The Versatile Financing Solution: Mezzanine Debt And Its Role In Kenya's Evolving Business Landscape

Companies are constantly seeking innovative financing solutions to fuel their growth and expansion in Kenya's rapidly business environment which is dynamic in nature.

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The
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News>>Mount Kenya University Fetes Record Number Of New Graduates

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Gachagua: Invest In The Tourism Sector

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has appealed to local and foreign investors to infuse their money into the tourism sector as stakeholders project an increase in the number of international visitors to three million this year. At the same time, Mr. Gachagua pleaded with politicians to tone down political temperatures to continue attracting and enhancing investors' confidence.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

Governments Working On A formula Of Sharing National Parks Revenue

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- Governor Kahiga had opined that the KWS should be ceding a percentage of revenue generated from Aberdare and Mt Kenya National Parks to Nyeri County Government.
- He based his opinion on Narok County Government, which gets a share of revenue collected from Maasai Mara game reserve.
- But DP Gachagua said, "Narok is different because since time immemorial Maasai Mara was run by Narok County County Council and when Devolution system came in 2013 the system that was then continued".

The national and county governments are working on a proposal to develop a well-defined formula of sharing revenues generated from wildlife national parks.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Saturday said that as the chairperson and Co-ordinator of Inter-Governmental relations between the National Government and County Governments including Chairing the Inter-Governmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC), he is facilitating the talks between the two levels of government to ensure consensus.

"It is an ongoing conversation. I chair IBEC and I am the fulcrum between the national and county governments. I will facilitate that conversation between the national and county Governments but the cost of maintaining the parks is very expensive. We have had from the national government to sometimes supplements the income that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) gets," he said at the Aberdare National Park after gracing the reopening of Treetops Lodge.

Accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Kenya Neil Wigan and other guests, the DP also had a game drive in the park.

He was responding to a proposal by Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga that the County Government of Nyeri deserve a share of revenues generated by KWS at the Aberdare National Park.

Governor Kahiga had opined that the KWS should be ceding a percentage of revenue generated from Aberdare and Mt Kenya National Parks to Nyeri County Government.

He based his opinion on Narok County Government, which gets a share of revenue collected from Maasai Mara game reserve.

But DP Gachagua said, "Narok is different because since time immemorial Maasai Mara was run by Narok County County Council and when Devolution system came in 2013 the system that was then continued".

"Maasai Mara is a different ballgame because of the number of visitors and it's place in the world. But that is a conversation the national and county governments should continue having," he added.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his spouse Pastor Dorcas, British High Commissioner to Kenya H.E. Neil Wigan, David Kinaniri, Deputy Governor, Nyeri and other guests at the iconic Treetops Lodge, which was officially re-opened on Sturday at the Aberdares National Park.

On sharing of revenue between Kajiado County and Amboseli National Park, the DP said the talks are ongoing as directed by President William Ruto last year.

"There was a presidential pronouncement as far as Amboseli is concerned. Furtherance to President's directive, teams were set up between the Ministry of Tourism and Kajiado County Government. It is ongoing and is a complex matter because the figures involved. The issue that comes up is that are the county governments wiling -in case there are shortfalls- to also share liabilities to the national government?" he stated.

He explained that much as the devolved governments are willing to share the revenues with KWS, in many parks the national government has to supplement KWS to keep the operations of parks going.

"Are the county governments willing, when there is a shortfall, to chip in. We do not just discuss the assets we also discuss liabilities. We haven't reached a conclusive decision but we want that conversation ongoing and my office is hosting that conversation," he said.

Editor's Desk

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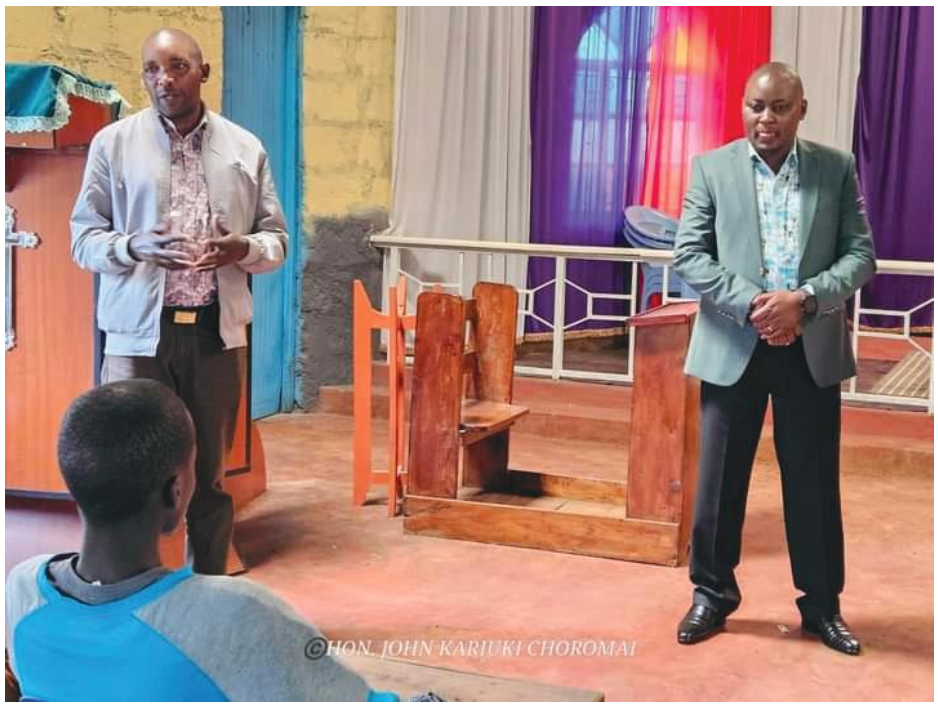
NEWS IN BRIEF

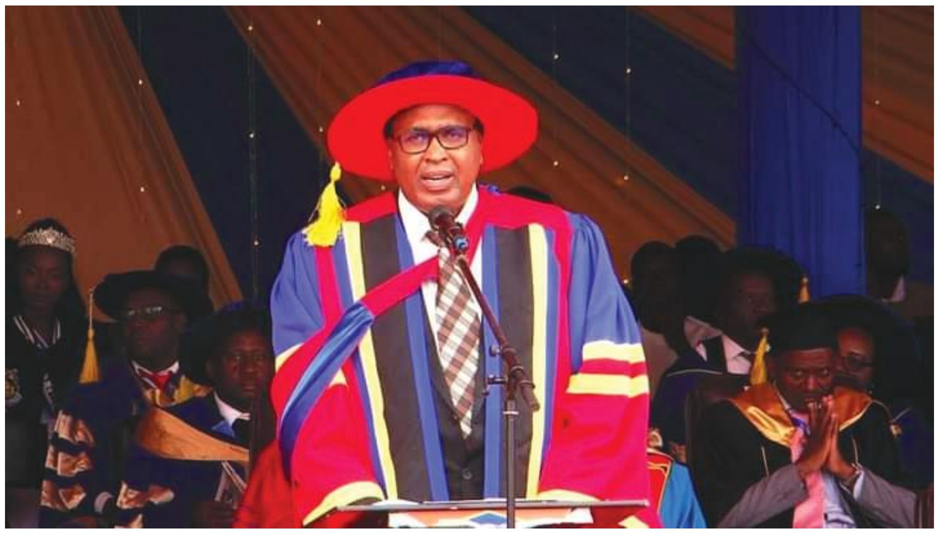
The World Bank is set to allocate Sh900 million for slum upgrades in Trans Nzoia County under the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Program 2 (KISIP 2). The program, which will be implemented in collaboration with the national and county governments, aims to improve the living standards of residents in Matisi, Kipsongo, Tuwani, Shanti, and Mitume informal settlements. Governor George Natembeya emphasised the importance of upgrading roads within slums to improve living standards. The program will also focus on streetlight installation, water connectivity, and drainage openings. Natembeya urged contractors to consider engaging residents for manpower, except for areas requiring high expertise. He also urged residents to own and guard the projects for future generations, urging them to drop the mentality that these are government projects.

Ben Ochieng, the Rio Fish Limited Quality Assurance Manager, holds a sample of a fresh chilled fish. He said that fish get rejected at the marketplaces because of a lack of proper fish preservation, adding that if it is not properly preserved immediately after harvest, the buyer will reject the produce, resulting in a loss to the farmer. According to Ochieng, women have been the most affected by the dwindling supplies of fish in Lake Victoria, and Rio Fish has been strengthening the livelihoods of women fish farmers and connecting consumers to fish traders. He said that through well-established Saccos, fish farmers could also value-add their produce to fetch more in the market. Already, the Rio Market is adding value to fish bought from farmers to suit their customers' preferences. Value-added products like 'obambo, a sun-dried fish, and 'linyo' a smoked dried fish, frozen and fresh chilled, are customised to align with customers' preferences.

Malaba Law Court Administrator Dismas Opili has warned residents of Amagoro over brokers operating within court precincts with schemes to steal cash. Opili stated that brokers are not officers of the court but brokers who start with sweet language to assist those facing challenges in pursuing their cases. He emphasised that corruption in courts is prevalent, and brokers are present in Amagoro, Busia, and Bungoma. He stated that people with cases should ensure they come to court to avoid being subjected to brokers who demand over Sh20,000 to assist. The administrator said there was no cash payment these days, noting that people are given invoices to pay either through the bank or Mpesa, and receipts are generated.



Parents and guardians have been cautioned to be on the look out of what their children are doing during the holiday. Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki Choromai said with closely monitoring their deeds, it will be difficult for the children to engage in vices that are detrimental to their wellbeing. Choromai spoke at St Emanuel ACK Church in Endarasha during a Sunday service that was presided over by Reverend Waweru. At the same time, Choromai urged all Kenyas to continue supporting the government in it's fight against drug abuse and illicit alcohol.



Former Mount Kenya University (MKU) graduates who have failed to collect their certificates due to fee arrears have been granted their certificates unconditionally. The university's Founder and Chairman Board of Directors, Prof Simon Gicharu, instructed the university to give the graduates certificates to enable them to look for jobs. The move was necessary to address the large number of certificates lying uncollected due to fee arrears, which restricted them from getting employed. The university will forfeit Sh82 million to a good course, but the money will be directed to the Chancellor's kitty, which helps educate learners from poor backgrounds.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Ex-AG Justin Muturi Pledges Far-Reaching Reforms On State Jobs, Interns As He Faces MPs

Poor Service Delivery, Opaque Hiring, Career Stagnation, Poor Succession Planning Top The List Of Ills That Muturi Vowed To Fix, As He Backed Permanent And Pensionable Terms For A Stable Public Service

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **"This is a thorn in the entire gamut of public service. There's a lot of opaqueness," said Muturi about the hiring, and vowed to work to clean up the lethargy in government offices.**
- **He told MPs that he would not abolish the Permanent and Pensionable terms for public servants to allow for the uninterrupted delivery of Public Services and the stability of government more so during political transitions.**

President William Ruto's pick to fix the country's public service, Mr Justin Muturi, has vowed to revamp the government's internship programme to cover State agencies and the private sector.

Muturi, the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, called for more transparency on hiring for government jobs, efficient service delivery, and urgent recognition and reward scheme for diligent public servants.

MPs asked Muturi to step in and address the corruption, tribalism, poor service delivery, career stagnation, low morale due to delayed promotions, and poor succession planning in the public service.

"This is a thorn in the entire gamut of public service. There's a lot of opaqueness," said Muturi about the hiring, and vowed to work to clean up the lethargy in government offices.

He told MPs that he would not abolish the Permanent and Pensionable terms for public servants to allow for the uninterrupted delivery of Public Services and the stability of government more so during political transitions.

"A nation's public service has to be a blend of permanent and pensionable staff; contractual; advisory and even consultancy terms. We are about efficiency. We must insulate the public service from the public from the vagaries of political transitions," said Muturi.

He cited the political turmoil in Italy, Britain, and Israel that did not significantly affect the public service.

The internship programme is one route through which the government can train young people for the job market, Muturi said. However, as it is, it was poorly designed and narrowly implemented.

Cabinet Secretary nominee for Public Service and Human Capital JB Muturi taking oath before the parliamentary vetting committee.

"This programme should be reworked, relooked and re-engineered to involve the private sector," said Muturi. "The private sector should be incentivised to take interns".

He added: "If we take this route without reengineering the programme, we will just be creating more anger for the country. We must think about this programme collaboratively."

Lawmakers Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West) and Mary Emaase (Teso South) told Muturi that it was urgent for the Public Service to find jobs for the interns, because many had gone through the programme, but were now jobless in the streets.

"The young people are asking us to make a provision for them to gain full employment after internship. If that is not there, the government and other entities will just be enjoying free labour," said Lesuuda, who has sponsored a bill on State Internships.

Muturi said urgent reforms were needed to obtain the relevant skills needed for efficient service delivery when hiring for government jobs.

"We need to have strategic delegation and collaboration. We cannot have one office in Nairobi, recruiting for every government agency in the country. It is plain inefficiency," said Muturi, referring to the Public Service Commission.

He gave an example of the Public Service Commission appointing 11 drivers and posting them to the State Law Office, only for it to turn out that only a handful of them could actually drive.

Muturi said he will hold the public servants to a higher standard in all public agencies including universities, public hospitals, police stations, and all public offices to offer services promptly, efficiently, with dignity, with respect and with a smile.

"We have very good service charters, missions, and visions, but these are rarely implemented," he said.

He vowed to hold bosses of public agencies to account for failures within their dockets.

"We can't have a Constitution to which we just pay lip service. We just have to implement the Constitution. Everybody else in the public service should also be held accountable," noted Muturi.

Muturi, the outgoing Attorney General, also told the Committee on Appointments he resigned on July 11 prior to Ruto firing his whole Cabinet. He did so to give the president the opportunity to rework his administration.


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ANC Party Delegates Vote To Merge With UDA Party

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Amani National Congress Party (ANC) has unanimously voted to merge with the United Democratic Party (UDA) in preparation for the 2027 general elections.

The decision was reached following a meeting of 160 party officials, delegates, and elected leaders.

The move aims to strengthen the Kenya Kwanza coalition's political position and prepare for the next general election.

All party organs have adopted the merger process, and negotiations are underway to decide the way forward.

An advisory committee is being set up to steer the merger process. The merger will help Kenya Kwanza negotiate with like-minded parties to win more seats at the county and national levels ahead of the 2027 General Election.

ANC Party leader Lamu Governor Issa Timamy will be part of the select committee steering the merger process.

ANC National Chairman Vincent Lunani commended the delegates and party officials for voting for the merger, pointing out that it will further the party's political position at the national level.

ANC party delegates briefing journalists

Kenya Develops Blowing Machine For Cereals

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Charles Odira, a fabricator at Mixa Technologies Limited, has invented a blowing machine that separates foreign matter from cereal, ensuring cleaner produce.

The machine simplifies the cleaning process of maize and beans by removing soil, stones, leaves, and other debris, leading to higher-quality produce and effective market sales.

The Farm-to-Market Alliance (FtMA) and the World Food Programme sought Odira's expertise to customise a blowing machine for small-scale farmers.

The machine features a hopper for pouring grains, a blowing mechanism to expel foreign matter, and a separation unit.

It is constructed using locally available materials, making it affordable and accessible.

Odira encouraged young engineers to collaborate with experienced professionals to gain practical skills and knowledge.

He also highlighted the importance of local production, stating that there was no need to import such machines when they could be made locally.

Farmer representative Olomonyak noted that the machine would reduce cleaning costs, speed up the process, and improve the quality of produce, making the produce more marketable.

Nkuito Kilesi, an agribusiness coordinator in charge of the Trans Mara region under the Cereals Growers Association, noted that the machine would significantly reduce foreign matter in cereals, which currently results in financial losses for buyers.

Farmers involved in the testing phase rated the machine's performance highly, with scores of 90 percent and above.

Charles Odira demonstrating how the machine works.

BUSINESS

Invest In The Tourism Sector, DP Urges Investors

By: DPCS

Dr Keith Ikinu Rigathi addressing guests on Saturday

Worth Noting:

- **According to the Kenya Tourism Board chairman Francis Gichamba, the reopening of the facility is a huge milestone for the Mountain Tourism Circuit and the hospitality sector.**
- **"We are celebrating the revival of an icon in the tourism circuit. Reopening of The Treetops Lodge is timely because we received statistics in the country indicating that for the first time since 2019, we have exceeded two million visitors. This means tourism arrivals are on the upper trajectory. The Kenya Tourism Board wants to drive the numbers to three million before the end of year," said Mr Gichamba.**

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has appealed to local and foreign investors to infuse their money into the tourism sector as stakeholders project an increase in the number of international visitors to three million this year.

At the same time, Mr. Gachagua pleaded with politicians to tone down political temperatures to continue attracting and enhancing investors' confidence.

"We pray for peace in this country, we want calmness and restoration of sanity so that we do not scare away tourists. We want Kenya to be peaceful. We call upon everybody in the political space to tone down so that we have the right political environment and security. We want visitors to come and view Kenya as a haven and a good destination for tourism," he said on Saturday.

He spoke during the reopening of the historic Treetops Lodge in Aberdare National Park, Nyeri.

With a rich history dating back to 1932, the Lodge has a significant historical link with the British Monarchy. Princess Elizabeth was staying at the Lodge in 1952 when her father, King George VI, died and she became the Queen.

The Lodge was closed down in 2021 over the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Kenya Tourism Board chairman Francis Gichamba, the reopening of the facility is a huge milestone for the Mountain Tourism Circuit and the hospitality sector.

"We are celebrating the revival of an icon in the tourism circuit. Reopening of The Treetops Lodge is timely because we received statistics in the country indicating that for the first time since 2019, we have exceeded two million visitors. This means tourism arrivals are on the upper trajectory. The Kenya Tourism Board wants to drive the numbers to three million before the end of year," said Mr Gichamba.

He added that the Board is planning to launch another round of the 'Tembea Kenya' campaign to promote domestic travel.

DP Gachagua said the projected increase in tourist arrivals will be a major boost to the economy and foreign earnings.

About the reopening of the Treetops Lodge, Gachagua lauded the development saying it is a boost to the local economy as it has created jobs.

The DP asked Kenyans to invest locally and train their children on the need to invest their wealth in the domestic markets of the economy.

"We can't wait for foreign investors to come home to invest. Even as we invite foreign investors, let us start it ourselves by encouraging our children to invest at home. Many jobs were lost after the closure of hotels and lodges during the COVID-19 pandemic. I spoke to many people on how the facilities could be reopened to spur tourism and spice the economy in the region," said Mr Gachagua.

British High Commissioner to Kenya Neil Wigan, Chen Zhiwen (Director Political Section Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Kenya), Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Kenya Wildlife Service Director of Parks and Community Prof Charles Musyoki and Tourism Fund Board chairperson Samson Some, among other leaders and officials, were present at the function.

The tourism sector stakeholders and Treetops Lodge Managing Director Dr Keith Ikinu were also present.

In his remarks, Dr. Ikinu said he chose to revive the Lodge because of its historic ties with Britain and that he was concerned about the fall of the local tourism industry.

"We intended to revive the hospitality and tourism industry in Nyeri county. Nyeri was famous in the Mountain Tourism circuit because the county is well interconnected. The closure of the Treetops Lodge affected the economy. But we are keen on bringing that back. We want people to spend time in Nyeri and bring life back," he said.

"During its operation, Treetops Lodge impacted the lives of many people in the region. The neighboring community, dancers, and suppliers had a big ripple effect on the community and the area. As Treetops is popular the world over, most visitors were foreigners. Most Kenyans did not get a chance to experience the place. They will now have an opportunity to visit the National Park and the Lodge."

Mr Neil Wigan, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, also commended the reopening of the Lodge and said that the facility is deeply known in the United Kingdom.

"We value the history linked to the Treetops Lodge. It has a unique ecosystem. The reopening will bring more prosperity to the local community and more tourists," said Wigan.

The refurbished Tree Tops Lodge in Aberdare National Park.

Kagaa Residents Want Gov't To Beef Up Security

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The growing town, soon to be promoted to a municipality, makes it an easy target for criminals who commit daytime muggings and disappear on motorcycles.

Kagaa, home to high-end residential buildings, gated communities, and low-budget rental houses, is home to over 15,000 people, most working in Kenol town, Thika, Kabati, and its surroundings.

Victims have reported violence in their homes for resisting robberies.

The residents have highlighted the need for officers attached to the Kagaa Police Post to reside there and have a functional vehicle available to attend to emergencies.

They believe that adding more officers will deter criminals, but having officers spend their nights there will beef up security.

Murang'a South Deputy County Commissioner Gitonga Murungi has urged residents to pass information that would help weed out criminals, promising that no one will be victimised for providing information that will help return sanity to the Kagaa area.

The DCC encourages residents to talk to them, as the criminals are among them and are well known to them.

Kagaa residents during a security meeting

Listen To The Ground, DP Gachagua Advises Elected Leaders From Mount Kenya Region

By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- A few days ago, the DP was in Gatanga in Muranga County. He minced no word in warning elected leaders from Mount Kenya region that their days were numbered.
- If they fail listen to the ground, they will lose their seats come the next general election in 2027.
- As expected, his critics interpreted his remarks to mean taking on his boss, President William Ruto.
- I disagree! The truth of the matter is that if election is called today the region will not vote as a bloc for President Ruto as it happened in 2022 polls. If it turns out this is the message he was passing to the President, I would not expect the head of state to feel offended.

I have been listening to the latest discourse touching on the relationship between President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

Contrary to the impression created, the remarks and body language of the duo showed that their working chemistry remained cordial and intact.

When this matter was raised recently during President William Ruto's televised interview, he stated. I'm not aware of any political differences with my deputy. The truth of matter is that he is my deputy. If you don't trust me, go and look for him. I cannot speak for him.

The DP had been reading a similar script. He had never openly picked a war with his boss.

As a principal assistant to the President, he has been stating. My job is to help the President implement what he promised Kenyans during campaigns. Our was a joint ticket. So, if I don't do this, I will also be blamed.

But putting this aside, there was a time the DP trained his gun on key allies of the President. I want to remind these junior officers that I'm not their equal. I'm directly answerable to the President, not them.

A few days ago, the DP was in Gatanga in Muranga County. He minced no word in warning elected leaders from Mount Kenya region that their days were numbered.

If they fail listen to the ground, they will lose their seats come the next general election in 2027.

As expected, his critics interpreted his remarks to mean taking on his boss, President William Ruto.

I disagree! The truth of the matter is that if election is called today the region will not vote as a bloc for President Ruto as it happened in 2022 polls. If it turns out this is the message he was passing to the President, I would not expect the head of state to feel offended.

Dr President Ruto is a well-schooled politician.

The ground in Mount Kenya region is mainly shifting because a quite number of development projects that the two leaders had made to the residents during the campaigns were yet to be rolled out.

By virtue of being senior most politicians in the region, the residents considered Gachagua as their savior.

He may have some weaknesses but this is normal with all politicians. No one is 100 percent perfect.

For residents, the enemies of the Mountain had regrouped and were out to split the region. We will not allow them to have their way.

We will firmly stand behind Gachagua because he is a unifying factor.

The DP spoke in Gatanga at a time when media reports indicated that a plot had been hatched to impeach him.

This comes in the wake of the recent protests organized and led by Generation-Z.

One of the grounds cited by plotters is Gachagua's alleged role in sponsoring these demonstrations.

It is not therefore lost that the campaign took a new height on the day that the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) detectives grilled and recorded statements from three of his top allies.

It remains to be seen whether the information extracted carried any weight that could be used to pin down DP.

In political circles, the diehard supporters of DP have been dismissing the claims, stating the DP was being targeted for political reasons.

At the height of Gen-Z protests, I had an opportunity to listen to Gachagua's remarks when he addressed the press in Mombasa.

The DP, who spoke soon after President William Ruto addressed the nation at State House Nairobi, stated that he was privy to the information that some state operatives were out to make false claims that former President Uhuru Kenyatta and himself were sponsoring the protests?

The DP directed his anger at director of National Intelligence Service (NIS) Nordin Haji. The NIS boss had totally failed in his mandate of relying genuine and authenticated intelligence report to the President. If he had done his job, we could not have witnessed this bloodshed.

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

President Ruto's interview came at a time when a headline story appearing on Weekly Citizen newspaper stated that close allies of President Ruto had hatched a plot to impeach the DP.

The story also alleged that the DP had been blocked from accessing State House.

After reading this story, two questions came to my mind. Was the President aware of plans to impeach his deputy and he had seek an appointment before accessing him at State House? If a plot to impeach him is real, can his political enemies manage to marshal enough votes in parliament?

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.

Well, for now, some people argue the motion can sail through. This is because President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga have buried their differences and are working together.

But there is 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 gross violation of the constitution and the international treaties.

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.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

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.

While fondly referring Gachagua as Riggy-G, the senator further noted that Generation-Z and Riggy-G share one thing in common "letter G'.

You can therefore 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.

To me, Karungo's sentiments which were echoed by all the speakers including area MP Mary Wa maua, were weighty.

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. He has not lost that popularity.

So, If the President opts to ignore him he was bound to lose this critical support base. The DP steered clear of this debate.

He had however earlier stated. As a community what we hate is betrayal.

I'm therefore sure the issue of unfulfilled promises would feature prominently if President agrees to engage him in a formal and structured manner.

Besides the DP would demand to be respected and recognized as the senior most leaders in the Mountain.

In Mombasa, the DP said he was happy to note that the President has listened to the young people. This by refusing to sign the Finance Bill.

While attending a church service in Nyahururu town, the President reiterated: "I have listened to what the young people are saying. These are our children and we have to listen to them. I'm going to engage them and I want to assure them of my commitment to address the concerns they had raised"

He spoke as Generation Z piled pressure on members of parliament (MPs) to reject the Finance Bill 2024. The President heeded the call when he declined to sign the bill into law.

The youths who had turned up to oppose the Finance Bill 2024 were aged between 18-34 years. They had listed other demands.

It is worth to note some protestors were armed with smartphones and according to some politicians some had been dropped by Uber taxis.

The church service in Nyahururu was presided by ACK archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit who was quoted in a post on social media as saying that his son was also taking part in these protests.

A renowned political analyst had averred the anti-tax protests were being sponsored by a foreign power. He did name this power and what it intended to achieve.

This is not the first time we are witnessing this. We had seen similar protests rocking the country during the reigns of former Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

During the public participation, many Kenyans reasoned; Yes, we agree paying taxes is a legal civic duty. However, some of the taxes contained in Finance Bill 2024 are very high.

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

Mount Kenya University Fetes Record Number Of New Graduates

At MKU, Partnerships, Innovation And Research Remains Key Focus Of The Higher Learning Institution

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Dr Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education, was the Chief Guest during the ceremony whose theme was "University Sustainability through Research and Innovation".**
- **She congratulated MKU for "an incredible journey over the last 25 years. In total determination to supplement the government's efforts to increase access to affordable, relevant and quality university education, MKU chose the path less travelled," she said.**
- **Dr Inyangala said the university has partnered with several institutions in Africa and globally not only to provide quality education but also to facilitate a seamless transition of graduates into the labour market, both at home and internationally.**

Mount Kenya University (MKU) held its largest graduation ceremony ever in Thika town that saw 7,974 students feted, the highest number in over 14 graduations held in the last seven years.

Vice chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said the achievement was a result of the culmination of a well-orchestrated journey of planning, execution, and relentless improvement.

He praised the implementation of an Academic Sustainability Project and a Postgraduate Students' Academic Progression Tracking Project for being instrumental in supporting postgraduate students to complete their studies on time.

Congratulating the graduands during the 25th graduation fete held at the Pavilion grounds in Thika town, the Vice Chancellor said significant strides have been made in sensitizing researchers to the need for publishing in internationally recognized, indexed, and peer-reviewed journals to get global visibility.

Among the graduands were 14 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees, 530 Master's Degrees, 155 Postgraduate Diplomas, 5,090 Bachelor's Degrees; 1,801 Diplomas and 384 certificates holders.

"Our strategic approach to student recruitment, has been vital in ensuring that our enrolment targets are not only met but surpassed," he said.

In the current semester/trimester of May-August 2024, the institution has registered 56,225 students.

"This high student enrolment has been possible mainly because of our approach to recruitment," Prof Jaganyi said.

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Dr Inyangala said the university has partnered with several institutions in Africa and globally not only to provide quality education but also to facilitate a seamless transition of graduates into the labour market, both at home and internationally.

From left; Dr Beatrice Inyangala, PS, State Department for Higher Education and Research; MKU Vice chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi; and Prof Simon gicharu, Chairman, MKU Board of Directors plant a tree to mark the occasion..

Mount Kenya University Chancellor Prof John Struthers awards a degree during the 25th graduation ceremony of MKU held in Thika town last Friday. Photo/Courtesy

"I congratulate MKU for hosting the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG 10 Hub on Reduced Inequalities for the past three years," she said.

MKU has also registered with the Times Higher Education (THE) SDGs ranking platform, which has led to an integration and mainstreaming of SDGs support structures across the university. "The milestones achieved are attributed to MKU's innovative programmes in teaching, research and community engagement. The ministry will continue to support similar initiatives in our universities," she said

The PS urged all Kenyan Universities to join the free-of-charge United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) platform and also apply to be UN Academic Impact SDGs Hubs in line with the availableguidelines that give a deadline of 30th September, 2025. "I reaffirm the Ministry's commitment to provide a conducive policy environment for support of research, patents promotion, as well as scaling of innovations and their commercialisation," she said.

Dr Inyangala asked the graduates and all the youth to seize every opportunity to promote peace, self-reliance, and, to engage in activities that foster economic prosperity for yourselves, your families, and the global village in general.

Partnerships

Prof Simon Gicharu, chairman, MKU Board of Directors, said a partnership deal between MKU and the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences in Germany is providing apprenticeship opportunities for nursing professionals from Eastern Africa to work in German hospitals. "The first cohort travelled to Germany in April 2024 and the second cohort are part of this graduation and will be traveling to Germany in September," he said.

In support of this initiative, the German Government, through their development agency DAAD, has appointed Ms Charlotte Katharin Filbry to assist MKU in training students in the German language. "This training is a mandatory part of the pre-departure preparation. Her first language is German, and she is also proficient in English and Norwegian," he noted.

A similar collaboration with the Austrian health authorities and Lebenshilfe Tirol will integrate 40 trained MKU nurses annually into Austrian hospitals and elderly care homes.

"The first two candidates, are set to

Contd Page13.

Mount Kenya University Fetes Record Number Of New Graduates

Contd from Page 12.

depart in October. Another 15 candidates are completing their German language training and will join them shortly," he added.

Other notable employment-generating initiatives include the establishment of the Malindi Maritime Academy at MKU's Malindi campus, which will offer standards of training, certification, and watch keeping (STCW) basic and advanced training for the first time in this region. "Previously, individuals had to travel to Korea and other Asian countries for these mandatory courses to join the merchant navy, cruise ships, and other vessels," Prof Gicharu noted.

Additionally, MKU will be launching a Bachelor of Nautical Sciences programme, making it the first university in the region to train ship captains and officers.

And for Gen Z who are active users and consumers of esports, the institution, in collaboration with The Esports Kenya Federation, will establish an esports training center at the newly refurbished Student Centre at the Thika campus.

Prof Gicharu said the World Bank funded Innovation grant through the Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry to establish an innovation and incubation centre at the university to support early-stage businesses in the fields of manufacturing, agriculture, the creative economy, Health and ICT.

Meanwhile, MKU will be releasing all the pending certificates unconditionally to all those unable to clear their fees balance.

"Any collections from those accounts in case the beneficiaries after securing jobs feel indebted to clear the fees should go in support of Chancellor's Scholarship. This gesture should also incorporate the previous graduates of our university in Rwanda," the chairman said.

MKU chancellor Prof John Struthers extended warm greetings from his home university, the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), family and friends in Glasgow, UK.

He commended the MKU fraternity for successively hosting the Centre for African Research on Enterprise and Economic Development (CAREED) 8th International Conference in July, which was the first CAREED Conference to be held in Africa. It

Some of the graduands congratulate each other

was co-hosted in June 2024 by UWS

The 8th CAREED 2024 conference attracted about 46 academic papers presented across several themes in a partnership that has been actively running for the last seven years.

"I take pride in the conspicuous growth of partnerships-driven teaching, research and community outreach activities at MKU which involves many deals with global universities. For instance, new engagements between MKU and partners from Japan, Europe and Australia cannot go unmentioned," Prof Struthers added.

The chancellor appreciated the new partnerships signed with the Cape Media's Talent Academy and with Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital (KUTRRH) among many others as indeed significant achievements.

Innovations support

Congratulating the graduands, Dr. Vincent Gaitho, chairman of the University Council said the council has continued to support the institution by approving policies aimed at boosting service delivery. For example, MKU alumni base, with over 140,000 members, is now being boosted by a Directorate of Alumni Relations. The new Directorate is expected to pursue the tenets of the association in line with outlined functions while pursuing innovative ways to making MKU Alumni a vibrate pool of national builders and ambassadors of their Alma Mater.

Recent developments include construction and equipping of four Pharmacy Laboratories at Nakuru Campus and two fully equipped Nursing Skills Laboratories at Thika campus, adoption of smart classrooms and digital technologies and acquisition of interactive displays.

"The university council pursuant of its mandate will remain forthright in providing proposals and recommendations to the Board for capital development and expansion of the institution," he said.

Dr Gaitho said in line with the 25th Graduation Ceremony theme, the Council encourages the Research Directorate to set up regional hubs of excellence through multi-disciplinary, impactful and transformative research.

"We call upon the faculty, students, alumni and members of the public to make optimal utilization of the state-of-the-art facilities of; Research, Enterprise and Innovation Centre and Innovation and Incubation Centre," he added.

The council chairman appealed to the government and other development partners to increase allocation of research funding to universities and research institutions if data-based development is to be realized.

"It is evident that source of economic growth for nations depend on investment in the education, research and skilling the youth to meaningfully engage in jobs and wealth creation," he noted.

Dr Gaitho said MKU has been powered by synergetic partnerships and collaborative engagements with local, regional and international institutions and industries. "Public-Private-Partnerships have been instrumental to the improvement of creativity, innovativeness and entrepreneurships geared towards use of available resources," he said.

To confront climate change challenges, MKU has partnered with the government agencies, communities and stakeholders to plant and grow indigenous and medicinal plants and trees in a 50-acre Botanical Garden here at the graduation pavilion grounds. From the Botanical Garden and in collaboration of stakeholders in the indigenous knowledge space, MKU has innovated a herbal soap (WEMA) which is accredited by KEBS and in the process of commercialization.

Dorcas Owinoh, an alumni representative of the MKU Alumni Association (MKUAA) welcomed the graduands to join the association established in 2016.

"We are now a formidable body of men and women has engaged in this fast-growing network of MKU's Alumni who come from every academic discipline of this University," she said.

"As you proceed to your new positions within our larger global community, be informed that there are opportunities waiting for you, but also, there is a conducive environment for you to create your own opportunities of service," she added.

According to Vice Chancellor Prof Jaganyi, during the year, MKU participated in the 9th Edition of the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) biannual national games in December 2023 in which 16 Universities were represented.

MKU emerged the best – overall and won 62 medals. MKU was also the best in male teams, female teams, and private university category.

In this year's Kenya National Drama Festivals, MKU emerged the best overall in the university category and was honored to make its presentation for the winning genre "spoken word' titled "abandoned" at the presidential state concert at the Sagana State Lodge in April. The college has also continued nurturing MKUSA (student associations) student leaders by supporting and exposing them in different forums.

To align the MKU Teacher Education Programmes curricula as guided by the requirements by Commission of University Education (CUE) on aligning the universities curricular to the fundamentals of Competency Based Curriculum (CBC), MKU has supported and finalised the alignment of the seven School of Education programmes to CBC and is awaiting the approval by CUE for the respective programmes to be implemented.

He said the university supported the organization of various forums such as the 8th CAREED Conference, the Cancer Implementation Science Symposium and the Western Regional Workshop at Thika and Nakuru Campuses respectively, to provide a platform for academics and women has engaged in this fast-growing network of MKU's Alumni who come from every academic discipline of this University," she said.

"As you proceed to your new positions within our larger global community, be informed that, there are opportunities waiting for you, but also, there is a conducive environment for you to create your own opportunities of service, she added.

Heart

I waited for spring with tears,
I have been patient with you.
How many days off do you need?
You enchanted me.

Soft gentle tone,
If you drink it, you will be happy.
You alone and alone are to blame,
Please answer me, I'm sorry.

Live in peace my dear
Knocking your heart out.
This is very interesting
Don't find me near you.

The thinnest thread is pulled tight,
And did it crash?
An ax under your feet
You hit it yourself. ok i'll go

you are the king of my heart
Excuse me, I'll go by myself now...

Sarvinoz Tuliyeva
Uzbekistan
The winner of the state award named after Zulfia

Butterfly

When I wake up early, the sky is the sky,
It was blue and flying.
A long-tailed deer standing by the stream,
A butterfly comes to us from there.

He is called an angel, just a soul for a day,
He flies and plays and has no blood in his veins.
He saw the sunrise, only the moment he was born,
His head reached the sky, he saw his own iqbal.

He didn't say wealth, he didn't say wealth,
He just flew, flew far and never complained.
He took a whiff of the crimson rose,
He saw his new friend and did not leave.

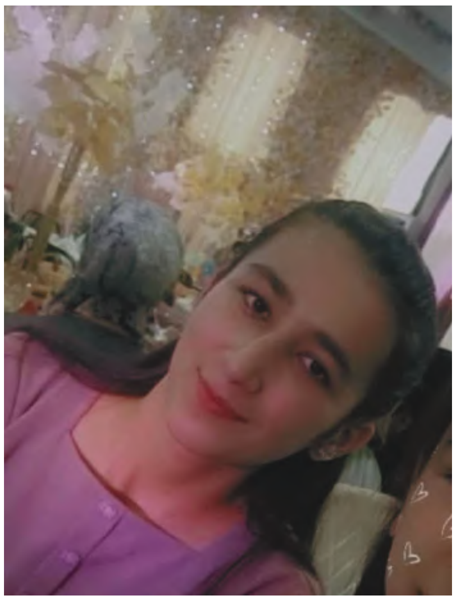
His little life is over,
The sun is giving way to the moon.
He gave his life, both of them,
To the world of light until it stops.

Murodova Muslima Kadyrovna was born on June 29, 2010 in Jondar district of Bukhara region. Currently, she is a 8th grade student of school No. 30 in this district. Her first book of poetry was published in 2024 under the name "Come beautiful spring". Winner of many achievements. He won the 2nd place at the festival held in the district. She won the 1st place in the district stage and the 2nd place in the regional stage of the "Bakhtim Shul: Zulfiyasiman Uzbek" contest. Her first anthology was published by the UK publisher JustFictionEdition. Founder of "Muslima's" blog. A young teacher who was able to develop about 350 artists. Owner of more than 50 international certificates. Author of the anthologies "Youth of Uzbekistan" and "Toward my goals..."! The owner of the orders "Follower of the Great Warriors" and "Middle East: Scientific Uzbek Artists"

Boat Surabdin Phakahom

National Outstanding Youth Social development and Chairman of the Next Generation Go activity group, Thammasat University
Youth who dedicate their bodies and minds to working for society and in 2024, many projects and activities have been created for other people, communities, and society.
Including receiving awards from many government and private agencies such as New Generation Project: Caring for the Way of Democracy, No. 1 and 2/2024 Socwork Run 2 Thammasat University Project for public benefit Next Generation Go Volunteer to develop schools Toward community development for the year 2024, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province entered and presented to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Examples in the prize section Moral Award From the Center of the Ministry of Culture and Morality (Public Organization) Model Youth Award from M.R.W.
Panithan Charoonroj, organized by the Council of Social Creative Artists Bangkok Ministry of Education Department of Children and Youth Affairs Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Ministry of Culture and partner networks at the Bureau of the Royal Household Thailand Youth Awards From the Commission on Social Development and Affairs, children, youth, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and the underprivileged. Student Awards, Good Conduct Awards Thammasat University, Year 2 Outstanding Student Award Outstanding service and volunteerism level for the 2nd year, Faculty of Social Work Thammasat University Outstanding Person who has made a contribution to society and the nation, 2024, Cultural Heritage Preservation Association of Thailand and received a document of appreciation from Mr. Anukun Piedkaew, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Fox's Mistake



Once upon a time, there was a fox poet in the forest. He copied a poem he had written on a blackboard and wrote next to it, "If you find a flaw in this poem, mark it with a red pen."
After some time, the surface of the board was covered with red paint.
Then he was upset and went to a wise bear and told him what had happened.

Then the bear said something like this to him: "Instead of opening the writing on the board, write so that anyone who finds fault with this poem can correct it." the bear does as he says, and after a while he comes back and sees that nothing has changed

Azimbayeva Dilrabo Mardanbek
Azimbayeva, daughter of Dilrabo Mardanbek, was born on September 7, 2009 in the Ellikkala district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Her father, Jumaniyazov Mardanbek, is an engineer, and her mother, Jabborova Dilnoza, is a housewife. In 2016, he went to the 1st grade of general secondary school No. 43. He is interested in mathematics, foreign language, mother tongue and Turkish language. He wants to achieve a lot in the future. He was awarded with prizes because of his active participation in many parties. He took the proud 1st place.

Kenya Records 61 Per Cent Improvement In Exclusive Breastfeeding

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - To support mothers in their breastfeeding endeavours, Ms. Muriuki said that Kenya is commemorating World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) that started last Thursday and ending on Wednesday, with this year's theme being "Closing the Gap– Breastfeeding Support for All," which highlights the importance of inclusivity and the need to reach all breastfeeding mothers in Kenya.
> - "In line with the WBW 2024 theme, the Ministry aims to ensure no woman is left behind in promoting breastfeeding. This includes mothers in correctional facilities, teenage mothers, mothers affected by emergencies, and breastfeeding mothers with disabilities, who often face unique challenges," said the PS.

Kenya's exclusive breastfeeding rate increased significantly from 32 per cent in 2008 to 61 per cent in 2014, Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary, Mary Muthoni Muriuki, has revealed.

Ms. Muriuki said that the government is dedicated to improving infant and young child nutrition by establishing a supportive policy and regulatory environment in efforts to achieve the globally recommended target of 70 per cent exclusive breastfeeding.

"Article 53(1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya guarantees every child the right to basic nutrition. Additionally, Section 29 of the Employment Act 2007 provides for 90 days of paid maternity leave, while Articles 71 and 72 of the Health Act 2017 mandate workplace support for breastfeeding mothers," said the PS.

Ms. Muriuki explained that, given that slightly over half, about 52% of working women return to work within three months after childbirth, creating a supportive environment for breastfeeding in workplaces is essential.

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"In line with the WBW 2024 theme, the Ministry aims to ensure no woman is left behind in promoting breastfeeding. This includes mothers in correctional facilities, teenage mothers, mothers affected by emergencies, and breastfeeding mothers with disabilities, who often face unique challenges," said the PS.

Ms. Muriuki highlighted that the government, through the Ministry of Health, has enacted policies and initiatives to support and promote breastfeeding. These include the Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) guidelines, workplace support legislation, regulation of breastmilk substitutes (BMS) marketing, and monitoring initiatives.

Additionally, the PS said the Baby-Friendly Community Initiative and Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative aim to equip healthcare workers and communities with the skills necessary to promote and sustain optimal breastfeeding practices.

"Despite these efforts, gaps remain, particularly in programme implementation. Breastfeeding is crucial for child survival, health, growth, and development, providing unparalleled benefits to both infants and mothers," said Ms. Muriuki.

She highlighted that WHO and UNICEF recommend initiating breastfeeding within the first hour of birth and exclusively breastfeeding for the first six months, with continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond. Breastmilk contains all the essential nutrients for a child's first six months of life.

She disclosed that extensive research highlights the numerous benefits of breastfeeding.

"According to the Lancet's 2016 series, breastfeeding prevents 823,000 deaths annually among children under five. About 87 per cent of these deaths occur in infants under six months. Breastfeeding also reduces infection-related mortality by 88 per cent among infants under three months and prevents 72 per cent of all diarrhoea admissions and 57 per cent of respiratory infection admissions. It decreases the incidence of diarrhoea and respiratory infections by 54 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively," explained Ms. Muriuki.

Moreover, said the PS, breastfeeding positively impacts children's cognitive development and reduces the risk of them becoming overweight or obese. For mothers, breastfeeding offers significant advantages, including a reduced risk of ovarian cancer. It results in a 6 per cent decrease in the risk of invasive breast cancer for each year of breastfeeding.

"Approximately 20,000 deaths from illnesses such as breast cancer and diabetes are prevented annually through breastfeeding, with potential for further reductions with improved breastfeeding practices. Other benefits include aiding in mother-child bonding and birth spacing," said the PS.

Ms. Muriuki said that through World Breastfeeding Week, the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics will create awareness on breastfeeding benefits and support for mothers who face barriers to breastfeeding, adding that the Ministry will launch World Breastfeeding Week at Lang'ata Women's Prison, Nairobi.

"Additionally, counties across Kenya will develop and adapt context-specific initiatives to create awareness about breastfeeding. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all partners supporting World Breastfeeding Week 2024. Your commitment and collaboration are invaluable in making this event successful, and together we can close the gap and ensure breastfeeding support for all," said Ms. Muriuki.

The Versatile Financing Solution: Mezzanine Debt And Its Role In Kenya's Evolving Business Landscape

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - **One of the key advantages of mezzanine debt in the Kenyan market is its ability to bridge the gap between traditional bank financing and equity-based investments. Many Kenyan companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), often struggle to meet the stringent collateral requirements and lengthy approval processes associated with traditional bank loans. Mezzanine debt, on the other hand, offers a more flexible and tailored financing solution, allowing these companies to access the capital they need to fuel their expansion and development without the need for extensive tangible assets as security.**
> - **Moreover, mezzanine debt has also proven to be an attractive option for Kenyan entrepreneurs and family-owned businesses that are wary of diluting their ownership through equity-based financing.**

Companies are constantly seeking innovative financing solutions to fuel their growth and expansion in Kenya's rapidly business environment which is dynamic in nature. One such instrument that has gained significant traction in recent years is mezzanine debt - a hybrid form of financing that straddles the line between traditional debt and equity. As Kenyan businesses, both large and small, grapple with the challenges of accessing affordable and flexible capital, mezzanine debt has emerged as a compelling alternative, offering a unique blend of features that cater to the diverse financing needs of the market.

At its core, mezzanine debt is a subordinated form of financing that sits between a company's senior debt and its equity capital in the capital structure. Unlike senior debt, which is typically secured by the company's assets, mezzanine debt is often unsecured and carries a higher level of risk for the lender. However, this increased risk is compensated by the potential for higher returns, often in the form of embedded equity kickers, such as warrants or conversion rights, which allow the mezzanine lender to participate in the upside of the company's performance.

The versatility of mezzanine debt is particularly evident in the Kenyan context, where it has found applications across a wide range of industries and transaction types. From funding mergers and acquisitions to facilitating leveraged buyouts and supporting expansion plans, mezzanine debt has proven to be a valuable tool in the arsenal of Kenyan businesses seeking to access growth capital without significantly diluting their ownership or control.

One of the key advantages of mezzanine debt in the Kenyan market is its ability to bridge the gap between traditional bank financing and equity-based investments. Many Kenyan companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), often struggle to meet the stringent collateral requirements and lengthy approval processes associated with traditional bank loans. Mezzanine debt, on the other hand, offers a more flexible and tailored financing solution, allowing these companies to access the capital they need to fuel their expansion and development without the need for extensive tangible assets as security.

Moreover, mezzanine debt has also proven to be an attractive option for Kenyan entrepreneurs and family-owned businesses that are wary of diluting their ownership through equity-based financing. By providing a means to raise growth capital without relinquishing a significant stake in the company, mezzanine debt enables these businesses to maintain greater control over their operations and decision-making processes, while still benefiting from the infusion of additional resources.

The rise of mezzanine debt in Kenya has also been driven by the growing presence of private equity and venture capital firms in the market. These investment vehicles have increasingly turned to mezzanine financing as a way to enhance the returns on their investments, leveraging the unique risk-reward profile of this hybrid instrument to generate higher yields for their investors. As a result, the Kenyan market has witnessed a surge in mezzanine-focused funds and investment vehicles, further expanding the availability and accessibility of this financing option for local businesses.

However, the integration of mezzanine debt into the Kenyan business landscape has not been without its challenges. The complex and often bespoke nature of mezzanine financing structures can pose a significant hurdle for some companies, particularly those with limited experience in navigating the intricacies of hybrid financing. Additionally, the higher cost of mezzanine debt, relative to traditional bank loans, can be a deterrent for some Kenyan businesses, especially those operating in highly competitive or low-margin industries.

To address these challenges, there has been a growing emphasis on educating Kenyan entrepreneurs and business leaders about the benefits and nuances of mezzanine debt. Industry associations, financial institutions, and advisory firms have all played a crucial role in raising awareness and providing guidance on the effective utilization of this financing tool. As a result, the understanding and adoption of mezzanine debt in the Kenyan market have steadily increased, with more companies recognizing its potential to unlock new avenues for growth and expansion.

Looking ahead, the future of mezzanine debt in Kenya appears promising, as the country's economic landscape continues to evolve and the demand for flexible and innovative financing solutions intensifies. With the increasing sophistication of the Kenyan financial sector and the growing presence of international investors, the availability and accessibility of mezzanine debt are expected to continue expanding, providing Kenyan businesses with a valuable alternative to traditional financing options.

Moreover, the regulatory environment in Kenya has also become more conducive to the use of mezzanine debt, with the recent amendments to the Companies Act removing many of the previous restrictions on financial assistance. This legislative change has paved the way for more seamless integration of mezzanine financing into Kenyan M&A and leveraged buyout transactions, further enhancing the appeal of this hybrid instrument for local businesses.

As Kenyan companies navigate the complexities of the modern business world, the role of mezzanine debt is poised to become increasingly significant. By offering a unique blend of debt and equity features, mezzanine financing has the potential to unlock new avenues for growth, facilitate strategic transactions, and empower Kenyan entrepreneurs to pursue their ambitious visions with greater financial flexibility and control. The continued evolution and adoption of mezzanine debt in Kenya will undoubtedly be a crucial factor in shaping the country's economic landscape in the years to come.

The writer is a legal researcher and scrivener.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Legal Expertise To Educationist

Julius Migos Ogamba's vetting for the Education Ministry is a pivotal moment for Kenya's educational landscape. With nearly 30 years of legal expertise and a notable tenure as Chairman of KenGen, Ogamba brings commendable administrative skills and a strategic vision to the table. His extensive experience in corporate governance and legal advisory roles across various sectors positions him to tackle the multifaceted challenges facing education in Kenya.

Ogamba's commitment to education is evident through his leadership of the Hon. Migos Ogamba Foundation, which has supported over 600 students from disadvantaged backgrounds since its inception. This initiative reflects his belief in education as a vehicle for social mobility and empowerment, aligning with Kenya's constitutional mandate for free and compulsory education.

During the vetting process, Ogamba demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of key issues, including curricular reforms and technology integration in classrooms. His responses indicated a readiness to implement innovative strategies that prioritize inclusivity and educational equity.

As he prepares to assume office, Ogamba's initial focus will likely include enhancing access to education, improving teaching quality, and promoting educational justice, particularly for underserved communities. His vision aligns with the Ministry's goals, aiming to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education.

While some may question the effectiveness of a non-educationist in this role, Ogamba's track record in public administration and advocacy suggests he is well-equipped to lead the Ministry toward a more equitable and robust educational framework. His leadership could be transformative, fostering an environment where all Kenyan children can thrive academically and socially.

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

Freedom To The Fourth Estate

By: **Devina Adhiambo**

Freedom to the press is not a privilege, but a fundamental right that underpins the construction of a democratic society Journalist or the press plays a vital role as the fourth estate as independent watchdog that holds those in power accountable and amplifies the voice of the people.

The freedom of Journalists to investigate, report and share information without fear of distribution is an essential pillar of a free, fair and open society.

Yet, in recent years, we have witnessed a concerning global trend of attacks on press freedoms. Journalists around the world have faced increasing harassment, intimidation, and even violence for simply doing their jobs. From authoritarian regimes shutting down media outlets to democratic governments pursuing aggressive legal actions against whistleblowers and reporters, the space for independent journalism seems to be shrinking.

This should alarm anyone who values the principles of transparency, accountability, and the free flow of information. A vibrant, unfettered press is the lifeblood of a functioning democracy, empowering citizens to make informed decisions and holding those in power accountable. When journalists are silenced or constrained, it erodes the public's ability to scrutinize the actions of their leaders and undermines the very foundations of democratic governance.

Governments must enshrine robust legal protections for press freedom, including shield laws that safeguard journalists' sources and whistleblowers. Journalists should not face prosecution or retaliation for reporting on matters of public interest.

Authorities must take decisive action to investigate and punish any threats, intimidation, or violence directed towards members of the press. A free and safe environment is essential for journalists to operate without fear.

Efforts should be made to support a diverse and pluralistic media landscape, including community-based and independent outlets. This helps ensure a wide range of perspectives and prevents concentration of power in the hands of a few.

Education programs that enhance the public's understanding of the role of journalism and the importance of a free press can empower citizens to be discerning consumers of information and recognise attempts to undermine the media.

By safeguarding this essential freedom, we can ensure that journalists are able to fulfil their vital function as watchdogs, truth-tellers, and champions of the public interest.

A free and fearless press is the cornerstone of a healthy accountable and transparent society.

Devina Adhiambo is a Media student Rongo University.

Importance Of Vetting Cabinet Secretary Nominees In Kenya

The ongoing vetting of Cabinet Secretary nominees in Kenya is a critical process that juxtaposes their qualifications against the challenges they will face if approved. The vetting, which began on August 1, involves scrutiny of nominees' academic credentials, professional experience, and integrity, as mandated by the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act.

Key nominees such as Prof. Kithure Kindiki (Interior) and Dr. Debra Mlongo Barasa (Health) must demonstrate their readiness to tackle pressing issues, including security concerns and healthcare reforms, respectively. For instance, Kindiki will need to address past failures in his previous tenure, while Barasa faces immediate challenges related to healthcare management amid ongoing strikes.

The stakes are high, particularly for nominees like John Mbadi (National Treasury), who will be tasked with navigating a financially strained environment without the recently shelved Finance Bill. The scrutiny is intensified by public sentiment and the recent dismissal of the previous Cabinet, with citizens demanding accountability and transparency.

As the vetting committee evaluates these nominees, it must ensure that only those with proven integrity and the capability to address Kenya's pressing issues are appointed. The outcome of this process will significantly impact the government's ability to effectively govern and respond to the needs of its citizens.

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

Vetting Cabinet Secretary Nominees

Disaster Risk Management Bill Set To Overhaul Disaster Management In Kenya

By: PSCU

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The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East African Community, ASALs, and Regional Development, Mr. Harsama Kellow, has stated that the Disaster Risk Management Bill currently in the Senate, once passed into law, will significantly improve disaster management in the country.

Speaking last week before the Departmental Committee on Regional Development in response to a performance audit report by the Auditor-General on flood management, Mr. Harsama noted that the Bill will establish a National Disaster Management Authority.

He said this Authority will oversee Disaster Management across the country.

"This new Authority will address existing challenges such as poor coordination, duplication of efforts, and resource wastage, which currently hinder effective disaster management in the country," he said.

Mr. Kellow also pointed out that many organizations, such as the Kenya Red Cross, State House, county disaster departments, and other non-governmental organizations, often provide conflicting reports during disasters, leaving residents confused. The Bill aims to resolve this issue.

Regarding preparedness, Mr. Kellow emphasized the importance of early warning and action.

He stressed that counties should be at the forefront of sensitizing communities about the need for early action, which is critical for successful flood interventions.

"Counties remain the first line of responders and are well-positioned to encourage and support communities in taking early action," he said.

Addressing concerns about the relief process, Mr. Kellow acknowledged issues such as insufficient relief supplies, delays in delivery, incomplete data, and inadequate enforcement of accountability mechanisms.

''The ministry frequently faces resource limitations but seeks support from other actors to ensure that needy populations receive timely relief supplies. In areas where roads have been affected by floods, the ministry utilizes air transport to deliver relief food,'' he said.

Regarding non-adherence to set guidelines on relief requests, Mr. Kellow reiterated that all allocations of relief supplies to counties must be based on formal requests.

However, he noted that not all requests can be honored, and deserving counties are not denied relief supplies due to a county official failing to make a formal request.

The Chairman of the Committee, Peter Lochakapong (Surgoi), raised concerns about accountability in the distribution of relief food, questioning whether the Ministry of Interior or the Principal Secretary were responsible for last-mile distribution. He noted that food was often misused or sold.

The PS clarified that, according to Executive Order Number 2 of 2023, the PS oversees the distribution of relief food, with distributors required to file returns after distribution from the Sub-Counties. He added that the Ministry had allocated funds to AICs for food distribution in the previous financial year but encountered problems that led to abuse. He indicated that, the Bill, if passed, aims to resolve these issues.

Ganze MP Tungule Charo noted that the distribution of relief food has often varied by sub-counties, with

some receiving more due to their larger size and population.

He commended the department for its commendable work despite logistical challenges in distributing aid to affected villages. In his sub-county of Ganze, he emphasized the difficulty of getting food to remote villages, a challenge he hopes the Bill will address.

Kazungu also mentioned the difficulty of obtaining help during disasters due to the lack of a centralized information center and inadequate data on affected populations. He criticized the numerous organizations that compete for donor funding during disasters without genuinely prioritizing the needs of the affected people and expressed confidence that the Bill in the Senate will help rectify this.

Khamis Chome commended the department's efforts despite numerous challenges and emphasized the importance of proper staffing to aid in food distribution before the Bill is passed.

He highlighted the need for adequate funding to support the department and warned against the politicization of relief food distribution for local leaders' gain.

Other Members present included Majimbo Kasinga (Kabuchai), Joseph Cherorot (Kipkellion), and Eli Letipila (Samburu).

Arrest Of An Escapee And Recovery Of Cache Of Weapons And Ammunition

By: The DCI

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A team of detectives drawn from Nairobi regional have re- arrested Shailesh Babubhai Mistry who had escaped from lawful custody.

Mistry who is the director of Cateyes Customs Limited had been arrested at Tamasha Bar and Restaurant within Karen Township by DCI Karen detectives and escorted to Karen Police station where a search was conducted in his motor vehicle and a cache of weapons was recovered.

Among the recoveries included a Sig Sauer P22 pistol, two Canik pistols with no working parts, six empty pistol magazines, thirty three .38 special hollow point rounds, fourty three 9mm x 19 rounds, nine.45 auto rounds, two hundred and three.223 rounds, twelve 357 sig rounds, fourty four380 auto rounds, twenty .38 special ARX rounds, twelve .308 win rounds, sixty.470 nitro rounds, one hundred and four 12 gauge short gun rounds and thirty seven 3006 SPRG rounds.

Later, the suspect was escorted to his residence at Southlands Estate Jordan Court House No. 411 and upon search, one Benelli short gun, one hundred and seventy .223 rounds and fourty 7.62 x 39 rounds of ammunitions were recovered.

In the process, the suspect produced an expired civilian firearm certificate and was taken back to Karen police station where he was booked in for further processing.

While in the cells, Mistry requested to be escorted to his vehicle that was parked in the station yard to pick a sweater but in the process, he instead locked himself inside the vehicle and later drove fast out of the station gate and in the process injured an officer.

Immediate man haunt was launched and following intelligence leads, the escapee was intercepted while driving his vehicle within Kasarani area where he was re-arrested.

A quick search was conducted inside his vehicle where 3 Pistol Magazines, 2 loaded with 15 rounds of 9mm ammunition each and one loaded with 14 rounds of 9mm ammunition were recovered. Additionally, nine slag 12 gauge shot Gun ammos were recovered also recovered.

The suspect has been placed in the cells pending arraignment today.

Shailesh Babubhai Mistry

Sports >> *Goals from Gabriel Vidovic and Leon Goretzka gave new Bayern Munich manager Vincent Kompany a 2-1 win over Tottenham on his first real test since taking the reins at the Bundesliga giants.

New Bayern Boss Kompany Enjoys 2-1 Win Over Spurs In Seoul


Bayern Munich's head coach Vincent Kompany reacts during a friendly football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Bayern Munich at the Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul on August 3, 2024. (Photo by Anthony WALLACE / AFP)

Goals from Gabriel Vidovic and Leon Goretzka gave new Bayern Munich manager Vincent Kompany a 2-1 win over Tottenham on his first real test since taking the reins at the Bundesliga giants.

There was no reunion for Tottenham's Son Heung-min with his former captain Harry Kane, who is still resting after leading England to the final of Euro 2024 last month and did not make the trip.

The German side's Eric Dier did get a chance to catch up with his former Spurs teammates, and was seen chatting to Son, Richarlison, James Maddison and others as the teams warmed up before kickoff.

Munich were into their stride quickest with former Arsenal attacking midfielder Serge Gnabry firing over the bar inside two minutes.

Moments later they were ahead when Vidovic slotted through Guglielmo Vicario's legs after more good work from Gnabry.

Kompany's side played some mesmerisingly slick passing football at times and Goretzka doubled the lead after half-time in an entertaining match which saw a hatful of chances at both ends.

Pedro Porro's thunderbolt from 30 yards put Tottenham back in the hunt after 66 minutes and Brennan Johnson, Dejan Kulusevski and teenager Lucas Bergvall all went close as Spurs poured forward looking for the equaliser.

Tired Tottenham

Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said his players had struggled for energy after a long trip to Japan and South Korea in scorching summer heat.

"Fair to say the players were showing the effects of us working hard here for 10 days," said Postecoglou.

"I think we'll get an enormous benefit from the camp we've done here though, but tonight we perhaps just paid the price for it."

The match was a 67,000 sell-out at Seoul's World Cup Stadium, with many fans wearing replicas of Son's Tottenham shirt and Bayern's Korean defender Kim Min-jae's jersey.

"Son Heung-min and Kim Min-jae are now playing for foreign teams as South Koreans," Kim Jae-woong, a 24-year-old football fan, told AFP prior to the match.

"The fact that these players can play in their own country, in South Korea today, makes me feel good as a fellow Korean."

An Sung-hyun, a 22-year-old fan, said: "I'm looking forward to seeing a combination between Son Heung-min and Kim Min-jae, something where they collide."

Fan Cha Sang-hyuk said: "Since I am wearing Son Heung-min's uniform, I hope Son Heung-min scores first."

National hero Son scored twice in Tottenham's 4-3 win over a K-League All-Stars side in a midweek match, but cut a disappointed figure on Saturday after being kept off the scoresheet.

"I'm really grateful for the support from many fans," said Bayern's Kim. "It was a tough match.

"(Son) Heung-min is a great player, and we agreed not to run into each other before the game. Thankfully, we didn't encounter each other too much."

The teams will face each other again at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium in north London on August 10.

Tottenham travel to Leicester City on August 19 to kick off their Premier League season, while Bayern will open their Bundesliga campaign against Wolfsburg on August 25.

AFP

Sports >> *World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech and youngster Faith Cherotich yesterday stormed the Paris Olympics 3000m steeplechase final at the Stade de France

Chepkoech, Cherotich Punch Tickets To Paris Olympics 3000m Steeplechase Final

Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech crosses the finish line ahead of France's Alice Finot and Germany's Lea Meyer in the women's 3000m steeplechase heat of the athletics event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on August 4, 2024. (Photo by Jewel SAMAD / AFP)

In Paris

World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech and youngster Faith Cherotich yesterday stormed the Paris Olympics 3000m steeplechase final at the Stade de France but the other Kenyan representative Jackeline Chepkoech stumbled in her heat to miss out.

Reigning champion Peruth Chemutai of Uganda also punched her ticket to the final as was world champion and Kenyan-born Bahraini Winfred Mutile Yavi, setting up a potentially explosive showdown tomorrow from 21:14 Kenyan time.

Debutant Cherotich, who is also a world bronze medalist, was the first Kenyan in the mix and the youngster kept the champion Chemutai toe to toe to finish second in 9:10.57 in the first heat behind the Ugandan who timed 9:10.51.

"I'm happy to have qualified to the final, and now the focus shifts towards winning a medal for Kenya. I started slowly but I was careful to be in the top five and that's why I kicked in the final lap.

"No pressure ahead of the final and I hope I will do well. Faith (Kipyegon) is my mentor and she gave me huge motivation after she also qualified to the final yesterday in 5000m," said Cherotich, the bronze medalist at the 2021 World Athletics Under-20 Championships.

Buoyed by Cherotich's performance, the world champion Chepkoech led from gun to tape in a dominant display in the water and barrier for first place in 9:13.56 in the third heat ahead of home girl Alice Finot who timed 9:14.78.

"I've been through a lot lately because I've been struggling with pneumonia and a chin injury. I did not expect to win. I hope on Tuesday I will be in a good condition but we expect a tough race," said Chepkoech, who placed seventh at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago.

World champion Mutile, who stayed behind the leading pack until the last lap, surged to clinch victory in the second heat in 9:15.11 ahead of Ethiopian Sembo Almayew and American Valarie Constien respectively.

Kenya's Chepkoech finished last to miss out on a place in the final.

"It was not my day but I wish Chepkoech and Cherotich all the best in the final. I've been through injuries and it feels good to have represented Kenya here regardless of the loss," said the Commonwealth Games champion.

Uganda's Chemutai is keen to heartbreak Kenyans as she seeks to win back to back titles in the water and barrier event.

"I was happy when Joshua (Cheptegei) won the first gold for Uganda and that really inspired me ahead of my race. We train together under one management, and prior to the race he had called me and told me not to run with pressure. I'm only here for the gold and nothing short," confident Chemutai said.

Kenya has not won gold in the distance since it was added at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

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The Psychological Significance Of Memory In The Acquisition Of English Language In Primary School Pupils

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Worth Noting:

- Learning a foreign language from childhood develops the child in all aspects. Language shapes our thinking and affects our cognitive processes. Language expands the world, improves the child's memory, intelligence, develops the ability to observe. Therefore, in today's developed society, the importance of forming interest in English in children is increasing.
- Children speak in languages they hear. So introducing English into your child's life will help him start using the language. In the future, when the child grows up, his spoken English will be repeated unconsciously and using correct grammar. However, in order for the lessons to be really effective and not overload the child, they must follow certain guidelines, which can be called the voluntary nature of the lessons.

Primary Class Teachers in Uzbek

Abstract: This article focuses on the importance of the memory process in learning English for students of junior school age and the development of the ability to remember information well in language learning.

Key words: Memory, memorial abilities, cognitive development, foreign language, acquisition.

In today's rapidly developing era, knowledge of foreign languages is important. In particular, one of the most important requirements of today's time is to learn English. In the current modern education, necessary conditions are being created for the young generation to become mature and qualified personnel in all respects and to learn the language.

Why is it important to teach children foreign languages from childhood?

Learning English from a young age helps in both educational and intellectual development. When you learn another language of another community, you get to know both the language and their cultural diversity.

Learning a foreign language from childhood develops the child in all aspects. Language shapes our thinking and affects our cognitive processes. Language expands the world, improves the child's memory, intelligence, develops the ability to observe. Therefore, in today's developed society, the importance of forming interest in English in children is increasing.

Children speak in languages they hear. So introducing English into your child's life will help him start using the language. In the future, when the child grows up, his spoken English will be repeated unconsciously and using correct grammar. However, in order for the lessons to be really effective and not overload the child, they must follow certain guidelines, which can be called the voluntary nature of the lessons.

Under no circumstances should children be forced to learn English. Especially children of preschool age are among them. If lessons become a chore, they can quickly become boring and children may find it difficult to learn the language later on. The main goal of parents and teachers is to arouse interest in language, and in this process play activities help in this.

It is appropriate that we give the following recommendations on the best time to teach English to students of junior school age.

The sooner you start introducing your child to English, the better. Scientists think so. They say the following:

Half of cognitive abilities are formed in the first 4 years of human life.Basic skills are formed at the age of 7-8.

From the age of 8-10, all abilities should be developed through education.

That is, the older a person is, the more time and effort he has to spend on learning English. Therefore, the best way to teach children English is to start before the age of 4.

For this reason, the role of the memory process in teaching children a language is of particular importance:

Memory plays a crucial role in second language acquisition. Working memory, a cognitive space for managing and storing information, has been identified as a key individual difference variable in language learning: It mediates various aspects of language learning processes and outcomes.

In conclusion, phonological short-term and working memory spans are related to vocabulary and grammar learning in second language learners. Typically, short-term retention, as measured by simple intermediate tasks such as word repetition, is associated with vocabulary learning. Grammar learning is usually related to the working memorial system.

This system is often tested with complex span tasks that require participants to simultaneously process and store information.

Abduganiyeva Gulbanu Rakhim's daughter, Termez State University, Faculty of Foreign Philology, 3rd year student