



The Indispensable Tapestry: Unraveling The Vital Role Of Arts And Humanities In Kenya's Educational Landscape

“The arts and humanities are not mere ornaments; they are the very fabric of our society, weaving together the threads of our shared human experience,” posits Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong’o, renowned Kenyan scholar and author.

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News>> Pastor Dorcas Hopes Looming Teachers Strike Will Be Averted

P. 8. The looming teachers strike took centre stage during the burial of a head teacher in Oloitoktok, Kajiado County yesterday.



News>> Kenyan Girls Lead In Innovation At National Research Festival

P. 12. In an engaging demonstration of talent and creativity, young girls from Kenyan high schools have emerged as key drivers of innovation at the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival.

Ours Is Unity Of Purpose - Gachagua

In a move to foster Mt. Kenya region unity Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has continued to push for unity of purpose in the region rather than dwell on politics and seeking for position. Gachagua called on leaders from the region to join hands and ensure that the region gets its fair share of developments as promised during campaign time in 2022 and not focus on political wrangles and supremacy.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing mourners at Kiambu

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Mvurya Warns Against Hoarding Licenses In Special Economic Zones



By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade, and Industry, Salim Mvurya, has issued a strong warning to investors who have been hoarding licenses within the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

He made it clear that the government will not tolerate any delays in the development and investment activities within these zones.

Speaking during the laying of the foundation stone for the Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods Limited Special Economic Zone in Naivasha, Mvurya reiterated the government's commitment to fostering economic growth through the SEZs.

He emphasized that the government expects investors who acquire licenses to commence their projects promptly and contribute to the country's economic progress.

"We are committed to ensuring that the Special Economic Zones fulfill their intended purpose of driving industrial growth and creating jobs. We are giving every investor six Months to report to the ground, and if they don't, we will move on to the Next person." Said Mvurya.

The SEZs have been a critical component of Kenya's strategy to attract foreign direct investment and spur industrialization. The zones offer various incentives, including tax breaks and streamlined regulatory processes, to encourage investment. However, concerns have been raised about some investors acquiring licenses without following through on their development plans, effectively stalling progress in these areas.

Nineteen companies have expressed interest in setting up operations at the Naivasha SEZ, with eleven of them already cleared and awarded licenses. The CS attributed this progress to the government's continuous efforts to ease the process of doing business, urging investors to take full advantage of the incentives available, and also emphasized the importance of investors collaborating with local communities.

"Investors must work together with the local communities by prioritizing employment opportunities. The process should have a coordinated structure that ensures full representation from the



Trade CS Salim Mvurya with MP Naivasha Hon. Jane Kuhara and Dr. Chelule CEO Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA)

grassroots level." He stated.

The Cabinet Secretary's remarks come at a time when the government is intensifying its efforts to revitalize the SEZs and ensure they deliver on their promise of boosting economic growth and creating jobs for Kenyans.

The event in Naivasha marks a significant milestone for Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods Limited, as the company prepares to establish its operations within the SEZ, which is expected to enhance food processing and export activities in the region. The project is anticipated to create hundreds of jobs and contribute to the local economy, aligning with the government's broader vision for the SEZs.

Accompanied by Investments Principal Secretary Abubakar Hassan, Mvurya also reviewed the progress of other facilities taking shape within the Naivasha SEZ, reaffirming the government's dedication to fostering a conducive environment for investment and development.

Mvurya's warning serves as a clear mes-



Trade CS Salim Mvurya and Investments Principal Secretary Abubakar Hassan, being shown a map by CEO Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) Dr. Chelule

sage to all stakeholders involved in the SEZs: the government is serious about its commitment to economic development and will not hesitate to take action

against those who do not adhere to their obligations.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the laying of the foundation stone for the Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods Limited Special Economic Zone in Naivasha, Mvurya reiterated the government's commitment to fostering economic growth through the SEZs.
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Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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Mama Judith Ongoro



MEDICAL APPEAL

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



From left: ASALS and Regional Development PS Kello Harsama, the outgoing East African Community, ASALS and Regional Development CS Peninah Malonza, her successor Beatrice Askul, and the East African Community PS Abdi Dubat, display handing over documents at the Cooperative House Building, Nairobi yesterday August. Among the key areas the CS will prioritise are leveraging on the bilateral and multilateral synergies to boost intra-EAC trade, tackling trade bottlenecks, and supporting the ongoing reforms aimed at ensuring the EAC becomes more responsive to the citizens' needs.



Vihiga County, in partnership with Stanbic Bank Kenya and Microsoft, is offering a digital training programme to Technical, Vocational, and Educational Training instructors. Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo underscored the importance of digital skills, stating that they are enablers for accessing and disseminating information on digital devices. "We recognise the important role played by the TVET institutions in equipping the learners with skills for self-reliance, noting that they produce graduates who are capable of setting up their own enterprises to earn a living," he said. The training will equip participants with digital freelancing, transcription, digital marketing, and social media management skills.



Quality seed is the one which has genetic purity, physical purity, viability, and a good physiological condition in accordance with the prescribed standards of seed certification, which is a crucial step in seed production and marketing done to maintain high-quality seed standards while making them available to farmers for a good and quality yield, says KEPHIS Managing Director, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui. KEPHIS is undertaking stakeholder sensitisation on the importance of certified seed to increase awareness and access to certified seed while also enhancing the ability to detect fake seed and report for further legal and procedural action.



A general view of the fish ponds in the Bonje area of Kwale, ready to be stocked with fingerlings. Governor Achani says the fish development project will help the local small-scale farmers increase their livelihoods and income by sustainably producing tilapia. "This investment is aimed at transforming the livelihoods of our community and alleviating poverty through sustainable fish farming," she said.

Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Muriithi yesterday received a delegation from The Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK). The CS is a corporate member of the institution. The team was led by the president Eng. Shammah Kiteme. Among issues discussed include Non -Revenue Water (NRW), absorption of technology, innovation design for onsite technology and championing role of engineers in development. To achieve universal water coverage by 2030, the CS called upon the engineers to be part of the team and play a central role in order to achieve the objectives of supplying clean water and sanitation for all. The CS was flanked by the Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima and Eng. Bernard Onyango the Director Irrigation and Drainage.

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



Kirinyaga County Partners With National Gov't To Decongest Prisons Through Community Service Initiatives

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

“We identified several areas where we can assist, especially in agriculture. The Wezesha program in Kirinyaga is well advanced, and many of its components can be integrated into this partnership,” Githanda said.

He further emphasized the benefits of the CSO program, noting that it offers a constructive alternative for petty offenders.

“We can ensure that these offenders contribute positively to society by working in public spaces like markets. This not only helps them reintegrate into the community but also eases congestion in our prisons,” Githanda added.

Kirinyaga County Government has pledged to work closely with the National Government to help decongest prisons through the Community Service Orders (CSO) program.

This collaboration with the State Department for Correctional Services will allow offenders to engage in public work across various county facilities, including hospitals and markets, benefiting the community while serving their sentences.

The commitment was highlighted during a visit by Principal Secretary in the State Department for Correctional Services, Dr. Salome Muhia Beacco and Commissioner General of Prisons Patrick Arundah, who toured the ongoing projects at Kerugoya and Mwea GK Prisons.

The visit aimed to inspect the progress of these projects and discuss further collaboration, particularly in enhancing food production and reducing overcrowding in prisons.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Governor David Githanda, who represented Governor Anne Waiguru, underscored the importance of collaboration in community service.

“We identified several areas where we can assist, especially in agriculture. The Wezesha program in Kirinyaga is well advanced, and many of its components can be integrated into this partnership,” Githanda said.

He further emphasized the benefits of the CSO program, noting that it offers a constructive alternative for petty offenders.

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Principal Secretary in the State Department for Correctional Services, Dr. Salome Muhia Beacco and Commissioner General of Prisons Patrick Arundah and Kirinyaga County Deputy Governor David Githanda at Mwea prison.

added.

He said the county government had donated toiletries among them soaps and tissue papers help improve hygiene in the two prison facilities.

The Kerugoya Prisons facility has already benefited from this collaboration, with the County Government responsible for tarmacking the facility. This joint effort, aimed at reducing prison overcrowding and enhancing community involvement, marks a significant step towards justice reform and social responsibility.

Dr. Salome Muhia Beacco praised the County government for its active role in improving prison facilities and its collaboration with the State Department of Correctional Services.

“The County has been instrumental in tarmacking the Kerugoya facility and maintaining cleanliness in the area,” she noted.

She also mentioned the ongoing efforts to boost agricultural production within the prison system, in line with President William Ruto’s directive to scale up food production and increase revenue.

“In Kerugoya Prison, we have expanded orchards for fruit farming, initiated fish farming, and enhanced coffee farming. Additionally, our prisons are involved in producing furniture, metal works like gates, doors, and window frames, all aimed at increasing industrial output,” Dr. Beacco said.

The PS highlighted that, through support from the Chandaria Foundation, inmates receive valuable training and certification, empowering them to support themselves and their families after their release.

“The Chandaria Foundation has established a bakery within the prison, providing inmates with the opportuni-

ty to train and earn an income while incarcerated. This initiative not only enables them to educate their children while still in prison but also equips them with skills for their future. I urge the public to support our rehabilitation efforts by purchasing these products, as it plays a vital role in the inmates’ reintegration into society,” she said.

She said a new legal reform is underway that will enable inmates to earn a stipend during their incarceration, providing them with the financial capital needed to start afresh once they are rehabilitated.

“This partnership between Kirinyaga County and the National Government reflects a shared commitment to addressing systemic challenges within the justice system and fostering a more unified approach to governance,” she added.

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Mugwongo Family

Pastor Dorcas Hopes Looming Teachers Strike Will Be Averted

By: ODP

Worth Noting:

• “I am a teacher by profession trained at Kenyatta University. Teaching is a calling, and I don’t think anybody can be able to pay teachers enough. All of us are products of teachers and mentors, and I pray the discussions between the government and teachers will enable teachers and our children to be in school this Monday,” said Pastor Dorcas.

• Kajiado South MP Samuel Parashina said that parliament had passed KSh18billion for the TSC in the budget, and through the collective bargaining agreement, a certain portion would go towards salary increment and avert the strike.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi (in red), Senator Peris Tobiko (in mask), and Doris Parit (sister in law to the deceased) in Oloitoktok, Kajiado County during the burial of Loise Purdul, daughter to former Kajiado South MP and Assistant Minister Phillip Ole Sing’aru who until her demise was head teacher Athi River GK Prison Primary School..

The looming teachers strike took centre stage during the burial of a head teacher in Oloitoktok, Kajiado County yesterday.

This was during the burial of Loise Purdul, daughter to former Kajiado South MP and Assistant Minister Phillip Ole Sing’aru, which the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi had attended.

The burial brought together teachers, pupils, officials in the education sector from KNUT, TSC, and KEPSHA.

Pastor Dorcas told the teachers that she was a trained teacher from Kenyatta University, and the profession was a calling that no amount of compensation would equal the contribution of teachers to shaping and transforming the lives in the nation.

“I am a teacher by profession trained at Kenyatta University. Teaching is a calling, and I don’t think anybody can be able to pay teachers enough. All of us are products of teachers and mentors, and I pray the discussions

between the government and teachers will enable teachers and our children to be in school this Monday,” said Pastor Dorcas.

Kajiado South MP Samuel Parashina said that parliament had passed KSh18billion for the TSC in the budget, and through the collective bargaining agreement, a certain portion would go towards salary increment and avert the strike.

“Death is painful, and today we came to say goodbye to a shujaa who has worked hard in the education sector until she rose to the position of head teacher, and we have lost her at her prime years of service,” said MP Parashina.

Kuku Ward MCA Lemomo Lewantai, “Now that we are in the third term, I urge our teachers to allow our students to go back to school. Our teachers are also parents, and in the deliberations, let them be flexible for the good of our children.”

Kajiado Senator Peris Tobiko spoke

about the impeachment motion of Kawira Mwangaza, and expressed concern that the success her removal from office at the Senate level was unwarranted since there was no solid reason that was presented in the house.

Sen Tobiko raised concern over the place of women leaders in the country, implying that the impeachment of Gov Kawira was political and Meru cultural practices of the place of women in the society.

“Women will not stop breaking the glass ceiling because of culture and customs. Women leaders cried during the impeachment motion, and unfortunately only three of the 47 senators are women, and the nominated senators cannot participate in the voting,” said Sen Tobiko.

Pastor Dorcas also urged women and men to undergo screening for cervical and prostate cancer respectively, encouraging early diagnosis that would save lives.

Present were Bishop John Parit Sing’aru (brother to the deceased) who has worked with Pastor Dorcas in reaching the vulnerable in Kajiado County, former MP and Assistant Minister Philip Ole Sing’aru (father to the deceased), former MP John Sankori, teachers, pupils, clergy, and representatives from TSC, KNUT, and KEPSHA.

Officials from the education sector who were present called on the increment of the teachers salaries.

Ours Is Unity Of Purpose - Gachagua

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes



Senators Wahome Wamatinga and John Methu with Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba in Kiambu yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- The leaders who included all the Senators from Central Kenya vowed to rally behind Gachagua in pushing for the interests of people from the region including completion of stalled roads, markets for agricultural produce among other economic developments.
- They met during the burial of Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangw'a's brother Martean Wainaina and sister-in-law Peninnah Wanjiru at Mitahato village.
- Among those in the new push for unity is former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria and Kiambaa MP Njuguna Kawanjiku, a critic of Mr Gachagua who said he is now willing to work with the second in command for the sake of development.

In a move to foster Mt. Kenya region unity Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has continued to push for unity of purpose in the region rather than dwell on politics and seeking for position.

Gachagua called on leaders from the region to join hands and ensure that the region gets its fair share of developments as promised during campaign time in 2022 and not focus on political wrangles and supremacy.

"We are not uniting because we love love each other, we are uniting because we want to deliver on the interests of the people of our region. There are many things we need to deliver such as good returns of our coffee, tea, milk for our famers, we must deliver on maumau roads," Gachagua said

The DP has been in the center of political battles with a section of Mt Kenya region leaders over succession politics.

Yesterday, the DP was in Githunguri constituency, Kiambu County where he was accompanied by scores of leaders from different parts of the country.

The leaders who included all the Senators from Central Kenya vowed to rally behind Gachagua in pushing for the interests of people from the region including completion of stalled roads, markets for agricultural produce among other economic developments.

They met during the burial of Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangw'a's brother Martean Wainaina and sister-in-law Peninnah Wanjiru at Mi-

tahato village.

Among those in the new push for unity is former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria and Kiambaa MP Njuguna Kawanjiku, a critic of Mr Gachagua who said he is now willing to work with the second in command for the sake of development.

"As youngsters in the country's leadership, our duty of responsibility is to support you and the president. As a man heads a family, the job you have to drive the economic growth of our country is quite tasking and our only duty is to support you to succeed. I have never said that I don't support Gachagua and I want to say that I am behind him as our leader here in Mt Kenya. I will support him with all that I have," said Kawanjiku.

Among the leaders present were Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata, Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (Kericho), Senators John Methu (Nyandarua), Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri), Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu), Joe Nyutu (Murang'a), John Kinyua (Laikipia), Okiya Omtatah (Busia), Karen Nyamu (Nominated) and Veronica Maina (Nominated).

Others were the host MP Gathoni Wamuchomba, Peter Kihungi (Kangema), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Benjamin Gathiru (Embakasi Central), Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central), George Koim-buri (Juja), Njoroge Kururia (Gatundu North), John Machua (Kiambu Town), Teresiah Wanjiru (Nominated), EALA MP Maina Karobia, for-

mer Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu, former Bahati MP Kimani Ngunjiri and several MCAs.

Nyandarua Senator John Methu who spoke on behalf of his colleagues from the Mountain region said with the formation of a broad-based Cabinet between President William Ruto and Opposition Chief Raila Odinga, the right thing for the Mountain leadership to do was to unite.

"I want to assure you that all the Senators from the region are behind the DP and we have resolved he is our undisputed leader. We also ask him to remove the dragnets he had set earlier and look for others including Wiper Party's Kalonzo Musyoka," said Methu.

Kururia, while welcoming the call for unity, said leaders should hold meetings specifically to address the issue and not use forums like burials or other social events.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang'wa, Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot and other mourners yesterday

"Unity of the region cannot be over-emphasized and I suggest that the DP should lead the initiative by convening a meeting of all the leaders so that we can come up with a common stand on our issues," said the legislator.

His sentiments were echoed by Joe Nyutu who reiterated the need for leaders in the region to unite to revive all stalled projects for the interest of the people.

"All of us, elected by the people of Kenya, are united. We need to now come together to lobby for projects for our people. We want to improve the profitability of the economic activities that our people engage in. Our major concern for now is to ensure that our people benefit from the government they passionately voted for. Our unity will enable us to revive all the stalled projects," he said.

On his part, Gachagua called on elected leaders to tone down on politics and concentrate on delivering services to Kenyans saying that time for politics will come.

"Let us work for the people and advance our interests. The unity we call for in this region is to ensure we push for developments. I also urge our leaders to be cautious and pursue their interests with thoughtfulness," said Gachagua.

He at the same time revealed that he has embraced new entrants in government who joined the Kenya Kwanza regime following anti-government protests and urged all leaders to rally behind President William Ruto.

"We accept the newcomers who came on board and all of us are now there to support our president. As a region, our interests are well catered for in the broad-based government and I don't sleep to ensure we don't lose," the DP added.

The Kiambu senator's brother and his other brother's wife died days apart after separately falling sick.

Vision To Impact



By: Eric Musa
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There is a vital secret for impact, which once contacted will set an individual up for a life of perpetual impact. That vital secret is vision. Vision is to impact what air is to man. Without it man would perish. That's why Proverbs 29:18 says, WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. The word perish here does not mean to die or expire. It means to be stripped of honour and dignity; it means to lose worth or value. To live without vision is to die in frustration. That is why no matter the looks, money; possessions, social background or academic qualification of a man, if he does not know his purpose for living, he has no place to occupy on this earth. Martin Luther

King once said, "If a man has no purpose for living he is not fit to live".

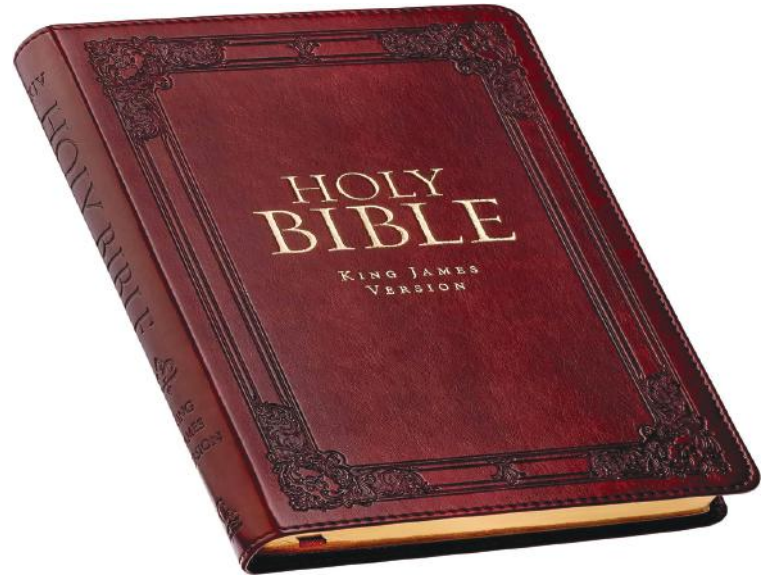
A life of impact begins with a sense of mission; it begins with a discovery of your purpose. It will be foolish for a man to arrive at the airport with his luggage and when the porters carrying his bags ask, "Sir, where are you going?", he says, "I don't know but I want to get a boarding pass!" That's absurd! Such a man is setting himself up for embarrassment and frustration; he could even be arrested as a criminal!

Unfortunately there are too many people in the body of Christ, eating and drinking, yet going nowhere. But the end-time Church to which we belong is made up of visionaries. Joel chapter 2 heralds the arrival of the end-time army: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the

like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They SHALL RUN LIKE MIGHTY MEN; THEY SHALL CLIMB THE WALL LIKE MEN OF WAR; and THEY SHALL MARCH EVERY ONE ON HIS WAYS, AND THEY SHALL NOT BREAK THEIR RANKS" : Joel 2:1-7

You will observe that one characteristic of this glorious group of people is vision. They are men who have discovered the course of their lives and are marching on their ways. Each one knows where he belongs and ex-



cels there. No wonder they move like mighty men.

TO GOD WHO ENABLES BE THE GLORY, HONOR AND MAJESTY.

Reference:

The Living Bible.

Pastor Dr. David Oyedepo.

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.



Kenyan Police Officers In Haiti Were Making Good Progress



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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The opinion was divided when President William Ruto announced that Kenya was among the countries that had been requested by the United Nations (UN) to send police officers to Haiti for peace keeping mission.

The critics argued that Kenyan police was ill-equipped to deal with Haiti criminal gangs who had forcibly ousted their legitimate government and taken charge.

But the situation on ground has since proved wrong the critics.

While demonstrating high levels of discipline, courage and experience, our officers have so far made good progress.

They would not achieve this if they were not well trained and understood their assignment.

It is worth noting that Kenya is leading the United Nations (UN) backed-security mission in Haiti.

Under the stewardship of Commander Geoffrey Otunge, Kenya has so far deployed 400 Kenyan police officers.

A few days ago, the officers sent out an appeal for more equipment including helicopters and armoured personnel carriers (APCs).

This come after one of the Armoured vehicles that the US government had earlier supplied to the Kenyan troops was destroyed by a landmine.

This is the only reported incident that saw Kenyan officers engage the criminal gangs in a fierce gun battle that lasted for hour. There were no casualties on the Kenyan side.

The officers managed to clear the road blocks erected and manned by the gangs on the major roads. They had earlier rescued hospitals, an airport and a number of police stations and administrative blocks/offices.

The Kenyan officers' first assignment was to rescue the capital city of Prince Au Port and its environs. The mandate of the officers have since been extended to cover 16 towns and municipalities.

Since arriving in two batches, the officers have been working closely with Haitian National Police Service.

Kenyan police had previously won the battle against criminal gangs such as Mungiki, Mombasa Republican Council (MRC), Saboat rag-tag militias and cells of Al Shaabab militants.

This will happen before these gangs reared an ugly head and posed a serious security threat to social fabric of Kenya. In Haiti, the officers managed to reclaim the town of Mawozo.

This town is located along the border with Dominican Republic. Some of the arms used by criminals were believed to have been smuggled through this border.

As a result of Kenya's successes, a number of top world leaders have so far visited the Kenyan camp.

Besides the UN and American envoys, the latest is the Canadian ambassador in Haiti.

After holding talks with Otunge led team, he said that Canada will provide all necessary support that they needed.

We are happy with the Government of



Kenyan Police Officers In Haiti

Kenya for agreeing to lead this mission.

You are indeed doing very well. Your coordination of mission is superb. Please keep it up.

The deployment of Kenyan officers had earlier been delayed because of three main reasons.

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

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

Three, the resignation of the Prime Minister of Haiti.

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

The troops are operating under the banner of Multilateral Security Support Mission (MSSM).

The new Prime Minister of Haiti thanked Kenya for responding to their distress call. We are very grateful to the people of Kenya and we request GoK to send more police officers.

The initial reports indicated that the total number of officers to be deployed stood at 1,000.

The deployment of the first batch came hot on the heels of the visit by the delegation of police officers from Haiti.

Then IGP assured them that the government of Kenya has finalized plans to deploy Kenyan police officers to Haiti.

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

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

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

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

The decision to deploy 1,000 officers had been made long before President

Joe Biden sent the invite.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Haitian transitional council has since appointed a new Prime Minister.

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

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

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

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

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

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

As we know, the people of Haiti had been in big trouble.

For the starters, I want to share with them some of the atrocities that were

being committed there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is worth noting this is not the first time that the government of Kenya is sending security personnel to join the Africa Union or United Nations peace keeping missions.

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

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

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

So, thier comments reeked more of hypocrisy and insincerity.

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

Worth Noting:

- A few days ago, the officers sent out an appeal for more equipment including helicopters and armoured personnel carriers (APCs).
- This come after one of the Armoured vehicles that the US government had earlier supplied to the Kenyan troops was destroyed by a landmine.
- This is the only reported incident that saw Kenyan officers engage the criminal gangs in a fierce gun battle that lasted for hour. There were no casualties on the Kenyan side.
- The officers managed to clear the road blocks erected and manned by the gangs on the major roads. They had earlier rescued hospitals, an airport and a number of police stations and administrative blocks/offices.

Kenyan Girls Lead In Innovation At National Research Festival



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This year's YSK National Science and Technology Exhibition saw an impressive number of abstract submissions, with girls in Kenyan high schools contributing 54% of them. This strong participation from young girls underscores their growing interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

- Dr. Victor Mwangera, YSK National Director, noted the significance of this trend, emphasizing that the increasing involvement of girls in technology is a clear indication of the untapped potential in their innovative minds. "By working together, these students are learning to share ideas, experiment, and push the boundaries of what is possible. This environment fosters a culture of innovation, empowering them to develop solutions that can make a real impact on their communities and the world at large," Mwangera stated.

In an engaging demonstration of talent and creativity, young girls from Kenyan high schools have emerged as key drivers of innovation at the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival. With 54% of the 1,780 abstracts submitted to the National Science and Technology Exhibition authored by girls, the event highlights a promising shift towards greater female participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. This surge in contributions underscores the immense potential of Kenyan girls to shape the nation's future through groundbreaking research and technology.

Felix Koskei, Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, highlighted the transformative power of research during the event. "Sound research, information, and data are critical to national development. Research is a disciplined journey that transforms curiosity into knowledge and knowledge into power," Koskei remarked. He further encouraged researchers to find ways to monetize their work and bridge the gap between their research and Kenya's economic prospects.

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Dr. Victor Mwangera, YSK National Director, noted the significance of this trend, emphasizing that the increasing involvement of girls in technology is a clear indication of the untapped potential in their innovative minds. "By working together, these students are learning to share ideas, experiment, and push the boundaries of what is possible. This environment fosters a culture of innovation, empowering them to develop solutions that can make a real impact on their communities and the world at large," Mwangera stated.

The festival's focus on inclusivity and diversity was further underscored by the remarks of Evelyn Maris, Deputy Director at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Maris emphasized the importance of broadening participation in STEM fields across all demographics. "It is crucial that we recognize the need to broaden participation in science subjects across all backgrounds, abilities, and genders. Particular focus should be placed on increasing female participation in these fields," she said.



Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei speaking at the opening ceremony of the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival at The Edge Convention Centre.

Over 200 pioneering STEM projects are being showcased at the 7th edition of the exhibition, featuring the brightest minds from schools across Kenya. Maris also noted that technology challenges students to think analytically and approach problems from different perspectives. "This process of experimentation not only enhances their technical abilities but also strengthens their skills in essential areas of life," she added. The event's inclusive nature is

demonstrated by the participation of 400 schools from all 47 counties, including three special needs schools, two refugee schools, and one school from Rusinga Island. More than 200 students and over 100 teachers are presenting their projects in person, with an additional 1,300 students participating virtually.

The Kenya National Research Festival is seen as a crucial platform for nurturing the next generation of innovators and scientists in the coun-

try. The involvement of young girls, in particular, signals a positive shift toward gender equality in STEM fields. As the exhibition progresses, it is expected to inspire even more students to pursue scientific research and contribute to Kenya's technological advancement.

The week-long event will culminate on Friday with an award ceremony, recognizing outstanding projects and innovations from the young participants.



Students showcase their projects to Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei at the opening ceremony of the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival at The Edge Convention Centre.

Othaya MP Urges Parents To Focus On Education Over Rite Of Passage

By: PAUL WANJIRU
 @themkenyatimes

Othaya Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina has emphasized the importance of prioritizing education over the annual rite of passage for boys.

Traditionally, many parents and the community in Othaya have celebrated this rite after boys complete primary school education at Standard eight.

However, this year's confusion stems from the recent introduction of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), which includes a new grade nine class which will be domiciled in primary schools.

Under Kikuyu customs, circumcised boys are expected to use separate facilities from those who have not undergone the rite of passage. With the new grade nine class remaining in primary schools, parents are uncertain whether to hold the rite of passage ceremony this year or to postpone it.

Kikuyu elders (Kĩama Ki Ma) recently advised parents to skip this

year's ceremony, as the boys will not be transitioning to senior secondary school like in the past.

Instead, they will remain in the primary school system under the new education structure.

During an inspection tour of Muna-ini Primary School, which is currently undergoing a state-of-the-art upgrade, the Othaya MP addressed these concerns. He urged parents not to panic about the rite of passage, emphasizing that it should not overshadow the importance of education.

"Circumcision is not an issue. There are children who were circumcised at a young age, like our Muslim brothers, and they continue to learn alongside those who are not circumcised. Let's not make this rite of passage a debate," the MP said.

Wainaina encouraged parents who wish to hold the rite of passage to do so when appropriate, noting that it is ultimately a personal decision.

"It is not a major issue; it depends on how one chooses to approach it," he added.

The MP also highlighted his commitment to improving educational facili-



Othaya Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina (left)

ties in the constituency.

"We are working hard to ensure that pupils have a modern and quality learning environment, which will contribute to better performance," he said.

The upgrade is being undertaken by the local NG-CDF in honour of the

late President Mwai Kibaki who used the institution as his Polling Station. The NG-CDF is contributing KSh4 million while President William Ruto KSh5 million.

"I am confident that we will complete the work before the schools re-open," he said.

To further enhance educational outcomes, MP Wainaina plans to implement a teacher-parent partnership model, fostering collaboration between parents and teachers to address issues affecting students.

Access To Quality Seeds Critical To Sustainable Agriculture, CS Karanja

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Andrew Mwishia Karanja, has urged all stakeholders in the seed industry to remain vigilant and support the government in combating counterfeit seeds.

He stressed that access to quality seeds and inputs is crucial for agricultural productivity and lays the foundation for successful and sustainable agriculture.

The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and industry stakeholders have intervened through market surveillance, post-control procedures, awareness creation, and increasing registration of seed companies.

Karanja acknowledged that climate change, extreme weather events, and environmental disruptions have significantly affected the seed industry,

leading to low production of certified seed.

To mitigate the effects of climate change on food security, it is essential that governments and organisations develop strategies for enhanced availability of quality seed that can better withstand extreme weather events and climate variability.

"Seed certification is a robust process that plays a pivotal role in promoting crop productivity, maintaining genetic integrity, and fostering market confidence, considering that Kenya and other African countries have invested heavily in seed production, infrastructure, and services over the last two decades," he added.

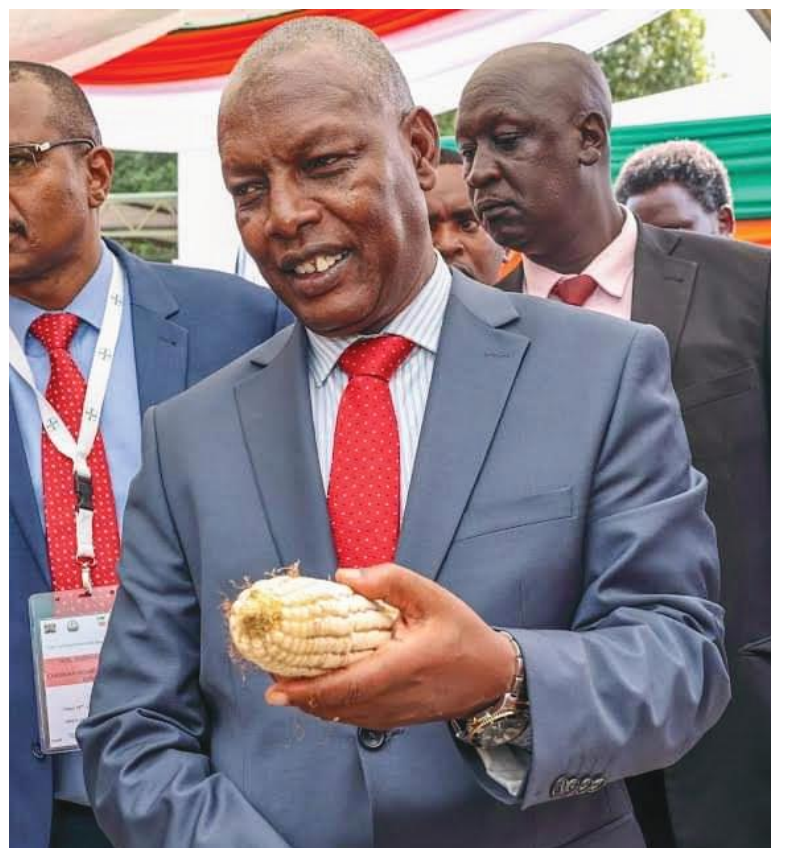
KEPHIS Managing Director, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, said the institution has invested in automation of procedures and integration with other existing government systems to streamline trading activities and reduce the cost of doing business.

The Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection System (SCPVP) has been a game changer in the industry, automating service delivery

and enhancing customer service.

"Quality seed is the one which has genetic purity, physical purity, viability, and a good physiological condition in accordance with the prescribed standards of seed certification, which is a crucial step in seed production and marketing done to maintain high-quality seed standards while making them available to farmers for good and quality yield," he noted.

The seed certification system enhances farmer access to high-quality, climate-resilient, and high-yielding seeds and propagating materials for enhanced productivity.



Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Dr Andrew Mwishia Karanja

14 POEMS

Who showed me the flower?



By: Dosimova Madina

Who showed me the flower?
My boy has faded,
My beautiful violet,
Killed without a smile.

Whom did I touch,
They took revenge for me.
wilting my flowers
They stayed in Uvui.

My grandfather saw my flower garden,

A broken flower was plucked
The eyelids are married,
Suddenly an eyebrow twitched.

Gently caress my flowers.
Put the garden in order,
Broken flower stalks.
He tied it to a thread.

I watered the flower garden,
The flowers also raised their heads,
From the sky radiating light,
Grandfather sun licked.

In many strange worlds,
A lot of lying down,
Some to my life.
He will immediately enter and drown.

From such a depraved mind,
Let him protect us.
God bless them.
The true word of Medina.

The Girl Who Lost Her Family



By: Karshiev Avazbek Sa'dullaevich

In the shadows of a world torn wide,
Where two great nations clash and collide,
There lived a girl, her heart once whole,
Now shattered, with a broken soul.

Her days were bright with laughter and light,
Her nights were soft, serene, and right,
Until the tempest, fierce and cold,
Took away the warmth she used to hold.

The war drums echoed, distant yet near,
Raging through her land, bringing fear,
In a storm of steel and cries of pain,
Her home was lost, her world in vain.

Her mother's hands, once gentle and kind,
Her father's strength, her anchor in time,
Her siblings' smiles, a daily grace,

All vanished, leaving not a trace.

She wanders now through fields of grey,
Where memories of joy have gone astray,
Each step a whisper of what was lost,
A heartache deep, with every cost.

The silence screams in the empty night,
A lullaby turned into a fight,
Her dreams, once bright, now fractured and
scarred,
In a landscape of love, forever marred.

Her tears are rivers, flowing deep,
In the hollow where the memories sleep,
Each drop a testament to the love she knew,
Now shattered, like the sky once blue.

She stands alone where the shadows meet,
Where the war's cold winds and sorrows greet,
Her family's laughter now a distant song,
In a world where she no longer belongs.

Yet in her eyes, a flicker remains,
A glimmer of hope through the endless pains,
For even in the darkest of days,
A single spark of light can blaze.

She holds the memories close and tight,
As she walks through the endless night,
Her heart, though broken, still will strive,
To carry the love that kept them alive.

A Trip To Turkish Culture And History



By: Sunnatillaeva Mavluda Qudrat

When you hear or say these words involuntarily, when you mean Turkey, Istanbul, a feeling similar to a beautiful melody appears in your heart. The culture of the Turkish state is completely different and distinct from all over the world. If we take a closer look at the history and culture of Turkey, we will witness a number of wonders.

The history of Turkey is a multi-ethnic country, where people can not mix with each other and thus preserve separate ethnic and religious identities within the empire. After the establishment of an empire after the First World War, the Republic of Turkey adopted a unitary approach that brought together the different cultures within its borders in order to create a national and cultural identity. Soon, a number of fundamental reforms were implemented, in the center of which the Turkish society should westernize itself politically and culturally in order to modernize.

It combines a very diverse and heterogeneous set of elements originating from different cultures of Eastern European, Eastern Mediterranean, Caucasian, Middle Eastern and Central Asian traditions. Many of these

traditions originally originated in Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, it was united by the Ottoman Empire, a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country spanning East and North Africa. Established after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the government in the early years of the Republic of Turkey built a new amalgam of reforms and Western-oriented policies and a lot of money was spent on fine arts, such as sculpture and other artistic fields throughout the country.

Kapali Charsi, one of the oldest and largest shopping centers in the world, is located in Turkey.

An unusual Turkish dish - "chicken gogsu" - is one of the delicious desserts of the Turkish state. Every 10 days, a new type of plant is discovered. Famous, fruits grown in the southern parts of the country are of high quality and useful.

The largest metro station in Turkey is also a historic old building. The sea with the most turtles is also in Turkey, and it is the most peaceful.

The buildings of Turkey, famous for their ancient churches, are low but very attractive.



The Late State Of Modernity



new tasks that are sharply placed on the agenda of the era.

This understanding that today's generation is in tune with the specific historical time period it is experiencing, that it is responsible for the past, the present, and the future, expresses the ability to clearly imagine modern events. The historical origin of the modern word dates back to the 5th century AD. The word "modernus" is derived from the Latin word "mono" which means "now" and over time it got its current form.

It is modernity that has been very important for the history and present history of mankind, and from the time of its emergence to the present, it is the modernity that allows us to be where we are now.

It is one of the main formative factor

Choriyeva Shaxrinov

Modernity means living with a deep sense of certain changes of time and the call of the times, the essence of the demands of development.

It is a concept that means immediate response to the issues that are gaining acute and urgent importance in life, the

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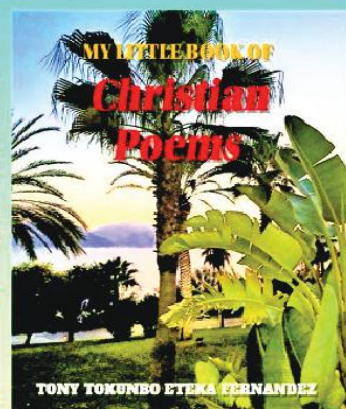
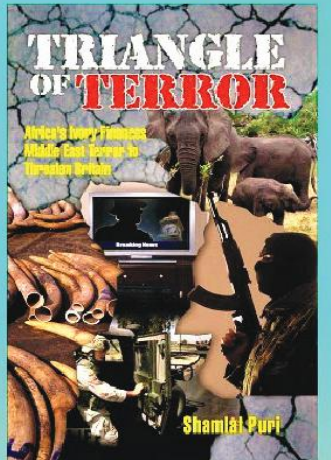
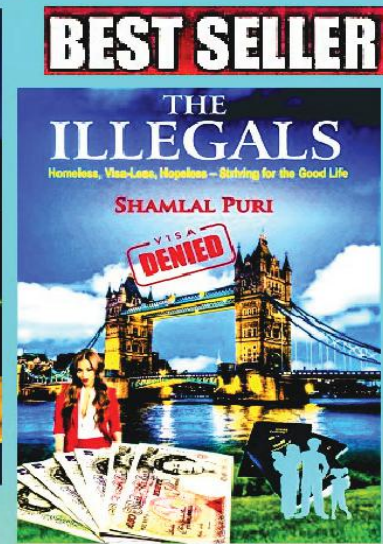
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BUSINESS

Security Sector Reforms Underway: Salary Increases For Police Officers As Taskforce Recommendations Begin Take Effect

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The reform process is guided by a strategic framework focused on four core areas: enhancing leadership within the security services, strengthening oversight and accountability mechanisms, building institutional capacity and improving human resource management, and bolstering operational preparedness and logistical capability.
- The government's objective is to create a more efficient, transparent, and accountable security sector that can effectively address the evolving security needs of the country.
- To ensure the smooth implementation of these reforms, Technical Committees on Development of the Legal and Policy Frameworks have been established. These committees, which have already been officially gazetted, are tasked with proposing amendments to key laws governing the security sector.



Ministry of interior PS Dr. Raymond Omollo.

The much-anticipated reforms within Kenya's security sector have officially begun, with a significant milestone being the recent salary increase for members of the National Police Service (NPS).

Effective from July 1, 2024, all police officers received a pay raise as part of the government's commitment to implementing the recommendations made by the Chief Justice (Rtd) David Maraga-led Taskforce on Security Services Reforms.

The first phase of the salary adjustment has been particularly favorable to junior officers. Constables, who form the backbone of the police force, received a substantial 40 per cent increase in their basic salary.

However, the percentage decreases as one moves up the ranks, with senior officers receiving a modest three per cent rise. This phased approach aims to address the longstanding issue of wage disparities within the force, ensuring that lower-ranking officers benefit the most.

Next in line for the pay hike are officers within the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) and the National Youth Service

(NYS). Starting next month, these officers will also begin receiving their adjusted salaries, following the Presidential directive to implement the Taskforce's recommendations across all three services expeditiously.

The salary increments are only the first step in a comprehensive reform process that seeks to transform Kenya's security sector over the next four years, from 2024 to 2028.

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been established. These committees, which have already been officially gazetted, are tasked with proposing amendments to key laws governing the security sector.

Among the legislative changes under consideration are the National Police Service (Amendment) Bill, the National Police Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (Amendment) Bill.

In addition, the National Correctional Services Policy and the Kenya Correctional Services Bill have been opened up for public participation, allowing citizens and stakeholders to contribute to the reform process.

In parallel with these legislative efforts, the Policing Technical Working Group is spearheading several other critical initiatives. These include the development of the National Forensic Laboratory Bill, which aims to modernize forensic investigations, and the comprehensive review of the police training policy, curriculum, human resource frameworks, career progression guidelines, and police welfare management systems.

These initiatives are designed to address the gaps identified in the Taskforce report and to ensure that Kenya's security services are well-prepared to meet future challenges.

To coordinate the implementation of these reforms, dedicated reform units have been established across the NPS, KPS, and NYS. Within the NPS, a specialized police reform unit has been set up under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, hosted by the Directorate of Reforms. This unit is tasked with overseeing the various reform initiatives and ensuring that they are implemented effectively and on schedule.

Similarly, the KPS has created a new directorate to manage prison reforms, while the NYS has formed a reform committee to guide the changes within its ranks.

Dr. Raymond Omollo, Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to seeing these reforms through. He emphasized that the changes being implemented are not just about improving the terms and conditions of service for security personnel, but are also about enhancing the overall effectiveness and accountability of the sector.

"These reforms are essential for strengthening Kenya's security sector and ensuring that it can meet the needs of all Kenyans," Dr. Omollo said in a statement.

As the reform process unfolds, it is expected to bring about far-reaching changes that will significantly improve the country's security landscape.

The focus on leadership, accountability, capacity building, and operational readiness is intended to create a security sector that is more responsive, transparent, and capable of protecting the rights and safety of all citizens. With the government's commitment to full implementation, these reforms are poised to have a lasting impact on Kenya's security services, setting a new standard for service delivery and public trust in the years to come.

Parliamentary Finance Committee Meets CBK Governor Over Procurement Of New Bank Notes

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning yesterday asked the Central Bank of Kenya to avail detailed documents relating to the recent procurement of new currency valued at KSh689 Billion for scrutiny, and to help the committee confirm that the process followed due process.

The directive came even as the Bank through the Governor, Dr. Kamau Thugge assured the committee that the procurement of new bank notes by German firm, Giesecke+Devrient Currency Technologies GmbH (G+D) at a cost of KSh14.2 billion was above board.

While appearing before the Kuria Kimani - led committee where members sought to be apprised on the new currency printing deal, Dr. Thugge told the lawmakers that the move was taken after realization that the country was at a risk of stockout of bank notes, with grave economic and national security implications.

“Hon. Chairperson, the classified procurement was undertaken to avert a stock-out crisis. The procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (PPADA), and with the approval of the National Security Council and the Cabinet. The contract was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General as required by law before execution by the Parties”, Dr. Thugge told the committee.

The lawmakers led by the chairperson had taken the Governor to task to justify why the Bank needed to print new currency in under a period of 5 years, especially given the huge expense the process is set to incur.

The Bank launched the current generation currency banknotes in 2019 whereby, the old generation 1,000-shilling banknote was withdrawn

Dr. Thugge told the committee that the



CBK Governor Dr Kamau Thugge when he appeared before the committee yesterday

new contract is cheaper than the one the Bank held with De La Rue by about KSh480 million which is huge reprieve for the country.

According to the Bank, notes worth KSh689bn are set to be printed. They include 460 million notes in KSh50 denomination, 690 million notes in KSh100 denomination, 260 million notes in KSh200 notes, 170 million notes in KSh500 and 460 million notes printed in KSh1,000 denomination.

The members further sought to know what was the fate of De La Rue company, and the 40 per cent stake owned by the National Treasury in the firm locally.

“This committee is concerned that the firm which had very good and modern infrastructure has closed down and business has now gone to a firm operating outside the county, leaving in its trail job losses and loss of business from Kenya’s neighbours who were relying

on the company to print their currency. Is there a possibility of the company using the infrastructure of De La Rue”, Kimani inquired.

In response, Dr. Thugge noted that the printer which established base in Kenya in October 1992, had made a decision to exit the country by themselves. He told the lawmakers that there was a remote chance that G+D would wish to use the De La Rue facility.

Committee members David Mboni (Kitui Rural), Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Julius Rutto (Kesses) and Adan Keynan (Eldas) expressed concern that the firm’s exit from the country had not only liquidated Kenya’s stake in the firm but had also left hundreds of people jobless.

Noting that Kenya had made great progress in the fintech sector, members inquired if CBK would consider introducing an e-currency or even digital currency given that the contracted

Germany firm, G+D has the capacity to generate digital currency.

Dr. Thugge however noted that given the digitization progress on M-Pesa, the Bank did not view this as a priority.

He cited the failed attempt by Nigeria to introduce an e-currency as one of the reasons why the plan would not work.

The new currency which is already in circulation in the KSh1,000 denomination, bears the signature of the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Dr. Kamau Thugge, that of the Principal Secretary, National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo, the year of print – 2024, and new security threads with colour changing effects that are specific to each denomination.

The governor explained that the new changes are in line with the traditions of the CBK adding that they had sought the advisory of the Attorney General.

Dr. Thugge also clarified that the old currency will continue to be legal tender adding that the move to print new currency did not occasion any form of demonetization.

Meanwhile, Kimani has called on CBK to consider honouring Kenya’s heroes such as athletes on new bank notes in appreciation of their contribution towards the country’s profile.

The Bank’s Director of currency operations Mr. Paul Wanyagi however noted that though this is a progressive proposal, there’s no provision in law allowing such.

Asked by the lawmakers if the Bank could consider developing higher quality notes which do not require periodic replenishment, Mr. Wanyagi noted that there was need to sensitize Kenyans on money handling since rough handling especially of lower denomination notes had seen them get withdrawn from circulation regularly.

On the sidelines of yesterday’s session, the committee lauded Dr. Thugge and his team for having contained inflation and the exchange rate against the dollar for several months consistently.

Worth Noting:

- “Hon. Chairperson, the classified procurement was undertaken to avert a stock-out crisis. The procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (PPADA), and with the approval of the National Security Council and the Cabinet. The contract was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General as required by law before execution by the Parties”, Dr. Thugge told the committee.
- The lawmakers led by the chairperson had taken the Governor to task to justify why the Bank needed to print new currency in under a period of 5 years, especially given the huge expense the process is set to incur.
- The Bank launched the current generation currency banknotes in 2019 whereby, the old generation 1,000-shilling banknote was withdrawn



Lawmaker Kuria Kimani holding a specimen of the new KSh1,000 denomination note

The Indispensable Tapestry: Unraveling The Vital Role Of Arts And Humanities In Kenya's Educational Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes



University of Eastern Africa, Baraton

Worth Noting:

- History and linguistics are fundamental in shaping national identity and fostering social cohesion in Kenya. Historical knowledge enables citizens to understand their past, make informed decisions about the present, and shape their future.
- The constitutional recognition of national values and principles in Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution is rooted in historical consciousness. Linguistics, particularly in a multilingual country like Kenya, is crucial for preserving indigenous languages and promoting effective communication.
- The UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger highlights the importance of linguistic studies in preserving 13 endangered languages in Kenya. Professor Henry Indangasi of the University of Nairobi asserts, "A nation that forgets its history and neglects its languages is like a tree without roots, vulnerable to any storm."

storm.”
“The arts and humanities are not mere ornaments; they are the very fabric of our society, weaving together the threads of our shared human experience,” posits Dr. Ngugi wa Thiong’o, renowned Kenyan scholar and author. This profound statement encapsulates the essence of why arts courses should not be deemed irrelevant in comparison to STEM disciplines in Kenya. The debate surrounding the comparative value of arts and STEM courses has been ongoing, with proponents of STEM often arguing for its superiority in driving economic growth and technological advancement. However, this perspective fails to acknowledge the intrinsic and extrinsic value of arts and humanities in shaping a well-rounded, critically thinking, and culturally aware society. As we delve into this complex issue, we will explore the multifaceted importance of law, anthropology, social work, history, linguistics, literature, political science, economics, and psychology in the Kenyan context and beyond. Through case studies, empirical data, and scholarly insights, we will demonstrate how these disciplines contribute to national development, social cohesion, and individual growth. Furthermore, we will examine constitutional provisions and case laws that underscore the importance of a balanced educational approach in Kenya.

The study of law serves as a cornerstone in upholding justice, maintaining social order, and protecting human rights in Kenya. Article 19 of the Kenyan Constitution emphasizes the importance of human rights and fun-

damental freedoms, which are intrinsically linked to legal education. The landmark case of *Kituo Cha Sheria v Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission* (2013) demonstrated the crucial role of legal professionals in safeguarding democratic processes and constitutional rights. Moreover, the legal profession contributes significantly to Kenya’s economy, with the World Bank reporting that the rule of law index is positively correlated with GDP growth. In neighboring Rwanda, the emphasis on legal education has been instrumental in rebuilding the nation post-genocide, with the Rwanda Bar Association playing a pivotal role in reconciliation efforts. Professor Makau Mutua, a prominent Kenyan legal scholar, argues that “legal education is not just about creating lawyers, but about fostering a society that respects the rule of law and human dignity.” This multifaceted impact of legal studies underscores its relevance in contemporary Kenyan society.

Anthropology and social work play crucial roles in understanding and addressing social issues in Kenya. Anthropological research has been instrumental in preserving Kenya’s rich cultural heritage and informing policy decisions. For instance, the work of anthropologist Richard Leakey in paleoanthropology has not only put Kenya on the global scientific map but has also contributed to our understanding of human evolution. Social work, on the other hand, addresses pressing societal challenges such as poverty, inequality, and healthcare access. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports that social workers have been key in implementing com-

munity development projects, reducing poverty rates by 3.2% between 2015 and 2020. Dr. Wangari Maathai, Nobel laureate and environmentalist, emphasized the importance of these fields, stating, “Understanding our cultural roots and social fabric is essential for sustainable development.” History and linguistics are fundamental in shaping national identity and fostering social cohesion in Kenya. Historical knowledge enables citizens to understand their past, make informed decisions about the present, and shape their future. The constitutional recognition of national values and principles in Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution is rooted in historical consciousness. Linguistics, particularly in a multilingual country like Kenya, is crucial for preserving indigenous languages and promoting effective communication. The UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger highlights the importance of linguistic studies in preserving 13 endangered languages in Kenya. Professor Henry Indangasi of the University of Nairobi asserts, “A nation that forgets its history and neglects its languages is like a tree without roots, vulnerable to any storm.”

Literature and political science contribute significantly to critical thinking, cultural expression, and civic engagement in Kenya. Kenyan literature, exemplified by authors like Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, has not only put the country on the global literary map but also serves as a powerful tool for social commentary and cultural preservation. Political science education is crucial for fostering informed citizenship and effective governance.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation’s Ibrahim Index of African Governance shows a positive correlation between political science education and improved governance scores. In Kenya, political science graduates have been instrumental in shaping public policy and enhancing democratic processes. As Professor Karuti Kanyinga of the University of Nairobi notes, “Political science education is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, equipping citizens with the tools to critically engage with their political systems.”

Economics and psychology play vital roles in Kenya’s development and well-being. Economic studies provide the analytical tools necessary for addressing poverty, managing resources, and fostering sustainable growth. The Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint heavily relies on economic expertise to achieve its goals. Psychology, on the other hand, is crucial in addressing mental health issues, which affect approximately 25% of outpatients in Kenya, according to the World Health Organization. The field also contributes to understanding consumer behavior, improving workplace productivity, and enhancing educational outcomes. Dr. Gladys Mwiti, a prominent Kenyan psychologist, emphasizes, “Psychology is not a luxury but a necessity in addressing the mental health challenges facing our nation and promoting overall well-being.”

The interdisciplinary nature of arts courses fosters innovation and creativity, which are essential for Kenya’s development. A study by the Kenya National Innovation Agency found that companies with a mix of STEM and arts graduates were 32% more likely to develop innovative products. This aligns with global trends, such as the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) movement, which recognizes the value of integrating arts into technical fields. The success of M-PESA, Kenya’s revolutionary mobile money system, is a testament to the power of combining technological innovation with an understanding of social and economic dynamics gleaned from arts and humanities studies.

Arts courses play a crucial role in preserving and promoting Kenya’s cultural heritage, which is not only intrinsically valuable but also economically significant. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports that the creative economy contributes approximately 5.3% to the country’s



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Embracing Tax Reforms: A Path To Sustainable Economic Growth In Kenya

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The discussions surrounding tax reforms in Kenya, particularly under the leadership of Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, highlight the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of the country's tax system. As articulated during his meeting with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the focus on revenue digitalization and broadening the tax base is not just a fiscal necessity but a strategic imperative for sustainable economic growth.

Mbadi's commitment to enhancing revenue collection aligns with the government's broader goals of addressing budget deficits and meeting conditions set by international lenders, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). With Kenya facing significant finan-

cial challenges, including rising public debt and the need for increased spending on essential services, a robust tax system is crucial. The proposed measures, including the reintroduction of certain taxes from the controversial Finance Bill, aim to generate necessary revenue while ensuring that the burden does not disproportionately fall on ordinary citizens.

The emphasis on digitizing revenue collection processes is particularly noteworthy. By leveraging technology, the government can streamline tax compliance, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance taxpayer engagement. This approach not only simplifies the tax process but also fosters a culture of transparency and accountability within the KRA. As Mbadi pointed out, the current systems are

outdated and have led to significant tax leakages, which must be addressed to maximize revenue potential.

Moreover, broadening the tax base is essential for creating a more equitable system. Mbadi's vision includes innovative strategies to include more citizens and businesses in the tax framework, ensuring that everyone contributes to the nation's development. The proposed eco levy, aimed at addressing environmental concerns while generating revenue, exemplifies this approach. It is crucial that such measures are implemented thoughtfully, balancing the need for revenue with the economic realities faced by everyday Kenyans.

Public participation in the legislative process is another critical aspect that Mbadi has highlighted. The rejection

of the Finance Bill 2024 underscored the importance of clear communication and engagement with citizens regarding tax policies. By involving the public in discussions about tax reforms, the government can build trust and ensure that the measures introduced are not only effective but also widely accepted.

As Kenya navigates these complex fiscal challenges, it is imperative that the government remains committed to transparency and accountability in its financial dealings. Mbadi's promise to disclose the country's debt and its terms is a step in the right direction, as it empowers citizens with the knowledge of their financial obligations and fosters a sense of collective responsibility.

In conclusion, the ongoing tax re-

forms spearheaded by John Mbadi and the KRA represent a pivotal moment for Kenya's economic future. By embracing technology, broadening the tax base, and prioritizing public engagement, the government can create a more efficient and equitable tax system. As we rally behind the mantra "Tulipe ushuru, tujitegeme" (Let us pay taxes and be self-reliant), it is essential that these reforms translate into tangible benefits for all Kenyans, paving the way for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology kakamega.

Prioritizing Police Welfare: A Step Towards A Safer Kenya

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The Kenyan government's decision to implement significant salary increases for police officers, effective July 1, 2024, is a commendable move that demonstrates a commitment to enhancing the welfare of security personnel and improving public safety. This landmark announcement, made by Interior Principal Secretary Dr. Raymond Omollo, is a fulfillment of President William Ruto's promise to prioritize the well-being of police and other security agencies since taking office.

The salary adjustments, which include a substantial 40% raise for uniformed constables and a 3% in-

crease for senior officers, are a direct response to the recommendations made by a task force led by former Chief Justice David Maraga. The task force's findings highlighted the urgent need for better remuneration and working conditions for police officers, citing the detrimental effects of low pay on their mental health and overall performance.

By allocating Sh1.3 billion to facilitate this pay rise, which will also extend to prison officers and personnel in the National Youth Service, the government has taken a significant step towards addressing the long-standing criticism of low pay and poor working conditions faced by law enforcement officers. This

investment in the welfare of security personnel is not only a recognition of their sacrifices but also a strategic move to foster a more effective and trustworthy police service for all Kenyans.

The upcoming salary adjustments are expected to have a positive impact on the quality of service provided by police officers, ultimately enhancing public safety across the nation. As Dr. Omollo emphasized, the salary increment is crucial for restoring integrity and efficiency within the National Police Service, a sentiment echoed by President Ruto, who acknowledged that addressing the pay issue is essential for boosting officers' morale and restoring public

trust in the police force.

As the implementation date approaches, police officers and their families are understandably optimistic about the potential benefits of this salary increase. For newly recruited constables, whose current salary stands at approximately Ksh 21,645, the 40% raise will bring their monthly pay to over Ksh 30,000, a significant improvement in their living standards. Long-serving constables will also benefit, with their salaries expected to increase substantially, reflecting their experience and dedication to service.

In conclusion, the Kenyan government's decision to implement salary increases for police officers is a step

in the right direction towards ensuring that those who protect the nation are adequately compensated for their service. By prioritizing the welfare of security personnel, the government has demonstrated a commitment to creating a safer and more secure environment for all Kenyans. As the country continues to grapple with the challenges of maintaining law and order, this investment in the well-being of police officers serves as a beacon of hope for a brighter future.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology kakamega.

A New Era Of Political Awareness Among Kenyan Youths

Kenyan youths are now more informed and engaged in matters of governance compared to two years ago. In the past, many young people avoided politics and governance, often citing it as a dirty game and believing it had no direct impact on their lives. However, there has been a significant shift in mindset, with young people recognizing the importance of being involved in governance and holding leaders account-

able for their actions. This revolution for accountability and anti-corruption in the government has been primarily led by the youth, particularly the Gen Zs.

The online revolution, which initially started with simple hashtags, has evolved into a powerful movement that has brought about major reforms in the government. Youths have become vigilant watchdogs, closely monitoring government actions,

policies, and decisions made by legislators. With increased literacy and knowledge about leadership and governance matters, young people are difficult to deceive, and politicians find it challenging to convince them. Politicians now carefully consider how the Gen Zs will perceive their decisions, as they fear being on the wrong side of their opinions.

Looking ahead, it is expected that young people will play a significant

role in the upcoming elections, as they are likely to actively participate and even contest for political positions. Their aim is to bring about meaningful reforms in the government system, driven by their determination to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability.

To gain insights into the online revolution for accountability and corruption in the government, it is essential

to involve both experts and young individuals involved in this movement. Kenya needs to foster culture of transparency and anti-corruption efforts, enable public scrutiny, and facilitate reporting on corruption.

*By Orifwa Ruben
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Westgate: A Dark Day In Kenya's History



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes



A child runs to safety during the attack on Westgate in 2013

Worth Noting:

- The attackers entered the mall through the rooftop parking lot, hurling grenades and spraying bullets indiscriminately at anyone in sight. They moved quickly, methodically, through the four-story building, targeting shoppers, restaurant-goers, and staff. Panic spread like wildfire as people scrambled to find cover—some hid in shops, others in bathrooms, while a few managed to escape through emergency exits. But for many, there was no way out.
- One of the most harrowing moments was captured on CCTV footage—families with young children crouching in terror behind counters, trying to stay silent as the gunmen passed by. In another scene, a woman is seen bravely shielding her child, her body tense with fear, her eyes wide with the realization that death could be just around the corner.

Do you remember that chilling day in September 2013 when Kenya's heartbeat nearly stopped, and the air in Nairobi became thick with fear and uncertainty? The memory of the Westgate Shopping Mall attack, a scene of unimaginable horror, is still fresh in the minds of many Kenyans. It was on the afternoon of Saturday, the 21st of September, when a group of heavily armed terrorists stormed the upscale mall, transforming a place of leisure and shopping into a battlefield.

Westgate Shopping Mall, located in Westlands, Nairobi, was a popular destination for both locals and expatriates, known for its high-end stores, restaurants, and entertainment spots. It was a typical Saturday, and the mall was bustling with people going about their weekend activities—families shopping, friends catching up over coffee, and children playing in the entertainment areas. No one could have imagined the nightmare that was about to unfold.

At around 12:30 p.m., gunshots shattered the usual hum of the mall. Witnesses recall the initial confusion—some thought it was a robbery, others speculated it was a drill. But as the sounds of automatic gunfire and explosions echoed through the building, the terrifying reality became clear. The attackers, later identified as members of the Somali militant group Al-Shabaab, had come with a deadly mission. They were armed with AK-47 rifles, grenades, and explosives, and their intent was not just to kill but to send a message of terror.

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ing grenades and spraying bullets indiscriminately at anyone in sight. They moved quickly, methodically, through the four-story building, targeting shoppers, restaurant-goers, and staff. Panic spread like wildfire as people scrambled to find cover—some hid in shops, others in bathrooms, while a few managed to escape through emergency exits. But for many, there was no way out.

One of the most harrowing moments was captured on CCTV footage—families with young children crouching in terror behind counters, trying to stay silent as the gunmen passed by. In another scene, a woman is seen bravely shielding her child, her body tense with fear, her eyes wide with the realization that death could be just around the corner. Such images, later broadcasted on national and international media, left a deep scar on the collective psyche of the nation.

As the attack unfolded, the Kenyan security forces, including the General Service Unit (GSU), the police, and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), were mobilized. However, the initial response was chaotic and disjointed. There were reports of command confusion, delayed deployment, and lack of coordination between the various agencies involved. For the first few hours, the terrorists had free reign of the mall, killing indiscriminately and taking hostages.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that the attackers were not immediately identifiable. Al-Shabaab had recruited young men and women, some of whom did not fit the stereotypical profile

of a terrorist. Witnesses described seeing a young woman among the attackers, calmly walking through the carnage as she fired her weapon. This element of surprise added to the horror—these were not the traditional masked, bearded men associated with terror; these were ordinary-looking individuals committing extraordinary acts of violence.

By the evening of the first day, it was clear that this was no ordinary attack. The terrorists had barricaded themselves inside the mall, using hostages as human shields and engaging in a prolonged standoff with the security forces. The battle for Westgate would last for four days, with sporadic gunfire, explosions, and smoke billowing from the building, as security forces tried to dislodge the attackers without causing further harm to the hostages.

One of the most tragic aspects of the Westgate attack was the loss of innocent lives. Sixty-seven people were killed, including children, and hundreds were injured. Among the dead were nationals from several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India, highlighting the international impact of the tragedy. The victims included notable figures such as Ghanaian poet and diplomat Kofi Awoonor, who was in Nairobi for a literary festival, and President Uhuru Kenyatta's nephew, Mbugua Mwangi, who died alongside his fiancée.

The aftermath of the attack was marked by grief, anger, and a search for answers. In the days and weeks that followed, stories of heroism and survival began to emerge. Ordinary

Kenyans, like Abdul Haji, who was captured in a now-famous photograph rescuing a young girl from the mall, became symbols of hope and resilience. Haji, armed only with a pistol, had rushed to the scene after receiving a distress call from his brother, who was trapped inside. His actions, along with those of other civilians who risked their lives to save others, offered a glimmer of humanity in the midst of the horror.

However, the Westgate attack also exposed significant flaws in Kenya's security apparatus. The delayed response, the lack of coordination among security agencies, and the subsequent looting of the mall by some members of the security forces during the operation, led to widespread criticism. The government launched investigations, and there were promises of reforms, but the scars of that day remain.

In the years since the Westgate attack, Kenya has faced other challenges, including further terrorist incidents and ongoing security concerns. But that fateful day in September 2013 stands out as a moment when the nation was forced to confront the brutal reality of terrorism. The memory of Westgate is a reminder of the fragility of peace and the ever-present threat of violence, but also of the resilience of the Kenyan people, who continue to stand strong in the face of adversity.

Westgate Shopping Mall reopened in July 2015, almost two years after the attack. It was a symbolic act of defiance against terror—a statement that Kenya would not be cowed by violence. But for those who lived through that dark day, the memories of the screams, the gunfire, and the haunting silence that followed will never fade. The Westgate attack is a chapter in Kenya's history that remains etched in the hearts of its people—a terrifying reminder of the cost of extremism and the enduring strength of a nation united by its will to survive.

*This article was scripted by:
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County Urges Residents To Remain Vigilant Over Monkeypox Virus

By: KNA

Nyeri County Health CEC Dr. Joseph Maina Kiragu has advised residents to seek medical attention if they exhibit symptoms similar to the monkeypox virus (Orthopoxvirus monkeypox).

The county is working closely with local administrators to ensure the public is adequately sensitised on how to keep the highly infectious disease at bay.

Most symptoms of the disease are similar to those of the flu and can also include pus-filled skin lesions.

Within one to three days of infection, a patient will develop a facial rash that spreads to other parts of the body.

The county has implemented measures to address any such incidence in the county, including alerting public health officers and leading a team in surveillance of the whole county.

The idea is to inform suspected patients to report to the nearest health

institution, and tests are being conducted locally.

Three weeks ago, the county was on high alert after a suspected case of the virulent diseases was reported in the area.

However, samples taken from the suspected patient later turned out negative for the disease after they were subjected to laboratory tests in Nairobi.

“We are on the lookout. We have alerted our public health officers and also have a team that is leading the surveillance of the whole county. This team has officers in the whole county,” he told KNA.

Yesterday, the government said it hopes to receive at least 2 million monkey pox jabs from a Danish pharmaceutical company to inoculate Kenyans against the disease, which has infected a total of 99,176 people and led to 208 fatalities globally since January 2022.

The state will only provide the doses to the most vulnerable groups, similar to what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Joseph King'ori (left) with other medics.

The Indispensable Tapestry: Unraveling The Vital Role Of Arts And Humanities In Kenya's Educational Landscape

Contd from page 18

GDP. This sector, deeply rooted in arts education, encompasses areas such as film, music, visual arts, and cultural tourism. The success of Kenyan films like “Rafiki” and “Supa Modo” on the international stage demonstrates the global appeal and economic potential of Kenya’s creative industries. As Professor Kimani Njogu, a leading Kenyan linguist and cultural expert, asserts, “Our arts and culture are not just our identity; they are a valuable resource for national development.”

The importance of arts courses in fostering critical thinking and analytical skills cannot be overstated. These skills are essential in all sectors, including STEM fields. A study by the World Economic Forum on the future of jobs highlights critical thinking and creativity as top skills required for the 21st-century workforce. Arts courses, with their

emphasis on analysis, interpretation, and expression, are uniquely positioned to develop these skills. The Kenya National Qualifications Framework recognizes this, emphasizing the importance of transversal skills acquired through a balanced education that includes both arts and sciences.

Arts courses play a vital role in promoting social justice and human rights in Kenya. Disciplines such as law, social work, and political science equip students with the knowledge and skills to advocate for marginalized groups and address societal inequalities. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) movement in Kenya, which has successfully challenged unconstitutional laws and policies, is largely driven by graduates of these disciplines. The case of Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) & 2 others v Republic of Kenya & 10; others [2015], which challenged certain provisions of the Security Laws (Amendment) Act, exemplifies how legal education contributes to safeguarding constitutional rights.

The global competitiveness of Kenya’s workforce is enhanced by the skills imparted through arts courses. In an increasingly interconnected world, cultural intelligence, communication skills, and adaptability – all hallmarks of arts education – are highly valued. A survey by the Federation of Kenya Employers found that employers increasingly seek graduates with a combination of technical and soft skills, with 78% of respondents emphasizing the importance of communication and interpersonal skills. Professor Peter Kagwanja, a prominent Kenyan scholar, argues, “In the age of artificial intelligence and automation, it is the uniquely human skills fostered by arts education that will set our workforce apart.”

Arts courses contribute significantly to Kenya’s diplomatic and international relations efforts. Graduates of disciplines such as political science, international relations, and linguistics often form the backbone of Kenya’s diplomatic corps. Their cultural awareness, negotiation skills, and understanding of global dynamics

are crucial in representing Kenya’s interests on the world stage. The success of Kenyan diplomats in mediating regional conflicts, such as the South Sudan peace process, underscores the practical importance of these skills. Furthermore, Kenya’s election to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for the 2021-2022 term is a testament to the nation’s diplomatic prowess, largely attributable to professionals trained in arts and humanities disciplines.

In conclusion, the notion that arts courses should be deemed irrelevant compared to STEM courses in Kenya is not only misguided but potentially detrimental to the nation’s holistic development. As we have demonstrated through various case studies, empirical data, scholarly opinions, and legal provisions, disciplines such as law, anthropology, social work, history, linguistics, literature, political science, economics, and psychology are integral to Kenya’s social, economic, and cultural fabric. These fields contribute to national

development, foster critical thinking, preserve cultural heritage, promote social justice, enhance global competitiveness, and strengthen international relations. The Kenyan Constitution, in its recognition of cultural rights (Article 11) and the right to education (Article 43), implicitly acknowledges the importance of a well-rounded education that includes both arts and sciences. As Kenya strives to achieve its Vision 2030 goals and position itself as a knowledge-based economy, it is crucial to recognize that true progress lies in the harmonious development of both STEM and arts disciplines. In the words of Professor Micere Githae Mugo, “Education is not about filling buckets, but lighting fires of curiosity and creativity across all disciplines.” It is this interdisciplinary approach, valuing both arts and sciences, that will propel Kenya towards a prosperous and culturally rich future.

The writer is a legal scrivener

Sports >> *Manchester City are working on a deal that could bring midfielder Ilkay Gundogan back to the club.

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Back Like He Never Left? Manchester City Working On Gundogan Deal



Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan celebrates scoring against Tottenham © POOL/AFP Rui Vieira

Manchester City are working on a deal that could bring midfielder Ilkay Gundogan back to the club. The 33-year-old left City for Barcelona in 2023 after captaining Pep Guardiola's side to their historic Treble. However, the Catalan giants' well publicised financial issues have prevented them from registering new signing Dani Olmo and releasing one of their higher earners would smooth that process.

City are wrestling with early personnel issues that include the £81m departure of Argentina forward Julian Alvarez to Atletico Madrid and an injury to Norwegian winger Oscar Bobb that could keep him out for four months. Gundogan could provide a short-term answer to these problems and would not require a settling in period.

Manager Pep Guardiola did not want Gundogan to leave City last year, but the club were unwilling to offer the German midfielder the contract length he wanted. After joining City from Borussia Dortmund for a reported £20m in 2016, Gundogan made 304 appearances for the club, scoring 60 goals. During seven years at Etihad Stadium he won 14 trophies – five Premier League titles, one

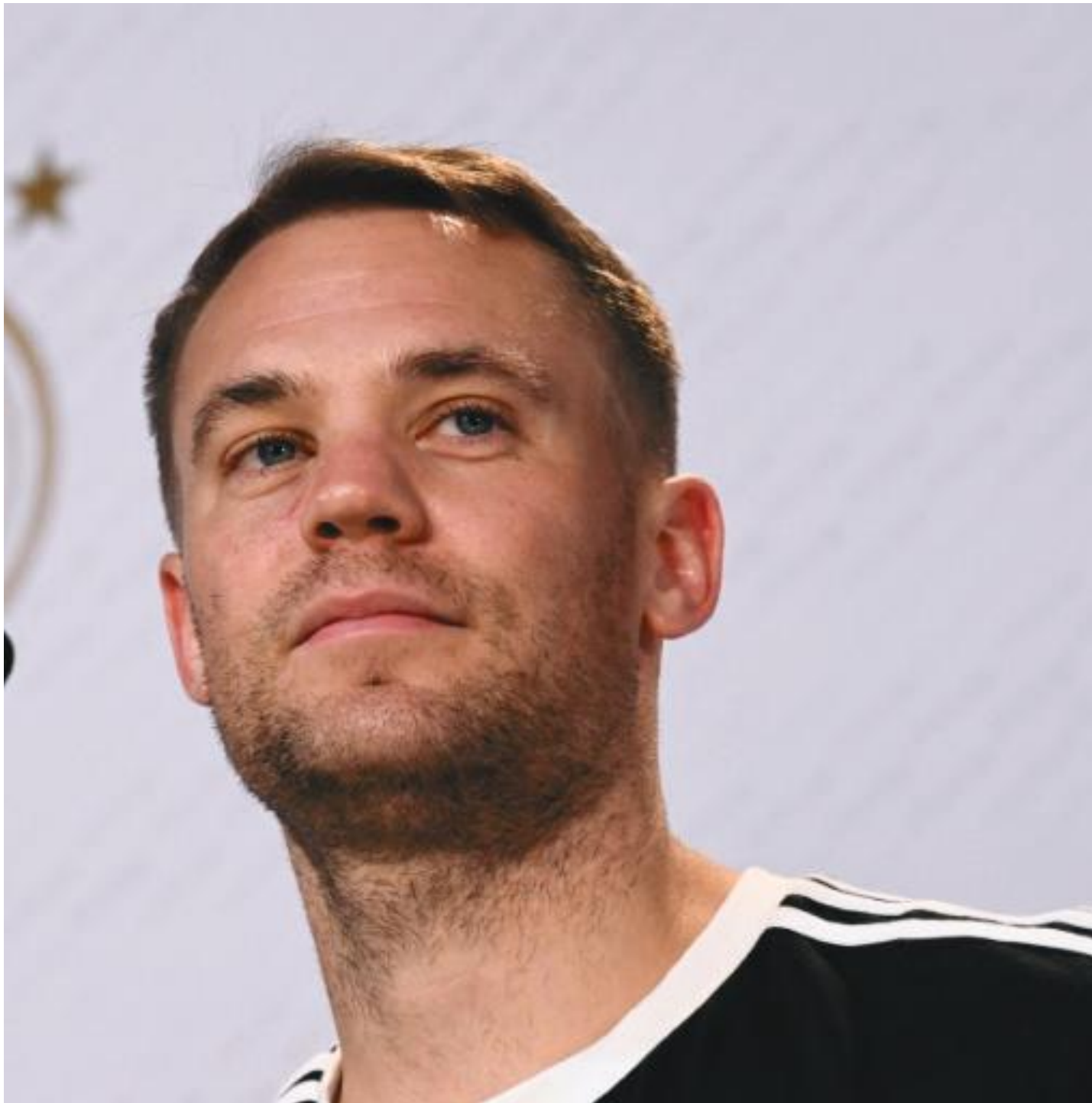
Champions League, two FA Cups, four Carabao Cups and two Community Shields.

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Sports >> *Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has announced his retirement from international football.

Germany's Neuer Announces International Retirement



Germany captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said he had "no fear" of potential FIFA repercussions for his and his country's human rights stances

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has announced his retirement from international football. The 2014 World Cup winner was capped 124 times, with his final game for Germany coming last month in their Euro 2024 quarter-final defeat by Spain. The 38-year-old Bayern Munich goalkeeper made his internation-

al debut in 2009 and featured in eight major tournaments. Neuer started Germany's World Cup final victory over Argentina in Brazil and was named captain before the 2018 World Cup, a role he held until being replaced by Ilkay Gundogan earlier this year. This week Gundogan also announced his retirement from

international football – both announcements coming after midfielder Toni Kroos called time on his football career after Germany's home Euros. Neuer will continue his club career after signing a new deal last year to stay with Bayern until 2025.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Rising From The Shadows

By: Karshiev Avazbek
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Worth Noting:

Years passed, and Muhammad's self-education paid off. He graduated at the top of his class from the village school, which was an accomplishment in itself, but his dreams were bigger. He knew that to truly make a difference, he needed to push beyond the limits of his small world. He set his sights on one of the top 100 universities in the world—a place that seemed like a distant dream for a boy from a remote village.

The day he received his acceptance letter was the day everything changed. It came in a weathered envelope, and as he tore it open, his heart raced. The words "Congratulations, Muhammad" jumped off the page. Tears streamed down his face as he ran to find his mother.



Rising From The Shadows.

In a small, forgotten village nestled between rugged mountains, there lived a young man named Muhammad. From the moment he took his first breath, life seemed determined to challenge him. His father had passed away before he was old enough to remember, leaving his mother to raise him and his three younger siblings on her own. Poverty was a constant companion, and Muhammad grew up knowing the sting of hunger and the weight of responsibility far earlier than most.

Despite the hardships, Muhammad had a fire within him that couldn't be extinguished. He spent his days working odd jobs to support his family and his nights with his nose buried in books. His small village had no proper school, but that didn't stop him. He borrowed textbooks from a distant cousin and taught himself everything he could. The villagers often saw him under the dim light of a streetlamp, scribbling notes and solving math problems on scraps of paper.

One day, as Muhammad was helping his mother with the chores, she noticed the determination in his

eyes. "Why do you work so hard, my son?" she asked.

"Because I want more for us, for our family," Muhammad replied. "I want to break free from this cycle of poverty, and I know education is the key."

His mother, though exhausted from years of toil, felt a glimmer of hope. She supported him in every way she could, even if it meant skipping meals so Muhammad could buy another book.

Years passed, and Muhammad's self-education paid off. He graduated at the top of his class from the village school, which was an accomplishment in itself, but his dreams were bigger. He knew that to truly make a difference, he needed to push beyond the limits of his small world. He set his sights on one of the top 100 universities in the world—a place that seemed like a distant dream for a boy from a remote village.

The day he received his acceptance letter was the day everything changed. It came in a weathered envelope, and as he tore it open, his heart raced. The words "Congratula-

tions, Muhammad" jumped off the page. Tears streamed down his face as he ran to find his mother.

"Mother, I've been accepted!" he shouted, breathless. "I've been accepted into the university!"

His mother embraced him, her own tears of joy mingling with his. But there was a new challenge—how could they possibly afford it? Determined not to let this opportunity slip away, Muhammad applied for every scholarship and grant he could find. He worked tirelessly to gather enough money, taking on any job that came his way.

With a mixture of scholarships, part-time jobs, and sheer determination, Muhammad managed to enroll in the university. The first few months were tough. He was miles away from home, surrounded by students from privileged backgrounds, and he struggled to keep up. But each time he thought of giving up, he remembered his family, his village, and the sacrifices his mother had made.

Slowly but surely, Muhammad found his footing. He excelled in his studies, became involved in student organizations, and even started

mentoring other students who were struggling. By the time he graduated, he had not only earned his degree but had also built a network of connections that would prove invaluable.

Muhammad could have easily taken a high-paying job after graduation, but he knew his true calling lay elsewhere. He returned to his village, where he saw potential in the very challenges that had once held him back. He decided to start a business that would bring jobs and opportunities to his community.

Drawing on the skills he had learned at university, Muhammad founded a company that specialized in renewable energy solutions for rural areas. He employed local villagers, trained them, and provided a source of income that transformed the entire community. The business grew quickly, and soon, Muhammad's village was no longer known for its poverty but for its innovation and resilience.

Muhammad's story spread, inspiring countless others. He became a symbol of what could be achieved through perseverance, education, and the desire to give back. But for Muhammad, the greatest success was not the thriving business or the recognition; it was the knowledge that he had broken the cycle of poverty for his family and created a legacy of hope for future generations.

And so, the young man who had grown up with nothing but dreams and determination became a beacon of light, proving that no matter where you start, it's where you choose to go that defines your destiny.

Karshiev Avazbek Sa'dullayevich. Born on August 23, 2004. My passion for economics has driven me to publish over 10 articles in scientific journals. My research focuses on topics like digital transformation, the gig economy, and AI in business. Despite setbacks in studying abroad, I remain committed to my goals of contributing to sustainable economic policies and achieving my dream of becoming a scientist-businessman.