said this directly relates to the continent’s ability to prove measurement equivalence and provide analyt-

ical assurances for export products.

The Principal Secretary however expressed optimism that AFRIMETS, through association with the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI), the African Standards Organisation (ARSO), the Inter-African Cooperation for Accreditation (AFRAC), and the African Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC), could facilitate the international linkages to enhance a suitable environment for trade and sustainable development.

Dr. Mukhwana further said that through closer collaboration, African economies can realize industrial growth and progressively eliminate technical barriers to trade, thereby boosting their exports to the developed world.

He also expressed Kenya’s commitment to measurements and said the country was enacting a National Quality Infrastructure policy to establish a legal framework to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the country’s national Standardization, Metrology, and Accreditation matters.

Dr. Muriira, who was representing the KEBS Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari, said the organization, as the custodian of the National quality standards, has a broad mandate of offering the most accurate measurements for the country’s developing

economy and facilitating sustainability in industrial production.

The Director highlighted the importance of accurate measurements in fostering sustainable development, enhancing quality of life, and ensuring environmental stewardship. He observed that metrology had gained greater significance for the continent as it pushed towards implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to create a single continental market for goods and services and free movement of businesspersons and investments.

Dr. Muriira noted that with the appropriate metrology measures, products from Africa will be measured against the same standards as those from other parts of the world, eliminating technical barriers to trade, reducing costs, and enhancing the credibility of African products. This will help open new markets for our goods and services, spurring economic growth and development across the continent.

Metrology is the science and application of measurement. KEBS is the custodian of the National Primary Physical Standards of Measurements in Kenya. It offers traceability of these measurements to international standards (SI).

Trail Of President Ruto’s Legal Setbacks

By: Serfine Achieng

Worth Noting:

- According to Political and Governance Analyst Javas Bigambo, the opportunity to learn big lessons from the ruling must not be missed, particularly regarding how it exposes the Attorney General and the due process in passing laws by Parliament.
- When he was elected, President Ruto launched an ambitious Affordable Housing plan aiming to build over 250,000 housing units every year. However, the program faced significant opposition due to the move to deduct 1.5% of the gross income of salaried workers in Kenya to fund the project’s base capital.
- On 28th November 2023, the High Court declared the affordable housing levy unconstitutional, stating that it was discriminatory against salaried workers.



President William Ruto

Over the past year, President William Ruto’s administration has suffered major legal setbacks in the courts, with at least four consequential decisions impacting the regime’s defining moments.

From the quashing of 50 appointments of Chief Administrative Secretaries to decisions on revenue mobilization measures and the universal health coverage agenda, the President’s team has been kept busy defending laws that had faced intense criticism in Parliament, only to end up losing in court.

The President’s supporters are now turning their focus on the judiciary, accusing it of judicial activism.

The latest setback is the Court of Appeal’s declaration that the Finance Act 2023 is unconstitutional, null, and void. A three-judge bench held that the process leading to its enactment was flawed as it failed to consider public views on various sections.

According to Political and Governance Analyst Javas Bigambo, the opportunity to learn big lessons from the ruling must not be missed, particularly regarding how it exposes the Attorney General and the due process in passing laws by Parliament.

When he was elected, President Ruto launched an ambitious Affordable Housing plan aiming to build over 250,000 housing units every year. However, the program faced significant opposition due to the move to deduct 1.5% of the gross income of salaried workers in Kenya to fund the project’s base capital.

On 28th November 2023, the High Court declared the affordable housing levy unconstitutional, stating that it was discriminatory against salaried workers.

The government quickly moved to enact a stand-alone Affordable Housing Act, which took effect in March 2024. However, the new law is now subject to another court challenge.

On Friday, 12th July 2024, a three-judge bench comprising Justices Alfred Mabeya, Robert Limo, and Fridah Mugambi declared three health laws unconstitutional: the Social Health Insurance Act 2023, the Primary Healthcare Act 2023, and the Digital Health Act 2023.

These laws form part of President Ruto’s Universal Health Coverage agenda. The judges argued that the laws were passed hurriedly without proper public participation.

“Public participation came in when the new constitution kicked in. I have been in Parliament for 12 years now, and I can assure you that there are many laws that have been passed by a majority where public participation is just a sham,” says Senator Dan Maanzo.

On July 25th, the courts halted the rollout of Maisha Namba, a unique personal identification number assigned to the Maisha Card, a third-generation digital identity card.

The court also suspended the planned implementation of the National Master Population Register after the Garissa-based lobby group Haki Na Sheria challenged the rollout, citing concerns about personal data protection.

Amid anti-government protests, President William Ruto appointed a task force to conduct a forensic audit of the public debt. The High Court has since stopped the task force from executing its mandate after two petitioners argued that the President’s assignment usurped the role of the Auditor-General.

A year ago, on 3rd July 2023, the High Court quashed the appointment of 50 Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs) appointed and sworn in by President Ruto in March 2023. It was the biggest blow in his first year in office.

The Kenya Kwanza administration subsequently passed a law in Parliament entrenching CAS offices. The President has since dropped the plan to appoint CASs due to austerity measures and public pressure to reduce government expenditure.

“When every or various decisions of the Executive are stopped by the courts by way of judgment, it brings embarrassment to the office of the President. It stops the wheels of policy formulation and implementation from running,” says Governance Expert Javas Bigambo.

The growing list of the government’s legislative and policy interventions that have been overturned has escalated the frustration of some leaders within the government, who are now directing their anger at the judiciary.

For now, all eyes are on the Kenya Kwanza administration’s next steps, especially with the Finance Act 2023, which has now faced a major blow at the Court of Appeal.

Christ Jesus/ Holy Spirit Is Able To Save Forever Since He Always Lives



By: Eric Musa
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As we welcome this new month, with anticipation of good tidings, blessings and possessing mountains, we definitely all of us live this life learning and transforming and aiming to discover the best way to live it. Even as born again Christian, we should never cease from learning, getting revelations and refining ourselves to be the best version (true) of ourselves. May God help us and enable us.

I am in a session of prayers and fasting, and one of the key word in my life and I proclaim it as My word for always and forever is Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness." This is my testimony and I live it, because I have been in dark places, afflicted, where

all strength was lost, and I cried to God and He saved me, and thus a living testimony. After saving me, He sustains, and it is true and critical to know that the Holy Spirit is always the present closest help. Lean on Him, totally depend on Him, pray in tongues (in Spirit always);even when you cannot figure things it out, this works.

In our moments of weakness the Holy Spirit steps in to help us. When we don't know what to do or how to do it, He will show us the way. You are never alone in the struggles you are facing, because HE is with you. Let the Lord guide you, comfort you and empower you as you trust in Him.

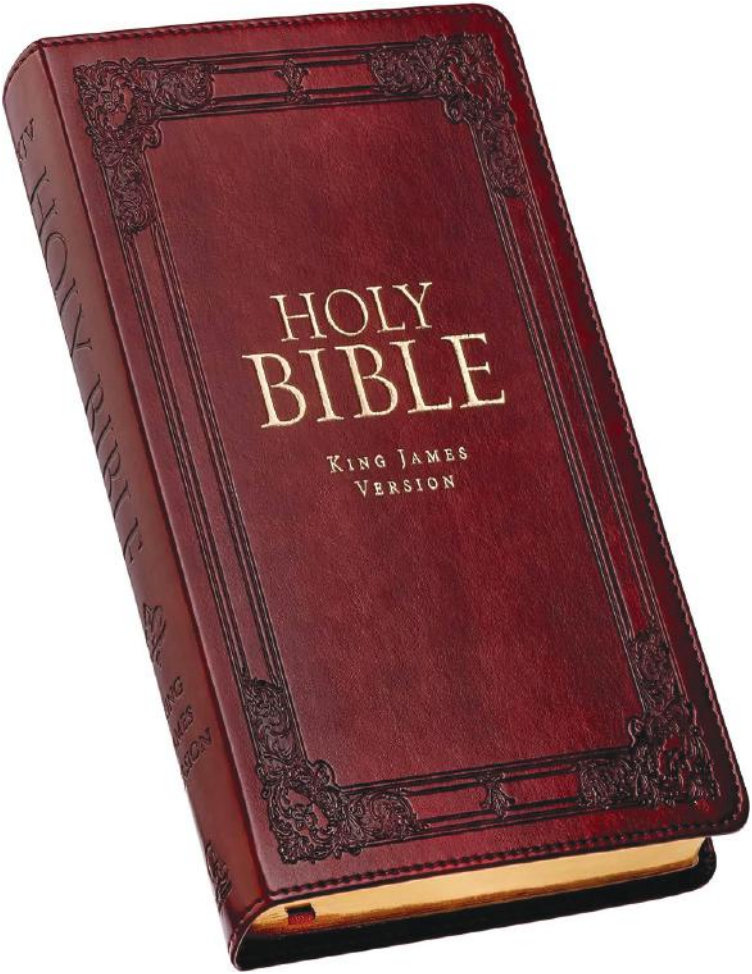
As you do this, it is in the same line, and as God is ONE, be aware and know Christ Jesus is in the place of authority and interceding for you, as it is written: "Therefore HE IS ABLE ALSO TO SAVE FOREVER those who draw near to God through Him, since HE ALWAYS LIVES to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25)."

Have this prayer always in your life :

"Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit Who is with me to help me in every situation and in every challenge, and for Christ Jesus Who ALWAYS LIVES to make intercession for me. When I do not know what to do, I will call on You and rely on Your support and strength to see me through : AMEN.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER

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



Gachagua's 'Stakeholder Remark' Cannot Be Used As A Ground Of Impeaching Him



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- We ask them to first drop the arms. If they agree, we are ready to engage them in a structured and constructive dialogue. Together, we will craft a roadmap on how we will help our people.
- Given this background, one thing is clear. DP Gachagua was just doing his job. Constitutionally, he is the principal assistant to the President. During that time I wrote an article in this column.
- These were my observations. Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga and a section of his brigade were leading the onslaught against Gachagua.
- This is because the DP has remained firm and steadfast in his defense and support of President William Ruto. This showed he understood his job very well.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

The latest media reports indicate that plans were underway to impeach the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

I have been perusing and analysing the grounds being cited by his critics and my considered view is that they do not meet the requisite legal threshold.

The main ground is that he had likened Kenya to a shareholding company. Therefore, he does not deserve to hold the position of DP because this cast him as a tribal kingpin who does not believe in the concept of building one Kenya, one people.

To me, Gachagua's remarks had been blown out of proportion.

At no time did he explicitly stated that Kenya belongs to two communities-Kikuyu and Kalinjin.

It is worth noting that the DP spoke at a time when ODM leader Raila Odinga was leading demonstrations in the country. These protests always turned chaotic, bloody and destructive.

Therefore, the position of DP remained clear. As a government, we find it hard to work with people hellbent on plunging Kenya into anarchy and mayhem.

This position at the time resonated well with President William Ruto and his top allies.

In a number of occasions, the President also come out gun blazing.

He would describe Raila and his brigade as economic saboteurs.

We will not allow them to destroy this country. For now, there is nothing we

can do with them.

We ask them to first drop the arms. If they agree, we are ready to engage them in a structured and constructive dialogue. Together, we will craft a roadmap on how we will help our people.

Given this background, one thing is clear. DP Gachagua was just doing his job. Constitutionally, he is the principal assistant to the President.

During that time I wrote an article in this column.

These were my observations. Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga and a section of his brigade were leading the onslaught against Gachagua.

This is because the DP has remained firm and steadfast in his defense and support of President William Ruto. This showed he understood his job very well.

As the protests continued, Gachagua kept reiterating that they knew the agenda of Raila Odinga. He was out to blackmail and intimidate President Ruto to share the government with him.

We know he succeeded to arm-twist President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

He thinks President Ruto will cave in to his political machinations.

Raila would want this to be seen as major breakthrough in ending a 'major political crisis' that was engulfing our country. We now have a deal. We have signed a ceasefire. This means no more lives would be lost.

Gachagua would aver. This Mzee developed a bad habit. Every time he loses the election he demands a 'nusu mkate'. We want to tell him this business is now over.

Raila should accept that we defeated him in broad day light. Our victory was reaffirmed and upheld by the Supreme Court of Kenya.

The people of Kenya spoke at the ballot. He cannot change this. He should stick to his lane as an opposition leader.

It is worth noting that Raila and his brigade are currently taking advantage of the recent comments made by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Trade, Investment and Industry Moses Kuria.

The two Kenya Kwanza leaders were quoted as saying that all Kenyans were stakeholders in a company called Kenya.

I never heard any one of them mentioning the name of DP Gachagua. How did the critics knew that they were targeting him?

To me, Gachagua has been speaking the same language as Mudavadi and Kuria. The only difference is how each package and communicate this message.

We have been listening to the tone and remarks of leaders of the Mulembe nation whenever they host President William Ruto in their region.

Led by Mudavadi, they would mince no word reminding him about the votes he got there and the pre-election pledges he made.

As a Luhya community, we believe we have a bigger stake in your government.

The point is clear when you talk about a big stake. You are saying you have many shares and hence consider yourselves as major shareholder.

In his recent visit, Senator Bonny Khalwale stated that they lobbied the President to consider passing the baton of power to a candidate from the Mulembe nation when he concludes his two- five year term in 2032.

The President avoided this issue and instead called on Western leaders to focus on fulfilling the pledges they made to electorates during the campaigns.

By virtues of being the second in command, DP Gachagua have a head start in the race to succeed President Ruto. The other advantage is that the DP is a son of the most popular community and biggest voting bloc in Kenya.

For Kuria, he has been projecting his community of Kikuyu as a major shareholder.

I'm sure many Kenyans would recall why he fell out with President Uhuru Kenyatta. It is because he believed that Kikuyus were only being used as a voting machines during the elections.

When it comes to the sharing of the national cake, they would not get thier share. The cake would instead be shared by people from other regions who had not voted for President Kenyatta.

Gachagua also made his 'stakeholder remark' at a time when the mainstream

media was leaning towards Azimio leader Raila Odinga.

In apparent reference to coalition leader, he would say. "We know some of you in media circles are championing the agenda of this Mzee. Stop wasting your time. Tell him the truth. We defeated him. He cannot change the will of the People".

One year since President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua assumed office, the Azimio leader, his running Martha Karua and some of the coalition's hardliners were yet to come to terms with this loss.

The local and international election observers had also given the elections a clean bill of health.

The outcome met the threshold of free, credible and verifiable presidential polls. We commends the IEBC for doing a good job, some stated in their reports.

The US government, European Union and African Union are among the community of nations that had sent their observers.

The Azimio leader would not wait for the dust to settle. He would hit out at observers claiming their respective reports did not reflect the will of Kenyan people.

The President-elect had compromised and pocketed them, the same way he has done to the judges of Supreme Court and IEBC chairman. He would make the claims without providing an iota of truth.

In the aftermath of 2007, 2013 and 2017 presidential elections, Raila had made similar unsubstantiated and highly libelous claims.

Since then, Raila's bid is a two-pronged. First, put Gachagua into a collision course with Kenyans. Kenyans are not stupid. They know how to read between the lines.

The other one is to create a rift between him and his boss, President William Ruto.

With time, he think that President Ruto might be persuaded to believe that Gachagua was rocking the boat from within. This is a wishful thinking.

Raila should have been the last person to attack Gachagua. Why? When he served as a Prime Minister in Grand Coalition Government, majority of those who worked in his office were drawn from his community of Luo.

At the time, I used to work with a Nairobi based Youth NGO. As an organization, there is an issue we were following up there. So I made several visits to this office.

Earlier, the story was the same when he served as a minister for Public Works.

The other day I heard a group of people saying. Raila has not changed. If you want to know this, just visit his Capitol Hill Office and ODM Secretariat. You will realize he is still a tribal kingpin.

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

A Sober Society Is A Productive Nation

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- The forum was attended by Principal Secretaries Raymond Omollo (Internal Security and National Administration), Harry Kimtai (Medical Services) and Terry Mbaika (Devolution) together with top Government officials from the Kenya Revenue Authority and regulatory bodies like Kenya Bureau of Standards was informed that since March police have conducted 65,488 raids on liquor outlets.
- From the said raids and law enforcement activities, PS Omollo said that as at June 30, 2024 the County Security teams had arrested 30,675 people and seized 358,000 litres of chang'aa, 2.7 million litres of kangara, 8,000 litres of ethanol and 389 shisha bongs.
- The meeting was also informed that the Ministry of Health has since issued directives to all Level Three and above hospitals to establish wards for rehabilitation of persons affected by the vices.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua chairing the meeting

Various agencies are consolidating efforts of protecting gains made as the government increases its tempo of eradicating illicit alcohol and drugs abuse in the country.

The efforts, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said, are guided by stringent measures adopted in March this year.

Mr Gachagua said the government will not relent in its resolve to suppress the manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of illicit brews.

He spoke on Wednesday during a high-level multi-agency meeting which he hosted at the Official Residence in Karen, on implementation of Government directives on eradication of illicit alcohol, drugs and substance abuse.

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DP Gachagua said the 25 stringent directives announced by the Government on March 6, 2024 to curb illicit brew, drug, and substance abuse in the country have been effective and that the nation has registered gains after fresh vetting of the alcohol manufacturers.

"It is a huge win for this administration with zero cost. This is a war we cannot relent because it is good for the country and has been successful," he stated.

Urging members of the State agencies tasked with the fight against the drugs and drugs abuse to take responsibility and stamp out the menace, the Deputy President praised the County Security teams over their achievements.

He, however, asked the security officers to enhance surveillance at border points to avert entry of contraband goods such as illegal ethanol to be used in manufacturing of second generation alcohol.

"The measures have been effective.

Families have been restored and we are getting back our country to sobriety," he said.

In attendance also at the meeting were heads and representatives from the Ministry of Health, The Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Anti-Counterfeit Authority and Office of the Attorney-General are in attendance.

On the fight against drug and substance abuse, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board told the forum that it has inspected 408 premises and prosecution of nine people is ongoing for non-adherence to good pharmaceutical practices.

It added that it has closed 150 prem-

ises and seized 325 cartons of medicines.

The agency is also developing guidelines on enhancement of fines and forfeiture of confiscated medicines by the courts.

The State Department for Internal Security and National Administration said it is proposing amendment to the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act to provide for traceability of raw materials and end products throughout the value chain. The proposal is contained in the Government's Omnibus Bill, which is before the Attorney-General.



Murang’a Government Moves To Streamline Maternal Health Support Programme

By: Kenya News Agency

Murang’a County government has resolved to make some drastic changes aimed at streamlining the maternal health support programme that was initiated last year.

The programme that is supposed to encourage expectant mothers to attend antenatal clinics and deliver in hospital was paused early this year to enable the devolved administration carryout physical audit of the beneficiaries.

In a public notice released on Wednesday, the governor Irungu Kang’ata led administration said from next financial year, the expecting mothers will be getting stipulated financial support to cater for their travel costs, once annually.

The payment of accumulated stipend for clinic visits will be done between May and June of every year.

“Mothers will receive payments only once annually in May/June. To qualify for the support, mothers must attend at least six antenatal clinic vis-

its scheduled as one visit in the first trimester, two visits in the second trimester and three visits in the third trimester,” read part of the notice.

Following the physical audit that was conducted early July this year, it was revealed that 4,104 expecting mothers were unpaid since inception of the programme.

Among the mothers, only 482 which translates to 11 percent have medical insurance cover.

The devolved administration also resolved to pay the verified but unpaid mothers between 5th and 10th of this month. The payment will be done at the sub county level.

“The county has resolved to provide 482 mothers with NHIF coverage a payment of Sh1,500; 3, 622 mothers without medical insurance will receive Sh1, 000 and three months of medical cover under SHIF starting October 1, this year,” the administration indicated in the notice.

The medics in the local public health facilities were directed to start using Afya.ke portal to register antenatal visits replacing the original county developed application to avoid duplication.

The devolved unit launched a mater-



nal support programme to incentivize expecting mothers to attend antenatal clinics aiming to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates.

As part of the initiative the county government reimbursed travel expenses of Sh1000 per visit and Sh2, 000 during delivery for the mothers.

While launching the programme back in March 2023, Governor Kang’ata revealed that according to medical surveys, 30 percent of expectant mothers have been delivering at home, endangering their lives and those of their new borns.

The high number of home deliveries

which is facilitated by untrained midwives, informed the establishment of the maternal programme as some women claimed to be unable to raise travel costs to hospitals.

The county government further said the mothers would be trained on nutrition during the antenatal clinics.

Immigration To Dispose Uncollected Passports After Six Months

By: Beth Nyaga

The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services has announced that it will dispose of all uncollected passports six months from the date of notice (July 31, 2024).

This action, according to the department, aligns with several laws and regulations, including Section 31 of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act and Regulations, the Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act (CAP 38), and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations on the delivery of travel documents.

Currently, the department is holding 110,059 uncollected passports in its offices.

This announcement comes amid the department’s successful clearance of the historical backlog of unprinted

passports in their systems.

Principal Secretary Julius Bitok stated that achieving this milestone was possible through a series of reforms aimed at decongesting workstations and speeding up service delivery.

He highlighted that the Directorate of Immigration Services (DIS) is continuously reviewing its operations and making significant investments in human resources, modern equipment, and technologies.

“These efforts are intended to enhance efficiency and improve the overall quality of clients’ experiences.”

In a move to further streamline services, the DIS has suspended the requirement for applicants to book an appointment to collect their passports.

Additionally, in line with a Presidential directive aimed at facilitating travel for Kenyans pursuing job opportunities abroad, the DIS has



set up dedicated Migrant Labour counters to fast-track passport applications.

Applicants seeking this service are advised to present their documentation, including proof of intent issued

by the relevant institution.

These changes underscore the department’s commitment to improving service delivery and ensuring that the processes are efficient and user-friendly for all Kenyans.

Applicants whose names appear in the links below are advised to collect their

passports at the station where they submitted their application.

My Father, My Father, My Father, My Father...



Indeed, these words are familiar to all of us. Alqissa, the more we give a description of this great breed, the less it is. Before giving a description of this great breed and thinking about this breed, some mysterious feelings arise in a person. Language, but also the human mind is weak. What a great being that a person is so weak in front of him. Who is a father? A father is the most priceless of the blessings given to us, and he is a great being who is ready to sacrifice his life for us children. By the way, we are children. We need to appreciate them. After all, the sages did not say for nothing that "The Father is pleased - God is pleased." That is why it is the highest duty for us to please them and receive their prayers. Parents play an incomparable

role in a person's life, and these two are the ones who burn their lives for a person. We cannot imagine our life without them. Therefore, a person without a father is nobody in life. Not only in life, but also in society, things like prestige and career become alien. We should appreciate them in their presence.

A father whose bosom is incomparable to these lofty mountains,

You are as wide as the sky that my eyes cannot fit, Father,

I ran a lot, the nights are full
Look for my tracks, I didn't know
Where are my traces left?

Father without me.

Father, my dear Father, I would not trade you for the world, your presence is a great happiness for me. Thank you for your love, Father. Every word you say is precious to me. Father, who is ready to sacrifice his life for us, for the sake of our children, thank you very much.

Musulmonova Mukhlisa Sulayman's daughter was born on December 22, 2009 in Sariosia district, Surkhandarya region. She is a 9th grade student of the 12th general education school.

A Word Mother



Her little hands endows with care, flush
My hallow heart, as it melt it
To remembering her care, daily
Mom ...a strong ladder to climb
days,
With ease, days turn soft,
As I climb with her ,
Shadow ,full plain on me ,
The secret of it , only none could understand ,
But her, that drew me on earth
I can't forget her love ,
Which dries up pain ,along
With shame ,
Then I understand it with, mom
The secret ...to having it,
Turn soft .

By Harshita Sancheti
Beawar , Rajasthan

Mom, I Didn't Find It Like You, It's Good



You are the pattern of my life
You have kind eyes,
Your heart is so innocent

Mom, I didn't find it like you, it's good
I will be a child worthy of you,
With your love worth gold
I am always full of infinite happiness

Mom, I didn't find it like you, it's good
Wise mother, precious mother,

I braid your hair
My fair mother is equal to my good
mother!

Your presence is enough for me
You are my refuge from the wicked.
There is a reason you exist, your
daughter.
My joys have no end.

Avazjonova Vazirakhan

Alfraganus University, Faculty of
Pedagogy and Psychology, 2nd year
student;

Alfraganus is the head of the "Active Students" club. The poem "I didn't find a good mother like you" was published in the Alfraganus successors newspaper. In 2024, she is the owner of the badge "Promoter of Oriental Education" named after Abdulhamid Cholpon by Alfraganus University.

My Country Daddy!



You are one of the greatest blessings in
the world,

My crown in heaven is you, my dear
person.

Sometimes you are an investigator, your
words are excellent, stop.

My father, who was a light to my path,
without a lamp!

If I'm not ashamed to say it, it's my
words

You are my only existence, my priceless
country

You have given advice, incomparable as
gold

I have a great kindness for children

A person who has a father is also happy
I am one of those lucky people
You are crossing the river in the caravan
of this life
My father, I am always in need of your
prayers

Your only flower is walking in Tashkent
In his heart, he wants to be worthy of
you.

Your daughter is living in honor of you
Sometimes your cypress is hiding you.

Kamolova Sarvinoz

Alfraganus University Faculty of Pedagogy
and Psychology, 3rd year student;

Alfraganus is the head of the club
"Propagators of Oriental education".

Alfraganus heirs newspaper published the
poem "Memory remains only memories".

In 2024, she is the owner of the badge
"Promoter of Oriental Education" named
after Abdulhamid Cholpon by Alfraganus
University.

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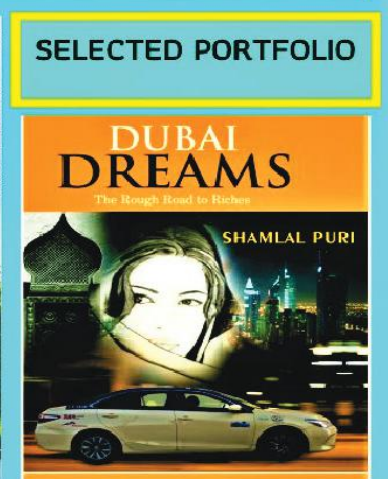
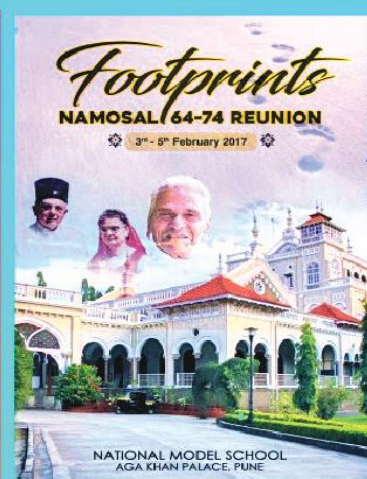
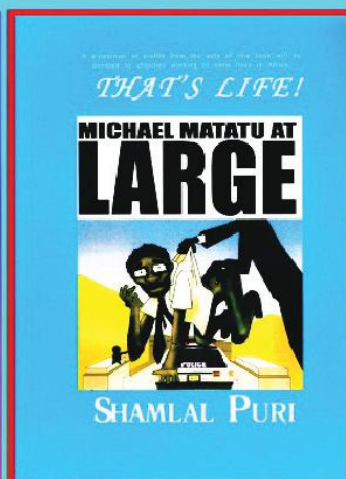
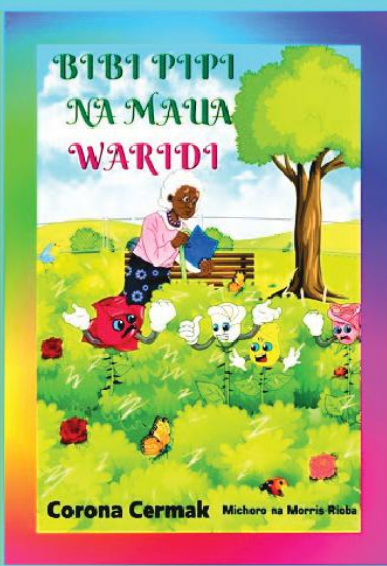
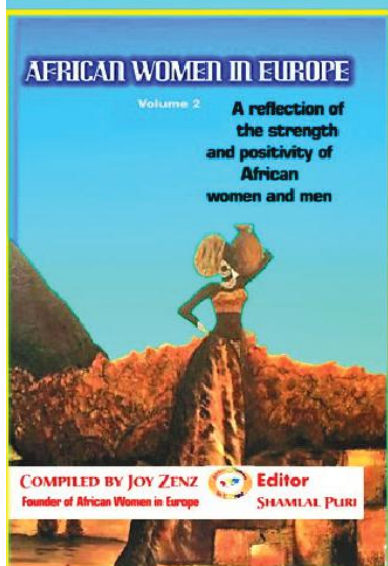
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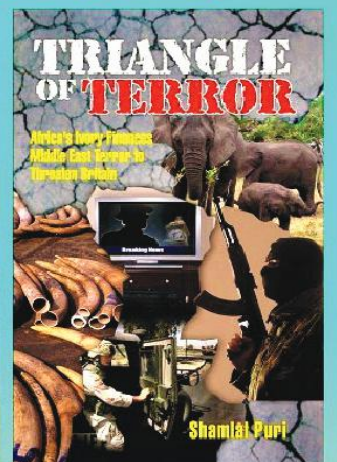
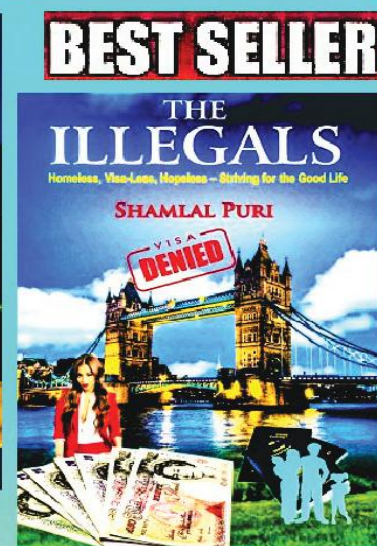
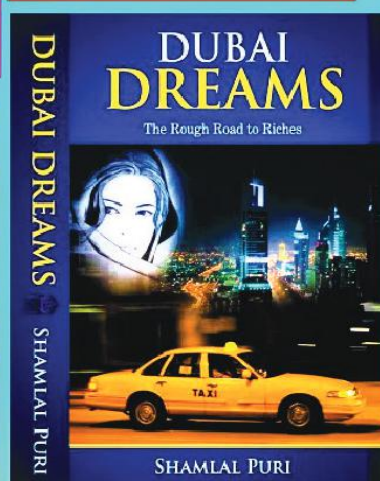
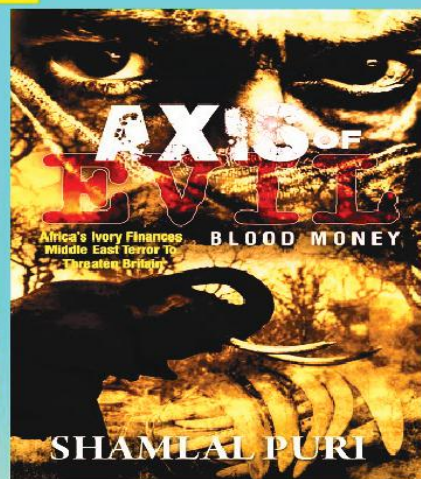
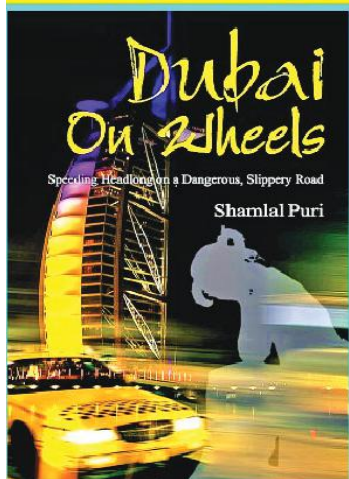
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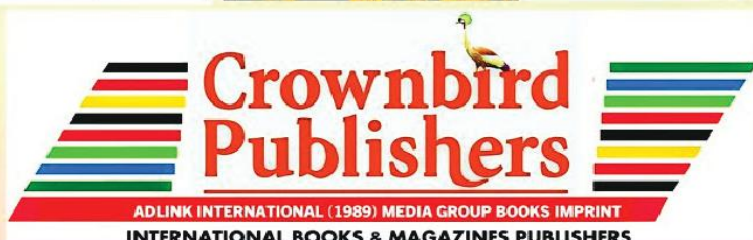
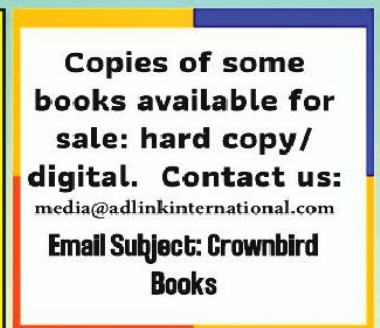
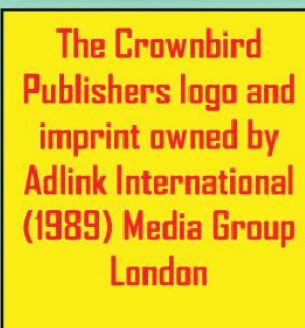
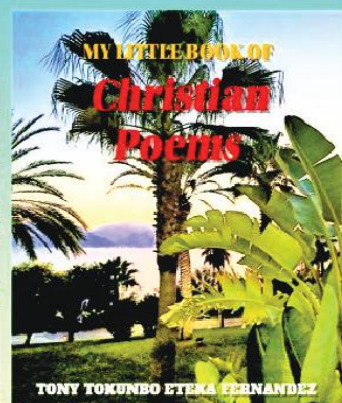
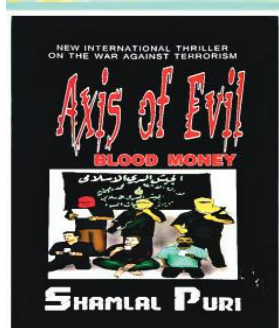
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Abu Dhabi, Qatar Wealth Funds Back Adani Energy's Share Sale Of Up To \$1 Billion

By: Dhwani Pandya and Jayshree P Upadhyay

MUMBAI, July 30 (Reuters) - Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Qatar Investment Authority have invested in Adani Energy Solutions' share sale in India of up to \$1 billion, two sources said, its first such deal since a scathing report from short-seller Hindenburg Research last year.

The deal marks Adani Group's first fundraising from equity markets after a \$2.5 billion share sale was scrapped in February last year following U.S.-based Hindenburg Research's accusations of improper use of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation. Adani has always denied wrongdoing.

The list of more than 50 investors also included GQG Partners, Nomura and India's Bandhan Mutual Fund, said the sources, who had direct knowledge of the deal but declined to be named as investor names are not public.

Adani Energy, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, and the investors

named above did not respond to Reuters queries.

The investment will further help Adani which has managed to win investors' backing after Hindenburg's report last year sparked a sell-off of more than \$100 billion in the group's stock. The shares have recovered significantly since then.

Adani Energy, the group's power transmission and distribution company, raised funds through a Qualified Institutional Placement, a tool used by listed Indian companies to raise funds from large institutions.

An Adani Energy statement said the floor price for the issue has been set at 1,027.11 Indian rupees (\$12.27), at a discount to Tuesday's close of 1,124.9 rupees, without sharing any investor names.

The share sale was for \$700 million, with a so-called greenshoe option for a further \$300 million, the sources said. The share sale opened on Tuesday.

Adani Energy's shares rose about 7% on Tuesday. The stock, however, is roughly 60% lower than its levels prior to the Hindenburg Research accusations against the group.



Relief As Rongai Residents Access Clean Water

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County Government has commenced the pipe laying works at Kapsetek village in Soin Ward, Rongai Sub-county.

The 1 km steel pipe extension starts from the main water catchment areas at the nearby Koibatek Forest. Once complete over 1,000 residents of the area including Kapsetek Primary School, will have access to safe quality water for their domestic utilization.

Sub-county Water Officer, Eng. John Muhuhe, said the project will solve the long standing water scarcity in the area, adding the County Administration is committed to harnessing and connecting natural water sources to residents for efficiency use.

Overall, he noted that connecting clean water to dry areas in the County enhances public health, supports economic activities, promotes education, empowers women, and contributes to environmental and social

sustainability.

Eng. Muhuhe said the County has a significant agricultural sector. Hence, reliable water supply supports irrigation, leading to increased agricultural productivity and food security.

Highlighting the importance of school attendance, particularly, girls who often fail to attend school to fetch water, adding that access to clean water sources has been shown to improve educational outcomes. And, schools with clean water can maintain better hygiene standards, which is crucial for student's health and well-being.

He said the County is determined to ensure that dry areas, such as Rongai Sub-county, which has been disadvantaged for a long time, have access to clean water systems. To, withstand droughts and other climate related challenges better.

Eng. Muhuhe urged residents to safeguard the project for its long term sustainability and use, and commended the contractor for hiring local residents to manual work such as digging trenches and connecting the pipes.





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Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.129,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
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Love Gardens	KAJIADO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.950,000	Achievers Paradise Phase 2	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
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The Opiate of the Masses: Stripping Away the Role of Religion in Perpetuating Poverty in Contemporary Kenya

“When the Missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the Missionaries had the Bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible.” - Jomo Kenyatta



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Generally in African history, few threads are as intricately woven and profoundly impactful as that of religion. The words of Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first president, resonate with a piercing truth that echoes through the corridors of time, reverberating in the hearts and minds of Kenyans today. This poignant observation, encapsulating the complex relationship between colonialism, religion, and dispossession, serves as a stark reminder of the double-edged nature of faith in the African context. As this paper examines the role of religion in contemporary Kenyan society, we must grapple with the uncomfortable reality that what was once a tool of colonization has, in many ways, transformed into a mechanism for perpetuating poverty and social inequality. The Bible, once a symbol of colonial imposition, has become deeply entrenched in Kenyan culture, shaping worldviews, influencing decision-making, and, in many cases, diverting attention from the pressing socio-economic challenges that plague the nation.

The legacy of missionary activity in Kenya, as in much of Africa, is a complex tapestry of contradictions. While it brought education and healthcare to many communities, it also served as a vanguard for colonial exploitation and cultural erosion. This duality persists in contemporary Kenya, where religious institutions play a significant role in providing social services while simultaneously contributing to a mindset that often prioritizes spiritual salvation over material well-being. The proliferation of churches across Kenya's urban and rural landscapes stands as a testament to the enduring influence of Christianity, yet it also raises questions about the allocation of resources in a country grappling with widespread poverty. The construction of lavish houses of worship in communities lacking basic infrastructure and services serves as a stark reminder of the misplaced priorities that can arise when faith



becomes divorced from the material realities of everyday life.

In the aftermath of colonialism, religion in Kenya has taken on new forms and functions, adapting to the changing socio-political landscape while retaining its grip on the collective psyche of the nation. The rise of prosperity gospel movements, which promise material wealth as a divine reward for faith and financial contributions to religious leaders, has added a new dimension to the relationship between religion and poverty. These teachings, which often emphasize individual spiritual solutions to systemic economic problems, can divert attention and resources away from addressing the root causes of poverty. By promoting a narrative that equates material success with divine favor, such movements risk reinforcing existing inequalities and discouraging critical engagement with the structural issues that perpetuate poverty in Kenyan society.

The intertwining of religion and politics in Kenya further complicates the relationship between faith and economic development. Religious leaders wield significant influence in the political arena, often shaping public discourse and policy decisions. While this influence has at times been used to advocate for social justice and economic empowerment, it has also been leveraged to maintain the status quo and protect vested interests. The tendency of some religious institutions to align themselves with political power structures can result in a tacit endorsement of policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality. This dynamic echoes the colonial-era collusion between religious and political authorities, perpetuating a system where the interests of the elite are prioritized over the needs of the masses.

The impact of religion on education in Kenya is another critical factor in

understanding its role in perpetuating poverty. While religious institutions have played a crucial role in expanding access to education, the content and quality of that education often reflect religious biases that may not adequately prepare students for the challenges of a modern, globalized economy. The emphasis on religious instruction in many schools, sometimes at the expense of science, technology, and critical thinking skills, can limit students' economic opportunities and perpetuate cycles of poverty. Furthermore, the persistence of religiously-influenced attitudes towards issues such as family planning and gender roles can have far-reaching implications for economic development and social mobility.

The psychological impact of religious teachings on individual and collective attitudes towards poverty cannot be overlooked. The notion of suffering as a virtue, often promoted in religious contexts, can foster a sense of resignation among the poor, discouraging proactive efforts to improve one's economic circumstances. Similarly, the emphasis on otherworldly rewards can diminish the urgency of addressing pressing material needs in the here and now. While faith can provide comfort and hope in difficult circumstances, an overreliance on divine intervention as a solution to economic hardship can lead to a dangerous passivity in the face of systemic injustice and exploitation.

The role of international religious organizations in shaping Kenya's economic landscape adds another layer of complexity to this issue. While many such organizations provide vital humanitarian aid and development assistance, their activities can also perpetuate dependency and undermine local economic initiatives. The influx of foreign religious groups, often with significant finan-

cial resources, can distort local economies and create unsustainable patterns of development. Moreover, the ideological influence of these organizations can reinforce neo-colonial power dynamics, imposing Western religious and economic paradigms that may not be compatible with local realities and needs.

The intersection of religion and traditional African cultural practices in Kenya further complicates the relationship between faith and economic development. The erosion of traditional communal support systems and economic practices in favor of individualistic, Western-influenced religious models has, in many cases, weakened social safety nets and exacerbated economic vulnerability. The demonization of certain traditional practices by religious institutions has led to the loss of indigenous knowledge and economic strategies that were well-adapted to local conditions. This cultural displacement, rooted in the colonial encounter but perpetuated by contemporary religious institutions, continues to have profound implications for economic resilience and community well-being in Kenya.

The role of religion in shaping attitudes towards wealth accumulation and distribution in Kenya is a critical factor in understanding its impact on poverty. While many religious teachings emphasize charity and compassion for the poor, the practical application of these principles often falls short of addressing systemic economic inequalities. The tendency to view wealth as a sign of divine blessing can lead to a tacit acceptance of extreme income disparities, undermining efforts to promote more equitable economic policies. Furthermore, the emphasis on individual salvation and personal relationship with the divine can sometimes overshadow the importance of collective action and social responsibility in addressing poverty.

The influence of religion on gender dynamics in Kenya has significant implications for economic development and poverty reduction. Many religious institutions continue to promote traditional gender roles that limit women's economic participation and autonomy. The persistence of religiously-influenced attitudes towards issues such as women's education, employment, and property rights contributes to the feminization of poverty in Kenya. By constraining women's economic opportunities and decision-making power, these

religious attitudes perpetuate cycles of poverty that affect entire families and communities.

The relationship between religion and environmental stewardship in Kenya also bears scrutiny in the context of poverty and economic development. While many religious traditions emphasize the importance of caring for creation, the practical application of these teachings has often been lacking. The exploitation of natural resources, often justified through religious narratives of human dominion over nature, has contributed to environmental degradation that disproportionately affects the poor. Climate change, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity, exacerbated by unsustainable practices, pose significant challenges to Kenya's economic development and threaten to push more people into poverty.

In conclusion, the role of religion in perpetuating poverty in contemporary Kenya is a complex and multifaceted issue that defies simple analysis. From its roots in the colonial encounter to its current manifestations in prosperity gospel movements and political influence, religion continues to shape the economic landscape of Kenya in profound and often problematic ways. While it would be overly simplistic to cast religion solely as a force for economic stagnation - indeed, religious institutions provide vital social services and can be powerful advocates for justice - we must confront the ways in which religious beliefs and practices can contribute to the persistence of poverty. As Kenya grapples with the challenges of development in the 21st century, it is imperative that we critically examine the role of religion in shaping economic attitudes, policies, and outcomes. Only by confronting the legacy of Kenyatta's observation - the exchange of land for the Bible - and its contemporary implications can we hope to forge a path towards more equitable and sustainable economic development. This requires not only a reimagining of the relationship between faith and material well-being but also a concerted effort to address the structural inequalities and systemic injustices that continue to trap millions of Kenyans in cycles of poverty.

The writer is a legal scrivener and writer

Be Watchful Over Your Children During School Break, Parents Told

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- “I want to urge all parents and guardians to take care of their children to ensure that they do not become victims of human trafficking. Children are the most vulnerable and are targeted by traffickers for forced labour both locally and internationally.” He said.
- The PS remarked that children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls being disproportionately affected.
- Poverty, dysfunctional families, armed conflicts and lack of parental care are some of the factors that contribute to the high cases of child trafficking.
- He reiterated that trafficked children face a far greater risk of suffering violence compared to adults thus must be protected.



Parents and guardians have been urged to be extra vigilant and monitor their children’s movements, so as to curb the rising cases of child trafficking.

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Principal Secretary, Joseph Motari, noted that human trafficking, is still rampant in Kenya, despite the legal and policy frameworks in place to combat it with children being the most affected.

Speaking in Namanga, Kajiado County, during celebrations to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Motari said children are generally vulnerable thus face the risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, begging, cheap labour and even organ harvesting.

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Motari added that persons living with disabilities were also at great risk of being trafficked and forced to beg in the streets in towns.

According to Assistant County Commissioner, Faith Ludeki, human and child trafficking in Kajiado County is rampant and is often conducted through the porous borders.

Girls are trafficked across borders or to different regions to undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in secrecy, where it is less enforced. The movement is often under the guise of cultural or family visits making it hard to nab the perpetrators.

“Kajiado being a border county, it has witnessed an influx of children from the neighboring country and counties trafficked for the purpose of exploitation. This is often done in secrecy, making it an invisible crime and often goes undetected because of its nature with the victims often

unable to seek help,” he said.

Ludeki, who spoke on behalf of the County Commissioner, James Taari, said identification and protection of child victims remain challenging due to underreporting, lack of awareness, and inadequate resources for victim support services.

Traffickers often employ coercion, deception, and threats to maintain control over their victims, making it difficult for authorities to intervene.

She emphasized the need for continuous awareness on human trafficking and strengthening collaborations of the law enforcement and stakeholders during operations to rescue trafficked children and apprehend traffickers.

According to the National Crime Research Center 2022 Report, human trafficking in Kenya is high with the country being described as an origin, transit and destination in trafficking in persons.

Most of the victims were trafficked for cheap labour, sexual exploitation and cultural purposes.

Trafficking for labour accounted for 96 percent and 98.3 percent of all trafficking cases in the year 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The Study further revealed that external trafficking in persons was

the most prominent at 64.7 percent while domestic trafficking was 35.3 percent. In external trafficking, majority of the victims were adults and youthful females aged 18-34 years.

Children were mostly victims of domestic trafficking accounting for 4 out of 10 victims of domestic trafficking.

Some of the main factors contributing to Trafficking in Persons include poverty, unemployment, ready markets for cheap labour and ignorance and impacts of climate change.

The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is marked globally on July 30th, to raise awareness, encourage vigilance, promote the protection of the rights of trafficking victims and encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.

This year’s theme “Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking”, highlights the critical need for inclusive and focused efforts to protect children.

Section Of Mt. Kenya Leaders Say DP Rigathi Gachagua Is Region’s Kingpin

By: Eric Biegon

A section of leaders from the Mount Kenya region has expressed its backing of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua as the political kingpin of the region.

The leaders who included former and elected said they were fronting Gachagua to be the undisputed leader of the region, taking over from former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

“The Deputy President knows how much I respect him and support his push for reforms in the coffee sector, amongst others. I declare here today that the senior most politician in Mt. Kenya region is none other than Rigathi Gachagua,” Duncan Maina Mathenge, Nyeri Town MP said during a burial ceremony attended by Gachagua in Nyeri County Wednesday.

“I support Deputy President Rigathi

Gachagua to take over the mantle as the Mt. Kenya kingpin. I still hope it happens. Your Excellency, we are your good foot soldiers. We will continue to support you,” Njoroge Wainaina, Kieni MP

His sentiments receiving the backing of Nyeri County Woman Rep Rahab Mukami.

“Your Excellency, you are our leader, and we love and honour you. I can assure you that we are standing firm with you. We are urging you to continue uniting us as the Mountain leaders,” she said

Former Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia, also in attendance, asked Gachagua to continue mobilizing support for the region to ensure Mt. Kenya speaks with one voice.

“I’d like to urge all of us to pray for the country and its leadership for unity. Your Excellency continue uniting the Mt. Kenya region. You are the senior most politician, and we recognize you as such,” he said

The Deputy President, on his part, continued his call for leaders in the



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

region to remain calm and support ongoing initiatives to promote unity.

“Our Nyeri leaders, please maintain peace and harmony amongst yourselves. I encourage our community to continue supporting one another,”

he said

The DP was in the company of Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, his Deputy David Kinaniri, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Woman Representative Rahab Mukami, host

Mp Duncan Mathenge, Kieni MP Wainaina Njoroge, former Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia and some members of the Nyeri county assembly.

Trans Nzoia Youths Urged to Embrace Non-Violence Ahead of Planned Nane Nane March



By: Sefu Sabila
@themtkenyatimes

Youths in Trans Nzoia have been urged to embrace non-violent ways to advocate for their grievances to the government.

Speaking in Kitale during youth peace training held yesterday Trans Nzoia youth Senator Collins Oywaya asked the youths for a more advanced plan to call for change, not necessarily violent means.

“It is high time we learn and appreciate the need of adopting new ways of resolving conflicts and putting out our demands without violence. Peaceful ways of resolving conflict and demands have proven to be fruitful. We don’t need to lose lives and bring each other down to have our voices heard,” he stated.

Echoing the sentiments of Oywaya, Trans Nzoia country Deputy Speaker Obed Mwale said embracing peaceful means is the only way to build the country, and avoid burning down the efforts put by our founding fathers.

He asked the youths to tone down on their planned Nane Nane march, and give the president time to act on the demands, as the he had given into some of the demands raised by the Gen Z protesters.

“I think it is high time the Gen Zs protest slow down and give President William Ruto time to implement on the demands they put across. The dropped Finance Bill 2024 was the cause of the protests, he finally dropped it. We cannot continue to burn down our country, since recovering will not be a walk in the path,” he urged.

Conflict and peace expert Dr. Wenani Kilongi’I the speaker of the day urged youths to have an approach that benefits the huge populace of the country standing 65% according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNSB), to avoid political class benefitting from their efforts.

For the past two months, the country



Trans Nzoia youth Senator Collins Oywaya

has witnessed a series of anti-government calling for good governance and accountability from leaders, which led to Ruto dropping the controversial Finance Bill and dissolving his entire cabinet.

However, a number of those cabinet secretaries fired by Ruto have been

nominated and shuffled to other ministries, despite some of them being the root cause of the anti-government protests.

The youths seemingly unsatisfied by the nominations and none of them marching from their fit have planned a peaceful protest for Thursday, Au-

gust 8 to State House Nairobi.

During interview session by the National Assembly, Kindiki Kithure laid out for demonstrations in future to provide number of protesters during demonstrations for security planning.

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Sports >> *Former England manager Steve McClaren has been named head coach of Jamaica’s men’s national team.

Mcclaren To Be Jamaica Boss After Leaving Manchester United



Steve McLaren will be the new Jamaica head coach. PHOTO/The Independent.

Former England manager Steve McClaren has been named head coach of Jamaica’s men’s national team.

The 63-year-old has signed a two-year contract, which he will take up after leaving Manchester United’s backroom staff.

The Jamaica Football Federation said McClaren’s target was to guide the Reggae Boyz to the 2026 World Cup finals.

Their only World Cup appear-

ance to date came at France 1998, when they were knocked out in the group stage.

McClaren said he was “extremely proud and excited” to take his first managerial post since he was sacked by QPR in April 2019.

“I had no hesitation in accepting a position that is ideally suited to me at this stage of my career,” he added.

McClaren served as Sir Alex

Ferguson’s assistant at Manchester United before leaving in 2001 to take charge of Middlesbrough, where he won the League Cup in 2004 and reached the Uefa Cup final in 2006.

He was appointed England manager as Sven-Goran Eriksson’s successor in 2006 but was sacked after the Three Lions failed to qualify for Euro 2008.

McClaren returned to United in May 2022 as a member of Erik

ten Hag’s backroom staff.

BBC

Sports >>> *Manchester United's new £52m defender Leny Yoro has been ruled out for three months and striker Rasmus Hojlund will miss six weeks with injuries they suffered in Saturday's pre-season game with Arsenal.

Man United's New Signing Yoro Out For Three Months And Hojlund Six Weeks



Manchester United's new signing Lenny Yoro. PHOTO/Daily Mail

Manchester United's new £52m defender Leny Yoro has been ruled out for three months and striker Rasmus Hojlund will miss six weeks with injuries they suffered in Saturday's pre-season game with Arsenal.

Sources confirmed the news just over an hour before United's 3-2 victory over La Liga side Real Betis in San Diego.

Both men were forced off in the first half of the 2-1 defeat at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles.

Yoro was filmed at United's training base at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), on

Tuesday wearing a protective boot and using crutches.

That sparked fears of a major injury and those concerns have now been realised, with 18-year-old Yoro set to be out until the end of October.

That would mean he misses nine Premier League games, including matches against Liverpool, Tottenham and Aston Villa, and the start of United's Europa League and Carabao Cup campaigns.

Yoro will have further tests when he returns to the UK to determine the precise extent of the problem, although he will stay with the

United party for the remainder of their US trip, which concludes against Liverpool in Columbia, South Carolina, on Saturday.

Hojlund scored United's opener at the weekend but he succumbed to a hamstring problem and will be sidelined until after the September international break, meaning he will miss the Liverpool game at Old Trafford on 1 September.

It remains to be seen whether the news injects fresh life into ongoing efforts to sign Jarrod Branthwaite from Everton or Matthijs de Ligt from Bayern Munich given previous United approaches for

both players already this summer.

BBC

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Saydaxmatova Mohtobaxon



By: Saydaxmatova
Mohtobaxon
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Abduvaliyeva Mohidil has been engaged in scientific research during her education and has been actively participating in spiritual-educational, mass-political events held at the level of a number of regions, institutes and faculties.
- Abduvaliyeva Mohidil gained respect and attention among professors and teachers of the institute and students with her diligence, thirst for knowledge, active participation in public affairs, morals, honesty, and hard work. Despite being a student, her books were published in America and Uzbekistan. Her articles were published in countries such as America, Indonesia, Russia, and Germany. Of course, she is at this level thanks to her diligence, the actions of her teachers, and the trust of her parents.



Abduvaliyeva Mohidil Adhamjon's daughter was born in Fergana region Rishton district. After graduating the school with excellent grades, successfully passing the 2021 tests, he was admitted to study at the Faculty of "Chemical Technology" in the direction of "Food Technology". During his studies, he was able to show himself as a disciplined, polite and intelligent student. Due to his serious approach to training, he always achieves high results, mastering all subjects with "excellent" marks.

Abduvaliyeva Mohidil from 2023 until now, under the leadership of D.A. Shodiyev, has been conducting innovative scientific-research works on the topic "Scientifically studying the cultivation of ecologically clean food products in the Fergana Valley" in order to establish the production of food supplements from localized medicinal plants.

During her scientific research, Mohidil Abduvaliyeva was reflected in foreign scientific journals included in the list of Higher Attestation Commission, as well as in prestigious scientific journals of America, Indonesia, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Abduvaliyeva Mohidil has been engaged in scientific research during her education and has been actively participating in spiritual-educational, mass-political events held at the level of a number of regions, institutes and faculties. Abduvaliyeva Mohidil gained respect and attention among professors and teachers of the institute and students with her diligence, thirst for knowledge, active participation in public affairs, morals, honesty, and hard work. Despite being a student, her books were published in America and Uzbeki-

stan. Her articles were published in countries such as America, Indonesia, Russia, and Germany. Of course, she is at this level thanks to her diligence, the actions of her teachers, and the trust of her parents.

Abduvaliyeva Mohidil took the 2nd place in the faculty stage of the republic competition "The best reader student" held at the Fergana Polytechnic Institute on April 13, 2023. On April 14, 2023, he took the proud 1st place in the Institute stage of the "Best Shopping Student" Republican examination competition. On April 20, 2023, he took the 3rd place in the regional stage of the "Best Reader Student" Republican competition and won an appointment to the Republican stage. He became the winner of the institute stage of the "Ilhom" award competition held in 2023 and won a ticket to the republic stage. "The most active creative student of the year" in the "Student of the Year" competition held at the Fergana Polytechnic Institute. took the proud 1st place in the field and qualified for the Republic.

He has been actively participating in mass media with his creations. The article "My teacher-poet" in the 17th issue of "Fergana Haqiqati" newspaper, the article "The Youngest Scientist" in the 39th issue, and the article "Our Teacher-Our Pride" in the 51st issue, and poems in several local newspapers and magazines. We believe that this girl will achieve many fields.

Saydaxmatova Mohtobaxon
English teacher, master the specialty of "Theory and History of Pedagogy (by type of activity)" in Fergana State University

