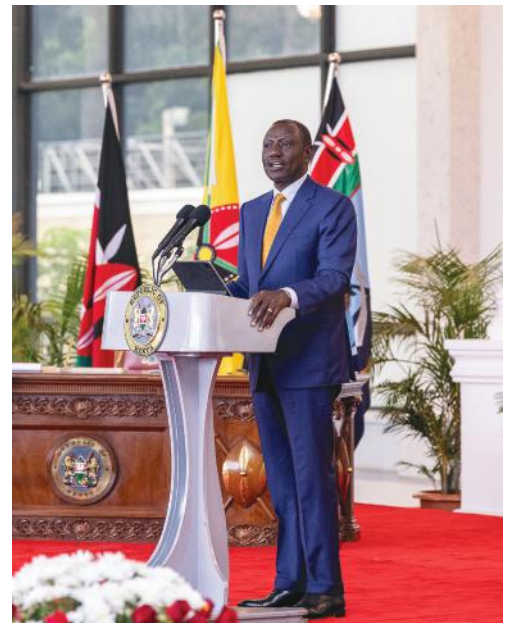


Kenya Confirms Second Mpox Case



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CJ Urges MPs To Expedite The Passing Of Tribunal Bill

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The launch of the Tribunals' Website, is an initiative aimed at making information more accessible to Kenyans as envisaged under the Judiciary's Blueprint Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) which advocates for provision of people-centered justice.
- Through the website, citizens will be able to access information on how to lodge cases, view cause lists for scheduled hearings, find out when tribunals will be sitting in towns outside Nairobi, and access other relevant information easily.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has called upon the National Assembly to expedite the legislative process of passing the Tribunal Bill.

Justice Koome said the delay in passing the Bill has slowed down the streamlining and operationalization of tribunals in the country, and the full transitioning of all tribunals to the Judiciary.

"I appreciate the government's efforts in this regard, particularly, the Cabinet's approval of the Tribunals Bill last year. I take this opportunity to urge the National Assembly to expedite the legislative process, which has been pending before the Assembly, to bring this transition to its full conclusion," said the CJ.

Koome was speaking during the launch of the Tribunals' Shared Service Infrastructure, Website, and Tribunal Registry Manual held at Kenya Re Towers in Upper Hill, Nairobi.

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She announced that 26 tribunals have successfully transitioned from the Executive to the Judiciary, noting that the impact of the transition was already evident in the impressive performance of the Tribunals, as demonstrated by their Case Clearance Rates.

The CJ disclosed that in the last financial year, the tribunals achieved a remarkable case clearance rate of 111 percent and resolved 15,173 cases compared to the 13,712 cases filed.

She added that the rent restriction tribunal, the business premises rent tribunal, the tax appeal tribunal, and the cooperative tribunal led the way with the highest clearance rates.

Other areas where the Judiciary excelled



Chief Justice Martha Koome during the launch of the Tribunals' Shared Service Infrastructure, Website, and Tribunal Registry Manual held at Kenya Re Towers in Upper Hill, Nairobi..

include the Judiciary Performance Management and Measurement Unit, which evaluates Courts and Tribunals annually, the Sports Disputes Tribunal, Tax Appeals Tribunal, and Business Premises Rent Tribunal.

"I commend the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal for its dedication during the 2022 electoral cycle, where it promptly resolved pre-election disputes, enabling the 2022 general elections to proceed smoothly as planned," the CJ noted.

Justice Koome said that the Judiciary had envisioned a one-stop home for Tribunals with a centralized location where all resources can be harnessed by providing shared administrative services where citizens can easily locate tribunal services.

"This will make justice more accessible, enhance efficiency in service delivery, and ensure prudent management of our resources," she stated.

She added that the shared administrative support among tribunals allows the Judiciary to use its scarce resources more wisely, since many tribunals do not sit on a daily basis.

The Chief Justice directed that the One-

Stop Shop concept of innovative shared services for Tribunals at Kenya Re Towers, be embraced and replicated at all Court Stations to ensure maximum utilization of space.

"Tribunals should be able to find suitable space and courtrooms when they visit Court stations outside of Nairobi during their circuits. Therefore, I urge the Courts Stations to adopt this innovative model of shared services," she said.

The CJ expressed confidence that launch of the Tribunals' Registry Manual will harmonize and standardize registry operations across all Tribunals and streamline operations and provide greater clarity and consistency in registry processes.

"To ensure that the Tribunals deliver expeditious and effective services, it is crucial that the appellate processes work efficiently as well," said Koome and urged Judiciary staff to embrace structured engagement between the Tribunals and the superior courts to enhance the administration of justice.

"As we navigate an era of rapid socio-legal evolution, it is imperative that we strengthen and expand these pathways to justice," she added.

Tribunals, often the first point of contact for many Kenyans seeking justice, are the grassroots gateways where the voices of our citizens are heard and where they receive the justice they deserve," said CJ Koome.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly Gladys Boss said the enactment of the Tribunals Bill, 2023 that is currently awaiting Second Reading by the House will help in rationalizing and regulating the establishment of Tribunals.

"It seeks to streamline the governance and operations of Tribunals, provide a reasonable standard for the establishment of Tribunals and set appropriate qualifications for chairpersons and members of Tribunals," she stated.

The Deputy Speaker added that the tribunals also ensure expeditious settlement of disputes, enhance access to justice and improve quality of service delivery by Tribunals.

Other speakers at the event were Justices Isaac Lenaola of the Supreme Court, Kathurima M'Inoti of the Court of Appeal and Alfred Mabeya of the High Court.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Enos Njeru (right) has been re-elected KTDA National Chairman and Eric Chepkwony elected as Vice-Chairman at Kenya Tea Development Agency - Holdings Limited board for a three-year term.



The Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health has intensified tree planting exercise in West Pokot County as part of its broader efforts to promote afforestation, which aligns with the presidential directive to plant 15 billion trees across the country by the year 2032. Speaking at the Kenya Forest Service station located in Kabichbich village, Pokot South Sub-County, a Senior Deputy Secretary at the Ministry Mr. Mawira Mungania stated that the tree planting initiative aimed at promoting community involvement and enhance awareness regarding the essential functions of trees in maintaining ecosystems, enhancing air quality, and offering shade and resources. He noted following the presidential directive, the Ministry of Health has been tasked with the goal of increasing tree planting efforts in West Pokot and had set an annual target of planting 280,000. He emphasized that the tree planting initiative was designed to not only improve environmental sustainability but also address climate change, enhance air quality, and foster biodiversity.



Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade, and Industry Salim Mgala Mvurya (left), his Principal Secretary Hassan Abdulkadir (second left, partly hidden), Special Economic Zone Authority CEO Dr. Kenneth Chelule (second right), and Nakuru Deputy Governor (far right) Davis Korir display a map of the Special Economic Zone in Naivasha that has attracted bids from 19 investors worth billions of shillings.

TikTok has reaffirmed its commitment in protecting its users from threats including cyber-bullying, harmful and personal data exposure among other challenges. The platform's management team led by Ms. Zara Higgs, Head of Public Policy Programs at TikTok for the Middle East, Africa, Turkey, Pakistan & South Asia said they have continued educating their users on content control mechanisms and data protection and have high tech monitoring tools that can detect and remove harmful contents from their platforms. Speaking during a 'Safer Together' campaign forum at Zetech University, Mangu Campus yesterday, Ms Higgs called on the users to maintain a positive online presence and use the platform effectively to earn and create employment.



Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika has said that Naivasha was chosen by the government to host the SEZ due to the ready availability of high-voltage power; more than 1,000 kilowatts of power are generated around this locality, its strategic location transport-wise, and the availability of raw materials. "That is why Nakuru is the only county in Kenya that the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) has gazetted the lowest tariff of Sh5 per kilowatt/hour for our Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Export Processing Zones (EPZ)," Kihika observed. The governor said the factory is timely and aptly fits into the value chains of the food crops farmers produce. Nakuru is a leading producer in potato farming in Kenya, with approximately 75,000 farmers in nine sub-counties producing more than 20,007 metric tonnes per year.



The Isiolo Regional Office recently held a productive roundtable discussion with UNICEF and the Isiolo County Department of Gender. Together, we are embarking on a crucial project, supported by UNICEF, to enhance adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Isiolo County. This initiative will empower our youth with the knowledge and resources they need for a healthier future.

Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) leadership team, led by chairman of the Board Irungu Nyakera and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Waqo Ejersa paid a courtesy call to Council of Governors chairperson and Kirinyaga County governor Anne Waiguru. The discussion focused on crucial health sector reforms, addressing debts owed to KEMSA, improving supply chains, and fostering collaboration. The CoG is committed to working with KEMSA towards a coordinated health strategy across all Counties that will transform the health sector.



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Alternative Dispute Resolution in Kenya – Understanding Court Annexed Mediation



By: David Ndirangu
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- An Accredited Mediator is a mediator registered with the Mediation Accreditation Committee (MAC).
- Generally all types of cases may be referred to mediation including children cases, family issues, succession, employment, labour relations, commercial, civil, environmental, land disputes, trespass and minor cases of personal fights and assault. However, cases like murder, rape, defilement, child neglect, domestic violence and other major criminal matters are not suitable for mediation.



Kenyan Judiciary

The Kenyan Judiciary has been implementing Mediation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism since the year 2016.

Within the ambit of ADR, the Judiciary introduced Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) in an effort to alleviate case backlog in the courts of law in line with Article 159 (2) (c) of the Kenya Constitution 2010 which mandates the Judiciary to promote alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional methods of dispute resolution.

Mediation refers to a process where parties resolve their disputes with the assistance of a neutral, independent and impartial person called a mediator. In mediation the parties decide on how to resolve their dispute – the mediator is just a facilitator who assists the disputing parties reach a negotiated settlement.

Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) is mediation conducted with the assistance of an accredited mediator, under

the supervision of the court.

A private mediation agreement may be adopted and enforced under this programme.

Private mediation refers to mediation in a dispute that is not subject of a case pending in any court of law. However, the parties may upon reaching a negotiated settlement agreement present the same to a court of law for validation.

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The courts are supposed to review the details of cases filed and determine

whether they are suitable for referral to mediation. The process is referred to as screening. As a procedure it is mandatory to subject all civil action case files to screening upon implementation of Court Annexed Mediation in any particular court.

Parties or even one party to a matter in court may request for their case to be screened for referral to mediation.

When a case has been referred to mediation, it becomes mandatory for all the parties to get on with the process.

The court will appoint a mediator and notify the parties of the decision within seven days.

The appointed mediator shall in consultation with the parties, schedule dates, time and place for the mediation sessions. The parties may also by consent select a mediator from the register of accredited mediators. Mediation sessions under CAM may also be conducted virtually in accordance with the Guidelines for Virtual Mediation. The mediator may request the Judiciary for administrative assistance for virtual mediation.

In the mediation process, the role of the mediator is to; initiate communication to the parties, advocates and their representatives. Explain the rules of engagement to the parties. Facilitate resolution of the dispute.

Maintain confidentiality. Update the court on the progress in the mediation. Draft settlement agreements and file a mediation report with the court upon conclusion of the mediation process. Cases referred to mediation should be resolved within sixty (60) days. The mediation report has the same powers as a court judgement. However, it is not subject to appeal at all.

The role of the parties to the dispute in the mediation process are; to file a

summary of the case in the prescribed form. To commit to observe the rules of engagement. To act in good faith. To maintain confidentiality. To attend all the mediation sessions and to sign the negotiated agreement upon settlement.

In addition to helping reduce case backlog in the courts, other benefits of Court Annexed Mediation include; mediation is faster and less costly compared to the normal court process. It focuses on interests of the disputing parties rather than their positions thus encouraging creative solutions for mutual benefit of the parties. It is flexible – allowing procedures to be modified to meet the demands of the parties. Confidentiality - all information exchanged during CAM is private and confidential and is not even admissible in a court of law. It preserves a cordial relationship between the parties. Availability of CAM is likely to reduce the level of corruption in the judiciary as it eliminates the temptation or need to offer a bribe due to the ease and openness of the process.

There are several success stories in the few years of implementation of CAM. Families have been reunited, contractual relations restored and cases that have been in court for ages settled. In addition, an amount close to KShs. 55 billion previously held up in disputes has been released back into the economy as a result of resolved matters.

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Kenya Ready To Address Bottlenecks Hindering Trade In EAC

By: Ian Chepkuto
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The GACS, a 55-day, 6,000-kilometre annual cycling activity, started in Bujumbura, Rwanda, on August 1, 2024, with 40 cyclists, and arrived in Kenya on August 17, 2024, through the Namanga border point in Kajiado County. The cyclists are expected to cross over to Uganda on August 27, 2024, via the Suam border point in Trans Nzoia County, after covering 1002 Kilometres in 12 days.
- The six participating countries were; Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.
- CS observed that, the event, themed “Furthering Campaigns to Promote Food Security, Peace, and Climate Mitigation,” will promote EAC integration as it will provide a platform to articulate the EAC agendas, including peace, tourism, food security, climate change, and embracing solidarity and unity.

Kenya will play her part in addressing border challenges within East African Member States so as to allow seamless movement of people, goods, and services as envisaged during the establishment of the East African Community.

Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of East African Community, ASALs, and Regional Development, Beatrice Askul, divulged that the Ministry is working on modalities to address border challenges, bedevilling the realisation of free flow of goods and services in the region.

Flagging-off the 7th Great Africa Cycling Safari (GACS) at the Ministry’s Headquarters in Nairobi, today Askul, said Kenya continues to deepen partnership with Member States to promote political good will, which will foster cross-border trade, skill sharing, peace, and EAC integration.

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She said National Tree Planting campaigns spearheaded by the Kenyan Government under President William Ruto, which targets 15 billion trees by 2032, aligns with GACS mandates as it aims to combat climate change, which has affected the livelihoods of many people within the member States.

The CS commended the organisers of the event, noting that part of the exercise will involve community activities, among them tree planting sessions in Timboroa Forest, food security awareness on agritourism, and Nairobi River cleaning, among others.

CS Askul said the cycling activity serves as a regional advocacy podium, supporting the EAC integration process through awareness creation, cross-cultural interaction, environmentally responsible tourism, eco-

nomie growth, gender and human capital, food security, food safety, vibrant sporting culture, and health in the region.

“We are also very proud of this activity, for it serves as a regional advocacy podium supporting the EAC integration process,” said CS.

Askul urged Kenyans to ensure they plant, protect, and nurture trees to ensure they grow to attained maturity as intended, in order to impact on climate change interventions.

Noting that the government has identified monetisation of talent as one of the solutions towards youth empowerment and employment, the CS challenged youth in the region to exploit their talents, which include cycling, to earn a living.

Askul revealed that the annual cycling event has been recognised by the Sectoral Council and is awaiting ratification by the EAC Council of Ministers, to form part of the EAC calendar of activities.

East African Community (EAC) Principal Secretary Abdi Dubat, said the event contributes significantly to various key areas of development within EAC, including serving as a catalyst for sports development, thus, fostering the growth of cycling, as a sport in the region.

“The Great African Cycling Safari provides an invaluable platform for talent identification, skills enhancement, and the cultivation of a culture of sporting excellence in the region,” said Dubat.

PS stressed that the sporting event will convey the EAC Integration Agenda to the citizens by highlighting regional and community issues and challenges, as well as showcasing opportunities and potentials offered by the East African Community (EAC), in terms of trade and tourism.

On his part, Cyclist Team Leader, John Balongo, said they chose to engage in cycling activities across East African States, to bring onboard young people who are the majority, to actively be involved in activities which promote climate mitigation measures through tree planting.

He said they are riding across the region educating the community about cultural diversity, which promotes peace and harmony, while advocating for food security to ensure food safety.

Balongo calls on partners to come on board and support their agenda in order to achieve their dreams of promoting the EAC integration agenda.



Flagging off ceremony



The 7th Great Africa Safari 2024, Cyclist Team Leader, John Balongo (left), speaks at Cooperative Bank House Building, after the cycling team was received by the Kenyan’s East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary, Beatrice Askul Moe. The cycling Team which left Bujumbura, Burundi, on 1st August this year is to cover over 6,000 kilometres within the East African Community countries, excluding Somali and southern Sudan. Photo by Boniface Malinda



Cabinet Secretary, East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development, Beatrice Askul Moe, delivers a keynote address at her office at the Cooperative Bank House Building before flagging off the 7th African Cycling Safari 2024. Photo by Boniface Malinda.

Kenya Confirms Second Mpox Case

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyentimes

The Ministry of Health has confirmed the second laboratory confirmed case of the Mpox disease in the country.

Health Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa said that the second confirmed patient is an adult male truck driver who presented to the Port Health screening desk at the Malaba One Stop Border Post- Busia County with salient symptoms of the disease and a history of travel to the epicenter of the outbreak in DRC.

“The patient has been isolated and is under active management in one of our health facilities in Busia County. Further, active surveillance for suspected cases has been enhanced in the region and across all counties to ensure the spread of the disease is controlled,” explained Dr. Barasa.

The CS said that to date, a total of 42 samples have been submitted to laboratories for Mpox disease testing out of which 40 samples have tested negative for the disease.

“In addition, we have screened a total of 426,438 travelers at our various points of entry across the country. The Ministry emphasizes that

our health facilities are adequately staffed and well- equipped to diagnose and manage this disease and therefore its identification should not be a cause for alarm,” said Dr. Barasa.

The CS explained that since declaration of the first case of Mpox disease on 31st July 2024, 28 contacts of the said case have completed a 21-day follow-up period without developing symptoms and have been discharged from active follow-up.

“The Ministry of Health expresses its deep gratitude to every Kenyan for their unwavering cooperation and support in the ongoing fight against the Mpox outbreak in the country. Your collective commitment and adherence to the containment measures and directives issued by the government have been commendable,” said the CS.

Dr. Barasa said that to prevent the spread of the disease, the ministry has been calling on all Kenyans to observe the recommended public health measures which include regularly wash hands with soap and running water or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer, practicing good hygiene, and avoiding close contact with individuals exhibiting Mpox-like symptoms.

“We are urging Kenyans to avoid



Health Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa

sharing personal items such as towels, utensils, or clothing materials. If you or your loved one exhibits or has been in contact with someone with Mpox disease signs and symptoms visit the nearest health facility for assessment by a qualified health professional,” said the CS.

She asked Kenyans to exercise caution around wild animals and avoid the consumption of uninspected meat and meat products from wild

animals.

“The Ministry encourages the public to seek accurate information from our website and qualified health professionals and urges the public to verify the validity of the content they may encounter on social media platforms online. We will continue to provide regular updates as more information becomes available, to ensure the public is well- informed and protected,” assured the CS.

Dr. Barasa said that the ministry will continue to monitor the situation and take all necessary measures to safeguard the health and safety of all Kenyans.

“Let us all be vigilant and continue adhering to the preventive measures to keep our families and our nation safe. For more information or assistance, please contact the ministry hotlines at 719 or +245729471414 / +254732353535,” said the CS.

TVET Embarks On Plans Of Disarming The Youth In Conflict Prone Areas

By: Justus Anzaya
@themkenyentimes

The State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Kenya has implemented a master-plan strategy to disarm youth in conflict-prone areas for skill development.

The master-plan strategy is dubbed skilling for peace and it would be implemented in all conflict prone regions in Kenya.

The Principal Secretary State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria noted that skilling for peace is an idea whose time has come and that it has to be perfectly implemented so that the youth in conflict hotspots in Kenya get skilled.

The PS underscored the critical need of ensuring that the youth in such volatile regions gain skills saying that skilling will enable the youth in

these areas to abandon cattle rustling and banditry.

“TVET in partnership with Interpeace is going to mount up a campaign in Northern Kenya and North Rift in order to ensure that the youth get skilled,” noted the PS.

Dr. Muoria disclosed that the State Department for TVET in collaboration with Interpeace undertook a study, designed to explore opportunities for diversified livelihoods of the communities in trouble-spots regions of Northern Kenya and the North Rift.

Additionally, she said, the two partners went ahead and mapped out training areas that will suit the youth and herders in most of these conflict-prone areas.

The PS noted that the intention of the study aimed at integrating herders and the youth in these areas in TVETs as envisaged in the shared national security strategy thereby contributing to sustainable peace, security and development in the regions.

The study also evaluated the poten-

tial of “Skills4Peace Initiative” in addressing root causes of conflicts and drying up the sources of conflict in Northern Kenya and North Rift through provision of diversified skills leading to varied economic opportunities, fostering cultural diversity and social cohesion, and promoting sustainable development.

Fortunately, Already 500 youth in Tiaty constituency have embraced the Skills for Peace initiative and are set to join North Rift Technical Vocational College (TVC) to pursue various programs in the institution.

The youth vowed to join the Skills 4 Peace bandwagon to drum up a campaign to ensure that the youth shun cattle rustling to embrace TVET training for economic sustainability.

The TVET PS rallied the Government, the County Governments and development partners to support the Skills for Peace Initiative in order to help TVET to restore peace in these conflict hotbed regions.



Relief As Ngecha And Tigoni Residents Are Issued With Title Deeds

By: Xavier Brian
@themtkenyatimes

Tigoni and Ngecha residents in Limuru Municipality have received title deeds from Kiambu County Government.

Over 800 residents were on hand to receive the title deeds that were personally handed over by Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

At the event held at St. Pauls University grounds, Limuru Sub County, the Governor called upon residents to guard the title deeds well.

Governor Wamatangi cautioned residents against improper use of the document saying it should not be used as an alternative for accruing loans but rather as an asset.

“Today as you receive these title deeds, you not only claim the security of land ownership but also the freedom to plan for the future and in that ownership comes the opportunity to develop it, to farm it and to pass it to future generations with pride and certainty,” Wamatangi said.

According to the Kiambu Government Plans on land and land use, 85 percent of the population with land in the County have so far title deeds to their land and there are no recorded cases of landlessness.

The remaining 15 per cent have not received their title deeds due to unfinished land adjudication process and non payment of the necessary fees.

The Governor said that he is keen to see this percentage reduce even further and urged the CECM for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development Salome Wainaina together with the National Land Commission to fast-track the pending cases in Limuru Central, and Misri so that by December this year every legitimate land owner in Limuru Sub-County will have received their title deeds.

“I call upon the Ministry and the team from National Land Commission to explore all avenues to ensure the remaining few people get deeds to their land,” Wamatangi said.

Patrick Ngaruya, MCA for Ngecha Tigoni ward welcomed the move by the Governor saying some of the delayed title deeds dated as far back as



Ngecha And Tigoni Residents Are Issued With Title Deeds by Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

30 years.

He further praised National Lands Commission (NLC) County Coordinator, Molu Halake for making the whole process seamless, terming his input invaluable.

“The NLC team has been steadfast and I can confidently say that were it

not for the County Coordinator, some of these title deeds would not have been issued today,” the MCA said.

Ngaruiya further thanked Lands Registrar for Kiambu County Gladys Mwikali who expedited the registration of the title deeds in time, for the handing out ceremony.

Article 61 of the Constitution grants powers to citizens to own land whether public, private or community owned and a title deed is the sealing document to this very crucial right.

Patients From Meru, Embu And Kitui Counties Flooding Tharaka Nithi County Hospitals, Governor Njuki

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi County Government will start charging Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) in its dispensaries and health centres to curb flooding by patients from the neighbouring Embu, Meru and Kitui counties.

Speaking yesterday in Ganga ward in Maara constituency, Governor Njuki said the neighbouring counties are already charging the FIF money, so their residents are crossing to Tharaka Nithi County for free services.

Njuki said even his county residents are also shunning Level Four and Level Five hospitals which charge some money for free services in dispensaries and health centres.

“I have asked the county assembly to decide whether we will continue spending the scarce resources with our neighbours or we will also start charging some little money in our health centres and dispensaries,” said

Njuki.

The FIF Act, 2023 guides the counties on collecting, retaining and managing revenue generated from health-related services rendered at public health facilities.

The county boss said some of the border health facilities which have witnessed increased patients from the neighbouring counties are Kibugua Health Centre, Kibunga Health Centre and Kathangacini Health Centre which borders Embu, Meru and Kitui counties, respectively.

He said the stock of drugs which used to take three months are running out of stock in less than two months and the data clearly shows that a good percentage of patients are from the neighbouring counties.

“I urge our county residents to agree to pay some little money, not more than Sh100 so that even if our neighbours decide to continue visiting our hospitals, there will be some money to buy the extra drugs,” he said.

The county chief also urged members of the public to embrace the culture of visiting hospitals for medical



Tharaka Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki

check-ups even when they are not feeling sick so that in case they are sick, the illnesses can be detected early.

Tharaka Nithi Women Representative Susan Ngugi also asked the county residents to immediately report to hospitals or authorities any suspected case of MPox to avoid deaths and spread of the disease.

She said the viral disease caused by the monkeypox virus is mainly spread through contact by an infected person and has almost similar symptoms to those of measles including sore throat, fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes among others.

“Our people must be vigilant to report to the authorities or the nearest health facility, any patient presenting such symptoms for quick action,” said Ms Ngugi.

President Ruto Is Walking The Talk In Ensuring A Full Implementation Of The NADCO Report



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- One of the key highlights of the changes to Ethic and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) touches on academic qualification of the chairperson of Commission.
- Media reports indicated Bishop Oginde, the current holder is not qualified. If these changes are adopted, it means his fate will lie with President Ruto.
- I recall when President William received the report, he assured Kenyans that he was committed to ensure the resolutions were implemented fully. He is walking the talk.
- At the time he stated that Kenyans got an opportunity to present their views on 'Kenya We Want'. This reaffirms my commitment to adhere to the tent of democracy and constitutionalism.

The final report prepared by National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) contained nine proposed laws.

Parliament had earlier passed a Bill that provided a legal framework for undertaking this process.

Then one of the clauses in the Bill which consequently become an Act of parliament after President William Ruto signed it into law stated.

The final draft report shall be tabled in parliament and subjected to debate before being approved.

One of the proposed laws touched on the reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). This has been finalized. All the nominating bodies have submitted the names of 9-member selection panel.

But the members are yet to be sworn in. This is because the Wiper Democratic Party and Liberal Democratic Party had lodged a complaint before the Political Parties Disputes Resolution Tribunal.

The two parties had been given a go ahead to pick one nominee who will represent the minority parties. Each wants to nominate one of their own.

The process of implementing the second proposed law started a few days ago.

One of the key highlights of the changes to Ethic and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) touches on academic qualification of the chairperson of Commission.

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This reaffirms my commitment to adhere to the tent of democracy and constitutionalism.

Azimio leader Raila Odinga took a cue and a few days later he also threw his full weight behind the report.

Besides reconstitution of the IEBC, the NADCO report recommended the creation of more executive offices.

Kenyans immediately faulted the latter proposal stating it was designed to create positions for the election losers.

This would lead to a bloated and duplicative government that Kenya economy cannot sustain.

This matter also stood out as a core concern that triggered recent street protests led by Generation-Z.

As President Ruto signed the Bill to reform the IEBC, he also announced a 6-day national dialogue.

This demonstrated he was walking the talk. He had assured Gen-Z protestors that he was ready to listen to their grievances and address them.

We cannot however sort out these matters in the streets. We need to engage in



President William Ruto

a structured and constructive dialogue. I'm going to provide that leadership.

The national multi sectoral forum will comprise 150 participants.

Of these slots, Generation Z and millennials will appoint 50 members. GenZ rejected his gesture.

President Ruto was flanked by opposition leaders led by Raila Odinga when he made that announcement.

Sometimes back, a section of the leaders drawn from opposition Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition had alleged a plot to mutilate the NADCO report.

Many would interpret this as a cheap political gimmick.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and his DAP-K counterpart Eugene Wamalwa, who come up with these allegations, were members of that NADCO committee.

To me, the two Azimio leaders were behaving like jilted lovers after realizing that their popularity was dropping very fast. This started after their defacto leader Raila Odinga adopted a low political profile to concentrate on campaign for Africa Union (AU) top job.

As a lawyer and senior counsel, Kalonzo knows that the President have no power to interfere with matters before the courts.

For starters, the orders suspending the implementation of the two chapters of NADCO report had been issued by a Judge based at Kiambu law court. This is until the cases filed are heard and determined.

Taking cognizant of the fact that Kenya is a country governed by rule of law and the constitution, one would expect Azimio leaders to file appeals to counter orders issued by the court.

As required by the law enacted to

spearhead the process, the report was submitted to the Senate for concurrence.

This means new Bills capturing the proposals presented during the public hearings held at the Bomas of Kenya were being drafted. The court has however stopped parliament from subjecting the clauses being contested to debate or any vote.

If non-contested clauses sailed through, the law requires the Speakers of the two houses to submit the Bills to the President for assent.

Dr Ruto had rightly noted that we are a country governed by the constitution and so we welcome the NADCO report.

Speaking after attending a Sunday service at Priesthood church in Kahawa West Nairobi, the president noted. A 10-member committee set up to address the issues raised by the other side came up with a raft of the proposals. For now, we are now reading from the same page with our opponents. We are committed to ensure they are implemented in full.

So, having this report is a key milestone in fostering peace and unity of our country. His main competitor Raila Odinga also endorsed the report.

But as it turns out, the opinion is divided. I have been following with keen interest mixed reactions that the final report continues to elicit. This is good and healthy for our democracy. It shows that our democracy is maturing.

I did not expect Parliament to let down the President whose vision and mission is clear. My prayers were answered.

For President William Ruto, his main focus is to build a united and peace full Kenya and rid the country burden of foreign debts.

Addressing congregants at Priesthood Church in Kahawa West, Dr Ruto had said that he was happy to note that one

of the recommendations in NADCO final report stated. The monies allocated for the local and foreign travels of the government officials should be cut by 50 percent and 30 percent respectively. For 50 pc cut, i have already done that.

For 30pc, I have no problem. I wish they could have pegged it at 50pc.

Notably, the recommendations had been informed by the views and memoranda submitted by the people of Kenya during the public hearings.

One of the issues agreed upon is the creation of the Office of Leader of Opposition. This is another key recommendation.

The bipartisan talks were being held at Bomas of Kenya. The opinion of the polls conducted by Trends and Insights for Africa (Tifa) had shown that majority of Kenyans supported the proposal by President William Ruto on creation of this Office.

If Raila won the elections, I'm sure sure he could have lured members of Dr Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA) to support his development agenda inside and outside parliament.

It is worth noting Dr Ruto started rooting for a system of governance anchored on tenets of democracy and constitutionalism long before he become the President.

This is the first time in Kenya's history that the sitting head of state is rooting for the creation of the Office of Opposition Leader.

President Ruto is rooting for the opposition that engages the government in a structured constructive and honest dialogue.

Landmark Land Survey To Nakuru Empower Residents With Title Deeds

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

In a move towards securing land ownership rights for thousands of residents, Nakuru County government has initiated a comprehensive land survey in the market centers of Pole Pole in Subukia Sub County and Mercy Njeri in Rongai Sub County.

This critical project is set to provide long-overdue title deeds to residents, marking a transformative moment in the county's ongoing efforts to address land-related challenges and promote sustainable development.

The announcement was made on Friday during a consultative meeting held at the respective market centers, where Nakuru County Chief Officer for Lands and Physical Planning, Ms. Stella Mwaura addressed plot beneficiaries.

She detailed the scope of the upcoming survey, which she said would include site visits and the strategic layering of beacons on encroached lands.

This meticulous process aims to clarify boundaries, resolve disputes, and ultimately grant residents the legal documentation that has bedeviled

them for decades.

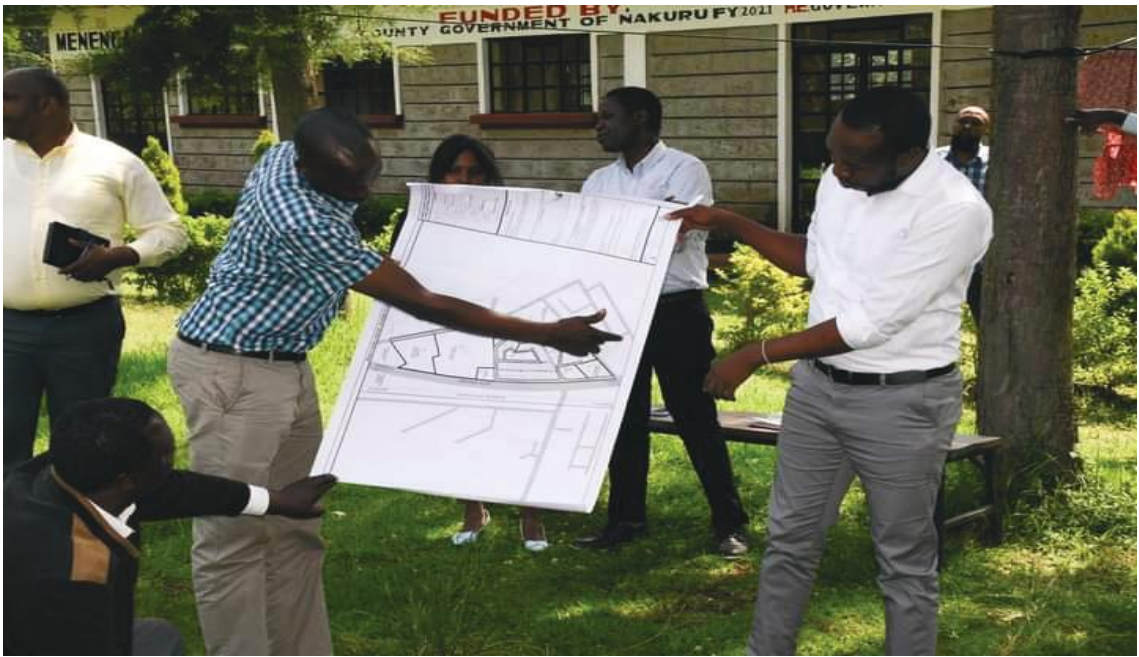
Ms. Mwaura pledged unwavering commitment by the Nakuru County Government towards facilitating this exercise at no cost to the mwananchi, emphasizing that the Governor's administration is concerned about resolving Nakuru's historical land issues.

This initiative is not merely an administrative task; it is a comprehensive effort to correct historical oversights and injustices, providing residents with the security and peace of mind that comes with owning a legally recognized piece of land.

The importance of this project cannot be overstated. For many residents, particularly those who have been waiting for over 40 years, the issuance of title deeds represents a significant milestone in their lives as it provides them with the legal recognition needed to invest in their properties, access credit facilities, and plan for the future with confidence.

The success of the land survey hinges on the active participation and cooperation of the local community.

Area Member of County Assembly (MCA) Elijah Murage urged residents to fully support the consultants and surveyors who would be conducting



the exercise.

He stressed that smooth execution of the survey would require transparent communication and collaboration between residents and officials.

Murage's call for unity underscores the communal effort needed to ensure that the benefits of this project are realized by all.

The emotional weight of the initiative was palpable during the meeting with Ms. Irene Kiptoo, one of

the long-standing plot beneficiaries, expressing her heartfelt gratitude to County Government.

She noted that the fulfillment of their land ownership journey, which has spanned for generations, was finally within reach.

For Ms. Kiptoo and many others, the title deeds were more than just pieces of paper—they were the culmination of a long struggle for recognition and justice.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy to promote sustainable development in Nakuru County. Secure land tenure is a critical foundation for economic growth, social stability, and environmental sustainability. By ensuring that residents have legal ownership of their land, Nakuru County government is setting the stage for future development projects that could be built on a stable and legally recognized foundation.

President Ruto Is Walking The Talk In Ensuring A Full Implementation Of The NADCO Report

Contd from page 11

I remember a powerful speech he made at Chatham House in the United Kingdom (UK) in the countdown to the 2022 General Election.

He told his attentive audience who comprised political leaders, diplomats, scholars and professionals drawn from all parts of the world that he totally detested the system that was being embraced back home in Kenya.

As you are aware, the 'handshake' government of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner Raila Odinga was at the helm of power.

He described it as a mongrel kind of thing. This system lacked consistent, direction and focus. It is an animal that one cannot understand.

This system has caused a lot confusion and stagnated the progress and wellbeing of our people.

In a functioning democracy, the government and opposition are supposed to

operate as distinct entities.

If I win the elections and become the President, I want to assure Kenyans that I will strive to provide leadership on this matter.

Initially Raila and his brigade had resorted to throwing the spanners in the work by holding bloody and destructive demonstrations. He never wanted Ruto to succeed. He had previously used the same card to intimidate and blackmail presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

He hoped this card will work even this time. The strategy flopped because Dr Ruto stood his ground.

Besides, majority of Kenyans also realized that Raila was taking them for a ride. He did not believe in thier course. He was just using them in pursuit of his selfish and personal gains.

Raila's endgame was to force President Ruto to share the rulling Kenya Kwanza government with him.

Many Kenyans believe Raila was yet to accept the outcome of 2022 presidential election results because of one main reason.

He never thought he can lose because

for the first time the outgoing President, the deep state and system was fully backing his candidature.

He however forgot this. Dr Ruto, his main competitor was on the other hand enjoying God's favor and support of the majority of Kenyans.

We know that Kenyatta's victories in both 2013 and 2017 was attributed to the popular support he had received from his strongholds of the Mount Kenya and Rift Valley regions.

He had already lost the two blocs and the voters were now rallying behind Ruto.

Dr Ruto had also raided and penetrated Raila Odinga's strongholds and he had managed to sway a huge chunk of votes to his side.

With this, where did Raila expect to get votes?

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and politica hel analyst based in Nairobi



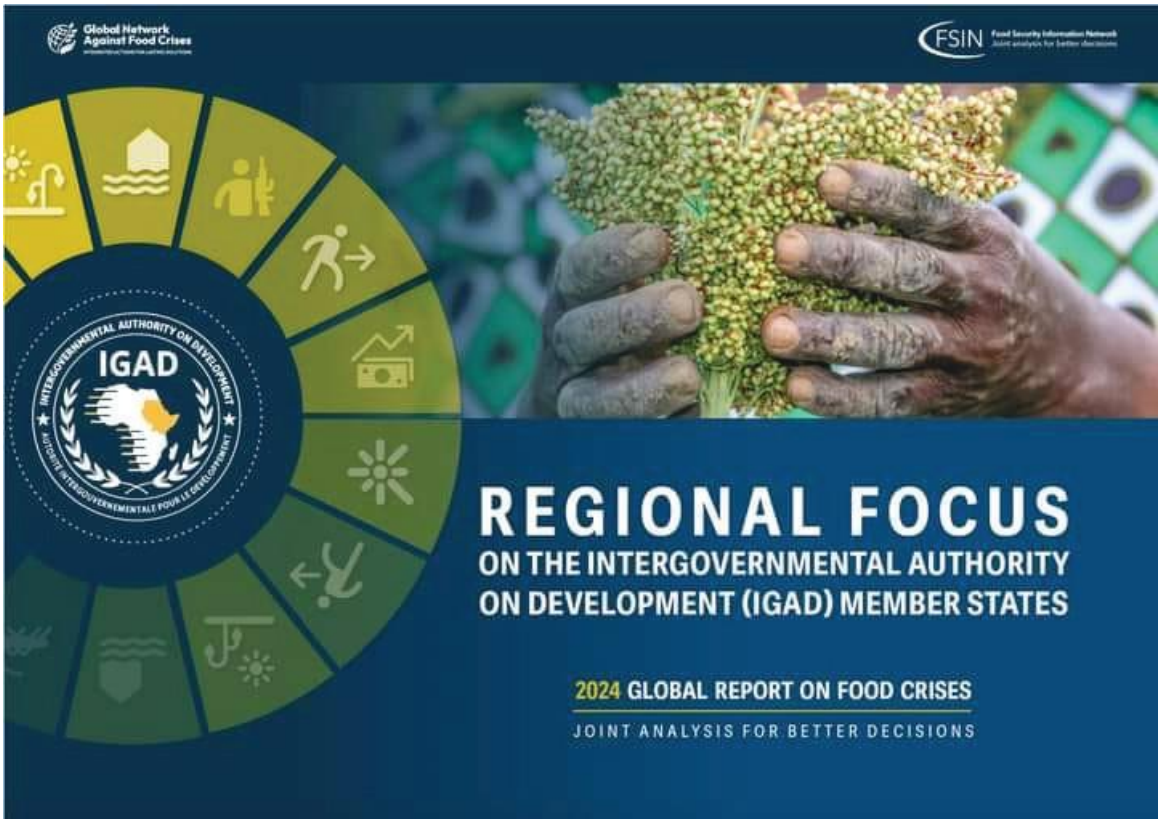
President William Ruto

Urgent Action Needed As Food Insecurity Worsens Across IGAD Region

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The report further says the recent widespread floods associated with El Niño and persistent dry conditions in 2023 and the first half of 2024 have negatively impacted agricultural production in several other areas of the region.
- Additionally, the displacement crisis in the region has reached unprecedented levels, with 25 million people forcibly displaced by mid-2024, marking the highest displacement figures on record.
- Notably, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has internally displaced 7.9 million people since April 2023, making it the world's largest internal displacement crisis.
- IGAD's Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu in the press statement today said conflict exacerbates food insecurity, creating a vicious cycle that further destabilizes our communities.



Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Twenty-Five per cent of people in seven Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024. Acute food insecurity occurs when a person's inability to access enough food immediately jeopardizes their lives or livelihoods. According to the IGAD Regional Focus of the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises released today, approximately 62.9 million people, an increase from the 61.9 million people in 2023 are food insecure and this therefore raises the necessity for immediate action. The worsening conditions across the IGAD region call for an immediate and coordinated response from partners and member states to address the escalating humanitarian needs and mitigate the impacts of the food insecurity crisis. The report says that for the last five years, deepening food insecurity crisis is impacting the IGAD region negatively and this calls for urgent efforts to address the mounting humanitarian needs. The report further says the recent widespread floods associated with El Niño and persistent dry conditions in 2023 and the first half of 2024 have negatively impacted agricultural production in several other areas of the region. Additionally, the displacement crisis

in the region has reached unprecedented levels, with 25 million people forcibly displaced by mid-2024, marking the highest displacement figures on record. Notably, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has internally displaced 7.9 million people since April 2023, making it the world's largest internal displacement crisis. IGAD's Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu in the press statement today said conflict exacerbates food insecurity, creating a vicious cycle that further destabilizes our communities. "To make progress, we must address these interconnected issues by strengthening our collective efforts, building the resilience of our communities, and addressing the root causes of conflict to pave the way for long-term stability and development in our region," he stated. Emphasizing on the importance of addressing socioeconomic concerns, Dr. Gebeyehu added that the figures illustrate a humanitarian crisis in the region with Climate extremes and economic shocks leading to unprecedented levels of food insecurity, putting millions of lives at risk. Rukia Yacoub, World Food Programme (WFP's) Deputy Regional Director for Eastern Africa said that the violence and insecurity in Sudan have driven millions of people to seek refuge both within their own country

and in neighboring countries which are already grappling with high levels of food insecurity and instability. "The conflict in Sudan has triggered the world's largest hunger crisis, with more than half the population struggling to put enough food on their plates every day. This is putting even more pressure on limited humanitarian resources," said Yacoub, FAO's Sub-Regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AU and UNECA, Farayi Zimudzi, noted, "We are witnessing a fifth consecutive year of worsening food insecurity in the IGAD region. It is evident that a shift is necessary". She added that there is need for

reactive emergency responses to a proactive, anticipatory approach that mitigates the impacts of shocks, safeguarding livelihoods and food security. Furthermore, Zimudzi said that the catastrophic impacts of regional conflicts on food security and malnutrition underscore the urgent need for peace-building initiatives and conflict-sensitive programs that protect agricultural production and support rural livelihoods. Frequent and severe climate extremes have been significant contributors to regional food insecurity and this includes the lingering effects of a severe drought in the Eastern Horn of Africa from 2020 to 2023. Economic challenges have further exacerbated the food crisis across the region with IGAD countries been hit hard by economic shocks, including currency depreciation, soaring inflation, and the volatility of global food markets, which have intensified food insecurity. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a regional institution comprising eight East African countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda and assists member states in achieving food security, environmental protection, peace, security, and economic cooperation. Food Security Information Network (FSIN) was founded by FAO, IFPRI, and WFP and coordinates the publication of the Global Report on Food Crises. Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) brings together the European Union, FAO, UNICEF, the United States of America, WFP and the World Bank in a unique partnership to improve analysis, evidence, and consensus on the prevalence and severity of food crises.



Food

My Mother



My angel on earth, my words
My moon-faced date, my mistress,
They say that I am always happy and
perfect

My sweet darling, my love!
You are my paradise, Mother!

My balm for my pain, my life support
I am a lonely angel

I don't need worlds, I want you
My sweet darling, my love
My paradise is you, my Mother

The right word, my bravery in the
struggle,
I have no equal in patience, my fortitude,
Good faith, good health
My sweet darling, my love!
You are my paradise, Mother!

Laughter is the comforter of my soul
My kinder, who does not spare
everything

Caressing, caressing, protecting
My sweet darling, my love!
My mother, you are my paradise!

Maftuna Mahkamova

Andijan region, Baliqchi district,
vocational school No. 1, young teacher

Father Is Our Support!!



By: Shakirova Manzura

Man in life he learns not to stumble
and to be strong from his father. Who is
the father? What kind of person is he?
There is probably no person who can't
answer these questions. A father is a
shield and a support. When you were

born, he announced to the world. "I have a
daughter or I have a son." A person who
is so happy to hold you in his arms. Do
you know how much a big spear pierces
your father's heart when a small insect
enters your hands. When you were sick,
he ran to bring you medicine. Even though
he was a patient, he didn't go to the
hospital because the person who worked
to buy you nice clothes is your father.
When you were a child, you always sat on
your father's lap and then you brag about
how you got good grades in school and
punched him. Do you remember, when you
pampered you with nice words? When you
were a child, you used to sweep the yard
with a big broom. Then your father praised
you. It is wonderful to remember these
moments. Our father is the person who
share the most vivid memories.

I would like to say something : our
Prophet Muhammad (s.a.v) said in a
hadith: " Father is the door in the middle
of the doors of heaven. If you want
enter heaven through this door. If you
want, close it on your face and go to heel!
Conclusion From yourself.)

My Heart...



By: Beknazarova Marjona Sherzod

Where are you my heart, where are
you?

You are someone's soul, my heart.
Did you believe in fairy tales, oh?
When do you think of yourself, my
heart...

Endure slander, endure gossip,
Endure the guy who throws stones at
you.

Endure your lover who reveals his true
face,
When do you think of yourself, my
heart...

He was unable to appreciate true love
He couldn't save you from suffering,
Even if you cry, he didn't solace you.
When do you think of yourself, my
heart...

Love is no more, it's gone now,
It tormented you, it's gone now.
He loved someone else, not you
When do you think of yourself, my
heart...

Beknazarova Marjona Sherzod qizi. She
was born on December 14, 2004 in the
city of Shahrissabz, Kashkadarya region.
Currently, She is a 1st-year student
of the Russian Language Department
of the Faculty of Languages of the
Shahrissabz State Pedagogical Institute.
She writes poetry in her spare time.

Don't Break My Heart



You always say heart, heart,
You destroy my heart.
You make yourself happy.
You break my heart.

These eyes that laugh by day,
Sheds tears at night.
Your words are like bullets,
When it pierces my heart.

From my every word I say

They always find fault.
They make themselves happy
And they break my heart.

Perhaps if I am
Terrible for you.
But, please, please,
Don't break my heart.

Don't make any slander,
My head is always upright.
But, please, please
Don't break my heart...

I am Feruza Mukhtarova. I was born on
May 26, 2004 in Shahrissabz district of
Kashkadarya region. Currently, I am a 1st-
level student at the Faculty of Languages
of the Shahrissabz State Pedagogical
Institute. I am interested in writing poems
and articles.

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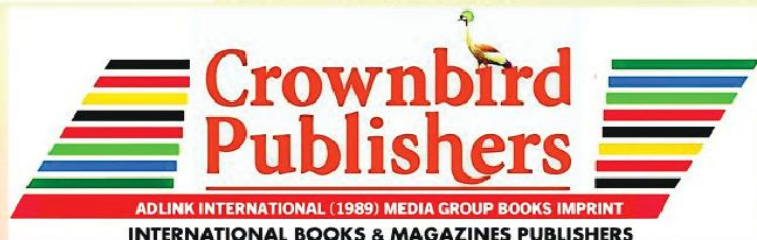
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Calls Pile For International Judicial Interventions On The Recent Government's Brutal Crackdown On Protestors

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

Calls for international and regional courts to intervene and prosecute those responsible for the recent atrocities committed during anti-government protests in the country are gaining momentum.

Human rights organizations, politicians and activists have accused President William Ruto and the Inspector General of Police of orchestrating the brutal crackdown on Gen Z protestors.

The over-two-months protests, which resulted in widespread unrest and clashes between demonstrators and security forces, leading to deaths, abductions, and injuries, have sparked international concern.

Dr. Isaac Kinity, an American-based human rights activist, has demanded that police officers and government officials involved in human rights violations, be held accountable.

"There are still hundreds of Kenyans whose whereabouts remain unknown, especially after participating in the protests," Dr. Kinity stated. "Justice must be served, and the per-



Brutal police crackdown on Gen Z protestors

petrators of these heinous acts must face prosecution."

He emphasized that the Kenyan constitution guarantees the right to peaceful demonstration and picketing, but noted that the government's response has been anything but constitutional.

According to Dr. Kinity, President Ruto labeled the protesting youth as criminals, further exacerbating tensions and raising concerns about the state of democracy in Kenya.

Dr. Kinity observed that the out-

comes of these investigations and the potential involvement of the International Criminal Court (ICC) could significantly serve the elusive justice to the victims.

Kenya, long seen as a stable democracy and a reliable security partner for the U.S., now finds itself under scrutiny. The violent suppression of protests, he explained, has challenged the Kenya's perception internationally.

Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy, who recently visited Kenya,

refrained from directly commenting on the protests but emphasized the importance of U.S. investments in the country.

During his visit, Senator Murphy discussed the critical role that American support plays in promoting food security, health, climate adaptation, and economic prosperity in Kenya.

"As a newly minted major non-NA-TO ally, we need to increase our work with Kenya to tackle global challenges like humanitarian crises, migration, and climate change," Senator Murphy noted in a release. However, his silence on the human rights violations during the protests has not gone unnoticed.

Dr. Kinity, along with other human rights advocates, is calling on the U.S. government to pressure Kenya to investigate the violations and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

Opposition politician Martha Karua has also declared her intention to seek justice for victims of police brutality through the continent's Court of Justice.

"In response to these serious concerns, we will formally submit this statement, along with additional details, as a complaint to the African Commission on Human and Peo-

ple's Rights, the UN Human Rights Commission, and other relevant organizations," Karua stated.

She explained that as a state party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the UN, and other international treaties, Kenya is obligated to uphold the rights enshrined in these agreements.

President Ruto, who was initially charged with crimes against humanity in connection with the 2007-2008 post-election violence in Kenya, faced allegations of orchestrating murder, forcible transfer of population, and persecution.

The case, which attracted global attention, was marked by accusations of witness tampering and lack of sufficient evidence, leading to its eventual dismissal in 2016. However, the ICC left the door open for the charges to be reinstated if new evidence emerged, keeping the case a lingering shadow over Ruto's political career.

"If the ICC proceeds with these investigations, it is imperative that witnesses are provided with robust protection. Without it, the truth may never fully emerge, and justice will remain elusive for those who have suffered," Dr Kinity emphasized.

Chonyi Language New Testament Translation Launched In Kilifi

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Chonyi community in Kilifi County has a new reason to celebrate, as the New Testament of the Bible has been translated into their native language, marking a significant milestone for the people.

This translation is expected to empower the community in their spiritual growth and contribute to the eradication of negative cultural practices such as witchcraft and sorcery, which have long been challenges associated with the region.

Speaking at the launch event held at St. Martin's School in Kilifi, Bible Translation and Literacy East Africa Director Peter Mwanguti disclosed that the translation process, which was spearheaded by BTL took a decade to complete and cost approximately Sh40 million.

He emphasized the importance of the translated Bible in enabling the



Chonyi people to comprehend God's word fully and expressed optimism that this new accessibility to scripture would encourage positive cultural changes within the community.

"There have been cultural practices that have kept the Chonyi people behind like witchcraft and sorcery. We are confident that once they engage with God's word they will be freed from such beliefs", Mwanguti remarked.

Mwanguti also acknowledged the vital role played by local churches throughout the translation process, highlighting their commitment to ensuring the smooth progression of

the project. He further disclosed that translation efforts for other Mijikenda languages are ongoing, with the hope that these communities will soon have their own translated Bibles.

"We thank God that we have been able to translate the whole Bible into Giriama, Digo, Duruma, and now we have the New Testament in Chonyi. We are still in the process of translating the remaining Mijikenda languages and we shall soon launch them", he explained.

BTL Board Chairperson, Mrs. Kendi Lugamba, announced that work is already underway to translate the



Old Testament into the Chonyi language.

"We have not finished our work in Chonyi; we anticipate that we will be able to launch the entire Bible in Chonyi soon. The New Testament is a blessing to the Chonyi people, but we continue to work on the Old Testament," she said.

She encouraged local churches to use the translated scriptures in their teachings actively, stressing the importance of enabling people to engage with the Bible in their native language for genuine spiritual transformation.

Reverend Reuben Lewa, a Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship

of Africa (PEFA) church pastor, pledged that churches in the area would fully integrate the translated Bible into their services.

"We were very much involved in the translation process because we understood its importance. We will use this Bible to conduct our church services and it will be used in the schools around too", Reverend Lewa said.

He expressed confidence that this would help combat harmful cultural practices and foster a more positive societal change within the Chonyi community.

Kenya National Research Festival: A Catalyst For Innovation And Collaboration



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The inaugural Kenya National Research Festival (KNRF) concluded with a resounding call to action from the Cabinet Secretary’s representative for Education, who highlighted the pivotal role of research in driving socio-economic transformation. Addressing a distinguished gathering at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi on August 23, 2024, the Cabinet Secretary emphasized the festival’s theme, “Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Socio-Economic Transformation,” underscoring the importance of collaboration in unlocking Kenya’s development potential.
- In his speech, he articulated the global recognition of Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation (RSTI) as essential for national development. He noted that leading economies, from Europe to Southeast Asia, have harnessed RSTI to propel their industrialization and global competitiveness.



Prof. David Musyimi Ndetei being honored for his exemplary research achievements. The awards were presented by the CEO of the National Research Fund (NRF) Kenya, Prof. Dickson Andala, and the NRF Chairman, Prof. Ratemo Michieka.

In a landmark event that signals Kenya’s growing commitment to research and innovation, the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival (KNRF) concluded on Friday, at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi. The festival, which brought together key stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector, served as a platform for showcasing the country’s best research and fostering collaborations that could transform Kenya’s socio-economic landscape.

During the closing ceremony, The representative of the Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Migos Ogamba emphasized the festival’s theme, “Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Socio-Economic Transformation,” as a guiding principle for the nation’s development strategy. His speech underscored the critical role of research, science, technology, and innovation (RSTI) in addressing Kenya’s most pressing challenges, ranging from food security to climate change, and highlighted the need for continued collaboration to drive sustainable growth and competitiveness on the global stage.

The inaugural Kenya National Research Festival (KNRF) concluded with a resounding call to action from the Cabinet Secretary’s representative for Education, who highlighted the pivotal role of research in driving socio-economic transformation. Addressing a distinguished gathering at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi on August 23, 2024, the Cabinet Secretary emphasized the festival’s

theme, “Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Socio-Economic Transformation,” underscoring the importance of collaboration in unlocking Kenya’s development potential.

In his speech, he articulated the global recognition of Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation (RSTI) as essential for national development. He noted that leading economies, from Europe to Southeast Asia, have harnessed RSTI to propel their industrialization and global competitiveness. Kenya, he asserted, must follow suit by focusing research on critical challenges such as food security, healthcare, education, manufacturing, and climate change, particularly in alignment with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

A highlight of the closing ceremony was the recognition of outstanding researchers who have made significant contributions to their respective fields. Mr. Paul Kamau Mbugua and Professor David Musyimi Ndetei were honored for their exemplary research achievements. The awards were presented by the CEO of the National Research Fund (NRF) Kenya, Prof. Dickson Andala, and the NRF Chairman, Prof. Ratemo Michieka. These awards not only celebrate individual excellence but also underscore the importance of research in advancing the nation’s development goals.

The cs’s representative in his speech lauded the festival as a groundbreaking platform for fostering partner-

ships and nurturing innovation. The event, which is set to become an annual fixture, brought together over 1,000 students from 390 schools across 47 counties, physically and virtually, through the Young Scientists Kenya (YSK) initiative. Ogamba praised YSK for enriching the festival with its 7th National Science and Technology Exhibition, which showcased the scientific talents and research capabilities of Kenyan youth from every corner of the country. He emphasized that this platform not only highlights the achievements of young innovators but also ignites the spark of scientific curiosity among the next generation of researchers.

He also commended the leadership of the National Research Fund (NRF), led by Prof. Ratemo Michieka, for collaborating with YSK to create a vibrant environment for discourse, innovation, and celebration of research. The festival’s success, he noted, is a testament to the collective efforts of various stakeholders, including researchers, educators, and corporate partners, who contributed to the event’s dynamic learning sessions and exhibitions across diverse scientific fields.

He further acknowledged the significant contributions of the private sector and development partners, whose financial and logistical support were instrumental in realizing the festival. He particularly recognized the role of the media in amplifying the achievements showcased during the event, ensuring that the festival’s impact reaches a broader audience. “Your coverage will not only inform but also inspire the broader community, showcasing the importance of research in addressing societal challenges and driving economic growth,” he stated.

The festival also served as a showcase for the work of young innovators, with the Young Scientists Kenya (YSK) initiative bringing together over 1,000 students from 390 schools across 47 counties. The students, who participated both physically and virtually, demonstrated their scientific talents and research capabilities, further enriching the event. The Cabinet Secretary praised YSK’s role in nurturing the next generation of researchers, highlighting the initiative as a key component of Kenya’s future in science and innovation.



Mr. Paul Kamau Mbugua was also honored for his exemplary research achievements. The awards were presented by the CEO of the National Research Fund (NRF) Kenya, Prof. Dickson Andala, and the NRF Chairman, Prof. Ratemo Michieka

The Misappropriation Of Public Funds In Kenya: A Critical Analysis Of Corruption And Its Impact On National Development



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

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Corruption

Worth Noting:

- The deleterious effects of corruption on Kenya's economic trajectory are both profound and far-reaching. The misallocation of resources engendered by corrupt practices leads to suboptimal investment decisions, impeding the nation's productive capacity and stunting economic growth.
- According to a report by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya loses an estimated one-third of its annual budget to corruption, a staggering sum that could otherwise be invested in critical infrastructure, healthcare, and education.
- The opportunity cost of this misappropriation is incalculable, as it deprives the nation of the means to address pressing developmental challenges. Moreover, the pervasive nature of corruption serves as a deterrent to foreign direct investment, as potential investors are dissuaded by the unpredictable and often capricious business environment engendered by such practices.

The Republic of Kenya, a sovereign state in East Africa, has long grappled with the pervasive issue of corruption within its governmental echelons. This paper posits that the fundamental challenge facing the nation is not an insufficiency of tax revenue, but rather the egregious misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds by those in positions of power. The individuals entrusted with the stewardship of the nation's resources have, in many instances, prioritized their personal interests and those of their associates over the collective welfare of the citizenry. This malfeasance has manifested in myriad forms, including but not limited to: the diversion of public funds, nepotistic appointments, and the implementation of policies designed to benefit a select few at the expense of the general populace. The following discourse shall elucidate the multifaceted nature of this problem, drawing upon empirical evidence and legal precedents to substantiate the argument that Kenya's developmental challenges stem primarily from the misuse of existing resources rather than a dearth of fiscal capacity.

The Constitution of Kenya, promulgated in 2010, enshrines the principles of public finance management in Chapter Twelve, Article 201. This foundational document stipulates that the public finance system shall promote an equitable society, and that the burdens and benefits of the use of resources and public borrowing shall be shared equitably between present and future generations. Furthermore, the Public Finance Management Act of 2012 delineates the legal framework for the management of public finances by both national and county governments. Notwithstanding the

existence of these comprehensive legal instruments, their efficacy has been significantly undermined by the actions of those charged with their implementation. The judiciary, in its capacity as the arbiter of justice, has adjudicated numerous cases pertaining to the misuse of public funds, yet the prevalence of such malfeasance persists unabated. This incongruity between the letter of the law and its practical application underscores the systemic nature of the problem at hand.

The misappropriation of public funds in Kenya assumes diverse forms, each contributing to the erosion of the nation's fiscal health. Procurement fraud, characterized by inflated contracts and kickbacks, has been a particularly pernicious manifestation of this phenomenon. The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015, while ostensibly designed to promote transparency and accountability in public procurement, has been circumvented with alarming regularity. Ghost workers, non-existent entities on government payrolls, continue to drain the public coffers, despite efforts to implement biometric systems for payroll management. The practice of nepotism, wherein public officials favor relatives or close associates in the distribution of government positions or contracts, contravenes the principles of meritocracy and equitable resource allocation. These multifarious modes of corruption collectively constitute a formidable obstacle to Kenya's socio-economic development.

The deleterious effects of corruption on Kenya's economic trajectory are both profound and far-reaching. The misallocation of resources engendered by corrupt practices leads

to suboptimal investment decisions, impeding the nation's productive capacity and stunting economic growth. According to a report by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya loses an estimated one-third of its annual budget to corruption, a staggering sum that could otherwise be invested in critical infrastructure, healthcare, and education. The opportunity cost of this misappropriation is incalculable, as it deprives the nation of the means to address pressing developmental challenges. Moreover, the pervasive nature of corruption serves as a deterrent to foreign direct investment, as potential investors are dissuaded by the unpredictable and often capricious business environment engendered by such practices.

The social fabric of Kenya has been significantly strained by the persistent misuse of public resources. The diversion of funds intended for social programs has exacerbated inequality and perpetuated cycles of poverty. Essential services, such as healthcare and education, have been compromised due to the embezzlement of allocated funds, leading to inadequate facilities, understaffing, and a dearth of necessary supplies. The resultant deterioration in the quality of life for many Kenyans has fostered a sense of disillusionment and eroded public trust in governmental institutions. This erosion of social capital has far-reaching implications for national cohesion and stability, potentially undermining the very foundations of Kenya's democratic polity.

The political elite in Kenya have played a pivotal role in the perpetuation of corrupt practices. The concept of "state capture," wherein powerful individuals or groups influence state policies and legislation to their own advantage, is particularly relevant in this context. The phenomenon of "tenderpreneurs," politically connected individuals who secure government contracts through dubious means, exemplifies this dynamic. The revolving door between politics and business has blurred the lines between public service and private gain, creating a symbiotic relationship that sustains corrupt networks. The immunity often enjoyed by high-ranking officials, whether de jure or de facto, has further entrenched a culture of impunity, rendering anti-corruption efforts largely ineffectual.

While Kenya has established various institutions and enacted numerous laws to combat corruption, the efficacy of these measures has been limited.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), established under Article 79 of the Constitution, has been hampered by resource constraints and political interference. The Asset Recovery Agency, tasked with tracing and recovering proceeds of corruption, has faced significant challenges in executing its mandate. The Mutual Legal Assistance Act of 2011, designed to facilitate international cooperation in combating transnational corruption, has been underutilized due to bureaucratic hurdles and lack of political will. These shortcomings underscore the need for a more holistic and systemic approach to addressing corruption in Kenya.

The judiciary, as the guardian of the rule of law, plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption. However, its effectiveness has been compromised by various factors. The backlog of cases, coupled with the complexity of corruption-related litigation, has led to protracted legal proceedings that often fail to deliver timely justice. The principle of judicial independence, while enshrined in the Constitution, has at times been undermined by external pressures and attempts at manipulation. The concept of "selective justice," wherein high-profile cases are pursued with varying degrees of vigor depending on political considerations, has further eroded public confidence in the judicial system's ability to address corruption effectively.

The misappropriation of public funds in Kenya has significant international ramifications. The illicit outflow of capital, often facilitated through complex offshore financial structures, deprives the nation of vital resources for development. The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), ratified by Kenya in 2003, provides a framework for international cooperation in asset recovery and mutual legal assistance. However, the implementation of these provisions has been hampered by jurisdictional complexities and the intricacies of transnational financial networks. The role of international financial institutions and donor agencies in inadvertently facilitating corruption through poorly monitored aid programs has also come under scrutiny, necessitating a reevaluation of development assistance modalities.

The persistence of corruption in Kenya cannot be fully understood without



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

President Ruto’s Appointments: A Strategic Shift Towards Efficiency and Economic Reform

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

President William Ruto’s appointments signal a strategic push to enhance governance and performance within his administration. By appointing Eliud Owalo as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Performance & Delivery Management, Ruto appears to be prioritizing accountability and efficiency in public service, which is crucial for restoring public trust. Moses Kuria’s role as a Senior Advisor in the President’s Council of Economic Advisors underscores Ruto’s commitment to economic reform. Kuria’s experience in political affairs may provide valuable insights into navigating the complexities of Kenya’s economic landscape, especially given the current challenges posed by inflation and public discontent. Dennis Itumbi’s appointment as Head of Creative Economy and Special Projects is particularly noteworthy. Itumbi’s background in communication and media can help foster innovation in the creative sector, which is essential for diversifying Kenya’s economy and

creating jobs for the youth. This aligns with Ruto’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, aiming to empower ordinary citizens. President Ruto has also appointed Kansa Nzai Munyika as Advisor for Political Affairs, former Controller of Budget Agnes Odhiambo as Head of Government Delivery Services, and former Solicitor General Ken Ogeto as Advisor for Legal Services. These appointments aim to promote accountability, transparency, productivity, and openness in the management of public affairs across all state organs and agencies. Additionally, Ruto appointed Amb. Lazarus Amayo as the Special Envoy of the African Union Championship for Institutional Reforms and named former Amani National Congress (ANC) party Secretary General Simon Gikuru as the State House Deputy Comptroller. These appointments are expected to enhance Kenya’s regional and continental outreach and support the President’s mandate as the African Union Champion for Institutional Reform.

However, these appointments come at a time when Ruto faces significant public scrutiny and protests over high living costs and governance issues. The effectiveness of these new officials will be closely monitored by a skeptical public eager for tangible results. Ruto must ensure that these appointments translate into real change, rather than mere tokenism. The opposition and civil society will likely remain vigilant, demanding transparency and accountability as the new appointees take office. Ruto’s ability to engage with dissenting voices and incorporate feedback will be crucial in fostering a collaborative governance environment. Moreover, these appointments reflect a broader trend in Ruto’s leadership style, which emphasizes loyalty and political alliances. While this may consolidate his power, it raises questions about the potential for nepotism and whether meritocracy is being sidelined in favor of political expediency. In conclusion, President Ruto’s appointments could be a turning point for his administration if they are leveraged



President William Ruto.

effectively. The success of these leaders in their new roles will ultimately determine whether Ruto can navigate the current political landscape and fulfill his promises to the Kenyan people. As the nation watches closely, the pressure is on for these officials to deliver on their mandates and contribute to a more prosperous and equitable Kenya.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

Addressing Hustler Fund Defaults: Balancing Accountability With Support

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The Kenyan government is ramping up efforts to track defaulters of the Hustler Fund, which has disbursed a total of Sh19 million in loans. Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya has emphasized the importance of recovering these funds to ensure the sustainability of this initiative. While accountability is crucial, the approach to managing defaults must also consider the underlying challenges faced by borrowers. The Hustler Fund was introduced as a digital financial inclusion initiative aimed at empowering Kenyans by providing accessible loans to individuals and small businesses. However, the emergence of defaulters highlights the difficulties many borrowers encounter in repaying loans, particularly in a challenging economic environment exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the default rate reportedly reaching 29%, the government must address the root causes of these defaults rather than

solely focusing on recovery. Many borrowers who accessed the Hustler Fund did so with the hope of overcoming financial hardships. Unfortunately, the economic landscape remains precarious, and many individuals are struggling to meet their repayment obligations. The government’s focus on tracking defaulters should be balanced with an understanding of the broader socio-economic context. Instead of emphasizing penalties, there should be concerted efforts to provide support and guidance to those facing genuine financial difficulties. The Hustler Fund’s recovery process includes notifying borrowers of their outstanding amounts and due dates. However, the government must explore flexible repayment options for those genuinely unable to pay. Implementing measures such as grace periods, restructuring loans, or offering lower interest rates for struggling borrowers could help them regain their footing without jeopardizing their access to future funding. Public awareness campaigns are also crucial in educating borrowers

about their responsibilities and the importance of timely repayments. By fostering a culture of financial literacy, the government can empower individuals to make informed decisions about borrowing and repayment. This proactive approach can help reduce the number of defaulters and promote a sense of accountability among borrowers. Moreover, the government should consider expanding access to financial education and resources for potential borrowers. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to manage their finances effectively, the government can help prevent future defaults and promote economic resilience. This investment in financial literacy will not only benefit borrowers but also contribute to the overall health of the economy. The Hustler Fund’s success hinges on its ability to strike a balance between recovery efforts and support for borrowers. While it is essential to hold individuals accountable for their loans, the government must also recognize the challenges that many face in repaying them. By adopting a



more empathetic approach, the government can foster a healthier lending environment that encourages responsible borrowing and repayment. In conclusion, the government’s intensified efforts to track Hustler Fund defaulters are a necessary step in ensuring accountability and sustainability. However, it is crucial to approach this issue with empathy and support for borrowers facing genuine challenges. By balancing recovery efforts with measures that promote financial literacy and flexibility, the government can create a more inclusive and supportive financial ecosystem that empowers all Kenyans to succeed. As the Hustler Fund continues to evolve, its commitment to both accountability and support will be key to its long-term success.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

What Next For Governor Kawira? A Rise And Fall Saga In Meru County



By: Midmark Onsongo
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Worth Noting:

- Among the MCAs, some names stood out for their vocal criticism of Mwangaza. For instance, the MCA for Abothuguchi Central Ward, a seasoned politician with years of experience, did not mince words when he accused Mwangaza of turning the governor's office into her personal fiefdom. He was joined by his counterpart from Tigania West, who pointed to specific instances of abuse of office, including alleged favoritism in the awarding of contracts and the misuse of public funds.
- But it wasn't just the MCAs from the more affluent wards who had issues with Mwangaza. MCAs from the less developed regions of Meru, such as Imenti North and Buuri East, were equally vocal in their criticism.



Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza

In the early hours of last Wednesday, the Senate chambers in Nairobi were abuzz with anticipation. It was the day Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza would face her political fate once again. The drama that unfolded was not only a testament to the precarious nature of political power but also a reflection of the intense scrutiny and pressure that has surrounded Mwangaza since her ascent to office. For the third time, the corridors of power echoed with discussions of her impeachment, a saga that has now defined her tenure as governor.

Kawira Mwangaza's political career has been nothing short of a rollercoaster. Her tenure has been marked by resilience, controversy, and a relentless determination to hold onto power, despite the numerous challenges thrown her way. The MCAs of Meru County, representing various wards, have been at the forefront of this political tug-of-war, making it clear that they were not ready to back down in their quest to remove her from office.

The Senate's decision to uphold her impeachment was the culmination of a long and bitter battle. The MCAs had accused Mwangaza of gross misconduct, abuse of office, and violations of the constitution. These charges were not new; they had been brewing for months, with tensions reaching a boiling point in the last few weeks. The MCAs, representing the interests of their constituents, had grown increasingly frustrated with what they saw as Mwangaza's high-handedness, lack of accountability, and disregard for the rule of law.

The list of MCAs who spearheaded the impeachment motion reads like a

who's who of Meru County politics. From Abogeta West Ward to Athwana Ward, each MCA brought forth grievances from their respective areas, painting a picture of a governor who had lost touch with the people she was elected to serve. These MCAs were not just representatives; they were the voice of the people, and they made it clear that they were not going to be silenced.

Among the MCAs, some names stood out for their vocal criticism of Mwangaza. For instance, the MCA for Abothuguchi Central Ward, a seasoned politician with years of experience, did not mince words when he accused Mwangaza of turning the governor's office into her personal fiefdom. He was joined by his counterpart from Tigania West, who pointed to specific instances of abuse of office, including alleged favoritism in the awarding of contracts and the misuse of public funds.

But it wasn't just the MCAs from the more affluent wards who had issues with Mwangaza. MCAs from the less developed regions of Meru, such as Imenti North and Buuri East, were equally vocal in their criticism. They highlighted the growing economic disparities in the county, accusing Mwangaza of neglecting their areas in favor of her strongholds. This was a governor, they argued, who had failed to deliver on her promises of equitable development.

As the Senate deliberated on the charges against Mwangaza, the atmosphere inside the chambers was tense. Senators listened intently as evidence was presented, including testimonies from disgruntled county employees, financial records, and reports from independent oversight

bodies. It was clear that the case against Mwangaza was strong, but the governor remained defiant, insisting that the charges were politically motivated and part of a larger conspiracy to bring her down.

Outside the Senate, the drama continued. A crowd had gathered, a mix of supporters and opponents, all eager to see how the day's events would unfold. Among them was the mother of Daniel Muthiani, the slain political activist and blogger known as 'Sniper.' Her presence added a poignant reminder of the human cost of political battles. As she wailed outside the Senate chambers, it was clear that this was not just a political issue but a deeply personal one for many in Meru County.

Inside, the vote was finally taken. On the first charge of gross misconduct and violation of the law, 26 senators voted 'yes,' four voted 'no,' and 14 abstained. On the second charge of gross misconduct, 26 senators voted 'yes,' two voted 'no,' and 14 abstained. On the third charge of abuse of office, 27 senators voted 'yes,' one voted 'no,' and 14 abstained. The numbers were clear: Kawira Mwangaza had been impeached.

As the vote was announced, the reality of the situation began to sink in. Mwangaza, who had arrived at the Senate with her usual entourage of bodyguards, now found herself in a very different position. The once-defiant governor, who had faced down impeachment attempts before, was now just another politician who had fallen from grace. Her bodyguards, who had been a symbol of her power and authority, were no longer necessary. As she left the Senate, she did so as an ordinary citizen, stripped of

the trappings of office that had once defined her.

For the people of Meru, the question now is what comes next. With Mwangaza's impeachment, the deputy governor, Mutuma M'Ethingia, is set to take over as county governor for the remainder of the term. M'Ethingia, who has largely stayed out of the limelight, now faces the daunting task of healing the divisions in the county and restoring faith in the county government.

But even as M'Ethingia prepares to step into the governor's shoes, the shadow of Mwangaza's tenure will loom large. Her supporters, who remain loyal despite the impeachment, are likely to continue their fight, whether in the courts or on the streets. Meanwhile, her opponents will be watching closely to ensure that the new governor does not repeat the mistakes of the past.

In Meru, the political landscape has been irrevocably changed by Mwangaza's impeachment. It is a reminder that in politics, power can be fleeting, and the same people who elevate a leader to power can just as quickly bring them down. For Mwangaza, the journey from governor to ordinary citizen has been a humbling one, marked by controversy, defiance, and ultimately, defeat.

As she left the Senate on that fateful day, Kawira Mwangaza might have reflected on the highs and lows of her political career. She had survived impeachment twice before, but this time was different. This time, the weight of the evidence and the resolve of her opponents proved too much. The people of Meru, through their representatives, had spoken, and they had made it clear that they wanted a change.

What next for Kawira Mwangaza? Only time will tell. But for now, she is a cautionary tale in the annals of Kenyan politics, a reminder that even the most powerful can fall, and when they do, they do so spectacularly. The bodyguards who once flanked her are gone, the office she once occupied now belongs to someone else, and the future of Meru County is uncertain. As the dust settles, the people of Meru will be looking to their new leader to guide them through the turbulent times ahead, hoping that this time, their trust will not be misplaced.

*This article was scripted by:
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Postponement Of Tharaka Ura Gate Cultural Festival Causes Widespread Disappointment And Disrupts Preparations

By: Denis Mutua
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The highly anticipated Tharaka Ura Gate Cultural Festival, originally scheduled to take place from Wednesday to Saturday next week at Shauri Cultural Ground in Tharaka, has been unexpectedly postponed by the Tharaka Nithi County Government to September 4th-7th.

The sudden rescheduling, announced just five days before the initial event date, has caused significant inconvenience and frustration among participants and organizers alike.

The postponement has thrown off meticulously planned preparations, particularly for those involved in traditional brewing.

The brewing process for traditional brews, which takes about eight days to mature, was already underway, with many having started the process in anticipation of the original event dates.

Now, with the festival pushed back

by a week, the carefully timed preparations have been disrupted, leading to waste and added expenses for those involved.

The impact extends beyond just traditional brewers. Vendors, performers, and local artisans who had tailored their schedules and logistics around the original dates are now left scrambling to adjust.

Transport arrangements, accommodation bookings, and supply chains, all of which were set in motion for the initial dates, have been thrown into disarray.

Many participants are concerned that the new dates may not align with their availability, potentially reducing the overall attendance and participation at the festival.

Tharaka Nithi County's Devolution and Administration CeCM, Muthini Karangi, made the announcement yesterday, citing the unavailability of key guests, including the CS for Tourism, Rebecca Miano, as the primary reason for the postponement.

"We are committed to making this edition a grand event and do not want it to be low-key. Due to the unavailability of key guests, including



Attendees at the Tharaka Ura Gate Cultural Festival at Shauri Cultural Ground last year

Tourism CS Rebecca Miano, and other considerations, we have decided to postpone the event by one week. The festival will now take place from September 4th to 7th," said Karangi.

However while the presence of such high-profile guests is undoubtedly important, the timing of this decision has left many questioning the county government's foresight and planning.

The rescheduling decision, though made with the intent of ensuring full attendance of all dignitaries, has unfortunately overlooked the grassroots level preparation that is critical to the success of such cultural events.

The disappointment among the community is palpable, with many expressing concerns that the disruption could affect the overall spirit and success of the festival.

In a nutshell, while the participation of key guests is vital, the decision to postpone the Ura Gate Cultural Festival at such short notice has been ill-advised.

The lack of consideration for the extensive preparations already made by local participants has led to widespread disappointment and has highlighted the need for better coordination and planning in future events.

The Misappropriation Of Public Funds In Kenya: A Critical Analysis Of Corruption And Its Impact On National Development

Contd from page 18

considering the sociocultural context in which it occurs. The concept of "moral economy," wherein certain corrupt practices are rationalized or even legitimized within specific social contexts, is particularly relevant. The expectations placed on political leaders to provide for their communities, often through extra-legal means, create a complex web of patronage that sustains corrupt networks. The tension between traditional forms of social organization and modern bureaucratic structures has created ambiguities that are often exploited for personal gain. Addressing corruption in Kenya thus requires not only legal and institutional reforms but also a fundamental shift in societal norms and values.

Civil society organizations and the media play a crucial role in exposing

corruption and holding power to account. The Access to Information Act of 2016 has provided a legal basis for investigative journalism and civic activism in the fight against corruption. However, these actors face significant challenges, including threats to personal safety, legal harassment, and attempts at co-optation. The concept of "media capture," wherein powerful interests exert undue influence over news outlets, has implications for the independence and effectiveness of the Fourth Estate in exposing corruption. Strengthening the capacity of civil society and ensuring press freedom are thus essential components of any comprehensive anti-corruption strategy.

The economic imperative for addressing corruption in Kenya is compelling. Studies have shown a strong negative correlation between corruption levels and economic growth, foreign direct investment, and human development indicators. The "resource curse" hypothesis, which

posits that countries rich in natural resources often underperform economically due to corruption and mismanagement, has relevance for Kenya's emerging extractive industries. The concept of "deadweight loss" in economics provides a framework for understanding the inefficiencies introduced by corruption, as resources are diverted from productive uses to rent-seeking activities. Tackling corruption is thus not merely a moral imperative but an economic necessity for Kenya's sustainable development.

In conclusion, the evidence presented herein substantiates the assertion that Kenya's primary challenge lies not in a paucity of tax revenue, but in the systemic misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds. The multifaceted nature of this problem necessitates a comprehensive and nuanced approach to its resolution. Recommendations for addressing this issue include: strengthening the independence and capacity of an-



Corruption

ti-corruption institutions; enhancing transparency in public procurement processes; implementing robust asset declaration and lifestyle audit mechanisms for public officials; fostering a culture of integrity through education and public awareness campaigns; and leveraging technology to enhance accountability in public finance management. The realization of Kenya's developmental aspira-

tions is contingent upon the effective implementation of these measures and a collective commitment to eradicating the scourge of corruption that has for too long impeded the nation's progress.

The writer is an independent scrivener, legal researcher and lawyer

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Olympics 800m bronze medalist Mary Moraa cruised to an easy win in the women's race at the Lausanne Diamond League on Thursday night.

Moraa Resumes Winning Ways With Triumph At Lausanne Diamond League



Mary Moraa competing at the Olympic Games in Paris. PHOTO/Kelly Ayod

Olympics 800m bronze medalist Mary Moraa cruised to an easy win in the women's race at the Lausanne Diamond League on Thursday night.

Moraa clocked 1:57.91 in first place, ahead of the English pair of Georgia Bell (1:58.53) and Jemma Reekie (1:58.73) in second and third respectively.

The race was her third in the Diamond League this season, following Doha and Prefontaine in Oregon, respectively.

She clocked 1:57.91 to win in Qatar in mid-May before timing 1:56.71 to finish second at the Prefontaine Classic.

Chepngetich makes podium

At the same time, African Games 10,000m champion Janeth Chepngetich clocked a season's best of 8:23.48 to finish second in the women's 3000m.

Ethiopia's Welteji Diribe took top honours after clocking a meet record and personal best

of 8:21.50 as her countrywoman Tsigie Gebreselama took third place in a personal best of 8:24.40.

Chepngetich expressed hope that her performance on the night is a precursor to greater things for the rest of the season.

"The race was very tough, but I gave it my all, tried to do my best and I'm very happy with the result. I'm really happy and blessed to have run my season best here in Lausanne and I hope

for the best for the rest of the season and my preparation," the 26-year-old said.

Chepngetich missed out on the Paris Olympics after clocking 15:00.34 to finish fourth in the women's 5000m at the national trials in June.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Olympics 800m champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi edged closer to a world record when he clocked the second fastest time in history at the Lausanne Diamond League on Thursday night.

World Record In Sight? Wanyonyi Storms To Second Fastest Time In Men's 800m At Lausanne Diamond League



Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi celebrates as he crosses the finish line in Heat 3 of the men's 800m. PHOTO/TEAM KENYA

Olympics 800m champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi edged closer to a world record when he clocked the second fastest time in history at the Lausanne Diamond League on Thursday night. Wanyonyi clocked 1:41.11 to win the men's 800m, ahead of Canada's Marco Arop who came second in 1:41.72. Frenchman Gabriel Tual — who

also boasts the second fastest time in the one-lap race — came third in 1:42.30. Wanyonyi was over the moon after his latest feat and said is looking forward to the next leg of the prestigious competition on Sunday in Silesia, Poland. "I'm so happy to have run the world lead today in Lausanne, I really loved the crowd, and I hope

for the best in Silesia," Wanyonyi said. The win is the latest in a meteoric rise for the 20-year-old who stormed to his first title at the senior level at the Paris Olympics after clocking 1:41.19. Wanyonyi also smashed the mile world record at the Road to Records in Herzogenaurach in April when he timed 3:54.6 to cross the finish line first.

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS



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Backpage



Children With Disabilities Are In The Range Of Children With Unlimited Opportunities

By: Kutlieva Feruzakhon
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Rahimjanova Mashhura

Worth Noting:

- The state on the introduction of inclusive education in many countries that it is not recorded in regulatory documents;
- Negative attitude towards disabled children;
- the problem of invisibility of children with disabilities in society;
- The problem of children with disabilities not appearing in MTT;
- Financial problems;
- Adaptation of the educational organization;
- The large number of children in the preschool education organization;
- Poverty, dependence of disabled children on others;
- Emergencies, conflicts, refugees, personnel issues problems.

Annotation: In this article, children with disabilities in New Uzbekistan have been included in the ranks of children with unlimited opportunities, not limited opportunities. In our country, the priority tasks for children with disabilities have been determined at the first level of the state policy regarding youth. Priority tasks created for children with disabilities in Uzbekistan's preschool education organizations, innovative approach, integrated education and training results are described in detail.

Key words: inclusive education, integrated education, innovative approach, children with disabilities, concept.

ENTER

In the new renaissance period of new Uzbekistan, all reforms in the education system are showing their results and creating a new ground for the future of our people. In particular, inclusive education has become an urgent issue today. The priority tasks of the President in the state policies related to youth include further improvement of the quality of education and training for children with disabilities, and continuous monitoring of medical procedures. Among these priorities are the President's concept of development of inclusive education in the public education system in 2020-2025, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers for pre-school and school education "Education of

children with special educational needs on measures to improve the organization and rehabilitation system" dated January 25, 2024 No. 46 was signed. It is no exaggeration to say that the introduction of the concept of inclusive education for the first time in our General Assembly - our new Constitution was one of the biggest changes in the field of inclusive education. That is, in accordance with the revision of the New Constitution, in the second section, the ninth chapter, article 50: "Inclusive education and training is provided for children with special educational needs in educational organizations." According to the data, as of last year, about 710,000 persons with disabilities were registered in our country. They live in different regions of our country, under different conditions. The saddest thing is that only 10% of them have higher education. How many disabled youth are not covered by education... In general, if you go inside the system, there are many problems waiting to be solved. If we look at the history of the world, the world-famous composer Beethoven was congenitally disabled, and Franklin Roosevelt, who was elected president of the USA four times, suffered from polio. The famous English writer John Milton became blind at the age of 43, and yet he created his masterpiece - Paradise Lost. In general, there is no point in enumerating such examples. You say that it all depends on the person himself. But the formation and de-

velopment of everything depends to some extent on the environment in society.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Children with disabilities are mentally, physically and mentally disabled may be unhealthy, but not limited from the possibility of study and education. When children with disabilities learn mentally, spiritually, and physically with children in a preschool education organization, the human value of disabled children is firstly undermined. can reach Why is the number of children with disabilities increasing?

□ The state on the introduction of inclusive education in many countries

that it is not recorded in regulatory documents;

□ Negative attitude towards disabled children:

□ the problem of invisibility of children with disabilities in society;

□ The problem of children with disabilities not appearing in MTT;

Financial problems:

□ Adaptation of the educational organization;

□ The large number of children in the preschool education organization;

□ Poverty, dependence of disabled children on others;

□ Emergencies, conflicts, refugees, personnel issues

problems.[4]

A legitimate question arises as to why the opportunity is limited should children be involved in the inclusive education system? What is the need to solve the above arguments and move to an inclusive education system? Indeed, it is not easy to solve the problems facing this educational system. But there are many advantages of this education system, including:

□ Inclusive education allows to get rid of poverty;

□ Inclusive education improves the quality of education for all;

□ Prevents discrimination;

□ Inclusive education leads

to more inclusiveness.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, I would like to say that if there was no inclusive education system, children with disabilities would not be receiving education. It is necessary to support children with disabilities for their development. Because a simple negative attitude can affect a child's psyche. Negative attitude is probably the biggest obstacle for children with special needs to receive education in the preschool education system. The essence of the problem of negative attitude is that parents, members of the community, teachers, employees of the organization, management bodies, even children with special needs are opposed and unwilling to receive education in their organizations. The reason for this is people's misconceptions about disabled people, the lack of information about them, the fact that disabled children grow up in a limited environment, etc. The essence of the problem of invisibility in society is that many children with special needs are often locked up by their parents. They lock them up at home and do not show them to anyone, no information about their disabled child is given during the registration process. As a result, many disabled children are deprived of participation in society. The lack of information about them leads to them not attending educational institutions. Children with disabilities are not limited to education. As future mature personnel are growing, children with disabilities will become healthier as a result of education and training. My suggestion is that if you study the psychological characteristics of mentally retarded and mentally retarded children and organize cooperation with the family, then inclusive education will have little effect. It is only necessary to support the child in any way, to encourage him, to create all the conditions for him to be able to show his talent.