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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders at Gathiru-ini factory



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Kenyan Artists With Uncertified Skills To Be Approved Through Recognition Of Prior Learning System

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyentimes

The government has developed a framework that will see artisans with uncertified skills and competencies assessed and certified through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) construction sites and primary Jua Kali Association worksites. Two weeks ago, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua announced that the government is taking a revolutionary approach to dignifying the Jua Kali workforce, as it seeks to transform informal skills and expertise into formal employment and provide linkages to opportunities locally and internationally.

The multi-agency meeting he fastracked the pathway to developing a framework of linking our artisans to job opportunities, besides financing self-employment.

Through a National Framework of Engagement by various State Departments and government agencies, the move will enable the assessed and certified youths to take advantage of employment opportunities such as those that will be available through the Affordable Housing Programme.

Those involved are State Departments for TVET, Housing and Urban Development, labour and Skills Development, State Department for MSMEs and Kenya National Federation.

In the arrangement, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) will coordinate the implementation of the policy through awareness creation, sensitization and organizing capacity-building forums.

The national rollout of RPL is a timely conduit towards realizing the Kenya Kwanza Government Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) with a view to increasing the supply of housing units from the current 2% to 50%, translating to 250,000 for the next five years from the current 50,000 units per year.

The AHP is also expected to create over 500,000 new employment opportunities for young people graduating from the TVETs in the next five years, directly into the construction sector and indirectly through the production of building products.

The initiative will further strengthen the Jua-kali industry's capacity to produce high-quality construction products.

According to KNQA Director General Alice Kande, the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF) provides for articulation of the various levels of qualifications, and clear progression pathways for the various forms of certification, including recognition of prior learning.

"KNQF is a comprehensive system that organizes all forms of learning – formal, non-formal, and informal -across educational and training sectors. The distinct KNQF levels are defined by level descriptors covering knowledge, skills, and competencies," said Dr Kande.

The KNQF encompasses three sub-frameworks: Academic, TVET, and Industry. Qualifications are placed within a level by mapping their learning outcomes against the level descriptors. The framework's primary aims are to enhance access, equity, quality, and relevance in education and training throughout Kenya.

Already, Kenya is implementing the recognition of prior learning policy across various institutions following its launch in March this year by the government.

Implementation of RPL in Kenya is being implemented through the 'Whole of Government Approach' where all relevant players are working collaboratively to enhance its effectiveness.

RPL policy is a revolutionary approach aimed at dignifying the Jua Kali workforce. This policy seeks to formalize informal skills, transforming them into recognized qualifications and opening up both local and international employment opportunities for artisans.

This strategic focus will create pathways to employment, empowering millions of Kenyans while enhancing economic development through skills recognition and opportunities."

The RPL policy aims to ensure recognition of knowledge, skills, and competencies that have been acquired through practical work and the award of certificates.



Richard Muteti, Advisor, Informal Sector Transformation, ODP.

Worth Noting:

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The implementation of the policy is a bridge to facilitate transition from informality to formality as well as facilitating multi-entry/exit between the education system and the labour market.

Kenya's education and training sector is regarded as one of the best in Africa as evidenced by the fact that Kenya has led in developing and implementing policies, standards and procedures for the management of accreditation of institutions, qualifications and quality assurance on the continent.

This framework brings together Basic Education (BE), Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), University Education (UE), industrial training and lifelong learning to enable better coordination and harmonization of qualifications across the various sectors.

KNQA prides itself in creating an enabling environment for lifelong learning, fostering quality of qualifications, and

creating international recognition and comparability of qualification systems

The African Union and the European Training Foundation (ETF) are implementing the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF-II) project to support the implementation of ACQF as a continental policy instrument.

The project aims to contribute to transparency, comparability and recognition of qualifications, collaboration between National Qualifications Frameworks and promotion of lifelong learning in Africa.

The project supports referencing of National Qualifications Frameworks to African Continental Qualifications Framework; develops and operationalises innovative tools such as the qualifications and credentials platforms, the RPL campaign, and skills data focus (labour market intelligence tools) through training, dialogue and peer-to-peer sharing forums.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri on Friday hosted a team from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), led by its chairman CPA Philip Kakai. The team is in Nyeri County for a local branch meeting. The Deputy Governor who represented Governor Mutahi Kahiga during the meeting disclosed that Nyeri is ready to collaborate with any institution which will benefit the local Citizenry. ICPAK is an organization whose role is to develop and promote internationally recognised accountancy profession that upholds public interest through effective regulation, research, and innovation. The County Secretary Ben Gachichio among other officials were also present.



Residents of Busia County have been urged to use the available methods of contraceptives to plan their families. Speaking during a forum to mark the World Contraceptive Day at Nambale Sub County on Thursday, Busia County Director of Medical Services, Dr. Janerose Ambuchi said that contraceptive uptake was still very low. "We are currently at 30% on contraceptive uptake which is low compared to 57% nationally," she said. Dr. Ambuchi stated that a section of the local residents fears what they term as the negative effects of the contraceptive use while others have to seek consent from their spouses before making the decision on which method to use.



World Bank, the State Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Bungoma County Government are collaborating in efforts to improve the livelihoods of residents in informal settlements. Bungoma Deputy Governor Jennifer Mbatiany speaking Thursday at her office in Bungoma County lauded the transformative work being undertaken by Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP). Mbatiany noted that KISIP intervention in Bungoma County was a crucial step towards addressing the challenges faced by informal settlements, promoting social inclusion, and contributing to the national agenda of improving urban areas across Kenya. The Deputy Governor noted that KISIP has been instrumental in enhancing informal settlements across Kenya, with Bungoma County being a key beneficiary.



Elgeyo Marakwet County, in partnership with USAID and Amref, is set to automate health services as it prepares to roll out the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). Governor Wisley Rotich announced that all health facilities will soon be connected to the internet, with initial installations happening in 57 facilities. At the Iten Medical Training College, the governor shared that patients will no longer need to carry medical cards, as all their records will be stored digitally. With just a click, healthcare providers can access patients' medical histories, ensuring better treatment and care. Additionally, the new system will alert patients about upcoming appointments, helping them manage their health effectively. It will also assist health departments in tracking medication supplies, ensuring that patients receive the necessary drugs.



Kajiado County residents have been urged to register for the new Social Health Authority (SHA) even as the October 1st deadline approaches. County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Alex Kilowua noted that SHA would be replacing the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) and for residents to continue accessing health services, they must enroll themselves. "All health services which were being offered through NHIF will now be offered under SHA and I want to urge all residents to register themselves so as to continue accessing the services," said Kilowua. According to Health Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa, over 1.2 million Kenyans have so far voluntarily registered for the Social Health Authority programme. Dr. Barasa called on more Kenyans to register so that they could seamlessly transition from NHIF and enjoy the enhanced services without any interruption of services.



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Kiambu Town Residents Decry Increase In Road Accidents

By: Felix Njenga

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- KeNHA Regional Director Joseph Kaburia while responding to the matter said that no complaints over the matter have reached their office.
- “Normally when these incidents happen, we get the information and it will come either from the public, grassroots or administration, so far we have not received that type of a complaint,” Kaburia said.
- He said that he will liaise with the traffic commander so that they may give data on the incidents so that they may be able to process the bumps.

Residents of Kiambu town have decried over the rising deaths through accidents in the Kiambu town, Ndumberi-Limuru highway citing lack of rumble bumps to slow down speeding vehicles.

Through a petition written to Kenya National Highway authority (KeNHA) and copied to Kiambu county governor Kimani Wamatangi, Kiambu constituency member of parliament Machua Waithaka and three members of county assembly where the road serves which include Kiambu township ward, Ndumberi ward and Riabai ward stated that in a period of one month seven deaths have occurred following not erection of road bumps which were removed by KeNHA officers back in 2022.

The residents who have appended their signatures said that they have continued to mourn their beloved ones, friends, brothers, sisters and children despite their cries for something to be done not being taken seriously by relevant bodies.

“We revisit this issue so that our people may feel safe accessing this road. Having undergone the above circumstances, we are deeply concerned over the urgency we are undertaking to conclude the matter,” the petition read. KeNHA Regional Director Joseph Kaburia while responding to the matter said that no complaints over the matter have reached their office.

“Normally when these incidents happen, we get the information and it will come either from the public, grassroots or administration, so far we have not received that type of a complaint,” Kaburia said.

He said that he will liaise with the traffic commander so that they may give data on the incidents so that they may be able to process the bumps.

“We do not just provide bumps, it



The black spot Kiambu town road where seven lives were lost through road accident in the past one month due to lack of rumble bumps

is something that we need to seek approval from our bosses when and where we should erect bumps,” he said.

He said that the residents should do an email communication to the KeNHA website so that officers will be sent to the ground who in turn will liaise with the traffic commander to collect data and process for approval of bumps,” he said.

On Friday last week two accidents occurred in the same road a few meters from Governor Kimani Wamatangi’s office which has been termed by the residents as a black spot where scores of women selling their agricultural produce besides the road and pedestrians were injured with some still in hospital recuperating.

According to area MP Machua while addressing the matter said that he is aware of the accidents and has since instructed his office to contact KeNHA so that the issue may be handled and avert more deaths on the road.

“My office is handling the matter and the issue will be addressed as soon as possible,” he said.

The residents however expressed their concerns saying that more deaths may occur if nothing is done soon since the area hosts many people and there is a lot of activity with many oblivious of the dangers.

“The road passes through an area we call a bedroom of Kiambu town and there is a lot of activity where women sell their goods beside the road as that is where people pass. We are afraid

more deaths may occur if nothing is done,” Mary Wanjiru, a resident said.

Stephen Karanja, a resident said that earlier there were rumble bumps but they were removed and used to help since vehicles would reduce their speed while coming down the hill of the road towards Kiambu town.

“As you come down from Ndumberi the road is climbing down a hill and the vehicles are at speed. The rumble bumps erected earlier and removed used to help as there were no incidences of accidents reported,” he said.

Another resident said that if rumble bumps are not erected it poses more danger as there are schools along the road and several incidents of school children being knocked down being reported.

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Mwai Kibaki Hospital Gazetted As A Parastatal, Expected To Boost UHC

By: Raymond Wanjohi and William Muchiri
 @themtkenyatimes

Mwai Kibaki Teaching and Referral Hospital has been gazetted as a fully-fledged independent parastatal and delinked from Kenyatta National Hospital

The Othaya town based referral facility is set to start operating independently from next week.

Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima said the gazettement was a great honour, not only to his constituents but all the entire Mt Kenya region.

President William Ruto, on September 18, announced that the hospital would be gazetted and acquire its own board and independent budget. The gazettement was effected last week.

Speaking at his Othaya constituency office, Wambugu said the health facility is not only expected to boost the growth of the bustling Othaya town, but also serve patients from Central, Eastern and Northern parts of Kenya.

Wambugu said the hospital will

become an anchor in rolling out the government’s Universal Health Care (UHC) programme.

“Our hospital has been elevated to an independent parastatal and I can confirm that it has been gazetted. This is one the biggest healthcare facilities in Kenya and will serve more patients drawn from Northern, Eastern and Central regions,” Wambugu said.

“We thank President Ruto for his wise decision to elevate this hospital. It will immensely transform the lives of many Kenyans. Othaya and Nyeri county at large will experience economic growth,” he added.

The lawmaker said Dr Ruto has already assured that the facility will be fully equipped so as to efficiently serve patients from many parts of the country.

“When I met the President at the State House recently, he told me to encourage investors to set up rental houses and businesses so as to spur economic growth. That is why I am urging my people in Othaya to be patient with the government as it continues entrenching development,” Wambugu said.

The facility was previously known



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina addressing the media at his Constituency office. Photos By Raymond Wanjohi

as Othaya KNH Level 6 Annex Hospital before it was renamed Mwai Kibaki Hospital, a few days after the former Head of State who hailed from the area died on April 21, 2022.

While elevating the facility’s status, President Ruto said it will boost provision of UHC.

At the same time, Wambugu urged leaders from Mt Kenya region to cease politicking and instead focus on implementing development to

citizens.

“I want to tell leaders from this region to desist from politics because that time will come and go. As of now, we should not be interested in politicking but transforming lives. Our key focus now is service delivery,” the MP said.

Yesterday, the Othaya MP held a consultative meeting with the area Project Management Committees (PMCs) who provide a structural

approach to managing projects, allowing proper planning, execution, monitoring and control.

The meeting cum training session, held at the constituency offices brought together the local NG-CDF committee members and the National government administration officials where they were trained on various projects that will be starting from next week.

IAK And EACC Partner To Train And Introduce New Audit Standards To Internal Auditors

By: Kenya News Agency

The Institute of Internal Auditors Kenya (IAK) have partnered with the Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC) to train Heads of Internal Audit in the public service on new internal audits standards.

According to the CEO at the IAK Dr. Joyce Omina, the new internal audits standards they are incorporating on Domain 2 are on ethics and professionalism with emphasis on professional courage in tackling corruption within organizations.

While speaking to journalists at Machakos University during the 1st Phase of capacity building with Heads of internal audit, Omina said that EACC has issued some guidelines on anti- corruption which has made them change their standards and focus on ethics and profession-

alism.

“The EACC issued some guidelines to the public service institution on anti-corruption and as IAK, we have recently changed our internal audits standards which is in Domain 2 that focuses on ethics and professionalism with emphasis on professional courage,” said Omina.

The CEO underscored the crucial role of Internal Auditors saying they were at the forefront in uncovering corruption in organizations and were also responsible for putting controls in place to help curb corruption.

She noted that the new audit standards on professional courage would be a boost in dealing with corruption and ethics in different organizations so as to run the country with a lot of accountability.

On her part, the EACC Deputy Director in charge of Education and Public Awareness Emily Moria added that they were training internal auditors so as to embrace the values



of integrity and ethics in their functions as auditors.

She termed corruption as a cancer that has permeated into society and as EACC, capacity building on various professional bodies was one of the major ways of fighting corrup-

tion.

Moria further noted that they were mandated to investigate corruption, conduct public awareness and civic education and have made strides in their investigations that have resulted in recovering people’s property.

Additionally, she pointed out that through various capacity building, they have managed to achieve major strides since some organizations have managed to deter corruption and have instilled ethics and integrity among auditors and colleagues.

I Have Delivered In Coffee Reforms - Gachagua

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders at Gathiru-ini factory.

Worth Noting:

- In his remarks, the Deputy President challenged the youth to take up leadership roles in Coffee Cooperative Societies and farming businesses.
- Leaders present commended the Deputy President for his commitment to streamline the coffee sector, citing increased earnings for small-scale farmers.
- Led by Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba, the leaders commended the Gachagua-led coffee reforms saying this year's payment rate in various factories has increased and that farmers have been able to question fiscal discipline of their Cooperatives.
- "Coffee farming is a profitable activity that has been used by some people to exploit farmers leaving them impoverished. The ongoing reforms have aided farmers since their income has increased, closed factories have been reopened and farmers are now able to raise queries on financial expenditures in their Cooperatives," MP Wamuchomba highlighted.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday toured coffee factories in Githunguri, Kiambu County, to check on the progress of the ongoing reforms in the sub-sector and engage farmers on the government-backed legal and policy changes.

During the working tour, Gachagua, who was in the company of various political leaders and subsector stakeholders, said he has delivered in the coffee reforms agenda and told off his critics.

He cited the success of Gathiru-ini Coffee Factory, whose members were paid at a rate of Sh87 per kilogram of coffee this year up from Sh13 in the previous year.

"I am grateful that the coffee reforms are working. The case of improved prices for Gathiru-ini Coffee Factory is evidence that we have delivered in the reforms agenda. The factory is now targeting the price of Sh110 per kilo and later Sh150. Those criticising us do not understand the sector and have never been involved in farming," he said.

He also asked Members of Parliament to hasten passage of the Coffee Bill, 2023, and the Cooperative Bill, 2023 to save farmers from debts and exploitation by brokers.

"We are urging MPs to fast-track passing of the two Bills (Coffee and Cooperatives Bills) into law so that the farmers can benefit more. The two Bills intend to benefit farmers and streamline leadership of the Cooperatives. We intend to revive the Coffee Board Kenya and the Coffee Research Institute to assist farmers get better coffee varieties," explained Gachagua.

He visited Gathiru-ini Coffee Factory and joined hundreds coffee farmers affiliated to Komothai Coffee Growers Cooperative Society during their Special General Meeting.

He also commissioned the cupping laboratory for the Cooperative Society.

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"Coffee farming is a profitable activity that has been used by some people to exploit farmers leaving them impoverished. The ongoing reforms have aided farmers since their income has increased, closed factories have been reopened and farmers are now able to raise queries on financial expenditures in their Cooperatives," MP Wamuchomba highlighted.

She was supported by MPs Amos Mwago (Starehe) and Mary Wamaua (Maragua) together with Senators Karungo Thang'wa (Kiambu) and John Methu (Nyandarua), who promised to continue lobbying for

coffee matters including increased government assistance to the sub-sector.

"The reforms in coffee industry must be sustained because farmers are benefiting and their income has increased. We have seen farmers also putting management of their cooperative societies to task over financial expenditure. The DP has really worked on the reforms. This year's payout has increased. Various factories paid over Sh100 per kilogram," said Wamaua as she urged the DP to push on with the reforms.

They spoke at Komothai Coffee Growers Cooperative Society during a farmers' special AGM, where Mr Gachagua joined the forum and highlighted the government's achievements in the agriculture sector.

For his part, Gachagua said the government will sustain the reforms.

He added said that the government will help coffee farmers access subsidized fertilizer through their cooperative societies.

"We are calling on our learned youth to engage in coffee farming and take up the leadership roles of the sector. They should lead in bringing the changes. I am impressed by the youthful leadership of Komothai Coffee Growers Cooperative Society as it has initiated changes that have made farmers increase their earnings and digitized operations of the company. We will plan how the government's subsidized fertilizer can reach coffee farmers through their societies. The government is committed to continue supporting the farmers," said Gachagua.

He further asked the farmers-owned Cooperative Societies to keep off expensive loans from banks and instead borrow from the Government's Cherry Fund.

"Avoid loans from commercial banks and instead borrow from the Cherry Fund and involve farmers before borrowing," he told the Saccos.

The DP also visited Gathiru-ini Coffee Factory, which was reopened recently to inspect its operations.

Agriculture being the largest sector of the economy, contributing half of Kenya's GDP, the Kenya Kwanza administration prioritized revival of coffee industry to boost the rural economy; a role DP Gachagua has been overseeing and is bearing fruit.

On politics, he asked Kenyans to remain calm over the political situation in the country.

"Let us be calm and watch. The people will make their own conclusions and decisions. I am comfortable because our people are intelligent and they know a lot," he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua being taken through the cupping process in Githunguri.

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Dreams: What Is In A Dream?



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

You may have heard it said that 'If you see a toilet in your dream, don't try to use it's because it is a trap. Should you succumb to the temptation to use the toilet in your dream, you will wake up to a wet bed, or a bigger mess if you decided to use the toilet to go for a long call.

Or in case of the likes of 'Kĩmĩro' (Kĩmĩro was a boy in my village so named for being notoriously fond of always going for long calls in the bush), and those who have the habit of 'standing' next to a bush, I guess they are likely to see a dense well-secluded bush instead of a toilet. But that notwithstanding, should they decide to use the dream bush, the outcomes would be the same as above.

Dreaming is a normal part of healthy sleep and we do not need to go into very scientific definitions of a dream. Scientists say that dreams reveal critical aspects about ourselves. They are therefore a reflection of your recent state of mind, future possibilities and changes that you may have lately experienced. They also say that dreams are a bridge between the conscious and sub-conscious mind where desires, fears and

experiences get reassembled and processed during sleep. They are thus an indication of our emotional and psychological state. Dreams therefore communicate something which is already within us although it may be sometimes difficult to understand what the dream is all about.

I recently listened to a priest giving a sermon.

He said that his elder sister (who belongs to a certain charismatic sect) has formed the habit of waking him up around 2 to 3 am frantically asking him to pray for her and interpret the 'weird' dreams she has been having. She claims that she has lately been seeing blood in her dreams.

In my assessment, the priest is not taking kindly these repeated interruptions to his sleep. Other examples of weird dreams include falling through space, being chased by monsters, dangerous people or wild animals and for some even losing teeth.

According to research, everyone experiences weird dreams once in a while which can be attributed to stress, dietary changes, medication and even poor sleeping hygiene. Managing stress, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and practising good sleeping habits can help in reducing the occurrence of these strange or weird dreams.

There is no scientific evidence that points to dreams as being warnings of potential or impending doom. However, there is a possibility that frequent nightmares could be an indication of physical or psychological ill health. Conversely, dreaming about the same person over and over maybe an indication that you have some unresolved issues or con-



Dreams.

flict with the person. A repeated dream about a loved one who passed away may be an indication that you are still grieving over that loss. On the flip side, there could be repeated positive dreams which are a sign of good feelings.

So, should you share your dreams with others? Dreams are very personal and private and most of the times non-specific and very confusing. It is therefore important to try and understand the dream yourself before seeking the opinion of others. It is also good to

make sure that it would be appropriate to share and if the other person would be of any help. Remember a person's interpretation of your dream will be largely influenced by the way you describe it and more so they would try to go by your expectation.

In most cases, telling a dream to an empathetic person could make you feel closer to the person. It can also be a way of bringing up a deep issue and thus become the beginning of the process towards resolving it.

In extreme cases, where a person repeatedly dreams the same dream over and over (even one as simple as 'Kĩmĩro and the bush'), such that it becomes a concern, it then would be advisable to seek some form of professional help.

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Plans To Modernize Kenya News Agency On Course

By: KNA

The Ministry of Information, Communication and Digital Economy is giving priority to revitalisation of Kenya News Agency (KNA) to become the disseminator of the government development agenda.

Speaking in Trans Nzoia County while on a fact-finding mission, Senior Deputy Secretary State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Hezron Nyambergi said there is need for tailored strategies geared towards ensuring that KNA retains its status as a leading government mouthpiece locally and internationally.

"There is no doubt KNA has for a long time been a leading agency when it comes to dissemination of

information on government projects not only at the grassroots but also internationally. Due to the demands of the ever-changing competitive world, as a State Department we are called upon to move with speed and ensure that the Agency does not lose its glory. For this reason, we are committed to ensure that our staff are equipped with modern equipment to discharge their duties effectively which they should zealously guard," he said.

Urging Information Officers to be proactive in dissemination of the government's development agenda with special focus on Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) pillars, Nyambergi said the government is implementing so many projects across the country which should be properly documented and publicized.

Echoing his words, Trans Nzoia County Commissioner Gideon Oyagi

who was present lauded KNA for the exemplary role it has played in dissemination of developmental news.

However, he challenged the Agency to strive to reinvent itself and timely facilitate field staff with the required tools for proper service delivery.

Speaking elsewhere after meeting the Trans Nzoia Government representatives at the county headquarters led by the County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Public Service Management and Governance Julie Ruto, Nyambergi said the department was out to source for close partnerships with devolved units in an effort to enhance dissemination of information pertaining to government programmes and projects on time.

Ruto acknowledged the move and pledged the commitment of Trans Nzoia county government saying there was need to join hands always



on matters meant to benefit the public.

Others present during the visit were Deputy Director Human Resource Management State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunica-

tions Fredrick Adeka, Deputy Director, Directorate of Information Patrick Odongo, Trans Nzoia County Director of Communications Dr. Felix Sialo and Chief Officer Governance Sammy Sichangi.

Medical Services In Kiambu County Grounded Over Salary Arrears

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- In Kiambu level Five hospitals only medical interns were seen walking in groups inside the hospital without attending to the patients as the casualty and medics operating rooms remained closed with no clinical officers nor doctors missing in site.

- Eric Mutai, a patient who travelled from Roysambu in Nairobi county said he always comes to Kiambu hospital to access mental health drugs but has now been disappointed since he could not get medication as prescribed for every week.

- “Every week I must attend a clinic to get medication for my condition but now I am forced to go back since the hospital is not operating,” said Mutai.



Kiambu Level Five hospital casualty ward closed after health workers downed their tools to protest over delayed salaries.

Health services in Kiambu County have been paralysed after healthcare workers downed their tools to protest their delayed salaries.

The medics downed their tools on Thursday last week citing that the county government has failed to heed to their pleas and are unable to work without their salaries.

“Things are thick outside here and we do not have our salaries. How are we expected to work with diligence when ourselves are unable to fend for our families?” pondered one of the medics.

A spot check on the hospitals revealed that patients either accessing private hospitals and clinics while others going back home and other seating on the hospital benches for hours hoping to be attended.

In Kiambu level Five hospitals only medical interns were seen walking in groups inside the hospital without attending to the patients as the casualty and medics operating rooms remained closed with no clinical officers nor doctors missing in site.

Eric Mutai, a patient who travelled from Roysambu in Nairobi county said he always comes to Kiambu

hospital to access mental health drugs but has now been disappointed since he could not get medication as prescribed for every week.

“Every week I must attend a clinic to get medication for my condition but now I am forced to go back since the hospital is not operating,” said Mutai.

Jane Njeri said that she came to the hospital to bring her daughter who is in school and had an appointment for her eyes condition and other ailment and after paying Sh 200 for hospital card she was informed that there are no medics to attend to her daughter.

“Why would the hospital make me pay for the hospital card yet they knew that there are no medics to attend to us? we have been told it can not be refunded back. we are disappointed,” Njeri said.

The hospital casual workers have also decried the lack of salaries for four months which has left them demoralised as no communication is given to them.

David Maina, Kiambu county health admin said that it was a nationwide problem since the exchequer has not yet released funds to the counties.

“This is not experienced only in

Kiambu county as the national treasury has not yet released funds to the counties. It is not only the medics who have no salaries, county government workers are experiencing the same predicament,” Maina said.

He called on all workers to have patients as the issue will be solved and they will get their salaries.

“In Kiambu county we have never delayed salaries for the workers. This is the first time we are experiencing this and I urge my fellow workers to be patient as we sought the matter,” he said.

Besides the health workers demanding for their salaries they have also raised concerns as to why the county government promotions do not reflect on their salaries while some workers have stagnated in the same positions for years.

“Some of us were promoted but it was a promotion on paper and our salaries still reflect the same as before. Some have stayed for years in one position without promotions, this is unacceptable,” a medic said.

They said that the hospitals are understaffed hence being overloaded with duties and work.

They accused the county government of employing people who are not from Kiambu despite many from Kiambu who have applied to work in various hospitals on a voluntary basis.

“Our resumes are on the employer’s desk and we came along a long time ago and have been working on a voluntary basis. We heard some come in the other day and are employed leaving us waiting,” a volunteer said.

The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) workers have complained of not being adopted as health care workers of the county despite being promised that they would be considered for full employment.

This among other grievances by the health care givers have seen residents suffering from accessing health services with many patients who cannot afford private hospitals medical services travelling long distances to take advantage of free medical camps being offered in the county by well-wishers in different parts of the county and across neighbouring counties.

Why Senator Cherargei's Push For A Seven-Year Term Is Misguided

By: : Elijah Maingi
Political Commentator

Senator Samson Cherargei's proposed Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024, advocating for a seven-year term for elected leaders and the creation of a Prime Minister's office, is a step in the wrong direction. Extending presidential and parliamentary terms and reintroducing a political office abolished in 2010 would not only go against the spirit of the Constitution but would also have adverse political, social, and economic repercussions for the country.

Political Stability and Accountability

Kenya's 2010 Constitution was a product of decades of struggle, aimed at building democratic institutions, limiting executive power, and ensuring regular accountability. A five-year electoral cycle ensures that leaders are regularly held accountable by the electorate. Extending this period to seven years would erode this principle of accountability. As it stands, Kenyan citizens can evaluate their elected leaders more frequently and make changes where leadership falls short. With a seven-year term, voters would have to endure poor leadership for much longer before they can institute change, weakening the democratic principle of direct accountability.

The proposal also reflects a dangerous appetite for power consolidation. Introducing a Prime Minister, who would be appointed by the President, is a departure from Kenya's political framework,

which deliberately avoided the hybrid political system to prevent the type of executive overreach that characterized the pre-2010 era. This change could destabilize Kenya's political balance, introducing power struggles between the President and the Prime Minister, reminiscent of the fragile coalition governments of the past.

Social Consequences: Straining Democracy

Kenya's social fabric is fragile, and extending the term limits could exacerbate tensions and divisions. The regular electoral process allows for peaceful transitions of power and helps diffuse political tensions. Elections serve as a social safety valve, giving citizens the opportunity to express their frustrations through the ballot. Prolonging this period to seven years increases the likelihood of unrest, especially in regions that feel politically disenfranchised.

Kenya has experienced cycles of political violence, particularly around election periods, driven by perceptions of exclusion or marginalization. By stretching the electoral cycle, the country risks prolonging these feelings of alienation. Moreover, with the added position of Prime Minister, new ethnic or regional contestations might arise over who holds what office, leading to heightened political instability.

Economic Ramifications: Increased Costs and Uncertainty

Economically, elections are expensive. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) spends billions of shillings to organize general elections. Prolonging electoral cycles



Senator Samson Cherargei

could ostensibly reduce these costs in the short term. However, the proposal does not account for the hidden costs of poor governance and unaccountable leadership. When leaders know they will not face the electorate for seven years, it could lead to complacency, stagnation, or corruption, all of which would hinder Kenya's economic growth and stability. A five-year term provides a balance between governance and accountability while encouraging a healthy focus on delivery and results.

Furthermore, the reintroduction of the Prime Minister's office brings unnecessary bureaucratic bloat, diverting resources that could otherwise be spent on development. The political wrangling that would likely result from the new

executive arrangement would create uncertainty, potentially scaring off investors and reducing economic productivity.

A Constitutional Violation

Kenya's 2010 Constitution was clear about its intentions to streamline governance and limit the executive's reach. Article 142(1) of the Constitution provides for a presidential term of five years, renewable only once. It was a deliberate move to curtail the possibility of a return to an authoritarian presidency. The Constitution intended to prevent the prolonged rule and abuse of power that had plagued the country in the past. Additionally, the Constitution abolished the office of the Prime Minister,

opting for a more straightforward presidential system to avoid power struggles at the executive level. Reviving this office contradicts the very spirit of the Constitution's framers, who wanted a government that would deliver services efficiently and remain answerable to the people.

In a country still grappling with poverty, inequality, and corruption, the focus should be on delivering to the people—not clinging to power.

Kenya deserves better. We must reject any proposal that threatens to take us back to the dark days of unchecked leadership. Our Constitution is a symbol of progress; let's protect it.

Embu Public Health Workers Conduct Clean-Up As The World Marks Environmental Health Day

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Public Health Workers in Embu County on Thursday marked this year's World Environmental Health Day by conducting a clean-up exercise of the sprawling Shauri Slums within Embu Town.

The day is marked September 26 every year with keen focus on the importance of clean air, safe water, proper sanitation and effective waste management.

The exercise was spearheaded by the County's Chief Officer Public Health Henry Thiga, alongside a team of health workers and community members aimed at also creating awareness on the need to maintain

proper sanitation to curb spread of diseases related to poor hygiene.

He reported that 85% of diseases affecting people across the County were as a result of poor hygiene and could be avoided if cleanliness was maintained at home and in public spaces.

"Many waterborne and hygiene-related diseases can be completely eradicated if we all observe simple hygiene measures like proper waste disposal and regular cleaning," he said.

Thiga said the initiative was part of a broader county-wide public health campaign to improve sanitation, especially in areas prone to outbreaks of diseases like cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea.

Director, Public Health Paul Ngari urged residents, especially those living in informal settlements, to make

proper use of toilets and avoid open defecation, which is a major public health concern in densely populated areas.

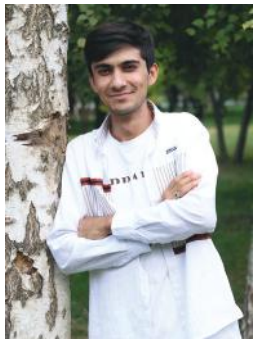
"Clean environments are not only a sign of dignity, but also a protective measure against preventable diseases," Ngari said.

He further noted that slums were particularly vulnerable to sanitation-related diseases due to overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure.

The health workers also used the opportunity to conduct a free medical checkup where residents were screened for ailment including hypertension and diabetes.



Do Not Underrate The Poet!



Do not underrate the poet!
The poet is also a person!
There is longing, there is pain,
There is love.

Do not underrate the poet!
His heart is delicate, yet generous.
Your one year
Is equal to his one day.

Do not underrate the poet!
The poet is a builder.
A true architect.
He builds the grandest edifice,
They call it: "The House of Heart."
In it, the image of the poet takes shape.

Do not underrate the poet!

The poet is a teacher.
In him resides all knowledge,
You feel, you understand,
As you read his verses more and more.

Do not underrate the poet!
The poet is a thief;
A true thief;
A "Heart" thief;
But, a righteous thief.

Do not underrate the poet!
The poet is a healer.
He provides remedies for every ailment,
His poems,
His words,
Bring healing to the soul.

Do not underrate the poet!
Lift him to the sky.
Let him soar like a bird,
Prepare your pen to write again,
Let his admirers beautify their souls,
Do not underrate the poet!
Lift him to the sky!

Lazizbek Rakhimov
Student of Bukhara state university

Life Is The Biggest Book

By: Ismigul Sobirova

Life whispers without stopping
Man is his guest
A good deed goes hand in hand
The ocean of life is endless

In a world full of obstacles
If you know the value of time and save it
Without doing what the lust says
Living is the most sacred happiness

Life is the biggest book
The more you read, the more you will learn
At that time I understood the truth
This is a great work of God

Life whispers without stopping
Man is his guest
A good deed goes hand in hand
The ocean of life is endless



Fading Light



The wind wound tight
Around the dreary day,
But lingered, lone and idle,
Its hazy light a fading spear
Struggling through clumsy clouds.

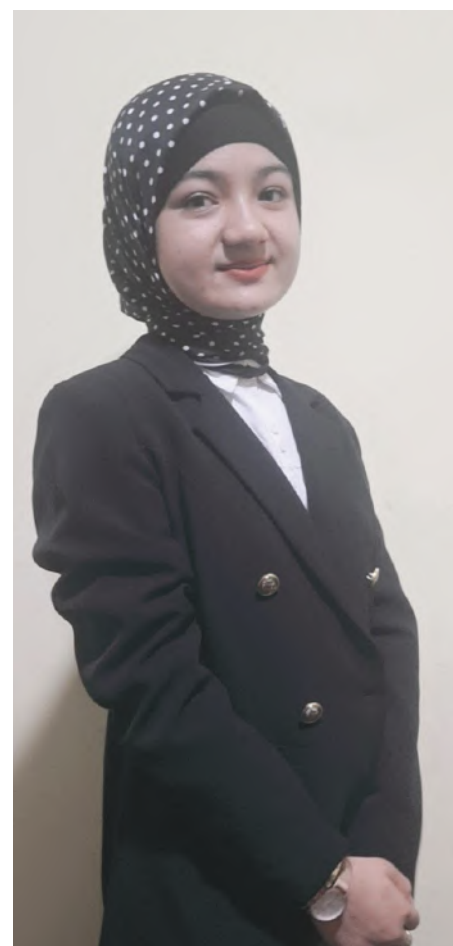
The soaked skies bristled,
Ready to weep,
Light barely clung,
Its eye peeking behind
A curtain of thick, dark mist.

The sun sank low,

Hope slipped into shadow,
As night crept forward,
Stealing the last of day.
Yet far away, a star smiled,
Only to be swallowed whole
By a beast of rain-heavy clouds.

By Simiyu S. Stanford, author of *The Ring of the Moon* and *The Biography of Robai Nabisino Makokha*, is a distinguished educator at St. Patrick's High School, Iten, and holds an M.A. in Literature... stanfordsiboe@gmail.com

To My Teacher



I took the pen in my hand first
Oqi said over and over again
She is as dignified as a mother and as
innocent as the morning
My teacher, you are the spring in my
heart

I am still running towards my school
My time is a calm blue sky
Live forever and be healthy
My teacher, you are the spring in my
heart

Faizullayeva Gulasal, daughter of Abror, was born on January 28, 2009 in Gijduvon district, Bukhara region. She is currently a 9th-grade student of school 32. Her dream is to win a grand abroad. Her goal is to go on a pilgrimage with her mother. She studies chemistry and biology, development curator. In a room donated by the assistant mayor, an English course is held for young children.

Rongai Residents In Nakuru To Benefit From A Sh52 Million Water Project

By: Esther Mwangi and Felistas Kahungu

[@themkenyaintimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- The Governor explained that the rehabilitation of the project that was currently serving over 12,500 residents across seven villages, including Lusaka, Umoja, and Tumaini, involved drilling of three boreholes, solarization, construction of elevated steel tanks, and setting up automated water kiosks to provide clean and reliable water to households, schools, and healthcare facilities.

- Ms. Kihika said for many years, most rural parts of Nakuru had to contend with the threat of water borne diseases including bilharzia, diarrhea and others and was happy that Rongai residents would have a sigh of relief since the occurrence of this diseases have been brought to a control by the availability of the clean water from the new project.



Governor Susan Kihika while launching the water project.

At least 6,000 households from Visoi ward in Rongai Sub-County will have access to clean and reliable water supply after the Nakuru County government commissioned a Sh52 million worth water project in the area.

Governor Susan Kihika who inaugurated the Umoja Water Project that was co-funded by the County Government and World Vision, said that similar projects were being initiated in all the 11 sub-counties so that both humans and livestock could have access to clean water.

The Governor regretted that Rongai residents who mostly depended on seasonal rivers, were the most affected by water scarcity in the County adding that other groups in the Sub-County including water user groups, local institutions and organizations responsible for providing water services would also benefit from the water project in addition to having their capacity and efficiency enhanced.

She added that the County was targeting to ensure that at least 80 percent of households' access clean water for domestic and commercial use in the next three years.

"We are optimistic that this project will radically change the lives of our people," said Kihika.

The Governor explained that the rehabilitation of the project that was currently serving over 12,500 residents across seven villages, including Lusaka, Umo-

ja, and Tumaini, involved drilling of three boreholes, solarization, construction of elevated steel tanks, and setting up automated water kiosks to provide clean and reliable water to households, schools, and healthcare facilities.

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Ms. Kihika affirmed that her administration was working with the national government, development partners and donors in alleviating water problems in Nakuru County and assured improved livelihood for the locals.

According to the County boss, the devolved unit has spent more than Sh800 million in the improvement and establishment of water supply infrastructure with over 70 percent of the water projects having been completed and commissioned across the 11 sub-counties while a few others were nearing completion.

She disclosed that more than 100,000 families residing in Bahati, Rongai and Subukia sub-counties were also set to benefit from the Sh15 million Morop dam water project which was expected to supply water to over 50 communal water points, 7 secondary schools,

12 primary schools, dispensaries and Kabarak University which have been afflicted with perennial water shortage for a long time.

The Governor said the move to find long and short-term water shortage solutions would contribute towards sustainable development in the county and cited Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company (Nawassco) which she said has a capacity of producing 45,000 cubic metres of water daily against a demand of 70,000 cubic metres.

She went on to say that to plug the deficit in Nakuru city and all the other 10 sub-counties, the County needed to invest heavily by drilling boreholes, construction of dams and also sharing water resources from other counties.

The Governor added that water coverage in the county had increased to more than 60 percent up from 42 percent five years ago through drilling of boreholes, increased water connections and rehabilitation of existing water projects.

The County Government has also commissioned a Sh5 million water project located at Ndabibi Secondary School in Naivasha Sub-County which is serving the community and institutions in the area.

The County Government has also invested Sh42 million in water projects in Keringet Ward, Kuresoi South since 2018.

The Governor said major long-term solutions were in the works including

the construction of Itare Dam in Ndoi-net Kuresoi North by the national government in partnership with Rift Valley Water Services Board which oversees the development and management of water resources in eight counties including Nakuru and Baringo.

Itare Dam, whose construction stalled after its contractor Cooperativa Muratoi Cementisti Di Ravenna filed for bankruptcy five years ago, was expected to provide clean drinking water to about 800,000 residents of Nakuru County. The dam is expected to yield 100,000 cubic meters of water per day.

Governor Kihika urged Nakuru residents to also play their part in conserving water adding that various short-term measures have been put in motion including rationing where necessary, water distribution by tankers where the County has committed 16,000 litre tankers to deliver water to critical areas and facilities like hospitals.

She also urged farmers to invest in rainwater harvesting structures such as water pans which would help store water when the rain season starts thus averting water shortage.

The Governor was happy that the County Assembly had endorsed several legislations aimed at conserving the environment, adding that people have encroached and cultivated around rivers posing a danger to catchment areas and called on those living along rivers to plant more trees.

Startimes Partners With Mwalimu Sacco To Drive Solar Energy Uptake

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

Startimes has announced a strategic partnership with Mwalimu National Sacco aimed at driving the uptake of solar energy solutions among its members.

The initiative will enable the Sacco members to secure financing for the purchase of solar systems, making renewable energy more accessible to educators and their communities.

Speaking at the event, Startimes Director of Solar Sam Deng emphasized the significance of the partnership, stating that it marks a key step in the company's efforts to diversify into green energy.

Mr Deng highlighted the potential long-term benefits of solar energy, both for individuals and the environment noting that the adoption of solar power not only cuts down on energy costs but also contributes to sustainability efforts, reducing the carbon footprint in the Country.

"This partnership represents a pivotal step in revolutionizing green energy solutions in our country. By



From Left: Mr Edwin Bartenga (Secretary Mwalimu Sacco), Grace Onyango (Vice chairperson Mwalimu Sacco, Mr Joel Gachari (Chairman Mwalimu Sacco, Mr Sam Deng ,Director of Energy Solar System at Startimes and Mrs Grace Njenga, Director of partnerships at Startimes Energy Solar System and Nicholas Kariuki National Treasurer Mwalimu Sacco posing for a photo after signing ceremony .

enabling educators to invest in solar technology, we are not only promoting renewable energy but also empowering them financially which is not only cost-effective but also environmentally friendly," he noted.

The Sacco's chairman Mr Joel Gachari echoed these sentiments, expressing optimism about the positive impact the partnership will have on

the Sacco's members.

"Access to solar energy is an important development, particularly for our members living in areas where grid electricity is limited. This initiative will offer them an affordable alternative, helping to improve their quality of life," said Gachari.

He noted that the partnership comes at a time when there is growing de-



From Left Grace Onyango (Vice chairperson Mwalimu Sacco, Mr Joel Gachari (Chairman Mwalimu Sacco, Mr Sam Deng, Director of Energy Solar System at Startimes and Mrs Grace Njenga, Director of partnerships at Startimes Energy Solar System displaying signed document at Mwalimu Tower Upper hill

mand for renewable energy solutions in Kenya, driven by increasing energy costs and the need to combat climate change.

Grace Njenga, Startimes Solar System Partnership Business Manager said the initiative is expected to create a ripple effect, promoting the use of clean energy in both rural and urban areas and supporting Kenya's overall efforts to enhance renewable

energy adoption.

"Our goal is to make solar energy products affordable and accessible to all Kenyans, and this partnership with Mwalimu Sacco is a major step forward. Together, we will ensure that the benefits of solar energy reach a broader population," she said.

Court Pardons Man Who Stole Six Jericans And A Blanket

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A Kenol court has pardoned a young man who had been arraigned and charged with stealing six water jerricans and a blanket.

Delivering the judgement, Senior Resident Magistrate Sheila M. Nyaga noted that the accused's predicaments seemed deeper than what was presented in court.

According to the prosecution, on September 12th in Murang'a South Sub County at around 9am, the complainant went to fetch water but found her six jerricans missing.

Alarmed, she scanned through the compound and noticed a blanket she had hanged on the fence was missing as well.

The complainant picked the remaining cans and proceeded to fetch wa-

ter when along the way something caught her attention.

She saw the blanket and moved closer only to find the accused covering himself with the blanket under a shade.

Moreover, the jerricans were beside him.

She raised the alarm and the accused fled but was accosted just a few metres away by the people who had heard the complainant's screams.

On being caught, the accused was found wearing women's undergarments namely a bra and an underwear.

This prompted the mob to call the police who arrested him and was later arraigned.

Apart from stealing the jerricans and a blanket, the suspect's mother had indicated to the court that her son had of late become a troubled child and that she was praying for him to change as he had left his own home in Kangari to live with the mother



Kenol court

and sister.

He pleaded guilty and was convicted on his plea of guilt and in mitigation

asked for forgiveness from the court.

The magistrate forgave him on the condition that he would stop being

troublesome and seek spiritual help if that would help put his life in order.

Kenya's Livestock Feed Sector Raises Concerns Over La Nina Impact

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Kenya Feed and Fodder Alliance (KeFFA) has proposed a series of measures aimed at shielding the livestock sector from the anticipated impacts of drought. Among these, the alliance stresses the urgent need to enhance fodder production to ensure adequate feed reserves throughout the dry season.
- “Stakeholders must prioritize the proper storage of all available fodder resources,” urged Ms Scholastica Mang’eng’e, KeFFA Vice-President.
- “It’s crucial to purchase as much as possible while prices remain favorable.”
- Speaking during a consultative meeting in Naivasha, she further advised aggregators and off-takers to secure contracts for feed supplies now, allowing their businesses to remain operational during challenging conditions.



Stakeholders pose for a group photo after a consultative meeting on livestock feed and fodder security. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah.

A consortium of animal feed and fodder manufacturers is calling on the government and stakeholders within the livestock value chain to take proactive measures in preparation for a potential drought anticipated later this year.

The Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) has issued a warning that the country’s food security may deteriorate between next month and January next year, largely due to the high likelihood of below-average rainfall driven by the La Nina phenomenon.

La Nina is caused by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in significant shifts in global weather patterns that can disrupt agricultural productivity.

In Kenya, it causes dry conditions during the short rainy season, from October.

The Kenya Feed and Fodder Alliance (KeFFA) has proposed a series of measures aimed at shielding the livestock sector from the anticipated impacts of drought. Among these, the alliance stresses the urgent need to enhance fodder production to ensure adequate feed reserves throughout the dry season.

“Stakeholders must prioritize the proper storage of all available fodder resources,” urged Ms Scholastica Mang’eng’e, KeFFA Vice-President.

“It’s crucial to purchase as much as possible while prices remain favorable.”

Speaking during a consultative meeting in Naivasha, she further advised aggregators and off-takers to secure contracts for feed supplies now, allowing their businesses to remain operational

during challenging conditions.

The KeFFA also appealed to financiers, urging them to offer flexible funding terms to support feed producers. This financial backing, she said, would enable producers to increase output and secure the necessary fodder storage capacity.

The request comes amid rising pressure on the livestock sector from climate change, with experts warning that the forthcoming drought may exacerbate existing challenges faced by farmers nationwide.

A 2018 study conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development revealed a staggering 60 per cent deficit in animal feed, with the most severe shortfalls occurring in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).

The situation has been worsened by rising instances of drought linked to climate change, with the prolonged drought from 2020 to 2022 being the most severe in four decades. This drought led to livestock losses estimated at Kshs 70 million, not accounting for losses in livestock body condition or ecological balance.

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

However, Ms. Christine Kalua, the President of AWARFA-N Kenya, remains optimistic. She noted that the organization is collaborating with like-minded associations, such as the KeFFA, to develop strategies in re-

sponse to potential La Nina events.

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

The KeFFA urged the government to review the feed and fodder storage capacities across the country, to ensure that all the fodder that will be harvested this season is stored to minimize or eliminate any post-harvest loss.

“Review the funding mechanisms for Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) under the drive project, and Agriculture Financing Corporation (AFC) to ensure that more loan funds are available to facilitate expansion of fodder production fields, buying and stocking of fodder,” she stated.

The alliance stressed and advocated for the government to utilize all available channels to disseminate weather forecasts. Ensuring that farmers, pastoralists, and cooperatives receive timely information, she said, will allow for informed decision-making, helping to mitigate the impacts of the dry season.

In northern Kenya, some livestock keepers are feeling optimistic about their readiness for La Niña, leveraging insights gained from previous droughts that led to the loss of thousands of camels, cattle, and goats.

Mr. Tumul Orto, a camel pastoralist and community leader from the Gabra indigenous group in Marsabit County, highlighted that herders have adjusted their grazing strategies to address the effects of climate change on their animals.

“Right now, we have sufficient water and pasture to sustain us through this event. However, emerging diseases, especially Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), often referred to as ‘Goat’s plague,’ is a significant concern for many livestock keepers in northern Kenya,” he cautiously remarked.

Approximately 70 per cent of the ruminant livestock population is located in arid and semi-arid lands, which constitute about 80 percent of the country’s land mass. These animals are primarily raised under a pastoral production system.

The livestock populations are estimated at 4 million heads of exotic dairy cattle, 16 million heads of indigenous cattle, 24 million heads of hair sheep, 34 million heads of indigenous goats, 4 million heads of camels, and 48 million indigenous poultry.

The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) through the Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems, aims to address critical challenges related to livestock keeping, specifically focusing on feed and fodder security.

AU-IBAR is a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC), led by a director, that provides strategic leadership in the development and management of animal resources across Africa.

Dr Huyam Salih, the AU-IBAR director, has called for a coordinated approach involving resources, investments, and awareness-building to ensure large-scale feed and fodder preparedness in Africa’s livestock sector.

The Pernicious Paradigm: Poverty As The Progenitor Of Societal Malaise An Interdisciplinary Exploration Of Poverty's Pervasive Impact On Human Civilization



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This “bandwidth tax,” as Shafir terms it, engenders a myopic focus on immediate needs, often at the expense of future well-being. The resultant short-term decision-making paradigm can lead to a cascade of deleterious choices, ranging from substance abuse to criminal activity, as individuals grapple with the exigencies of survival in an environment of chronic scarcity.
- Moreover, the persistent stress engendered by poverty has been shown to have epigenetic effects, potentially altering gene expression in ways that can perpetuate cycles of poverty and associated maladaptive behaviors across generations, as elucidated by the groundbreaking research of Dr. Moshe Szyf at McGill University.

The biblical aphorism that “the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10) has long been a subject of philosophical and theological debate. However, this paper posits a more nuanced and perhaps controversial perspective: that poverty, rather than money itself, serves as the primordial wellspring from which the majority of societal ills emanate.

This assertion, while seemingly paradoxical, becomes increasingly cogent when examined through the multifaceted lenses of psychology, sociology, anthropology, law, and the rich tapestry of African literature and art.

By delving into the annals of history, with a particular emphasis on the African continent, we shall elucidate the myriad ways in which poverty has insidiously woven itself into the fabric of human existence, spawning a plethora of social, economic, and moral quandaries that continue to plague our global society.

The psychological ramifications of poverty are both profound and far-reaching, extending tendrils into every aspect of human cognition and behavior.

Dr. Eldar Shafir, professor of psychology and public affairs at Princeton University, posits in his seminal work “Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much” that poverty imposes a significant cognitive tax on individuals, diminishing their capacity for long-term planning and self-control.

This “bandwidth tax,” as Shafir terms it, engenders a myopic focus on immediate needs, often at the expense of future well-being. The resultant short-term decision-making paradigm can lead to a cascade of deleterious choices, ranging from substance abuse to criminal activity, as individuals grapple with the exigencies of survival in an environment of chronic scarcity.

Moreover, the persistent stress engendered by poverty has been shown to have epigenetic effects, potentially altering gene expression in ways that can perpetuate cycles of poverty and associated maladaptive behaviors across generations, as elucidated by the groundbreaking research of Dr. Moshe Szyf at McGill University.

From a sociological perspective, poverty serves as a crucible in which social bonds are simultaneously strengthened and strained to their breaking point. The renowned French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu’s concept of “habitus” provides a valuable framework for understanding how



Poverty

poverty shapes individual and collective dispositions, creating a self-perpetuating cycle of deprivation.

The “culture of poverty” theory, first proposed by anthropologist Oscar Lewis, while controversial, highlights the ways in which adaptive behaviors necessitated by poverty can become maladaptive when perpetuated across generations. This cultural transmission of poverty-induced behaviors and attitudes can ossify into social structures that resist change, even in the face of well-intentioned interventions.

The resultant social stratification serves as a fertile breeding ground for resentment, crime, and social unrest, as eloquently articulated by sociologist William Julius Wilson in his seminal work “The Truly Disadvantaged.”

The legal ramifications of poverty are equally profound, creating a labyrinthine system in which the impoverished are disproportionately ensnared. Legal scholar Barbara Ehrenreich’s incisive analysis in “Nickel and Dimed” exposes the myriad ways in which poverty effectively criminalizes existence itself, from vagrancy laws that penalize homelessness to the punitive fines and fees that can transform minor infractions into life-altering legal ordeals.

The concept of “poverty penalties,” as elucidated by law professor Peter Edelman, illustrates how the legal system often exacerbates rather than ameliorates the conditions of poverty, creating a Kafkaesque nightmare from which escape becomes increasingly improbable.

This systemic bias against the impoverished not only undermines the fundamental principle of equality before the law but also erodes public

trust in legal institutions, potentially fomenting social unrest and vigilantism.

Anthropological studies provide a rich tapestry of evidence supporting the notion that poverty serves as a wellspring of societal ills. The work of cultural anthropologist Paul Farmer in Haiti and Rwanda has demonstrated the intricate links between poverty, structural violence, and public health crises.

Farmer’s concept of “structural violence” elucidates how poverty-induced social arrangements can inflict harm on individuals in ways that are often invisible to casual observation, yet profoundly impactful on life outcomes. Similarly, the research of medical anthropologist Nancy Scheper-Hughes in the favelas of Brazil reveals the ways in which chronic poverty can normalize violence and erode traditional kinship structures, leading to a breakdown of social cohesion and the emergence of alternative, often destructive, forms of social organization.

The annals of African history provide a particularly poignant illustration of poverty’s pernicious effects. The legacy of colonialism, with its systematic extraction of resources and disruption of traditional social structures, created a foundation of poverty that continues to reverberate through African societies.

The work of historian Walter Rodney, particularly his seminal text “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” provides a scathing indictment of the ways in which colonial exploitation created and perpetuated cycles of poverty that have proven remarkably resistant to post-independence efforts at amelioration.

The subsequent “resource curse” that

has afflicted many African nations, as explicated by political scientist Michael L. Ross, demonstrates how even apparent wealth can, paradoxically, entrench poverty and foment conflict when inequitably distributed.

The impact of poverty on African art and literature cannot be overstated, serving as both muse and antagonist to generations of creators. The works of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, particularly “Petals of Blood,” offer a searing critique of the ways in which poverty can corrupt both individuals and institutions, creating a society in which moral boundaries become increasingly blurred. Similarly, the poetry of Okot p’Bitek, especially his seminal “Song of Lawino,” provides a lyrical exploration of the cultural dissonance and social upheaval engendered by the collision of traditional African values with the poverty-inducing forces of colonialism and modernity.

These literary works serve not merely as artistic expressions but as sociological documents, offering profound insights into the lived experiences of those grappling with the multifaceted impacts of poverty.

The relationship between poverty and conflict in Africa provides a particularly stark illustration of poverty’s role as a progenitor of societal ills. The work of political scientist Paul Collier, particularly his “greed versus grievance” model of civil conflict, elucidates the ways in which poverty creates conditions ripe for exploitation by opportunistic actors.

The Lord’s Resistance Army in



Kalonzo Musyoka's Strategic Defense: A Call For Unity

Amidst Political Turmoil

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka has made a compelling statement regarding the ongoing political turbulence surrounding Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. His assertion that any impeachment motion against Gachagua should also encompass President William Ruto reflects a strategic maneuver in the current political landscape, where alliances and power dynamics are constantly shifting. Kalonzo's remarks not only serve to defend Gachagua but also highlight broader issues of accountability and governance within the current administration.

Kalonzo's position is rooted in the principle of collective responsibility. By insisting that if Gachagua is to be impeached, then Ruto must also face similar scrutiny, he underscores the interconnectedness of their leadership roles. This perspective resonates with many Kenyans who believe that leaders should be held accountable for their actions as a cohesive unit rather than isolating individuals for political expediency. In a political environment where the blame game is rampant, Kalonzo's call for a unified approach could foster a more honest dialogue about governance and responsibility.

The backdrop to this political drama is the alleged plot to impeach Gachagua, which has gained momentum amid accusations of misconduct and mismanagement. Critics argue that this move is

less about accountability and more about political maneuvering—an attempt to distract from pressing national issues such as the controversial takeover of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by the Adani Group. Kalonzo's assertion that targeting Gachagua alone serves as a diversion from these critical matters highlights a growing sentiment among opposition leaders who are wary of government tactics to shift public focus away from legitimate concerns.

Moreover, the political climate surrounding this impeachment motion reflects deeper fractures within Ruto's administration. The Deputy President has linked the impeachment efforts to a broader strategy aimed at undermining his allies through "trumped-up charges." This narrative of victimhood could resonate with constituents who perceive Gachagua as being unfairly targeted, thus potentially rallying support for him and against those perceived as orchestrating his downfall.

Kalonzo's remarks also tap into a larger discourse on the role of opposition parties in Kenya's democracy. As the Wiper leader positions himself as a defender of Gachagua, he reinforces the notion that opposition parties must remain vigilant against what they view as government overreach or manipulation. This stance not only solidifies his party's role in holding the ruling coalition accountable but also seeks to unify opposition voices

against perceived injustices within the government.

The implications of Kalonzo's call for joint impeachment proceedings extend beyond Gachagua and Ruto; they speak to the need for systemic reforms in how political accountability is approached in Kenya. If leaders are seen as operating above reproach while their subordinates face the brunt of political fallout, it perpetuates a culture of impunity that undermines public trust in governance. By advocating for collective accountability, Kalonzo is challenging this status quo and urging a reevaluation of how leadership failures are addressed.

As discussions around the impeachment motion continue, it will be crucial for all stakeholders—including MPs, civil society, and citizens—to engage in meaningful dialogue about governance standards and expectations. The political landscape is rife with opportunities for reform, and Kalonzo's position could serve as a catalyst for broader conversations about ethical leadership and accountability mechanisms in Kenya.

Furthermore, Kalonzo's comments come at a time when public sentiment is increasingly leaning towards demanding transparency and integrity from elected officials. The tragic loss of lives in recent incidents, such as school fires, has heightened public awareness regarding safety regulations and government oversight. In this context, any perceived attempts

to sidestep accountability—whether through impeachment motions or other means—will likely be met with public scrutiny.

Kalonzo's defense of Gachagua also aligns with his broader political strategy as he positions himself for future electoral contests. With an eye on the 2027 presidential elections, where he is expected to challenge President Ruto directly, Musyoka's actions serve dual purposes: protecting an ally while simultaneously reinforcing his own relevance within Kenya's opposition landscape. His past loyalty to Raila Odinga and recent moves to consolidate support within Azimio indicate that he is preparing to step into a leadership role that could reshape Kenya's political future.

Moreover, Kalonzo's charm offensive aimed at winning over key constituencies—including outreach efforts in Mount Kenya—demonstrates his commitment to building alliances across regional lines. By positioning himself as a unifying figure who stands firm against government overreach while advocating for collective accountability, he aims not only to bolster his own presidential aspirations but also to galvanize support among disillusioned voters seeking alternatives to Ruto's administration.

Ultimately, Kalonzo Musyoka's assertion that any impeachment motion against Gachagua should include President Ruto encapsulates a critical moment in Ken-

yan politics. It challenges leaders to reflect on their collective responsibilities while urging citizens to remain engaged in holding their leaders accountable. As Kenya navigates these turbulent waters, it is imperative that all parties prioritize governance over political expediency, fostering an environment where ethical leadership can thrive.

In conclusion, Kalonzo's strategic defense serves not only to protect his political ally but also to advocate for a more equitable approach to accountability within Kenya's leadership structure. As Kenyans watch these developments unfold, they will undoubtedly weigh the implications of this political maneuvering on their trust in government institutions and their leaders' commitment to serving the public good. The outcome of this situation may very well shape the future dynamics of Kenya's political landscape and its approach to governance in an increasingly complex world.

As Kenya approaches another election cycle with heightened expectations for transparency and ethical governance, Kalonzo Musyoka stands at a pivotal crossroads—one where his actions today could define not only his legacy but also the future trajectory of opposition politics in Kenya.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Navigating The Complexities Of Impeachment: A Look At The Grounds For Removing Kenya's Deputy President

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The political landscape in Kenya is often marked by intense rivalries and power struggles, and the ongoing discussions surrounding the potential impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua have brought these dynamics to the forefront. As calls for his removal gain traction, it is essential to understand the constitutional framework governing the impeachment process for a Deputy President in Kenya. This framework not only outlines the grounds for impeachment but also reflects broader themes of accountability and governance in the country.

According to the Kenyan Constitution, there are two primary grounds for impeaching a Deputy President: physical or mental incapacity to perform the functions of the office, and impeachment based on specific violations or misconduct. These provisions are crucial in ensuring that leaders are held accountable for their actions while also safeguarding against arbitrary removals that could undermine democratic processes.

The first ground for impeachment is physical or mental incapacity. This provision allows members of the National Assembly to initiate a motion if there are concerns about a Deputy President's ability to fulfill their duties due to health issues. Such a motion requires support from at least a quarter of all members of the National Assembly, emphasizing the need for collective agreement before proceeding with investigations into a leader's capacity. This process underscores the impor-

ance of due diligence and fairness in assessing a leader's ability to serve.

The second ground is impeachment based on gross violation of the Constitution or any other law, serious allegations of criminal activity under national or international law, or gross misconduct. This broad category allows for a range of accusations, from ethical breaches to criminal conduct, providing flexibility in addressing various forms of misconduct that may arise during a Deputy President's tenure. The inclusion of serious criminal allegations reflects an understanding that leaders must adhere to both legal and ethical standards.

The impeachment process begins when a member of the National Assembly moves a motion supported by at least one-third of its members. If this threshold is met, the Speaker must inform the Senate, which then has seven days to appoint a special committee to investigate the allegations. This committee plays a critical role in determining whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant further action.

Once appointed, the committee has ten days to report back to the Senate on whether the allegations have been substantiated. If they find no grounds for impeachment, further proceedings cease, allowing the Deputy President to continue in office. However, if they substantiate the claims, the Senate will convene to vote on each charge against the Deputy President after giving them an opportunity to defend themselves.

For impeachment to succeed, at least two-thirds of all Senators must vote in favor. This high threshold reflects an

understanding that removing a sitting Deputy President is a significant action that should not be taken lightly. It ensures that such decisions are made with broad consensus rather than partisan interests. The requirement for substantial evidence and support underscores the seriousness of impeachment as a political tool.

The current discussions around Gachagua's potential impeachment highlight deeper political fractures within Kenya's ruling coalition. Allegations against him include undermining President William Ruto's leadership and causing divisions within their administration. The political narrative surrounding Gachagua has evolved into one where he positions himself as a victim of political machinations aimed at destabilizing his office.

Kalonzo Musyoka's assertion that any impeachment motion against Gachagua should also implicate Ruto underscores this narrative of collective responsibility among leaders. By framing it this way, he not only defends Gachagua but also challenges Ruto's leadership and accountability within their coalition. This dynamic raises questions about loyalty and trust within political alliances, revealing how quickly relationships can sour in Kenya's volatile political environment.

The potential fallout from an impeachment could further strain relationships among leaders who once presented a united front. It also reflects broader societal sentiments regarding accountability; many Kenyans are increasingly demanding transparency and integrity from their leaders. The public's grow-

ing impatience with corruption and mismanagement makes it imperative for politicians to act responsibly and transparently.

As discussions about impeachment unfold, civil society organizations play an essential role in advocating for transparency and accountability in governance. Their involvement can help ensure that any impeachment proceedings are conducted fairly and transparently, allowing for public participation and scrutiny throughout the process. Civil society can serve as a watchdog against political manipulation during these proceedings, ensuring that due process is followed.

Given that impeachment is inherently political, it is crucial that stakeholders remain vigilant to prevent abuses of power or attempts to sidestep accountability through partisan maneuvering. The involvement of civil society can help maintain public trust in democratic processes during such turbulent times.

The implications of Gachagua's potential removal extend beyond his personal fate; they could reshape Kenya's political landscape significantly. If he is impeached, it would set a precedent regarding how leaders are held accountable for their actions while in office. Conversely, if he survives this challenge, it may embolden other leaders who might feel insulated from scrutiny due to their positions.

Ultimately, Kalonzo Musyoka's assertion that any impeachment motion against Gachagua should include President Ruto encapsulates a critical moment in Kenyan politics. It challenges

leaders to reflect on their collective responsibilities while urging citizens to remain engaged in holding their leaders accountable. As Kenya navigates these turbulent waters, it is imperative that all parties prioritize governance over political expediency, fostering an environment where ethical leadership can thrive.

In conclusion, the grounds for impeaching Kenya's Deputy President are clearly defined within the Constitution, reflecting both accountability mechanisms and protections against arbitrary removal from office. As Rigathi Gachagua faces potential impeachment amidst serious allegations, it is vital for all stakeholders—politicians, civil society, and citizens—to engage thoughtfully with this process.

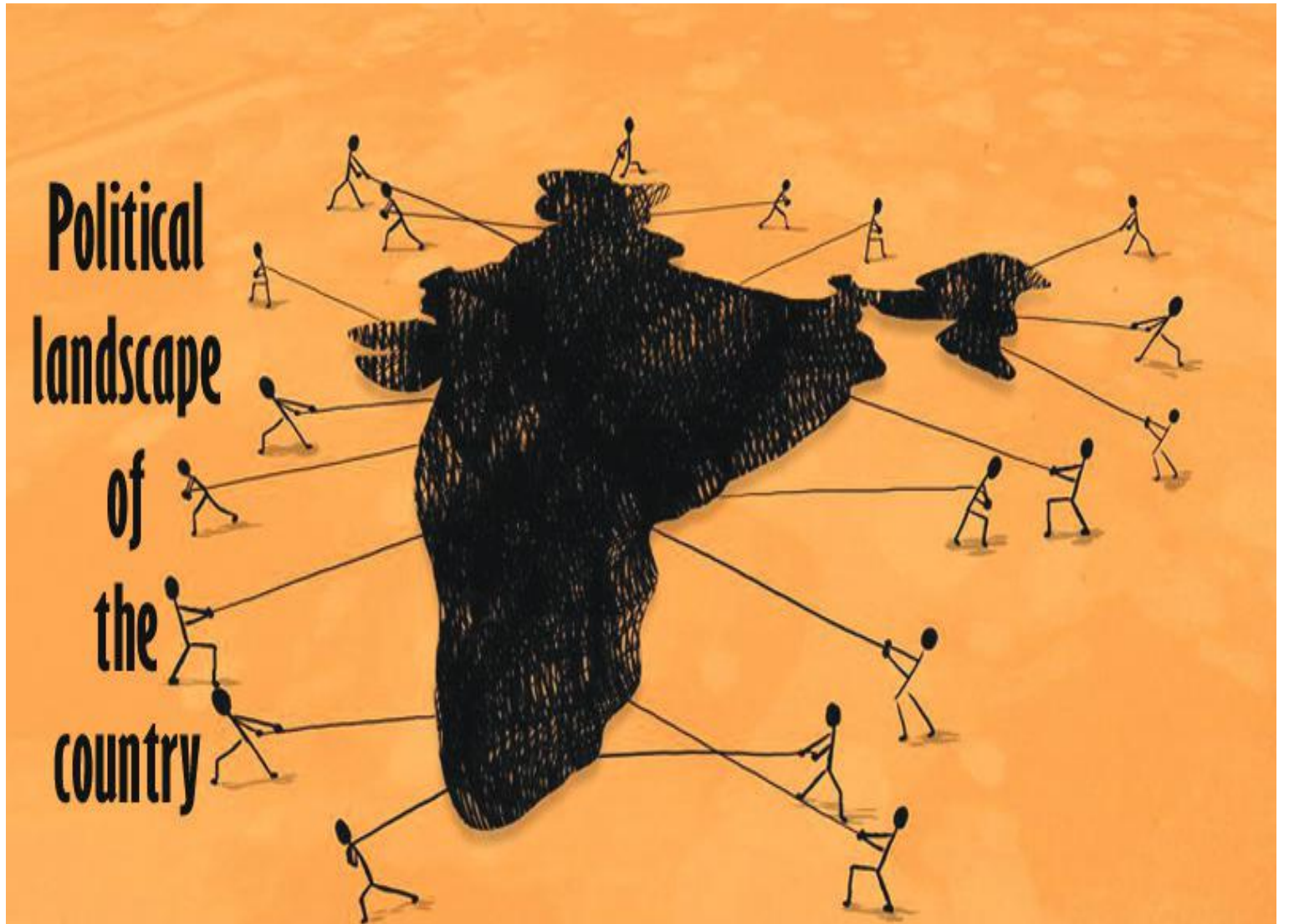
As Kenyans watch these developments closely, they will undoubtedly weigh their implications on future governance and leadership standards in an increasingly complex world. The outcome could either reinforce or undermine public trust in political institutions depending on whether leaders prioritize accountability over political expediency. In this critical juncture for Kenyan democracy, how leaders navigate these challenges will determine not only their political futures but also set standards for governance moving forward.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

The Political Landscape: A Kaleidoscope Of Colors



By: Midmark Onsongo
 @themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Elections, the periodic contests for political power, are the mechanisms through which citizens choose their representatives and hold them accountable. The political landscape is also characterized by a diversity of ideologies and platforms. Ideologies, the underlying beliefs and values that shape political thought, provide a framework for understanding political issues and developing policy solutions.
- Platforms, the formal statements of a political party's policies and positions, are the blueprints for governance. Despite its best intentions, the political landscape is often marred by challenges such as corruption and inefficiency. Corruption, the abuse of power for personal gain, undermines the integrity of government and erodes public trust. Inefficiency, the failure to achieve desired outcomes, can lead to frustration and disillusionment among citizens.

The political landscape is a vibrant tapestry, woven with threads of diverse ideologies, personalities, and aspirations. It's a tumultuous sea, where currents of change ebb and flow, shaping the destiny of nations. From the hallowed halls of parliament to the bustling streets of grassroots activism, politics is a dynamic force that permeates every aspect of our lives.

At the heart of the political landscape are the players: the politicians, the bureaucrats, and the citizens. Politicians, the elected representatives of the people, are the architects of policy, the champions of their constituents, and the faces of government. Bureaucrats, the often unsung heroes of the political machine, are the implementers of policy, the guardians of the status quo, and the gatekeepers of power. Citizens, the ultimate arbiters of political legitimacy, are the voters, the activists, and the watchdogs of democracy.

The political landscape is shaped by a complex interplay of institutions and processes. Legislatures, the lawmaking bodies of governments, are the arenas where policies are debated, amended, and enacted. Executives, the chief decision-makers of governments, are responsible for

implementing policies and ensuring that the government functions effectively. Judiciaries, the guardians of the law, interpret and apply the law to specific cases.

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Platforms, the formal statements of a political party's policies and positions, are the blueprints for governance. Despite its best intentions, the political landscape is often marred by challenges such as corruption and inefficiency. Corruption, the abuse of power for personal gain, undermines the integrity of government and erodes public trust. Inefficiency, the failure to achieve desired outcomes, can lead to frustration and disillusionment among citizens.

Despite the challenges, the political landscape also offers opportunities for innovation and progress. By embracing new technologies, promoting good governance, and fostering civic engagement, we can create a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

The future of the political landscape is uncertain, but it is clear that we must work together to build a better world. We must hold our leaders accountable, participate in the democratic process, and advocate for policies that promote the common good.

By doing so, we can create a political landscape that is more responsive, inclusive, and resilient.

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and holding politicians accountable. A free and independent press is essential for a healthy democracy. However, the rise of fake news and misinformation has challenged the credibility of traditional media outlets.

Technology has transformed the political landscape in recent years. Social media platforms have empowered citizens to connect with each other, organize protests, and hold politicians accountable. However, technology has also been used to spread misinformation and manipulate public opinion.

Civic engagement is essential for a thriving democracy. Citizens must

be active participants in the political process. They should vote, contact their elected officials, and get involved in community organizations. Political polarization is a growing concern in many countries. The increasing divide between political parties and ideologies can make it difficult to find common ground and solve pressing problems.

The future of democracy is uncertain. The challenges we face are significant, but so too are the opportunities. By working together and embracing innovation, we can build a better world for future generations. The political landscape is a complex and ever-evolving phenomenon. It is a place of both hope and despair, of triumph and tragedy. By understanding the players, the institutions, the ideologies, and the challenges, we can become more engaged and informed citizens. Let us work together to create a political landscape that is just, equitable, and sustainable for all.

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

M-PESA Foundation Fistula Camp In Migori County Set To Benefit 120 Women

The camp was organised by the M-PESA Foundation, Flying Doctors' Society of Africa, Migori County among other partners cost KES 9million.

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Over 120 women living with fistula are expected to benefit from free surgeries, screening, and medical advice during a week-long camp at Migori County Referral Hospital.

M-PESA Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Migori County Government, UNFPA, Flying Doctors' Society of Africa, among other partners, organised the free fistula camp that will run until 2nd October, invested KES 9 million.

"Since 2021, we have restored the dignity of more than 1,000 women living with fistula through treatment and free reconstructive surgeries. We strongly urge more women to get screened and take advantage of

these medical camps for free surgeries," said Nicholas Ng'ang'a, M-Pesa Foundation Chairman.

The Foundation aims to impact at least 1000 women by the end of this year as it affirms its efforts to restore dignity in the community. In addition to direct medical intervention, the M-PESA Foundation is working on upgrading hospitals and healthcare facilities to better monitor and treat fistula cases promptly, therefore ultimately reducing the prevalence of fistula.

"Female Genital Fistula is a human rights concern impacting the most vulnerable. At the Flying Doctors' Society of Africa, we address the socio-economic, cultural, and mental health factors perpetuating this condition. By collaborating with our partners, communities, and governments, we aim to break the cycle of Female Genital Fistula. Let us unite to eliminate obstetric fistula and restore hope



and dignity to women across Africa," remarked Tanya Nduati, CEO of the Flying Doctors' Society of Africa.

As part of its efforts to support maternal and child health, M-Pesa Foundation will also distribute Mama

Packs to new mothers at Nyamira County Referral Hospital and Kimaiti Dispensary in Bungoma County.

The Pernicious Paradigm: Poverty As The Progenitor Of Societal Malaise An Interdisciplinary Exploration Of Poverty's Pervasive Impact On Human Civilization

Contd from page 18

Uganda, the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone, and myriad other militant groups across the continent have exploited the desperation engendered by poverty to recruit soldiers and foment conflict.

This symbiotic relationship between poverty and conflict creates a self-perpetuating cycle, with each feeding into and exacerbating the other, as poignantly illustrated in the works of journalist Michela Wrong.

The health implications of poverty in Africa provide yet another lens through which to view its role as a source of societal malaise. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has ravaged much of sub-Saharan Africa, is inextricably linked to conditions of poverty, as elucidated by the research of epidemiologist James Chin.

Poverty-induced malnutrition, lack

of access to healthcare, and the breakdown of traditional social support structures have all contributed to the spread and impact of the disease. Moreover, the economic devastation wrought by the epidemic has, in turn, deepened poverty, creating a pernicious feedback loop that continues to challenge public health efforts across the continent.

The environmental consequences of poverty in Africa provide a sobering illustration of its far-reaching impacts. The work of environmental economist Edward B. Barbier highlights the ways in which poverty-induced resource exploitation can lead to environmental degradation, which in turn exacerbates poverty.

This "poverty-environment trap," as Barbier terms it, is particularly evident in the deforestation of the Congo Basin and the desertification of the Sahel region. These environmental changes, driven by the immediate needs of impoverished populations, have long-term consequences that further entrench poverty and poten-

tially sow the seeds for future conflicts over increasingly scarce resources.

The impact of poverty on education in Africa serves as a poignant example of how deprivation in one generation can perpetuate cycles of disadvantage. The work of development economist Esther Duflo has demonstrated the myriad ways in which poverty impedes access to and quality of education.

From the opportunity costs that keep children out of school to the cognitive impacts of malnutrition on learning capacity, poverty creates a multifaceted barrier to educational attainment. This educational deficit, in turn, limits economic opportunities, creating an intergenerational transmission of poverty that proves remarkably resistant to intervention.

The role of poverty in driving migration, both within Africa and to other continents, provides yet another illustration of its far-reaching societal impacts.

The work of migration scholar Ste-

phen Castles elucidates the complex interplay between poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation in driving human movement. These migration flows, while often a rational response to local conditions of scarcity, can strain resources and social cohesion in receiving areas, potentially sowing the seeds for future conflicts.

Moreover, the brain drain associated with the emigration of skilled professionals from impoverished regions creates a self-reinforcing cycle of underdevelopment, as articulated by economist William Easterly.

In examining the multifaceted impacts of poverty, it becomes clear that its tentacles reach into every aspect of human existence, from the psychological to the sociological, from the legal to the environmental.

The works of African literary giants Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka provide a fitting denouement to this exploration. Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" offers a poignant illustration of how poverty, both material and

cultural, can erode traditional social structures and values, leading to a societal disintegration that resonates far beyond the immediate economic sphere.

Soyinka's play "Death and the King's Horseman" similarly explores the psychological and cultural impacts of poverty-induced social change, demonstrating how economic deprivation can lead to a poverty of spirit that is perhaps even more pernicious than material want.

As we grapple with the complex challenges of the 21st century, it behooves us to recognize poverty not merely as a symptom of societal dysfunction, but as a fundamental driver of the myriad ills that plague our global community. Only by addressing this root cause can we hope to create a more equitable, stable, and prosperous world for all.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

From Subsistence To Large-Scale Farming; The Story Of Pembeni Farms

By: William Oloo
 @themkenyatimes

Eglyne Chepchirchir Choge of Pembeni Farms in Trans-Nzoia County has significantly expanded her farming operations thanks to a loan from Equity.

From a small-scale farmer, Eglyne grew her venture to cultivating 10 acres of land and eventually acquired 400 acres where she farms: 200 acres of maize, rears 120 dairy and beef cattle, and keeps hundreds of poultry. She has also ventured into horticulture, specifically cabbage farming, and has excavated a dam for irrigation and water storage.

Equity's support has been crucial in the growth of the farming business enabling her to expand to the farm, acquire a tractor, install solar power, and build an additional dam for irrigation.

The bank has also provided financing for farm inputs like fertilizer.

"I decided to upgrade my tractor after visiting Sasumua Agriculture

Model Farm during a Farmer Exchange Program in Laikipia, where the bank facilitated a learning experience on improved farming practices," Eglyne said. She praised Equity for its pivotal role in her success: "With the bank's support, I have grown substantially from a first loan of Ksh60,000, I can now access millions. My experience with the bank has been exceptional since 2015, helping me transition from small-scale to large-scale farming."

Rift Valley Regional General Manager Stanley Ng'ang'a highlighted the bank's commitment to agriculture saying, "Today, we deliver a Case 125 tractor, advancing agro-mechanization to improve productivity, conserve moisture, and save fuel, which translates to increased profits. We've supported Eglyne's farming acreage and diversification to horticulture while linking her to market partners. We've also financed a 700 metric tonnes water pan which is in line with our Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan, where food and agriculture is a key focus."

"We train farmers through modern farming techniques and expose them



Eglyne Chepchirchir Choge starts the engine of the newly acquired tractor. Looking on is Rift Valley Regional General Manager Stanley Ng'ang'a (left) and Michael Chege (right), the Branch Growth and Development Manager at Kitale Branch.

to model farms. We support them in moving away from rain-fed agriculture by empowering them with boreholes and water pans, and we provide insurance to mitigate risks," Stanley added.

Michael Chege, Branch Growth and

Development Manager at the Kitale Branch, noted, "We've helped Eglyne transition from micro loans to commercial loans, unlocking financial cash flow and facilitating the acquisition of machinery and inputs.

Her participation in our farmer ex-

change program has greatly enhanced her skills and farming practices."

Equity is also leading in clean energy solutions, offering solar installations for water pumping and financing biogas for dairy farmers, which reduces cooking costs.

Civil Society Network Calls On NCIC To Rein In Hate Speeches In Mombasa Social Media Platforms

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Coast Civil Society Network for Human Rights (CCSNH) wants the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) to probe the conduct of politicians using bloggers to besmirch their opponents.

This comes amid a surge in rising political tensions in the Port City of Mombasa as netizens used various social media platforms to hurl insults at leaders who disagreed with their school of thought.

The political class were encouraged to uphold high integrity and to control their supporters not to abuse the rights of others.

"It must not be abusive and be seen like an act of a third party. They must be a link," said CCSNH Chairperson Zedekiah Adika at his office in Tudor, Mombasa.

Adika called for the introduction of the registration of bloggers so that their online conduct could be

checked.

"There are a lot of facts that people can engage on and it must not be smeared to lower the dignity of the public of Kenya and the offices within the Republic," he said.

The Network sympathized with what befell a Mombasa-based blogger Bruce John who was allegedly abducted, assaulted and sodomized over a social media post that irked a top county official.

They condemned the odious act and buttressed the courage of the blogger to speak out when the atrocities were meted against him.

"We condemn fully, it is something that shouldn't happen to another person whatever the actions that underline his conduct," he said.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution were commended for their swift action when the case was reported as four suspects were charged at the

Shanzu Law Court and more were expected to be arrested in connection with the case.

The agencies were advised to do a



Zedekiah Adika

thorough probe and charge all parties regardless of their position in government.

"There should not be any form of discrimination against people who meted the atrocities against this gentleman. Investigations should continue and should be very targeted to all persons of interest and planners of

this act," stated Adika.

He added the rights of Public Officers who would be charged should be protected but should step down until the prosecution process is complete so as not to be accused of interfering with investigation.

He urged the Police and the Judiciary to execute their mandates without

fear or favour as they handled the public interest case. He called for the protection of witnesses by the Witness Protection Agency.

"The State must move with principles of candor to ensure that all parties are treated within the law," said Adika.

Kenya Yet To Learn How To Exploit Its Maritime Resources

As The World Marked International Maritime Day On Thursday, It Emerged That The Country Is Struggling To Reap From The Resources In The 31 Extra Counties Offered By Its Seas And Oceans

By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya is just nibbling at the shipping, fishing, mining, tourism and sports opportunities offered by its seas, lakes and ocean access, equivalent to more than 31 extra counties in surface area.

Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, Special Advisor on Blue Economy at the Executive Office of the President of Kenya, says the Indian Ocean waters bodies stretch from the shore line; as per international conventions and could mean an area equivalent to 31 more counties.

“We are ignoring a big chunk of our resources,” she said.

Other liquid estates include Lake Victoria, the third largest fresh water lake in the world; after Caspian Sea in Russia and Lake Superior in Canada and United States.

Lake Turkana, also called the Jade Sea, has a lot of unexploited resources - enormous potential in tourism and fisheries.

“We have unique water bodies that remain unexploited,” she said.

She spoke on a TV47 interview as world marked the International Maritime Day on Thursday.

According to the Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Dominguez this year’s World Maritime Day theme: “Navigating the future: safety first!” calls for collective effort to ensure we keep pace with the ongoing transformation in shipping”.

“And at IMO, we must ensure the continued development and implementation of the regulatory regime to prioritize safety as we steer towards tomorrow,” he said in a statement.

Karigithu said Kenya has are incredible resources with opportunities to exploit food, tourism, transport, aqua culture which can create jobs and boost exports among others.

For instance, the upwelling conditions in the Indian ocean often dumps fish from as far as Australia on Kenyan shores”.

Karigithu has more than 37 years’ experience in the maritime sector, having formerly worked as a Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime affairs after serving as Director-General and Chief Executive at Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA).

She described the Blue Economy as a generic term that describes economic exploitation of oceans, inland



Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, Special Advisor on Blue Economy at the Executive Office of the President of Kenya.

water bodies and seas.

“The world should be called Planet Ocean and not Planet Earth. About 71 per cent of the world is water even when you exclude inland waters. We are told that we don’t know half of the resources available under the sea, both living and non-living assets,” she said.

Karigithu said as Kenyans, we have turned our backs the sea concentrate on real estate and agriculture. “Everyone is focusing on the sea... we had a slow start – realisation has been slow, came late. The island nations have been faster because they do not have excess land. But in our region, land is now becoming very scarce,” she said.

Going forward, there are so many opportunities in the global blue economy for Kenyans. “How can we gain from it? We have come of age as a maritime nation.

Global events indicate it is time Africa reaped from its maritime resources, and Kenya should be the springboard to show what Africa can

do,” she said.

Unfortunately, there has been too much focus on brick and mortar investments. “Investors should now look into the water economy investments.

There are demographic dividends to reaped; Kenyans already speak English well, the language of the safety globally. Our youth are techno savvy, but we need more training in the maritime sector,” she said.

She congratulated Mount Kenya University (MKU) for gaining accreditation of its new Malindi Maritime Academy from the Kenya Maritime Authority in Malindi town.

She appealed to the private sector to do feasibility studies on investment opportunities in water bodies, such as cottage industries to support this sector.

“We are headed for automation, but there is still a demand for skilled workers,” she added.

When Covid-19 shut the whole world in 2020-22 some crews could not travel or take leave and shippers

were desperate for ports open for crew change.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict also cut off 14 per cent of the supply of shipping crews. Global shipping is looking for crew changes in Africa,” she said.

Karigithu said young people in the shipping industry are not judged on university cut off points. Most immigrant professionals have to under bureaucratic exams and supervisions in the developed world, but in shipping there are no such barriers.

“A ship captain with 36 years’ experience says he started off as a cook. Let’s open the world to our youth,” she said.

On gender, Karigithu said the shipping industry has been a man’s world. Only two percent of seafarers globally are women, yet the world cannot transform with only men;



Worth Noting:

- According to the Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Dominguez this year’s World Maritime Day theme: “Navigating the future: safety first!” calls for collective effort to ensure we keep pace with the ongoing transformation in shipping”.
- “And at IMO, we must ensure the continued development and implementation of the regulatory regime to prioritize safety as we steer towards tomorrow,” he said in a statement.
- Karigithu said Kenya has are incredible resources with opportunities to exploit food, tourism, transport, aqua culture which can create jobs and boost exports among others.
- For instance, the upwelling conditions in the Indian ocean often dumps fish from as far as Australia on Kenyan shores”.

Medics Optimistic As Cases Of Advanced Cancer Decline

By: William Muchiri

@themkenyatimes

Medics at the Kenyatta University Teaching Research and Referral Hospital (KUTRRH) have reported a decline in advanced cases of cancer being diagnosed at the facility, giving a ray of hope as the country seeks to tackle the disease.

According to the medics, people diagnosed with stage 3 and 4 cancer are getting fewer with most of the cases reported being Stage 1 and Stage 2.

The Hospital Board Chairperson Prof Olive Mugenda said while it was unclear why there has been a reduction in the cases, it presented optimism in tackling the disease.

“Of late, our tests show that the number of patients being diagnosed with cancer at advanced stages is declining. Instead, more people are being diagnosed with Stage One and Stage Two of the disease, offering much needed hope and optimism to the treatment of the disease,” Prof

Mugenda said.

She was speaking at the facility on Thursday when the hospital acquired five new ultrasound machines used in testing cancer and other procedures.

She said the real reason for the apparent reduction, though not clear, might be attributed to the fact that more people were going for testing early.

She noted that early screening helped in managing the disease and called on Kenyans to take up their initiative and establish their cancer status early.

Prof Mugenda further said the new equipment were bought through the Ministry of Health at a cost of Sh46 million, bringing to 13 the total number that the facility has so far.

She said the equipment would come handy in testing patients for cancer and hasten the commencement of treatment, now that the new health cover would fully cater for the cost of treating the disease.

Recently, Health Director General Dr. Patrick Amoth announced that the new Social Health Insurance Fund



KUTRRH board chairperson Prof. Olive Mugenda and other officials during the reception of new machines.

(SHIF) that is set to be launched by the government on Tuesday would fully cover cancer treatment.

While calling on Kenyans to register with the new cover, Dr. Amoth said the cover would help the more than one million families that might be impoverished while treating the disease.

Mugenda also said the additional equipment would drastically reduce the waiting time for patients coming to the hospital for tests and cumulatively increase the number of those who go through various procedures daily.

The Acting Director Clinical Services Dr. Kerama Onyimbo said the

newly acquired machines were different in that they could operate for 24 hours without any interruption and more patients would therefore access services faster.

Kenya Yet To Learn How To Exploit Its Maritime Resources

Contd from page 23

half the gender.

She said South Korea’s industrialization relied heavily from the experiences, connections, training and investments from its workers in the global maritime industry.

Challenges

Karigithu admitted that there are many drawbacks in the sector.

“Most seas are under no man’s jurisdiction and there governance issues. There is ongoing digitization and cybersecurity issues.

How do we navigate into the future while keeping an eye on the ball?”

For instance, in June 2017, a Cyber-attack on logistics company Maersk affected shipping terminals worldwide and even led to the shutdown of the Port of Los Angeles, one of the

largest cargo terminals, in the world for a few days. Operations were disrupted, ports closed and Maersk resulted to conducting business on paper just to get goods moving from ships to the shore again. The attack cost the Danish shipping giant \$300 million (Ksh38.7 billion), and it has definitely changed the way the shipping industry looks at cybersecurity. “We are interconnected as a global community and shipping is vital,” Karigithu observed. In March 2021, the Suez Canal was blocked for six days by the Ever Given, a container ship that had run aground in the canal.

By 28 March, at least 369 ships were queuing to pass through the canal, stranding an estimated US\$9.6 billion worth of trade. Kenya’s imports and exports delayed, causing millions in losses.

Technology Transfer Issues

Karigithu said there is a whole lot of research that will involve experts

in future (maritime workers) which Kenya lacks at the moment.

Ongoing technology changes in the shipping industry means training and re-training of staff. “Changes are needed in all countries so that we can all move together.

For instance, current fleets are on fossil fuels but the future means retro-fitting, changes on propulsion systems and making the systems and infrastructure at ports ready. Staff must be trained to work with new fuels. There are whole new areas of infrastructure both on shore and off shore to work on,” she said.

And whereas the future is in clean and green fuels, information is lacking. The new fuels means the transportation, production, storage and the whole supply chain changes. We need new standards at the ports.

A whole new research on the implications for Kenya is needed.

“We may not the resources as the developing world, so IMO (International Maritime Authority, the global maritime standards and rules



Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, Special Advisor on Blue Economy at the Executive Office of the President of Kenya.

setting body) must come up with a balance of changes and time limits so that the developed and undeveloped countries move together. Un-

fortunately, Africa is caught up in international funding bottlenecks that limit access to finance.

Vulnerable Households To Benefit In A World Bank Funded Programme

By: KNA



Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizens' Affairs Joseph Motari explaining how the programme works

Worth Noting:

- “The pilot programme was done in five counties in 2020 and now we are implementing a second phase which will bring in 25 counties. The aim of this programme is to graduate the poor from extreme poverty to a level of earning income in small projects,” said the PS when he visited the beneficiaries in several parts of Murang’a on Wednesday.
- He continued, “It’s our wish to roll out the programme in all counties but we have started with people from arid and semi-arid areas.”
- Motari further said the beneficiaries have been allocated mentors who will train and guide them on viable businesses ideas.

Some 15, 000 extremely vulnerable households drawn from arid and semi areas within 25 counties are listed to benefit with funds to establish income generating projects.

The families are slated to get Sh30,000 in a programme dubbed Economic Inclusion funded by the World Bank and the government.

Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizens’ Affairs Joseph Motari has affirmed the listed households will start receiving the transfer seed capital from next month.

In the programme, each family is also expected to receive Sh2, 000 monthly stipends to help in purchasing food among other basic commodities.

Motari said the programme scheduled to take one year is aimed to support the less fortunate have a source of livelihood even after the end of the programme.

“The pilot programme was done in five counties in 2020 and now we are implementing a second phase which will bring in 25 counties. The aim of this programme is to graduate the poor from extreme poverty to a level of earning income in small projects,” said the PS when he visited the beneficiaries in several parts

of Murang’a on Wednesday.

He continued, “It’s our wish to roll out the programme in all counties but we have started with people from arid and semi-arid areas.”

Motari further said the beneficiaries have been allocated mentors who will train and guide them on viable businesses ideas.

“Families which were included in the pilot phase are doing well. Majority established small businesses which currently are growing to medium investments and that’s the goal of this programme of graduating the poor to a better economic level,” he added.

In Murang’a County, a total of 1, 500 beneficiaries drawn from two sub counties; Maragua and Murang’a east are included in the programme.

Motari explained that the funds for seed capital will be given in two tranches, where initially each household will receive Sh20, 000 and later Sh10, 000.

“The beneficiaries will be monitored and guided to ensure the seed capital funds are prudently utilised. Our target is to see the families are left in a better financial position,” he noted.

The PS averred that the families

were selected from an enhanced single register that was done in 2022, which has ranked the households in terms of their vulnerability.

“Community leaders and national government administrators have also helped in ensuring we have the most deserving families in the programme,” he stated.

Motari called upon the families to prudently utilize the funds and establish sustainable projects which will be a lasting solution from their vulnerability status.

Meanwhile the PS noted all beneficiaries of cash transfer will start receiving their monthly stipend through mobile money services by closure of this year.

He noted that the beneficiaries of orphans and vulnerable children and those with disabilities are already receiving their stipend through their mobile phones.

“Beneficiaries of Inua Jamii are yet to be included in mobile phone money services but we are working out to ensure all the 1.7 million beneficiaries start getting their monthly stipend through their phones come December this year,” he remarked.

On his part, Murang’a County Commissioner Joshua Nkanatha said the families listed in the pro-

gramme from the county were thoroughly vetted to ensure they are the most deserving.

Nkanatha said the small businesses that were established by beneficiaries of cohort 1 are doing well assuring them of security of their enterprises.

“This programme has highly assisted poor families who were factored in cohort 1 and we hope those being included in the second cohort will invest wisely the funds they are given,” he added.

One of the beneficiaries of cohort 1, Mary Nduta appreciated the programme saying when she was given a seed capital of Sh30, 000 she started the business of selling water.

Nduta from Kabuta area in Murang’a East Sub County explained she approached a local water firm who set up for her a water kiosk where she currently ekes her livelihood.

“The money I was given back in 2021, enabled me to open a water kiosk and currently I sell water to local residents. Am a widow and the enterprise helps me cater for my family expenses. Initially I used to search for menial work from people’s farms to get some money for food,” narrated Nduta.

Sports >> *Just a day after the newly constituted Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Electoral Board announced December 7, 2024, as the date for FKF national elections, Kakamega Homeboyz chairman Cleophas Shimanyula has announced his interest to vie for the presidential seat.

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Kakamega Homeboyz Chairman Cleophas Shimanyula Enters Race for FKF Top Seat



Kakamega Homeboyz Chairman Cleophas Shimanyula .

By: **Brian Dennis**

Just a day after the newly constituted Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Electoral Board announced December 7, 2024, as the date for FKF national elections, Kakamega Homeboyz chairman Cleophas Shimanyula has announced his interest to vie for the presidential seat.

On Thursday, September 26, the Electoral Board chaired by Hesbon Owilla announced the date for the eagerly awaited exercise while County elections will be conducted on November 9 and 10, 2024 respectively.

Meanwhile, verification of candidates to contest for various seats will be held on November 15 and 18 while publication of the names will be done on November 19. The hearing of any disputes arising from the process have been set for between November 24 to 26.

Shimanyula Promises to Revive Kenyan Football

In an exclusive interview with SportsBoom.com, Shimanyula confirmed he will be in the ballot for the top seat and promised to beat the other contestants.

So far, it is not clear whether current FKF President Nick Mwendwa will defend his seat, having served for two terms as required in the constitution.

“I want to declare my candidature for the top seat during the upcoming FKF elections and I am confident of winning with a landslide,” Shimanyula told SportsBoom.com.

“I have been following the happenings in Kenyan football, and many people (across the football family) have been asking me to come in and save the game from sinking deeper, so I want to state categorically that I have taken the advice of the voice of the people, and will be in the ballot.”

Asked why he had taken long time to announce his position, Shimanyula, who is fondly referred to as “Toto” said: “We wanted the Electoral Board to give out the roadmap first (before I declared), remember we have been having court cases delaying the process and it could not have been fair to state my plans while the process was not on going.”

“Now that the Board has released the timelines for the exercise and everybody knows when the polls will be held, let the Kenyan people know I will be vying for the top seat.”

Shimanyula, who is based in Kakamega County continued: “In the next few days, I will unveil my blueprint outlining what I want to do for Kenyan football. I will further unveil my team, those I will campaign with and work with when we take over the office.”

However, Shimanyula said his emphasis will be to streamline grassroots football by incorporating the 47 Counties to support the leagues and further said he will establish a proper and sustainable youth structure, introducing a footballers’ welfare scheme, and securing sponsor-

ship for all leagues if elected.

“I will put more focus on grassroots football, that is where we have untapped talent, and then help them to come into the top leagues,” explained Shimanyula. “I will make sure we have proper and sustainable youth structures as these will be essential to our national teams, it will help build strong teams for both men and women.”

Shimanyula is the owner of Homeboyz, who are taking part in Kenya’s Premier League. Last season, Homeboyz won the FKF Cup and got the chance to play in the Caf Confederation Cup where they failed to go past the second preliminary round after losing to Al-Hilal Benghazi of Libya on a 4-1 aggregate scoreline.

Electoral Board Promises Free and Fair Exercise

According to the FKF elections guidelines and regulations released by the Board, anyone seeking to vie for the presidential seat must be an adult Kenyan citizen by birth, must have, at least, five endorsements from any of the FKF members, must have played an active role in football either as a player, member or an official of FKF in two of the last five years as per the FIFA Statutes and must satisfy the requirements for leadership and integrity set out in Chapter Six of the 2010 Kenyan Constitution.

The statement further said: “Aspirants who wish to submit their nomination papers to the Electoral Board will be accorded an opportunity to submit their candidature and pay the respective nomination fees, as provided for under the existing FKF Electoral Code and within the timelines stipulated in the Electoral Calendar.

“FKF members, who wish to withdraw their endorsements and/or endorse a different candidate in accordance with the FKF Electoral Code are free to do so,

on the days provided for in the Electoral Calendar.”

This will require that a meeting is held by the club officials, minutes signed by the Chairperson and Secretary, and submitted to the Board. No club or FKF branch shall endorse two candidates.”

Meanwhile, the voter register at County level will contain clubs that have participated in the National Super league (NSL), Men Division One WPL, WNSL and are not eligible to vote at the national level, regional and county leagues for two (2) of the last five (5) years and are currently active. Each club shall be represented by one delegate. The clubs must be domiciled in respective Counties.

The Board chairman Owilla has promised a free and fair exercise by saying: “As per our mandate, the Electoral Board of FKF is committed to overseeing free and fair elections within the statutory framework of both the FKF and FIFA statutes. In this respect, the calendar has been developed to ensure an efficient process.

“Updates will be continuously communicated to participants and posted on the website in time for scrutiny. Our aim is to ensure an auditable electoral process for posterity.”

Shimanyula’s declaration now brings to six those who have shown their interest to take over football leadership in the country. Others include Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League Gor Mahia CEO Sammy Ocholla, Extreme Sports CEO Hussein Mohammed, former FKF President Sam Nyamweya, former FKF CEO Omondi Aduda, and former FKF Nyanza NEC member Tom Alila.

Credit SportsBoom: <https://www.sportsboom.com/en-ke/football/>

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *A Real Mallorca fan who racially abused Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr and former Villarreal winger Samuel Chukwueze has been given a 12-month suspended prison sentence by a Spanish court.

Mallorca Fan Sentenced For Racially Abusing Vinicius Jr



Vinicius Jr brought to tears

A Real Mallorca fan who racially abused Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr and former Villarreal winger Samuel Chukwueze has been given a 12-month suspended prison sentence by a Spanish court. In a statement, external Real Madrid confirmed that the supporter, who was also banned from stadiums for three years, had his sentence suspended after apologising by letter to the Brazil international and doing anti-discrimination training. "Real Madrid will keep working

to protect the club's values and eradicate any racist behaviour in the world of football and sport," said the La Liga giants. Madrid also said another supporter of Mallorca, a minor who racially abused midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni, had also been banned from stadiums for a year. The abuse of Vinicius Jr occurred during Madrid's 1-0 La Liga defeat by Real Mallorca at their Son Moix stadium in February 2023. The man then directed racial slurs towards Nigeria internation-

al Chukwueze, now at AC Milan, a fortnight later. It is the third criminal conviction in recent months for racist insults towards Real Madrid players, in particular Vinicius, who has been the victim of abuse in stadiums across the country since arriving in Spain in 2018. In June, three Valencia fans were sentenced to eight months in prison for racist abuse directed at the 24-year-old at the Mestalla Stadium in May 2023. Earlier in September, Vinicius

called for Spain to be stripped of its 2030 World Cup hosting duties unless it makes progress on the issue of racism in stadiums. On Sunday, Real Madrid visit city rivals Atletico at the Metropolitan Stadium, where Vinicius has also previously been subjected to racist abuse. **BBC**

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mirror Of Language And Nation

By: Muslihiddinova Sevinch Erkin

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

Linguistic phenomenon. It helps people communicate and interact. Everyone can use the language equally. Language is equal for everyone. Therefore, language belongs to society. It appears and is formed in society, but its longevity and its depreciating and disappearing without a trace depend on this society. According to Ferdinand de Saussure: "Language is a social, spiritual phenomenon that serves everyone equally. "Speech is the expression of an opinion by a specific person based on his capabilities."

There are many languages in the world, but every nation, every society has its own language that has been formed and refined since ancient times. The first President Islam Karimov said: "All good qualities are absorbed into the human heart, first of all, by the unique charm of the mother tongue."

Paying attention to our national language, our mother tongue, has become important not only today, but also in all periods of history. At this point, let's remember the following wise words of our grandfathers: "Language and literature are the main life of every nation that shows its presence in the world. To lose the national language is to lose the spirit of the nation" (M. Behbudi). Do you notice that losing the national language is compared to losing the language of the nation. In fact, there is no doubt that the importance of language, its existence determines the development of any country and nation. Especially in today's globalization era, when the lifestyle of the peoples of the world has become common, the significance of the above words increases twice.

Language is a mirror of the nation, a reflection of spirituality. The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, spoke of our mother tongue for nothing: "All the good qualities are engrained in the human heart, first of all, with the unique charm of the mother tongue. "Mother language is the soul of the nation." Any nation that has lost its language is bound to lose its identity.

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There are many languages in the world, but every nation, every society has its own language that has been formed and refined since ancient times. The first President Islam Karimov said: "All good qualities are absorbed into the human heart, first of all, by the unique charm of the mother tongue. Love for the mother tongue is a sign of high spirituality.

It is not for nothing that they say that the mother tongue is the soul of the nation. Since the language belongs to the society and the nation, the members of the society reveal its characteristics and determine the place of this language among the people and in the society. A person who understands and appreciates his mother tongue and makes a small contribution to its development and to its place among the languages of other nations should not be misplaced among people who are patriotic and truly spiritual. we can add.

On the contrary, a person who spoils the riches of our language, disrespects his language, family, society, people, and moreover, himself, sinks into the swamp of ignorance, and as if that were not enough, he also adds those around him to this swamp. leads to We must preserve this sacred heritage left by our ancestors. After all, the language is a reflection of the spirituality and culture of the society. The mirror of language and nation

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