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News>>CS Oparanya Disbands Management Of Mathira's Barichu Coffee Cooperative Society

P. 8. Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, has disbanded the management of Barichu Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited in Mathira Constituency, Nyeri County.



News>>Meditation Body Forms Sector Forums To Address Devolved Units

P. 12. The Intergovernmental Relations and Technical Committee [ITGRC] has announced the formation of sector forums that will help address emerging issues of concerns between the national and county governments.

Mt Kenya East MPs Pick Kindiki As Their Kingpin

Members of Parliament from Mt Kenya East region yesterday picked Interior and National Government Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki to be their spokesman. The MPs from the region that comprises Embu, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties resolved in their parliamentary group meeting that their link between them and the Executive would henceforth be Prof. Kindiki.



National Government Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki

STORY ON PAGE 9



DP Rolls Out KSh300 B For North Eastern Region

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- “The high-impact projects in the Transport, Agriculture, Water, Health, Education, Energy Sectors, Social Protection and others are geared at igniting, stimulating and sustaining the socio-economic transformation in the counties,” said the DP.
- Some of the NEDI projects are the Horn of Africa Gateway Project (HoAGP) – 740km from Isiolo through Wajir to Mandera which is ready for commencement, the Isiolo Export Abattoir, rehabilitation of Wajir Livestock Training Institute and the Horn of Africa Ground Water for Resilience Project (HOAGWRP) targeting construction of 400 boreholes to benefit residents in the region among others.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with other government officials at his official residence yesterday.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said the government has prioritised faster development of Northern and North-Eastern Kenya through targeted projects worth billions of shillings being implemented together with partners.

Yesterday, the DP said the projects under the North and North Eastern Development Initiative (NEDI) worth Sh300 billion are meant to catalyse the socio-economic transformation of the vast region.

He said the government is working with the World Bank and other development partners to actualise the projects which are in different levels of implementation.

“The opening up of Northern and

North-Eastern Kenya is a priority for our administration because the area admittedly has lagged behind for a long time. We thank our partners, specifically the World Bank, for the capital injection to open up this part of Kenya with huge potential,” said Mr Gachagua.

He spoke when he chaired the NEDI high-level consultative meeting at the Official residence in Karen, Nairobi.

Counties that have benefitted from the NEDI programme are West Pokot, Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Tana River, Lamu, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera.

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port, Agriculture, Water, Health, Education, Energy Sectors, Social Protection and others are geared at igniting, stimulating and sustaining the socio-economic transformation in the counties,” said the DP.

Some of the NEDI projects are the Horn of Africa Gateway Project (HoAGP) – 740km from Isiolo through Wajir to Mandera which is ready for commencement, the Isiolo Export Abattoir, rehabilitation of Wajir Livestock Training Institute and the Horn of Africa Ground Water for Resilience Project (HOAGWRP) targeting construction of 400 boreholes to benefit residents in the region among others.

The Deputy President said the region is fertile and could secure the nation’s food situation if its potential is properly tapped.

“Countries in the Middle East with the same climatic environment have been transformed into bastions of food production. We look ahead to a day where food security of this country will be supported by the vast lands in Northern and North Eastern Kenya. Opening up that area in terms of road infrastructure, water, energy, roads, education is a step in the right direction,” the DP observed.

With the region at risk of dire effects of climate change, Mr Gachagua said the NEDI programme entails resilient measures against the phenomenon.

“As we battle the impact of climate change, resilient measures are necessary so we are not dealing with emerging issues year after year,” he said.

For effective implementation and to fully benefit intended communities, the Deputy President said leaders from the region will be fully involved and the projects properly profiled.

“We shall inform and involve elected leaders fully. Involvement of elected leaders is critical so that we walk together and we are able to establish a mechanism for feedback which can be used by the elected leaders,” the DP said.

The Deputy President also challenged leaders to take keen interest in the development initiatives in their areas saying their input is important in ensuring they are beneficial to the people.

Some of the leaders who were present included; Cabinet Secretaries Julius Ogamba (Education), Alice Wahome (Lands), Eric Mugaa (Water and Irrigation), Principal Secretaries Teresia Mbaika (Devolution), Julius Korir (Water and Sanitation), Joseph Motari (Social Protection), Jonathan Mueke (Livestock), MPs Peter Lochakapong (Sigor), Titus Lotee (Kacheliba), Mohamed Tubi (Isiolo South), Nicholas Nixon (Turkana East), Dr. Ariko John (Turkana South), Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County), Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County) and Rael Kasiwai (West Pokot County).

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



At least 7,329 first-year students have been admitted at Kisii University since the commencement of the admission exercise on August 29. Speaking during the first year's orientation event at the institution, Kisii University Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Nathan Ogechi confirmed they had received 7,329 students so far and the institution was prepared to ensure every student excels in their area of expertise. Prof. Ogechi assured the students of adequate support from the academic and support staff who are well-trained locally, regionally, and internationally, and have experience working as external examiners and publishers. The VC also promised them of maximum security within the university and its outskirts in collaboration with administrators from the Ministry of Interior.



Matuga MP Kassim Sawa Tandaza has set out to establish a Sh100 million model secondary school to be called Tandaza Model Educational Centre in his constituency to provide quality education. Kwale Governor Fatuma Achari accompanied by MP Tandaza launched the construction work for the new model school in Tsimba/Golini Ward in Matuga Sub County. The new institution with funding from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) will focus on developing the talents of Kwale youth aligning with the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) education model. The Tandaza Model Education Center is poised to be a transformative project for Kwale, aligning with the national vision of empowering youth through a talent-focused learning approach. Tandaza says the new educational centre will have facilities such as classrooms, administration block, sports pitches, and a swimming pool aiming to create a comprehensive learning and talent development environment.



Uneducated adults in Kajiado County have been urged to enroll for Adult and Continuing Education classes so as to fight illiteracy. County Coordinator for Adult and Continuing Education Mercy Njiriri, noted the literacy levels in the county is still very low with many adults especially in rural areas unable to read or write. Speaking at Enkigirri Primary School, Kajiado East during celebrations to mark the International Literacy Day 2024, Njiriri attributed the low literacy levels among the Maasai community to cultural practices such as moranism, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages. The nomadic lifestyle of the Maa community has also contributed to the low literacy levels as they move from one place to another in search of water and pasture for their animals thus cannot attend classes fully.



MozartBet Company Kenya has commissioned a solar powered borehole valued at KSh3.5 Million at Cheplel Primary school in Ainamoi constituency within Kericho County as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The water project is set to benefit six hundred households. Addressing the media, MozartBet Country Manager, Sasa Krneta said the water project was a social responsibility undertaking to give back to vulnerable communities access clean water. He noted that it was their 15th borehole project in the country adding that they will continue supporting communities.

Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro has challenged students to study Information Technology, Finance and Environmental studies if they want to become future top earners. Nyoro said a study shows the richest people in the world have a background in IT, Finance and Environmental studies and that Kenyan students should keenly consider choosing these courses as they go to university or tertiary institutions. "As you study in school, it is important for you to know at this age as you go to university, you are more likely to become a billionaire if you are in these sectors," Nyoro insisted as graced Form Four candidates' prayers and awarding last year's KCSE top performance in Aldai constituency at an event held in Kobujoi center in Aldai constituency.

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Kiambu Gov't To Act On Hyenas If KWS Fails

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “When we bury the five year old boy on Wednesday, we want measures put in place to remove the hyenas from Witeithia ward. If it is not done as a county government we will hit the ground and kill them as we must protect the lives of our people,” Wamatangi said.
- He said that the death toll now stands at 10 people in recent times with a number of residents being injured accusing the KWS for abdicating its responsibility despite numerous appeals from both residents and the county government.



Kiambu County governor Kimani Wamatangi and other officials addressing journalists at his office.

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has said that his administration will take action on the hyena menace in Juja and other parts of the county if the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is unable to relocate the hyena into the wild.

Wamatangi speaking during a presser at Kiambu county headquarters yesterday said that the persistent hyena menace has tragically claimed over 22 lives with the most recent attack against a five year old boy in Nyacaba in witeithie Juja subcounty who will be laid to rest tomorrow.

“When we bury the five year old boy on Wednesday, we want measures put in place to remove the hyenas from Witeithia ward. If it is not done as a county government we will hit the ground and kill them as we must protect the lives of our people,” Wamatangi said.

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He said that the death toll now stands at 10 people in recent times with a number of residents being injured accusing the KWS for abdicating its responsibility despite numerous appeals from both residents and the county government.

He said that there are also disturbing reports of hyenas which have raided Ndeiya, Ngecha in Limuru, Uthiru in Kabete and Kikuyu sub counties.

The county boss said that blame lies squarely on the government agency which bears sole responsibility for protecting citizens from dangerous wildlife.

“The families in Juja can tell you that since they lost their loved ones to the hyenas no one has ever been compensated or consoled by the KWS. We cannot allow ourselves to be put in a

position where we have to choose between lives of people and animals,” he said

He said that his administration will push the government to see to it that those who lost their loved ones are compensated by KWS.

“We have seen in other areas where lions and cheetahs have killed livestock, the livestock are compensated. There is a set price for the livestock to be compensated. We cannot compare animals and people’s lives. People must be compensated,” he said.

He said as a county they have done their part of sealing off disused quarries that have become breeding grounds for the hyenas.

“These quarries which the hyenas have used as hideouts have been a focal point of our efforts to prevent further mayhem. despite these proac-

tive steps and our continued communication with KWS it appears that our pleas have fallen on deaf ears,” he said

He said that it is time to hold KWS accountable for their inaction and must deploy its resources to round up the hyenas and relocate them to game parks and reserves where they belong. “These wild animals cannot coexist with human beings. KWS must act immediately before more lives are lost. there have been empty promises by KWS and as a result, more lives have been lost,” he said.

He, however demanded Cabinet Secretary Tourism and Wildlife Rebecca Miano to take action and make the issue a priority as the residents of Juja are suffering.

“You owe it to the people of Juja to resolve this crisis,” he said.

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CS Oparanya Disbands Management Of Mathira’s Barichu Coffee Cooperative Society

By: Paul Mwangi
@themtkenyetimes

Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya for Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MS-MEs) Development, has disbanded the management of Barichu Farmers’ Cooperative Society Limited in Mathira Constituency, Nyeri County. During a visit to the society in Karatina town yesterday where he met with thousands of farmers, Oparanya ordered the immediate removal of the management to allow for fresh elections.

He also instructed the Commissioner of Cooperatives to launch an inquiry into the alleged mismanagement of the society.

This action follows complaints from farmers about embezzlement of funds by the society’s leadership.

“Our President is committed to ensuring that farmers receive fair value for their produce. Consequently, I am directing the board of this society to step down immediately,” Mr. Oparanya announced.

He appointed the Nyeri County Director for Cooperatives to oversee the cooperative’s operations until elections are held during the society’s annual general meeting (AGM) on Wednesday next week.

“We demand that those who have misappropriated funds belonging to farmers be arrested and prosecuted. We are instructing the DCI and EACC to investigate the mismanagement and take legal action against those responsible,” Mr. Oparanya stated.

Additionally, the CS revealed that the government will provide Sh63 million to members of the cooperative society.

“The President has tasked me with ensuring that the New KPCU disburses KSh63 million owed to farmers affiliated with this society and that the funds are paid directly to the farmers,” Mr. Oparanya added.

MPs Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town), and Senator Wahome Wamatinga were in attendance at the meeting held at Karindundu area.

The leaders welcomed the move by the government saying it will relieve the concerned farmers suffering.



From left Mathira MP Eric wa Mumbi, Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, Nyeri Town MP Duncun Maina and Principal Secretary Patrick Kilemi State Department for Cooperatives in the Ministry of Cooperatives at Karindundu Coffee Factory near Karatina yesterday. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU

Residents Of Engineer Town Decry Rise In Insecurity

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Residents of Engineer town in Kinangop Constituency have decried rise in cases of insecurity, a situation they have blamed on laxity by security agencies.

Residents claimed that at least five people have been killed in the recent past but efforts to seek justice and ensure the suspects behind the killings have not been fruitful.

In the recent incident, Peter Macharia aged 31 years was attacked and killed by unknown assailants on Thursday as he went home from work.

According to residents led by Ibrahim Mwangi, the incident took place at Sende Moto Estate and that other such incidents have also taken place in similar instances.

It is an incident that has infuriated Nyandarua Governor Kiarie Badilisha who has accused some security agencies of sleeping on the job and failure to tackle the crimes.

He has called for the immediate transfer of the security officers in the area in an effort to restore security.

“We cannot be getting officers who have underperformed from other areas transferred to Kinangop and when they are here, they are unable to provide security to our people. I will call on the security heads of this country to ensure the OCS of this area is transferred alongside his reluctant officers,” said Governor Badilisha.

Residents observed that lack of security lights was a major cause of such cases since criminals hid in dark places where they get the opportunity to attack unsuspecting residents and rob them.

They claimed most of the streets of the town are always dark and desolate, a situation that criminals have always taken advantage of, especially during night times.

The move has posed a risk to locals walking at night and even business people operating late at night.

The residents are now pushing for the installation of street lights along the narrow streets and pathways within the town and nearby estates.



Nyandarua County governor Kiarie Badilisha addressing residents of Kinangop at Engineer area

Mt Kenya East MPs Pick CS Kindiki As Their Kingpin

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The leaders also thanked President William Ruto for recently appointing three Cabinet Secretaries from our region namely; Justin Muturi (Public Service), Prof. Kindiki and Eng. Eric Mugaa (Water, Sanitation and Irrigation) saying the appointments reflect the trust and recognition the President has placed on Mount Kenya East, “and we are grateful for their opportunity to serve in the national leadership”.
- On their pick for Prof. Kindiki as their new sherrif, they noted, “We acknowledge the need for a strong linkage with the Executive to fasttrack our region’s priorities. Through collaboration and constant dialogue, we are confident that Mount Kenya East will progressively secure a stronger recognition in the national agenda”.



Mt Kenya East region Members of Parliament at Izaak Walton Inn, Embu County yesterday.

Members of Parliament from Mt Kenya East region yesterday picked Interior and National Government Administration Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki to be their spokesman.

The MPs from the region that comprises Embu, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties resolved in their parliamentary group meeting that their link between them and the Executive would henceforth be Prof. Kindiki.

Addressing a press briefing at Izaak Walton Inn in Embu County where the meeting took place the lawmakers unanimously endorsed the Interior CS as their link to the national government in matters of governance and politics.

A press statement issued after the meeting read in parts, “as the elected leaders from the Mount Kenya East region, we have met today and after comprehensive deliberations, we have unanimously resolved to chat the way forward for the socio-economic development and political agenda of our people and the region as bloc. Today’s meeting is a crucial

step in shaping our collective efforts to deliver the progress and growth that our constituents in Mt. Kenya East deserve.”

The leaders also thanked President William Ruto for recently appointing three Cabinet Secretaries from our region namely; Justin Muturi (Public Service), Prof. Kindiki and Eng. Eric Mugaa (Water, Sanitation and Irrigation) saying the appointments reflect the trust and recognition the President has placed on Mount Kenya East, “and we are grateful for their opportunity to serve in the national leadership”.

On their pick for Prof. Kindiki as their new sherrif, they noted, “We acknowledge the need for a strong linkage with the Executive to fasttrack our region’s priorities. Through collaboration and constant dialogue, we are confident that Mount Kenya East will progressively secure a stronger recognition in the national agenda”.

They called on the Kenya Kwanza administration to prioritise completion of some development projects that were initiated under the previ-

ous administration but are yet to be completed.

Such projects, they noted include critical road infrastructure, water projects, and electrification programs and which they noted are vital to the prosperity and well-being of the region people.

While pushing for the development projects, the MPs observed, “Mount Kenya East holds significant voting numbers, making us a critical region in shaping the political and development direction of our country. Our voice and collective decisions in national matters cannot be assumed”.

The statement added, “as we continue to support and oversight the government, we remind our leaders that our numbers matter, and we expect to see more development initiatives to reflect our contribution to the national vote. As a region, we have come of age and wish to henceforth canvass development matters affecting our people as distinct entity”.

Further, the noted, “as the legislators of Mt. Kenya East, and on behalf of our people, we have unanimously agreed that the link between

us and the executive is Prof. Kithure Kindiki. Mount Kenya East is on the rise”.

The MPs present were Geoffrey Ruku (Mbeere North), Eng. Nebart Muriuki (Mbeere South), Pamela Njoki (Women Rep. Embu County), Alexander Mundigi (Senator, Embu County), John Paul Mwirigi (Igembe South), Kareke Mbiuki (Nithi), Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri), Mpuri Aburi (Tigania East), Patrick Munene (Chuka Igamba Ngombe), Karitho Kiili (MP, Igembe Central), Kairemia Elizabeth (Women Rep. Meru County), Dr. Mutunga John (Tigania West), Taitimu Julius (Igembe North) and George Murugara (Tharaka).

The move is seen by pundits as an initiative of separating from the Mount Kenya West where Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua hails from.

Gov't Urged To Strengthen National Conscience And Ethos; To Avert Livestock Rustling And Banditry

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) has launched a report that shades light on the effectiveness and potential of various mitigation measures by the government in dealing with livestock rustling and banditry. The report which was released by the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) CEO Dr. Mutuma Muteere and titled 'Managing the Dangerous Drift in Livestock Rustling and Banditry in Kenya' targeted 13 counties in Kenya, with the highest incidence of livestock rustling and banditry according to statistics by the National Police Service. The counties are Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Isiolo, Kitui, Laikipia, Marsabit, Meru, Samburu, Turkana, West Pokot, Tana River, Kisumu and Nandi. The report indicates that the present-day livestock rustling and banditry menace is unique from the tra-

ditional form of cattle raiding as the menace has assume lethal patterns, with perpetrators do not appreciating the sanctity of human life and the need to protect it. Thus, there is a diminishing value for human life as evidenced by higher number of people injured and killed during livestock rustling and banditry as over 300 people have been killed since 2023. The NCRC has therefore recommended that the government through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, together with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), the State Department for Culture, The Arts and Heritage, and relevant religious groups, to spearhead relevant initiatives aimed at building and strengthening Kenya's national conscience and ethos in the affected regions. The study shows that livestock rustling and banditry menace had become a commonplace phenomenon on an upward trajectory in the pastoralist regions of the country, has evolved from a cultural practice to a majorly economic and commercial

enterprise. This being driven by factors of supply and demand for the stolen livestock for their products such as meat, mostly sold in Kenya's urban areas during high season of August through December as these is considered a festive season when a lot of meat is consumed. The study further implies that business persons who drive the commercialization of livestock rustling and banditry in Kenya were likely to exploit the meat demand during this time in order to maximum their profits. The findings have therefore illustrated the need for the national and county government to carry out specific interventions which includes policing operations during the month of December when most livestock rustling and incidents are committed in the affected counties. The report additionally proposed other major mitigations to sustainably address livestock rustling and banditry which included: continuous disarmament exercises, enhanced Collaboration among security agen-



Dr Mutuma Muteere

cies and other stakeholders, programs for enhancing peace, national cohesion and integration among communities involved in livestock rustling and banditry, enhanced resourcing of security agencies in livestock rustling and banditry-prone areas, instituting initiatives for enhanced literacy and accessibility to formal education, enhanced awareness creation and discouraging negative cultural practices and close surveillance and monitoring of suspected handlers, hotspots and trafficking routes of illicit firearms.



Mount Kenya Leaders Taking On Gachagua Over His 'Read The Ground Remark' Will Be In For A Rude Shock



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know that the outside forces were working day and night to nip in the bud Gachagua's dream of succeeding President William Ruto in 2032 presidential election.
- The first move is to push the President to replace him as his 2027 running mate.
- I hail from Mount Kenya region and I want to say this without fear of contradictions.
- It has dawned on majority of the people in this region that anti-Gachagua forces were pushing self-centered and egocentric agenda of outsiders who have a history of disliking and hating them.
- As a result, they vow to stick with Gachagua come rain, come sun-shine.

A few days ago, I heard a section of elected leaders from Mount Kenya region taking their onslaught against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua a notch higher.

Speaking in Mathiyoia, the leaders led by Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichungwa and his Mathira counterpart Eric Wamumbi once again dismissed Gachagua's 'read the ground' comment as 'hollow' and 'idle talk'.

'After failing to deliver on his assignments, the DP has resorted to launching early political campaigns'.

Yes, It is true that DP had been assigned to spearhead reforms in coffee, tea and milk sub-sectors.

But I want to ask the critics this question. Without your support and that of the national government, do you expect him to succeed? The answer is a big No!

Putting this aside, the critics continue to allege that he was moving across the Mountain and in the country at large sowing seeds of discord and divisions.

They would not explain how. Who is he (DP) threatening? He only have one vote and we are not eating in his house? One of them had earlier been quoted as saying in a video that had gone viral.

To me, two things could have happened to them. The power had entered into their minds. As such, they would not see the ground in Mount Kenya was shifting.

They thought they would hold on their seats for forever.

But for some it seemed they had agreed to betray their community by being hired by outsiders to politically finish one of their own before 2027 polls.

Therefore, they were eating well as ordinary Kenyans continue to wallow in poverty and hence won't mind losing their seats.

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know that the outside forces were working day and night to nip in the bud Gachagua's dream of succeeding President William Ruto in 2032 presidential election.

The first move is to push the President to replace him as his 2027 running mate. I hail from Mount Kenya region and I want to say this without fear of contradictions.

It has dawned on majority of the people in this region that anti-Gachagua forces were pushing self-centered and egocentric agenda of outsiders who have a history of disliking and hating them.

As a result, they vow to stick with Gachagua come rain, come sun-shine.

The DP is speaking our language. We voted for Kenya Kwanza government on the basis of the lofty promises they made to us during the campaign.

This government has now abandoned us by failing to totally keep its word.

As Gachagua keeps reiterating, what we hate is betrayal. You can cheat us once but not twice.

In light of this, this is what we want to tell DP's critics. Take his advise seriously. Otherwise, your day are numbered. 2027 general election is not far.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

Recently, I had an opportunity to listen to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's speech when he addressed congregants after attending a church service in Meru county.

This was DP's first public engagement with the people of the Mountain. He had for the last four days accompanied his boss, President William Ruto, to a development tour of four counties of Luo land.

The DP told the congregants that some people in this region (Mount Kenya) wanted me to explain and shed light on why I opted to throw my weight behind Hon. Raila Odinga.

This is my humble answer. In the run-up to 2022 polls, our son President Uhuru Kenyatta told us that Raila Odinga was a good man.

We ignored Uhuru, our son, and even called him names. We rejected Raila at the ballot.

On the other hand, the current President told us that Raila was a very bad man and we believed him when he told us if he wins the election he never share government with Raila.

Today, President Ruto is telling us that Raila is a good man.

He had reached out to him and brought him on board.

We are not saying what President Ruto has done is wrong.

But as your top leader in this region, I asked myself this question. Who is a fool?

Our son told us Raila is good. Ruto is now saying that Raila is good. If the two presidents have said that Raila is good, who is Gachagua to say No?

The DP received wild cheers and thunderous applause from the congregants when he told them. You can now understand why I changed my tune.

As a community, we have learnt big lessons. As your leader, I will never listen to a leader telling us to hate a leader of another community.

Moving forward, I urge you to make friend with other communities and treat them with respect.

In coming days, we will negotiate and create political alliances with like minds.

Back to the tour of Luo nation, the wish of critics of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua particularly those drawn from the Mount Kenya region was to see him being heckled and humiliated.

But to utter shock and dismay, their prayer fell flat. The DP was accorded a rousing welcome in the entire trip that covered the region's four counties.

President Ruto also showered the ODM leader Raila Odinga with praises. In one of the stopovers, Gachagua told the residents. Thank you for welcoming me. You are good people. I have realized the secret of keeping friendship is to love and embrace Baba (Raila).

A few days earlier, you saw me exactly doing this in Nairobi during the unveiling of Hon Raila Odinga's candidacy for Africa Union Commission chairmanship.

Pastor Dorcas Gachagua, the spouse of DP also attended the launch.

She is one who led the prayer of committing Raila Odinga to God after being invited by the President.

We pray God to hold your hands. With God, everything is possible. You will definitely clinch that seat.

After the tour, majority of people in the Mountain hit out at the critics of Gachagua. We were shocked to see them washing their dirty linen in public while visiting another region. To us, this was indeed the lowest moment.

By virtue of being the Second-In-Command, we want to tell the critics that Gachagua is not only the senior-most leader in our region but we also love him so much.

His critics were behaving badly. They were being given small money by the outsiders who felt threatened by Gachagua's rising influence and popularity.

The outsiders were out to divide us with a view to weakening our political bargain come 2027 polls. We are now more wiser. We will not allow DP's critics to have their way.

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

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

Therefore, you can only ignore him at your peril.

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

While espousing his credentials as a reformer and gallant fighter for democracy and social justice in Kenya, the DP stated that he is highly qualified and best suited for AU seat. For Raila, serving the continent of Africa is not a job. It is calling.

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

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

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

As a deputy, my work is to help the President in ensuring the projects he

Meditation Body Forms Sector Forums To Address Devolved Units

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenytimes



Worth Noting:

- On her part, IGRTC vice Chair Saadia Kontoma said the body recently held stakeholders' engagements to streamline intergovernmental relations including addressing legal and policy gaps and ensure roles that will be devolved to counties that meet the legal threshold.
- She said the mining forum will help identify the gaps in the mining sector including laws, policies, and duplication roles as well as emerging issues that drive development in the sector.
- The County governments have for instance raised concerns over the current sharing formula for mining royalties that have seen the national government pocket 70 per cent of shareholding amount with the county governments only taking a partly 20 per cent.



IGRTC CEO Dr. Kipkurui Chepkwony and other officials addressing journalists.

The Intergovernmental Relations and Technical Committee [ITGRC] has announced the formation of sector forums that will help address emerging issues of concerns between the national and county governments. According to the body tasked with mediating and creating a harmonious relation between two levels of governments, the forums will target individual sectors and iron out seething issues for smooth service delivery. According to the IGRTC CEO Dr. Kipkurui Chepkwony, the sector forums which bring sector players will also ensure seamless transfer of functions to devolved units as counties build their human capacity. Speaking in Naivasha during the first forum on mining, the CEO said ITGRC has been in the forefront in creating good working relations and better development for citizens. On her part, IGRTC vice Chair Saadia Kontoma said the body recently held stakeholders' engagements to streamline intergovernmental relations including addressing legal and policy gaps and ensure roles that will be devolved to counties that meet the legal threshold. She said the mining forum will help identify the gaps in the mining sector including laws, policies, and duplication roles as well as emerging issues

that drive development in the sector. The County governments have for instance raised concerns over the current sharing formula for mining royalties that have seen the national government pocket 70 per cent of shareholding amount with the county governments only taking a partly 20 per cent. As per the Mining Act 2016, the national government benefits with 70 percent, Counties 20 percent and the community 10 percent of royalties gained from mining activities in the country, the formula which has now been put under scrutiny. According to a report by Global Finance Integrity, 2023, Kenya earned sh. 300B from mining activities where Artisanal and Small Scale mining contribute a huge share with the sector employing thousands of Kenyans. According to John Matiang'i, the Deputy Chairperson of the County Executive Committee Members Caucus on Mining sector, leaving only 20 percent to counties and 10 percent to community is negligible and should be reviewed upwards. Matiang'i who serves as CEC for Mining in Nyamira County said the national government should plough back billions it takes from mining back to the financially starved coun-

ties to enable them drive developments and enjoy the sweet returns of mining billions going forward. "Since the national government takes 70 percent of royalties from mining, it should invest part of the funds to affected counties to develop their health facilities, schools, water resources and hospitals from which residents will appreciate the role of mining in their areas", said Matiang'i. Matiang'i said the county government should also play a huge role in land use change earmarked for mining activities to control land degradation and restoration after mining activities are complete. He added that county governments should be highly involved in mining activities emphasizing that the National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) should sign binding agreements between counties and investors to ensure total compliance of mining regulations and procedures. "The plan for restoration of land areas that have been used up for mining activities should be clearly stipulated to ensure they are converted back to usable spaces which have been flouted for years and left to counties instead", said Matiang'i. Matiang'i called for more consultations and collaborations between the two levels of governments in order to

streamline and address emerging issues in the mining sector and ensure balanced benefits. On his part, Patrick Lugame, the chair of Artisanal and Small Scale miners regretted that since the enactment of the Mining Act 2016, the government has failed to issue them with mining permits to undertake Artisanal mining which said should be expedited. Lugame, who said the miners are committed to undertake mining that adheres to safety and environmental sustainability, also welcomed the move for members to join cooperatives to enable members to benefit more financially from their mining activities. To date, Lugame said the government has gazetted 21 counties where mining activities are being undertaken from which he said 10 counties have been licensed for Artisanal and small scale mining activities, a sector he said supports thousands of Kenyans. Consequently, Lugame called for more role of county governments in regulation of mining including issuing environment Impact Assessment licenses and consents to hasten approval processes.

Mount Kenya Leaders Taking On Gachagua Over His 'Read The Ground Remark' Will Be In For A Rude Shock



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Contd from page 11



Worth Noting:

- Back to the tour of Luo nation, the wish of critics of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua particularly those drawn from the Mount Kenya region was to see him being heckled and humiliated.
- But to utter shock and dismay, their prayer fell flat. The DP was accorded a rousing welcome in the entire trip that covered the region's four counties.
- President Ruto also showered the ODM leader Raila Odinga with praises.
- In one of the stopovers, Gachagua told the residents. Thank you for welcoming me. You are good people. I have realized the secret of keeping friendship is to love and embrace Baba (Raila).

rolls out are constructed and completed. During the launch of Raila Odinga's campaigns for AU top seat, the DP described Raila as his close friend.

You had previously heard a lot of stories. This did not mean I hate Raila. But as a deputy, you know what my job entails.

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

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

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

One of them stated: Don't listen to the leader who is here to lecture you about village politics.

He never believed in Baba (Raila). Remember there was a time he had declared that he had set traps around State House and hired spies. This was in a bid to stop Raila from accessing President Ruto. This leader is out 'to sow seeds of ethnic hatred and disharmony'.

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

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

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

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

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

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

This explains why the luos had little time for that Kikuyu leader as he trained his gun on Gachagua.

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

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

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



Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichungwa

pocket.

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

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

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

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

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

In his speech, Dr Ruto hinted at the possibility of a merger of UDA and ODM parties to form a formidable political vehicle for 2027 general election. Tellingly, DP Gachagua was conspicuously absent.

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

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure

Kindiki were the front-runners.

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

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

He only intervened after they failed to agree.

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

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

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

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

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

We the people of Mountain what we hate is betrayal. We are truthful people and we are going to keep our word. We will vote for you to the last man and woman.

The argument that the kikuyus had already decided they will vote for Ruto with or without one of their own being a running mate does not hold any water.

I highly doubt this could have happened. Majority of Kikuyus wanted to see one of their own being at the top.

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

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

Going by the latest media reports that President Ruto have fallen out with him,

majority of the people in the mountain are asking. How soon and why?

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

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

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

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

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

Reliable reports also indicate he had made tremendous progress in reaching out former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

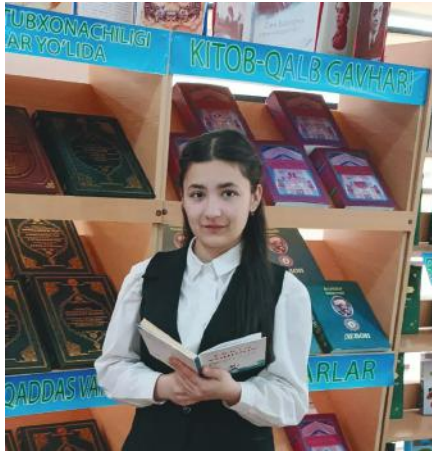
He had also reached out to Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

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

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

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

My Son



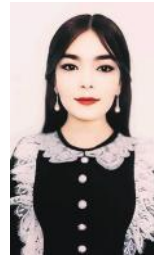
The desire for the world is gone
I have reached the throne
Bringing his parents to Makkah
My husband is a young man.
His voice is heard in the mosques
The light of the Qur'an touches the hearts
A sun shines in my generation
My husband is a young man.
An ummah worthy of Muhammad
Wisdom from his words
Earn respect in this way
My husband is a young man.
He bowed his head in prostration
He bowed his head in prayer
God save his head
My husband is a young man.
Pray in every five places
Even if we don't stay in the castle
Reading the Qur'an every day in the morning
My husband is a young man. Relatives,
grandparents,

Brothers, sisters, Let them go to Hajj
My husband is a young man.
It's not a joke, it's a little one
I have a house in Makkah
He is the prince of my house
My husband is a young man.
Saying salutations to the Prophet
Repentance from every sin
This is my verse when I grow up
My husband is a young man.
My prayers are answered
Heaven will give us space
I only prayed to God
My friend is a young man.

Halima Vahobjonovna

Ibrahimova Halima Vahobjonovna was born on February 11, 2007 in the Shafirkon district of the Bukhara region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, he is a student of the 11th grade of the 7th MFCHÖIDUM in Uchkudug district, Navoi region. Until now, he has participated in several international competitions and anthologies and received certificates. The author of the poetry book "Lines in my heart". A candidate for the state award named after Zulfia. Some of his poems have been published in magazines and newspapers. The holder of the "Young Artist 2024" badge, a member of the People's Democratic Party.

Independence Is A Supreme Blessing



The Republic of Uzbekistan was declared an independent state on September 1, 1991. However, many important processes and events lie behind this historical event. In order for Uzbekistan to achieve independence, it is necessary to understand the historical context. The territory of Uzbekistan has long been a center of conflict between different peoples and cultures. Ancient states, in particular the Sogdian states, cities such as Bukhara and Khorezm, appeared here even in BC. Later, this area retained its importance as a crossroads of trade routes across Central Asia. Since Uzbekistan was part of the Russian Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, ideas of independence were formed here. Uzbekistan SSR was established in 1924. During this period, the republic achieved economic and cultural development, but restrictions on political freedom continued. In the 1930s, Stalin's policy of repression also affected Uzbekistan. Many intellectuals and national leaders were imprisoned or executed. During the Second World War, Uzbekistan played an important role in supplying the necessary resources to the front. During the 1950s and 1960s, nationalist ideas began to grow in Uzbekistan. The younger generation has increased interest in the history and culture of their people.

By the 1980s, the economic crisis and perestroika processes in the Soviet Union were also reflected in Uzbekistan. In 1989, the "People's Front" was formed in the Uzbekistan SSR, which encouraged independent thinking. In 1990, the declaration of sovereignty of the Uzbek SSR was announced. On September 1, 1991, the Republic of Uzbekistan was declared an independent state. This event is one of the most important moments in the country's history, and it was the result of the people's desire for freedom. After independence, the country began to transition to a new political system, and economic reforms began to be implemented.

Independence became important not only for Uzbekistan, but also in the history of the entire Central Asian region. On the way to independence, I had to go through many difficulties and trials. The unity, dedication and courage of our people was the main factor in the successful completion of this process. Independence is not only the achievements of the past, but also the tasks that must be carried out in the future. We must maintain independence and further develop it. For this, it is necessary to implement innovations in all areas, educate the younger generation, and respect their opinions.

In short, independence is our future. It opens the door to new opportunities and serves to improve the quality of life of everyone. Each of us should be proud of our independence and work to strengthen it!

Nodira Jorayevo
Bukhara Institute of Engineering and Technology

Sabina Giyosiddinova's art



Sabina Giyosiddinova born in 2004 in Kasbi district of Kashkadarya region. Currently, I am a 2nd course student of Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov. To this day, I have taken pride of place in many competitions.

My parents and teachers have a big place in my results. In order to preserve our ecology, a competition called "Kongil Ecology" was organized in our university. I participated in this competition with active students of our university and was the 2nd place.



Destiny



Watch your Thoughts...
They become Words...
Watch your Words...
They become Actions...
Watch your Actions...
They become Habits...
Watch your Habits...
They become Character...
Watch your Character...
It becomes Destiny...

Achyut Umarji

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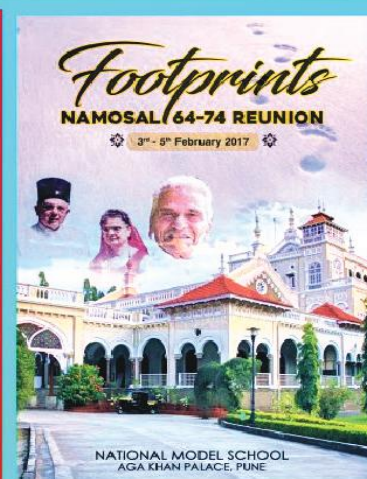
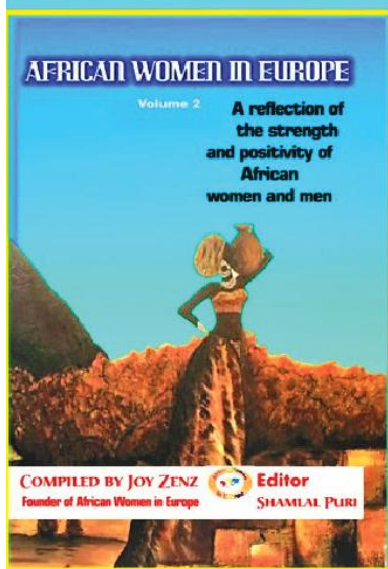
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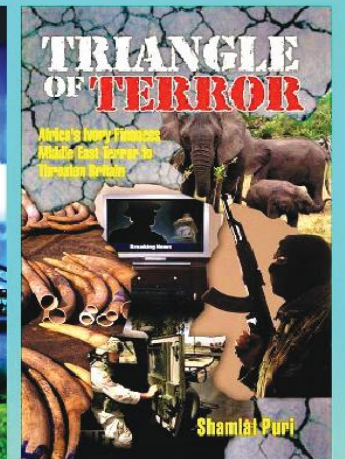
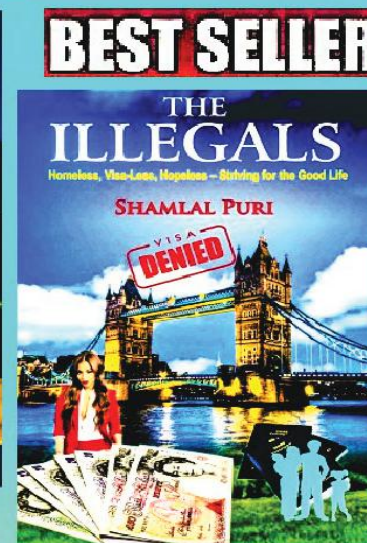
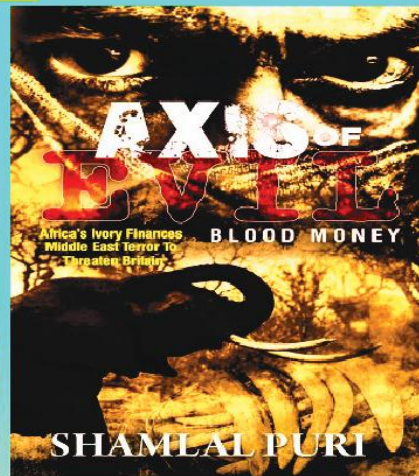
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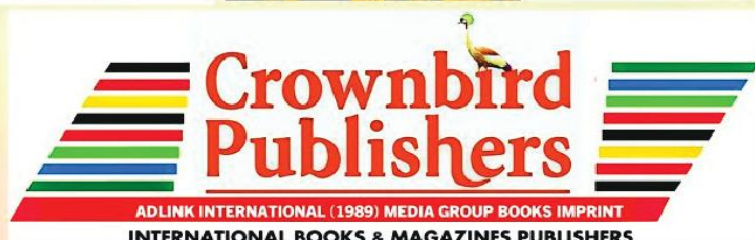
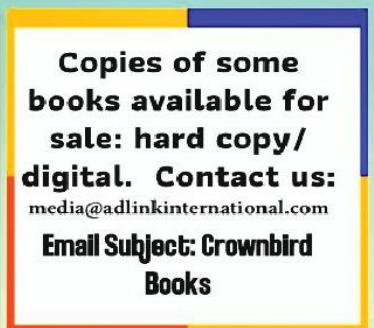
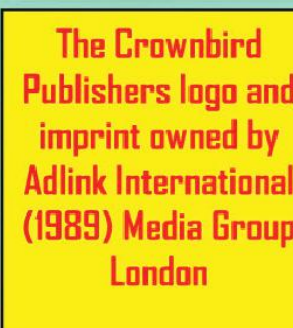
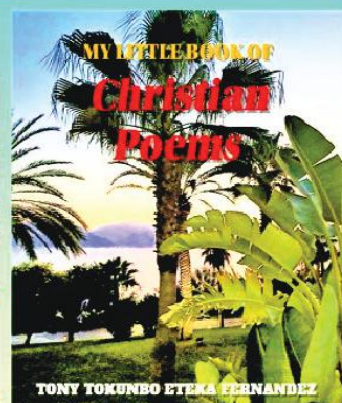
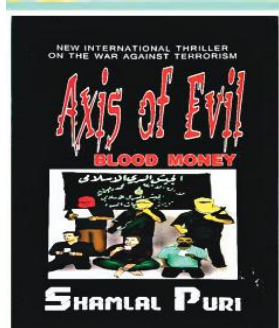
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Stakeholder Gather To Assess Progress In Fight Against FGM

By: Kenya News Agency

A Project Review Meeting aimed at evaluating ongoing efforts to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) too took place in Marakwet East Sub County, Elgeyo Marakwet County, bringing together a broad coalition of stakeholders committed to ending the harmful practice.

The meeting, convened by the Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG), a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting democracy, human rights, and social justice, sought to assess the progress of ongoing initiatives and develop improved strategies for preventing and responding to FGM in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

“This meeting is crucial for us to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies we have in place and to ensure we are making meaningful progress in eradicating FGM,” noted a representative from CEDGG.

The gathering provided a platform for key participants including government officials, community leaders, activists, and survivors to share

achievements, challenges, and ideas for the next steps.

One of the central themes of the discussion was the need to refine current interventions to make them more impactful and sustainable with stakeholders emphasizing that while significant progress has been made, there were gaps that must be addressed.

“We must ensure that the strategies in place are impactful and sustainable. We are here today to learn from our successes and confront the barriers that persist in ending FGM in our communities,” said Maxwell Simiyu, the Sub-County Children’s Officer, during the meeting.

To strengthen community education and advocacy, educational and informational materials were highlighted as crucial elements of the awareness campaign against FGM.

These resources have been instrumental in educating communities about the severe physical and psychological risks associated with the practice, while also advocating for the abandonment of the practice and offering support for survivors.

“Our objective is to challenge long-held misconceptions and promote advocacy efforts that will lead to the abandonment of FGM. By effectively distributing these materials, we



aim to foster understanding and spur action,” added another CEDGG representative.

Community engagement efforts, including intergenerational dialogue forums, have also proven essential. In Kapyego, an intergenerational male dialogue forum facilitated critical conversations on the role of men in dismantling harmful cultural practices.

Speaking at the event, the County Woman Representative Caroline Ng’elechei stressed the importance of male involvement in reconsider-

ing traditions that perpetuate suffering.

“It is critical that men, as custodians of cultural practices, begin to question traditions that cause harm and perpetuate cycles of suffering. FGM causes not only physical damage but long-lasting psychological trauma, and it’s time we address these realities,” she stated.

The meeting underscored the importance of collaborative action, with representatives from all sectors agreeing on the need for a coordinated, multi-faceted approach to end

FGM.

Participants discussed the importance of building community resilience against cultural pressure while also ensuring that survivors received the necessary medical and psychological support.

The Project Review Meeting is part of CEDGG’s larger effort to deepen community engagement and foster strong partnerships in the fight against FGM. The dialogue and insights shared will be instrumental in shaping future strategies and interventions, as stakeholders work.

An NGO Has Constructed 180 Toilets In Nyandarua County

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Toilet Africa Initiative, a Non -Governmental Organization has boosted toilet hygiene through construction of over 700 toilet facilities across the country.

The organization has also constructed 180 toilet facilities in Nyandarua County targeting local community, market places as well as learning institutions.

Chief Executive Officer, Toilet Africa Initiative, Ms. Josephine Wachera the commissioning of the construction of a toilet facility at Mahindu Early Child Development Centre at Mithanduku village in Kipipiri Ward, pointed out that the idea of constructing toilets for the community was hatched after observing the suffering of the elderly and school going children due to lack of toilets

or poor and unfriendly toilets exposing them to infections.

“Good toilet facilities are very crucial in boosting hygiene in our learning institutions especially to our girls during their menses,” noted Ms. Wachera.

She also pointed out that good toilet facilities in learning institutions and at home are not only beneficial to the school going children but also to the elderly who may be having underlying conditions such as arthritis among other diseases.

The CEO called upon the government and well-wishers to come on board and fast track the construction of toilet facilities to hence good hygiene.

During the commissioning of the construction of the toilet, the organization donated beddings, clothes and food stuff to 521 elderly men and women.

Area Member of County Assembly, Mr. Paul Ngeche appreciated the



Chief Executive Officer, Toilet Africa Initiative, Ms. Josephine Wachera addressing the meeting

gesture shown by the organization and promised to work closely with such likeminded organizations, government and other well-wishers in

helping the needy in the community. Mr. Ngeche retaliated that to complement the work being done by Toilet Africa Initiative he will soon fast

track the operation of a Sh8.3 million bore hole in Kipipiri ward for clean water supply in the ward.

Kenya Pipeline Company Partners with Syokinet Solutions to Boost Fiber Optic Connectivity

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

In a significant step towards enhancing Kenya's digital infrastructure, the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has partnered with Syokinet Solutions, an internet service provider (ISP), to utilize its Mombasa-Nairobi fiber optic cable network. The collaboration is poised to deliver high-speed internet to homes, businesses, and community networks in the two cities.

With a 1.6 TeraBits Per Second (Tbps) data capacity, the fiber optic network promises to offer reliable gigabit internet speeds, marking a transformative step in Kenya's internet connectivity landscape. According to KPC's Managing Director Joe Sang, the partnership will play a crucial role in supporting the government's Digital Superhighway initiative, which aims to accelerate economic growth through technological advancement.

"The strategic partnership with Syokinet will unlock additional con-

nectivity and offer high-speed internet services for homes and businesses between Nairobi and Mombasa," Sang noted. He further emphasized the importance of the move in contributing to Kenya's broader digital transformation agenda. "This is a major step forward in advancing Kenya's digital infrastructure and supporting the government's visionary Digital Superhighway agenda to accelerate the country's transformation, creation of jobs, and economic growth."

The Digital Superhighway, a key component of the government's ambitious digital agenda, aims to expand the country's digital backbone by laying 100,000 kilometers (62,000 miles) of fiber optic cable. Additionally, the initiative seeks to establish 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots in market centers across Kenya and create 1,450 digital hubs in every ward. These efforts are designed to boost digital inclusion, expand broadband connectivity, and create new opportunities for businesses and communities nationwide.

The collaboration between KPC and Syokinet marks the latest de-

velopment in KPC's ongoing efforts to onboard leading telecommunications companies and internet service providers (ISPs) to its robust fiber optic cable network. Over the years, KPC has successfully integrated major players such as Safaricom, MTN, Airtel Network, Jamii Telcom, and Wananchi into its fiber infrastructure. The addition of Syokinet is expected to enhance internet service delivery and further broaden access to fast, reliable connectivity.

"By combining our internet services expertise with KPC's impressive fiber infrastructure, we can enhance the quality of life by empowering customers with faster, more reliable connections," said Syokinet CEO Ian Kasyoki. He expressed optimism about the future of Kenya's digital landscape and Syokinet's role in shaping it. "Syokinet is committed to working with partners like KPC to achieve the government's vision of a digitally-enabled society," Kasyoki added.

The enhanced connectivity between Nairobi and Mombasa is anticipated to create new opportunities for businesses and communities, enabling



Syokinet Solutions CEO, Ian Kasyoki, (left) and KPC MD, Joe Sang (Right) officiate the onboarding of Syokinet Solutions to KPC's fibre optic cables network.

them to leverage the power of high-speed internet to drive innovation and growth. The move also aligns with the government's broader goal of promoting digital literacy and facilitating access to online services, which are crucial to Kenya's socio-economic development.

As Kenya continues to prioritize digital infrastructure development, partnerships like the one between KPC and Syokinet are expected to play a pivotal role in fostering a digitally-connected nation. With

the Digital Superhighway initiative gaining momentum, the country is well-positioned to become a leader in the region's digital transformation efforts.

The partnership, which combines KPC's vast fiber optic network with Syokinet's ISP expertise, represents a key milestone in Kenya's journey toward achieving universal broadband connectivity and ensuring that all citizens can benefit from the opportunities presented by the digital age.

Stop The Violence Against Expectant And Birthing Mothers, Leaders Urged

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

First-ever report on Obstetric Violence in Kenya urges ongoing Maternal Health Bill debate to centre dignified maternal health care.

Having witnessed shocking cases of his close family members losing their loved ones to different forms of Obstetric Violence by health care providers, Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah has joined hands with Nguvu Collective's Change Leaders to champion dignified maternal health care in Kenya.

Omtatah received the ground-breaking report on Obstetric Violence created by Nguvu Change Leaders that has significant relevance to the ongoing debate in the Senate on the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Bill, 2023.

This Bill is scheduled for a 3rd reading.

"The report on Obstetric Violence by Nguvu Collective brings to light the deeply troubling realities faced

by women in our maternal health facilities and its recommendations could significantly strengthen the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Bill, 2023 under discussion. It is imperative that the mistreatment and abuse women face when seeking maternal health care are addressed comprehensively. These recommendations can serve as a foundation for further amendments to the Bill to ensure our women receive the highest standard of care, free from any form of violence or discrimination. This is the standard we must set in our legislation!" Omtatah commented, after meeting Nguvu Change Leaders.

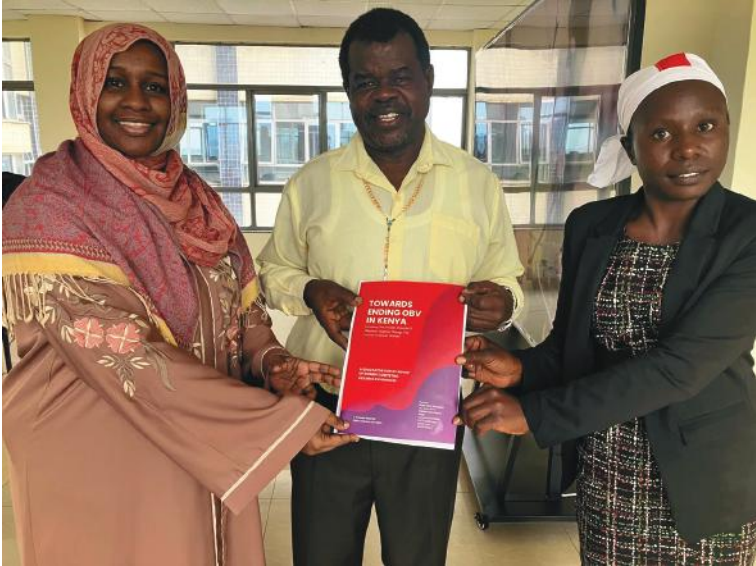
The issue of Obstetric Violence presented in the report by the Nguvu Change Leaders resonated with Senator Omtatah as he recalled his brother losing a child due to negligence by nurses and his cousin's child ending up with cerebral palsy all resulting from different forms of OBV.

The report, titled "Towards Ending OBV in Kenya: Unveiling the Invisible Wounds of Obstetric Violence Through the Voices of Kenyan Women," was authored by Harriet

Afandi, Deborah Monari, Josephine Mwende, and Ajra Mohamed. It is meant to break the silence around the different forms of abuse and mistreatment that women experience during obstetric care. This form of mistreatment is known as Obstetric Violence (OBV).

"In efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which outlines free, quality affordable healthcare services to all, and aim to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.1 which calls for a reduction in the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR), we must not forget that the right to health is enshrined in our Constitution. International human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) also uphold the right to dignified and respectful care. Making these protections a reality is long overdue and there is an opportunity to do that by incorporating the recommendations from our OBV Report within the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Bill." - said Nguvu Change Leaders.

With the Bill scheduled for a third



Senator Omtatah and Nguvu Change Leaders

reading, the Nguvu Change Leaders have submitted a memorandum with proposed amendments and are urging reforms for stronger maternal health care that is built on the foundation of quality patient-centered care as an essential holistic approach; One that treats the women as active participants in their healthcare journey, addressing not only their

physical needs but also their emotional, mental, spiritual, social, and financial well-being. Nguvu Collective believes that this comprehensive strategy will ensure that all aspects of a woman's maternal health needs are considered in their care plan.

Forging A Path To Justice: Enhancing Kenya's Criminal Justice System



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Addressing the persistent issue of prolonged pre-trial detentions and overcrowded prisons is paramount. This requires a multi-pronged approach, encompassing legislative reforms to review and revise bail and sentencing laws, as well as the exploration of alternative measures such as electronic monitoring and community-based supervision programs.
- By reducing the reliance on incarceration and prioritizing rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, Kenya can not only alleviate the strain on its prison system but also promote a more humane and effective approach to addressing criminal behavior.
- Crucially, enhancing the criminal justice system in Kenya necessitates a comprehensive overhaul of the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern its operations.

The criminal justice system stands as a sentinel, tasked with upholding the rule of law, protecting the rights of citizens and ensuring that justice is served with fairness and impartiality. However, in Kenya, this system has long been plagued by challenges that have eroded public confidence and undermined the principles of due process and equitable access to justice. As the nation strives to build a more just and inclusive society, the imperative to address these shortcomings and forge a path towards a truly effective and transformative criminal justice system has never been more pressing.

At the heart of Kenya's criminal justice woes lies a complex web of systemic issues, ranging from inadequate resources and outdated legislation to endemic corruption and the lingering legacies of colonialism. These challenges have manifested in myriad ways, from prolonged pre-trial detentions and overcrowded prisons to the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities and the erosion of public trust in the system's ability to deliver justice.

To confront these challenges, Kenya must embrace a holistic and multifaceted approach, one that recognizes the interconnectedness of the various components of the criminal justice system and the need for comprehensive reform. This approach demands a collaborative effort involving policymakers, legal professionals, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and the broader public, all united in a shared vision of creating a system that upholds the principles of fairness, accountability, and respect for human rights.

One groundbreaking avenue for reform lies in the adoption of restor-

ative justice practices, which seek to repair the harm caused by criminal offenses and promote reconciliation between offenders, victims, and the broader community. By incorporating restorative justice principles into the criminal justice system, Kenya can shift the focus from punitive measures to a more holistic approach that addresses the root causes of criminal behavior, empowers victims, and fosters accountability and reintegration.

The implementation of restorative justice practices can take various forms, such as victim-offender mediation programs, community conferencing, and circle processes. These approaches not only provide a platform for open dialogue and healing but also offer opportunities for offenders to take responsibility for their actions, repair the harm caused, and reintegrate into society as productive members. By embracing restorative justice, Kenya can reduce recidivism rates, alleviate the burden on overburdened prisons, and cultivate a culture of empathy, forgiveness, and community-driven problem-solving.

Alongside restorative justice practices, Kenya must prioritize the modernization of its criminal justice infrastructure and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies. This includes investing in modern forensic laboratories, digitizing case management systems, and leveraging data analytics to identify patterns, predict risks, and allocate resources more effectively. By harnessing the power of technology, Kenya can streamline processes, enhance transparency, and ensure that evidence-based decision-making becomes the cornerstone of a fair and efficient criminal justice system.

Addressing the persistent issue of

prolonged pre-trial detentions and overcrowded prisons is paramount. This requires a multi-pronged approach, encompassing legislative reforms to review and revise bail and sentencing laws, as well as the exploration of alternative measures such as electronic monitoring and community-based supervision programs. By reducing the reliance on incarceration and prioritizing rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, Kenya can not only alleviate the strain on its prison system but also promote a more humane and effective approach to addressing criminal behavior.

Crucially, enhancing the criminal justice system in Kenya necessitates a comprehensive overhaul of the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern its operations. This includes a thorough review and revision of antiquated laws, ensuring that they are aligned with contemporary human rights standards and reflect the evolving needs of a modern, democratic society. By embracing progressive legal reforms, Kenya can eliminate discriminatory provisions, strengthen due process protections, and establish mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the empowerment of legal professionals and the fostering of a robust and independent judiciary are essential components of a well-functioning criminal justice system. This involves investing in comprehensive training programs for lawyers, judges, and law enforcement personnel, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding to uphold the principles of justice and safeguard the rights of all parties involved.

Additionally, the role of civil society organizations and community-based initiatives cannot be underestimated in enhancing the criminal justice system. By fostering partnerships and collaborative efforts, these entities can serve as watchdogs, advocate for reforms, provide legal aid and support services to marginalized communities, and facilitate public education and awareness campaigns. This collaborative approach not only strengthens the criminal justice system's accountability but also promotes greater public trust and engagement.

Crucially, addressing the issue of endemic corruption within the criminal justice system is a paramount priority. This requires a multipronged approach that combines robust anti-corruption legislation, independent oversight mechanisms, and a culture of transparency and accountability at all levels. By rooting out corruption and ensuring that the system operates with integrity and fairness, Kenya can restore public confidence and uphold the fundamental principles of justice and the rule of law.

The pursuit of an enhanced criminal justice system must be accompanied by a concerted effort to address the root causes of crime and promote social and economic development. This involves investing in education, job creation initiatives, and community-based programs that provide support and opportunities for at-risk youth and vulnerable populations. By tackling the underlying drivers of criminal behavior, Kenya can not only reduce the burden on the criminal justice system but also foster a more inclusive and equitable society.

The path towards enhancing Kenya's criminal justice system is undoubtedly arduous, fraught with challenges and complexities that demand unwavering commitment and a long-term vision. Yet, the stakes are high, for a fair and effective criminal justice system is not merely a legal imperative but a cornerstone of a thriving democracy and a catalyst for social cohesion and economic progress. By embracing innovative approaches, leveraging technology, and fostering collaboration among all stakeholders, Kenya can forge a path to justice that upholds the rights of all citizens, promotes accountability, and serves as a beacon of hope for a future where the ideals of fairness, equity, and the rule of law reign supreme.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja: A Catalyst For Unity And Inclusive Governance In Kenya

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has emerged as a prominent voice advocating for unity and inclusive governance in Kenya. In a recent address, Sakaja emphasized his role in initiating discussions about a broad-based government, asserting that he faced opposition from individuals such as Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. This statement reflects Sakaja's unwavering commitment to promoting collaboration and unity among political leaders in Kenya. Sakaja's advocacy for a broad-based government aligns with the pressing need for collective action to address the country's economic challenges and social cohesion. By encouraging dialogue and collaboration, he aims to create a political environment where diverse voices are heard and valued. This approach is particularly crucial in

a country like Kenya, where political divisions have often hindered progress and development. Governor Sakaja's remarks come at a time when the political landscape in Kenya is evolving, with calls for greater cooperation among various political factions. President William Ruto's efforts to foster a more inclusive government by incorporating members from the opposition into key positions have been widely praised. Sakaja has commended these efforts, noting that this approach is essential for delivering services effectively to the people. The governor's advocacy for unity and inclusive governance is not merely a political stance; it is a reflection of his deep understanding of the challenges facing Kenyan citizens. Sakaja recognizes that the success of any government lies in its ability to address the needs of all citizens, regardless of their political affiliations or ethnic back-

grounds. By promoting a broad-based government, he aims to ensure that the voices of all Kenyans are heard and their concerns are addressed. Sakaja's commitment to unity and inclusive governance is not without challenges. As he mentioned, he has faced opposition from individuals such as Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who may have different visions for the country's future. However, Sakaja remains steadfast in his belief that unity and collaboration are the keys to overcoming these challenges and moving the country forward. One of the most significant challenges facing Kenya today is the need to address economic inequalities and promote sustainable development. Sakaja understands that achieving these goals requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders, including political leaders, the private sector, and civil society. By advocating for a broad-based gov-

ernment, he aims to create an environment where all voices are heard and all ideas are considered. Moreover, Sakaja's commitment to unity and inclusive governance extends beyond the political sphere. He has actively engaged with various stakeholders, including community leaders, religious organizations, and youth groups, to promote a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity. Through these efforts, he has demonstrated that unity is not just a political goal but a fundamental value that should be embraced by all Kenyans. As Kenya navigates its political future, the call for unity and cooperation among leaders is more relevant than ever. Sakaja's commitment to this vision could play a significant role in shaping the country's governance and ensuring that the needs of all citizens are met. By promoting a broad-based government and fostering a culture

of unity and collaboration, Sakaja is setting an example for other political leaders to follow. In conclusion, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja's advocacy for unity and inclusive governance is a testament to his vision for a better Kenya. Through his efforts to promote a broad-based government and foster a culture of collaboration, he is working to create a more equitable and prosperous society for all Kenyans. As the country continues to navigate its political challenges, it is crucial that leaders like Sakaja continue to champion the values of unity, inclusion, and respect for diversity.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

Validating Progress: A New Era Of Accountability In Kenya's National Projects

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The recent announcement that the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Interior Ministry will begin validating national government projects is a significant step forward for Kenya. This initiative, which focuses on key areas such as housing, roads, and cotton production, aims to ensure that ongoing and planned projects align with national development goals and effectively utilize government resources. In a country where transparency and accountability are often called into question, this validation process is both timely and necessary. The validation of national projects is crucial for assessing their progress and impact on local communities and the economy. By targeting housing, the government seeks to address the pressing need for affordable housing solutions, a significant concern for many Kenyans. Urbanization is on the rise, and the demand for adequate housing has never been more critical. Ensuring that housing projects are not only initiated but also completed on time and within budget is essential for improving living standards across the country.

In addition to housing, the emphasis on road infrastructure highlights the government's commitment to improving connectivity and transportation networks. Well-maintained roads are vital for facilitating trade, enhancing access to markets, and promoting economic growth. The validation of road projects will ensure that funds are allocated efficiently and that projects are completed as planned, ultimately benefiting the economy and the people who rely on these vital transport links. The focus on cotton production is particularly noteworthy, reflecting the government's intention to revitalize the agricultural sector. Cotton has the potential to contribute significantly to Kenya's economy, providing employment opportunities and supporting local industries. By validating projects in this area, the government aims to enhance the productivity and sustainability of cotton farming, which could ultimately benefit farmers and the economy as a whole. This validation initiative comes at a time when effective project management and accountability are paramount. The government must ensure that resources are used wisely and

that projects deliver tangible benefits to the population. Engaging stakeholders and communities in the validation process can foster transparency and build trust in government initiatives. When citizens see that their needs are being prioritized and addressed, it can lead to greater public support for government projects. As the validation process unfolds, it will be essential for the government to communicate its findings and progress to the public. Transparency will not only enhance accountability but also encourage community involvement in development projects. Engaging local communities in discussions about their needs and priorities will ensure that projects are tailored to address the specific challenges they face. Moreover, the validation exercise is an opportunity for the government to identify potential challenges affecting service delivery. By documenting issues and bottlenecks, the government can take proactive measures to address these challenges and ensure that projects are executed smoothly. This approach not only improves project outcomes but also strengthens the overall governance framework in Kenya.

The validation process also aligns with the government's broader goals of promoting economic growth and improving living standards. By focusing on high-impact projects, the government can prioritize initiatives that have the potential to drive significant change in communities. This targeted approach can lead to more efficient use of resources and better outcomes for the population. However, it is important to recognize that validation alone is not enough. The government must also commit to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of projects to ensure that they continue to meet their objectives. This requires a shift in mindset from merely completing projects to ensuring that they deliver lasting benefits to communities. In conclusion, the validation of national government projects by the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Interior Ministry represents a proactive approach to governance in Kenya. By focusing on critical areas such as housing, roads, and cotton production, the government is taking steps to ensure that development initiatives are aligned with national goals and effectively address the needs of the population. This

initiative has the potential to drive economic growth, improve living standards, and foster a more equitable society. As Kenya moves forward, it is crucial for leaders to embrace transparency and accountability in all aspects of governance. By validating projects and engaging with communities, the government can build trust and support for its initiatives. Ultimately, the success of this validation process will depend on the government's commitment to following through on its findings and ensuring that projects deliver real benefits to the people of Kenya. The future of the nation's development hinges on the effectiveness of these initiatives and the willingness to adapt and improve based on community feedback and project outcomes.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

The Silent Engine: How Invisible Economic Forces Shape Our Daily Lives



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- One of the most persistent economic challenges is inflation. Inflation occurs when the general level of prices for goods and services rises, eroding purchasing power. In Kenya, inflation has become a hot topic, especially as it relates to food prices. For example, the price of maize flour, a staple food, has seen significant fluctuations in recent years due to droughts, global supply chain disruptions, and political instability.

- These price hikes disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in society, particularly those living below the poverty line. As inflation eats away at disposable income, people are forced to make tough choices, such as cutting back on essential services like healthcare or education. Inflation is not merely an economic statistic; it has real-world consequences that can alter the quality of life for millions.

Economics is often seen as an abstract and complex subject, far removed from our daily experiences. Yet, it is the invisible force guiding every decision we make, from the price we pay for groceries to the interest rates on our loans, and even the job opportunities available to us. While many people might assume that economics is just a subject confined to textbooks and financial analysts, it is, in fact, a dynamic and living entity that intertwines with every facet of our lives. To fully grasp its power, one must understand the fundamental principles that govern it: demand and supply, opportunity cost, inflation, and market equilibrium. However, what makes economics even more fascinating is how these principles manifest in ways we may not expect—subtle yet profound impacts on human behavior, society, and the global landscape.

At the heart of economics is the relationship between supply and demand, the two forces that determine prices. If there is more supply of a product than demand for it, prices fall, and when demand exceeds supply, prices rise. Take the example of housing in Nairobi, where rapid urbanization has led to a significant increase in demand for residential space. With land being a finite resource, developers are forced to compete for the same plots, leading to skyrocketing property prices. This increase isn't just a number on a piece of paper; it trickles down to the average person in the form of higher rents and mortgages, making housing increasingly unaffordable for a large section of the population. It also impacts construction jobs, mortgage lending institutions, and the government's tax revenues.

However, economics is not just about numbers or the movement of goods and services. It is deeply tied to human behavior, both rational and irrational. The concept of opportunity cost is one such principle that sheds light on the trade-offs individuals and societies make. Opportunity cost refers to the value of the next best alternative that must be foregone when making a choice. For instance, when a person decides to spend money on entertainment instead of saving or investing, the opportunity cost is the potential interest or profits they could have earned. Similarly, a government that prioritizes infrastructure development over education may enhance transport and trade but risks stunting human capital development. Such decisions, whether made by individuals or policymakers, highlight how economics is not just about wealth but also about the choices we make and their long-term implications.

One of the most persistent economic challenges is inflation. Inflation occurs when the general level of prices for goods and services rises, eroding purchasing power. In Kenya, inflation has become a hot topic, especially as it relates to food prices. For example, the price of maize flour, a staple food, has seen significant fluctuations in recent years due to droughts, global supply chain disruptions, and political instability. These price hikes disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in society, particularly those living below the poverty line. As inflation eats away at disposable income, people are forced to make tough choices, such as cutting back on essential services like healthcare or education. Inflation is not merely an economic statistic; it has real-world consequences that can alter the quality of life for millions.

In a broader sense, economics plays a crucial role in shaping political decisions. One glaring example is the debate surrounding Kenya's national debt, which currently stands at over 10.2 trillion KES. Economic theory suggests that high levels of government debt can lead to increased borrowing costs, crowding out private investment and slowing economic growth. Yet, politicians often face a dilemma: borrowing can finance essential infrastructure projects that boost productivity in the long run, but it also burdens future generations with repayment. This balancing act between short-term gains and long-term consequences is at the core of economic policy, and it forces citizens and leaders alike to consider the trade-offs inherent in every decision.

Economics also dictates the job market, determining which sectors grow and which ones falter. Technological advancements, for instance, have created a shift in demand for certain types of labor. While traditional manufacturing jobs are on the decline, industries like information technology and data science are booming. This shift presents both opportunities and challenges. Workers in declining industries may face unemployment or be forced to acquire new skills, while those in emerging sectors enjoy higher wages and greater job security. This changing landscape illustrates a key concept in economics: creative destruction. As innovation drives new industries, it renders some skills and businesses obsolete, but it also paves the way for more efficient and productive systems. Those who adapt thrive, while those who resist change are left behind.

Globalization is another economic force that has significantly shaped the modern world. The integration of international markets has made goods cheaper and more accessible, but it has also led to job losses in certain sectors. For example, many manufacturing jobs in Kenya have been outsourced to countries with lower labor costs, like China and India. While this allows businesses to reduce costs and offer cheaper

products, it comes at the expense of local employment. This phenomenon reflects a larger global trend where economic decisions made in one part of the world can have ripple effects across continents, illustrating the interconnectedness of our global economy. Yet, despite its complexities, economics is, at its core, about solving the problem of scarcity. Resources are limited, and economics provides a framework for understanding how societies allocate these scarce resources to satisfy competing needs. From healthcare to education, defense to infrastructure, governments and individuals alike must decide how to distribute finite resources. This process inevitably involves trade-offs, and the study of economics helps us understand the consequences of those decisions. By understanding these trade-offs, we can make more informed choices, whether at the individual or societal level.

One of the most fascinating aspects of economics is how it reflects human nature. We are driven by incentives, both positive and negative. Incentives shape behavior in profound ways, influencing everything from consumer choices to corporate strategies. For example, if the government offers tax breaks for businesses that adopt environmentally friendly practices, companies are more likely to invest in sustainable technologies. Similarly, individuals are more likely to save if there are attractive interest rates on savings accounts. These incentives shape the economic landscape, guiding decision-making at every level. Economics is not just a dry academic discipline; it is the silent engine driving our world. From the prices we pay at the supermarket to the jobs we seek, from the policies governments implement to the choices we make in our personal lives, economics is ever-present. Understanding its principles allows us to see the world more clearly, making sense of the complex interactions that shape our daily lives. By grasping the invisible forces of supply and demand, opportunity cost, inflation, and market equilibrium, we gain insights into how the world works—and how we can navigate it more effectively.

This article was scripted by:
MIDMARK ONSONGO
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Ijara MP Calls On President Ruto To Make A Tour To Northern Kenya

By: RAYMOND WANJOHI
@themtkenyetimes

Ijara MP Abdi Ali Abdi has called on President William Ruto to make a tour to Northern Kenya and address pertinent issues affecting the pastoralist communities.

Speaking to the media yesterday at his Constituency, Mr Abdi said the President should take time and embark on a development tour to the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) parts of the country.

The lawmaker said the region overwhelmingly supports Dr Ruto's leadership and is expecting him to visit soon.

"We have confidence in the leadership of President Ruto. I am therefore requesting him (Dr Ruto) to tour Northern Kenya and address issues affecting the region," Mr Abdi said.

"We want the pastoralist communities in the ASAL counties to share

to him directly their interests so that they can also tap development from his administration," he added.

Parts of Northern Kenya have over the years experienced severe drought and flooding, inter-ethnic tensions, proliferation of arms and cattle rustling.

Mr Abdi, who is a member of the Kenya Kwanza coalition, lauded the Head of State for forming a broad-based government by reconstituting his Cabinet.

He said the country is geared towards economic development and that Kenyans are on the right path of gaining prosperity in Dr Ruto's new administration.

"We support the President for forming a broad-based government because his wise decision has toned down divisive politics and impacted peace and tranquility in the country. As a member of the Kenya Kwanza coalition, I will continue supporting our President in implementing his development agenda," Mr Abdi said.

"We now expect the government to



Ijara MP Abdi Ali Abdi addressing the media

address various issues affecting Kenyans so as to achieve prosperity as a people," he added.

The MP was elected in 2022 on the National Agenda Party of Kenya which is affiliated to Azimi coalition. But after the polls, Mr Abdi decamped from Azimio and joined President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza coalition.

Sam Okoyo: Former British Soldier Seeking To Succeed CS Opiyo Wandayi As Ugunja MP

By: Peter Aowa
@themtkenyetimes

Sam Okoyo, the Secretary General for the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party in the UK, is determined to reshape politics in his home area of Ugunja Constituency.

With over 20 years of experience in insurance, Okoyo has been active in Ugunja politics. In the 2022 general elections, he aimed to challenge the then-Ugunja MP, now CS for Energy and Petroleum Opiyo Wandayi. However, an intervention from party officials led him to support the ODM candidate, who won a third term, defeating Oyugi Dor from the United Democratic Movement party.

Okoyo has been running various programs in Ugunja to uplift the community and fight poverty.

Through the Sam Okoyo Resource Center, established in 2022 in Ugunja town, he supports vulnerable children with school fees, empowers women and youth through a poultry farming initiative called Kuku ni Pesa (poultry is money), and provides table banking for financial inclusion and poverty reduction.

The son of Richard Okoth, ex-Senior Chief and the current Chair (Ker) Luo Council of Elders, Siaya County education journey began at Ambira Primary School and continued at Vihiga High School. In 2004, Okoyo moved to the UK for a graduation ceremony and young insurance professionals (YIP) workshop with the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII). A year later, he joined the British Army, serving for 8 years, including in the Gulf War. After his HM Armed forces service, he joined Lloyd's of London and worked with various Lloyd's Syndicates and Brokers in London.

Okoyo studied at the University of East London (UEL), earning a BA (Hons) in Business Management and Finance, and a Master of Laws (LLM) in Insurance Law from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). He is an Associate member of the Chartered Insurance Institute (ACII) in the UK and currently serves as ODM Diaspora UK Chapter Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer of the AZIMIO La Umoja Diaspora UK Chapter. He also led the National Super Alliance (NASA) as Chief Executive Officer.

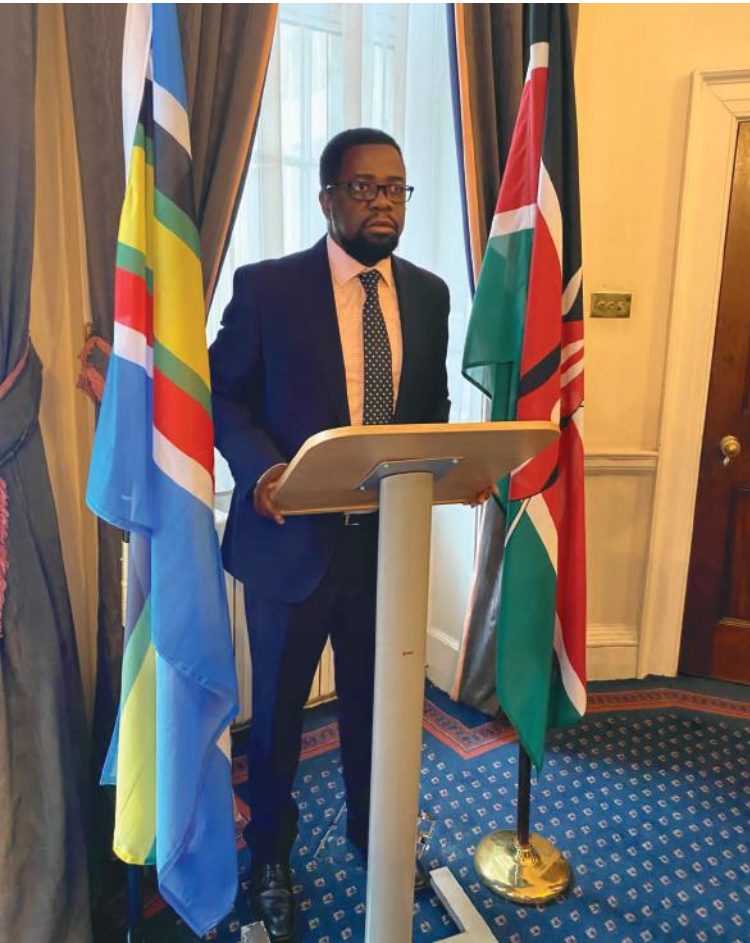
A sociable and likable individual

with a keen understanding of global geopolitics, Okoyo is committed to the sustainable empowerment of communities. He believes his diverse background, including his decade-long military service and experience in the UK, makes him well-suited to serve as Ugunja Constituency's Member of Parliament.

His honors from the British Army include the Iraq War Medal without Clasp and Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Okoyo is eager to put Ugunja Constituency on the global development map.

The Ugunja Constituency MP seat was left vacant following Opiyo Wandayi's appointment as CS in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.

As the IEBC prepares for a by-election, several candidates have expressed interest, including Ugunja Constituency CDF manager Moses Omondi, Oyugi Dor, Engineer Frederick ZB Owino, Joseph Alur, and Engineer Vincent Chengo.



Sam Okoyo, the Secretary General for the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party in the UK

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Kenya international Joseph Okumu believes Harambee Stars can get their first victory of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying campaign against Namibia if they raise their game today, at Orlando Stadium in South Africa.

Exclusive: Joseph Okumu Rallies Kenya To Raise Game As Zimbabwe Coach Wary Of Cameroon



Kenya international Joseph Okumu believes Harambee Stars

Kenya international Joseph Okumu believes Harambee Stars can get their first victory of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying campaign against Namibia if they raise their game today, at Orlando Stadium in South Africa.

The East African nation kicked off their campaign to qualify for a seventh appearance at the AFCON finals in Morocco with a drab 0-0 draw against Zimbabwe in a Group J fixture at the Stade Nelson Mandela Stadium in Kampala, Uganda, on Friday, September 6.

With Cameroon beating Namibia 1-0 courtesy of a second half goal from Vincent Aboubakar at Roumde Adjia Stadium on Saturday, September 7, to take control of the group, Kenya will require to strive for positive results to stand a chance of reaching the 35th edition of the biennial African football tournament in the North African nation.

Kenya Will Bounce Back Against Namibia

Okumu, who captained the side against the Warriors in the absence of lead striker Michael Oluunga, believes Harambee Stars will secure their first win against the Brave Warriors but only if

“we raise our game a little bit.”

“We came here looking for a win against Zimbabwe but we have only managed a draw, it is not a bad result, though it was not the kind of start we were looking for, we wanted to start with a win but a draw is a fair result considering how both teams played,” Okumu, who features for French Ligue 1 outfit Stade de Reims, told SportsBoom.com. “We don’t want to dwell much on what happened against Zimbabwe, the game is now a past tense, and our focus is on the Namibia game, we need to get ready for the game, we need to raise a few things, and we will get a positive result, I know it is possible and we can do it.”

The 27-year-old Okumu continued: “It is not difficult to win or beat Namibia, we will do our best, we just call on Kenyans to continue supporting us, we know Namibia will also be coming for a win, it makes the game interesting (two teams eager to win), but definitely we will try our best to get the win.”

Okumu, who locally played for Chemelil Sugar in the Kenyan Premier League, was making a comeback to the Harambee Stars squad having missed the 2026 World Cup qualifying matches

against Burundi and Ivory Coast owing to an injury.

“It felt amazing to captain the side, but we must get ready for the Namibia match which to me is a must win, it feels great to return and play for the national team and will look forward to more matches,” added Okumu.

Zimbabwe Coach Michael Nees Wary of Cameroon

Zimbabwe coach Michael Nees has labelled Cameroon as a “different calibre” ahead of their matchday two fixture of the AFCON qualifiers at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Kampala, Uganda on Tuesday, September 10.

Speaking after the 0-0 draw against Kenya, the 57-year-old German tactician admitted playing against the Indomitable Lions will need a different approach than how they played against Harambee Stars.

“We performed good against Kenya, good but not great from the defensive point of view, so first of all we need to recover, the players need two days to get their legs fresh and then third day you cannot train something but now we have one day before the next game and we cannot do much,” said Nees.

“We need to analyse our game

against Kenya, of course they need to apply intelligence, experience to rectify mistakes and improve on key areas but for sure we will have to improve against Cameroon a few things, Cameroon is a different calibre if they come with their best team, there is no doubt about that.”

Giving his thoughts on the Kenya game, Nees said: “It was our first game, and we wanted to win but we were caught in between a win and a draw, but I am happy from the defensive point of view we didn’t concede a goal.

“At the beginning we looked a little bit crampy, not so light I don’t know if it was caused by a little bit excitement, you know playing your first AFCON group game, so at the beginning, the legs were a little bit heavy but I think the longer the game progressed, we grew in confidence but we have a lot of space for improvement, no doubt about it.”

Nees added: “Kenya is a difficult opponent to play against, we anticipated exactly how they played, they want to drag you out, make a mistake in your pressing then they come and over play you then they are very strong in running and then they beat you and again they hardly concede a goal and if they score against you, it is going to be very difficult against them.”

“That is how they (Kenya) collected a point against Ivory Coast (in the World Cup qualifiers), that is how they have played in the last six matches, I think we can be satisfied with the draw, if I am honest maybe we could have deserved a win a little more, but there are two times our heavy legs saved us from defeat.”

As it stands, the Indomitable Lions are leading Group J with three points, Kenya are second with one, Zimbabwe third with one while Namibia is fourth without a point.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Newly appointed Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) FC head coach Patrick Odhiambo says his target is to challenge for the FKF Premier League title

Can KCB FC Challenge For The 2024/25 FKF Premier League Title?



KCB FC players celebrate a goal during a past match.

Newly appointed Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) FC head coach Patrick Odhiambo says his target is to challenge for the FKF Premier League title, with the club battling to find space in the high table of Kenyan football despite bumper investment from their sponsors.

The bankers' best ever finish in the top flight was a second spot ending during the 2020-21 season when they were edged to the title by Tusker FC by three points.

However, Odhiambo, who joined the team after the departure of Bernard Mwalala dreams of taking them a step further.

"Our objective for this season is to clinch the Kenya Premier League title. To achieve that against some of the best teams in the league, we need a good squad with depth. This is why we have

gone all out in the market to acquire the best players to help us achieve our dream," Odhiambo said.

The bankers had a torrid campaign in the league last season, finishing a lowly 10th, though they reached the final of the FKF Cup, where they lost on penalties to Kenya Police FC.

The dismal results in the league built pressure on Mwalala who chose to chase other challenges at the end of the season, paving way for Odhiambo to come in from Kakamega Homeboyz.

Odhiambo has snapped in some players into his squad for the new season, led by the return of striker Francis Kahiho who has played at Bandari for two seasons.

The team has also brought on board James Kinyanjui, also joining in from the dockers, while

Patrick Otieno arrives from Posta Rangers.

They have also signed goalkeeper Bonphas Munyasa and midfielder Dennis Maruti from Murang'a Seal, defender Lameck Oloo from Bidco United and midfielder Mathew Agal from Nairobi United.

Kahiho hopes his second coming at KCB will be as successful as the first stint, and believes they have a good squad to challenge for the title.

"This is a very grueling league but I hope I can score a lot of goals and assist as regularly as I can to help KCB achieve its objectives. It feels nostalgic to be back home playing for this badge once more. I know the environment, some of the players and the culture within KCB. I am optimistic we will have a good season," Kahiho said.

The bankers opened their season with a 0-0 draw against Kariobangi Sharks, and will take on Murang'a Seal as the league resumes this weekend.

During the three week international break, Odhiambo has been busy with his side playing in friendly matches to help in team synergy and understanding his personnel better.

"We have a big squad and these friendly matches we have played will help me further assess all the players because everyone has been given the chance to prove himself. I now know who is ready and what needs to be done as we resume action," the tactician added.

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Encouraging Teachers



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Worth Noting:

- One can raise voices and emphasize, equipping teachers with full training and education looms necessary measure, and facilitating them undoubtedly is a bare indicative to devise and scatter enlightenment and rapid progress.
- In many developing countries, it is encouraging to see huge pools of talented and bright teachers, holding peerless potentials and outstanding skills. But, unfortunately demonstrates not life of this precocious segment here, as country lacks resources to allow them to invest their axonic and nature gifted skills in more lucrative ways. In addition, best and shining teachers, having great skills compulsively say goodbye to country to go to foreign ones in search of finding better employment to afford the expenses of their families.



Teachers in Pakistan .

Undeniably, teachers generally considered as 'builders of nations', hold huge contributions in the development of any country, and similarly possess credible role in social boom.

The provision and decoration of well-mannered students comes up only feasible on the account of teachers, so called spiritual parents of children, and never can be neglected their pivotal contribution in beautifying society via elevating and embellishing students' moral cognition. Who they infuse courage to remain industrious, hardworking and disciplined, in children are surely teachers. The latter's effective and fruitful influence on children, one can observe and encounter really in practical life. As consequently, no need to stipulate more (teachers' contributions in enlightening children's future and country's), this clearly implies the more learned, cognitive and lovely teachers a society possesses, the more balanced and disciplined students will manifest in every walk, the fundamental requirement to march forward on the road to social progress and peace.

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sary measure, and facilitating them undoubtedly is a bare indicative to devise and scatter enlightenment and rapid progress.

In many developing countries, it is encouraging to see huge pools of talented and bright teachers, holding peerless potentials and outstanding skills. But, unfortunately demonstrates not life of this precocious segment here, as country lacks resources to allow them to invest their axonic and nature gifted skills in more lucrative ways. In addition, best and shining teachers, having great skills compulsively say goodbye to country to go to foreign ones in search of finding better employment to afford the expenses of their families.

This countless list includes both those interesting in teaching, who find no opportunities to secure job to teach with zeal and zest and those to whom insufficient wages are available.

As a result, a massive brain-drain is on progress, leading to deprivation of many bright and studious students from shining and well learned teachers. In order to stimulate and kindle children's keen interest in learning, what appears the basic need is to en-

sure the availability of good teachers.

That's why, to excel and revamp learning mechanism inside the country, great responsibilities lead to teachers that other can not perform as they do. For the improvement of learning scenario, first of all, it is essential to craft a conducive environment that truly highlights and encourages students' skills and potentials. Not surprisingly, recognising children's hidden skills does not accentuate a piece of cake, instead this is elusive work, but needs incessant focus from teachers' side through their competencies. The tasks, elaborated above, every good and well understanding teacher assuredly performs and always tries to perform.

Apart from from carrying out these duties, next what emanates really imperious is to strengthen and reinforce students' mentality and clear understanding about happenings and life's aims. This indicates, just entrenching students' concentration in uninteresting subjects should be prevented, despite their interest must be underscored and recognised in the nick of time, and then making efforts to encourage their interest is requisite.

However, archaic teaching methods in many developing countries are on rampant whose halting must be spotted as the focal point as these limit and mitigate students' ability to think broadly and with curiosity. "Rethinking development comes from education's improvement." In this regard, it is crucial to encourage students to think curiously and vastly and to cultivate the habit of 'Asking Questions' without any fear in them. Subsequently, along with complying these duties, teachers also need to try their best to inculcate a sense of responsibility and moral values such as tolerance, patience, love, patriotism, brotherhood, and justice in children. All these hard efforts can make an average teacher a great teacher.

Me, you and we all know well, teachers hold immense significance in grooming and equipping children full with education, discipline and leadership qualities, thus gladdening and thriving them in one form or other becomes requisite. No doubt, a nation that respects its teachers grows, prospers and develops. To cherish teachers, the list in this connection includes the incentivises such as cash subsidies, tax exemptions and elevating salaries, enabling to afford express in these rainy days. Besides, granting them free visas to visit foreign countries to learn and teach something new to our ones is inevitable.

As appearances are often dupes, a teacher's duty should not be only considered, limited just to class, but in fact a teacher builds the students' minds, personalities, and crafts their future. Not facing physical tiredness a teacher but, actually he/she perennially encounters mental tiredness, more exhausting. Understanding every child, checking their work, roaming every day inside class and so on are marvellous works, that no any other professional can perform.

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