

Gachagua Tours Nairobi, Engages Traders

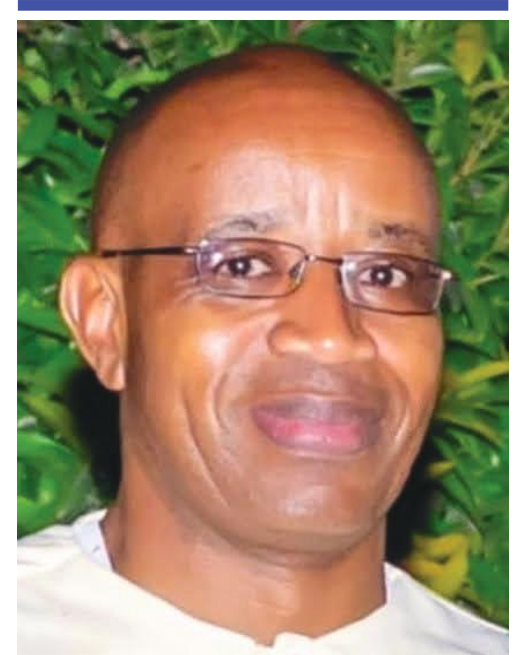


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Evangelical Alliance Dinners Shines Light On Years Of Work

By: ODP

The Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), led by their Chairperson Bishop Philip Kitoto, held a dinner in Nairobi where they shared the vision of the alliance and plans ahead.

The Alliance members also convened to continue working and contributing towards acquiring an office space for their 49-years-old Alliance. The Alliance comprises more than 60,000 congregations and 650 denominations in the country.

In their presentation, the Alliance detailed how they were working towards raising equipped and trained pastors and ministers in the country and also their mission for evangelism and reaching communities.

“70 per cent of evangelical clergy remain untrained or undertrained in theology, and we are addressing this through the ‘Pastors Development Program’ where we target 10,000 pastors in urban slums and rural areas,” said EAK in their presentation.

Among the guests, was the spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi who commended the Alliance for the ongoing success in their work, but reminded them that there was still a lot of work in the country that needs the participation of the church.

“There is a generation out there, lost, waiting for you and I to speak to them. Unfortunately, many of us, including I am within our four-walled church; busy preaching to the preached, healing the healed and delivering the delivered and working in a fish pond that you feed from January to December who never move to the ocean,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She called on fierce and deliberate evangelism to kill the giants of poverty, drunkenness, drug addiction, and also reduce the number of those living in the streets in the country. She added that the death of the boy child was resulting in an increasing population of widows in the country.

Pastor Dorcas added that sadly some churches and leaders were comfortable as these ills continue to ravage the population.

“And we are all comfortable. If the numbers of our congregation are not increasing then, we have a problem,” said Pastor Dorcas who called on the unity of the church to impact the people in all spheres of life.

She commended the EAK for their commitment in acquiring the office space for the Alliance, saying, “As EAK it is good you are taking this step, you ground yourself, and as evangelicals and charismatics, we stop operating in buildings that are not convenient for worship.”

The vision of Pastor Dorcas, ‘A Dignified Future for Vulnerable Populations’ is grounded on Chaplaincy, Outreach and Family Values where she works with clergy from all faiths – Christians, Muslims and Hindus – to reach the Boy Child, Widows and Orphans, and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi at the event

Worth Noting:

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The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi gives her speech during a dinner in Nairobi convened by the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK). Photo/ODP.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Defence Soipan Tuya and her counterpart for Transport Davis Chirchir witness the official handing over of MV Uhuru II from Kenya Shipyards Ltd. to Kenya Railways at the Kisumu Port on Thursday. “MV Uhuru II official entry into the service and our first operational journey on Lake Victoria today is indeed a monumental step in advancing Kenya maritime infrastructure and the blue economy,” said Chirchir. The 100-meter vessel, with a carrying capacity of over 1,000 metric tonnes of cargo per voyage, is expected to revolutionize maritime logistics in East Africa, meeting the growing demand for efficient cargo transportation. Chirchir also noted the significant growth at Kisumu Port since its rehabilitation, with cargo handling increasing to over 127,000 metric tonnes of dry cargo in 2023 alone. MV Uhuru I has moved 7 million litres of petroleum products since its revival in 2019.



The Ministry of Health’s Director General, Dr. Patrick Amoth, said the burden of mental health needs to be prioritised as a health benefit package under the Social Health Insurance being rolled out by the Social Health Authority (SHA). “We have developed healthcare systems, including the mental health policy, mental health action plan, mental wellness, and suicide prevention strategies, to address this. The burden of mental health is increasing, and the Ministry of Health has seen the need to integrate mental health wellness and suicide prevention into the Social Health Insurance package for equity and inclusivity. As we progress, this package will be enhanced to adequately cover the whole scope of mental health,” Dr. Amoth noted during a media briefing on the rollout of SHA. Dr. Amoth emphasises the importance of this initiative, saying, “Comprehensive coverage for mental health services is essential in making sure that no one is left behind in accessing care.”

The government recognizes the critical role of pastoralist communities, who inhabit the highly vulnerable Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), in delivering its broad climate action mandate. These regions have been disproportionately affected by the worsening impacts of climate change, with frequent cycles of heavy flooding and drought causing severe disruption to the livelihoods of pastoralists, who depend largely on livestock. Climate change is also contributing to the degradation of Kenya’s natural resources through land degradation and biodiversity loss, further endangering pastoralist livelihoods.



Education Principal Secretary, Belio Kipsang, in company of Philip Wambua, County Director of Education, Nyandarua County, inspecting a dormitory at AC Olkalau Primary School. The PS said that all the victims of the Endarasha Academy fire incident have been matched with their parents DNA. He at the same time said that the government will review the schools’ safety manual to create a legal framework incorporating punitive measures that will be taken for those not adhering to safety measures.



Police in Baringo are holding five suspects believed to be behind a series of robbery incidences within the North Rift region. County Police Commander Julius Kiragu confirmed that the first three suspects were apprehended on Tuesday following a fierce chase after stealing several electronic items at Mumol Estate within Kabarnet town. Kiragu stated that the suspects, who were driving a probox vehicle with altered registration numbers KDK 295B, KDJ 429U, and KDB 366S, were cornered by the members of the public after abandoning the vehicle when the road was blocked by police at Munyek Centre in Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo border.





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PCK And Bomet Government In Revenue Collection Partnership

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Apart from revenue collection, the partnership will also enhance efficiency, accountability, and streamlining of operations across the various departments of the county government.

- Barchok said that Posta will help fill the gaps that have been preventing the revenue collection from achieving their desired targets.
- “We will fully support the corporation so that it delivers on its mandate,” said Barchok.

In a bid to achieve the potential target of Sh550 million annually through revenue collection in this financial year, Bomet County Government and Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) have partnered for cashless collections of revenue.

The deal was reached after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok and Postal Corporation of Kenya Post Master General and Chief Executive Officer John Tonui at the county headquarters.

Apart from revenue collection, the partnership will also enhance efficiency, accountability, and streamlining of operations across the various departments of the county government.

Barchok said that Posta will help fill the gaps that have been preventing the revenue collection from achieving their desired targets.

“We will fully support the corporation so that it delivers on its mandate,” said Barchok.

He said the aim is to move away from the situations handling cash in terms of county services and engage in cashless ways to avoid loss of revenue by a few corrupt employees.

“This is now the solution to our problems, where we have been losing a lot of money, especially when handled in cash form, because the money collected in the form of revenue will be sent directly to our account,” he said.

The governor boss exuded confidence that they will meet the target because they have automated their revenue collections.

Currently, the county has been collecting Sh300 million annually.

The county boss said they will be glad to use the corporation’s PostaPay,



Bomet Governor Hillary Barchok and Postal Corporation of Kenya Post Master General and Chief Executive Officer John Tonui at the county headquarters during the signing of the MoU

which will help them in making payments and even the casual workers without any complications.

“By paying them a fee, the Posta will also assist us in monitoring our revenue collections, and that will make them seal the loopholes which led to loss of revenue,” said Barchok.

On his part, Tonui said that the corporation can help the devolved unit meet its revenue targets and even make payments on behalf of the county without any hindrance.

He assured the people of Bomet

County of last-mile service delivery on their services and could handle the job because of the strengthened workforce.

“Even after this deal, we will increase the workforce to do the job, and in the other way is the creation of new jobs for young people,” he said.

He said the deal will help in the transformative agenda, which is in line with the Kenya Kwanza administration’s bottom-up approach.

The CEO also noted that since he took over the leadership of the cor-

poration, he has put up avenues that will see the corporation grow and be self-sustainable.

The Post Master General assured that the corporation remains committed to its obligations and assured customers and members of the public of the corporation’s capabilities to provide them with last-mile delivery solutions for individuals, corporations, and government agencies.

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Kiambu Residents Get Free Treatment After Medics Strike

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Nobody in our organization gets paid, no stipends, for doing this work, we give our vacation up, pay our air fare, our lodgings, the only thing that we get is transportation to and from the hotel and medical camp site. These are 100% volunteers to Kenyans,” he said.
- He said that hypertension and diabetes was the most common ailment they have encountered affecting many people.
- “Hypertension and diabetes even in the USA is the most pressing issue to educate people on how to manage their wellbeing because with high blood pressure comes stroke, heart attacks and with diabetes becomes a satresser with all of your organs, stresses your vision and you can lose your limbs,” he said.



Patients waiting to be treated.

Kiambu residents were relieved after they got free treatment as Kiambu county health workers went on a strike over nonpayment of salaries.

The residents got to be treated for various illnesses which included family counseling, mental health, blood pressure and blood sugars, hypertension and diabetes, eye and ear problems, HIV/Aids counselling services among other ailments by Unimedilink international Inc. from the United States of America.

According to Joseph Nyaga, a patient said that he got relieved after he heard that there is a free medical camp at Kangoya village in ACK St Andrew Kangoya church in Kiambu sub county and got treated.

“I had visited Kiambu level 5 hospital but there were no services being given since the health workers were on strike and I heard that there was a free medical camp two kilometres away from the main hospital and I rushed there where I was treated for free and even got medication,” Nyaga said.

Bruce Capagli, a field medic with Unimedilink said that they were referred to a Kenyan living with them in the USA to come and offer medical assistance to Kenyans as a way of giving back to the community. They have been able to treat patients in Githunguri and Kiambu sub counties with the free medical camp ending on Sunday.

“Kenyans in the USA approached us to help them give back to the

communities they come from through medical assistance. We have visited Kenyans in the rural areas and we have been overwhelmed by the response of the people who need medical services and we are happy to help out,” Capagli said.

He said that in Unimedilink they believe in reaching out and helping other people is a great reward in itself.

“Nobody in our organization gets paid, no stipends, for doing this work, we give our vacation up, pay our air fare, our lodgings, the only thing that we get is transportation to and from the hotel and medical camp site. These are 100% volunteers to Kenyans,” he said.

He said that hypertension and diabetes was the most common ailment they have encountered affecting many people.

“Hypertension and diabetes even in the USA is the most pressing issue to educate people on how to manage their wellbeing because with high blood pressure comes stroke, heart attacks and with diabetes becomes a satresser with all of your organs, stresses your vision and you can lose your limbs,” he said.

He said that they are trying to innovate people back into health care as most may not have finance for treatment or medical check up.

He called on the government to put the healthcare of the people first and work with private partners to do what they can to improve and provide quality health services for the

people.

Loise Nduta a counselling psychologist and organiser of the free medical camp said that her community needed medical attention as many have been hard hit financially and cannot be able to afford to go to hospitals for treatment.

“I went to the USA and met Unimedilink people through Kenyans living in the USA and they agreed to volunteer to offer medical services for free. I went through the government to acquire permits for them to come so that my community can be offered with free medical services and I was granted,” Nduta said.

She said that many took the opportunity to access medical services as they have suffered with nothing to

do and stayed at home waiting for any outcome due to lack of money to attend hospital.

“If people do get access to health services we would not have many people turning up for free medical camps. Many who attended the camp are the elderly as they do not have money to buy medicine but they have gotten them for free today,” she said.

She pleaded with the government to have a dialogue with the medical personnel so that their grievances be addressed so that Kenyans may not continue to suffer for lack of treatment.

David Maina, Kiambu county government health admin said that the medics go slow is a national matter since money has not yet been released to the county governments by the exchequer.

“There is that matter of medics striking in kiambu over non-payment of salaries and this is a national issue and I am pleading with the medics to be patient as the issue is being handled,” Maina said.

The Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO) has since said that the medics are on strike as it is a big issue in Kiambu county as the salaries have been delayed and the county government is noncommittal to pay or even have a meeting with the union to table issues.

The union through the secretary Frank Mugambi said that professionals on casual terms have not been paid for 3 months and the county government has failed to honour due promotions as was agreed from the return to work formula.

He said that there are multiple unnecessary transfers and having over 200 officers removed from the county public officers health cover (MUA) without explanations.



A medic attending to a patient.

Memorial Service For Endarasha Fire Victims Set For Wednesday

By: KNA

The memorial service for the 21 boys who died in the Hillside Endarasha Academy dormitory fire early in the month will be held next week on Wednesday.

Acting Central Regional Commissioner Pius Murugu confirmed that the interdenominational prayer service will be held at the Mweiga Stadium, and the bodies will be released to bereaved parents for burial.

The government will cover all burial expenses for the affected families, and the committee met on Friday to finalise the service details.

“The Hillside Academy Fire Disaster Management Committee has settled for Wednesday next week as the day for the memorial service for the 21 boys who died in the fire,” said Murugu.

The majority of the victims hail from Kieni West sub-county, while others hail from Nakuru, Nairobi, Embu,



Acting Central Regional Commissioner Pius Murugu addressing journalists

and Meru counties. At the end of the DNA matching process, the committee will release the names of the victims who died when their dormitory caught fire.

The committee will hold another meeting to finalise the memorial service and burial arrangements, as they expect the victims to be buried after the service.

Chief Government Pathologist, Dr. Johansen Odour, informed journalists that all 21 bodies of the pupils had been successfully matched to their parents through DNA matching.

“We have the pleasure to announce that we have received DNA results of the 21 victims of the fire which took place at Endarasha Hillside Academy. From the results we have, it in-



Hillside Endarasha Academy

dicates that the students are children of the parents who match with all of the 21,” said Dr. Oduor during a press briefing at the Naro Moru Level IV hospital.

Dr. Oduor also informed journalists that the process of contacting the bereaved parents for the purposes of handing over the remains had started. He said that the process is being undertaken by officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations

together with the Kenya Red Cross. “We are now in the process of contacting the relatives. We have a team made of DCI and Red Cross so that we can have them come over and unite them with their loved ones, and we are preparing for the next process of assisting them in how they are going to bury them,” he said.

How Ichagaki Farmers Are Thriving Despite Unpredictable Weather

By: Kenya News Agency

Despite the unpredictable weather patterns in the arid Ichagaki Maragua, a group of farmers are thriving in horticulture farming.

The farmers have craftily introduced the growing of French beans, cucumbers, kale, and other traditional vegetables to their subsistence farming of beans and maize to not only supplement their incomes but also contribute to the country’s food basket.

By using canal-like methods, the residents have leveraged the presence of a water resource, the river Githambara, to water their farms and grow vegetables in all seasons.

The farms are subdivided into portions, and KNA caught up with two of the farmers tending to their cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*).

The study aimed to determine the necessary steps for growing an antioxidant-rich vegetable in well-drained soils with a pH range of 6.5

to 7.5.

“Cucumber is a fast-growing vegetable, as it takes only 45 days to mature, and I have grown it for more than three years now, relying on it for my family’s daily needs,” says Mercy Muthoni as she waters the plants in her half-acre piece of land.

Martin Irungu notes that for optimum harvest and considerable return on investment, a farmer must be able to control weeds and pests, whereby hand weeding and use of mulches and cover crops are used to manage weeds.

“Aphids, cucumber beetles, white flies, and thrips are the most common pests that affect the cucumber plant, and thus constant application of pesticides is required,” he says, adding that “Managing pests is the most expensive part of this farming because the cost of pesticides is high.”

Another challenge that the farmers have to grapple with is the lack of a clear-cut marketing strategy for their produce, as the vegetable is not popular in the county and its surrounding areas and is sold to consumers in Thika, Nairobi, and beyond.



“Our only avenue for market is through the middlemen who, in return, exploit us, but we have no choice since we cannot access the far-off markets on our own,” observes Irungu. Meanwhile, they intercrop cucumbers with French beans,

beans, and fast-growing maize crops.

The cucumber, which is mostly eaten in its raw form, is low in calories and is known to contain numerous health benefits like promoting weight loss, keeping the body hydrated, and improving intestinal functions.

Cucumis sativus also improves blood pressure and is recommended for the management of atherosclerosis, diabetes, and hypertension.

After harvesting, the leaves are fed to animals, which the farmers say significantly boosts milk production.

Gachagua Tours Nairobi Downtown, Engages Traders

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday made an extensive tour of Nairobi City's downtown where he engaged small-scale traders and the public on matters affecting their business operations and working environment.

Mr Gachagua visited Marigiti, Muthurwa, Gikomba and Nyamaki-ma markets as well as OTC and Tea Room matatu termini in the company of various politicians and leaders of the traders' groups.

During the visit, he engaged with thousands of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) traders, especially those supplying and selling fresh farm produce and hawkers, over Government policies and programmes that affect their performance.

In his speeches, the Deputy President asked the County Government of Nairobi to create a conducive environment for business people, especially the small-scale traders.

"I received information that the traders are suffering and protesting against some policies of the City County Government. During the 2022 campaigns President William Ruto and I pledged that you (traders) won't suffer. We promised a conducive environment for traders. We urge the Governor to keep the prom-

ise," he said.

He vowed to continue advocating for the rights and dignity of SME traders. The engagement with the traders came following protests over planned relocation from the City CBD markets such as Marikiti and Wakulima.

"I asked the Governor (Johnson Sakaja) to hold talks with the traders with the view of finding solutions to the complaints. He should engage the people before making decisions that affect them. I will continue defending the rights of SME traders and economic progress," Mr Gachagua said.

He added that the targeted markets have been in existence for decades and a source of livelihood for many city residents.

He called on the Governor to listen to stakeholders before implementing decisions that are likely to negatively impact lives and livelihoods.

"I appeal to the Governor to engage the people before making decisions that affect them. I spoke to the Governor to be a person who does not turn against the people who elevated him to power. Embrace the spirit of public participation," he reiterated.

On national politics, the Deputy President told off his critics and political leaders whom he said are fighting him instead of 'working for the people to create wealth and prosperity for the nation'.

"I am appealing to all leaders to realise that we got the leadership positions through votes; taxpayers are our



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday made an extensive tour of Nairobi City's downtown

bosses and employers. We can't turn against them," he said.

Leaders present during the visit, led by Starehe MP Amos Mwago, praised the Deputy President over his decision to defend the small-scale traders.

"We love the Deputy President because of his courage in defending the vulnerable and small and micro enterprises (SMEs) traders against oppression. Even during the previous

administration, he was in the forefront to defend them and advocate for their rights," said MP Mwago.

He continued, "We won't allow him (Mr Gachagua) to be humiliated by a section of hired leaders who are envious of his work".

Other MPs present included James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Benjamin Mejjadonk Gathiru (Embakasi Central), Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang'wa and a host of MCAs, led

by Nairobi central Business Ward Representative John Mwaniki Kwenya.

On his way back to the office, hundreds of wananchi and traders blocked his motorcade at the Tea Room bus stage where he reiterated his call to treat the business community with dignity.

The Government Is For Grade 9 Transition

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The Principal Secretary for Education, Belio Kipsang, announced that the government is prepared to transition grade 8 students to grade 9 under the new Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC).

The goal is to complete the full cycle for all three levels of CBC by January 2026, in line with the government directive to transition junior school to senior school.

The government is currently constructing 11,000 classrooms nationwide to fully implement junior schools, and the Ksh 3000 capitation allocated to schools will be utilised for maintenance and desk furnishing. Kipsang revealed that in July, the Ministry of Education conducted an initial pilot on the assessment for

grade 9 learners next year, helping teachers prepare for the type of assessment they will face.

Another pilot assessment is expected later this year for grade 6 learners, and a second pilot will extrapolate placement for grade 10 learners in January 2026, focusing on STEM, humanities, creatives, and sports pathways.

The government will construct a laboratory in every school starting January next year to prepare for STEM learning, as 1600 junior schools currently lack such facilities. The introduction of virtual labs will be a significant step towards leveraging technology.

In response to the Endarasha Academy fire incident, the PS announced that all victims have been matched with their parents' DNA and that the government will review the schools' safety manual to create a legal framework incorporating punitive measures for non-compliance.



The Principal Secretary for Education, Belio Kipsang

How 2NK Sacco Plans To Enhance Service Delivery Amidst Stiff Competition

By: Charles Kinyua
 @themkenyatimes

Premier Public Service Sacco, 2NK, has projected to enhance service delivery.

During an Annual General Meeting held at the ACK Hall in Nyeri town, the members unanimously resolved to open Agency Banking outlets in major town stages they operate from.

The agencies will be in Nairobi, Thika, Nakuru, Embu and Mukurweini and will ease access of services to members.

The members also resolved to cap ownership of vehicles by individual members to a maximum of five while at the same time edging out old models christened L5 by end of the year.

The society's chairman James Kahiro had in his report proposed, "that each membership, at any time have a maximum of any five vehicles in the sacco fleet", which was unanimously resolved.

The transport service provider that plies it's trade between Nairo-

bi, Mombasa, Nyeri, Nakuru, Thika, Embu, Nyahururu, Eldoret and Nanyuki among other towns. It also owns a petrol station, sacco vans, an insurance agency as well as a courier subsidiary.

According to the treasurer Reuben Wanjau Ndonga, the service provider projects raise Ksh136,888,000 in their next financial year from their core business and a further Ksh10,636,545 that will culminate in a surplus of Ksh99,171,098 before tax.

The sacco courier segments projected to raise Ksh98m against an expenditure of Ksh95.5m leaving a surplus of Ksh3.4m while their insurance agency is projected to get a surplus of Ksh 480,000 from a gross income of Ksh11.8m.

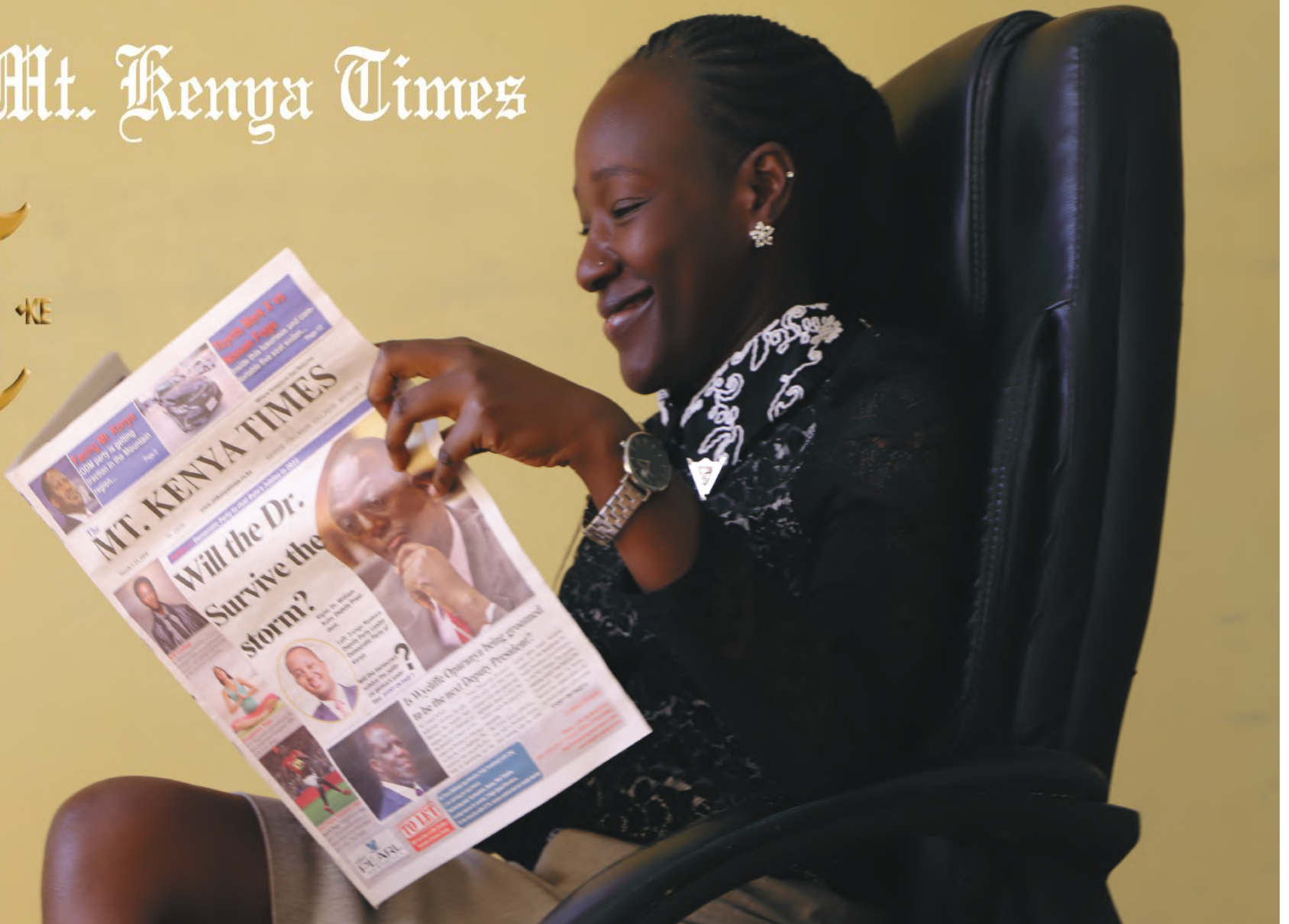
Vehicles owned by the sacco are projected to raise Ksh 23.1m against an expenditure of Ksh 17.6m leaving a surplus of Ksh5.5 even as they project to tap into the Mombasa-Nairobi route.

Members also approved the purchase of a new van to ply the route at a cost of Ksh 6.5m.



2NK Sacco chairman James Kahiro and Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga join Sacco's workers during the opening of its banking agency in Karatina three months ago.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Gachagua Discloses A Plot To Impeach Him And Replace Him With A 'Puppet'



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- The traders at Wakulima market would hear none of this. We have been operating in this market for many years. Is there an attempt to grab this land? Where are our leaders? This is the time they should stand with us?
- A few days later, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua waded into this matter. He first wrote a tweet on his X handle faulting Governor Sakaja's move. He told him the decision to relocate the traders was ill-advised because he had not consulted them.
- For this reason, I urge you to rescind it. First call these traders and listen to their grievances. Based on their views, you should then build a consensus on how to move forward.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja

The war of words pitting Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has once again erupted.

This comes just a few days after the Nairobi County Government issued a notice to relocate the Wakulima (Marigiti) traders to a newly built market located along Kangundo road.

The traders immediately took with issue with the notice and vowed that they will not leave.

We know Governor Sakaja is behind this move. He does not mean well for us alleging this was because we hail from a certain region of Kenya.

The Governor wants us to close our businesses because that market is far away from City Centre where our customers are based.

Some of the traders argued that all the stalls in the new market had already been occupied.

But a section of traders along Kangundo road immediately contradicted them. There is enough space and we are ready

to welcome Marigiti traders.

We are small scale traders and they are wholesalers.

So, we do not anticipate any business rivalry.

The traders at Wakulima market would hear none of this. We have been operating in this market for many years. Is there an attempt to grab this land? Where are our leaders? This is the time they should stand with us?

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For this reason, I urge you to rescind it. First call these traders and listen to their grievances. Based on their views, you should then build a consensus on how to move forward.

In his swift reaction via a tweet on his X, Sakaja told the DP.

I respect you as an elder. You have my

number.

Initially Gachagua was reluctant to publicly express solidarity with the traders.

He has now openly come out and this comes at a time when reports indicated a section of MPs have renewed threat to impeach him.

Speaking when he toured Marigiti and other markets in the capital city including Nyamakima and Gikomba, the DP disclosed that he was privy to this ill-advised plot

He said the ultimate goal of his political enemies was to replace him with a 'puppet'.

The leaders accompanying him had set the ball rolling. Gachagua is being fought because he is a truthful man and had refused to bend too low to a level of a sycophant.

The coup plotters will not succeed. The motion of impeachment will be dead on arrival because majority of MPs stand with Gachagua.

But a friend of mine in the estate told

me. These leaders should not take this matter lightly.

Gachagua is a truthful man. So, they should not fear telling him the truth.

As of now, he does not have enough foot soldiers in parliament to defeat a motion of impeachment.

This is unlike President William Ruto, who faced similar tribulations, when he served as Deputy President during the reign of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

My friend however told me that the grounds cited by the coup plotters did not meet the requisite legal threshold of impeaching a sitting DP.

So, chances of the Speaker of National Assembly declining to approve their motion were very higher. If this happens, they would end up being embarrassed and humiliated.

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

Kenya, India Strengthen Bilateral Trade To Support Growth Of Economy

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry met with the Indian High Commissioner to discuss manufacturing and investment sectors, aiming to boost industrialisation, investment opportunities, and economic growth. The bilateral talks also aim to promote Kenyan goods and services in key areas such as the Agricultural Sector, Tourism Sector, and Pharmaceutical sector. Investment, Trade, and Industry Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya acknowledged the long-standing bilateral and economic partnership between the two countries. "The discussion was leveraging on the relationship between the two countries, which aims to translate into expanded trade activities between them and also to open areas of industrialisation and investments," explained Mvurya.

He announced that the Government of India has granted Kenya 15 million dollars in credit, being administered by the Kenya Development Corporation to support Small and Micro Enterprise Development (SMEs) and, more importantly, the enterprises that import machines and equipment from India as incentives and promotion. Mvurya revealed that the Government of India has been critical in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly in a project around Thika, an investment he maintained that is already pushing the implementation, and therefore the discussions also centred on recapping on how they can accelerate the investment. Kenya has set up incentives in areas like the EPZ and the Special Economic Zone, and identified areas of engagement needing expansion in manufacturing. A joint trade committee, including the technical team, will meet to discuss trade issues and expand trade. Indian High Commissioner Namgya Khampa reaffirmed India's commitment to mutual growth, which focuses on agriculture and pharmaceuticals, stating that her government has fully reciprocated the interest and the testament around growing the trade and



ment to mutual growth, which focuses on agriculture and pharmaceuticals, stating that her government has fully reciprocated the interest and the testament around growing the trade and

economic partnership with Kenya. "We believe it is a key pillar of the engagement, and we are committed to taking it forward as we look at how to step up and find neutral beneficial

projects that help in the growth of this partnership, which will in turn add value to the economy while working with the priorities of Kenya," explained Khampa.

Who Will Tell Mount Kenya Leaders?

By: Ndabari Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

"The mountain was there long before us, and it will be there long after we have left; it requires Ngai's protection only." Njenga. The recent squabbles among Mount Kenya leaders over who is the true spokesperson of the mountain reflect a profound misunderstanding of the region's cultural history. A close examination of the culture of the people of the mountain and a study of recent history reveal that neither Kithure Kindiki, who is being promoted by President William Ruto, nor Rigathi Gachagua, who boldly claims to be the sole defender of the mountain, will succeed. The culture of the people of Mount Kenya, particularly the Agikũyũ, is one that deeply rejects kingship or overlordship. Chieftainship itself was introduced by British colonialists. Traditionally, leadership among these communities was not centralized but exercised through councils of elders, known as the "Kiama,"

who had to ascend through various grades before they could earn the title of elder. These men were not self-declared leaders, but individuals of the highest integrity, chosen for their demonstrated leadership within their households and clans. The DNA of the mountain people, therefore, resists anyone who attempts to arbitrarily proclaim a throne – especially when no such throne exists. In the mountain culture, "Uthamaki" (kingship) referred not to hereditary rule but to individuals with exceptional talent or skill, acknowledged by all for their specialization. As a result, it was common to have multiple Athamakis at the same time, each leading in their area of expertise. Recent history teaches us that those who have risen to the pinnacle of Mount Kenya's leadership possess unique qualities. Take Jomo Kenyatta, for instance. Before ascending to the presidency, he had served as a representative of the Kikuyu Central Association, advocating for land rights and other grievances. Kenyatta's bravery, symbolized by his seven-year imprisonment, and his status as a leading figure in Kenya's independence struggle made him a

mũthamaki, recognized by the people. He did not crown himself; the people organically rallied around him. Similarly, Mwai Kibaki was an intellectual par excellence. As finance minister during the post-independence era, he steered the economy to its peak. His intellectual prowess was undeniable, and the people naturally gravitated toward him as a mũthamaki, ready to support his leadership. Uhuru Kenyatta's defining moment came during the 2007/2008 post-election violence. His leadership and bravery in the face of adversity endeared him to the mountain people. When he faced trial at the ICC, many saw him as a hero and a defender of their interests, solidifying his place as a mũthamaki. But what of today's leaders? We now have two leaders – Rigathi Gachagua and Kithure Kindiki – who were not organically chosen but rather thrust into their positions by President William Ruto. Against the will of many, the President made Gachagua the Deputy President, bypassing Kindiki, who had retired from politics before being tapped back to avoid backlash from Mount



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Interior CS Kithure Kindiki

Kenya East. Now, as Gachagua struggles to control the mountain, he faces a manufactured confrontation with Kindiki, who lacks the organic support necessary to lead. Both men lack the bravery, exceptional skills, and charisma needed to appeal to the people of Mount Kenya. While Kindiki's academic credentials are well-known, his performance as Interior Cabinet Secretary has failed to inspire confidence, as evidenced by the acting Inspector General's refusal to obey court orders. On the other hand, Gachagua's self-imposed leadership lacks the essential qualities that past mũthamaki embodied.

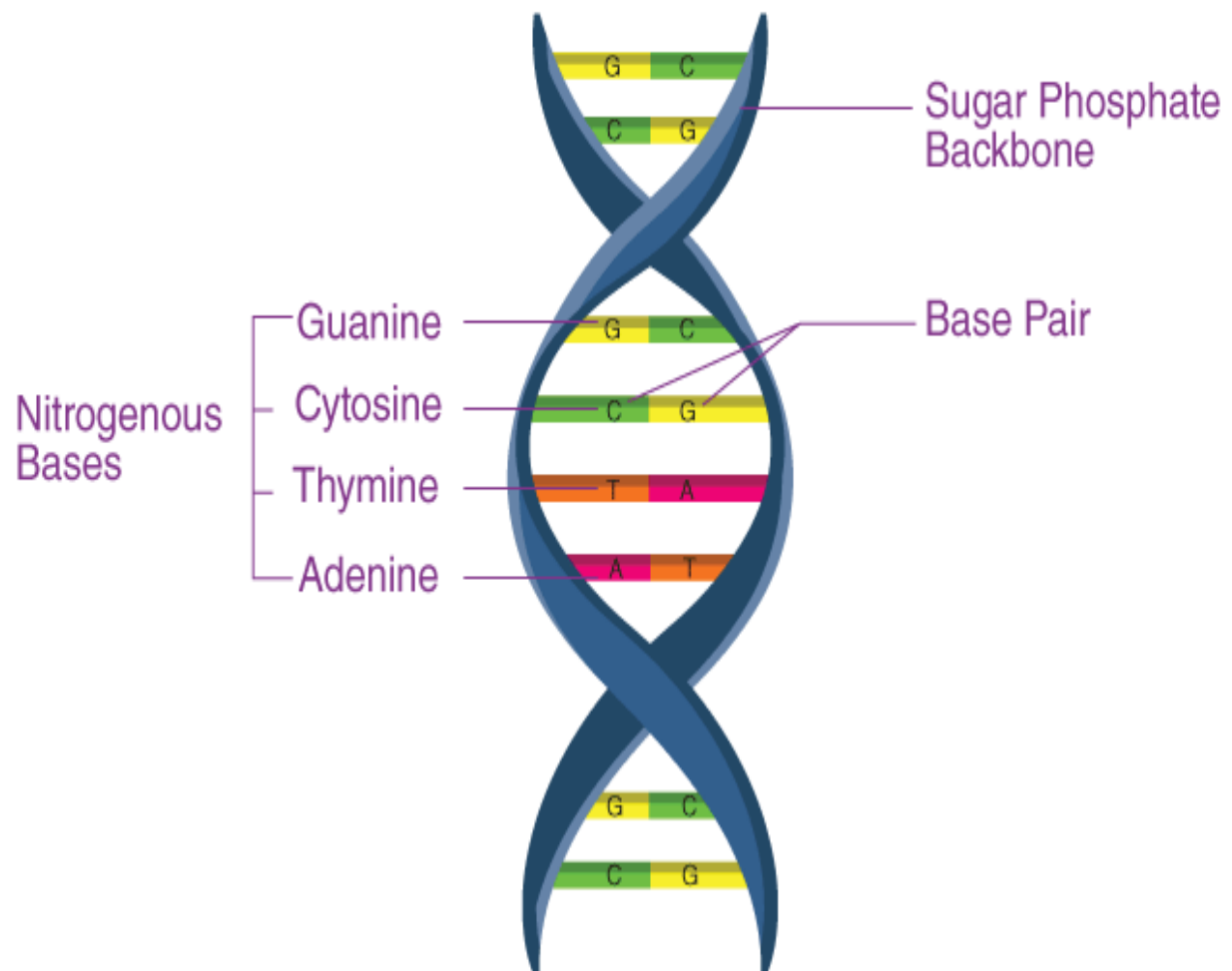
In the end, the mountain will speak for itself, and both Gachagua and Kindiki – one imposing himself and the other imposed by external forces – will fail to capture its heart. Leadership in Mount Kenya cannot be dictated; it must be earned through the qualities that have historically defined true mũthamaki: integrity, bravery, and organic support from the people. The mountain, after all, has always stood tall and resolute, needing only the protection of Ngai. Those who seek to claim its leadership without embodying its spirit will find that the mountain endures, even as they fade into the shadows of history.

DNA: What Is This DNA?



By: David Ndirangu
@thentkenyatimes

DNA STRUCTURE



Worth Noting:

- During his last visit to the US he had had an argument with his wife about a toy he that had bought his four year old last born son. The mother claimed that he was spoiling the boy since in her opinion the toy was too expensive. Fazul retorted; "I can buy my son anything I want!" The wife replied; "And who told you he is your son?" This led to big argument as is of course expected.
- Fazul decided to secretly do a DNA test to confirm whether indeed he was the biological father of the said boy. As fate would have it, the results turned out negative.

A couple of years ago I worked with a gentleman known as Fazul.

Fazul was about forty years old and was of Somali descent. He was a very sharp dresser, always in a designer blue or grey suit with a matching tie and brown designer shoes. He was what you would call a globe-trotting wheeler-dealer - pushing this or that deal with government agents or large corporates.

He always talked in terms of tens of thousands of dollars. He claimed to have lived in the US for a long time and in fact his wife and four sons were living those sides. His English was of course laced with a rich Somali accent but he would occasionally twang (in Kenya we say tweng) a word or two in an American accent maybe just to drive the point home.

One morning Fazul came to our office and by the look of things all was not well. The usually lively guy was looking dejected. His normal light complexion seemed a shade darker and he appeared to have grown a few inches shorter. He sat on the visitor's seat elbows on the desk and hands supporting both cheeks. Those present asked him what the problem was upon which he broke down with sobs and before long he was wailing un-

controllably. When he finally calmed down he was able to narrate what had transpired.

During his last visit to the US he had had an argument with his wife about a toy he that had bought his four year old last born son. The mother claimed that he was spoiling the boy since in her opinion the toy was too expensive. Fazul retorted; "I can buy my son anything I want!" The wife replied; "And who told you he is your son?" This led to big argument as is of course expected.

Fazul decided to secretly do a DNA test to confirm whether indeed he was the biological father of the said boy. As fate would have it, the results turned out negative. He was not the biological father. In his wisdom, he decided to do the same for the other three boys before confronting his wife. So on this fateful morning, he had just received the devastating news that the results had all turned out negative. He was not the biological father of all his four sons.

So, what is this DNA? My medic brother attempted to explain to me about DNA but it became too complicated for me. Let us therefore try to simplify it for our own sake. Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is the mole-

cule that carries genetic information for development and functioning of an organism. The genetic information inside the cells of the body helps make people who they are. It is more like instructions for how to make the body, something similar to a blue print (plan) for building a house.

DNA is made up of two linked strands that wind around each other to resemble a twisted ladder. This shape is called a double helix. A person gets half the DNA from the mother and the other half from the father. Scientists tell us that we share roughly 90% of our DNA with mice, cattle and elephants. You may also have heard that the DNA of humans is 98 – 99% identical to that of chimpanzees.

DNA testing entails testing the biological mother to ascertain which half of the DNA she contributed to the child and the remaining DNA is compared to the alleged father's DNA. DNA Paternity testing is done to confirm the child's biological father. A sample is taken from a cheek swab of the alleged father and the DNA compared to that of the child in question to determine if he is the biological father (non-birthing parent) of the child. However, a paternity test can be performed using only the DNA

samples from the alleged father and the child. In Kenya, a mother's DNA analysis or consent is not mandatory unless it is required by a court of law.

Another important use of DNA is to help identify the remains of a victim in a disaster or accident situation (currently done by one Dr. Johansen Oduor – Chief Government Pathologist). DNA from remains collected from the disaster or accident site must be matched to DNA known to be from the victim or the victim's relatives.

Finally to my fellow men – do not be tempted to go for DNA to confirm whether you are the biological father of your children. It might just confirm that you are not. "Mambo ya DNA achia Dr. Johansen Oduor".

Remember: Some TRUTHS are better left UNKNOWN.

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

Hey



Hello self
How are you
Today I came so that we talk
There things personally I am not happy
Yes and I am sorry
First let me congratulate you for there are
things I am happy of
Which for today I will name but a few
I am happy that you are grown
Grown to be a great man
Grown to make your own decisions
I am happy for this
Hello self
I am happy for you

Now self
We need to talk
Talk with mich seriousness
What were you thinking
When you followed the advise of letting go
What were you thinking
When you did what men do in the hideout
No! I am not happy
That you allowed them to trick you to that
It will cost you a future self
A future without your look alike
Self it is addictive
I am not happy self
Why did you?

Again self
Why?
You followed the crowd
You think I am happy
No! Not at all
It led you to ways that were not good
Palm wine
How sweet was it
But now see
All your investment gone
Now crying
Crying yet tears are late
Self
I am not happy self
Why did you

Listen once more self
You did the unimaginable
That twilight girl
Was carrying the untreatable
Yet you didn't think twice
Nor even thought of protection
Now see
I have to carry your own mistake
Self
I am not happy self
Why did you?

Self I wish you to learn new ways
New ways of becoming better
But wishes can't be horses
Because if they do beggars would ride
Listen self
I want you to rethink
Rethink and make it better
Self
I am not happy
Try to please me self

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Weeping Onion

Mother



Mother, my sweet, loving mother,
I can see the light of your eyes.
To the lightless eyes of the wicked,
Did you spread the damage, man?

You are so caring, so beautiful,
I can look at your face in peace.
Every word you say is a great belief,
You make the world your own.

Oh, why didn't you sleep?
You only need a child.
Rest, sleep for a while
I tell you about the endless fire.

I am a Muslim, I am a Muslim, I am a fan,

my mother,
The future is your dream, your wish is
great.
If I ask my imagination,
Even a wide land becomes narrow.

Masha Allah, thank you for being there,
A simple hut with you.
You live for your precious child,
I can't even laugh without moaning or
crying.

My heaven, my jewel, my madina, my
mother,
I can shine when you wake up
You covered the surroundings with
flowers, tulips,
You are life, but I have wet eyes.

Kuvonchay Khudoyarova
A sought-after poet who graduated from
the 29th general secondary school of
Gurlan district of Khorezm region with a
gold medal.
AlFraganus University, Faculty of Philology,
1st year student, philology and language
teaching, English major

International Daughters Day



Daughter is a ray of light,
Who fills life with thousands of colors,
Homes blossom with her smile,
The world shines with her hard work.

She nurtures every relationship,

She gives wings to her dreams,
She is a daughter, an embodiment of
courage,
She moves forward with every
difficulty.

She keeps flowing like a river,
Only a daughter gathers dreams,
A daughter bears every pain,
But a daughter always smiles.

On International Daughters Day,
Let us make this promise,
Daughters should get every opportunity,
Every sky, every earth, every step.

Poet - Anurag Upadhyay

Spilled treasures are like riches,
They chase each other and meet on their
way.
My eyes are happy with your golden
color,
Welcome to my beloved country, autumn.

Someone is waiting for you
But sometimes he gets worried.
Believe me, everything I say is true.
Welcome to my beloved country, autumn.

On the day of the holiday, the hearts will
explode,
My head is blue with joyous laughter.
You came, my face smiled,
Welcome to my beloved country,
autumn!

Ihomova Mohichehra is an 8th grade
student.



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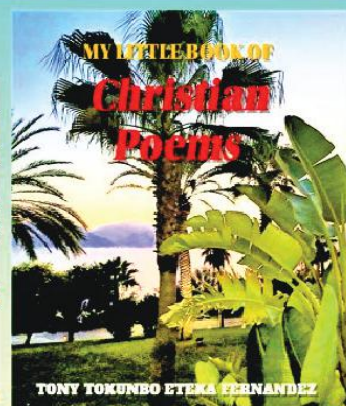
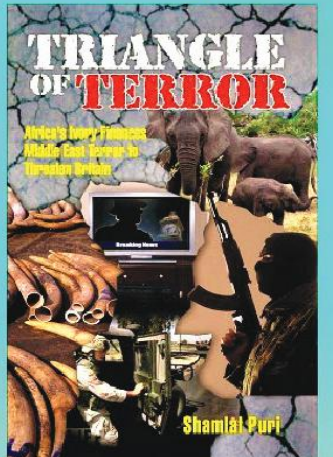
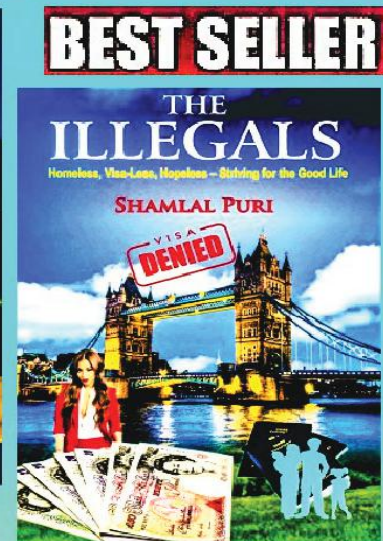
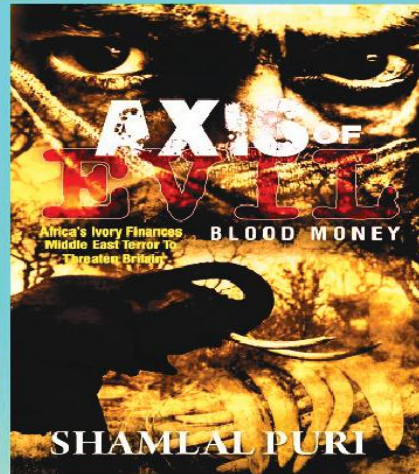
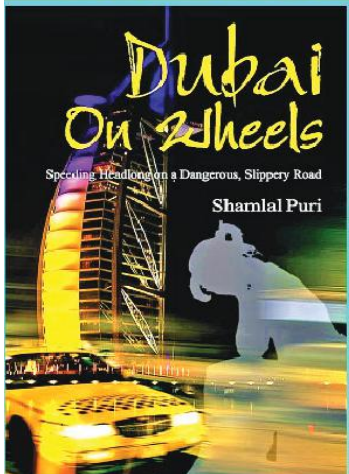
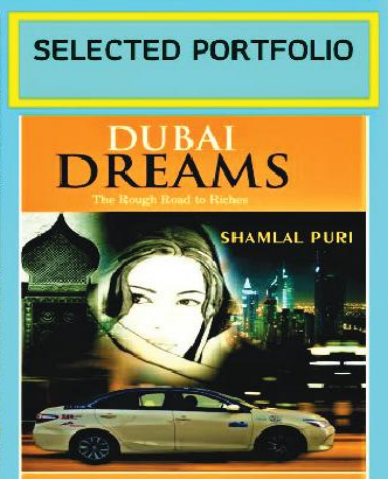
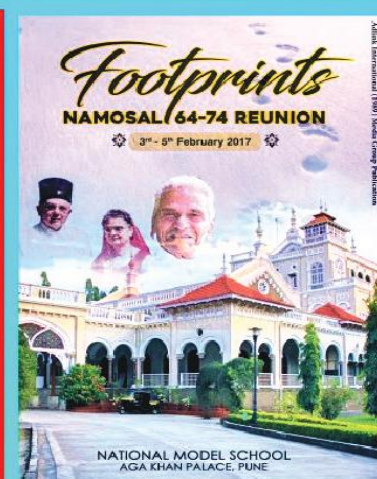
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HEALTH

Kenya Commemorates International Snakebite Awareness Day In Tharaka Nithi County



By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes



International Snakebite Awareness in Tharaka Nithi County

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the event, officials emphasized the often-overlooked public health threat posed by snakebites, which affect thousands of people in rural areas across the country. Tharaka Nithi County, being one of the regions most affected by snakebite incidents, served as the ideal location for the commemoration, highlighting the need for better education and resources for both prevention and treatment.
- Deputy Director, Kenya Snakebite Research and Intervention Centre (K-SRIC), Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) Dr George Omondi, stressed the importance of early treatment and access to antivenoms, which can prevent fatalities and permanent disabilities caused by snakebites.

The Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) and the Ministry of Health joined forces to commemorate the International Snakebite Awareness Day (ISBAD) at Mwenjeu Primary School grounds in Tharaka Nithi County. The event, held under the theme “Snakebite can cause disability,” aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of snakebites and the long-term health consequences they can cause.

The event highlighted the dangers posed by snakebites, which remain a neglected public health issue in many tropical and subtropical countries, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

According to their research, In Africa alone, an estimated 435,000 to 580,000 snakebites annually require medical treatment. In Kenya, snakebites claim approximately 4,000 lives each year, with 7,000 more victims suffering from severe health complications. Snakebite envenoming primarily affects vulnerable groups such as women, children, and farmers in rural areas, particularly where healthcare systems are weak and access to medical resources is limited.

Speaking at the event, officials emphasized the often-overlooked public health threat posed by snakebites, which affect thousands of people in rural areas across the country. Tharaka Nithi County, being one of the regions most affected by snakebite incidents, served as the ideal location for the commemoration, highlighting the need for better education and resources for both prevention and treatment. Deputy Director, Kenya Snakebite

Research and Intervention Centre (K-SRIC), Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) Dr George Omondi, stressed the importance of early treatment and access to antivenoms, which can prevent fatalities and permanent disabilities caused by snakebites.

“Snakebites can have devastating impacts on individuals and families, particularly in rural communities where access to healthcare can be limited.” He said.

Dr. Omondi also noted that disability from snakebite injuries is a significant issue that requires targeted attention from health systems and communities.

The Ministry of Health, represented by Head, Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases Unit (VBNTDU) Mr Wyckliff Omondi, reiterated the government’s commitment to

increasing the availability of life-saving antivenoms in rural health centers and educating the public on first-aid measures for snakebites. “We need to raise awareness not only about the immediate risks but also the long-term consequences of untreated snakebites. Disability is preventable if the right steps are taken early.” He emphasized.

The dangers of snakebites were emphasized throughout the event. Snakebite victims can experience acute medical emergencies, including severe paralysis, bleeding disorders, irreversible kidney failure, and local tissue destruction. These conditions can lead to permanent disability or death if left untreated. Children, due to their smaller body mass, are especially vulnerable to snakebites.

In 2017, recognizing the global severity of this issue, the World Health

Organization (WHO) added snakebite envenoming to its list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Two years later, the WHO set a global target to reduce snakebite cases by 50% by 2030.

Aligned with these goals, Kenya’s Ministry of Health has made significant strides in addressing the snakebite crisis. The ministry has invested over 1 billion Kenya shillings into research through the Kenya Institute of Primate Research’s Kenya Snakebite Research and Intervention Centre (KSRIC), aiming to develop a Kenya-specific antivenom. Furthermore, the government has initiated efforts to raise public awareness on snakebite prevention and improve treatment options.

Community engagement has been a central focus, with initiatives educating people on how to prevent snakebites, coexist with snakes, and manage snakebite incidents effectively. Today’s commemoration of ISBAD in Tharaka Nithi County was part of these broader efforts. First established in 2018, ISBAD aims to bring global attention to the risks posed by snakebites, particularly in rural, underserved communities.

Partnering with the Tharaka Nithi County government, the event sought to educate local residents on snakebite prevention and first-aid response, while also advocating for better healthcare access for those affected by snakebite envenoming.

As Kenya continues to lead efforts in reducing the impact of snakebites, the commemoration served as a reminder of the pressing need for a coordinated response to tackle this overlooked health challenge.



Representatives from the Ministry of Health, KIPRE and Tharaka Nithi County during the International Snakebite Awareness day at Mwenjeu Primary school Grounds.



POSITION STATEMENT ON FINAL PAYMENT 2024

As the boards of factory companies managed by KTDA MS continue to announce the audited figures for the second payment for the financial year 2023/24, a section of shareholders/farmers have expressed concerns over the figures.

Enos Njeru, KTDA's National Chairman has noted these concerns and wishes to reassure all stakeholders that the figures released by the factory companies are prepared in compliance with International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) as governed by the Institute of Certified Public accountant (ICPK).

KTDA MS is an ISO-certified company and is bound to comply with these standards for the proper running of factory companies. The rate for the second payment is based on tea prices, tea volumes as well as the production and operational costs of each factory. These factors vary during the financial year and contribute to the second payment.

In the event the shareholders have concerns over the figures, the Chairman has urged them to explore the various avenues available to address the issues. Every year, factory companies hold AGMs during which the shareholders/farmers have the opportunity to review and query the financial reports which is a normal practice.

Mr. Njeru has appealed to the farmers to refrain from activities that will have a negative impact on the businesses which they have invested in and grown for over 50 years.

He noted that there are instances where some shareholders have resulted to destruction of factory property and stopping or interfering with the operations of their own factories. This, he added, has negative economic implications and will affect the survival and profitability of the tea business.

This year, KTDA managed factories have seen increased production of over 50 million kilograms compared to last year and the management agency has pushed more sales volumes though some factories have been negatively impacted by the removal of direct sales and imposition of minimum reserve prices.

The chairman has expressed optimism as the window for direct sales has been opened by the government and the minimum reserve price which has negatively impacted some factories has been removed.

"We urge our farmers to remain calm and raise their concerns with their directors without resorting to destruction of company property and commit to working with all stakeholders to ensure our successful tea business is protected," he added.

-Ends-

KTDA Corporate Communications

The Digital Age And Privacy Rights: How Mulla Pride Ltd's Case Exposes The Achilles' Heel Of Data Protection Enforcement In Kenya"

"In an age where data is the new oil, privacy has become the new currency. Yet, as we hurtle towards an increasingly digitized future, we must ask ourselves: at what cost?" - Shoshana Zuboff, "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism" (2019)



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The ODPC's decision to impose a fine of KES 250,000 as compensation to the complainant is a step in the right direction. However, one might argue that this quantum of damages is insufficient to serve as a true deterrent, especially for well-funded fintech companies. The principle of "data protection by design and default," as espoused in Article 25 of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), could serve as a useful benchmark for future enforcement actions in Kenya.

- Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this case is the respondent's blatant obstruction of the ODPC's investigation. By choreographing a closure of their offices on the day of the scheduled site visit, Mulla Pride Limited demonstrated a flagrant disregard for the rule of law.

Zuboff's prescient words serve as a haunting prelude to the case at hand, where the boundaries of privacy in the digital age are once again tested, this time in the context of Kenya's nascent data protection regime. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner's (ODPC) determination in the case of Sigei Caleb v. Mulla Pride Limited (Complaint No. 380 of 2024) represents a watershed moment in Kenyan data protection jurisprudence. It lays bare the tension between the rapid proliferation of digital lending platforms and the fundamental right to privacy enshrined

in Article 31 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

At its core, this case revolves around the unauthorized use and processing of personal data - a mobile phone number - leading to harassment and unwarranted communication. The respondent, Mulla Pride Limited, a digital lender, contacted the complainant regarding a loan he had not taken, using his number obtained without consent from a third party. This modus operandi is emblematic of the predatory practices that have plagued Kenya's digital lending landscape, highlighting the urgent need for ro-

bust data protection enforcement.

The ODPC's findings are unequivocal: Mulla Pride Limited violated several provisions of the Data Protection Act, 2019 (DPA). Notably, the company contravened Section 26(a) by failing to inform the complainant of the intended use of his personal data. This breach strikes at the heart of the principle of transparency in data processing, a cornerstone of modern data protection regimes globally.

Furthermore, the respondent's failure to obtain direct consent from the data subject, as mandated by Section 30 of the DPA, underscores a systemic disregard for individual autonomy in data processing. This is particularly egregious given the sensitive nature of financial information and the potential for reputational harm in cases of mistaken identity or erroneous debt collection practices.

The ODPC's decision to impose a fine of KES 250,000 as compensation to the complainant is a step in the right direction. However, one might argue that this quantum of damages is insufficient to serve as a true deterrent, especially for well-funded fintech companies. The principle of "data protection by design and default," as espoused in Article 25 of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), could serve as a useful benchmark for future enforcement actions in Kenya.

Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this case is the respondent's blatant obstruction of the ODPC's investigation. By choreographing a closure of their offices on the day of the scheduled site visit, Mulla Pride Limited demonstrated a flagrant disregard for the rule of law. This behavior not only contravenes Section 61 of the DPA but also undermines the efficacy of the entire data protection regulatory framework.

The ODPC's recommendation for prosecution of the company's directors under Section 61 sends a powerful message: data protection violations will not be treated as mere regulatory infractions but as serious criminal offenses. This approach aligns with global best practices, where personal accountability of corporate officers is increasingly seen as a necessary complement to corporate fines in ensuring compliance.

Critics might argue that such strin-

gent enforcement could stifle innovation in Kenya's burgeoning fintech sector. However, this view is short-sighted. Robust data protection enforcement creates a level playing field and fosters consumer trust, which is essential for the long-term sustainability of any digital ecosystem.

The case also highlights the need for enhanced data subject education. Many Kenyans may be unaware of their rights under the DPA or the avenues available for redress. Public awareness campaigns and integration of data protection principles into school curricula could go a long way in creating a privacy-conscious citizenry.

From a comparative perspective, Kenya's approach in this case mirrors the evolving global consensus on data protection. The emphasis on consent, purpose limitation, and data minimization echoes principles found in the GDPR and other modern data protection laws. However, Kenya has an opportunity to leapfrog other jurisdictions by incorporating emerging concepts like "data fiduciarity" - the idea that data controllers owe a fiduciary duty to data subjects - into its jurisprudence.

In conclusion, the Mulla Pride case serves as a clarion call for all stakeholders in Kenya's digital economy. It underscores the need for a delicate balance between fostering innovation and safeguarding individual privacy rights. As Kenya continues to position itself as East Africa's technology hub, cases like this will play a crucial role in shaping the contours of its data protection landscape.

The road ahead is fraught with challenges, but with continued vigilance from regulators, compliance from businesses, and awareness among citizens, Kenya can forge a data protection regime that not only meets global standards but sets new benchmarks for the continent and beyond. In the words of Justice Louis Brandeis, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." It is through cases like this that the sunlight of scrutiny can help cleanse the digital ecosystem of privacy-infringing practices.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two Years In Office: Evaluating President Ruto's Administration Amidst Achievements And Challenges

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

President William Ruto's administration has completed two years in office, a period marked by significant achievements and persistent challenges. This scorecard evaluates the government's performance across key sectors, illustrating both successes and areas needing improvement.

Agriculture: A Cornerstone of Progress

Ruto's government has made notable strides in agriculture, a sector critical to Kenya's economy. The distribution of 7.2 million bags of subsidized fertilizer has significantly reduced costs for farmers, with prices dropping from Sh6,000 to Sh2,500 per bag. This initiative has led to a 38.9% increase in maize production, rising from 61.74 million to 85.7 million bags. Additionally, the digital registration of 5.95 million farmers has improved service delivery and support for agricultural initiatives.

These measures are crucial as food costs account for 52% of Kenya's cost of living. By investing over Sh12 billion in fertilizer subsidies, Ruto's administration aims to alleviate the high cost of food—a pressing concern for many Kenyans. Furthermore, the government has initiated new dam construction projects to tackle drought is-

suces and ensure sufficient water supply for irrigation.

Housing: A Promising Initiative

The government's affordable housing program has also seen remarkable progress, delivering 94,128 units—a staggering 1,061% increase from previous years. This initiative not only addresses the housing crisis but has also created over 140,000 jobs, contributing positively to the economy. The emphasis on affordable housing reflects Ruto's commitment to improving living standards for low-income earners.

However, critics argue that while job creation is vital, the sustainability of these positions remains uncertain. The government must ensure that these jobs are not temporary and that they lead to meaningful employment opportunities for the youth.

Economic Initiatives: Mixed Results

Ruto's administration launched the Hustler Fund, distributing Sh54.9 billion to 21.87 million individuals, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth. The increase in the guaranteed minimum price for milk by 35% is another positive step towards supporting local farmers and enhancing food production.

Despite these initiatives, the broader

economic landscape remains challenging. High inflation rates and rising costs of living continue to burden many Kenyans. Critics point out that while the government has made efforts to stabilize public debt—reducing the fiscal deficit from Ksh1.1 trillion to Ksh700 million—these measures have not yet translated into tangible benefits for ordinary citizens.

Education: Promises vs. Reality

Education reform was a key promise during Ruto's campaign. His administration has hired 56,000 new teachers and initiated reforms in the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) to address previous criticisms. However, implementation challenges persist as many parents express concerns about curriculum relevance and its alignment with modern job market demands.

The introduction of a new funding model for higher education aimed at categorizing students based on household income has faced backlash due to miscategorization issues, leaving some students unable to afford education despite coming from low-income families. This highlights a gap between policy intentions and actual outcomes.

Infrastructure Development

Ruto's government has also focused on infrastructure revitalization by al-

locating Ksh3.5 billion to road maintenance projects and restarting several road construction initiatives. Notably, the construction of new motorways aims to enhance connectivity within the region and stimulate economic growth through improved transport networks.

The administration is also engaged in ambitious projects like the Malindi-Lunga coastal road corridor, which is expected to bolster trade links with neighboring countries and enhance regional integration.

Healthcare Initiatives

The administration is committed to transforming healthcare services by reforming the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to ensure affordability and accessibility for all Kenyans. Plans are underway to recruit community health promoters tasked with providing basic medical attention and managing chronic conditions at home.

Ruto's government aims to implement universal health coverage that ensures every Kenyan can access essential healthcare services without financial strain—a critical goal given that healthcare costs can be prohibitive for many families.

Challenges Ahead

Despite these achievements, several

challenges remain:

Delayed Disbursements: Delays in funding county governments hinder service delivery at local levels.

Education Sector Scrutiny: The education system continues to face criticism over curriculum relevance and accessibility.

Economic Hardships: Rising inflation and cost of living pressures remain significant issues affecting citizens' quality of life.

Pending Bills: The accumulation of pending bills continues to jeopardize small businesses reliant on timely payments from government contracts.

Conclusion

President Ruto's two-year scorecard presents a mixed picture of progress and setbacks. While significant achievements in agriculture, housing, infrastructure, and healthcare demonstrate potential for positive change, persistent economic challenges and implementation issues in education highlight areas needing urgent attention. Moving forward, it is essential for the administration to maintain momentum in its initiatives while addressing the concerns of ordinary Kenyans to build a more inclusive and prosperous society.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

A Holistic Approach To Health: Expanding Linda Mama And Edu Afya Initiatives

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The Cabinet's decision to expand the Linda Mama programme to include postnatal care and broaden the Edu Afya initiative to encompass all school-going children marks a significant leap forward in Kenya's commitment to improving maternal and child health services. These expansions are not merely administrative changes; they represent a holistic approach to healthcare that recognizes the interconnectedness of maternal, child, and adolescent health.

The Linda Mama programme, originally focused on providing free maternity services, will now offer comprehensive postnatal care. This critical enhancement addresses the health challenges many mothers face after childbirth, requiring ongoing medical attention. By filling this gap, the government acknowledges the

importance of continuous healthcare support during a vulnerable period for both mother and infant. This proactive measure is essential for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, which remain significant public health concerns.

Simultaneously, the expansion of the Edu Afya initiative to cover all school-going children aims to promote health and well-being among students. This initiative is crucial in providing preventive healthcare services such as vaccinations and health education, vital for enhancing children's overall health and academic performance. By ensuring that all school-going children have access to these services, the government is taking a significant step toward fostering a healthier future generation.

These expansions come at a time when many families struggle to access quality healthcare due to fi-

nancial constraints. By integrating maternal and child health services with educational initiatives, the government is adopting a comprehensive approach that recognizes the need for accessible healthcare across all demographics. This strategy not only addresses immediate health concerns but also lays the groundwork for long-term societal benefits.

Moreover, these initiatives align with Kenya's broader health goals as outlined in Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prioritizing maternal and child health allows Kenya to make significant strides toward achieving global health targets, including reducing inequalities in healthcare access.

The Edu Afya programme has faced challenges since its inception in 2018, including low enrollment due to issues like lack of internet access for data registration and insuffi-

cient awareness among parents and students about available services.

The government's commitment to broadening this initiative is timely, especially after the previous scheme left over 3.4 million learners without coverage following its termination in December 2023. The renewed focus on including primary school pupils and early childhood development education (ECDE) students will help ensure that more children benefit from essential health services.

Successful implementation will require robust infrastructure and effective communication between various stakeholders. The government must ensure that healthcare facilities are adequately equipped to handle increased demand and that healthcare providers are trained in delivering comprehensive postnatal care. Additionally, public awareness campaigns will be essential in informing com-

munities about these expanded services.

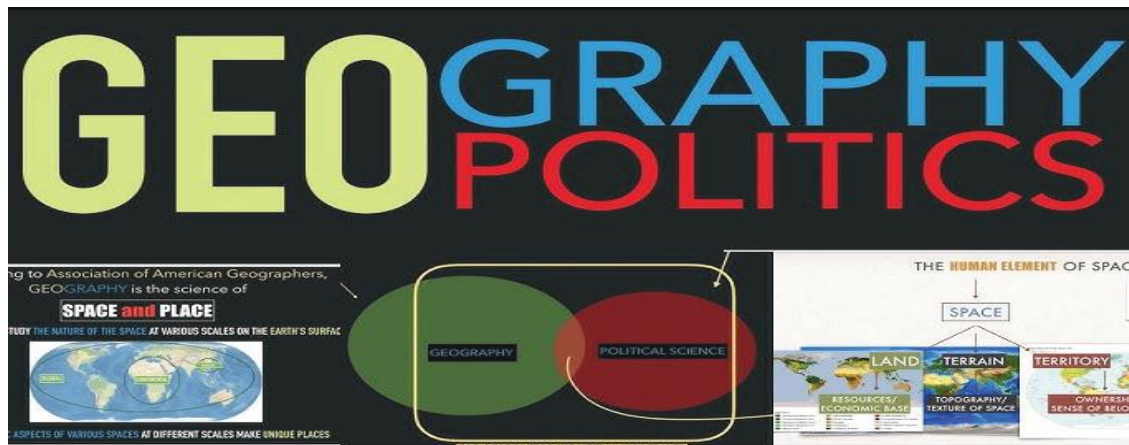
In conclusion, the Cabinet's resolutions to enhance the Linda Mama programme and broaden Edu Afya reflect a commendable commitment to improving public health in Kenya. By focusing on maternal and child health as interconnected components of overall well-being, the government is paving the way for a healthier future. These initiatives not only aim to reduce mortality rates but also foster a culture of health awareness that will benefit generations to come. It is imperative that this momentum is maintained through effective implementation and continuous evaluation of these programs to ensure they meet the needs of all Kenyans.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

The Global Chessboard: Unmasking The Power Play In Modern Geopolitics



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes



In the grand game of geopolitics, “the eagle does not hunt flies,” and yet, today’s global powers are grappling not only with each other but with smaller, seemingly insignificant conflicts that ripple through the international arena. Like chess players poised at the board, the moves are complex, the stakes are high, and every action—or inaction—reverberates far beyond the borders of the initiating nation. To those who pay attention, the world is on fire, and the embers of conflict, economic rivalry, and political manipulation are spreading faster than ever before.

What we see today is a global power struggle, a contest of wills between the titans of international diplomacy, military might, and economic prowess. The United States, China, and Russia—each vying for supremacy, each claiming dominance in a new world order. “When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers,” and indeed, the smaller nations caught in the crossfire of these global giants find themselves trampled underfoot, victims of a geopolitical chess game where they are mere pawns, disposable and forgotten once their usefulness is exhausted.

Let us talk first of China. The dragon has awakened, not in a sudden rush but in a slow, deliberate crawl that began decades ago. “A snake that moves slowly still strikes with venom,” and China’s rise to global prominence has been just as calculated. Through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has extended its influence far and wide, embedding itself into the infrastructure of countries across Africa, Asia, and even parts of Europe. On the surface, it looks like a win-win—the dragon helps you build roads, ports, and railways, and you pay it back later. But like a fisherman casting his net, China has entrapped these nations in a web of debt and dependence, ensuring that when the time comes, they must bow to Beijing’s whims. “The hand that gives is always above the one that takes,” and with every bridge built, every loan extended, China tightens its grip on

the throat of these developing nations.

While China spreads its economic tentacles, Russia sharpens its claws in the sphere of military power and political interference. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has longed for the days of being a superpower, and Vladimir Putin plays the game with a ruthlessness that only a former KGB officer can muster. Ukraine is the clearest example.

“When the lion is hungry, it does not negotiate with its prey,” and Putin’s annexation of Crimea and the invasion of Ukraine show that Russia is willing to defy international norms, sanctions, and threats to reclaim its influence over Eastern Europe. But the battlefield is not just one of guns and bombs—Russia has perfected the art of cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and political meddling.

“A wolf in sheep’s clothing is still a wolf,” and while Moscow may speak of diplomacy, behind the curtain, it sows discord in Western democracies, manipulating elections, and weakening alliances such as NATO and the European Union.

Meanwhile, the United States—once the undisputed king of the geopolitical jungle—finds itself in a precarious position. “The crown is heavy on the head of a king who does not watch his throne,” and America, distracted by internal divisions, social unrest, and a growing economic divide, is struggling to maintain its grip on global leadership. From the failed wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the botched response to the rise of ISIS, the U.S. has lost much of its moral and strategic authority on the global stage. And yet, Washington is still playing the game. Its alliances in the Pacific, its NATO commitments, and its trade wars with China show that while the American eagle may have faltered, it is far from grounded. But can the U.S. sustain this role as the global policeman in an era where its influence is waning? “The tree that bends to every wind will soon break,” and America’s

response to global crises has been inconsistent, leaving its allies questioning its reliability and its adversaries emboldened.

Africa, the oft-forgotten continent in the global chess game, is no longer content to sit on the sidelines. It is now the battleground for influence, as China, Russia, and the U.S. seek to stake their claims. “The silent antelope is not weak, it waits for its moment,” and Africa’s vast resources—oil, minerals, and agricultural potential—make it a key player in the future of global geopolitics. Yet, Africa is at a crossroads. Will it align itself with China, as many nations already have through the BRI? Will it fall under Russia’s sphere of influence, given Moscow’s increasing military presence in places like Libya and the Central African Republic? Or will it seek partnership with the West, hoping for investment without the strings of neo-colonialism attached? “The man who has many suitors must choose wisely,” and Africa’s future depends on whether its leaders can navigate this complex geopolitical landscape without falling into the same traps that ensnared their predecessors during the Cold War.

The Middle East, as always, remains a tinderbox. “When the fire burns in the forest, all animals run in fear,” and the flames of conflict in Syria, Yemen, and now Israel and Palestine threaten to spread far beyond the region. But this time, the players have changed. The U.S. is no longer the dominant force, with Russia and Iran filling the void in Syria. Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two regional powerhouses, are locked in a proxy war in Yemen that shows no sign of ending. Meanwhile, Israel’s recent turmoil with its neighbors threatens to drag the entire region into another cycle of violence. “The scorpion stings not out of anger, but out of instinct,” and the perpetual conflicts of the Middle East are as much about survival as they are about ideology. But the impact of these conflicts is global—energy prices, refugee crises, and

terrorism are all consequences that ripple through the global economy, destabilizing countries far from the battlefield.

In the midst of all this chaos, the European Union stands as a question mark. “The man who builds a tall fence keeps out the wild animals but also traps himself inside,” and Europe, particularly after Brexit, finds itself caught between a rock and a hard place. It wants to maintain its independence from both the U.S. and China but is not strong enough, politically or militarily, to stand on its own. The migrant crisis, economic instability, and rising populism have left the EU fractured, with no clear sense of direction. While Germany, France, and the UK jockey for leadership, the rest of the continent watches in uncertainty, unsure whether to move closer to Washington, Beijing, or find a new path altogether.

In this world of geopolitical chess, “the game is not won by the pieces that move first, but by those that make the last move,” and we are far from the endgame. The world order is shifting, and those who once held all the cards are finding that their hands are not as strong as they used to be. But this is where the danger lies. “The cornered animal is the most dangerous,” and as global powers fight to maintain their influence, they risk unleashing conflicts that could spiral out of control.

The question we must ask ourselves is this: are we prepared for the consequences of this great power struggle? The rise of nationalism, the erosion of international institutions like the United Nations, and the growing disregard for human rights are warning signs that the world is heading down a dangerous path. “When the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch,” and if we allow ourselves to be led by leaders more interested in power than peace, we too will fall into that same ditch—only this time, the stakes are higher, and the consequences more dire.

The global chessboard is more volatile than ever, with each move bringing us closer to either a new world order or global chaos. “The fire that is not put out will one day burn the house down,” and unless the world’s leaders take responsibility for the direction we are heading, we may all find ourselves engulfed in flames. The time for passive observation is over. The game is on, and the stakes could not be higher.

MIDMARK ONSONGO
(Sustainable economist,
Geopolitics strategist)

Worth Noting:

- While China spreads its economic tentacles, Russia sharpens its claws in the sphere of military power and political interference. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has longed for the days of being a superpower, and Vladimir Putin plays the game with a ruthlessness that only a former KGB officer can muster. Ukraine is the clearest example.
- “When the lion is hungry, it does not negotiate with its prey,” and Putin’s annexation of Crimea and the invasion of Ukraine show that Russia is willing to defy international norms, sanctions, and threats to reclaim its influence over Eastern Europe. But the battlefield is not just one of guns and bombs—Russia has perfected the art of cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and political meddling.

Government To Ban Over 3m Farmers From Selling Fruit And Vegetables

By: Mutua Jameson
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Farmers will be required to apply for NEMA licences to grow vegetables at a minimum cost of Sh10,000, carry out soil and water analyses at a cost of Sh2,500 to Sh5,000, pay for Certification with a national or international standards certifier, and prepare dozens more records, including analysing the nutrient content of any compost or manure they use.
- International agricultural NGO CABI reported in July it would not be possible for any individual farmers to cover the cost of the certification.
- Its conclusions followed an aid-funded project that gained certification for the only farmers' groups yet to be certified, accounting for around 70 of Kenya's 4.5 million farmers.



A file photo of a kale farmer. The Kenyan government is planning to implement a ban to over 3 million farmers from selling fruits and vegetables in Kenya.

The government is preparing to enforce the harshest farm regulations in the world in a move that will prevent more than three million farmers from selling fruits and vegetables in Kenya.

The mandatory rules, which the government has stated will be 'anchored in law', will mean only large farmers, companies, and importers will be permitted to supply fruit and vegetables in Kenya, with any trader buying fruit and vegetables from uncertified farmers facing stiff penalties.

The penalties will apply to middlemen, distributors, processors, or any direct buyer who purchases fruit and vegetables from any farmer who has not been certified as having implemented the 55-page, mandatory, KS1758 Kenyan standard.

Presented publicly as a food safety measure, the standard applies over 500 new rules for farmers that will cut off the supplies of over 90 per cent of the country's locally consumed fruit and vegetables.

Farmers will be required to apply for NEMA licences to grow vegetables at a minimum cost of Sh10,000, carry out soil and water analyses at a cost of Sh2,500 to Sh5,000, pay for Certification with a national or international standards certifier, and prepare dozens more records, including analysing the nutrient content of any compost or manure they use.

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Rough estimates the cost is likely to exceed Sh250,000 per farmer. A study of Kenyan smallholder farmers done by Mercy Corps found that two-thirds of farmers earn less than Sh7,740 a month from their produce – although the average earnings from fruit and vegetables is higher.

However, in an interview with FarmBizAfrica.com, spokesman for the Horticultural Crop Directorate (HCD) of the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Collins Otieno confirmed that all farmers will be obliged to adhere to the standard, which also requires farmers' IDs, plot records, and growing records to be kept and submitted to every produce buyer.

The HCD, as well as other agricultural organisations, including the large-farmer lobby groups, The Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya, and FPEAK, as well as international agricultural organisations have all confirmed the rules will be mandatory for farmers selling produce inside Kenya.

Yet, despite intense foreign-aid funding by TradeMark Africa for workshops, strategies, and the implementation of the new rules, none of these organisations, has addressed the scale of disruption that will be caused to the country's food supplies, or the temptation for enforcers to accept bribes where no alternative food sources are available for buyers.

Horticulture is the largest agricultural sub-sector in Kenya. In a Farm-BizAfrica national survey of 155 farmers in January 2024, 78 per cent reported growing at least one horticultural crop on their farm.

According to an analysis of Kenyan smallholder farmers, these crops earn the country's farmers an average total monthly income of Sh21,115.39 a month.

Altogether, the government will be closing down earnings to farmers of over Sh280bn a year.

The new rules have been laid out in the Kenya Standard 1758: 2016 (KS 1758) Horticulture Industry Code of Practice.

Fact sheet: 11 more things Kenyan farmers will need to do to sell fruit and vegetables.

The Kenyan government is making its KSh1758 horticulture industry standard mandatory for all farmers who wish to sell fruit or vegetables in Kenya.

Further requirements for any farmer to sell vegetables, fruits, or herbs, will be: To create and have permanently available at the farm for inspection records justifying the suitability of their land for agriculture, have a daily record of the water they consume, and the fertilizer they use and before irrigating crops, obtain water quality analysis from a laboratory of "known and recognized competence" with the capacity to analyze for NPK, electrical conductivity, Microbial, mineral, and chemical contaminants, PH, biological activity, and heavy metals

contaminants, keep the documented results and implement any corrections to the water that the laboratory recommends.

Analyse the quality of irrigation water both at intake and exit at least every three months and keep test records showing if there is any contamination, the types of contaminant and their amounts.

Others are demonstrate an understanding of the 'most water efficient means of irrigation' for each type of crop and use this most efficient method and not any alternative.

Keep records of the date of watering crops and volume of water used per unit area.

To use organic manure or fertiliser, an analysis will need to be carried out by a Nationally recognised laboratory to determine the content of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the fertiliser.

Maintain a written fertiliser plan based on regular soil, water, or plant analysis that can be compared with national or international standards to come up with a farm fertilisation plan.

Create a nitrogen management plan that calculates the amount of nitrogen applied on farms every year.

This will need to be within the national limits (where they exist) and/or international limits. This nitrogen application plan should be documented and cover the start and end of each crop or every site in cases where the farmer practises crop rotation.

Record work contracts for their permanent and seasonal workers as well as every kind of payment they receive.

Conduct at least one yearly self-audit against the standard's 500+ rules, identify necessary corrective actions, in writing, implement them, and keep the records of this audit and implementation for two years ready for inspection government-authorised personnel.

Sports >> *Liverpool manager Arne Slot says goalkeeper Alisson Becker is a doubt to face Bournemouth in Saturday's Premier League game because of a muscle issue.

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Liverpool's Alisson A Doubt To Face Bournemouth



Cold feet?: Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot says goalkeeper Alisson Becker is a doubt to face Bournemouth in Saturday's Premier League game because of a muscle issue. Alisson has played in all of the Anfield side's four league games this season and was in goal for their Champions League win at AC Milan on Tuesday. He also played for Brazil in the Copa America during the summer as well as the recent international break. When asked about the expanded fixture schedule before the game in Milan, the 31-year-old said "nobody asks the players" about

their workload. "It is a doubt if Alisson can train on Friday," said Slot. "If he can't, then he probably won't play. We have to wait and see." Alisson played 42 matches for Liverpool and Brazil last season despite being injured for more than two months, when Caoimhin Kelleher deputised for him. "He [Alisson] has a slight issue with one of his muscles and we wonder if this game is too early or not," added Slot. "He didn't get it in the Milan game, it happened a bit before, but after the Milan game he felt

it more and more. "We have to wait and see if he will be in goal on Saturday or if we have to wait a few extra days." Liverpool lost at home to Nottingham Forest after the international break before beating Milan. They host Bournemouth in the third match of a run of seven in 22 days, but Slot is not fazed by the busy schedule. "The Premier League has four extra games compared to the Eredivisie and also the League Cup, that's the main difference," Slot added.

"But the main difference between the Premier League and every other league in Europe – as you all know – is we play during Christmas and new year. "But the strength of the league, the quality of the league, the quality of Nottingham Forest and Bournemouth – it is much higher than if you play an Eredivisie team that doesn't play for the top-six positions. That is where it makes a difference."

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Sports >>> *Nigerian striker George Ilenikhena scored on his Champions League debut as Monaco produced an upset against 10-man Barcelona.

Nigerian Teenager Ilenikhena Scores Winner As Barca Handed Champions League Shocker



Nigerian striker George Ilenikhena celebrates his goal for Monaco against Barcelona. PHOTO/Monaco/X.

Nigerian striker George Ilenikhena scored on his Champions League debut as Monaco produced an upset against 10-man Barcelona.

The 18-year-old substitute raced on to Vanderson's long ball over the top of the defence in the 71st minute and blasted his shot past Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Eric Garcia had earlier been shown a straight red card with just 10 minutes gone when he fouled Takumi Minamino as the last man after a poor pass out from the back by Ter Stegen.

Monaco took the lead soon after when Maghnes Akliouche slotted past Ter Stegen who was rooted to the spot.

Barcelona's own teenage star Lamine Yamal equalised with his first Champions League goal

when he latched on to a long ball and cut inside before drilling a low shot into the bottom corner.

But Ilenikhena's goal, his first since signing from Royal Antwerp in the summer, condemned Barcelona to an opening defeat.

Vanderson's strike from the edge of the area was pushed past the post while Minamino had an effort deflected on to the crossbar for the hosts.

It could have been a more emphatic win but Folarin Balogun had a penalty overturned late on following a video assistant referee (VAR) check after he was adjudged to have gone down too easily under the challenge of Inigo Martinez.

Ilenikhena outshines Yamal as teenagers make history

Ilenikhena came off the bench in the 59th minute and was on the scoresheet 12 minutes later to earn victory for his new side.

The youngster's composed finish put him among esteemed company after he set a record for Monaco's youngest Champions League goalscorer (18 years and 34 days), breaking Kylian Mbappe's mark (18 years and 63 days) set in February 2017.

He is also the first player in the competition's history to score against the same side in successive games but for different teams, having previously netted for Antwerp last December.

Yamal, who has had an incredible year after winning the European Championship with Spain, took 11 Champions League appearances to register his first goal in the

competition as he put in another impressive performance despite his side's defeat.

He has now made the most appearances by a player aged 17 or under in the competition's history. Yamal scored in two consecutive games for the first time for Barca and became the second youngest goalscorer in Champions League history (17 years and 68 days), second only to team-mate Ansu Fati (17 and 40 days) in December 2019.

The 17-year-old also became the youngest Ballon d'Or nominee when the shortlist was announced earlier this month.

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Understanding, Thinking And Reasoning Of A Child



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- **Performance behaviour, the playing approved social roles, and development of social attitudes.** Proper performance behaviour: It means that the child will behave in the manner approved by the society. Every society or the social group has a norm of behaviour. The standard is prefixed as per the need of the social group. The child has to go along the line for his own benefit and for the benefit of other members of the society.
- **Playing approved social roles:** In a society the standard of behaviour may vary from age group to age group. For example, the prescribed behaviour for the father may not be same for the son and may also be different for the grandfather. Even though this norm appears sometimes unpleasant to some individual it is desirable for peaceful co-existence.

When the child is born he finds before him a complete new world with a changed atmosphere. As per James, this world appears to him as a "big, blooming buzzing confusion". He finds everything new and at first fails to understand the phenomena taking place before his eyes.

This becomes uncomfortable to him as a result he starts crying. But as time passes he becomes able to understand gradually but slowly. This process goes on along with the development of the child's brain, nervous system and sense organs. The rate of understanding is parallel with that of mental growth and exposures of the child to different phenomena. Maturation makes the child ready for understanding. For survival every living being has to adjust to environment and this adjustment is possible when they understand the situation. This is also true in case of a human child. He has to understand his environment, the people around him and himself too. Before reacting to any situation he is also required to know about his limitations, both physical and mental. This can gradually be learnt by the children through association with elders and exposures to nature. Better understanding will help to have better development. Even when children play together in a group they have to understand many things otherwise they cannot acquire sufficient skill to even play successfully.

Understanding paves the way for thinking and reasoning. Even though this is a complex process, many psy-

chologists believe that reasoning being looked upon as the understanding of cause and effect relationship, young infants can acquire it. This has also been experimentally found out by many psychologists, like Gesell, Reasoning also includes ability to generalise and make deduction.

Of course, this may not be experienced with very young children but this is quite expected with pre-school children. While playing, they can very well be tested on this aspect. In a nursery school, therefore, there should be ample opportunity to develop this aspect through problem solving plays and games.

Problem solving or reasoning capacity of young children can be nurtured by experiencing success. Children are to be provided with puzzles for experiencing the joy of success. They should be allowed to work independently and take their own time to find out the solution so as to enable them to reason out something of their own.

There should not be any spoon feeding at it debars the child to acquire reasoning capacity. It is not that parents and teachers would not come to his assistance. They can help the child develop reasoning by directing his attention to the crucial source of his difficulty. This would help the child to save time and choose the proper approach. Exposure to nature and study of environment would help the children to have wider understanding and better reasoning capacity. This would also help him to grow his knowledge.

Hence there should be ample opportunity in pre-school centres to take children round, show different places and enable them to come across different birds and animals and plants to enhance their knowledge. This would also help them to acquire skill in having little arithmetical knowledge like counting, adding, subtracting simple numbers and quantities.

During infancy the child is self-centred. As he grows he has to face the realities of the society in which he is brought up. In every society there is a norm of behaviour for its members and they have to obey it in order to be called social beings. Their dealings and way of life are to be accepted by the society, otherwise there may not be peaceful co-existence among members. According to Hurlock there are three processes involving socialisation.

Those are:

Performance behaviour, the playing approved social roles, and development of social attitudes. Proper performance behaviour: It means that the child will behave in the manner approved by the society. Every society or the social group has a norm of behaviour. The standard is prefixed as per the need of the social group. The child has to go along the line for his own benefit and for the benefit of other members of the society.

Playing approved social roles: In a society the standard of behaviour may vary from age group to age group. For example, the prescribed behaviour for the father may not be

same for the son and may also be different for the grandfather. Even though this norm appears sometimes unpleasant to some individual it is desirable for peaceful co-existence.

Development of social attitudes: Freeman has defined social attitudes as that of becoming "imbued with a sense of oneness, inter communication and co-operation". Once a person develops social attitudes he will appreciate social customs and will be involved in social activities of his own, as a result he will be a wanted person in the society.

The child is neither social nor anti-social when he is born but he will definitely follow the behaviour of his elders. Hence the elders have to set before him a standard to get him along the proper line. There should be learning experiences for him as expected by the society and he is to be motivated and guided to behave in that line. Moreover, the experience as per the guidelines need be ample and favourable to him so that he develops such attitudes for socialisation.

This process of socialisation takes longer period. The improvement with the child in this regard may not be uniform. Sometimes very little progress is also marked and sometimes there may be retardation too. But parents and teachers have to have patience and guide and motivate the child from time to time. A child is not born 'introvert' or 'extrovert' but he is rather made like that in course of socialisation.

Family is the first place for the child to develop socially. All members of the family contribute towards this. If global character of the home is favourable, there are changes for developing favourable social attitudes with the child. On the other hand, if the home atmosphere is with constant tension and friction, this will act as an unfavourable atmosphere to the child and the attitudes developed with child will be greatly influenced by this. This will also have a greater after effect in the life of the child. Hence, the members of the family are to be very careful about this and try to set a better example before the child for better social growth. There are a number of factors which influence the social growth of the child while in the family.