

Gachagua: I'm Not Ready For Political Sideshows



P.9 Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his spouse Pastor Dorcas with some religious and political leaders in Gatanga Friday.



Political Opinion: Reportedly, Kenyan Police Officers Leading The UN Mission In Haiti Had Made Good Progress **P.11**



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Ruto Vows To Change The Face Of Bandit Hit Areas

Ruto said the government will invest in Kerio Valley and other parts of Kenya that have for long been hard-hit by banditry

By: PCS



President William Ruto in kaunda suit Tiaty, Baringo County.

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto spoke on Friday during a development tour of Baringo County. He inspected the construction of the North Rift Technical and Vocational College and opened the institution's Konza Digital Skills Laboratory in Tiaty Constituency.
- He also launched the Kenya Medical Training College at Chemolingot and issued title deeds to more than 2,530 people.
- The President was accompanied by Governors Benjamin Cheboi (Baringo), Wisely Rotich (Elgeyo Marakwet), MPs and MCAs.

The government is determined to change the face of Kerio Valley and other parts of Kenya that have for long been hard-hit by banditry and other forms of insecurity, President William Ruto has said.

"We will change the face of Tiaty, Baringo County, other regions in Kerio Valley and all marginalised areas so that all our children can access equal opportunities," President Ruto pointed out.

He cited the launch of Kenya Medical Training and TVET colleges as some of the initiatives the government was pursuing to transform the marginalised parts of Kenya.

"face of Kerio Valley and other parts of Kenya that have for long been hard-hit by banditry" he explained.

The President cited the investment in the Silale geothermal project, saying it

will create employment for the youth and change the lifestyle of the local people.

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He also launched the Kenya Medical Training College at Chemolingot and issued title deeds to more than 2,530 people.

The President was accompanied by Governors Benjamin Cheboi (Baringo), Wisely Rotich (Elgeyo Marakwet), MPs and MCAs.

President Ruto noted that the development of geothermal power in Baringo is a major investment that will attract invest-

mentors in green manufacturing and position the county as a leading manufacturing hub in Kenya.

For lasting peace to reign in Baringo and Pokot, the President urged local leaders to desist from archaic politics that thrives on incitement and violence.

"We must unite, work together and invest more in education so that we can empower everyone," he told the residents.

The President repeated what he has promised the country that security officers will remain in the North Rift region until it is secure and stable.

"We must decisively deal with criminals who undermine our peace, education and economic activities," President Ruto said.

He said military barracks would be built

in those areas to enforce security and re-build education and health infrastructure. The President explained that only through the transformation of the North Rift region will the problem of insecurity be eliminated.

The Head of State singled out the KSh45 billion Ortum Cement Factory in West Pokot as one of the biggest investments, which is transforming the economy of that county and the country.

"We are initiating development projects that are transforming the economy of the Kerio Valley counties of Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot, Baringo and Elgeyo-Marakwet to eradicate banditry and cattle rustling," he said.

He expressed satisfaction at the work being done by security agencies along the Kerio Valley, noting that tens of schools, which had been closed in the past 20 years due to insecurity, have been reopened.

"Our focus is now is to initiate development projects, provide water for irrigation, ensure children go to school, improve infrastructure and health facilities, and thus bring to an end the trail of death, injuries, displacement and lawlessness in the Kerio Valley," President Ruto said.

At the same time, President Ruto asked Kenya Kwanza and United Democratic Alliance leaders to desist from internal wrangles.

He said the time for political contests was over, saying it was time for leaders to deliver better services to the electorate. "Kenyans want leaders to work together for the sake of development," said President Ruto.

The President also launched the Last Mile Water Connectivity Programme in Muserech, Eldama Ravine Constituency.

This project will supply water from the Chemosu Dam to residents of Baringo and Nakuru counties for domestic use, livestock and irrigation.

Chemosu Dam in Baringo County is the biggest in the Rift Valley and the third largest in the country after Ndakaini in Murang'a and Sasumwa in Nyandarua.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Mama Judith Ongoro



MEDICAL APPEAL

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NEWS IN BRIEF



To boost agribusiness in Elgeyo Marakwet County, the Cereal Growers Association has conducted a Digital Marketing Skills Training for youth involved in the agricultural sector. The project was made possible through a strategic partnership with Yara International and the World Food Programme Kenya's Vijnainkilimobizz initiative. Youth were trained in Iten in digital marketing to enhance their agribusiness ventures. The "Vijnainkilimobizz" initiative, led by WFP Kenya, aims to empower youth in the agricultural sector by equipping them with essential skills and tools for success. By focusing on digital marketing and innovative farming practices, the initiative fosters entrepreneurship and leverages digital platforms to enhance productivity, market effectiveness, and overall growth in agribusiness.



The government has been challenged to come up with strategies for attracting investors in the country to reduce the high unemployment amongst the youth. The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) Homa Bay County Secretary Abdul Masud expressed concerns that high rate of unemployment amongst those graduating from all training institutions was breeding anarchy. He said the government should create an enabling environment for investors to come in the country in order to create job opportunities.



The County Government of Migori has flagged off tools and equipment worth Sh13 million to various technical and vocational education and training institutions. The initiative aims to enhance the capacity of the 23 existing vocational institutions and enable them provide high-quality and practical training to learners. Speaking during the ceremony, Migori Governor Dr Ochilo Ayacko emphasized the importance of investing in vocational education to nurture a generation of skilled professionals who will drive innovation, create opportunities and lead their communities towards sustainable development. The tools and equipment launched included fashion design and garment-making machines, plumbing, hair design and beauty therapy, and food and beverage services.



Businessman cum philanthropist Solomon Muriithi Maina alias Solo on Friday joined Mathira constituency's Njatheini Primary School fraternity for a motivating and thanks giving day ceremony. Solo joined by institution's BOM, teachers, alumni, parents, and pupils where he shared his education journey on emphasis that with the right attitude and faith, any challenge can be overcome. He was accompanied by among others, Ruguru Ward MCA Erastus Karanja Muriuki and other community leaders. During the ceremony, pupils received presents. Those who received tokens include the best last year's KCPE candidates, best per class, most improved and best in athletics among others. Acting Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, an alumni of the and India Ambassador Peter Maina Munyiri, were among leaders who supported the initiative.



The government will not offer amnesty to individuals who took advantage of the recent anti-state protests to engage in criminal activities, insisting they must face the law. Western Regional Commissioner Irungu Macharia has affirmed that only those who protested peacefully during the demonstrations in the region's major towns were released as directed by President William Ruto. He said those in police custody were being treated as criminals and will face charges in a court of law since they were either involved in looting, destruction of property or rape. He said, while Kenyans peacefully exercised their right to protest, some took advantage and went on a looting spree, destroying property and engaging in other crimes like rape.



Fifteen wards in West Pokot County are set to receive relief food from the government after the launch by governor Simon Kachapin. The relief rations will provide assistance to households facing food insecurity due to crop failure, displacement from conflicts, floods, landslides, and adverse climate conditions. Speaking during the launch at the county offices in Kapenguria town, Kachapin highlighted the importance of the relief effort, emphasizing the need to support the most vulnerable households in the county. He noted that the relief food would benefit the most vulnerable households across the county who lack food. Governor Kachapin said the distribution of relief food will not only address immediate food needs but also draw attention to critical infrastructure repairs, such as damaged roads where locals would be engaged in road repair work in exchange for food.

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Government Unveils Community Mobilisers For DRIVE Project In Wajir County

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The PS highlighted the challenges that the livestock sector faces, including inadequate pasture and quality feeds, scarcity of water resources, climate change, breeding management challenges, poor marketing, and socio-economic constraints.
- To alleviate these challenges, he stated that the government initiated the De-Risking Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies project.



Wajir County governor Ahmed Abdullahi



Livestock Development Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke.

The Government, through the State Department for Livestock Development (SDLD) has launched Community mobilisers for the De-Risking Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies (DRIVE) project, expected to benefit 375,000 pastoralists and their dependents in Wajir County.

Principal Secretary for Livestock Development, Jonathan Mueke, stated that the initiative, unveiled in partnership with ZEP-RE (PTA Reinsurance Company), Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), and the World Bank Group (WBG), seeks to bolster pastoral systems by addressing key vulnerabilities and promoting economic inclusion.

“Severe droughts, on average, affect 3-4 million people in the country, with the most affected regions being Arid and Semi-Arid Lands,” he said.

Speaking during the launch of the community mobilisers and market linkages in Wajir County Mueke noted the significance of the livestock sector, which he described as an important pillar in Kenya’s food system and a major contributor to poverty reduc-

tion, food security, and livelihoods.

He said that the sector contributes between 10 per cent to 13 per cent of the national GDP and employs up to 50 per cent of the agricultural labour force.

“In ASAL counties such as Wajir, the sector supplies 90 per cent of employment opportunities and 95 per cent of family incomes and food security,” he explained.

The PS highlighted the challenges that the livestock sector faces, including inadequate pasture and quality feeds, scarcity of water resources, climate change, breeding management challenges, poor marketing, and socio-economic constraints.

To alleviate these challenges, he stated that the government initiated the De-Risking Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies project.

“In Kenya, the project is funded through a credit facility from the World Bank and implemented by the State Department for Livestock Development in partnership with the private sector, ZEP-RE Reinsurance, and Kenya Development Corporation,”

said Mueke.

He revealed that the project was designed to build on the lessons learned during the implementation of the Kenya Livestock Insurance Program, which was implemented in eight ASAL counties.

Mueke said that by supplying subsidised insurance products, drought insurance will become affordable to millions of pastoralists who face immense climate change risks, leading to the loss of 2.5 million livestock in the last drought cycle.

He said the community mobilisers and the livestock production groups or cooperatives would share the livestock insurance commissions when their trained members successfully register for livestock insurance.

“This creates a livelihood for our youth and community-owned groups who participate in this program,” he said.

He further stated that through the DRIVE project, an innovative livestock producers and market actors’ engagement approach has been initiated.

Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi said the sector was facing many chal-

lenges, including climate change, diseases, resource-based conflicts, and altitudinal change leading to pastoralist dropout, especially among the youth.

Governor Abdullahi emphasised how the project will help to mitigate the effects of the harsh weather and improve their economies.

He said that during the pilot project of component one of the DRIVE in October 2022, Wajir County alone registered 17,656 beneficiaries for the index-based livestock insurance aimed at protecting pastoralists against drought risk.

“The number of livestock insured was 65,488 tropical livestock. To this end, our pastoralists paid Sh54 million with a government subsidy of Sh169 million. The bonus payment summed up to Sh94,308,000 with claims of Sh85,788,300,” he disclosed.

The governor expressed hopes that the project would be successful based on lessons learned from the previous project implemented by the Kenya Livestock Insurance Program.

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County Enters Development Partnership With The Israeli Government

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Trans Nzoia County government has entered a development partnership with the Israeli government which will help improve major sectors.

Striking the deal on behalf of the two governments was Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya and Israel Ambassador to Kenya Micheal Lotem who revealed the partnership will prioritize water and health sectors.

Natembeya welcomed the partnership saying it has come at the right time and will go a long way to uplift the living standards of Trans Nzoia residents because health and water services will be transformed.

“We will go an extra mile to ensure that our people get the best services and this is why we are working with

like-minded people and organizations to achieve our goal of improving livelihoods,” he said.

Ambassador Lotem praised the county government of Trans Nzoia for taking the lead role in transforming lives of the people.

After holding talks, the two leaders presided over the launch of two new CT Scan machines at Wamalwa Kijana Teaching Referral Hospital donated by an Israel based Health Solutions provider, ELSMED.

Lotem said the CT Scan machine gives the Hospital the much needed capacity to offer better services provided in other high level health facilities.

During the exercise, a new maternity wing was opened and modern delivery beds worth Sh50 million were donated by US AID Ampath.

Natembeya said this will go a long way to mitigate maternal and child mortality and will help provide the best delivery services in the region.



Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya and Israel Ambassador to Kenya Micheal Lotem with other officers during the visit..

Oparanya At Loggerheads With EACC For Blocking His CS Nomination

By: Ruth Wamboi
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya has protested Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) move of barring his nomination by writing to the Clerk of the National Assembly to block his appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs development scheduled for Sunday 4th August, 2024.

Through his Counsel Danstan Omari, Oparanya on Friday hit back at EACC demanding EACC to retract its communication to the Clerk of the National Assembly dated 29th July, 2024 with immediate effect.

Oparanya has further demanded that EACC ceases and desists from harassing him with unsubstantiated threats of charging him for corruption in a bid to stop him from offering his services to the people of Kenya without fear or favour.

The former governor further states that failure by EACC to heed to the demands he will institute legal pro-

ceedings against EACC jointly and severally as individuals exercising personal interest to the detriment of respect of the rule of law and the Constitution of Kenya.

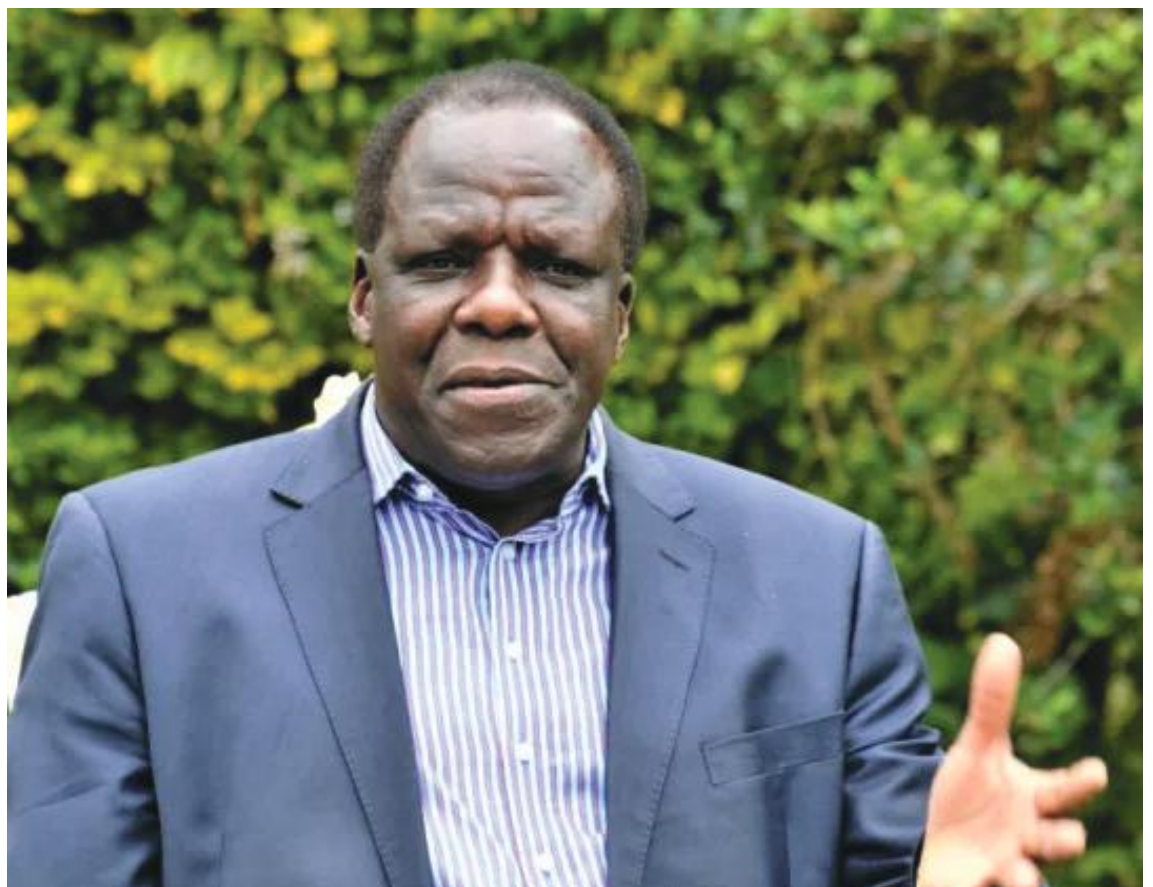
In the letter dated July 29 EACC had written to the Clerk of the National Assembly highlighting that Oparanya CS nominee for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development is faced with an alleged graft case.

However, the Director of Public Prosecution had written to EACC withdrawing consent to prosecute Oparanya after his nomination by President William Ruto.

A move that did not augur well with EACC which poked holes the grounds on which the DPP has based his decision not to move ahead with Oparanya’s prosecution.

The letter by the ODPP is dated 8th July but EACC acknowledges receipt on the 25th July 2024.

EACC in a statement to the DPP on Wednesday rejected the DPP’s proposal stating that it read mischief maintaining that the letter by the ODPP was written after Oparanya’s nomination.



Former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya

I Won't Be Drawn Into Political Sideshows - Rigathi

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “I am not for politics. My focus is on national development, agricultural reforms, the fight against illicit brews, supporting Church and assisting the President to succeed. Those willing to do politics can continue. But they should also listen to the people and respect them. People are supreme,” he said in Gatanga, Murang’a county during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of ACK Thika Memorial Church School.
- “The people/taxpayers are the employers of their leaders in public service. Hence, the leaders should push interests of the people and make right decision and align with the people. As we work let us continuously engage Kenyans and get directions on how to proceed,” he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his spouse Pastor Dorcas condoles with Rosemary Njeri Kirika and her family on the loss of their matriarch, Mama Magdalene Waithira Mburu..

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua says he will not be drawn into political sideshows; stating that he is focused on assisting President William Ruto succeed in the economic transformation and development of the country.

This comes even as MPs led by Jubilee Party leader Sabina Chege backed his call for devoted leadership and appealed to their colleagues in Parliament to dedicate their time in addressing the challenges facing the nation like youth unemployment.

Mr Gachagua on Friday said he is also focused on driving reforms in the agricultural sector, eradication of illicit brews and drugs abuse and supporting the President as his principal assistant.

These socio-economic programs, he said, will change the livelihoods of all Kenyans and shape the Ruto administration development legacy.

“I am not for politics. My focus is on national development, agricultural reforms, the fight against illicit brews, supporting Church and assisting the President to succeed. Those willing to do politics can continue. But they should also listen to the people and respect them. People are supreme,” he said in Gatanga, Murang’a county during the

Golden Jubilee celebrations of ACK Thika Memorial Church School.

“The people/taxpayers are the employers of their leaders in public service. Hence, the leaders should push interests of the people and make right decision and align with the people. As we work let us continuously engage Kenyans and get directions on how to proceed,” he said.

At the event, he was accompanied by his wife Pastor Dorcas, Murang’a Deputy Governor Stephen Mburu, Gatanga MP Wakili Edward Muriu, Kangema MP Peter Kihungi, Nominated MP Sabina Chege and MCAs.

The school was celebrating 50 years since its establishment in 1974 by white settlers. Currently, the school has 1670 learners.

Backing the Deputy President, the MPs faulted their colleagues whom they claimed were concentrating on negative politics instead of working for wananchi.

“I humbly request that we stop thinking about personalities and focus on issues facing Kenyans. Since economy is on the recovery path let us focus on the real issues. I want to remind MPs that we have no time for sideshows and the impeachment talk. We need to sit in parliament to discuss bills that will improve the

welfare of the people,” said MP Sabina Chege.

MP Edward Muriu asked leaders to unite and work towards development of the nation.

“Great men are made during crisis. We have crisis of economy, debts and unemployment. As leaders, we know the country will prosper when there is unity, peace and partnerships. We will overcome the current crisis and we go back to the track,” said Mr Muriu.

He further praised the Government over its development programs in Murang’a county, citing the ongoing water connection program at Nda-ka-ini dam.

“For 49 years since construction of Ndakaini dam, it has been serving Nairobi people with water and excluding the locals living near the dam. But since Kenya Kwanza administration came to power in 2022, Gatanga people will access the water. The contractor is on site and the project will be commissioned soon by the President and the Deputy President,” he said.



Refuse To Let Satan Push You Around



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

You can do this. Refuse to take anything from the devil. Be faithful and patient in the name of Jesus Christ. If you ever depart from having faith in doing the things that Jesus did or things He has taught you to do and begin to do things the way you want to do them, that is when you start getting into false doctrines. You would be surprised at how many churches that are basically right in the things they do and believe, but the things Jesus did in the supernatural and told us to do they leave out.

They tell the Gospel, but leave out casting out demons and laying hands on the sick. As long as a believer lives, it is his, or her, responsibility to lay hands on the sick and see them recover. GOD'S POWER FLOWS THROUGH PEOPLE'S HANDS.

THE "LAYING ON OF HANDS" IS A DOCTRINE OF THE NEW COVENANT (TESTAMENT) CHURCH. Faith in God is a doctrine of the Church. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6.)

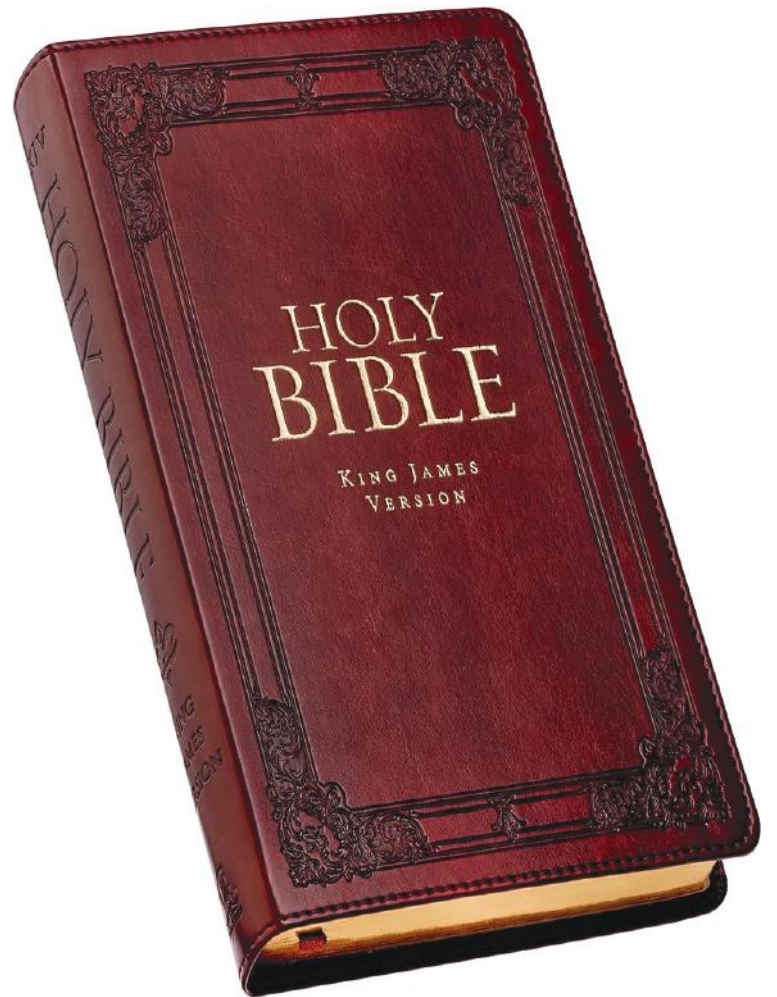
God honours determined faith. If you yield yourself to a certain type of demon, it will think you want it. If you obey it all of the time, it will not come out so easily. Demons may growl at you, or you may not hear a thing. But make them mad, and make them get out. Sometimes it takes hours. There is that story where a pastor prayed for that one young man eight hours one night, all night long, because the Lord sent him. And he did not get nervous, nor relent in Jesus Christ name, and victory and deliverance was achieved.

THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT GET NERVOUS over devils, furthermore, they are ALREADY DEFEATED. Develop the patience of God if you are going to cast out devils. God does NOT know the meaning of defeat, NOR does God know the meaning of poverty. WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH GOD, YOU ARE DEALING WITH FIRST-CLASS

THINGS. There is total victory in Jesus' name. But you must have faith and learn to talk to the devil with authority. Be humble with God, compassionate with human beings, but be strong as an ox with the devil. You must have a one-track mind with the devil. You must have one goal, and that is to get that demon out of that person. Jesus came to set people free. HALELUJAH, TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER: AMEN.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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



The Mt. Kenya Times



Reportedly, Kenyan Police Officers Leading The UN Mission In Haiti Had Made Good Progress



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Kenyan Police Officers Leading the UN Mission in Haiti.

Worth Noting:

- The Kenyan media reported recently that for the first time our officers in Haiti encountered a stiff resistance from the criminal gangs.
- But after a fierce gun battle, they managed to take over the town of Mawozo. This by clearing all the roadblocks that denied locals access to this town.
- This town is located along the border with Dominican Republic. Some of the arms used by criminals were believed to have been smuggled through this border.
- In this operation, the officers also rescued a police station that had been overrun by the gangs.
- As a result of these successes, a number of top leaders of the countries that have also agreed to send their troops have so far visited the Kenyan camp.

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

Under the stewardship of Commander Geoffrey Otunge, reports indicated that 400 Kenyan police officers deployed so far had made great progress.

After undertaking the first assignment of battling and driving away the criminal gangs, who were controlling and roaming the capital city of Prince Au Port and its environs, the mandate of Kenyan police was extended to carry out similar operations in 16 towns and municipalities.

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

When you are in a battlefield you expect casualties but no deaths or injuries have been reported so far.

This flew in the face of critics of President William Ruto. They wanted the world to believe that Kenya was ill-equipped to deal with such situations.

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

This will happen before these gangs reared an ugly head and posed a serious security threat to social fabric of Kenya.

The Kenyan media reported recently that for the first time our officers in Haiti encountered a stiff resistance from the criminal gangs.

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As a result of these successes, a number of top leaders of the countries that have also agreed to send their troops have so far visited the Kenyan camp.

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

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

We are happy with the Government of Kenya for agreeing to lead this mission.

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

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

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

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

Three, the resignation of the Prime Minister of Haiti.

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

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

Recently, the US supplied Kenyan officers with Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contrary to the impression created by one of the mainstream newspaper, the

deployment of the Kenyan officers had not been designed to coincide with President William Ruto's recent state visit to the United States of America (USA).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He stated that the deployment cannot be done without an approval of Parliament. Granted, I'm persuaded to believe

President Ruto equally shared his sentiments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, their comments reeked more of hypocrisy and insincerity.

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

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

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

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

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

The Art Of Creative Writing: Cultivating Imagination



By: David Ndirangu
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The process of creative writing will include these parts; Characterization – that is developing the characters and their roles. Realism – a character's action must be authentic and agree with the personality you have created for them.
- Setting – this is where and when the action takes place. Tone – how you use language, the specific choice of words to communicate your attitude that is contained in your story.
- Mood – use words that make readers feel a certain way towards the characters in the story or the subject matter. This is the reader's emotional response to the characters' actions, experiences and feelings or the topic generally.



Creative writing .

Creative writing is the art of putting down your own ideas and emotions into words. It is an artistic and expressive way of turning complex ideas into simple words.

To some people creative writing comes naturally but most people need extensive training and research to acquire the skill.

Expressing your ideas verbally might appear fairly easy but to put them in writing is a great deal harder. Good writers are however able to express themselves and transform ordinary moments into interesting stories that enable them to connect with other people.

The various genres in creative writing include; fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenplay.

The more recent areas that have come with modern technology including blogs and dialogues will generally fall into any of these categories.

Effectively done creative writing pieces should possess the following characteristics; Theme – that is the message the creative piece is intended to convey to the reader. Clarity – the piece of writing should be clear enough not to confuse the reader. Form – there should be a begin-

ning, middle and end. The beginning should introduce the reader to the story while the end should be satisfying to the reader. Emotion – the text should be emotionally charged. The reader should feel like laughing, crying or even get scared. This will happen when the reader has properly connected with the characters in the story. The writer should be careful about the language and the power of the words used.

The process of creative writing will include these parts; Characterization – that is developing the characters and their roles. Realism – a character's action must be authentic and agree with the personality you have created for them.

Setting – this is where and when the action takes place. Tone – how you use language, the specific choice of words to communicate your attitude that is contained in your story.

Mood – use words that make readers feel a certain way towards the characters in the story or the subject matter. This is the reader's emotional response to the characters' actions, experiences and feelings or the topic generally.

The creative piece should have a structure and plot which moves from

the expositions, action or conflict, climax and resolution. The point of view is the perspective from which the story is told. After the conflict there is resolution whereby questions are answered for the reader and the storyline gets to a conclusion that is consistent with the events.

The task of creative writing follows the following steps; Planning – you should have in mind the general layout of the entire creative work. You may want to actually take a pen and paper to map out the layout of your envisioned piece. Drafting follows which is getting down to write out the story in its rawest form. This is likely to be the most difficult part to aspiring writers. When I set out to write my first book, this is the exact spot where I got stuck. "How do I start?" I was jammed in this particular spot for close to ten years until I met someone who had just published a book. "How do you start writing a book?" I asked her.

She gave me a rather funny look and answered, "You just take a pen and paper and start writing." To be honest I felt a bit foolish but eventually did exactly that.

Drafting is followed by revising of the portions written whereby some

portions may be even shifted from one part to another.

Editing is next – this is the point where the writer reads through the text to check for grammatical errors and correcting them. Editing by the writer is normally a continuous exercise every time a particular portion is completed. This should be followed by reading through the entire work to ensure that the story has a 'flow'. Finally the text or manuscript is ready to be shared with others who will evaluate and do any further editing which may be necessary but in constant consultation with the writer.

A beginner in creative writing should start small and make incremental steps forward. One should make writing a routine and if possible always carry around a notebook to record everyday observations as opposed to trying to commit everything to your memory. Given a opportunity everyone has a story to tell.

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

Nakuru County Eyes Trade And Investment Opportunities In Israel

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

By MKT Correspondent

Nakuru County Government is partnering with Israel in various key sectors, a move aimed at promoting trade and investment opportunities and increasing agricultural exports.

Speaking after holding deliberations with a delegation from Israel, Deputy Governor Mr David Kones said the collaboration between the County Government of Nakuru and Israel was further targeted at boosting water technology, agriculture, health among other sectors.

Mr Kones encouraged the Israel government to venture into ecotourism and other sectors in the county with the aim of improving the collaboration.

The Deputy Governor highlighted additional opportunities for collaboration, particularly in empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and training women and youth in Information Communication

Technology saying the country had technological challenges in implementing some projects.

He said that the expertise from Israel would help the devolved unit achieve the much-desired goals in addition to empowering the local communities.

Mr Kones said cordial relationship between Nakuru and the Israel Government will also see the county get value addition factories and advance its agriculture technology and invited more Israel investors to establish more value addition factories in the County.

“The core of our relationship is expanding opportunities for economic growth and creating jobs for the youth,” the deputy governor observed.

Mr Kones at the same time challenged farmers to move from subsistence farming and penetrate the high value export market, besides joining cooperatives to access services and market their produce.

Israel’s Deputy Ambassador to Kenya Ms. Ariel Arviv stated that the Israeli Government was committed to assisting Nakuru County in reducing child malnutrition and providing technical teams to support agriculture



Israel’s Deputy Ambassador to Kenya Ms. Ariel Arviv with Nakuru County Deputy Governor David Kones and other officials during the meeting.

and the school feeding program and also partner with students in Nakuru to help them implement agricultural projects.

While acknowledging that Kenya was a vibrant economy and critical trade partner with Israel, the envoy assured that her government will pro-

vide investment opportunities available in Nakuru especially in agriculture and partner in mobilizing Israel firms’ investments in the region.

Nakuru is banking on direct sales of its farm produce to foreign markets and value addition to boost her revenue base as one of the leading pro-

ducers of potatoes, milk, cut flowers, vegetables, avocados and other crops. Kenya is Israel’s fourth largest trade partner in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics.

Liquor Distributors In Embu Joins The War On Counterfeit Liquor

By: Kenya News Agency

Licensed liquor distributors in Embu County have agreed to partner with security agencies to weed out illicit and counterfeit liquor and its manufacturers.

They said they were fully behind the crackdown on illicit and counterfeit brews in a bid to rid the county of the menace that has left many consumers dead or with lifelong injuries.

The liquor traders argued that counterfeiters had also soiled their reputation as well as crippling their trade economically by offering customers fake and cheap commodities that had left their products uncompetitive.

Speaking after a meeting with the county security team led by County Commissioner Jack Obuo in his office, the traders also pledged to put in place self-regulation mechanisms to ensure everyone in the trade abides by the rules.

County Commissioner Obuo called

on the distributors to form an association that will work closely with the security organs to remove counterfeiters from the market.

He said that going forward, it will be a requirement for every distributor to furnish the security team with details of their physical location of their premises for monitoring purposes.

“They must also give us monthly stock records to monitor supply and distribution system,” Obuo said, noting that it was not in any way a scheme of trying to micromanage the liquor business.

Additionally, the CC asked them to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the government with regard to distribution of liquor between 6am and 6pm.

“Any vehicle that will be found transporting liquor outside the stipulated time will necessitate a security crackdown,” he said.

The County Government has so far licensed eight distributors as vetting of more license applicants continues.



In The Footsteps Of The Masters

They light up the heart,
They sing a classical melody
They are the inexhaustible spring of my heart
An example of a light that illuminates the darkness

A dream bloomed in my heart -
smallpox
I admire them very much
Let the bright light shine on the paths of life
Let's follow and breathe

I will follow in the footsteps of the teachers
Shine bright with the light of enlightenment
A prayer from my people every day
My wish: let the world shine even more
Mother

My basil that smells heavenly
My kind, my world with a bright face.
I have a beautiful heart, I'm kind, I'm kind,
I will light up your face, mother.

How much you worked for me.
You ran, you were sad.
Even without my father, you only watered us.
I will light up your face, mother.

Let me be your support in the future.
I'll open my mouth to you when I'm full.
Scatter basil at your feet.
I will light up your face, mother.

May God give you long life.
May God keep away from evil.
Please be safe.
I will light up your face, mother.

You are the world's unnecessary wealth.
Your existence means a world to us.
I thank you,
I will light up your face, mother!!!

Author: Fayzullayeva Gulasal

Love For Books

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

-J.K. Rowling



By: Irfan Khan Tareen

A proverb that indicates that 'a book is a friend that never deceives' can be absolutely regarded true in one's life. A friend that takes a man to the way of development and enlightenment is particularly a book. Although, it consists of wooden pages having no worth, but through providing knowledge, it gives access to man to face every kind of knowledge. It removes darkness and indeed creates lightness in life. The very thing that a book offers is knowledge which leads a man in spending a true and prosperous life. In fact, it makes a man observant of the fact that 'life is not about how much you earn, but it is about how you spend it.'

Moreover, those who are concerned with gaining more and more knowledge enlighten others' lives and facilitate people by inventing various beneficial technologies. The best example before us is that of scientists who love learning scientific knowledge and keep an aim to ease life on the earth in one form or other. Undeniably, knowledge holds immense significance in one's life be it scientific or religious, because it improves one's life as well as social skills. For instance, Holy Quran by Muslims is read by heart and soul as this is

the book that strengthens their connection with Allah-Almighty as well as reinforces their spiritual power. Likewise, scientific books are well studied by scientists and philosophers in order to create the capability to confront any kind of challenge and make it possible to live a cheerful life on earth.

However, those who dislike reading books and unlike to make themselves knowledgeable can't get through in life. Undoubtedly, they will be usually inclined towards the perpetual use of social media whose continued utilisation only causes depression, hypertension and indeed cuts-off human relations.

Unluckily, nowadays it seems that our youth is most interested in social media which poses serious harm to physical and mental health in the long run. Not only this, even today children dislike to have some conversation with parents which is really a bothering fact.

We can prevent this by encouraging children with special guidance and making them interested in books. This responsibility is attached to parents and teachers, the benefactors of society. If this venture is implemented, then they will have definitely the stability to combat their future challenges.

Furthermore, Islam emboldens both men and women to gain knowledge. A Hadith which is narrated by Holy Prophet (SAW) clearly states that 'learn knowledge, even if you go far and wide.' A quote said by Francis Bacon that 'knowledge is power' can be absolutely considered true in life, if it is practically applied. Thus, the worth of gaining knowledge can't be neglected at any cost.

In short, a book is a friend that never leaves one in lurch. It provides knowledge which guides a man in every walk of life. By your courage and hardwork, it will absolutely reach you to your desired destination. In this regard, parents should play their due role by making children interested in books, not social media, and then they will ultimately make headway in life. Always remember, 'the more you learn, the more you earn.'

The Writer is an individual contributor with an interest in social affairs, coming off Pakistan.

Lesson To The Father



Ikram was drawing a picture. Then his dad comes near his son because he is interested in the son's picture. In the painting Ikram is drawing himself, father, mother. When father look at the painting, in his and son's body has black heart in the picture. Then he is shocked and ask from the son:

- Ikram, why did you die my heart and your heart with black?

- Dad, my grandmother said that the people's heart who made his or her close relative or family member cry is black. Yesterday you made my mother cry.

- My son, why your heart is also black, or you made to cry neighbour's girl? Father joked.

-No daddy, I did not make anybody cry. However, you said "You are like me" I draw us the same in this picture.

It was translated by Soyibova Nozigul.

Soyibova Nozigul was born in 2005 October 29, in Kukand, Uzbekistan. She studies in The Kukand State Pedagogical Institute. She is interested in learning language, reading books, writing poems, stories and articles.

Owner of "Gold medal" for finishing the school with high score. Owner of English B2 certificate and 856 % Uzbek language certificate. Active member of "Juntos por las Lestras"

Rustamova's Drawings



RustamovaSevinch Fakhridin's daughter was born in Dehkanabad district of Kashkadarya region. In 2023, he graduated from the 89th school of Dehkanabad district with a gold medal, a prize winner of the Science Olympiad. Currently, he is a 1st year student of Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute majoring in History. She has published a scientific article in Spain and Uzbekistan.



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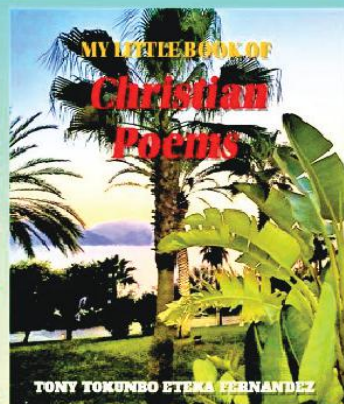
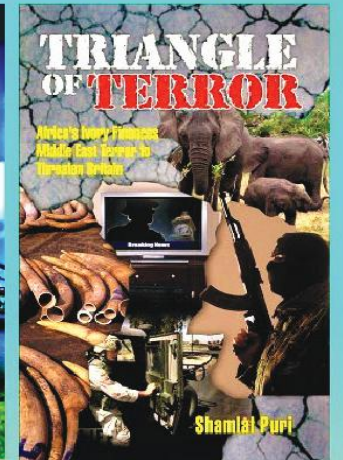
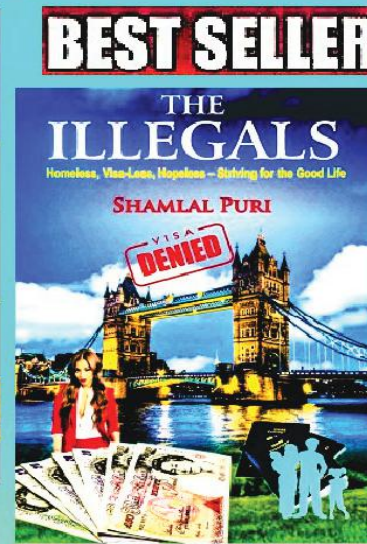
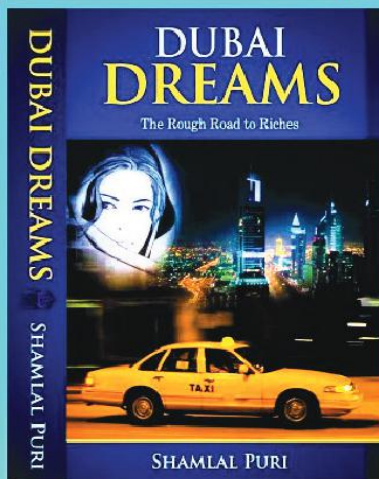
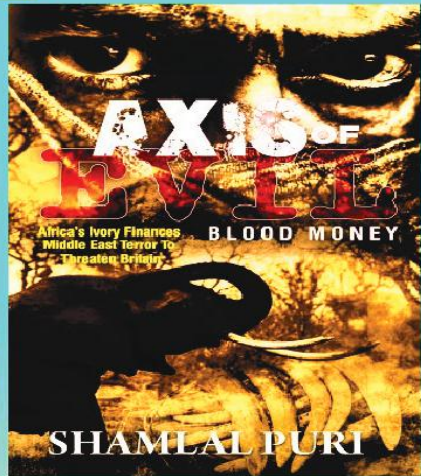
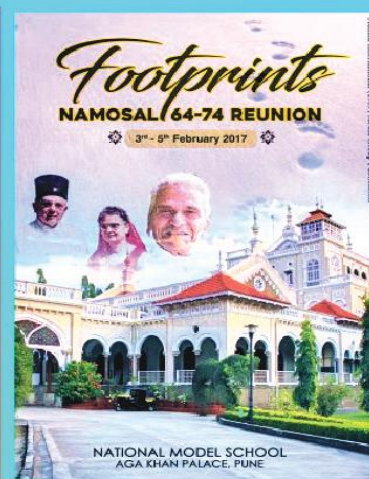
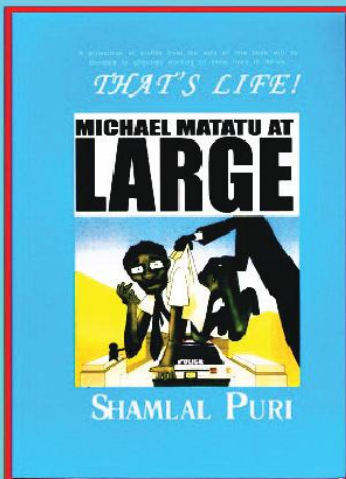
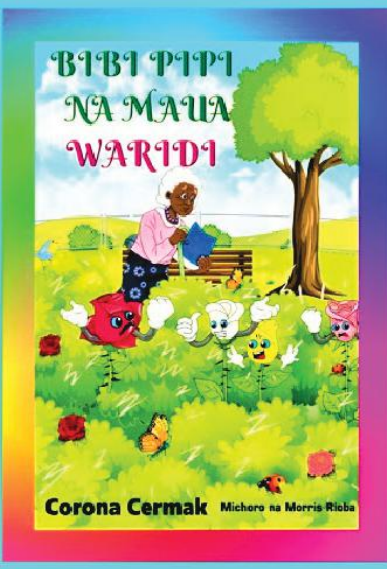
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Central ASK Show To Be Held Next Month

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga hosted Central Kenya Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Branch officials who paid a courtesy call to my office ahead of the expected ASK Show next month.

ASK CEO Batram Muthoka, Central Kenya ASK Show Chief Steward Job Kanyi, and Branch Manager Amos Kirui led the team. Preparations are in high gear for the show which is expected to be held from September 11 to 14 at the Kabiru-ini Showgrounds, Nyeri. The theme for this year Show is 'Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.'

The show has attracted many exhibitors, including financial institutions, institutions of higher learning, health and hospitality institutions, sectors of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, trade, manufacturing, NGOs, CEOs, youth enterprises, and women-based

groups, among others.

Funfair activities are also expected to heighten entertainment for the showgoers.

The governor who was accompanied by among other officers, his deputy David Kinaniri assured them of his administration's support and called upon Nyeri residents to take advantage of the event to learn as much as possible on how to improve productivity in their various agricultural enterprises and businesses.

"We shall continue to promote agriculture in Nyeri County, invest in modern farming techniques, and incentivize farmers by equipping them and providing the necessary support. By embracing technology and innovation, we can increase productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and bolster this sector," the governor noted.

Others present were CECMs James Wachih (Agriculture) and Esther Ndung'u (Acting Trade & Cooperatives), County Secretary Ben Gachichio, A.S.K officials; Becky Njoki, Francis Mathari, Joseph Thamaini and Muchiri Kibira.



Nyeri County government officials with ASK team in Nyeri on Friday

ARISE Close-Out Event: Showcasing Transformative Stories And Advocating For Equity



By: Cynthia Masibo

@themkenyatimes

In a significant stride towards health equity, The Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity (ARISE) Close-out Event has brought together community leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to celebrate achievements and chart a sustainable path forward. The event, held recently, featured a compelling exhibition of images and stories that spotlighted the vulnerabilities and triumphs of marginalized populations. With a focus on fostering constructive dialogue and advocacy, the event aimed to galvanize efforts towards ensuring justice and equity for all.

One of the primary goals was to share the findings, lessons, and experiences related to critical enablers of health and well-being for marginalized populations. This knowledge exchange is essential for informing

future initiatives and ensuring that effective strategies are identified and replicated.

The event celebrated the successes of The Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity (ARISE), factors in improving the health and well-being of marginalized communities living in informal settlements. These achievements demonstrate the power of targeted interventions and collaborative efforts in driving meaningful change.

The event was graced by notable figures, including Dr. Carol Ngony, Director of Preventive and Promotive Services, and Aaron Kangara, MCA Viwandani Absolom Odhiambo, MCA Korogocho, and leadership from LVCT Health also attended, along with representatives from the Ministry of Health at both the national and county levels, development partners, donors, and other key stakeholders.

Their presence underscored the importance of the event and the collective commitment to improving the lives of those living in informal settlements. The participation of these high-profile attendees provided an invaluable opportunity for direct engagement and dialogue, enhancing the event's impact and reach.



Mr. Robinson Karuga, the research Manager, issuing his remarks at the conference

The ARISE Close-out Event was more than just a showcase of achievements; it was a dynamic platform for learning and advocacy. By sharing experiences and insights, the event fostered a collaborative environment where community organizations and policymakers could come together to enhance the agency of individuals living in informal settlements. This collaboration is crucial for identifying and advocating for necessary programmatic and policy actions.

The powerful stories and images presented at the event served as a reminder of the resilience and strength of marginalized communities. They also highlighted the ongoing challenges and the need for continued efforts to address inequities and improve health outcomes.

As the ARISE initiative moves forward, the lessons learned and successes achieved will continue to inform future actions. The development of a sustainability action plan is a testament to the commitment of

all involved to ensure that the progress made is sustained and expanded. The ARISE Close-out Event has set a high standard for community engagement and advocacy. It has demonstrated the power of collaboration and the importance of giving a voice to marginalized populations. With continued efforts and support, the vision of equitable health and well-being for all can become a reality.



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Weaving Health And Tradition: Navigating The Intersection Of Customary Law And The Right To Health In Kenya's Pluralistic Legal System



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes



Integrating Traditional Medicine into Health Care Systems..

Worth Noting:

- The historical context of Kenya's legal pluralism is rooted in its colonial past and the subsequent efforts to forge a unified national identity while respecting cultural diversity.
- The application of English common law and statute law alongside African customary law was a hallmark of British colonial administration, a system that persisted after independence. Professor Yash Ghai, a prominent Kenyan constitutional law expert, observes, "The post-independence legal framework in Kenya sought to accommodate customary law within the formal legal system, recognizing its importance in maintaining social cohesion and cultural identity."

In the Kenyan society, where modernity interweaves with tradition, and where the echoes of colonial legacies reverberate through the corridors of justice, we find ourselves at a crossroads of legal pluralism. The intersection of customary law and constitutional rights presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the realization of fundamental human needs, not least of which is the right to health. This paper attempts to examine this arguably complex terrain and thus we must ask ourselves: How can we harmonize the wisdom of our ancestors with the imperatives of modern healthcare? How can we ensure that the tapestry we weave is one of inclusivity, equity, and respect for all Kenyans, regardless of their cultural background or geographic location? The answers to these questions lie not in the rejection of one system for another, but in the careful and considerate integration of both, creating a unique Kenyan approach to health and justice that honors our past while embracing our future.

The intersection of customary law and the right to health in Kenya's pluralistic legal system presents a multifaceted challenge that requires careful consideration and nuanced approaches. Kenya's legal landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of statutory law, common law, customary law, and Islamic law, all of which must be navigated in the pursuit of realizing the constitutional right to health. Article 43(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 explicitly guarantees every person "the right to the highest attainable standard of

health, which includes the right to health care services, including reproductive health care." However, the implementation of this right is often complicated by the persistence of customary practices and beliefs that may sometimes conflict with modern medical approaches or constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination. As noted by Kenyan legal scholar Patricia Kameri-Mbote, "The coexistence of multiple legal systems in Kenya creates a dynamic yet challenging environment for the realization of fundamental rights, particularly in areas where customary norms intersect with constitutional guarantees."

The historical context of Kenya's legal pluralism is rooted in its colonial past and the subsequent efforts to forge a unified national identity while respecting cultural diversity. The application of English common law and statute law alongside African customary law was a hallmark of British colonial administration, a system that persisted after independence. Professor Yash Ghai, a prominent Kenyan constitutional law expert, observes, "The post-independence legal framework in Kenya sought to accommodate customary law within the formal legal system, recognizing its importance in maintaining social cohesion and cultural identity." This accommodation is reflected in Article 2(4) of the Constitution, which acknowledges customary law as a source of law in Kenya, subject to consistency with the Constitution. However, this recognition also introduces potential conflicts, particularly in the realm of

health rights, where traditional practices may sometimes diverge from contemporary medical standards or human rights norms.

The right to health, as enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution and international human rights instruments, encompasses a broad spectrum of entitlements and obligations. It includes not only access to medical care but also the underlying determinants of health, such as clean water, adequate sanitation, and nutrition. One public health expert from Kenya, emphasizes, "The realization of the right to health in Kenya requires a holistic approach that addresses both biomedical and social determinants of health, many of which are deeply intertwined with cultural practices and customary norms." This perspective underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of how customary law influences health-seeking behaviors, traditional healing practices, and community perceptions of illness and wellness. The challenge lies in reconciling these cultural dimensions with the state's obligation to provide universal access to quality healthcare services.

Case law in Kenya has begun to grapple with the complexities of applying customary law in health-related matters. In the case of *S.M. v. R.N.* (2016), the High Court of Kenya addressed the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice rooted in customary traditions but criminalized under Kenyan law. The court held that while customary law is recognized under the Constitution, practices that contravene fundamental rights and freedoms cannot be

justified on cultural grounds. Justice Mumbi Ngugi stated in her ruling, "The right to participate in a cultural life of choice must be balanced against other constitutional imperatives, including the right to health and bodily integrity." This decision illustrates the judiciary's role in navigating the delicate balance between respecting cultural practices and upholding constitutional rights, particularly in matters affecting health and well-being.

The integration of traditional medicine into Kenya's formal healthcare system presents another area where customary practices intersect with the right to health. The World Health Organization estimates that up to 80% of the African population relies on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare needs. Recognizing this reality, Kenya has taken steps to regulate and incorporate traditional medicine into its health policy framework. Dr. Peter Mungai Ngugi, a researcher at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, argues, "The recognition and regulation of traditional medicine can enhance access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas where formal health facilities may be scarce. However, it is crucial to ensure that these practices meet safety and efficacy standards and do not contravene fundamental rights." This approach acknowledges the potential complementarity between customary healing practices and modern medicine, while also highlighting the need for a regulatory framework that protects public health.

The principle of non-discrimination, a cornerstone of human rights law, poses particular challenges in the context of customary health practices. Certain traditional beliefs and practices may discriminate against vulnerable groups, such as women, children, or persons with disabilities, in accessing healthcare or making health-related decisions. Professor Makau Mutua, a Kenyan-American legal scholar, contends, "The application of customary law in health matters must be scrutinized through the lens of equality and non-discrimination. Practices that perpetuate inequality or marginalization cannot be justified under the guise of cultural relativism." This perspective underscores the need for a rights-based approach to health that prioritizes the protection of vulnerable groups while

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Women In Cabinet

The recent appointments of women such as Alice Wahome, Soipan Tuya, and Rebecca Miano to key cabinet positions in President William Ruto's government were initially seen as a significant step toward gender equality in Kenyan politics. However, following the dismissal of the cabinet, these nominees are now awaiting vetting, raising questions about the future impact of their roles.

Impact on Gender Representation

The inclusion of women in high-level positions is crucial for advancing gender representation. Alice Wahome, as the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, has the potential to influence land policies affecting women's rights to property ownership. Soipan Tuya, overseeing Defence, can address security issues while promoting women's involvement in national defense strategies. Rebecca Miano's role in Tourism and Wildlife allows her to advocate for policies that prioritize women's contributions to economic development.

Socio-Economic Empowerment

The Kenya Kwanza Women Charter outlines commitments to economic empowerment, education, and protection against gender-based violence. The presence of women in the Cabinet enhances the likelihood of these pledges being implemented effectively. Their participation can lead to policies supporting women's entrepreneurship and access to finance, ultimately benefiting the broader community.

Challenges and Criticism

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Critics argue that the appointments should not merely serve as a symbolic gesture but must translate into tangible benefits for women across the nation. The historical context of women's marginalization in Kenyan politics raises skepticism about whether these appointments will lead to meaningful change. Additionally, the ongoing debate surrounding the two-thirds gender rule in Parliament underscores the need for systemic reforms to ensure women's representa-



Lands CS Alice Wahome, Defense CS Soipan Tuya, and Tourism CS Rebecca Miano

tion is not just limited to the Cabinet.

Current Situation

With the recent cabinet dismissal, the future of these appointments is uncertain. The new nominees, including Wahome, Tuya, and Miano, must undergo vetting by the National Assembly, which could impact their ability to implement policies aimed at women's empowerment. The political landscape is volatile, and public sentiment following recent protests against government policies may influence the vetting

process.

Conclusion

The appointments of Wahome, Tuya, and Miano represent a critical opportunity for advancing women's rights and gender equality in Kenya. Their roles could significantly impact policy formulation and implementation, fostering an environment where women's voices are heard and valued. However, the success of these appointments hinges on the government's commitment to genuine empowerment and

the realization of the two-thirds gender rule across all levels of governance.

The coming months will be pivotal in determining whether this administration can transform its promises into reality for women in Kenya amidst a backdrop of political uncertainty.

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

Which Way For Mulembe Nation

Recent remarks by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi signal a transformative moment for the Mulembe Nation, advocating for a strategic pivot towards the Kenya Kwanza government. This shift marks a significant departure from historical allegiances to opposition figures like Raila Odinga, emphasizing a focus on development and political pragmatism.

Mudavadi's call for unity within Western Kenya highlights the region's electoral potential, with 2.6 million voters representing a substantial bloc. He urged the Mulembe Nation to align with the ruling government to maximize developmental

benefits, particularly in infrastructure and agriculture. His assertion that the government has made strides in development, including job creation and economic revitalization, reflects a broader narrative of optimism, though skepticism remains among critics who question whether the current administration will deliver on its promises.

Historically, the Mulembe Nation has been loyal to opposition leaders, often feeling sidelined in previous administrations. Mudavadi's push to abandon these traditional ties raises concerns about the implications for the region's political identity. Critics argue that the Mulembe people must

weigh the risks of political realignment against their historical grievances and aspirations for equitable representation.

Moreover, Mudavadi's comments come in the wake of President William Ruto's recent visit to the region, where he promised development projects and government appointments. This has led to increased scrutiny from local leaders, who demand accountability and tangible benefits from their political alignment. Trans-Nzoia Governor George Natembeya and other leaders have expressed the need for the Mulembe Nation to leverage its numbers to negotiate for development, emphasizing that past

electoral support should translate into real gains.

Mudavadi's assertion that the Kenya Kwanza Agreement allocates 30% of government positions to the Amani National Congress (ANC) and Ford-Kenya parties presents an opportunity for the Mulembe Nation to influence governance. However, the community's leaders are increasingly vocal about their expectations, demanding clarity on the region's share of development resources and government attention.

As the Mulembe Nation stands at this crossroads, embracing a pragmatic approach could yield significant benefits. However, it requires

a careful balance between loyalty to historical allies and strategic engagement with the current political landscape. The coming months will reveal whether this shift can translate into tangible improvements for the people of Western Kenya or if it will deepen existing divisions within the community. The stakes are high, and the Mulembe Nation must navigate this political terrain with both caution and ambition.

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Expectations Of Citizens During Vetting Process

Citizens have clear expectations during the vetting of Cabinet Secretary (CS) nominees, which are essential for ensuring that the process is transparent, accountable, and reflective of public interest. First and foremost, citizens expect transparency in the vetting process, including access to information about the nominees' backgrounds, qualifications, and

potential conflicts of interest. The vetting should be conducted openly, allowing the public to scrutinize the nominees and their past conduct. Recent discussions emphasize that the vetting must be above board to maintain public trust in government institutions.

Citizens also seek accountability from both the nominees and the

vetting committee. They expect the committee to rigorously question nominees about their qualifications, previous performance, and plans for their respective ministries. The National Assembly Speaker has outlined that the vetting process must adhere to established procedures, ensuring that the committee provides a comprehensive report within the

stipulated time frame. This accountability is crucial, as it reassures the public that only qualified individuals will assume significant governmental roles. Moreover, citizens want to see that the nominees represent their interests and values, particularly in light of the recent political dynamics where opposition leaders have been included in the cabinet. Citizens expect

that the nominees will prioritize the needs of the community over partisan politics.

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Weaving Health And Tradition: Navigating The Intersection Of Customary Law And The Right To Health In Kenya's Pluralistic Legal System

Contd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- Education and awareness-raising play crucial roles in bridging the gap between customary practices and the constitutional right to health. Many harmful practices persist due to lack of information about their health consequences or about available alternatives.
- Professor Miriam Were, a Kenyan public health advocate and former chairperson of the National AIDS Control Council, emphasizes, "Community-based health education that is culturally sensitive and respectful of local knowledge systems is essential for promoting positive health behaviors and challenging harmful traditions."
- Such approaches can help to create a dialogue between traditional and modern health perspectives, fostering a more integrated and effective healthcare system that respects both cultural heritage and human rights.



Integrating Traditional Medicine into Health Care Systems.

respecting cultural diversity.

The role of traditional leaders and community elders in shaping health-related behaviors and mediating disputes presents both opportunities and challenges for the realization of the right to health. In many Kenyan communities, these figures wield significant influence over social norms and practices, including those related to health and well-being. Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center, notes, "Engaging traditional leaders as partners in health promotion and education can be an effective strategy for bridging the gap between customary practices and modern healthcare approaches." However, she cautions that this engagement must be balanced with efforts to empower individuals to make informed health choices and to challenge harmful traditional practices.

The devolution of healthcare services to county governments under the 2010 Constitution has introduced new dynamics in the intersection of customary law and the right to health. County governments are now responsible for the delivery of primary healthcare services, including public health and sanitation. This decentralization presents opportunities for more culturally sensitive healthcare delivery that takes into account local customs and practices. However, it also raises challenges in ensuring uniform standards of care across the country. Professor Kiarie Mwaura, argues, "Devolution offers a chance to tailor health services to local needs and cultural contexts, but it must be implemented in a way

that upholds national standards and constitutional guarantees of the right to health."

The role of public interest litigation in advancing the right to health and challenging harmful customary practices has been significant in Kenya's legal landscape. Cases brought before the courts have helped to clarify the boundaries between customary law and constitutional rights, often leading to progressive interpretations that prioritize health and well-being. In the case of *C.K. (A Child) & 11 Others v. Commissioner of Police & 2 Others* (2011), the High Court affirmed the state's duty to protect children from harmful cultural practices, including early marriage, which can have detrimental effects on health. The court's decision emphasized that customary practices must evolve in line with constitutional values and human rights standards, setting an important precedent for future cases at the intersection of health rights and cultural practices.

International human rights law provides an important framework for addressing the tensions between customary law and the right to health in Kenya. The country is a signatory to numerous international treaties that obligate the state to protect and fulfill the right to health, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Professor Obiora Chinedu Okafor, a Nigerian-Canadian legal scholar and former UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, observes, "Internation-

al human rights law can serve as a valuable tool for domestic courts and policymakers in navigating the complexities of legal pluralism, offering universal standards against which customary practices can be evaluated." This international perspective reinforces the need for a harmonized approach that respects cultural diversity while upholding fundamental human rights.

The intersection of customary law and the right to health also raises important questions about informed consent and autonomy in healthcare decision-making. In some cases, customary norms may conflict with the principle of individual autonomy that underpins modern medical ethics. Prof. Sylvia Tamale, a Ugandan feminist lawyer and scholar, argues, "The concept of individual autonomy in healthcare must be contextualized within African communal values and extended family systems. However, this should not come at the expense of protecting individuals from harmful practices or coercion in health-related decisions." This perspective highlights the need for a nuanced approach that respects both individual rights and community values in the context of healthcare.

Education and awareness-raising play crucial roles in bridging the gap between customary practices and the constitutional right to health. Many harmful practices persist due to lack of information about their health consequences or about available alternatives. Professor Miriam Were, a Kenyan public health advocate and former chairperson of the National AIDS Control Council,

emphasizes, "Community-based health education that is culturally sensitive and respectful of local knowledge systems is essential for promoting positive health behaviors and challenging harmful traditions." Such approaches can help to create a dialogue between traditional and modern health perspectives, fostering a more integrated and effective healthcare system that respects both cultural heritage and human rights.

The way forward in reconciling customary law with the right to health in Kenya's pluralistic legal system requires a multifaceted approach that engages all stakeholders, from community elders to policymakers, healthcare providers, and legal professionals. It calls for continuous dialogue, research, and adaptation to ensure that the legal framework evolves to meet the health needs of all Kenyans while respecting cultural diversity. As Kenya continues to navigate this complex terrain, it has the opportunity to develop innovative approaches that could serve as a model for other African countries grappling with similar challenges. The ultimate goal must be to create a health system that is both culturally relevant and rights-based, ensuring that every Kenyan can enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, regardless of their cultural background or social status.

In conclusion, the words of Wole Soyinka resonate with the challenge and promise of integrating customary law and constitutional rights in the pursuit of health for all Kenyans: "The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism." This sentiment encapsulates the need for ongoing reflection, dialogue, and, when necessary, reform of customary practices that may impede the realization of the right to health. It reminds us that cultural traditions, while valuable, must not be immune to scrutiny and evolution in light of new knowledge and changing societal needs. As Kenya continues to navigate the complex intersection of customary law and the right to health, it must remain open to critical examination of both traditional practices and modern approaches, always striving for a balance that honors its rich cultural heritage while embracing the universal right to health and well-being.

The writer is a legal scrivener and researcher

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Sports >> *After losing star striker Eric Kapaito who is headed to Tanzania with Namungo FC, Tusker FC had to go to the market in search of a striker who would be worthy to fit into the former FKF Premier League

How Tusker FC Went All Out To Secure Jacob Onyango's Signature



Tusker FC's new signing Jacob Onyango in action during a friendly match against Dandora Combined. PHOTO/Tusker FC

After losing star striker Eric Kapaito who is headed to Tanzania with Namungo FC, Tusker FC had to go to the market in search of a striker who would be worthy to fit into the former FKF Premier League Most Valuable Player's boots.

Sofapaka's Jacob Onyango was identified as a prime target. The 20-year old striker was one of Batoto ba Mungu's brightest prospects in the second half of the season and with eight goals in 15 matches looked like the best candidate to fill the void.

The brewers immediately commenced talks with the forward, with his contract ending. But, there was a problem. Police FC, with hefty financial muscle in terms of sign-on fee and salary,

threw their hats into the ring.

They hijacked Tusker's talks and quickly convinced the forward to join them with a good payday ahead of him. Up until when Sofapaka had their second leg play-off match against Nivas FC, it was all clear Onyango was headed to Police.

Lengthy talks late into the night

But, a lengthy chase the following day, including a meeting that went all the way till 9pm saw the tables swing in favour of the brewers.

Tusker had to convince the player and his guardian of their plans with him, and that he would be an integral part of the squad. A face to face meeting with the

club's CEO as well as interim coach Charles Okere late into the night sealed the deal.

"He is a player who we know will fit perfectly into the team and we needed to convince him to come," Okere said.

For a team that had lost Kapaito, and then Daniel Sakari to Police FC due to financial influence, this was a big win for Tusker.

Made the right decision

The forward himself, speaking after arriving at the club, believed he made the right decision.

"It's true there was a lot of interest, but I knew Tusker was the right place for me. This is a club that every season fights for the trophy and even if you look

at the last two seasons, they have just been unlucky. I also needed a place where I could feel comfortable and I knew I was going to play," Onyango said.

He added; "I am looking forward to my time here. I know it will not be easy and I have to work harder to achieve my targets as a player and that of the team."

Onyango will fight for a starting place in the forward line against mainstay Deogratious Ojok, and new sig

Capital Sport

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Sports >> *Things have not been plain sailing for Napoli recently. They have not exactly gone to plan for star striker Victor Osimhen, either.

What Next For Osimhen And Will Lukaku Replace Him At Napoli?



Victor Osimhen celebrates his hat-trick for Napoli. PHOTO/ESPN.

Things have not been plain sailing for Napoli recently. They have not exactly gone to plan for star striker Victor Osimhen, either.

Napoli followed a Serie A title win with a dismal 2023-24, and went through three managers last season as they finished 10th – 41 points off the top.

For Osimhen, meanwhile, it is not matters on the pitch which have complicated things, it is speculation over his future.

The 25-year-old has been angling for a move for more than a year and his club would be content with getting a big earner off their books.

So far no-one has been willing to match the lofty release clause of a striker who became Napoli's record signing when he joined from Lille for an initial £65m in 2020.

Osimhen now finds himself in limbo at a club who have seemingly accepted his departure, and appear keen to replace him with Romelu Lukaku.

'Osimhen dreams of Premier League'

Osimhen is at Napoli's pre-season training camp but, according to Naples-based journalist Vincenzo Credendino, the Nigerian striker is only there to keep fit.

"He's not playing friendly matches against other teams," Credendino, who reports for CalcioNapoli-

li24 TV, tells BBC Sport.

"Sometimes he doesn't play the matches between the Napoli players. He just tries to keep himself in a good shape but he's not risking anything because he's very likely to leave Napoli sooner or later this summer."

Osimhen's departure seems only matter of time. He told CBS Sports, external in January he had already "made up my mind" about the future.

Napoli chairman Aurelio de Laurentiis said at the time the forward would join either "Real Madrid, Paris St-Germain or an English club".

Credendino says PSG seemed the most likely destination, but the French champions do not appear willing to match a reported release clause of £111m.

Chelsea have shown interest in Osimhen but his price tag and wage demands have been off-putting this summer, while Arsenal are the latest Premier League club to have been linked with the striker.

Credendino says Saudi Arabian clubs have shown interest, but Osimhen does not want to go and instead "dreams" of playing in England.

He adds: "Since the day he arrived in Napoli we started speaking with his friends, and since the first day his agent and relatives

have always told us that his dream is to go to the Premier League."

'Conte wants Lukaku, Lukaku wants Napoli'

Should Osimhen leave, it could pave the way for Lukaku to join Napoli from Chelsea.

Credendino says new Napoli manager Antonio Conte – who managed the Belgian at Inter Milan – is thought to be in regular contact with the striker.

The 31-year-old currently earns £325,000 a week and is believed to be the highest-paid player at Chelsea, but has spent the past two seasons on loan with Inter and Roma.

"Someone told us that he's even training himself following the advice of Conte, even about the food he's eating," explains the Italian journalist.

"I would say that Conte wants Lukaku, Lukaku wants Conte – Lukaku wants Napoli."

It is understandable Lukaku would want to link up with Conte again, as he enjoyed the most prolific seasons of his career under the Italian.

He scored 34 goals in all competitions during Conte's first campaign, and followed that with another 30 the following season as Inter won the Serie A title.

In the three seasons since, Lukaku managed 15 at Chelsea, 14

when back on loan at Inter, and 21 at Roma last season.

Osimhen's incredible form at Napoli

Napoli fans took to wearing masks with Osimhen's name or number on during their title-winning season

When international interest in Osimhen started, it was spurred by an incredible season – a season Napoli fans will never forget.

He netted 26 times in Serie A to help them win the league for the first time in 33 years, becoming a hero in the process.

Napoli fans took to sporting replicas of the protective face mask Osimhen wore while recovering from an eye-socket injury.

But last season was not as easy, despite scoring 15 times in 25 Serie A games as Napoli finished mid-table.

The forward missed some of the season while playing in the Africa Cup of Nations, as well as suffering a hamstring injury in October.

"All the other teams know that the salary is a problem for Napoli and it's a problem Napoli has to solve, so for the moment nobody is paying the money of the release," says Credendino.

With the transfer saga still rumbling, what do Napoli fans – displeased by their team's performance last season – make of it?

"There's one side that says Osimhen is a very good striker, but it is a danger for the team," says Credendino.

"These fans say 'he's a good striker but he earns a lot of money – if we sell him we can buy other good players so let him go'."

Others are just happy to enjoy watching him play.

Credendino adds: "Osimhen is one of the best strikers in the world, so if one of the best strikers in the world plays for your team you are just happy – no matter if he is [earning] 10m euros per year. It's not your business."

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The Benefits Of Learning Foreign Languages




By: Odina Rustamjonova
@themkenyatimes


Worth Noting:

- It is almost certain that you will come across someone from a different culture who speaks a different language, and it will be beneficial if you can interact with them. They're easy to grasp.
- Furthermore, you can use foreign languages to communicate with people worldwide when using the internet to create acquaintances.
- You may be able to assist them if they need directions or anything like that, or you could even give them a tour of the town, even if you can work as an interpreter in the tourist-heavy local areas of your country. You may get very rich from this work. Learning a foreign language can also increase the convenience and enjoyment of travel.


BENEFITS OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES




LEARN OTHER CULTURES




BOOST SELF-ESTEEM




IMPROVE BRAIN FUNCTIONS



IMPROVE NETWORKING SKILLS



EASIER TO TRAVEL



INCREASE CAREER OPPORTUNITY

These days, learning a foreign language is becoming more and more appealing to young people overall. Additionally, parents don't take it personally when their kids pick up a foreign language. To be quite honest, there are a lot of advantages to learning a foreign language. Foreign language proficiency is becoming more popular these days in many nations as well. In addition, I attend a creative school with a focus on foreign languages. I have a lot of advantages from knowing various languages. I can now communicate fluently in Uzbek, German, Russian, and English. I'd like to learn Arabic, Turkish, and Korean in the future.

First of all, most people in today's world are interested in learning new languages and speak at least two foreign languages. In our nation, a lot of opportunities are provided for young people to study other languages. According to the president's proposal, specialized universities and language schools are being constructed. Many young people who have won various grants go on to

study abroad or complete their education in other countries. Perhaps you're wondering, "Why should you learn a foreign language?" Let us examine the benefits of acquiring foreign languages.

It is almost certain that you will come across someone from a different culture who speaks a different language, and it will be beneficial if you can interact with them. They're easy to grasp. Furthermore, you can use foreign languages to communicate with people worldwide when using the internet to create acquaintances. You may be able to assist them if they need directions or anything like that, or you could even give them a tour of the town, even if you can work as an interpreter in the tourist-heavy local areas of your country. You may get very rich from this work.

Learning a foreign language can also increase the convenience and enjoyment of travel. Speaking with locals in their native tongue improves your trip by making it easier for you to get around in new loca-

tions. You feel more confident and autonomous when routine encounters like placing an order for takeout or seeking directions become second nature. Furthermore, speaking with people in their native tongue enables you to establish a stronger connection with them, which frequently results in surprising and unforgettable interactions.

By studying a foreign language, you can have access to a wealth of global knowledge, literature, and resources. Without being constrained by translations, you can read books, view movies, listen to music, and comprehend studies from various cultures in their native tongue. A strong command of a language can help you access a lot of beneficial resources. You can learn about the traditions and customs of different countries if you speak English. You can grow intellectually and broaden your perspective by doing this. You may be surprised to learn that a large number of classics were written in Russian, German, and English. It's true that translators do their best to

convey the meaning of a book into our native tongue, but reading works in their original tongue will help you better grasp the author's intentions and emotions. You will undoubtedly feel extra happy with this.

Acquiring knowledge of a second language forces you to push yourself beyond your comfort zone, cultivate perseverance, and exercise patience. It increases self-assurance and promotes personal development as you cross linguistic barriers and reach language milestones.

Let's sum up by saying that everyone ought to be multilingual. He or she can grow as a person and broaden their perspective by doing this. Stepping outside of your comfort zone, developing resilience, and exercising patience are all challenges presented by learning a foreign language. Once you cross linguistic barriers and reach language milestones, it increases your self-confidence and promotes personal growth.

Odina Rustamjonova, a student of Is'hakhan Ibrat Creativity School.