

The Silent Echoes Of Subservience: Unmasking The Crisis Of Independent Thought In Kenyan Governance

In the words of Chinua Achebe, "The man who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself." This profound observation resonates deeply within the context of Kenya's political landscape

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US
For any news you would wish us to publish,
email us: news@mountkenyentimes.co.ke
For Adverts & Sponsorship
email us: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Creative Rewards

Daily ePAPER

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

No. 01143 www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) themtkenyentimes



News>> DP Promises Government's Action In Curbing Insecurity At Meru-Isiolo Border

P. 8. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said the government is acting to end insecurity at the Meru-Isiolo border, following cases of cattle rustling.



News>> Government, Stakeholders Move To Shield Vulnerable Populations From La Nina Impacts

P. 12. The government is exploring and working on emergency measures to safeguard vulnerable communities and the agricultural sector from anticipated below-average rainfall, which threatens livestock and livelihoods in the coming months.

Wamuchomba: Gachagua Impeachment A Ploy To Distract Kenyans

W Githunguri Member of Parliament (MP) Gathoni Wamuchomba believes that the looming impeachment move made against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is being used as a decoy to blind Kenyans from focusing on the thorny issues in government. According to MP Wamuchomba, the government is using the Deputy President as a sacrificial lamb to sway Kenyans from contentious matters including the controversial Adani takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 6

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zesty and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Sati Gata-Aura Wins 52nd Edition Of Africa Concours d'Elegance

Gata-Aura Outsparkled Peers By Scooping Two Top Slots In The Cars Category As David Odhuno Sped Off With The Top Trophy In The Motorcycles Category

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The oldest car in the event, a rare 1928 Durant entered by Sachit Shah was declared the most Elegant Car in the event while in the motorcycle category, the judges voted David Odhuno's BMW 1200 GS made in 2006 as the most Elegant Bike.
- Magnate Ventures gleaming 2019 Harley Davidson Triglide, a newcomer at the Concours took home a load of prizes having won the TotalEnergies prize for the best engine finish and also the prestigious Victor Ludorum award for bikes, a coveted prize that combines the overall points and costume prize. Kamene Wanday's 1972 Alfa Romeo Spider won the equivalent award for the cars.



Sati Gata-Aura with his two car that won podium places at this year's Concours d'Elegance. The 1977 Nissan 160J (right) was the overall winner while the 1947 MG TC (left) came second.



David Odhuno's gleaming 1989 Yamaha Super Tenere emerged top of the bikes category at this year's Africa Concours d'Elegance.

Sati Gata-Aura was declared the overall winner of this year's edition of the Africa Concours d'Elegance held at the Ngong Racecourse last Sunday.

Gata-Aura's superbly prepared 1977 Nissan 160J scored 269 points against his second entry, a 1947 MG TA which followed closely with 264 points. Paras Shah came in third place with an MG TC with a score of 256 points.

In the motorcycles category, David Odhuno's gleaming 1989 Yamaha Super Tenere came from third place last year to emerge top of the chart this year with 142 points. Dominique Antoine's 1959 BSA took second place with 138 points while the Yamaha Roadstar of Prateek Singh took third position with 131 points.

The oldest car in the event, a rare 1928

Durant entered by Sachit Shah was declared the most Elegant Car in the event while in the motorcycle category, the judges voted David Odhuno's BMW 1200 GS made in 2006 as the most Elegant Bike.

Magnate Ventures gleaming 2019 Harley Davidson Triglide, a newcomer at the Concours took home a load of prizes having won the TotalEnergies prize for the best engine finish and also the prestigious Victor Ludorum award for bikes, a coveted prize that combines the overall points and costume prize. Kamene Wanday's 1972 Alfa Romeo Spider won the equivalent award for the cars.

The roar of the rally cars excited the crowd at the judging line as the 1977 Porsche 911 scooped the top prize in the

category with a strong lead ahead of his brothers Farhaaz and Shakeel in their Ford Escorts made in 1975 and 1968 respectively.

The Africa Concours d'Elegance is organised every year by the Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Kenya, and attracts competitors from a significant number of competitors from other countries in the continent. This year there were 26 entries from other countries in the region - Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

Yet again, members of the Uganda Bikers Association and the Pearl Bikers Africa rode their powerful machines from Kampala to participate in the event and received great appreciation from spectators. Leonard Were's 2016 Yamaha Super Tenere won the award for the best motorcycle entry from outside Kenya.

The Concours is not just about the competition for car and motorcycle entrants

- judged on their cleanliness as well as their elegance. There were the sale of classic cars and motor cycles, the Heritage Collection of 'old time' machinery, a children's entertainment centre and plenty of refreshments at the food courts.

For the new cars car enthusiasts, the motor trade section did not disappoint. This year, the spectators were treated to a taste of electric cars recently introduced in the market by Loxea Kenya. Other exhibitors also showcased electric bikes, new cars and accessories including polishes, pipes, and batteries.

Helping to make the event such a success, the Concours had a number of sponsors and partners, such as Safaricom, Stanbic Bank, Home Boyz, the Galleria Mall, SGA and the Nairobi Embassy of Italy.

Editor's Desk

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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

NEWS IN BRIEF



The National Police Service Commission is committed to improving the welfare of Police Officers. The National Police Service Commission CEO Mr. Peter Leley has reiterated the Commission's commitment to improving the welfare of police officers, including allowances, transfer processes and overall working conditions, ensuring that officers are well-supported in their critical roles. The Commission CEO made the remarks when he visited the National Police Service stand at the Nairobi International Trade Fair. Mr. Leley engaged with exhibitors, underscoring the importance of such events in showcasing the service's dedication and effort, further encouraging the officers to replicate the innovations and best practices showcased back to their workplaces. He additionally emphasized that implementing these ideas is essential for enhancing service delivery to the public, reinforcing the commitment of the National Police Service to meet community needs.



In a fake gold scam implicating local and foreign scammers, DCI detectives drawn from the Nairobi Regional Headquarters have arrested three individuals suspected to have defrauded two Kenyans about KSh55 million. The three suspects; Martha Mwikali Katumo, James Mwenda and Calvin Onyango Magak were smoked out of their burrow located at White Pearl apartments in Westlands, along Rapta Road where 10.2Kgs of fake gold pellets and a weighing machine were recovered. Preliminary Investigations have revealed that the businessmen were introduced to the con-men by a Namibian national where they met over a cup of coffee that would later usher them into a business deal that has cost them an arm and a leg as of now. The deal also implicates another individual who is alleged to have been a mines and geology expert and is said to have tested the first consignment of 5Kgs of gold and given it a clean bill of health. Ready for shipping, Martha and one of the victims travelled to Dubai in a deal that involved the services of Euromax Global Shipping and Logistics company that is owned by Maxwel. When they arrived in Dubai and after footing all the bills that included air tickets, it dawned on one of the victims that they had been scammed and all she had paid had gone down the drain. As investigations continue, the DCI implores on members of the public to remain alert when engaging in the so called gold business as it has been established that fake gold merchants are once again trying to establish their foothold in the capital city.

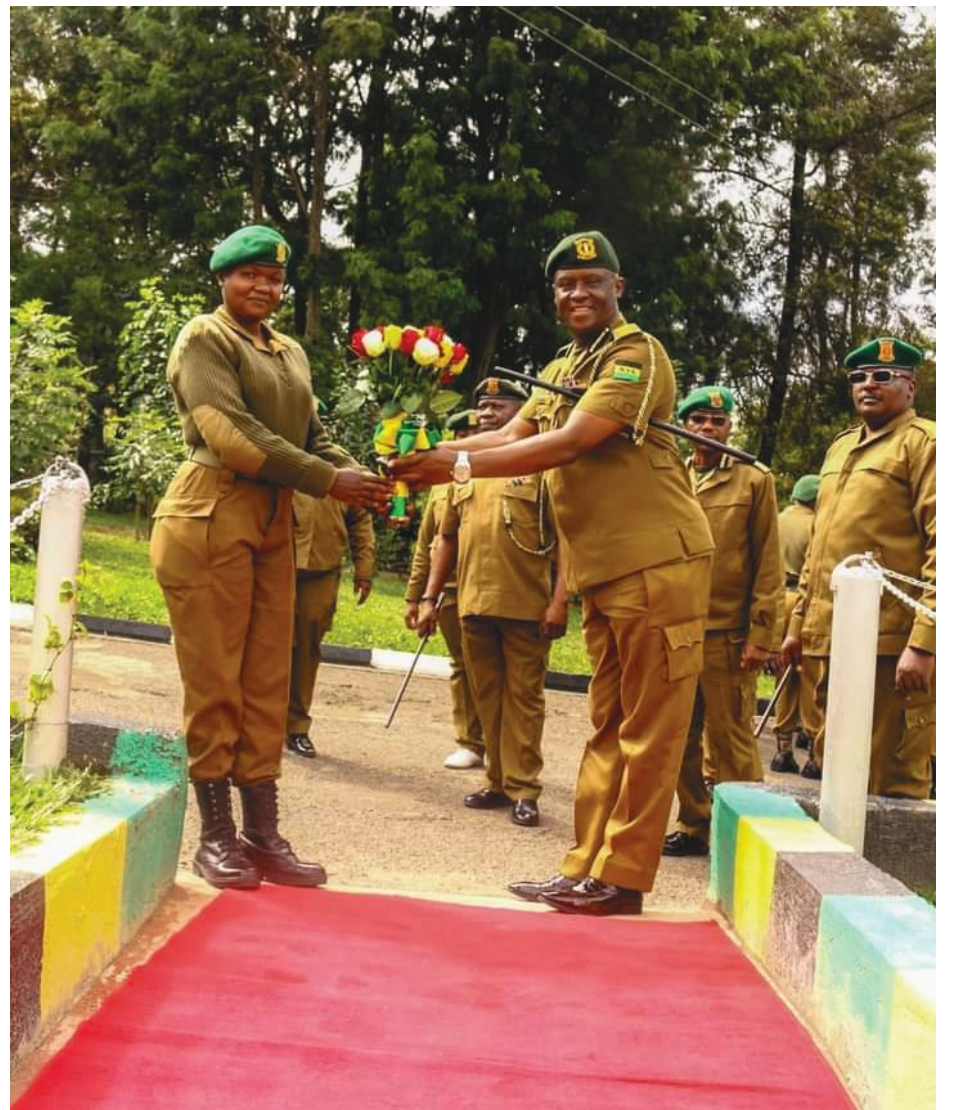


Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Mugaa yesterday paid a courtesy call to Makeni County Governor, Mutula Kilonzo Jr while enroute to Thwake dam for routine inspection of construction progress. Governor Mutula briefed the CS and his team on water milestones in the county, and asked for support of the national government to among others: curb vandalism of water infrastructure, reduce the rate of non revenue water and use of modern technology such as smart meters for better water governance.



The Kenya Film and Classification Board (KFCB) is stepping up awareness creation in the creative industry to safeguard children from harmful audio-visual content.

KFCB in partnership with the Sports, Arts, and Social Development Fund (SASDF) through the Creative in Arts and Film Literacy (CAFIL) program aims to empower Creatives in Arts and Film to create content that upholds Kenya's cultural values and protect children from inappropriate audio-visual contents.



Kenya National Youth Service, Deputy Commandant General Jamlick Chabari, yesterday officially opened Internal Affairs Unit Provost Course at the NYSTTI, Naivasha. The training is aimed at imparting the requisite knowledge and skills to officers who will be mandated in executing Internal Affairs Unit responsibilities at all Service establishments and Formations. During his address the DCG congratulated the course officers for their selection and reiterated the importance of the training being the first of its kind in the Service. He was accompanied by the Commanding Officer NYSTTI, SACG Gilbert Maina and the course Instructors.

Early Detection And Screening Save Lives

CANCER AWARENESS & FREE MEDICAL CAMP

Pay Bill No: 522533 Account No: 7915334

Dates: SATURDAY OCTOBER 5TH, 2024, 9:00A.M

CANCER AWARENESS & SCREENING

- OPTICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES
- ORTHOPEDIC AND SPINE SERVICES
- MEN AND WOMEN WELLNESS CLINIC
- NUTRITIONISTS
- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS
- ALL ABOUT HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Emcee: Mwarimu Mawira M'Tuamwari

HOPE ALLIES



Mugwongo Family



Venue: SHABAHA STADIUM NKUBU-MERU

For more information call 0788109328 OR 0799410450

Kenya Remains Committed To Further Strengthening Shared Vision With China - Mudavadi

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

“Kenya acknowledges and appreciates the support of the Government of China, without which Kenya would not be one of the key Belt and Road Initiative partners. Further, Kenya appreciates the Government of China for encouraging the Chinese private sector to invest in Kenya in Belt and Road Initiative projects as well as other sectors,” he added.

He assured that the government is committed to the Kenya-China Joint Vision and advancing modernisation, taking into account the 2024 FOCAC Summit outcomes while promoting the four initiatives at national, regional, continental, and global levels.

Kenya will take deliberate steps to facilitate Chinese private sector investment in major areas of the economy, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said.

Mudavadi said that China is Kenya’s leading bilateral development partner and seeks to invest in other sectors of the economy beyond the Belt and Road Initiative projects (BRI).

He said China has contributed to Kenya’s long-term socio-economic transformation in a visible, tangible, and significant manner, especially in the last two decades under BRI.

“This is a deliberate move aimed at enhancing the Kenya-China strategic partnership and, most crucially, ensuring that every aspect of bilateral cooperation will bring our peoples together through people-to-people contact and collaboration,” said Mudavadi.

Other key sectors of the economy, like ICT, Renewable Energy, Education and joint research, Retail, Hotel and Housing, have also benefitted from the support of the government of China as well as the participation of the Chinese private sector.

He made the remarks during the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of National Foundation celebrations day for China at the Chinese embassy in Nairobi.

Mudavadi, also the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs CS, said that currently, Kenya is investing significant resources in infrastructure development to unlock existing but unexploited opportunities to create jobs and alleviate poverty, especially in rural areas.

“Kenya acknowledges and appreciates the support of the Government of China, without which Kenya would not be one of the key Belt and Road Initiative partners. Further, Kenya



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

appreciates the Government of China for encouraging the Chinese private sector to invest in Kenya in Belt and Road Initiative projects as well as other sectors,” he added.

He assured that the government is committed to the Kenya-China Joint Vision and advancing modernisation, taking into account the 2024 FOCAC Summit outcomes while promoting the four initiatives at national, regional, continental, and global levels.

At the multilateral level, he said Kenya enjoys historical collaboration with China on matters of South-South cooperation.

Similarly, he described it as a strong voice for Kenya and other developing countries and a partnership focused on championing reform of international financial architecture to be a fair, just, and rule-based system.

This, he said, will facilitate access to

affordable financing for sustainable socio-economic development in the long term.

Another key area of the Kenya-China multilateral cooperation is the reform of the UN Security Council to ultimately ensure that it is inclusive and reflects the current realities of global political and security affairs.

“China leads by example on climate change mitigation and sustainable economic development support,” he stated.

At the same time, the CS said China is the world’s second-largest economy, the largest manufacturer, trader in goods, consumer of commodities, and the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves.

To this end, he stated that China stands tall in global political and economic affairs and is a key stabiliser in an unstable global economy.

Mudavadi noted that China also demonstrated sustained good governance, discipline, and commitment to implement national development priorities, which are people-centred, long-term, and inclusive sustainable modernisation.

At the global level, he acknowledged China’s best practices, which contribute towards peace and stability and enhanced South-South cooperation, including the five principles: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

“China continues to be the “north star” and a firm voice for many developing countries in an international system that is unfair, unjust, and insensitive to the peculiar needs of developing countries,” he said.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

NOW
OPEN

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

DP Promises Government's Action In Curbing Insecurity At Meru-Isiolo Border

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with journalists from various media Houses based in Meru, Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties

Worth Noting:

- Asked about intervention to incessant road carnage at Nithi Bridge on the Chuka-Meru Road in Tharaka Nithi County, the Deputy President reiterated overnment's commitment to the re-designing of the bridge. He said the program is on course.

- "On Nithi bridge road accidents, the Principal Secretary recently told me that the new design is almost over. I apologise to Meru and Tharaka people for the delay. I will do a follow-up again. It is an emotive matter as many people have died on that bridge. The President made a promise and it is my mandate to follow up," he said.

- Early September, 12 people were killed at the bridge in a crash involving a van and a pickup truck.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said the government is acting to end insecurity at the Meru-Isiolo border, following cases of cattle rustling.

Speaking at a joint interview with media stations based in Meru, Embu and Tharaka-Nithi counties on Sunday night, Gachagua said the government is keen to address the banditry and conflicts in the region.

"From when we changed the county security team and deployed a new County Commissioner there has been success but the problem has resurfaced. I will talk to the Inspector-General of Police and the Interior Cabinet Secretary and we will come up with a solution. I have been briefed by the County commissioner and we will do a mop up exercise in the area," he said.

The insecurity incidents have led to loss of lives and livestock, leaving a trail of destruction in the area.

Gachagua said the government is mobilising security organs to address the concerns.

Asked about intervention to incessant road carnage at Nithi Bridge on the Chuka-Meru Road in Tharaka Nithi County, the Deputy President reiterated overnment's commitment to the redesigning of the bridge. He said the program is on course.

"On Nithi bridge road accidents, the Principal Secretary recently told me that the new design is almost over. I apologise to Meru and Tharaka people for the delay. I will do a follow-up again. It is an emotive matter as many people have died on that bridge. The President made a promise and it is my mandate to follow up," he said.

Early September, 12 people were killed at the bridge in a crash involving a van and a pickup truck.

Regarding stalled development projects in the region, Mr Gachagua said they will be completed.

"We are pushing for the completion of the projects. The leaders should shift their focus on development and end politics so that in the remaining three years we can at least complete the stalled projects. We have space to work if we leave politics. We have the economic charters signed with the people in different counties during campaigns. We should work on the implementation of those charters," he pleaded.

He also spoke about Miraa and Muguka businesses in local and in foreign markets, where he said the Government is addressing concerns of the traders and farmers.

"Muguka is a cash crop. Let us wait for a decision from the ongoing talks

between the leaders. During campaigns we promised that Kenya's ambassador for Miraa buying countries would be from Meru and the President appointed Kubai Iringo. We are expanding the foreign market. We are still following the market issues in Somalia and Djibouti," he said.

The Deputy President further commended President William Ruto for establishing the National Working Committee to review the New University Education Funding Model following public concerns.

Gachagua said the President's decision to form the University Education Review Committee has enhanced public participation and improved ac-

cess to quality and affordable university education and technical training.

"On the University funding model, we rolled out a new program and the public complained. I am grateful that President William Ruto formed a taskforce to check on the complaints and come up with recommendations. It was a good move as we have entrenched public participation on the issue," he said.

The taskforce led by Professor Japheth Micheni Ntiba as the chairperson, is tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of the funding mechanisms that impact university and Technical, Vocational Education, and Training (TVET) institutions.



Gachagua Impeachment A Ploy To Distract Kenyans From SHIF, Adani Deals - MP Wamuchomba

By: Moses Kinyanjui
 @themtkenyatimes

Githunguri Member of Parliament (MP) Gathoni Wamuchomba believes that the looming impeachment move made against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is being used as a decoy to blind Kenyans from focusing on the thorny issues in government.

According to MP Wamuchomba, the government is using the Deputy President as a sacrificial lamb to sway Kenyans from contentious matters including the controversial Adani takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

The legislator further argued that the government is avoiding admitting failure in achieving its promises and has opted to oust Gachagua with ill-founded accusations.

“We are being kept busy with Gachagua’s impeachment so that Adani deal sails through, the [Social Health Insurance Fund] SHIF transition, with all the irregularities to pass. We are being diverted from key issues in this country,” she said speaking to Citizen TV yesterday.

“They are looking for someone to blame. Look at the grounds they are bringing. They are all flimsy excuses without any solid reasoning. Somebody is very worried that the GenZs have gone calm and they will erupt again because the issues that took them to the streets have not been addressed.”

Amongst the charges floated against him, Gachagua is being accused of violating Article 10 as his accusers argue that his public utterances have been inciteful, reckless inflammatory and capable of stirring ethnic hatred.

Wamuchomba argued that accusing the DP of supporting his tribal backyard, the Mt Kenya region, is an ill-informed move since he is not the first leader to politically back the region.

“Gachagua is not the first to defend Mt. Kenya region. Uhuru Kenyatta defended the region fiercely for 10 years. Why didn’t you say that he is a tribalist?” she posed.

She alleged that leaders have been abandoning the pertinent issues facing their constituents and instead meet in hotels to plot how they can oust the embattled DP.

“Does it mean that MPs have nothing



Githunguri Member of Parliament Gathoni Wamuchomba. | COURTESY

else to do other than parade themselves in hotels every night to scheme how to remove one person? Every community in parliament have been going to hotels in cocoons of 10, 20 people,” she claimed.

The motion of impeachment, as confirmed by Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, will be tabled on Tuesday

Tabling the motion will require 233

MPs to support it to sail through, with reports indicating that as of the close of business Sunday, 302 members of parliament had appended their signatures.

Other accusations made against DP Gachagua include violation of articles 147, 148, 174, 186 and 189 which speak to his conduct and responsibility as the principal assistant to the President.

He is also accused of corruptly and unlawfully acquiring assets using taxpayers’ money. The assets are said to be spread in Nyeri, Nairobi and Kilifi counties.

If the motion sails through, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula will communicate the resolution within two days to Senate Speaker Amason Kingi for action.

Court Declines To Issue Orders Halting DP Gachagua Impeachment Motion

By: Prudence Wanza
 @themtkenyatimes

The High Court has declined to issue interim orders to stop the National Assembly from processing an impeachment motion against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

In a ruling delivered yesterday, Justice Bahati Mwamuye declined to issue the interim order sought by former UDA Secretary-General Cleophas Malalah, who filed a petition seeking to halt the tabling and debate of the impeachment motion.

“Before this Court is the Certificate of Urgency dated 30/09/2024, signed by Counsel Peter Mwenda Njagi, the Chamber Summons dated 30/09/2024, and the Supporting Affidavit of the Petitioner/Applicant, Cleophas Wakhungu Malalah, dated 30/09/2024; all of which were filed alongside a Petition dated

30/09/2024,” the ruling reads in part.

In the petition, Malalah argued that the motion should be halted, citing the unconstitutionality of the National Assembly and the Senate due to their failure to meet gender representation requirements as stipulated under the Constitution.

“The basis advanced by the Petitioner/Applicant is that the 1st and 2nd Respondents, the National Assembly and the Senate respectively, are allegedly unconstitutional in terms of their composition due to an alleged failure by the Respondents, jointly and severally, to meet the constitutional requirements regarding the ‘no more than two-thirds gender rule’ set out under Article 27(8) and Article 81(b) of the Constitution.”

However, Judge Mwamuye certified the matter as urgent and directed Malalah to serve the National Assembly, the Senate, and other interested



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

parties by close of business on September 30.

The respondents have until October

3 to file their responses, while the petitioner has until October 4 to submit a rejoinder if necessary.

The case will be mentioned on October 7 for further directions.

StarTimes Media To Boost Local Content Development In Kenya

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Pay Television Company StarTimes Media has unveiled plans to intensify its support for local content development in Kenya.

As part of its initiative, the company will progressively roll out exclusive local productions, set to feature on its online streaming platform, StarTimes ON, as well as its locally-produced channel, Rembo TV.

During a press briefing, StarTimes Kenya's Head of PR and Content Syndication, Mr. Myke Mugo, emphasized the company's growing involvement in promoting Kenyan content.

He pointed to the rising prominence of local productions on digital platforms and the need to explore strategies to monetize this content through

new technologies, including over-the-top (OTT) services.

"Kenya is increasingly producing high-quality content, supported by skilled and talented producers. There's an immense opportunity in identifying a unique narrative that will make Kenyan content stand out, even with the stiff competition from established content from Nigeria, Mexico, Tanzania, China, and the U.S.," said Mr. Mugo.

StarTimes' local content push comes at a time when Kenya's creative industry is expanding, with more producers creating authentic stories that resonate with local and international audiences.

The company is keen on supporting this growth by providing a platform for Kenyan storytellers to showcase their work while ensuring that the content is accessible across a range of digital spaces.

Rembo TV, which focuses on pro-

moting East African stories, has already become a key player in local content production.

With more investment, StarTimes hopes to further enhance the visibility and reach of Kenyan productions on its platforms, attracting larger audiences and creating opportunities for content creators to capitalize on their work.



"Our goal is to make Kenyan content immediately recognizable and valued, not just locally but on the international stage," added Mr. Mugo.

He added that by investing in exclusive productions and providing a dedicated platform for local content, the company aims to contribute to the growth and global appeal of Kenyan media.

"As StarTimes continues to champion local content development, Kenyan producers and creators can expect greater opportunities to showcase their work to wider audiences, both in Kenya and beyond," he said.

Parliamentary Investments Committee Grills NHIF On The Auditor General's Report

By: PSCU

In a heated session of the National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture, chaired by Navakholo MP Emanuel Wangwe, the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) faced tough scrutiny over its financial performance and audit irregularities.

The session saw NHIF CEO Elijah Wachira and Director of Financial Services Robert Ingasira grilled on the Auditor-General's report for the financial year 2018/2019.

The Fund, once a pillar of healthcare financing in Kenya, reported a significant financial downturn.

A deficit of KSh3.67 billion was recorded in the 2018/2019 financial year, compared to a surplus of KSh295.92 million in the previous year.

This sharp decline in financial stability raised concerns about the sustainability of NHIF, which plays a crucial role in making health services more accessible and affordable.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina who is a member of the committee going through documents during yesterday's meeting.

"We are concerned about the declining performance of the Fund," said Wangwe. "If the current trend continues, NHIF may face serious financial difficulties in the near future."

In defense, Wachira pointed out several strategic interventions aimed at reversing the downward trend.

"We have taken steps to boost membership growth, increase revenue, and curb fraudulent claims. Among our key initiatives are the upgrading of the customer experience center, the development of self-care platforms, and the implementation of electronic claims processing," Wachira explained.

However, the committee remained unsatisfied with NHIF's explanations regarding certain expenditures, particularly staff welfare and recruitment processes. "Why didn't you provide the supporting documents for staff recruitment and welfare expenditures when requested by the Auditor-General?" Wangwe asked. Masara raised further issues, criticizing NHIF's documentation. "The responses are incomplete, annexes do not tally, and the explanations provided so far are unsatisfactory," he noted.

The session concluded with the committee adjourning the meet-



The committee during yesterday's session



Committee chairman Emmanuel Wangwe stressing a point during yesterday's forum.

ing, giving NHIF another month to gather all relevant documents and provide clear, paginated responses. "We expect NHIF to come back with

better-prepared answers and documents that satisfy this Committee's queries," Masara warned.

Kangema MP Downplays Grounds Cited In Gachagua's Impeachment Motion



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- MP Kihungi also claimed that the MPs from Mount Kenya have developed cold feet as they were not coming out openly to support the motion.
- So far, it is only majority leader Kimani Ichungwah who has signed up the motion. The anchor concurred telling him the other day I hosted Muranga women representative and she also declined.
- However, the MP spoke a day after Senators and a section of MPs from the Mountain, who spoke in different functions held in the Mountain, openly supported the impeachment of Gachagua.
- Notably, some of the grounds cited by anti-Gachagua crusaders were as follows: Insubordination, abuse of office and gross violation of the constitution and other laws of the land.

Yesterday in the morning I listened to Kangema MP Kihungi Wamae who was being hosted by Kamau Wa Kengethe of iNooro TV.

The debate largely focussed on the impending plan to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

The MP said he has not appended his signature to the list of legislators supporting the impeachment motion and he is not intending to do so.

He also insisted that he will not vote in support of the motion if it lands on the floor of parliament.

When the anchor took him through the grounds listed, he curtly responded that these grounds 'do not meet the thresholds of law'.

He further stated that the impeaching of DP would set a bad precedent because they were elected on the same ticket together with President William Ruto.

So if the motion sails through, the President will be the next target.

He however struggled for words when he was reminded that is not what happened when the previous impeachments against some county governors and deputies were filed.

If the governor was the one being targeted, it is only the county boss who was ousted. The same case applied if is the deputy governor targeted.

MP Kihungi also claimed that the MPs from Mount Kenya have developed cold feet as they were not coming out openly to support the motion.

So far, it is only majority leader Kimani Ichungwah who has signed up the motion. The anchor concurred telling him the other day I hosted Muranga women representative and she also declined.

However, the MP spoke a day after Senators and a section of MPs from the Mountain, who spoke in different functions held in the Mountain, openly supported the impeachment of Gachagua.

Notably, some of the grounds cited by anti-Gachagua crusaders were as follows: Insubordination, abuse of office and gross violation of the constitution and other laws of the land.

So far, the MPs supporting Gachagua were apparently confusing and misleading Kenyans.

They wanted them to believe that President William Ruto was behind Gachagua's impeachment motion by virtue of being the leader of the ruling Kenya Kwanza coalition.

The President has nothing to do with this matter.

According to the constitution of 2010, the impeachment process ought to be exclusively handled by parliament.

The President is not a member of parliament and hence he has no vote. So, he has no power to dictate to MPs on how to carry on with their constitutional mandate.

But as the leader of the coalition, the law allows him to chair a parliamentary group (PG) meeting.

This will give the MPs an opportunity to freely discuss the agenda lined up but



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.



Kangema MP Kihungi Wamae

the final decision lies with MPs.

Any member of the house is allowed to file this motion after managing to collect at least 117 signatures supporting the motion against DP.

Reports indicate that 300 members have so far signed up. The onus to prove the grounds lies squarely with the

Mover.

The motion will only sail through if it garners two-third majority which is 233 members.

But this will not be the end of the road for DP Gachagua. The concurrence of the Senate will be required.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator Based In Nairobi

Government, Stakeholders Move To Shield Vulnerable Populations From La Nina Impacts

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
 @themtkenyatimes

The government is exploring and working on emergency measures to safeguard vulnerable communities and the agricultural sector from anticipated below-average rainfall, which threatens livestock and livelihoods in the coming months.

Experts warn that a potential La Nina event may impact the country from late this year into early next year, posing one of the most severe climatic challenges in recent years.

Key stakeholders—including livestock, feed, and fodder specialists, as well as international agencies—are also collaborating closely with the government to develop both short-term and long-term strategies aimed at alleviating pressure on livestock and food production.

Dr. Stanley Mutua, head of Animal Feeds and Nutrition Services at the State Department for Livestock Development, noted that the country has been grappling with a persistent feed shortage for nearly seven years.

“In the short term, as we prepare for the forecasted conditions, it is crucial to focus on urgent actions surrounding feed supply and distribution to ensure availability and accessibility for livestock in hotspot areas of northern Kenya and other emerging Arid and Semi-Arid Land counties,” Dr. Mutua emphasized.

Dr. Mutua spoke at the inaugural Kenya National Feeds Emergency Response Planning workshop in Naivasha, which aimed to strategize on safeguarding Kenya’s livestock sector during the expected La Nina period. He highlighted the devastating drought of 2022, which resulted in the loss of 2.5 million animals valued at over KSh50 billion.

While the national feed shortage is usually estimated at 60 per cent, Dr. Mutua reported that the current shortage already stands at 30 per cent. This outlook, he added, signals a dire situation that could worsen with the onset of the La Nina phenomenon.

Experts advise that to prevent insufficient rainfall from escalating into famine, the country must proactively develop resilient feed and fodder systems to ensure sustainable resource availability for livestock during challenging climatic conditions.

Mr David Maina, the Feed and Fodder Business Development expert at the Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems project (RAFFS Project) of the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), stressed the need to integrate proper fodder and feed practices into the growth of the livestock sector.

“We aim to shift from an emergency mindset to a more sustainable ap-



Stakeholders in the livestock feed sector developing strategies in response to potential La Nina effects. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah.

proach that stabilizes the sector and promotes sustained growth,” he stated while cautioning that the La Nina phenomenon could further strain livestock, leading to a reduced market of livestock products.

AU-IBAR, a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC), provides strategic leadership in managing animal resources across Africa. The RAFFS initiative, funded by AU-IBAR and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), seeks to enhance the resilience of Africa’s feed and fodder systems.

Some livestock keepers in northern Kenya have expressed confidence in their preparedness for the projected La Nina, drawing on lessons learnt from previous droughts that resulted in the loss of thousands of camels, cows, and goats.

Mr Tumal Orto, a camel pastoralist and community leader from the

Gabra indigenous group in Marsabit County, noted that herders have adapted their grazing patterns to mitigate climate change impacts on their livestock.

“Currently, we have water and pasture that could see us through the phenomenon, but emerging diseases, particularly Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), commonly known as ‘Goat’s plague,’ are a concern for many livestock keepers in northern Kenya,” he stated with a mix of optimism and caution.

The Africa Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N) in Kenya has expressed fears that women are not adequately prepared due to historical and cultural factors, particularly regarding land and property rights.

However, Ms Christine Kalua, the President of AWARFA-N Kenya, remains optimistic. She noted that the

organization is collaborating with like-minded associations, such as the Kenya Feed and Fodder Alliance, to develop strategies in response to potential La Nina effects.

“We are eager to actively engage with these established systems and enhance awareness throughout our network, ensuring that women are well-prepared and equipped to respond effectively in a timely manner,” she stated.

AWARFA-N is a regional initiative aimed at empowering women in livestock farming and agribusiness across Africa. It advocates for gender equality, provides training and resources to enhance agricultural and business skills, fosters collaboration among women in the sector, and influences policy to create a supportive environment.



Dr Stanley Mutua, head of Animal Feeds and Nutrition Services at the State Department for Livestock Development during the workshop. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

Worth Noting:

• “In the short term, as we prepare for the forecasted conditions, it is crucial to focus on urgent actions surrounding feed supply and distribution to ensure availability and accessibility for livestock in hotspot areas of northern Kenya and other emerging Arid and Semi-Arid Land counties,” Dr. Mutua emphasized.

• Dr. Mutua spoke at the inaugural Kenya National Feeds Emergency Response Planning workshop in Naivasha, which aimed to strategize on safeguarding Kenya’s livestock sector during the expected La Nina period. He highlighted the devastating drought of 2022, which resulted in the loss of 2.5 million animals valued at over KSh50 billion.

New Health Scheme Shrouded With Mystery - Former NHIF Boss

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The new health scheme, taking effect today is shrouded with mystery and very Kenyans are full enlightened.

According to CPA Geoffrey Gitau Mwangi, a former National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) Chief Executive Officer, the government is yet to make citizens understand how the new medical scheme that takes effect today will work.

Mwangi, a Social Health Care Financing Expert, said his analysis on reports he has read in the media, the new scheme, Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) had gaps in its mandate as so far explained to the public.

“There is very little information on the new scheme. Indeed, some information points to a system that is taking the country backwards as far as where we had taken NHIF. Those behind it should come out clear-



CPA Geoffrey Gitau Mwangi with his host Benjamin Wangari.

ly and explain what this scheme is up to,” Mwangi who worked with NHIF for over 20 years, of which four as the Chief Executive Officer said on Sunday evening.

He was speaking on Inooro FM’s Kibiri show where he was hosted by the Station’s Benjamin Wangari.

While discussing on the wide range of health issues, Mwangi noted that a section of those fronting the new scheme which will be run under Social Health Authority (SHA) were just demonising the NHIF system but availing very little on the new

one. “Those behind the new system should come out clearly and make Kenyans understand what it takes to join the new scheme since most people are still in the dark,” he said.

He said the new scheme is expected to address the three Universal Health Care (UHC) pillars of Quality Health Care, Accessible Health Care and No Financial Burden.

Mwangi who said he has political interest in Nakuru County where he hails from said he hoped the current government which is the brain-



CPA Geoffrey Gitau Mwangi at Inooro FM studio on Sunday evening.

child behind the new system would as soon as is practically possible address’s the medical cover issue which is key to citizens health.

Teens Who Faked Kidnapping, Demanded KSh6 Million Ransom Arrested

By: The DCI

Detectives in Imenti North, Meru County have apprehended three 17-year-olds who orchestrated a sham kidnapping in Kainginyo, Thimbiri location, before audaciously demanding Sh6 million ransom from the “victims” family.

In a classic case of misguided get-rich-quick mentality, the three, two males and a female, faked the kidnapping of the female, then called her parents with the demands lest their daughter disappeared for good.

On receiving information of a missing child on Tuesday last week, officers at Meru Police Station geared up for a scrupulous manhunt within the locality, reassuring the distraught family whose negotiations with the kidnapers and frantic search for their kin had resulted in futility.

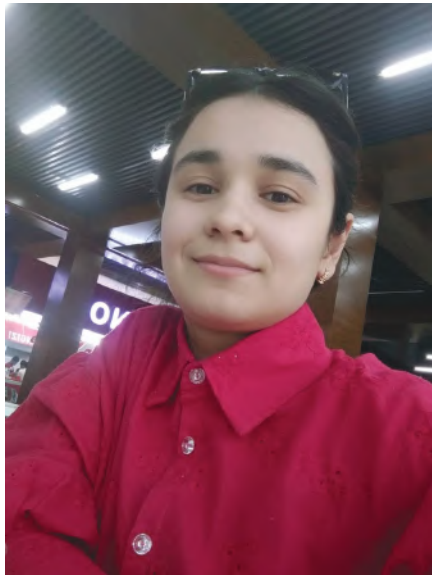
Joining in the investigation, Imenti North detectives uncovered a sinister plot. The supposed victim, Jane (not her real name), had conspired with the two male accomplices to stage her own kidnapping, aiming to extort the hefty sum from her own family.

Following a forensic trail, Jane and her accomplices were smoked out of their hideout in Kainginyo, where a discovery of 20 rolls of Marijuana was also made.

As the family thanks the good heavens for the safety of their kin, she and her partners in crime are cooling heels at a Igoji Police Station pending arraignment for conspiracy to defraud and being in possession of narcotics.



Homeland



By: Saidqulova Nozima
Uzbekistan

When I pour my head over your rocks,
If it spills, it's a stitch of my tongue.

If I fall at your feet, rub my eyes,
Dig every inch of your soil.

There are rules in your country again,
Say it like you, my soul is a piece of live.
There are flowers everywhere,
There is a clear sky and a fountain of love.

I compared you and me to my mother,
Your every word is as kind as my mother.
You took me in your arms, my child, you,
Say it as you like, there is another rule.

If there is, let's go and take it far,
Don't look behind me, you dreamless.
No, these questions are wishful thinking,
There is no other like you.

Corruption Is A Race For Progress



Corruption is the path to destruction.

By: Naimova Ozoda
Uzbekistan

The word "corruption" comes from Latin, meaning to buy, sell, break in exchange for bribes. Very simply, the term refers to the abuse of career powers and rights of an official for his own personal benefit, contrary to the norms of law and morality. A characteristic aspect of corruption is the conflict of the interests of society with the official and his interests. Most of the manifestations of this vices are extortion by officials, which is a crime against the state.

The concept and forms of corruption are officially embodied at the international level in the UN resolution of 1995. Following the provisions of this appearance, the state establishes the criteria for corruption in domestic law and measures to eliminate it.

The fact that the roots of this vile go back several thousand years puts a person in deep contemplation. At first, humans donated gifts to a tribal chief or elder to gain a position. A valuable gift distinguished this person from others. Here is where its roots go.

Corruption manifests itself in various manifestations and forms as a result of economic, political and social problems in society. Illegal gifts, or rather bribery, using public office, often occur during periods of reform. Bribes to an official to solve the problems of citizens in most cases will not only speed up the solution of the issue, but also one hundred percent will be decided in favor of the applicant. From the end of the 18th century there was a sharp turn in the corrupt position of society. State power must serve for the welfare of the people subject to it. An example of this is the US.

Constitution of 1787, which made bribery the most serious crime. There is man, there is man, there is man, there is man. In the interest of hate, human beings have been wronged by unjust judgements of unjust judges. It is not for nothing that the unjust appropriation of the property of others is the most severe crime.

Speaking about the work on the fight against corruption in our country, over the past years, various penalties have been given in

the legislation on cases such as bribery, abuse of career authority. One of the most severe consequences of corruption, the people's trust in the state and officials is undermined, their position in society decreases. Today, not only are these consequences, social and negative, which are being touched on entrepreneurship and initiative, which are becoming an obstacle in the process of reform, but these consequences have also been assessed as a socially dangerous vices in the international level of corruption. Our goal is to be counted, to build a civil society, to demand that all healthy forces fight against this vile in sharpness and harmony.

We are all against corruption because a person involved in corruption, in addition to breaking the law, reveals his identity, his faith, to what extent his spirituality is. Such a person will not only inflict financial harm, but will discredit the state, democracy, give him his non-salt and put his feet on the face of an adult, el-yurt, who gave him a profession, reputation, career. For a person who has engaged in a corrupt, disgusting vice, the value of great things, sacred feelings disappears. Such people think that in life everything can be bought and sold. They do not believe in anyone, in faith, at the same time, such people cannot be trusted with anything that can be considered dear to life. Because they are not ashamed to look at their parents, their relatives, their brother, the face of the neighborhood to the ground, to bend their head.

We all know well that the law regulates relations. If the law does not work in life, then a few sheets of it will not differ from ordinary paper. So it would be a big mistake to give in to calm, thinking that "the law on corruption has been passed, now it will all be on the trail". It is our duty to all of us to think about getting rid of the scourge of corruption, to free reforms from its clutter, to pass the necessity of this through our hearts, to fight against it strictly by each of us.

I wrote this essay and came to the conclusion that a person who worked correctly and learned the happiness of living correctly from childhood, from youth, will be brave and honest. Injustice, disrespect for the law, betrayal of trust cannot be done, young people in the future will follow the law and become a courageous, conscientious person. A brave person in any situation will be honest anyway. In this essay, I talked about some aspects of negative vices—corruption, rooted in the world. So we all have to fight corruption. On this day, we hope that these efforts will pay off in the coming years, noting that the prosecutor general's office, judicial authorities and other organizations of our country are fighting corruption by turning their heads from one side to another.

Grateful For Your Presence, My Dear Mother



When she prays, her supplications reach the skies,
Whatever she finds, she wishes for her child.

My kind-hearted, my tender mother,
I am grateful for your presence, always.

When many worries came into my life,
You always asked Allah for my happiness.

My dearest, my paradise, my mother,
I am grateful for your presence, always.

There may be many dark-eyed ones around me,

And words that sound sweet in pleasant melodies,
But none of them could ever be as close as you,
I am grateful for your presence, always.

There are highs and lows on the paths of destiny,
Sometimes friends pretend not to see when you fall.
Even strangers join in your moments of joy,

But no one could be like you, my mother,
I am grateful for your presence, always.

Look, mother, I am reaching my goal,
I see many prayers of yours being fulfilled.

Even my teacher is pleased with me because of you,
I am grateful for your presence, always.

So many beautiful days are yet to come,
Our leader will call me a "Zulfiya girl."
Because of you, my life will be beautiful,
I am grateful for your presence, my MOTHER!

Eshmo'minova Sitora

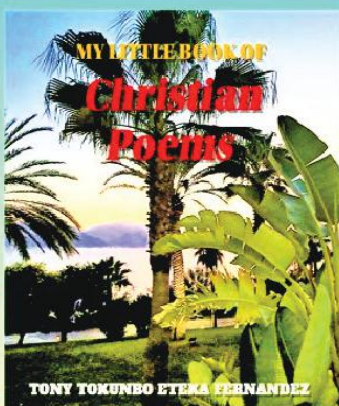
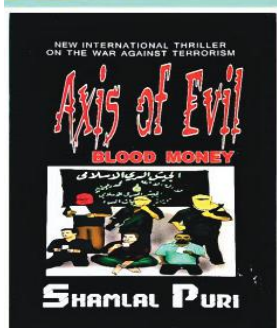
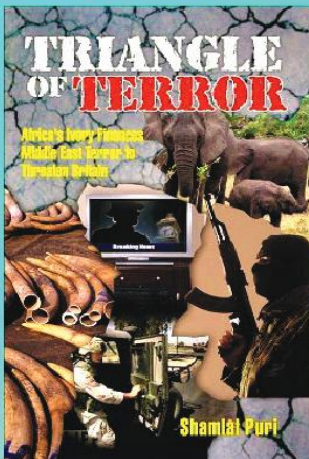
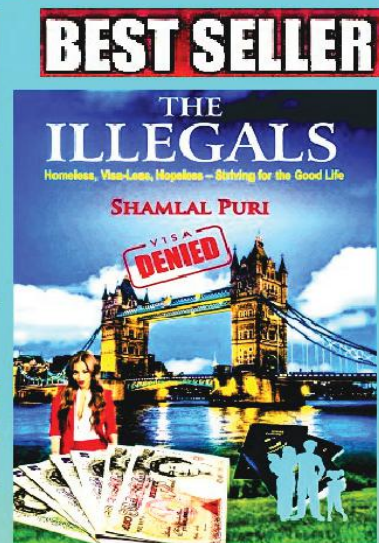
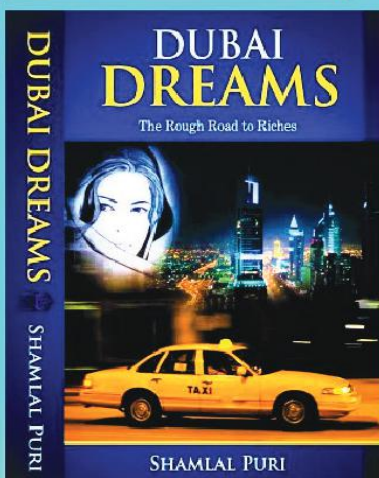
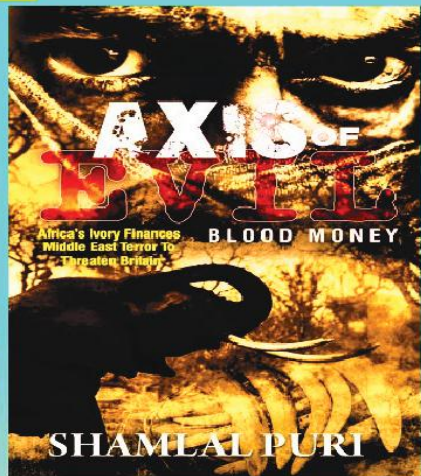
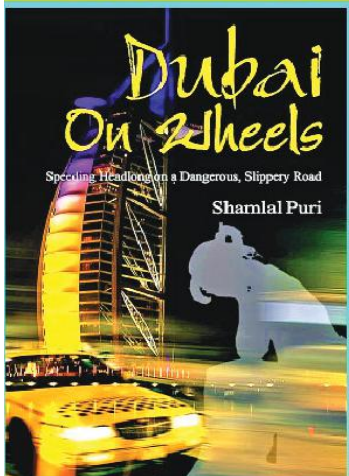
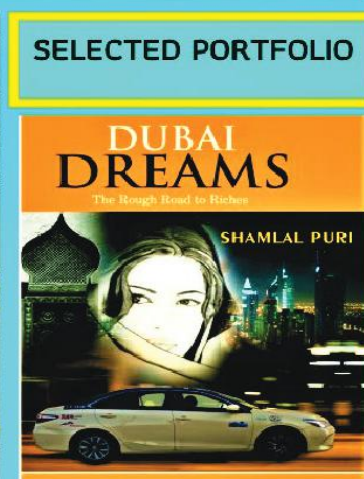
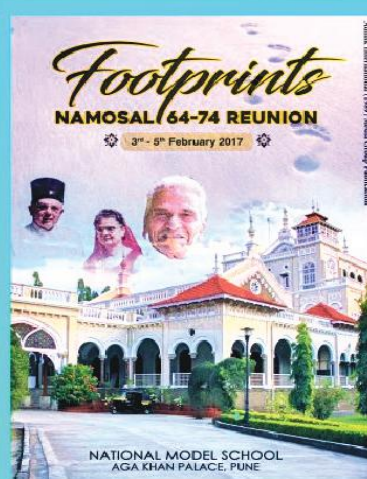
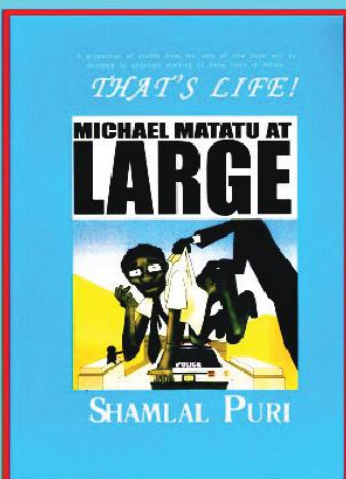
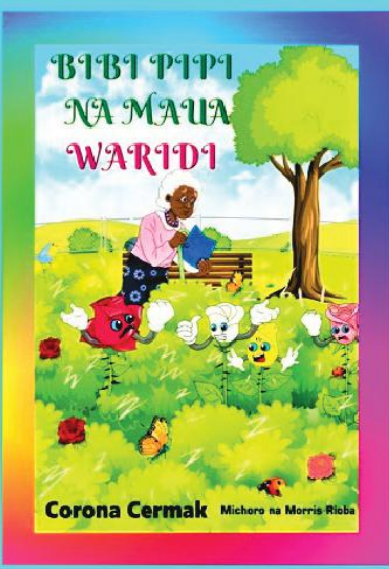
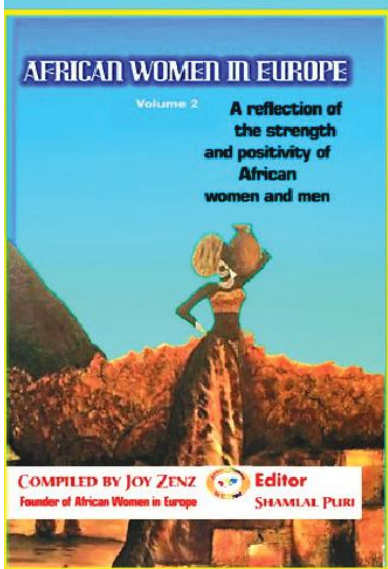
DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE? Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

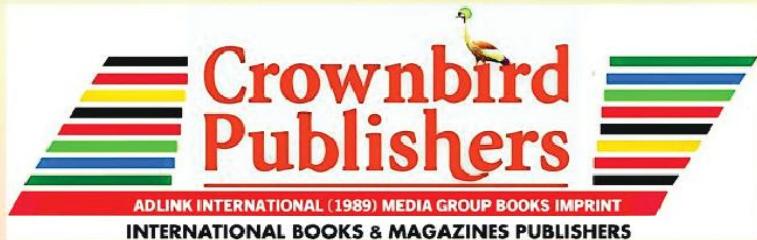
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

BUSINESS

Tower Sacco Towering In Saccos Sphere

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyaintimes

Tower Sacco has continued to tower in the Sacco sphere where its share capital and deposits increased with over Sh 3 billion in the last eight months hence moving from position 8 to 5 out of 174 Sacco's based on total assets.

Members were informed of the progress of the Sacco during a special general meeting held in Ol'kalou Catholic Church grounds in Nyan-darua County that their share capital and deposits increased from KSh 18,213,714,624 by 31st August 2023 to KSh21,456,014,999 by 1st August 2024.

"This is an increase of KSh3,242,300,375 which is 18% growth. I encourage all members to embrace the savings culture in order to improve the socio economic standards of living. It is only through continuous savings that one can achieve the desired financial independence," Peter Mainah Ngugi the Sacco chairman said.

Ngugi informed the members that the society has endeavoured to always offer tailor made solutions to meet the ever changing needs of the members.

"The society has developed a variety of loan products which are guided by the needs and expectations of the membership. the society has ensured that the loan facilities to the members are effective, competitive and affordable at all times," Ngugi said.

He said that the loan bok increased from KSh8,218,735,893 by 31st August 2023 to KSh9,913,181,924 by 31st August 2024 an increase of KSh1,694,446,031, a 21% growth.

The total outstanding loans with the members amount to KSh20,839,486,977 by 31st August 2024 compared to KSh17,418,836,465 by 31st August 2023 which reflects a growth of KSh3,420,650,512 or 20% rise.

"I would advise members to plan well and put the loans granted into productive and value-adding activities in order to improve their lives and the future of their generations," he said.

The membership increased from 216,382 by 31st August 2023 to 249,511 by 31st August 2024 an increase of 33,129 members which translates to a growth of 15%.

"I urge you to continue sensitizing, educating and encouraging the people in our regions and beyond on the importance of saving and joining the Sacco," he said.

He said that during the period under review there was an upward fluctua-

tion in lending rates in the financial sector, a fact that has negatively affected the purchasing power of the people.

He said that despite the prevailing economic condition the board of directors and management have continuously tailored solutions to meet the needs of the members.

The chairman reported the unaudited half year results that during the year under review the society realized a revenue of KSh1,801,033,567 by 30th June 2024 compared to KSh1,469,925,279 by 30th June 2023 reflecting a growth of Sh 331,108,288 or a growth of 23%.

The society realized a surplus of KSh1,169,327,092 by 30th June 2024 compared to KSh975,059,565 by 30th June 2023 reflecting a growth of KSh194,267,527 or a 205 rise.

He said that the society has conducted a feasibility study to open other branches in Nyeri town, Thika-Makongeni and Mau Narok Mwisho wa Lami which is in line with its strategic objectives and growth strategy .

"The need for these branches has been necessitated by members demand, potential in the regions coupled with the overall society growth strategy to reach and serve more people,' he said.

He said that as at 31st August 2024 70% of the total cash transactions was done through the available digital channels which include mobile banking, agency banking, ATMs and internet banking. In order for the society to improve on these services and maintain high system security levels a budget has been set aside for ICT enhancement and growth.

Members were informed that the society has sourced for partners to offer green energy solutions and are intended to supply solar energy systems to the branches and the Sacco to empower the members to acquire them through affordable financing.

the members were informed of a holiday account where the society intends to facilitate coordination of local exposure visits to members who have opened and saved.

"I urge you to open and save in the holiday account to enable you and your family access opportunities for learning various business and investment opportunities coupled with refreshing retreats," he said.

He however took issue with some members who have continued to mudsling the board of directors and Sacco management saying they are creating anxiety to the members and never appear whenever invited to



Tower Sacco chairman Peter Ngugi speaking during the Special General Meeting

clarify on the matters they are raising. David Njoroge Chief Officer Nyan-darua county government called on members to support the Sacco leadership.

"whenever you see an upward trajectory on our numbers it is through commitment and sacrifice and we need to support the Sacco team,' he said .

Dr. Nelson Kuria chairman insurance group of companies the chief guest called on members not to allow people to talk ill of their Sacco as it serves member and their dependents. "When one plays around with the institution, they are messing around

with the over 250,000 members and their dependents in form of families. Members should not allow detractors to have their way to destroy the Sacco," Kuria said.

He said that the biggest asset of a financial institution is the trust and confidence of the membership and the growth of Tower Sacco is not by accident by being ranked number 5 in the country.

He however called on the members to guard their Sacco jealously so that they may be able to grow and continue addressing their financial needs.



Tower Sacco CEO Patrick Njenga speaking during the Special General Meeting.

Worth Noting:

- Ngugi informed the members that the society has endeavoured to always offer tailor made solutions to meet the ever changing needs of the members.

- "The society has developed a variety of loan products which are guided by the needs and expectations of the membership. the society has ensured that the loan facilities to the members are effective, competitive and affordable at all times," Ngugi said.

- He said that the loan bok increased from KSh8,218,735,893 by 31st August 2023 to KSh9,913,181,924 by 31st August 2024 an increase of KSh1,694,446,031, a 21% growth.

- The total outstanding loans with the members amount to KSh20,839,486,977 by 31st August 2024 compared to KSh17,418,836,465 by 31st August 2023 which reflects a growth of KSh3,420,650,512 or 20% rise.

KWS New Strategic Plan To Drive Sustainable Tourism, Boost Wildlife Economy

By: Beth Nyaga
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has launched its Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, a blueprint aimed at transforming Kenya's wildlife conservation landscape while enhancing socio-economic benefits.

The plan sets a bold vision for positioning Kenya as a global leader in sustainable tourism, with a focus on expanding the wildlife economy, community participation, and resilience against challenges like habitat degradation and human-wildlife conflict.

The five-year Strategic Plan centres on five key goals: fostering thriving wildlife populations, building resilient ecosystems rich in biodiversity, enhancing community and stakeholder engagement, expanding the wildlife economy, and creating a high-performing KWS.

This comprehensive approach seeks to boost wildlife conservation's socio-economic potential, create jobs, improve livelihoods, and increase foreign exchange earnings.

Speaking at the launch, Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano emphasized the role of the wildlife economy in reducing inequalities, supporting local economies, and enhancing food security, particularly in rural areas.

She highlighted initiatives such as promoting wildlife-based enterprises, strengthening marine reserve management, and diversifying tourism products as crucial steps toward achieving these goals.

"The government's commitment to harnessing Kenya's natural heritage for sustainable development is unwavering," Miano said, noting that the plan aims to ensure conservation benefits are equitably shared among stakeholders.

She also praised KWS for embracing core values of accountability, integrity, and innovation, which she believes will guide the organization into a successful future.

Miano further acknowledged the contributions of the KWS Board of Trustees, chaired by Lt. General (Rtd) Walter Raria Koipaton, and Director General Dr. Erustus Kanga, commending their leadership in advancing the country's conservation agenda.



KWS Director General Dr. Erustus Kanga

Principal Secretary for Wildlife, Silvia Museiya, highlighted the Strategic Plan's role in reducing biodiversity loss and improving community engagement.

"This plan will enhance the management of human-wildlife coexistence, promote equitable sharing of conservation benefits, and implement science-driven approaches to safeguard critical ecosystems," Museiya said.

She pledged government support for frameworks to better coordinate and govern the wildlife sector.

KWS Director General Dr. Erustus Kanga described the plan as transformative, noting that it aligns with both the National Human-Wildlife Coexistence Strategy and the National Wildlife Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

"These initiatives are key to ensuring

resilience and sustainability for Kenya's wildlife heritage for future generations," Kanga stated.

With a focus on conservation-driven economic growth, KWS's Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 is set to propel Kenya to new heights as a sustainable tourism powerhouse, ensuring communities benefit directly from conservation efforts while preserving the country's unique natural heritage.

Health Ministry To Kick Off First Phase Of Polio Vaccination Campaign

By: Wangari Kanyongo
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health is set to kick off a 5-day supplementary polio vaccination campaign in response to an outbreak after 5 cases of derived poliovirus type 2 were detected in Kakuma refugee camp and Kamukunji in Nairobi.

The campaign which will kick-off from tomorrow 6th October, is set to reach a target population of over 3.8 million children under the age of 10 yrs.

Speaking during a media engagement, Public Health principal secretary Mary Muthoni says the campaign will be carried out in 9 high risk counties of Nairobi, Kiambu, Busia, Bungoma, Turkana, West Pokot, Marsabit, Transnzoia and Machakos.

The PS has urged parents and care-

givers to avail their children for the vaccination.

The Ministry is also set to administer 14.6 million doses in the second phase in 2025.

Public Health principal secretary Mary Muthoni

.....
.....
.....



The Silent Echoes Of Subservience: Unmasking The Crisis Of Independent Thought In Kenyan Governance



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Independent Thought In Kenyan Governance

Worth Noting:

- The erosion of accountability within government agencies is another critical consequence of this culture of subservience. When officials prioritize loyalty over integrity, it creates an environment ripe for corruption and mismanagement.
- The culture of fear and compliance further exacerbates this issue, as many civil servants are reluctant to voice dissenting opinions or challenge unethical practices for fear of retribution.
- Civil society organizations play a crucial role in advocating for good governance and accountability; however, their efforts are often undermined by the prevailing political culture.
- Engaging the youth in governance processes is another critical avenue for fostering independent thought. As digital natives, young Kenyans possess unique perspectives and skills that can drive transformative change within political structures.

In the words of Chinua Achebe, “The man who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself.” This profound observation resonates deeply within the context of Kenya’s political landscape, where the absence of independent minds in parliament and other government agencies has become a significant impediment to the nation’s progress. The prevailing narrative suggests that loyalty to political masters often supersedes the duty to uphold the constitutional aspirations of the people. This subservience not only undermines democratic principles but also stifles innovation and accountability, leaving a populace yearning for genuine representation.

The Paradox of Political Loyalty

In Kenya, political loyalty has morphed into a paradox where allegiance to party lines overshadows the fundamental duty to serve constituents. The legal framework established by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 emphasizes public participation and accountability; however, many legislators appear more concerned with appeasing their political benefactors than advocating for their electorate’s needs. This irony is palpable when one considers that these elected officials are supposed to be the voice of the people yet often choose silence over dissent. The result is a legislative body that resembles a rubber stamp rather than a bastion of democratic deliberation.

The Erosion of Accountability

The erosion of accountability within

government agencies is another critical consequence of this culture of subservience. When officials prioritize loyalty over integrity, it creates an environment ripe for corruption and mismanagement. For instance, numerous scandals involving public funds have surfaced, highlighting how bureaucrats often turn a blind eye to malfeasance orchestrated by their political superiors. Such complicity not only breaches legal ethics but also erodes public trust in institutions designed to safeguard citizens’ rights and welfare. The irony lies in the fact that these very institutions are meant to be pillars of justice yet often become enablers of injustice.

A Culture of Fear and Compliance

The culture of fear and compliance further exacerbates this issue, as many civil servants are reluctant to voice dissenting opinions or challenge unethical practices for fear of retribution. This environment stifles creativity and innovation, as individuals become conditioned to conform rather than contribute meaningfully to policy discussions. It is within this context that we must question whether true democracy can flourish when independent thought is systematically suppressed. The deadpan reality is that without courageous voices willing to challenge the status quo, Kenya risks becoming a nation governed by mediocrity rather than merit.

The Role of Civil Society

Civil society organizations play a crucial role in advocating for good governance and accountability; how-

ever, their efforts are often undermined by the prevailing political culture. While these organizations strive to hold leaders accountable and promote transparency, they frequently encounter resistance from both government officials and political elites who view them as threats rather than allies. This ironic twist highlights the need for a paradigm shift in how we perceive civic engagement—rather than viewing it as an adversarial relationship, it should be embraced as a collaborative effort toward national development.

The Constitutional Aspirations

The aspirations enshrined in Kenya’s Constitution reflect a desire for inclusivity, equity, and justice; yet, these ideals remain largely unfulfilled due to the pervasive culture of subservience. Article 10 outlines national values and principles of governance that include patriotism, national unity, and democracy; however, these principles are often overshadowed by personal ambitions and political expediency. The irony is that while the Constitution provides a robust framework for good governance, its implementation is frequently hampered by those entrusted with upholding it.

The Need for Reform

To address this crisis, there is an urgent need for comprehensive reform aimed at fostering independent thought within parliament and government agencies. This could involve revisiting electoral processes to ensure that representatives are genuinely accountable to their constituents

rather than party leaders. Additionally, implementing mechanisms that protect whistleblowers could encourage civil servants to report unethical behavior without fear of reprisal. Such reforms would not only enhance accountability but also cultivate an environment where innovative solutions can thrive.

Engaging the Youth

Engaging the youth in governance processes is another critical avenue for fostering independent thought. As digital natives, young Kenyans possess unique perspectives and skills that can drive transformative change within political structures. By empowering them through education and active participation in civic affairs, we can cultivate a generation of leaders who prioritize ethical governance over political patronage. The irony here is that while youth represent hope for the future, their voices are often marginalized in favor of entrenched interests.

A Call for Ethical Leadership

Ultimately, advocating for good governance requires a collective commitment to ethical leadership at all levels of society. Leaders must recognize that their primary responsibility lies not with their political masters but with the citizens they serve. This shift in mindset is essential if we are to dismantle the culture of subservience that has plagued Kenyan politics for far too long. By prioritizing integrity over loyalty, we can begin to restore faith in our institutions and pave the way for sustainable development.

Conclusion: A Vision for Change

In conclusion, the lack of independent minds in Kenyan parliament and government agencies represents one of the greatest challenges facing our nation today. If we are ever to realize the aspirations outlined in our Constitution, we must confront this issue head-on with courage and resolve. Only through fostering an environment where dissenting opinions are valued can we hope to cultivate a political landscape characterized by accountability, transparency, and genuine representation. As we reflect on Achebe’s words about troublemakers creating trouble for themselves, let us strive to be agents of positive change—questioning authority when necessary and championing the ideals of good governance for all Kenyans.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ruto's Call For UN Security Council Reform: A Necessary Step Towards Inclusivity And Accountability

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

President William Ruto's criticism of the United Nations Security Council as dysfunctional and undemocratic has brought the issue of UN reform to the forefront of global discourse. In a bold move, Ruto has called for urgent reforms to enhance the Council's inclusivity and accountability, recognizing the pressing need to adapt to the rapidly evolving challenges facing the international community.

Ruto's stance resonates with many nations advocating for a more representative and responsive Security Council. The current structure, which grants veto power to five permanent members (P5)—the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom—has been criticized for its lack of transparency and inability to effectively address global crises. The P5's monopoly on decision-making often leads to inaction on critical issues, from climate change to humanitarian crises, raising questions about the legitimacy of an institution that was designed to promote peace and security.

The veto power, enshrined in Article 27 of the UN Charter, allows any of the P5 members to block substantive resolutions. This mechanism has been utilized over 293 times since the UN's

inception, often resulting in gridlock on pressing international matters. Critics argue that this undemocratic feature is a significant barrier to progress, preventing timely responses to conflicts and atrocities that require immediate attention.

As the world grapples with increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, the need for a reformed and reinvigorated Security Council has never been more apparent. Ruto's call for inclusivity underscores the importance of ensuring that the Council's membership reflects the diversity of the modern world. This includes representation from all regions and a greater voice for developing nations, which are often disproportionately affected by conflicts yet remain sidelined in decision-making processes.

By enhancing inclusivity, the Security Council can tap into a wider pool of perspectives, experiences, and expertise. This broader representation would enable it to craft more nuanced and effective responses to global issues. For instance, African nations have unique insights into regional conflicts that could inform more effective peacekeeping strategies. Greater representation would foster a sense of ownership among member states, as they see their concerns reflected in the Council's de-

isions.

Accountability is another key pillar of Ruto's reform agenda. The President's criticism highlights the need for robust mechanisms to ensure that the actions and decisions of the Security Council are subject to scrutiny and oversight. Enhancing accountability can take many forms—from strengthening reporting mechanisms to establishing clear consequences for non-compliance with resolutions. By holding the Council accountable for its actions, the international community can ensure adherence to the principles outlined in the UN Charter.

Ruto's call for reform comes at a critical juncture in UN history. As the organization celebrates its 78th anniversary, it faces a crossroads: adapt and evolve to meet 21st-century challenges or risk becoming increasingly irrelevant. The growing chorus advocating for change—from civil society organizations to member states across the Global South—demonstrates a collective desire for a more effective UN.

One significant initiative is the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reform, ongoing since 2009. This platform allows member states to discuss various aspects of reform, including size and composition. While progress has been slow due

to competing interests among member states, there is a growing consensus around key principles such as increased representation and democracy within the Council.

However, translating these principles into concrete reforms remains a daunting task. The P5's vested interests often hinder meaningful change; any proposed amendments require their unanimous consent—a near-impossible hurdle given their differing priorities. Thus far, attempts at formal amendments have largely failed due to this structural limitation.

To achieve meaningful reform, Ruto and other proponents must continue advocating for change both within the UN system and on the global stage. Building coalitions with like-minded nations is essential for overcoming resistance from those who benefit from maintaining the status quo. Engaging civil society and academia will also be crucial in ensuring that reform efforts are inclusive and responsive to global needs.

The stakes are high: reforming the Security Council could lead to more effective responses to global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, and armed conflicts. By making it more inclusive and accountable, we can take significant steps toward addressing

these pressing issues while fostering international cooperation.

As Ruto aptly stated, we must reject outdated systems that no longer serve our collective interests. The President's clarion call for UN Security Council reform is not just timely; it is necessary for creating a framework of international cooperation that works for all 8 billion people on our planet.

Ultimately, success will depend on building a global consensus around reforming the Security Council while navigating complex political dynamics within the UN system. This requires long-term commitment and strategic diplomacy but offers immense potential rewards—a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

In conclusion, Ruto's advocacy for reforming the UN Security Council is a bold step toward addressing systemic inequities within international governance structures. By prioritizing inclusivity and accountability in decision-making processes, we can pave the way for a more effective United Nations—one that truly reflects our diverse global community and is equipped to tackle contemporary challenges head-on.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Embracing Innovation: The IASP World Conference As A Catalyst For Africa's Economic Future

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

Governor Johnson Sakaja's leadership at the 41st International Association of Science Parks (IASP) World Conference in Nairobi marks a pivotal moment for Africa's innovation landscape. This conference, running from September 24-27, 2024, brings together leaders from over 50 countries to discuss the pressing themes of demographics, entrepreneurship, and technology.

The choice of Nairobi as the host city is significant. Known as Africa's "Silicon Savannah," Konza Technopolis symbolizes Kenya's ambition to become a global innovation hub. This gathering not only highlights Kenya's rapid economic growth but also underscores its role as a leader in technology and entrepreneurship in East Africa.

With a burgeoning youth population, Africa stands at a crossroads. The United Nations projects that by 2030, 1.3 billion individuals will be aged 15-24, presenting both opportunities and challenges for economic development. The conference aims to explore how science parks and areas of innovation can harness this demographic dividend to foster sustainable economic growth.

Entrepreneurship is at the heart of

this discussion. As traditional job markets evolve, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth becomes crucial. The IASP conference will provide a platform for sharing best practices and innovative strategies that can empower young entrepreneurs to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.

Moreover, the role of technology cannot be overstated. Digital transformation is reshaping industries and creating new avenues for growth. The conference will delve into how emerging technologies can be leveraged to address local challenges while contributing to global solutions.

The theme of this year's conference—"Defining the frontiers of future economies"—is timely and relevant. It invites participants to reflect on how innovation ecosystems can adapt to demographic changes and technological advancements. This dialogue is essential for developing strategies that ensure inclusivity and sustainability in economic growth.

Networking opportunities at the conference will facilitate collaborations among participants from diverse backgrounds. By connecting leaders in science parks and innovation areas, the event fosters an environment conducive to knowledge sharing and

partnership building.

In addition to discussions, attendees will have the chance to participate in technical tours showcasing Kenya's innovation landscape. Visiting sites like Konza Technopolis and the IoT Lab at Machakos University will provide firsthand insights into successful models of technology integration and economic development.

The IASP conference is also an opportunity for African nations to showcase their potential on a global stage. By hosting such a prestigious event, Kenya positions itself as a key player in the international dialogue on innovation and economic development.

As we navigate an increasingly interconnected world, addressing global challenges requires collaborative efforts across borders. The IASP conference emphasizes the importance of building networks that transcend geographical boundaries, fostering cooperation among nations facing similar demographic shifts.

In conclusion, Governor Sakaja's role in presiding over this pivotal conference reflects a commitment to advancing Kenya's position as a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussions held during this event will undoubtedly shape policies and strategies that em-

power future generations to thrive in an ever-evolving global economy.

As we look forward to the outcomes of this gathering, it is clear that the intersection of demographics, entrepreneurship, and technology will play a crucial role in defining the future of economies worldwide. The insights gained here will not only benefit Kenya but also provide valuable lessons for other nations grappling with similar challenges.

The IASP World Conference serves as a reminder that through collaboration and innovation, we can harness the potential of our youth while addressing the pressing issues of our time. This event is not just about sharing knowledge; it is about forging pathways toward a sustainable future for all.

Ultimately, the success of this conference will depend on the commitment of all participants to engage deeply with these critical themes. As leaders gather in Nairobi, they carry with them the hopes and aspirations of millions who look to them for guidance in navigating an uncertain future.

In this spirit of collaboration and shared purpose, let us embrace the opportunities presented by this conference to create a brighter future for our economies and societies alike.

This gathering represents not just an exchange of ideas but also a commitment to action—action that can transform challenges into opportunities through innovative thinking and collaborative efforts across borders. The IASP World Conference is poised to be a catalyst for change, inspiring leaders to take bold steps toward shaping resilient economies that are inclusive, sustainable, and driven by technology.

As we move forward from this event, it is essential that we remain focused on nurturing talent and fostering environments where creativity can flourish. The youth must be empowered not only through education but also through access to resources that enable them to innovate and lead.

The road ahead may be filled with uncertainties; however, through collective action at forums like IASP 2024, we can chart a course toward sustainable development that leverages our greatest asset—our young people—while embracing technological advancements that redefine our economies for generations to come.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

The Silent Descent: How Apathy Towards Corruption Destroys Nations



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes



Corruption has been a persistent plague in the realm of politics, and while its prevalence is disheartening, the real tragedy lies in how society has become comfortable with it. There is a growing sense of resignation, a widespread belief that corruption is inevitable and that there's little the ordinary person can do about it. This apathy is far more dangerous than corruption itself. It creates a fertile ground for unethical behavior to thrive, allowing corrupt politicians to act with impunity. When people choose to turn a blind eye to corruption, they essentially hand over the reins of governance to those who seek only to enrich themselves at the expense of the public.

The issue is not just that politicians engage in corrupt practices; it's that citizens have become passive observers, watching as their countries are looted. When corruption is met with silence, it becomes normalized, and once that happens, it becomes exceedingly difficult to root it out.

The problem is cyclical: corruption creates poor governance, which in turn leads to underdevelopment, poverty, and inequality. The poor governance then weakens institutions meant to hold leaders accountable, and citizens—struggling under the weight of economic hardship—are often too preoccupied with survival to demand better from their leaders.

Over time, people begin to accept corruption as part of political life, a necessary evil that comes with the territory of governance. It is this acceptance, this comfort in the face of blatant misconduct that is the true enemy of progress. Corruption is never harmless. It eats away at the foundation of society, undermining the rule of law, deepening inequality, and eroding trust in public institutions.

In countries where corruption is rampant, public resources meant for critical services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development are diverted into private hands. This leaves the majority of the population struggling with poor

services, while a select few enjoy lives of opulence funded by the theft of public wealth. Yet, despite the glaring impact of corruption, many people remain silent, resigned to the belief that nothing can be done.

In many parts of the world, including Kenya, corruption scandals have become so frequent that they no longer shock the public. The exposure of corrupt dealings, rather than sparking outrage, is met with a collective shrug. It's as if society has been numbed to the point where people no longer expect integrity from their leaders. Politicians, knowing this, exploit the public's resignation. They make grand promises during election campaigns, only to engage in graft once in office, confident that the public will either forget or forgive their transgressions. This has created a political culture in which dishonesty and self-enrichment are not just tolerated but, in some cases, rewarded.

The economic impact of corruption is staggering. Public funds that should be invested in development projects are lost to graft, leaving countries with crumbling infrastructure and inadequate services. In Kenya, for instance, the national debt has ballooned to alarming levels, with little to show for it in terms of development. Roads remain in disrepair, schools are overcrowded, and hospitals lack basic supplies. Meanwhile, billions of shillings are lost to corruption each year. This financial hemorrhaging not only hinders economic growth but also exacerbates poverty and inequality, trapping millions in a cycle of deprivation.

The irony is that the very people who suffer the most from corruption are often the ones who do the least to fight it. So why do people stay silent? There are several reasons. Fear is one. In corrupt systems, those who speak out often face intimidation, threats, or even violence. The lack of protection for whistleblowers discourages people from coming forward with evidence of wrongdoing. In some cases, corrupt officials

control the police, the judiciary, and other institutions that are supposed to enforce the law, making it nearly impossible to hold them accountable.

Citizens know that even if they report corruption, justice is unlikely to be served, so they remain silent, fearing retaliation. This creates an environment in which corruption flourishes unchecked.

Another reason people remain passive is the erosion of trust in government institutions. When the judiciary is corrupt, when law enforcement is more interested in taking bribes than enforcing the law, and when elected officials are more concerned with lining their pockets than serving the public, citizens lose faith in the system. They begin to believe that no amount of activism or protest will make a difference, that the system is too broken to fix. This lack of faith in the ability of institutions to deliver justice leads to widespread disengagement from politics. People retreat into their private lives, focusing on personal survival rather than collective action.

There's also the issue of normalization. In many corrupt societies, graft has become so entrenched that it is no longer seen as deviant behavior. Instead, it is viewed as a necessary part of getting things done. Public officials expect bribes as a matter of course, and citizens, rather than fighting this system, adapt to it.

Corruption becomes just another transaction in the marketplace of governance. It becomes a form of tax—albeit an illegal one—that citizens must pay to access services. This normalization of corruption is perhaps the most insidious aspect of the problem because it makes people complicit in their own exploitation. When corruption is seen as inevitable, there is little motivation to fight it.

The consequences of this inaction are dire. Corruption undermines democracy by eroding the public's trust in elected leaders and institutions. It distorts the allocation of resources, leading to economic inefficiency and stunted development. It also exacerbates inequality, as the rich and powerful use their influence to protect their interests at the expense of the public good.

Countries with high levels of corruption often experience political instability, as disillusioned citizens become increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress and the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. This frustration can lead to social unrest, as people take to the

streets to demand change. However, without strong institutions and a commitment to accountability, such movements often fail to bring about lasting reforms.

Breaking the cycle of apathy requires a fundamental shift in how citizens view their role in governance. It begins with recognizing that the fight against corruption is not someone else's responsibility—it is everyone's.

Every citizen has a role to play in holding leaders accountable and demanding transparency. Civic engagement is essential to combating corruption, but it requires more than just voting in elections. It means staying informed, participating in public discourse, and pushing for reforms that strengthen institutions and promote good governance. It also means supporting those who have the courage to speak out against corruption and demanding protection for whistleblowers.

Legal and institutional reforms are also necessary. Anti-corruption agencies must be empowered to act independently and without political interference. Whistleblower protection laws must be strengthened to encourage people to report wrongdoing without fear of retaliation. Public officials should be required to declare their assets and face stringent penalties for engaging in corrupt practices. Campaign finance laws should be reformed to reduce the influence of money in politics, and the judiciary must be equipped to handle corruption cases swiftly and impartially.

Ultimately, the battle against corruption is one that requires both top-down and bottom-up approaches. While governments must take the lead in implementing reforms, citizens must demand better from their leaders. The cost of inaction is too high.

Corruption destroys economies, deepens inequality, and weakens the very fabric of society. It creates a world in which the powerful thrive at the expense of the weak, and where public trust in governance is eroded beyond repair. It is time for societies to wake from their apathy and take a stand. The future of nations depends on it. We cannot afford to remain comfortable in the face of corruption; we must become uncomfortable with it and act to eradicate it before it consumes us all.

*This article was scripted by;
MIDMARK ONSONGO, SGS*

Worth Noting:

- Over time, people begin to accept corruption as part of political life, a necessary evil that comes with the territory of governance. It is this acceptance, this comfort in the face of blatant misconduct that is the true enemy of progress. Corruption is never harmless. It eats away at the foundation of society, undermining the rule of law, deepening inequality, and eroding trust in public institutions.
- In countries where corruption is rampant, public resources meant for critical services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development are diverted into private hands. This leaves the majority of the population struggling with poor services, while a select few enjoy lives of opulence funded by the theft of public wealth.

Treasury CS Pledges To Clear All Pending Bills

By: Celestine Mwango

@themtkenyatomes

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has pledged to clear all pending bills.

He stated that outstanding bills, totaling Ksh 166 billion, have hindered the launch of new projects, particularly in the Department of Transport and Infrastructure, where many contracts have been awarded.

Mbadi emphasized that once these bills are settled, stalled projects will be revived to ensure the government gets value for its money.

The CS made these remarks in Nya-tike, where he was accompanied by the area Member of Parliament, Hon. Tom Odege.

Hon. Odege also commented on the

ongoing debate about the Deputy President's potential impeachment, stating that the Deputy President has undermined the President, and their strained relationship may prevent them from charting a progressive path for the country.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi.



Ministry Of Labour Launches Performance Vetting For 2024/2025

By: Beth Nyaga

@themtkenyatomes

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Performance, and Delivery Management, has kicked off the vetting of ministerial performance contract commitments for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The launch event, attended by Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua and Deputy Chief of Staff Eliud Owalo, focused on the government's ambitious targets under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

In the labour migration sector, the Ministry has made significant strides, securing six bilateral labour agreements with the UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Germany, and Austria.

As a result, over 200,000 Kenyans have been placed in jobs abroad—a remarkable 1,280 per cent increase in labour migration opportunities.

Dr. Mutua also highlighted major reforms at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), where monthly contri-

butions surged from Ksh 1.4 billion to Ksh 65 billion.

Additionally, the average processing time for benefits has been reduced from 82 days to just 10 days, ensuring faster service delivery.

On the social protection front, the Inua Jamii program has expanded its reach, with the number of older persons receiving cash transfers increasing by 66 per cent, from 733,000 in 2022 to 1.215 million in 2024.

Dr. Mutua announced plans to digitize the payment system by the end of the year, enabling beneficiaries to receive their stipends directly on their mobile phones.

Looking ahead, the Ministry is committed to expanding the Inua Jamii program by increasing the number of vulnerable persons receiving state assistance by at least 50 per cent.

It will also roll out a nutrition-sensitive cash transfer program targeting 40,500 beneficiaries across 11 counties.

In addition, street family rehabilitation chapters are set to be operationalized in 12 counties, while the Ministry will finalize both the Older Persons Bill 2024 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. These initiatives, aimed at enhanc-



Labour CS Dr. Alfred Mutua and Deputy Chief of Staff Eliud Owalo

ing social protection and economic opportunities, will form the basis of the performance contracts for CS Mutua and his officers.

The event was also attended by Secretary to the Cabinet Mercy Wanjau, along with Principal Secretaries Shadrack Mwadime and Joseph

Motari of the State Departments of Labour and Social Protection, respectively.

Sports >> *Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is a doubt for Real Madrid's upcoming games with a hip injury.

SPORTS NEWS

- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS



Courtois Real Doubt After Injury In Madrid Derby



Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during training on Thursday

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is a doubt for Real Madrid's upcoming games with a hip injury. Real have confirmed the Belgian suffered an abductor injury in his left leg during their 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Sunday. The Spanish and European

champions face Lille away in the Champions League tomorrow and then host Villarreal on Saturday before the international break. Courtois, who missed most of last year with a knee injury, has started all 10 games for Real this season.

Sunday's draw was halted for about 20 minutes midway through the second half following crowd issues. Courtois complained to officials that home fans behind his goal were throwing objects on to the field.

BBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *France forward Antoine Griezmann has announced his retirement from international football.

France's Griezmann Announces Retirement From International Football



France coach Deschamps with Antoine Griezmann

France forward Antoine Griezmann has announced his retirement from international football.

The Atletico Madrid player, 33, made 137 appearances for his country, scoring 44 goals, and helped them win the 2018 World Cup, converting a penalty in the final as France beat Croatia 4-2 in Moscow.

He also won the 2021 Nations League with his country.

"It is with a heart full of memories that I close this chapter of my life. Thank you for this magnificent tricolour adventure and see you soon," he said in a video posted on social media.

"After 10 incredible years marked by challenges, successes and unforgettable moments, it is time for me to turn a page and make way

for the new generation.

"Wearing this jersey was an honour and a privilege."

Griezmann started for France in a 3-1 Nations League defeat by Italy in September before his last appearance came as a substitute in a 2-0 win against Belgium three days later.

He has revealed his decision prior to the next international break in October when France play Israel and Belgium in the Nations League.

Griezmann has been a key member of the France squad under manager Didier Deschamps since making his debut under him in 2014.

He was top scorer at Euro 2016 with six goals as hosts France finished runners-up, losing to Portugal in the final.

Griezmann also played in the 2022 World Cup final when France were beaten on penalties by Argentina after a thrilling 3-3 draw.

He missed out to Kylian Mbappe in March 2023 in being named captain of his country following the retirement of Hugo Lloris, with Griezmann admitting to finding the decision "tough" to take, external before going on to play at Euro 2024.

However, France struggled for form at the tournament in Germany and were beaten by eventual winners Spain in the semi-finals.

"We've had a long discussion about [his retirement] recently," said Deschamps. "Since his debut in the France team 10 years ago we've had a relationship based on trust and frankness.

"Even if his club career is not over, Antoine will remain a monument of French football, one of the greatest players in its history.

"It was often said that he was my favourite. We indeed had built a very strong relationship, that will remain intact. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything, Grizou."

BBC

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mt Kenya Times



375778 201602

THE OLD OFFENCE



By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The old woman's niece became the bridegroom. She said that "From my aunt, You're the only girl left, you can't go without leading the sheep."
- Man said that "Hey, old lady, let's have some money, after all, both of us our age has gone to the same place, you see your children, themselves now they are restoring it... I won't be upset with you... Leave it at home!"
- Having said this, the old man was in trouble. Old woman said that "You always do that, when you had your seed, you would lead calves, not sheep..."
- You separate people. You can't stop the old woman from talking

Old man went to the street in the morning. He came back soon to home. He threw his cane in his hand. The cane hit a young almond tree. The flowers became one with the earth. He was laughing at the stove the music rose to the sky.

Father white beard squinted and looked the sky.

"Astakhfirullah" he whispered. He sighed deeply. Do it to his heart it didn't fit. He took a couple of steps towards the house, his hurt leg

did not allow to walk. "Damn!" Cane aspired. He couldn't take it. He gently massaged his leg over the makhsi. Old lady the value has passed. Children are the same as themselves what to do with the pain of their old father who is dragging his leg...

The old lady used to apply medicine to her feet every day. He didn't know what a pain was. It's been more than a month, old woman upset... In addition, she is lying on a blanket. No food, no bed for the old.

... How did he know that he could say "okay" that day?

that an old woman suddenly wears. The old woman's niece became the bridegroom. She said that "From my aunt, You're the only girl left, you can't go without leading the sheep."

Man said that "Hey, old lady, let's have some money, after all, both of us our age has gone to the same place, you see your children, themselves now they are restoring it... I won't be upset with you... Leave it at home!"

Having said this, the old man was in trouble. Old woman said that "You always do that, when you had your seed, you would lead calves, not sheep..."

You separate people. You can't stop the old woman from talking was crying. - I have not lived with you for fifty years. What did i gain, I didn't get out of pain.

Other than the house with the field I do not know. I didn't visit Samarkand and Bukhara like everyone else, only raise a child, get married, don't dirty my old man's collar, go home...

My day went by without telling anyone...

Let's do it, what will those who heard say? - The father is angry and

fighting gave let him hear... For once, my word is my word in this house was it? No! In return for my service for so many years thank you, is it? It has been. I will not go to the wedding. I don't go out.

I am dead. Stick to what you know... How naughty are you, Son?! As usual, she is a middle-aged woman Calling her daughter by name, she lowered her voice and said:

What kind of behavior is this at this age? Is that enough? The old man approached the old woman. As long as you have these pains in you, with patience, you could say but you....

Are you the kind of person who knows what you're talking about? Old lady snorted.

- Am I still not understanding?

If you had read and understood, you wouldn't have said that.

The old woman didn't say another word and went towards the lake at the foot of the yard. Old man now he was arrested. But the old woman's crooked waist and legs seeing that the market had calmed down, he felt pity again. "For a trifle I hurt my tongue... Children will bury you after you die. He will bring his pictures... Let the old woman say it will be..."

But the old woman could not get up in the morning. Doctors: "heart illness" they said. She couldn't even go to the wedding. Her grandson is looking after her.

The old man turned around until he entered the house. Here it is again that's it. It doesn't seem like it will go away yet. Father is silent for a breath kept, The old woman did not look at him and began to speak quietly:

The old man:

Dear, thanks to God, he gave you back... Put away your guilt... To us it doesn't fit, after all. If I look ugly in your eyes when I get old

If I did, tell me frankly, I'll go where my head is...

The old woman moved her head thoughtfully and opened her mouth to speak but She did not say anything. Old woman: The father saw his grandson and stood up. "Often Take care, girl, don't leave me alone."

Your father, who went out into the yard and breathed in the spring air



the knot of inexplicable confusion in his heart could not be untied. Eyes by themselves got younger the trees in the yard are calm as if there is a heavy burden on his shoulders looked through. He looked at the buds on the branches.

"Even has no leaves, blossoms and fruits are over... Every spring the trees come back born What about humans? Both birth and death are given only once to him. How many sorrows, worries, disease. After all, the human child is satisfied with everything, for tomorrow and lives in hope".

The father thought of the old woman again in the midst of such dreams: "oh, now, if he leaves the world complaining and not wishing for reconciliation..."

It's a shame if they have children..." Days passed, the old woman got up and walked in the yard

The father's heart sank when he saw it. "A thousand times to God thanks! Even if it hurts, let it be! Let him stay behind me."

The next day, he went down to the city, bought a shirt and a scarf for old woman and he saw at the beginning of the furnace...

Dear, that's enough... If you're not a bride. What ever walk on the ground after me... But if you're not there, I'm fine. It's going to be ruined, you scared me too much. Now... don't try If you get the power, let it be what you say. Wanted I will take you to

your place and play. Happy Navruz, thank you for reaching us.

The father took a shirt and a scarf from his heart and said: "Here it is, For you.

They have lived together for so many years, having been hurt for a trivial matter. She admitted that he hurt his old man's tongue in vain

She noticed that his leg pain was getting worse from walking, but it suddenly went away. She didn't want to get down and lose her dignity in front of the old man. And now to the old man, who was also mumbling and shaking with a cane

his heart opened like salt. Taking the old man's gifts in his hand, rubbed his eyes: "my God, may your acquaintance be healthy."

Enter the house, we will have dinner. Then medicine for your feet we can't go, you'll be lying here...

In the father's eyes, nature is refreshing, as if it has acquired a special beauty it seemed. The sadness that was losing at his heart was replaced by sweet, sweet excitement took over. And the street is full of festive cheer. Bring people to Navruz, the sound of trumpets calling, the joyous laughter of the stars, songs were playing, the sky was filled with various leaves.

Lobar RUSTAMOVA
Member of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan.