



Kenyan Politics; Crocodile Tears in Kenyan Politics
It was once said, "When the elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers," an African proverb that reflects the condition of the ordinary citizen when politicians engage in the battle for votes. In Kenya, a land rich in culture and history, politicians have mastered the art of language, twisting words and manipulating sentiments to attract voters.

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News>> Retirement Benefits Authority Unveils Strategic Plan 2024-2029 and National Retirement Benefits Policy

P. 12. RBA has launched its Strategic Plan 2024-2029 and the National Retirement Benefits Policy, marking a significant milestone in the nation's efforts to enhance retirement benefits

Kenya Targets KSh1 Trillion Diaspora Remittance By '27

Kenya plans to increase diaspora remittance to KSh1 trillion by 2027 Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said. Mudavadi said that last year Kenyans working abroad sent home Sh.671 billion which was bigger than the traditional foreign income earners of tea and coffee combined signaling the new cash cow for the country.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Massive Motorcycle Entry For Africa Concours d'Elegance

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Robert Gow the Chief motorcycle Judge commented, "I am delighted, absolutely delighted that we are nearing a full house well before the final entry deadline of Friday 13th in September."
- "Teams from the Uganda Bikers Association and the Pearl Bikers Africa will be riding from Uganda on routes through several countries before reaching Nairobi in good time for the Concours on September 29th."



The massive bikes from Uganda during the grand parade at a previous event. Uganda Bikers Association and Pearl Africa Bikers will be riding to participate in the Africa Concours d'Elegance scheduled for September 29th..

The Africa Concours d'Elegance which is already nearing the full entry limit of 40 motorcycles will make maximum use of the Nairobi Racecourse parade ring on September 29th for officials to judge gleaming highly prepared bikes from Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya.

The event which celebrate the anniversary of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club will be the 52nd in the annual series and this year brings onboard Stanbic Bank as one of the key partners supporting the Concours.

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ciation and the Pearl Bikers Africa will be riding from Uganda on routes through several countries before reaching Nairobi in good time for the Concours on September 29th."

The Uganda Bikers Association has been placed in three groups by the Chairman Allan Mutumba. One will travel through Rwanda, Tanzania to Mombasa and end in Nairobi. The Rwanda contingent will start on September 14th and will be joined by two riders from Zimbabwe before reaching Nairobi.

Another group will visit Mombasa before charging into Nairobi the day before the Concours. The third contingent will ride directly between Kampala and Nairobi with one overnight stop.

The Pearl Bikers Africa have drawn up

an elaborate plan which will raise funds for the Nyumba ya Wazee which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Kasarani to care for destitute old people. The group led by Gianfranco Masetto on his BMW R1200 GSA will straddle their machines on September 19th in Kampala to head for Bukoba. Their next night stop will be in Mwanza then Singida in Tanzania, before entering Kenya at the Oloitokitok boarder control.

Gianfranco Masetto has participated in the classiest event on the Kenya motorsport calendar for ten years. Other riders in the Pearl Bikers team include Edgar Mbabazi who is riding a BMW K1600 T Tourer and Enzo Amato with his massive Honda Gold Wing resembling a car on two wheels.

Allan Mutumba the Chairman of the Uganda Bikers Association (UBA) will be leading his team riding his BMW R1200 GSA. Other UBA riders includes Isaac Kalusiman who has visited the Nairobi Racecourse regularly for several years and a newcomer Timothy Arinathaiwe astride a Honda Africa Twin CRF1000.

It is anticipated that the Ugandans will capture several podium places in the touring and trail bikes classes. They will return to Kampala taking two days for the journey with one overnight rest. By the time the Ugandans reach their homes the Pearl Bikers Africa team will have covered over 2,775 kilometers.

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Mama Judith Ogoro **MEDICAL APPEAL**

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kwale County Governor Fatuma Achani has welcomed Jambo Jet into the Coastal county after the company announced the commencement of scheduled direct flights from Nairobi to the tourism resort city of Diani. The airline's operation comes in the context of the ongoing KSh2.3 billion Diani Airport rehabilitation and expansion project, which aims to enhance competitiveness in airfares and offer travellers an expanded range of options. Achani expressed delight that the airline's operations would be a game changer, attracting more visitors and boosting county revenues.



Philanthropist Japheth Amollo has urged students applying for higher education funding to provide real information about their family background to help authorities gauge their needs. He advised students applying for higher education loans to always give real information that would help those doing the banding to get the real picture on the ground, adding that at times students do not give adequate information to help gauge the ability of their backgrounds.



Egerton University has won the inaugural East African Moot Court Competition in Arusha, Tanzania, where four law students, William Anthony Kanani, Evelyn Mogere, Said Salim, and Pauline Nduta, emerged as the best in the contest. The event, hosted by the High Court of Tanzania, brought together 16 law students from East African countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. The competition featured a rigorous debate on the laws and procedures of the East African Community (EAC) states and the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), said the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University, Dr. Ruth Aura. The competition, judged by the Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU) and organised by the East African Law Students Association, provided a platform for law students to discuss and deliberate on matters concerning local contemporary issues, such as human rights abuse, elections, and human-wildlife conflict.



The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) in Homa Bay County has called for the government to consolidate all bursaries for effective disbursement. Abdul Masud, the council's Secretary, argued that the multiple channels of bursary disbursement were a recipe for wastage of public funds. He suggested that integrating the bursaries would prevent wastage and boost the funds by consolidating allowances paid to committees. He also argued that consolidating the bursaries would curb cases where leaders play politics with bursaries and ensure deserving students receive financial support. Parents also supported the suggestion, arguing that consolidating the funds would improve efficiency in managing funds.

Programme and Partner Support Manager Alfred Juma said that Ripple Effect works on people's resources to build their capacity to mitigate against issues that surround climate change, hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and social challenges, which mostly afflict people left out of the mainstream development programmes. He said Ripple Effect was aimed at training, building strong social networks, and continuously supporting each other to multiply the impact.

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Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Launches Widows Sacco In Loitokitok, Kajiado County

By: ODP

Worth Noting:

- Bishop Parit said that since the work towards uplifting the vulnerable began in Kajiado County, together with Pastor Dorcas, the widows lives were transformed as they engaged in tree nursery establishment, chicken and goat keeping.
- Kikoran Kirasi, 81 years old, appreciated the kind gesture towards widowhood, saying that the donations of goats and foodstuffs would cushion the lives of the vulnerable widows from the lack they face almost on a daily basis.



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi dances with widows from the Maasai Community in Kimana Ward, Loitokitok, Kajiado County during a widows empowerment meeting that attracted 3,000 widows from the county, and included the launch of the Loitokitok Widows Sacco yesterday.

Widows from Kajiado County received more than one million shillings in seed capital following the launch of the 'Loitokitok Widows Sacco' during a colourful event held at the Lenkai School in Kimana Ward, Kajiado South Constituency.

The meeting of more than 3,000 widows included donation of 50 goats to enhance the production of milk in homes, and also increase income generation for widows who face financial strain following the demise of their spouses.

The widows also received dry foodstuffs, rice and beans, during the meeting attended by the spouse of the Dep-

uty President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, First Lady Kajiado County Edna Lenku, Nominated Senator Peris Tobiko, Kimana MCA James Kuya, Bishop John Parit among other leaders from religious organisations, national and county government.

Bishop Parit said that since the work towards uplifting the vulnerable began in Kajiado County, together with Pastor Dorcas, the widows lives were transformed as they engaged in tree nursery establishment, chicken and goat keeping.

Kikoran Kirasi, 81 years old, appreciated the kind gesture towards widowhood, saying that the donations of

goats and foodstuffs would cushion the lives of the vulnerable widows from the lack they face almost on a daily basis.

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

Pastor Dorcas said she would continue working with widows, using the little resources she finds, trusting that through prayer and unity, all things were possible.

She encouraged the widows to save through the Sacco, and expand their areas of investment to also include

candle making, bee keeping and goat keeping in a grander way.

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

She sympathised that with Kenya having a population of more than 8 million widows, this comprised more than 10 per cent of the country's population and termed it 'a crisis that must not be ignored'.

First Lady Edna Lenku said the launch of the Sacco would help in uplifting the lives of those at the bottom to rise, and inject hope in their lives.

"The Sacco can offer an opportunity for training for the widows. Kenyans can also emulate the west, which encourages their children to be independent at the age of 18 years, and also the businessmen from the Asian community who encourage their children from a young age to have a business mind, and engage in business," said FL Lenku.

Senator Peris Tobiko spoke positively of women and how they handle finances. She said that a shilling in the hand of a woman, was not the same shilling in the hand of a man.

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

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Mugwongo
Family

State Strengthens Cyber Security Strategies To Counter Online Threats

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The government is implementing cyber security governance to safeguard the country’s digital landscape in line with the Computer and Cyber-crime Law.

The National Computer and Cybercrime Coordination Committee (NC4), a multi-agency outfit established by the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, is coordinating the training in partnership with Huawei.

Over 200 officers have benefited from the training, equipping them with knowledge and skills necessary to drive the government’s digitalisation and e-services agenda.

The adoption of cloud technology is no longer an option but a necessity for governments, businesses, and organisations globally.

However, with these advancements

come heightened risks to data security, privacy, and integrity. Cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated, and the need for robust cloud security measures has never been more critical.

The government is keen to mitigate against cyber risks that come with technological advancement, including attacks that pose danger to critical infrastructure and sensitive data.

The digital economy is a key pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, and all government departments and agencies are expected to implement strong cybersecurity measures to protect data, secure communication networks, and defend sensitive information against cyber threats.

Huawei-Kenya Deputy CEO for Public Affairs, Mr. Steven Zhang, said the collaboration builds on previous trainings on cybersecurity governance and aligns with Kenya’s National Cybersecurity Strategy.



PS Raymond Omollo.

Hope For Kakuzi Squatters As NLC Assesses Idle Land

By: KNA

Squatters living in the disputed Kakuzi land in Murang’a County have been given hope of finally getting resettled after the National Lands Commission (NLC) visited the area to establish the company’s idle land that should be ceded to them.

The Historical Land Injustices Secretariat, led by Secretariat Head Edmond Gichuru, confirmed that several acres of unused land were owned by the company.

“The officials have toured the Kakuzi land and established that thousands of acres lie idle and that we expect, in their recommendations, they will force the company to cede the land to squatters. We have suffered a lot of historical injustices at the hands of the company, and we hope this will soon end,” Muriigi said.

The Commission is now set to pre-

pare determinations for all claims against the multinational agricultural firm. Residents now expect the NLC to recommend that Kakuzi cede 14,000 acres of land to the squatters.

Led by their Chairperson, Muriigi Njogu, they said NLC has no choice since they have established that most of the company’s land lies idle, yet they continue suffering as squatters in their ancestral land.

The NLC will collaborate with local administrators to obtain an accurate list of those affected and avoid a repeat of past mistakes.



Mudavadi Says Kenya Targets KSh1 Trillion Diaspora Remittance By 2027

By: OPCS

Worth Noting:

- He emphasized the critical role of youth employment abroad in enhancing Kenya’s foreign revenue and improving the livelihoods of families nationwide.
- “If we do not continue to build diaspora remittances as a major resource, we risk a run on the Kenyan shilling,” he warned.
- Mudavadi, who is also Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, said that Kenyans are in high demand globally due to their work ethic and fluency in language pointing out that even international call centers, such as Delta Airlines, employ Kenyans who work remotely from Nairobi’s Tatu City, earning salaries in dollars.
- “We have some Kenyans working in cruises and they are earning an upward of sh250,000 to Sh 400,000 which is a tidy sum for you Kenyans,” said Mudavadi.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Kenya plans to increase diaspora remittance to KSh1 trillion by 2027 Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said.

Mudavadi said that last year Kenyans working abroad sent home Sh.671 billion which was bigger than the traditional foreign income earners of tea and coffee combined signaling the new cash cow for the country.

Speaking during the Western Edition of the Kazi Majuu Job Fair in Vihiga County, Mudavadi said that the government has stepped up the number of those getting jobs so that they can benefit from the dollars through remittances.

“We want to push the remittance to a trillion in the next three years. Currently, Kenyans in foreign countries are increasing in number through our government’s intervention and bilateral agreements,” said Mudavadi.

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diaspora remittances as a major resource, we risk a run on the Kenyan shilling,” he warned.

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“We have some Kenyans working in cruises and they are earning an upward of sh250,000 to Sh 400,000 which is a tidy sum for you Kenyans,” said Mudavadi.

He stressed that discipline is paramount for the youth as they seek employment opportunities abroad.

He reminded them that Kenya is an open society, hosting global media giants like BBC and Al Jazeera Africa headquarters in Nairobi but cautioned that violence and extremist behaviors could undermine the credibility of Kenyan youth, making employers turn to candidates from other countries.

“Once you leave Kenyan soil, the

law that applies is that of the country you are going to. You must respect it,” Mudavadi advised.

He urged the youth to maintain discipline, avoid reckless behavior, and honor their financial obligations, such as paying rent on time.

He said that Kenyans have been performing well globally, and it is essential to elevate the country’s reputation further so that the Kenyan workforce is highly respected.

Mudavadi also emphasized the government’s efforts to create job opportunities within Kenya. He highlighted Israel’s interest in investing in Kenya’s agricultural sector through foreign direct investment, particularly in response to global food security concerns.

He mentioned that Israeli investors are keen to invest in large-scale farming in Kenya, a venture supported by both governments.

This partnership is seen as a response to dwindling food production, especially wheat, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

“Investors come where there is peace and stability. If I am an investor, I will not take my money where

there is chaos,” Mudavadi remarked.

Mudavadi acknowledged that capital is a very shy element, which flees at the first sign of danger. He called for a unified approach to ensure a conducive environment for investment and economic growth in Kenya.

PCS highlighted the importance of maintaining discipline among youth employed abroad, warning that indiscipline could tarnish Kenya’s reputation. He cited examples of Kenyans being caught up in situations of indiscipline, leading to unnecessary diplomatic negotiations.

Mudavadi touched on the situation in Lebanon, where 26,000 Kenyans are currently employed. He expressed concern over the ongoing conflict in the region, stressing that the government’s priority is the safety and welfare of its citizens abroad.

“It is our prayer that normalcy returns to the Middle East, as many Kenyans are earning a livelihood there and contributing to diaspora remittances,” he said.

Have A Dream



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

What you see, the mental picture you paint concerning your future, will set the pace for what you experience. That is why God said to Abraham: "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever (Genesis 13:14-15)."

He had to see the land to possess it. We are all Abraham's children by the covenant, and if Abraham had to see, so do we. Mind you, seeing here does not mean physical sight but seeing with the eyes of your understanding or perceiving with your mind. What you see of your future, your expect-

tation, is what is known as a dream. It is unfortunate that this dimension of vision is presently being ignored in the body of Christ, yet it is of tremendous significance to the believer, if he must make maximum impact in his generation.

Dreams are so powerful that in Genesis chapter eleven, when the sons of men were building the tower of Babel, God had to come down to see that remarkable work of their imagination. As a result of the picture they had in their minds, God knew that they could not be stopped: "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do (Genesis 11:6)."

So, what do you see in your future? It is your picture that determines your future! What do you see ahead of you? It is important at this juncture to distinguish between a vision and a dream. Whereas a vision tells you where you belong, a dream determines its existence. For instance, God has called someone to preach,

but all he sees is a church of 500. In spite of the great vision he has, he will never have more than 500 members. Why? Because there is a law in place that says, it is as far as your eyes can see that shall be given to you.

HALELUJAH, GOD IS LOVING, COMPASSIONATE, GRACIOUS AND YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAM.

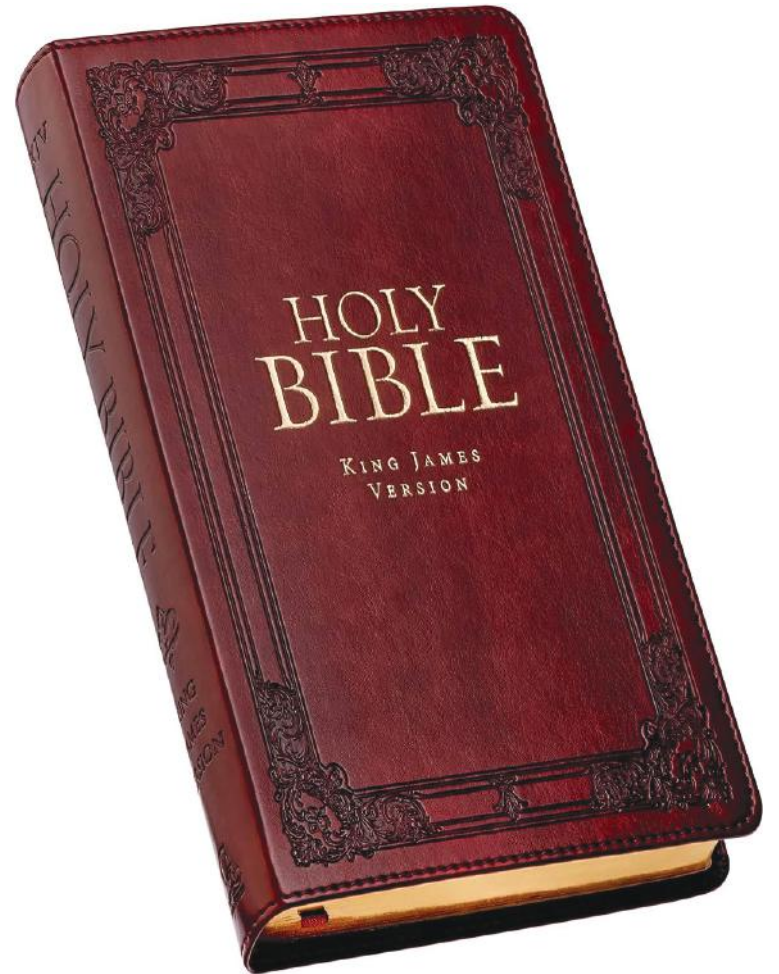
References:

The Living Bible.

Pastor Dr. David Oyedepo.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

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



The Mt. Kenya Times



Gachagua Receives A Rousing Welcome In Luoland



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- While espousing his credentials as a reformer and gallant fighter for democracy and social justice in Kenya, the DP stated that he is highly qualified and best suited for the seat.
- We are praying for him and I'm sure he will clinch it.
- The DP added: As you can see, I'm here with my boss, the President. The President is here for development. He will be around for four days and I'm going to be with him.
- As a deputy, my work is to help the President in ensuring the projects he rolls out are completed.
- During the launch of Raila Odinga's campaigns for AU top seat, the DP described Raila as his close friend.



President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga and other leaders during president's Nyanza region tour

President William Ruto is currently on a working tour of the four counties of Luo land.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is among the leaders accompanying them. In day one, the President visited Migori County where he launched a raft of development projects.

In all the public rallies and stopovers, the Deputy President received a rousing welcome when the President invited him to address the locals.

This was unprecedented given the sour relationship between him and ODM leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

As we know, Luo Nyanza is the bedroom of Raila.

With this, Gachagua once again demonstrated that he is a well-schooled and experienced politician.

Therefore, you can only ignore him at your own peril.

He had read the political mood and he knew what the people of Luo Nyanza wanted to hear.

You saw me in Nairobi during the unveiling of Hon. Raila Odinga as Kenya's candidate for Africa Union (AU) Commission chairmanship.

While espousing his credentials as a reformer and gallant fighter for democracy and social justice in Kenya, the DP stated that he is highly qualified and best suited for the seat.

We are praying for him and I'm sure he will clinch it.

The DP added: As you can see, I'm here with my boss, the President.

The President is here for development. He will be around for four days and I'm going to be with him.

As a deputy, my work is to help the President in ensuring the projects he rolls out are completed.

During the launch of Raila Odinga's campaigns for AU top seat, the DP described Raila as his close friend.

You had previously heard a lot of stories.

This did not mean I hate Raila.

But as a deputy, you know what my job entails.

The DP also received thunderous applause when he conveyed the greetings from the people of the Mountain.

I hoped the critics of DP particularly those drawn from the Mountain will not politicize and misinterpret the warm reception that Gachagua received to mean outshining the President. The DP was powerless. This was a mammoth crowd. The only thing he could have done is to cut short his speech and this is exactly what he would do.

I was wrong. In day two, some of Gachagua's fierce critics from the Mountain showed up and we saw them engaging him in bare knuckled attacks. The ultimate goal was to deflate DP's growing popularity in Nyanza.

One of them stated: Don't listen to the leader who is here to lecture you about village politics. These leaders were out to sow seeds of ethnic hatred and disharmony.

We in the Mountain are fully behind President William Ruto's vision and agenda of building a united and harmonious Kenya for all of us.

Many interpreted this to mean he was targeting the Deputy President.

I'm not holding brief for DP but I want to make one thing very clear.

The position of DP does not in any way contradict that of the President.

We know Kenya's politics is tribal and regional based. So, DP's push for unity of Mount Kenya first is geared towards the realization of that same noble course.

Today we have four notable ethnic kingpins-President William Ruto (Kalenjin), Raila Odinga (Luo), Kalonzo Musyoka (Kamba) and Musalia Mudavadi/Moses Wetangula (Luhya).

The point here is clear. These leaders rose to national fame after consolidating support of their respective commu-

nities.

Perhaps this explains why the Luos had little time for that Kikuyu leader as he trained his gun on Gachagua.

Putting the ongoing Nyanza tour aside, a friend of mine told me the other day that he does not believe in the rumors doing round that President William Ruto has abandoned his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

We all know that Gachagua was the team leader of Mount Kenya political machinery that catapulted Dr William Ruto, then Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate, to the seat of power.

Besides being ready to pay the ultimate price and committing all his energy and time to this course, the second-in-command bankrolled Ruto's from his own pocket.

My friend added: If the rumors turn out to be true, this would be a betrayal of the highest order. He however exonerated President from having originated and hatched this plot (if it is real) and instead pointed an accusing at his "kitchen cabinet".

In the recent past, we have been hearing the DP complaining that some of the key confidantes and allies of the head of state were belittling and disrespecting him.

President Ruto is not however coming out strongly to reprimand them and throw his full weight behind the DP.

So, in the event that the threat to oust Gachagua is actualized, it will be hard for the President to convince the people of the Mountain that he did not have a hand.

It is worth noting my friend spoke with me on a day that President Ruto was attending the homecoming and thanksgiving ceremony for new cabinet secretary for Cooperatives and small business enterprises Wycliffe Oparanya in Kakamega.

In his speech, Dr Ruto hinted at the possibility of a merger of UDA and

ODM parties to form a formidable political vehicle for 2027 general election.

Tellingly, DP Gachagua was conspicuously absent.

A few days earlier I had written an article in this column and these were my observations. In the run-up to 2022 General Election, the political opinions of the allies and confidantes of President William Ruto then Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate drawn from Mount Kenya region were divided on who should become his running mate.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki were the front-runners.

Initially and in a move that demonstrated he was a true democrat, Dr Ruto did not interfere with this exercise.

He wanted them to freely choose and give him the name of the candidate.

He only intervened after they failed to agree.

President Ruto settled on Gachagua, a move that drew admiration from majority of people in Mount Kenya.

Apart from being courageous and having deep pocket, Gachagua's prowess in communicating in local dialect was immeasurable.

Whenever he hosted Dr Ruto in the Mountain during the campaigns, he always electrified the crowds.

I'm here with William Ruto. You said this is man that you want to succeed the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta. Isn't it?

While referring Uhuru's remarks that he would run the country for 10 years and then pass the baton to Ruto to do his 10 years, he would tell Dr Ruto.

We the people of Mountain what we hate is betrayal. We are truthful people and we are going to keep our word. We

Retirement Benefits Authority Unveils Strategic Plan 2024-2029 and National Retirement Benefits Policy



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Expanding Coverage:** One of the primary objectives of the plan is to increase the coverage of retirement benefits to include workers in the informal sector, who have traditionally been excluded from pension schemes. The RBA plans to collaborate with microfinance institutions, savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs), and other stakeholders to develop products tailored to the needs of informal sector workers.
- Enhancing Financial Literacy:** The RBA recognizes the need to improve financial literacy among Kenyans to ensure they make informed decisions about their retirement savings. The plan includes initiatives to educate the public about the importance of saving for retirement and the benefits of participating in pension schemes.

The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) has launched its Strategic Plan 2024-2029 and the National Retirement Benefits Policy, marking a significant milestone in the nation's efforts to enhance retirement benefits for its citizens. The event, held on Thursday, was attended by key stakeholders, including Nelson Havi, a prominent legal figure, and the CEO of the Retirement Benefits Authority of Kenya. The occasion was also graced by a partnership with the National Treasury, underscoring the government's commitment to the successful implementation of the new strategies.

The Strategic Plan 2024-2029 outlines the RBA's vision for a sustainable and inclusive retirement benefits sector. The plan focuses on enhancing the financial security of retirees, expanding coverage to include informal sector workers, and improving the efficiency and transparency of pension schemes. The RBA aims to achieve these goals by leveraging technology, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and fostering partnerships with key stakeholders.

In his address, the CEO of the Retirement Benefits Authority emphasized the importance of the new strategic plan in addressing the challenges facing the retirement benefits sector. He noted that the plan is designed to respond to the dynamic economic environment and the evolving needs of retirees. "Our goal is to ensure that every Kenyan can retire with dignity and financial security. This plan is a



The 2024-2029 RBA's strategic plan unveiled

roadmap to achieving that vision," he said.

The Strategic Plan is anchored on several key pillars that are critical to the success of the retirement benefits sector. These include:

Expanding Coverage: One of the primary objectives of the plan is to increase the coverage of retirement benefits to include workers in the informal sector, who have traditionally been excluded from pension schemes. The RBA plans to collaborate with microfinance institutions, savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs), and other stakeholders to develop products tailored to the needs

of informal sector workers.

Enhancing Financial Literacy: The RBA recognizes the need to improve financial literacy among Kenyans to ensure they make informed decisions about their retirement savings. The plan includes initiatives to educate the public about the importance of saving for retirement and the benefits of participating in pension schemes.

Strengthening Regulation and Supervision: To enhance the integrity and efficiency of the retirement benefits sector, the RBA will strengthen its regulatory and supervisory frameworks. This includes improving the governance of pension schemes, en-

suring compliance with regulations, and protecting the interests of members.

Leveraging Technology: The plan emphasizes the use of technology to improve service delivery and reduce the cost of administering pension schemes. The RBA aims to develop digital platforms that will make it easier for members to access information about their retirement benefits and manage their accounts.

In addition to the Strategic Plan, the RBA also launched the National Retirement Benefits Policy, which provides a comprehensive framework for the development and regulation of the retirement benefits sector. The policy aims to promote the sustainability of pension schemes, protect the rights of members, and ensure that retirees receive adequate benefits.

The National Treasury, which partnered with the RBA in the development of the policy, reiterated its commitment to supporting the implementation of the plan. A representative from the Treasury highlighted the importance of a robust retirement benefits system in ensuring the financial stability of retirees and reducing the burden on the government to support elderly citizens.

The launch of the Strategic Plan 2024-2029 and the National Retirement Benefits Policy marks a significant step forward in the quest to enhance retirement benefits in Kenya. With the support of key stakeholders, including the National Treasury, the RBA is well-positioned to achieve its vision of a secure and inclusive retirement benefits sector. The success of these initiatives will not only improve the financial security of retirees but also contribute to the overall economic stability of the country.



PS Kiptoo presiding over the launch of the strategic plan.

Gachagua Receives A Rousing Welcome In Luoland

Contd from page 11

Worth Noting:

- Putting the ongoing Nyanza tour aside, a friend of mine told me the other day that he does not believe in the rumors doing round that President William Ruto has abandoned his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua.
- We all know that Gachagua was the team leader of Mount Kenya political machinery that catapulted Dr William Ruto, then Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate, to the seat of power.
- Besides being ready to pay the ultimate price and committing all his energy and time to this course, the second-in-command bankrolled Ruto's from his own pocket.
- My friend added: If the rumors turn out to be true, this would be a betrayal of the highest order. He however exonerated President from having originated and hatched this plot (if it is real) and instead pointed an accusing at his "kitchen cabinet".



President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga and other leaders during president's Nyanza region tour

will vote for you to the last man and woman.

The argument that the kikuyus had already decided they will vote for Ruto with or without one of their own being a running mate does not hold any water. I highly doubt this could have happened. Majority of Kikuyus wanted to see one of their own being at the top.

Gachagua never feared or shied away from taking on the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta head-on.

I'm ready to pay ultimate price while pushing Dr Ruto's agenda.

Going by the latest media reports that President Ruto have fallen out with him, majority of the people in the mountain are asking. How soon and why?

Reports indicate that a section of members of parliament from Rift Valley have hatched a plot to impeach DP Gachagua. The critics of Gachagua from Mount Kenya region were also behind this plot.

Whenever I read these stories, two questions would come to my mind. Were they enjoying the blessing of the President? Did they stand a chance of having their way?

In my view, it was hard to impeach DP Gachagua because of changing political dynamics.

DP Gachagua's strategy of mending fences with opposition leaders was already bearing fruits.

ODM leader Raila Odinga had already thrown his full weight behind DP's push for one-man, one-vote, one-shilling.

Reliable reports also indicate he had made tremendous progress in reaching out former President Uhuru Kenyatta. He had also reached out to Wiper lead-

er Kalonzo Musyoka.

The duo's remarks and body language during the consecration of Bishop Benson Kamau (Kiengei) would attest to this.

This means the anti-Gachagua motion was bound to receive a strong opposition from members of the three parties-Jubilee, Wiper and ODM.

It is also worth noting that the DP had managed to change the narrative of Mount Kenya region.

One of the reasons is because he has up to date maintained his position that he is a truthful man. As such, his popularity in the Mountain is going up.

Given this scenario, you would expect the MPs from the Mountain to shoot down the motion.

Besides, if it turns out the President supported the motion, many members were bound to interpret this as a big betrayal.

Why abandon him so soon? This demonstrates no one is safe in Ruto's government.

I had earlier watched and listened to how President William Ruto responded to the questions posed by top editors of three mainstream media houses during a live interview at State House Nairobi.

One of them touched on his relationship with his deputy Rigathi Gachagua. Joe Ageyo of Nation Media Group (NMG) wanted to know whether they were really reading from same script.

Ageyo referred him to a statement that the Deputy President had released while in Mombasa. Mr President, a few minutes earlier you had addressed a televised press conference at State House Nairobi.

Both of you focused on the same subject matter of Generation-Z protests.

While roundly condemning the police for using excessive force against the protesters resulting to snuffing out of the lives of innocent youths, the DP observed. These are our children and had not broken any law.

During the interview President Ruto avoided responding to the question and told Ageyo.

I'm not aware of this story of fallout between me and my deputy.

He is my deputy. He is not here and he is the one supposed to respond to that question.

I cannot speak for him. You are free to look for him and engage him if there is something else you want to know.

President Ruto's interview came at a time when Weekly Citizen newspaper had featured a screaming headline: Gachagua was being blocked from accessing State House.

The constitution provides that the motion to impeach a sitting DP can only sail through if it garners two-third majority or above in parliament.

There is also the issue of whether the grounds cited by his accusers meet the requisite threshold of law.

The motion of the impeachment can only be allowed if the mover manages to convince the house that the actions of DP amount to abuse of office and gross violation of the constitution and the international treaties. The DP has never committed or linked to such gross misconduct.

I heard earlier listened to the remarks by Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa Thangwa. He seemed to confirm that

President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua were not reading the same script.

We the people of the Mountain are asking President William Ruto to engage DP Gachagua in dialogue the same way he is engaging Generation-Z and millennials.

The senator, who spoke in presence of the Deputy President in Maragwa, stated. We have heard that the President has initiated a process of reaching out to the young people.

This is after they took to the streets to register their strong reservations with the way the country is being governed.

We want the President to use the same template to engage the DP.

You can ignore Riggy-G at your own peril.

He added: DP Gachagua is our kingpin in the Mountain. I'm therefore answerable to him. So this is what I want to tell the President. You cannot reach me without going through him.

The DP was also accompanied by a host of elected leaders from this region.

As we know, the people of Mount Kenya region voted for President Ruto to the last man and woman during 2022 polls. He garnered 87 percent and these are the votes that catapulted him to the seat of president.

Kiambu senator's point was therefore clear. The DP was a force to reckon with. He helped the President to get those votes.

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

You Are The Best Mom!



By: Avazova Diyora

Mothers are priceless creatures. We should always take care of them. My mother is very kind, lively and sweet-talking. Every mother is ready to give her life for her child. Poems, epics, narratives and proverbs have been written about mother. Each of them has a very beautiful and meaningful description of mother. The meaning of each one is about honoring mother, being at her service and

appreciating her. repeated. Sometimes I see videos on TV or on social networks, and I am really surprised to see how they treat their mother. Mothers are the greatest and most respected people in the world. It is not for nothing that our great nation says that heaven is under the feet of mothers. Even our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (S.A.V) when asked whom to do good to first, said 3 times to your mother, and the 4th time to your father. they answered. All over the world, children learn a lot from their mothers. In particular, our mothers teach us girls about housework, sewing, and many other things.

My mother is the best to me. The only person who understands me with one look or one word is my mother. My mother taught me many things. The biggest thing I learned from my mother is to be patient. I learned from my mother to be patient. I learned to laugh no matter what the situation and to be strong in any situation. In addition, my mother taught me to walk, talk and hold myself. The older I get, the more I understand my mother. I wanted all the people in the world to value their mothers and take care of them.

My Soul, India's Moral Compass



India's moral compass,
Navigating the intersection of tradition
and modernity.
A land of beauty and complexity,
A tapestry of cultures,
Where ancient beliefs meld with modern
ideals.

In the heart of India,
Lies a deep reverence for tradition,
An unbreakable bond with the past,
A respect for elders,
And a commitment to community.

But as the world changes,
And technology advances,
India finds itself at a crossroads,
Balancing tradition with progress,
Navigating the delicate dance between old
and new.

consuming,
India's moral compass is tested.

How does a society rooted in tradition,
Adapt to the demands of a global
economy?
How does a culture steeped in spirituality,
Navigate the pitfalls of consumerism and
materialism?

From the ancient teachings of the
Bhagavad Gita,
To the modern principles of democracy
and equality,
India's moral compass is a complex
tapestry,
Woven together with threads of tradition
and modernity.

In the vibrant markets of Jaipur,
Where artisans craft intricate designs,
And ancient techniques are passed down
through generations,
India's moral compass shines bright.

The values of hard work, perseverance,
and humility,
Are celebrated and honored,
A moral foundation that withstands the
test of time,
And anchors India's soul.

But in the corporate boardrooms of
Bangalore,
Where competition is fierce,
And success is measured in profit
margins,
India's moral compass is challenged.

In the bustling streets of Mumbai,
Where ancient temples stand side by side
with skyscrapers,
And traditional dress mixes with Western
fashion,
India's moral compass is put to the test.

How does a country steeped in tradition,
Embrace the rapid pace of modern life?
How does a society built on family values,
Navigate the challenges of individualism
and independence?

In the rural villages of Rajasthan,
Where age-old customs are still practiced,
And time seems to stand still,
India's moral compass is unwavering.

The values of duty, honor, and respect,
Are passed down from generation to
generation,
A moral code that guides every decision,
And shapes every interaction.

But in the bustling metropolis of Delhi,
Where progress is relentless,
And the quest for success is all-

How does a country built on principles of
nonviolence,
Embrace a world driven by power and
ambition?
How does a culture centered on
community,
Navigate the pressures of individual
success?

From the colorful festivals of Kerala,
To the bustling markets of Kolkata,
India's moral compass is a guiding light,
A beacon of hope and inspiration.

The values of compassion, kindness, and
generosity,
Are woven into the fabric of society,
A moral compass that points true north,
And guides India's journey into the future.

So let us celebrate the rich tapestry of
India,
A land of contrasts and contradictions,
Where tradition and modernity coexist,
And the moral compass never wavers.

By Nirupa Padhy

When The Light Days Come



By: Jo'raboyeva Shahlo Bakhtiyor

If your father drinks, don't be depressed,
don't make him feel bad. Don't bother

me with bad words, When bright days
come.

Your mother is very loyal to you, a
beautiful dildor when she comes. Don't
leave the choir, When the bright days
come.

Maybe the sky will be bright, friend or
foe will know, maybe someone will be
happy when bright days come.

The sun shines on the horizon, opens
the right path for you. Seeing you, the
wicked will flee, when the bright days
come.

Good luck with many trials, Good luck
friends. Good luck, loyal ones, when the
bright days come.

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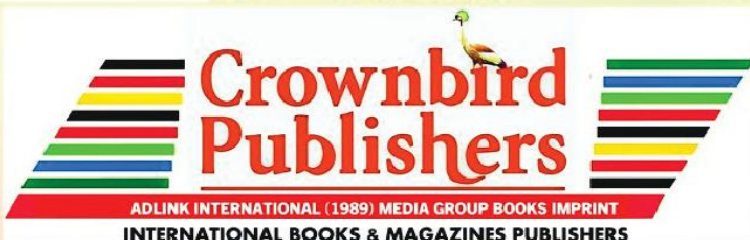
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BUSINESS

Women In Business: How Ex-Broadcaster Merollyne Opiyo Built A Reputable Media Company



By: Peter Aowa
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Opiyo began her educational journey at Mumias Central School and successfully pursued Journalism and Mass Communication from Eastern Africa University. She also holds a Diploma in Psychology from Mt. Kenya (DICOSE).
- Her love for media was influenced by her father, Mr. Joash Opiyo, who she says made it a habit to have her invited to attend live TV performances like the famous Tausi program and live football matches.
- That was an experience that would later shape Merollyne in Kenya's media space.
- Having spent three years in the media industry, and more particularly in radio, Merollyne said that she has stood for her values and boldly honored them with dignity no matter who tries to compromise them.

Standards—yes, that is the one word that ignited a purpose in the life of Merollyne Opiyo from a young age.

Having been born into a relatively well-off family, with her dad an accountant at the then-prestigious Mumias Sugar Company and her mother a seasoned businesswoman, Merollyne brushed shoulders with kids from rich families. From wealthy Indian families of the top management of the sugar miller, Opiyo says that her community of friends were living life on big terms.

She says her admiration was on the higher living standards and the dignity that kids from these families were accorded that challenged her to always work hard.

"I admired their higher living lifestyle and dignity every day of my schooling. I remember sharing and dining with my father and his colleagues from their mess, not once but several times, and that was not as normal to other kids. The experience henceforth challenged me to give my best to every single opportunity," she said.

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Having spent three years in the media industry, and more particularly in radio, Merollyne said that she has stood for her values and boldly honored them with dignity no matter who tries to compromise them.

She points out that the corporate space is very dynamic with numerous challenges, and for one to succeed, they must be very objective and uphold reputable values.

"At the corporate level, it is very critical because this is where you meet very potential contacts who can easily help you succeed but will test your morals and capabilities, so you must remain professional at all costs," she said.

After working in radio for seven years, Merollyne quit to start her own



Merop Media CEO Merollyne Opiyo |Photo Merop Media

media production company focusing on photojournalism and video journalism.

The Merop Media provides all media pre- and post-production services in photography and videography for events and corporate setups like conferences, teleconferences, interviews, documentaries, live streams, weddings, burials, and church services.

The company which is now five years old, offers media consultation and training to individuals and organizations.

In such a competitive and ever-changing career, I'm concerned about how young women like Merollyne are able to stand strong in the face of economic instability.

Merop's CEO notes that it is not an easy task but by upholding her values, trusting in God, and building a good social network, she's able to sail through.

"Running a production company is quite a task. I have always trusted God in my business, I hold my values

so dearly, and I embrace social networking. I think these three have been my greatest strengths and are what is keeping me going even in times of extreme challenges," she says.

In her professional life, the youthful media personality-cum-entrepreneur gives priority to quality in every assignment she undertakes. From her childhood memories of higher standards.

She says that good quality work is what will build trust between your brand and your social networks.

"It's one thing to get into a social network, it's another thing to keep yourself in. I always give my very best when it comes to service delivery. I believe that's the best way to keep and grow your social networks," Miss Opiyo explained.

Merollyne has tapped into the growing media marketing and is using social media to leverage her market and audience reach.

As an accomplished freelance photojournalist, Merop's CEO believes in

imparting knowledge, and this, to her, is the best way to influence a community. She challenges young girls, especially those with dreams of establishing their own businesses, to make their visions clear, work patiently but consistently towards achieving their goals.

"There are challenges that might make you give up, but trust me, when you clearly define your goal and passionately work towards it consistently, there will be a reward at the end," she says, adding that most dreams are shut down because the majority of people quit when challenges knock.

Merollyne looks forward to extending her company to the global market and to making it one of the most respected and efficient media production companies in the region, a goal she's so passionate about.

How AGCCI’s Betty Mwende Is Bridging The Digital Divide In Meru

By: Rugendo Antony
@themtkenyetimes

In the heart of Mutonga, just a stone’s throw from the bustling Meru-Nairobi highway, lies Gicici Primary School-a modest institution laden with the marks of time.

Its wooden structures stand resilient against the elements, while weather-beaten stone walls tell tales of resilience and determination.

Inside the quaint classrooms, an extraordinary transformation is underway, filled with the laughter and chatter of eager children, captivated by the world of technology flickering before them on brand-new laptops.

The spark igniting this vibrant scene is none other than Ms Betty Mwende, a passionate scholar and advocate for digital literacy.

Supported by the MasterCard Foundation and a graduate of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI), Mwende has made it her mission to bridge the digital divide that holds back many young people in her community.

Armed with her own experiences and the desire to empower others, she’s on a journey to change the narrative for her village youngsters, one computer lesson at a time.

“Watching these kids engage with computers for the very first time is nothing short of magical,” Mwende shares with glowing enthusiasm.

“For many in rural areas like ours, technology is a foreign concept. By teaching them digital literacy, we are not just bridging a gap; we are laying the groundwork for their futures.” She adds

An Initiative of Change

Launched by UN Women in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Africans Read, Think and See (ARTS) among other organizations, AGCCI aims to equip young women across Africa, aged 17-25, with essential skills in coding and IT.

This initiative resonated deeply with Mwende, who embraced the program as an opportunity to foster change in her community.

Recognizing the potential of the younger generation, she decided to give back by providing hands-on training at Gicici Primary School.

Since kicking off on September 20, the program has brought interactive lessons that cover Microsoft Word, Excel, and a taste of coding with



Ms Betty Mwende a graduate of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) guiding learners in a digital literacy lesson

HTML.

With the ten-day training still underway, Mwende is already envisioning future sessions that may include Scratch-a platform designed to teach coding in a fun, engaging way.

“We’re facing challenges with internet access. We’re actively seeking partnerships with telecommunications companies like Safaricom and Airtel to enhance our connectivity, which is crucial for our future training sessions,” Mwende explains, outlining the logistical hurdles.

Community Impact

Mwende’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mrs Kaaria Lucy, head-teacher of Gicici Primary, echoes her sentiments, emphasizing the significant impact of the AGCCI initiative.

“We are immensely grateful for the resources and opportunities provided to our students. The waves of change have rippled through our community, as parents and local educators see their children acquiring valuable tech skills,” Mrs Kaaria states.

The digital literacy program, according to Mrs. Kaaria, has not only transformed classroom engagement but also aligns seamlessly with the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) that emphasizes active learning.

“The laptops have created dynamic, practical lessons. Our students are no longer just memorizing information; they’re actively participating in their education, which is so crucial for their development,” she adds with palpable warmth.

For the young learners at Gicici Primary, this initiative represents a life-changing opportunity.

Eleven-year-old Prince Munene, a fifth grader, beams, “I love learning about computers! For the first time, I can search for my favorite games

and cartoons all by myself. It feels amazing to have these skills!”

Munene’s enthusiasm is infectious, and it captures the essence of what Mwende hopes to achieve.

Another student, Nussy Kendi, a sixth grader with ambitions of becoming a nurse, reflects on her newfound knowledge: “This digital literacy lesson has opened my eyes! I never interacted with computers or laptops before, and now I’m learning how to type and navigate technology. It’s going to have a massive impact on my future!”

The gleam in her eyes is a testament to the belief that these skills will help her achieve her dreams.

A Vision for the Future

Ms Queenie Meria, a Program Associate at UN Women, elaborates on the organization’s mission to empower women and girls throughout Africa.

“We aim to create a sustainable ecosystem where young women can envision and pursue careers in technology. Digital literacy is more than just using a computer; it’s about enabling young people, especially in resource-scarce communities, to navigate the digital world with confidence and critical thinking,” she states.

The AGCCI initiative aims to train at least 5,000 girls, addressing the gender imbalance in the tech sector and promoting women’s active participation in STEM fields.

Following its successful launch of the inaugural coding camp in Kenya in August 2023, the program underscores the need for gender inclusion by equipping young women with valuable technical skills.

“This is a significant effort to not only develop young women’s technical capabilities but also to usher in a

more inclusive and equitable digital economy across Africa,” Meria articulates.

Mwende’s Personal Journey

Betty Mwende’s journey is particularly inspiring. Once a student herself, she understands the challenges of limited access to technology.

“I didn’t touch a laptop until after high school,” she recalls. “I am committed to ensuring that these kids have a different experience from the start. They deserve every chance to thrive.”

Her unwavering commitment is clear as she envisages a future where learners can connect their newfound skills to vast career opportunities.

“I want to stay involved with them until they graduate. I dream of a day when I see them working for renowned tech companies like Google. With the right training and opportunities, they can achieve anything they set their minds to!” Mwende confides.

In her interactions with the students, Mwende finds immense joy in witnessing their curiosity blossom.

“One of the best moments was when kids began coding in HTML and CSS for the first time. Their enthusiasm was contagious!” Mwende exclaims, her voice filled with pride.

A Bright Future on the Horizon

With plans to expand the initiative come December, Mwende is keen on long-term commitments to the com-

munity.

“This isn’t just a short-term project for me; it’s about ensuring that these kids can continue to grow and succeed,” she declares resolutely.

Each successful keystroke echoes a broader desire- to equip these young learners not only with digital skills but also with the confidence required to navigate an increasingly technological world.

As the program unfolds, it becomes evident that Gicici Primary School is more than a humble educational institution-it’s a beacon of hope for the future.

The children are not just learners; they are tomorrow’s leaders, poised to turn dreams into reality. With newfound skills and confidence, they stand on the cusp of a future filled with endless possibilities.

Betty Mwende’s inspiring story, enriched by the robust support from AGCCI and UN Women, marks the dawn of a pivotal movement toward inclusivity in technology.

Through her dedication and belief in the potential of young minds, Mwende exemplifies the power of one individual to make a profound difference.

The children of Gicici Primary are not merely learning; they are poised to transform not only their lives but also their communities, heralding a new era of digital empowerment and opportunity.



Ms Queenie Meria, a Program Associate at UN Women

Kenyan Politics; Crocodile Tears In Kenyan Politics



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- William Ruto, Kenya's current president, is another figure who has employed the language of sympathy to great effect.
- During his campaigns, Ruto often referred to himself as a "hustler," a term that resonates with many Kenyans who struggle daily to make ends meet. By calling himself a hustler, Ruto taps into the frustrations and aspirations of the common man, positioning himself as one of them, someone who understands their plight.
- This strategy proved effective, as it allowed him to connect with voters on a personal level. "He who has not traveled thinks his mother is the best cook," an African proverb reminds us that one's perspective is limited by their experiences.



President William Ruto in a conversation with former PM Raila Odinga, former VPs Musalia Mudavadi and Kalonzo Musyoka flanked by Rachel Ruto during the Mashujaa Day celebration in 2018. (File)

It was once said, "When the elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers," an African proverb that reflects the condition of the ordinary citizen when politicians engage in the battle for votes. In Kenya, a land rich in culture and history, politicians have mastered the art of language, twisting words and manipulating sentiments to attract voters. They employ sympathetic terms, often playing on the emotions of their audience, presenting themselves as saviors in a society fraught with challenges. However, as you will see, this language is sometimes superficial, designed more to entice than to bring real change.

Take, for instance, the case of Silvanus Osoro, a politician who hails from Kisii County. Osoro, in one of his political rallies, used the word "entakana," a Kisii term that means orphan. This choice of words was meant to evoke sympathy, aligning himself with those who feel abandoned or neglected by the state. The idea here is to position oneself as a protector of the weak, someone who will fight for the rights of those who cannot defend themselves. But as the wise say, "A word is enough for the wise." Osoro should be reminded that an orphan is someone who has lost their parents, not someone who is married. The concept of marriage signifies a partnership, a union that fills the void of loneliness. When a politician like Osoro uses such a term, it may resonate with those who feel disconnected or unsupported, but it also risks alienating those who see

through the thin veil of rhetoric.

This strategy is not new, nor is it unique to Osoro. Throughout Kenya's political history, leaders have employed similar tactics, using words that carry emotional weight to gain an advantage. During election periods, the air is thick with promises and sympathetic language. "A man who uses force is afraid of reasoning," goes another proverb, highlighting how some politicians avoid the difficult task of addressing real issues by instead appealing to voters' emotions.

Consider the case of Raila Odinga, a seasoned politician who has often positioned himself as the "father" of democracy in Kenya. In his speeches, he frequently refers to himself as "Baba" (Father), a term that carries with it connotations of guidance, protection, and wisdom. By using this word, Odinga taps into the deep-seated respect for elders and the cultural significance of the father figure in Kenyan society. This term not only garners him respect but also allows him to present himself as a unifying figure, someone who can bring stability to a fractured nation. However, as the saying goes, "A bird will always use another bird's feathers to feather its own nest." Odinga's use of the term "Baba" is a calculated move to gain trust and loyalty, but it also raises questions about the authenticity of his intentions.

Another politician who has mastered the use of sympathetic language is Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Often referring to himself as "the son

of Mau Mau," Gachagua invokes the memory of Kenya's freedom fighters, the Mau Mau, who fought for the country's independence from British colonial rule. By aligning himself with these historical figures, Gachagua seeks to portray himself as a fighter, a leader who will continue the struggle for the betterment of Kenya. The term "son of Mau Mau" is a powerful one, as it connects him to the legacy of bravery and resistance. Yet, one must ask, as the proverb goes, "When a man promises to bring you a cow, hold on to your chicken." Does Gachagua's rhetoric match his actions? Is he truly carrying on the legacy of the Mau Mau, or is this another example of a politician using emotional language to gain votes?

William Ruto, Kenya's current president, is another figure who has employed the language of sympathy to great effect. During his campaigns, Ruto often referred to himself as a "hustler," a term that resonates with many Kenyans who struggle daily to make ends meet. By calling himself a hustler, Ruto taps into the frustrations and aspirations of the common man, positioning himself as one of them, someone who understands their plight. This strategy proved effective, as it allowed him to connect with voters on a personal level. "He who has not traveled thinks his mother is the best cook," an African proverb reminds us that one's perspective is limited by their experiences. Ruto's self-identification as a hustler is meant to bridge the gap between him

and the electorate, but it also risks oversimplifying the complex realities of governance and leadership.

Yet, not all sympathetic language in Kenyan politics is meant to deceive. There are instances where politicians use their words to genuinely connect with their audience, to inspire and to lead. "Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it." This proverb speaks to the idea that leadership is a collective effort, and a leader's words must be matched by actions. When politicians use language that reflects the true aspirations of the people, when they speak not just to win votes but to build a better future, their words carry weight. This is the kind of leadership Kenya needs—one where rhetoric is not just a tool for manipulation but a means of guiding the nation toward progress.

The language used by Kenyan politicians during election periods is often a blend of sympathy, cultural references, and emotional appeal. Terms like "entakana," "Baba," "son of Mau Mau," and "hustler" are strategically chosen to resonate with voters, to create a connection that transcends policy and focuses on identity. However, as the proverbs remind us, words alone are not enough. "The lizard that jumps from the high iroko tree to the ground said he would praise himself if no one else did." Politicians may laud themselves with grand titles and sympathetic terms, but the true measure of their leadership lies in their actions. Voters must look beyond the rhetoric, beyond the emotional appeals, and consider whether these leaders are truly working for the good of the nation. As Kenya continues to grow and evolve, it is crucial that its leaders do not merely speak the language of sympathy but also embody the principles of justice, equity, and progress.

I like addressing Millennials because they often pride themselves on being progressive and informed, yet they frequently fall prey to the same emotional manipulation they criticize. It's time they stop being easily swayed by sympathetic rhetoric and demand substance over sentiment.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dr. Raymond Omollo: A Visionary Leader Transforming Kenya's Security Landscape

Dr. Raymond Ojwang Omollo has made significant strides since his appointment as Principal Secretary in the State Department for Interior and National Administration. His proactive approach to addressing contemporary security challenges has been one of his most notable achievements. Under his leadership, the department has tackled critical issues such as crime research, police reforms, peacebuilding, maritime security, border control, terrorism, cybersecurity, and transnational organized crime. This focus reflects Omollo's deep understanding of the interconnectedness between security and development, positioning him as a pivotal figure in shaping Kenya's security landscape.

Omollo's commitment to fostering trust and collaboration among stakeholders has further distinguished his leadership. He tirelessly works to enhance service delivery and create a secure environment that supports Kenya's broader development goals. His ability to navigate the complexities of governance and administration has been instrumental in his transition to the security sector, allowing him to effectively address the multifaceted challenges that arise in this field.

Leveraging his extensive background in statistics and data management, Omollo has utilized his expertise to

inform decision-making processes within the State Department. His proficiency in data analysis and modeling has enabled the development of evidence-based policies that enhance the department's efficiency and responsiveness to emerging threats. This analytical approach has not only improved operational effectiveness but has also contributed to a more informed public service.

In addition to his analytical skills, Omollo is known for his strong work ethic and innovative thinking. He consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty, often working long hours to ensure that the State Department operates at its full potential. His dedication to public service is evident in his commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and accountability among his team members, inspiring them to strive for high performance in their respective roles.

Omollo's leadership style is characterized by a focus on unity and inclusivity. He recognizes the importance of bringing together Kenyans from all walks of life to address the country's security challenges. By fostering collaboration and trust among diverse stakeholders, Omollo aims to create a secure and prosperous Kenya that works for everyone. His inclusive approach has resonated with many, as it

underscores the need for collective action in tackling national issues.

Furthermore, Omollo's previous experience as the Managing Director of the Lake Basin Development Authority has equipped him with a deep understanding of governance and administration. In this role, he oversaw socio-economic development in 18 counties, demonstrating his capacity to manage large-scale projects and initiatives that benefit local communities. This experience has been invaluable in his current position, where he must coordinate efforts across various government sectors.

Dr. Omollo's educational background also plays a crucial role in his success. Holding a PhD in Applied Statistics from Maseno University, along with degrees in Statistics and Biometry from the University of Nairobi, he possesses a solid foundation in quantitative analysis that informs his policy decisions. Additionally, his training in biostatistics and epidemiology from the University of Washington enhances his ability to address health-related security issues.

As a leader, Omollo has shown a remarkable ability to inspire and motivate his team. He fosters an environment where employees feel valued and empowered to contribute to the department's objectives. This positive



Interior PS Dr. Raymond Ojwang Omollo .

workplace culture has led to increased morale and productivity, which are essential for achieving the department's goals.

Moreover, Omollo's strategic vision extends beyond immediate security concerns. He is committed to integrating national cohesion and integration policies into the department's framework, ensuring that all Kenyans feel represented and secure. His emphasis on humanitarian response and disaster management reflects a holistic approach to security that encompasses both safety and welfare.

In conclusion, Dr. Raymond Omollo's tenure as Principal Secretary has been marked by significant achievements and a steadfast commitment to public

service. His expertise in statistics, data management, and public administration has made him a valuable asset to the Kenyan government. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping the country's security policies and promoting socio-economic development. As he continues to navigate the challenges of his role, it is clear that Dr. Omollo is a rising star in Kenya's public service, poised to make an indelible mark on the nation's future. His focus on unity, collaboration, and data-driven decision-making positions him as a leader capable of addressing the complex issues facing Kenya today.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

Strengthening Devolution: A Call For Equitable Resource Allocation In Kenya

By: James Kilonzo Bwire

The ongoing 24th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) is a pivotal moment for Kenya's governance. As national and county leaders convene, the emphasis on cooperation highlights the importance of addressing the financial disparities that have long plagued the devolved system. With governors advocating for a significant increase in equitable shares, the session presents an opportunity to realign budgetary priorities with the pressing needs of local governments.

Governors are demanding Ksh.425 billion for the fiscal year 2023/24, a substantial increase from the current Ksh.370 billion allocated. This request reflects the growing recognition that effective governance at the county level is contingent upon adequate funding. The Council of Governors (CoG) has articulated that

without sufficient resources, counties struggle to fulfill their mandates, leading to inefficiencies and unmet public needs.

Historical funding inadequacies have resulted in a backlog of pending bills and hindered the delivery of essential services. The Controller of Budget has noted that delays in disbursement and low own-source revenue collection have exacerbated these challenges. As a result, many counties are unable to meet their operational costs, which directly impacts citizens' access to services such as healthcare and education.

Moreover, the allocation of only Ksh.380 billion to counties, representing a mere 10.4% of the national budget, raises concerns about the commitment to devolution. This figure is insufficient given the responsibilities devolved to counties, particularly in sectors like health and education, which require substantial

investment to function effectively. The CoG has emphasized that "resources must follow functions," advocating for a budget that reflects the realities of devolved governance.

The discussions at IBEC must also address the historical disparities in resource allocation. Many counties, particularly those in arid and semi-arid regions, face unique challenges that require tailored solutions and funding. A collaborative approach that considers these regional disparities is essential for fostering equitable development across the nation.

Furthermore, the role of the National Treasury and the Commission on Revenue Allocation in facilitating these discussions cannot be overstated. Their involvement is crucial in ensuring that the proposed budgets are not only feasible but also aligned with the constitutional mandate for equitable resource distribution. The establishment of a committee to ad-

vice on revenue allocation is a step in the right direction, but it must be coupled with a commitment to transparency and accountability.

As stakeholders engage in these critical conversations, the need for a shared vision for Kenya's future becomes increasingly apparent. The success of devolution relies on the ability of national and county governments to work together, breaking down silos and fostering a culture of collaboration. This session of IBEC is a chance to reaffirm the commitment to devolution, ensuring that it serves as a vehicle for improving the lives of all Kenyans.

In conclusion, the ongoing IBEC session represents a crucial juncture for Kenya's governance. By addressing funding disparities and fostering cooperation between national and county governments, there is potential to transform the devolved system into a robust framework for service

delivery. The outcomes of these discussions will ultimately shape the future of governance in Kenya, making it imperative that all stakeholders engage constructively and with a shared commitment to the nation's development goals.

To achieve this, it is essential for the government to prioritize transparency in budgetary processes and engage citizens in discussions about their needs and expectations. This engagement will not only enhance accountability but also empower communities to take an active role in governance. By doing so, Kenya can ensure that devolution fulfills its promise of bringing governance closer to the people, ultimately leading to improved service delivery and enhanced quality of life for all citizens.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Searching For Amani Film To Be Screened Tonight In Nairobi

The Film Unveils A Sneak Peek Screening Series For Industry Insiders, Friends, and Family Opening Night At Unseen, Nairobi

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A new film is set to shown in Nairobi this evening.

The Kenyan American co-production will offer an exclusive sneak peek screening series for one week.

This event provides an opportunity for industry insiders, friends, and family to engage with the film before its wider release later this year.

Directed by Debra Aroko and Nicole Gormley and produced by Mungai Kiroga, Nicole Gormley, Peter Goetz, and Caryn Capotosto, “Searching For Amani” follows the story of Simon Ali, a 13-yearold boy grappling with the sudden and suspicious death of his father, a conservancy guide in Kenya.

The film documents Simon’s journey as he seeks to uncover the truth

behind his father’s death, equipped only with a video camera and a determination to find answers.

The project brings together diverse perspectives, reflecting a collaboration between filmmakers from Kenya and the United States.

Produced by Paula Kahumbu, a conservationist with a long-standing commitment to Kenyan wildlife, the film aims to offer a narrative that explores themes of resilience and truth-seeking.

The Filmmakers and Kahumbu are currently working on a dynamic educational Impact Campaign to roll out after the release.

The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, where it received the Albert Maysles Best New Documentary

Director award.

It was also recognized at the 2024 Raindance Film Festival in the UK, where it received the Best Documentary award. It has been nominated

for the Jackson Wild Media Awards and the Shine Global Award for Best Documentary.

The screening at Unseen will begin with an opening night gala this evening, featuring appearances by Simon Ali, his family, as well as key contributors to the film, including Executive Producer Paula Kahumbu and Director Debra Aroko. This event will be followed by a Q&A with filmmakers and participants.

The film will be playing for one week at Unseen through to Thursday next week.



StarTimes Launches Mexican Drama ‘The Stepmom’, Bundesliga and La Liga Coverage

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

StarTimes is kicking off an exciting weekend with the launch of the gripping Mexican drama The Stepmom (La Madrastra) and comprehensive coverage of top Bundesliga and La Liga matches.

Starting September 13, the Mexican drama The Stepmom (La Madrastra) will debut on Rembo Plus (Ch. 56/166) at 8 PM.

This gripping series follows Marcia Cisneros, wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Determined to prove her innocence, Marcia studies law behind bars and, upon her release, returns to Mexico to uncover the real murderer and reconnect with her children, who believe she is dead.

To investigate and win back her family, she adopts a new identity as Marisa Jones and takes dramatic steps, including forcing her ex-hus-

band Esteban Lombardo to break up with his fiancée.

In a statement, Myke Mwai, Head of PR and Content Syndication emphasizes the network’s commitment to delivering diverse content.

“We are excited to offer our viewers a rich lineup of entertainment and sports. The Stepmom promises to deliver a compelling drama while our coverage of the Bundesliga and La Liga ensures fans won’t miss a moment of the action. With StarTimes, there’s something for everyone,” he stated.

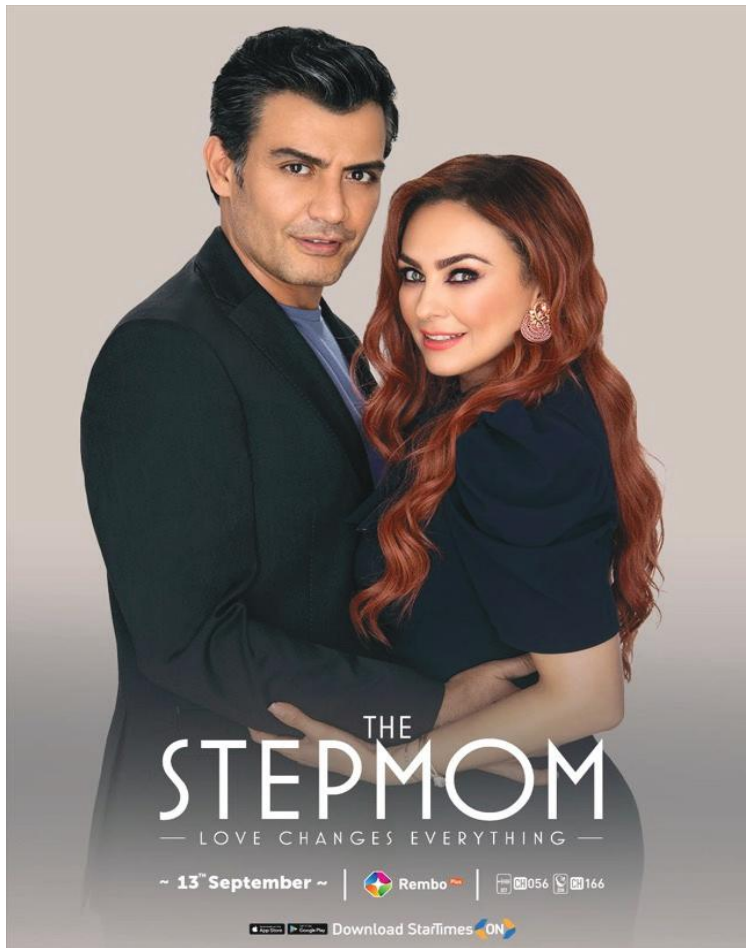
He noted that in addition to this drama, sports fans can look forward to a weekend filled with Bundesliga and La Liga action.

“The Bundesliga enters its second match day with key fixtures such as Union Berlin versus St. Pauli and Borussia Mönchengladbach facing VfL Bochum. VfB Stuttgart will aim to build on their strong previous season against Mainz,” he said.

Mwai added that La Liga enthusiasts can catch all the matches on Sports Premium (Ch. 246/252) and Sports

Life (Ch. 243/253), while Bundesliga games are available on World Football (Ch. 245/254), Sports Premium (Ch. 246/252), and Sports Arena (Ch. 241/251).

“To access this diverse programming, customers can purchase the StarTimes Aerial decoder for Ksh 1699 or the Dish decoder for KSh3,199 and connect to the StarTimesON app for seamless streaming,” he said.



Ingwe Intensifies Their Quest For The 2024-2025 Season Title With New Major Partnerships

By: Peter Aowa
@themtkenyentimes

AFC Leopards has intensified their quest for the 2024-2025 season title by unveiling four major partners, focusing on hydration, financial sustainability, and content solutions.

At an event held at MAA Hotel in Nairobi on Wednesday, the club announced three new partners.

Sporty H2O will be the official hydration partner for the upcoming season. A well-established name in sports hydration, Sporty H2O will supply water for training sessions, team travels, and matchdays, ensuring the team remains at peak performance. Additionally, Sporty H2O will support the club financially.

Through a sponsorship arrangement, a portion of the proceeds from each bottle sold will be allocated to the club. Specifically, for each 500ml bottle sold at a wholesale price of Ksh. 40 and each liter bottle sold

at a wholesale price of Ksh. 70, the club will receive Ksh. 2 and Ksh. 4, respectively.

During the press briefing, a spokesman for Sporty H2O expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating that the new partnership is the next level for the company.

“It’s an absolute privilege to be AFC Leopards’ new hydration partner. We look forward to supporting the club’s performance on and off the pitch.” He said

AFC Leopards has also partnered with HPaysa to enhance the club’s financial sustainability. HPaysa will provide a platform that allows fans to offer periodic financial support through various methods, including a dedicated web link, QR code, USSD, or the HPaysa App.

HPaysa CEO Francis Njue that HPaysa Gift is structured to help sports clubs like AFC tap into their fanbase for financial support, an effective model compared to the traditional revenue resources.

“This will not only address financial needs but also strengthen the connec-



AFC Leopards at an event held at MAA Hotel in Nairobi on Wednesday announced new partners..

tion between the club and its supporters.” He noted.

The company will also launch a nationwide Ksh. 100 challenge starting August 28, 2024, aimed at boosting the club’s financial resources, with participating fans having the chance to win various giveaways and enjoy special privileges.

News Trends is the third partner, focusing on enhancing fan engagement and creating a new fundraising platform. Known for their expertise in business and technology, News Trends will develop the “Ingwe Damu” platform, accessible via USSD Code 35445#.

Peter Njigua, General Manager of News Trends, said that Ingwe’s biggest asset is its fans. Njigua noted that as a company, they are excited to leverage the relationship to create a fundraising model that will propel the club forward.

Mafro has been unveiled as the new kit

sponsor, providing kits for all three teams: senior, women, and youth.

AFC Leopards Chairman Dan Shikanda expressed optimism about the new partnerships, stating that the innovative collaborations will impact the club significantly.

“These innovative collaborations will significantly impact the club, helping us connect with our fans and advance to the next level.” Mr. Shikanda noted

With these exciting new partnerships, AFC Leopards is poised for a successful season both on and off the pitch.

The club is also planning to go corporate within the next six months. An eight-member committee has been established to gather views from club members, fans, and branches. This committee will be led by Elder Vincent Shimoli, Chairman of Ingwe at 60, and Alexander Muteshi, who will act as the treasurer during this period.



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Sports >> *Harambee Starlets and Police Bullets shot-stopper Annedu Kundu was named the 2024 CECAFA Women's goal keeper

Police Bullets' Keeper And Coach Win Awards As Kenyan Side Fall In CECAFA Women's Final



Harambee Starlets and Police Bullets shot-stopper Annedu Kundu was named the 2024 CECAFA Women's goal keeper of the tournament despite seeing her side fall 1-0 against hosts Central Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) in the final staged at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa.

Bullets tactician Beldine Odemba also won an award af-

ter being named the Coach of the Tournament.

She stated that the team is ready to make a strong comeback at the next championship.

Executive Chairman Saig Nyale Munga praised the team's second-place finish: "We came into this tournament as underdogs, and we leave it with our heads held high. This team has shown

incredible spirit, skill, and determination. Their performance has put Kenyan women's football on the map, and this is just the beginning of our journey," said Munga.

Police Bullets FC narrowly missed the 2024 CECAFA title, losing by a single goal to CBE Ethiopia amidst a torrential downpour in Addis Ababa.

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Sports >>> *Southampton have agreed a fee with Arsenal to sign England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale in a deal worth up to Sh4.2 billion (£25m.)

Southampton Agree Deal For Arsenal Keeper Ramsdale



Aaron Ramsdale. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA

Southampton have agreed a fee with Arsenal to sign England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale in a deal worth up to Sh4.2 billion (£25m.) Ramsdale, 26, is expected to make the move before Friday's transfer deadline, with Saints paying £18m upfront with the potential of £7m in add-ons. Speaking to BBC Radio Solent after Southampton's 5-3 Carabao Cup second round win at Cardiff, Saints boss Russell Martin said: "If it happens it's very, very exciting.

"But we'll have to wait and see. I'm sure we'll talk about it at some point if and when it happens." Wolverhampton Wanderers had been in talks with Arsenal about signing the keeper, who is back-up to David Raya at Emirates Stadium. However, they pulled out because of the deal being too expensive. Ramsdale played every minute of every league game as Arsenal finished second behind Manchester City in 2022-23. However, he lost his place to Raya, who joined on loan from

Brentford last season. Ramsdale made just six league appearances while Arsenal have since turned Raya's loan into a permanent signing. In total he made 78 Premier League appearances for Arsenal after joining from Sheffield United in 2021 for £24m. The ex-Bournemouth keeper joins a Southampton side that has lost both games since winning promotion back to the Premier League. Goalkeeper Alex McCarthy, 34, started the games against Newcas-

tle and Nottingham Forest, both of which ended in 1-0 defeats. Ramsdale has five England caps, the most recent coming against Iceland in June in England's farewell game before the European Championship in Germany. Southampton are away to Brentford on Saturday (15:00 BST).

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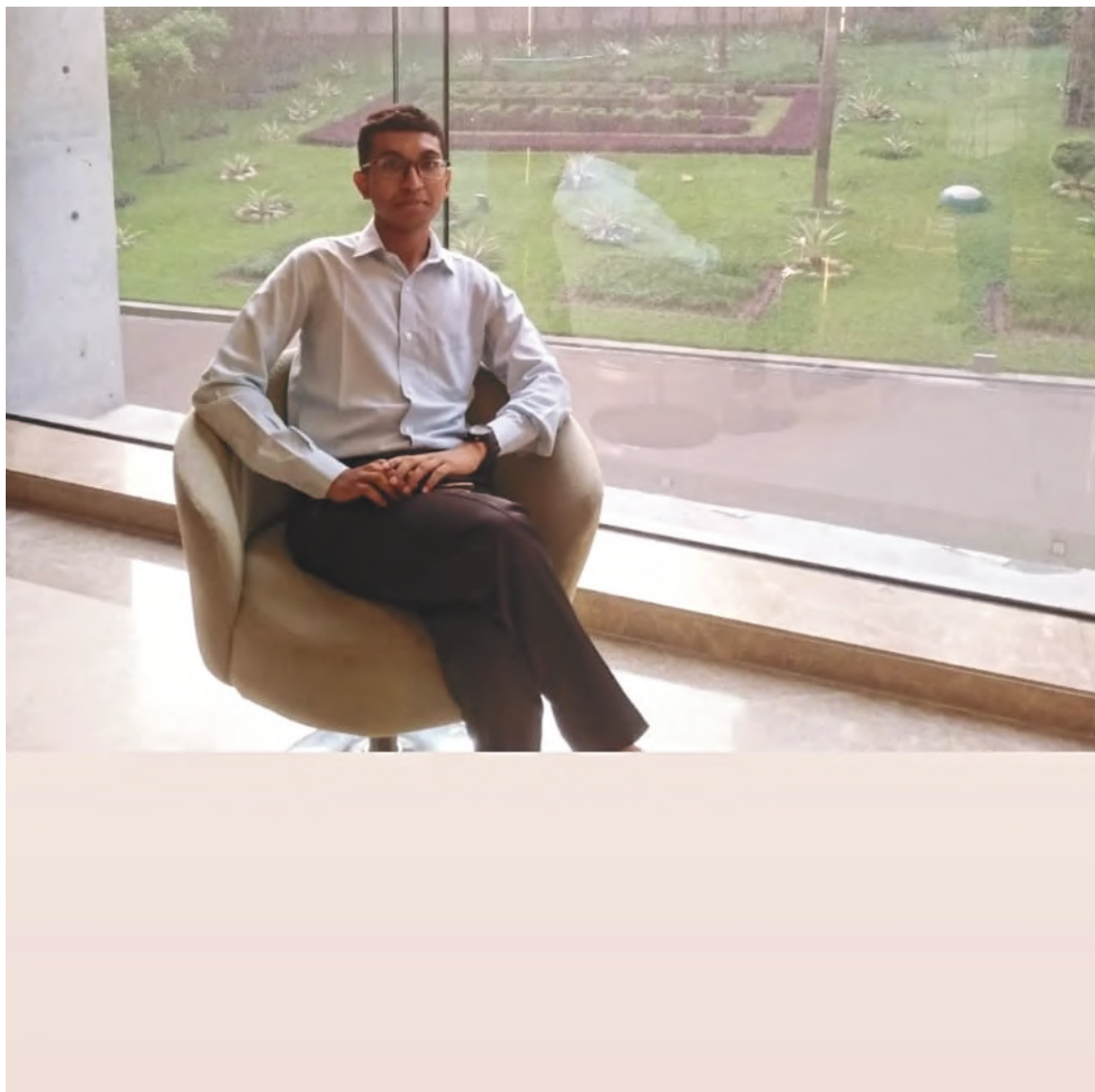


Mahamud Yeamin: The Guide Of Future Youth

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The way his organization is playing an outstanding role in the country and outside the country is truly commendable. Currently, more than 3000 thousand students are connected under him and many communities are connected.
- The way he is working in a country's economic development, environment, climate and the progress of youth is really admirable.
- Now In a rapidly evolving world, where the challenges faced by young people are as dynamic as the opportunities before them, Mahamud Yeamin stands out as a beacon of hope and guidance. Renowned for his forward-thinking approach and relentless dedication to youth development, Yeamin has garnered widespread recognition as a key mentor and leader for the younger generation.



Mahamud Yeamin

In an era where youth leadership and mentorship are crucial, Mahamud Yeamin has emerged as a prominent figure, guiding the younger generation towards a brighter and more sustainable future. Recognized for his innovative approaches and unwavering commitment to youth development, Yeamin's influence spans various sectors, including education, technology, and community service. Mahamud Yeamin's impact on youth is profound. His approach combines traditional educational methods with modern technology, ensuring that young people are well-equipped to face contemporary challenges. He advocates for inclusive education, emphasizing the importance of accessible learning opportunities for

all, regardless of socio-economic background. Yeamin's mentorship extends beyond academic success. He is a vocal proponent of mental health awareness and has initiated programs aimed at fostering resilience, emotional intelligence, and self-esteem among youth. His holistic approach ensures that young individuals are prepared not just academically but also emotionally and socially. Yeamin currently operates in 90 countries worldwide. Today, five organizations managed by him are established in 90 countries of the world and which are currently known as the world's largest community platform, education platform and youth platform. The way his organization is playing an outstand-

ing role in the country and outside the country is truly commendable. Currently, more than 3000 thousand students are connected under him and many communities are connected. The way he is working in a country's economic development, environment, climate and the progress of youth is really admirable. Now In a rapidly evolving world, where the challenges faced by young people are as dynamic as the opportunities before them, Mahamud Yeamin stands out as a beacon of hope and guidance. Renowned for his forward-thinking approach and relentless dedication to youth development, Yeamin has garnered widespread recognition as a key mentor and leader for the younger

generation. The impact of Yeamin's work is evident in the success stories of those he has mentored. Many of his mentees have gone on to excel in their respective fields, attributing their achievements to the guidance and support they received through Yeamin's programs. Testimonials from participants highlight the transformative effect of his mentorship, often describing him as a pivotal figure in their personal and professional development. His visionary leadership, combined with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing young people, positions him as a crucial figure in shaping the leaders of tomorrow. As he continues to innovate and inspire, Yeamin remains a guiding light, ensuring that the future is bright for the next generation.

Looking ahead, Mahamud Yeamin envisions a future where every young person has the opportunity to succeed. He is actively working on expanding his programs globally, aiming to reach more youth through digital platforms and international collaborations. His upcoming project, green education curriculum ministry and youth eyes vision project seeks to leverage artificial intelligence and virtual reality to create immersive learning experiences. Mahamud Yeamin's role as a guide for future youth is a testament to his vision, dedication, and innovative spirit. His work continues to inspire and empower young people, preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow. Through his efforts, Yeamin is not just shaping individual futures but also contributing to a more educated, inclusive, and resilient global community.

*Founder Director and CEO
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Climate Environment and Education specialist.
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