



Equity Group Unveils 2023 Sustainability Report: "A Sustainable World Is A Transformed Africa" Showcasing Bold Vision And Impact
 Equity Group unveiled its third annual sustainability report for the year 2023, themed "A sustainable world is a transformed Africa." The theme points to the significant role that global substantiality practices can have on transformation of the African continent, a challenge that Equity Group has undertaken to lead.
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News >> KNH Launches The Kenya-Japan Endoscopy Onsite Training Programme

P. 8. Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan has launched the on-site training programme

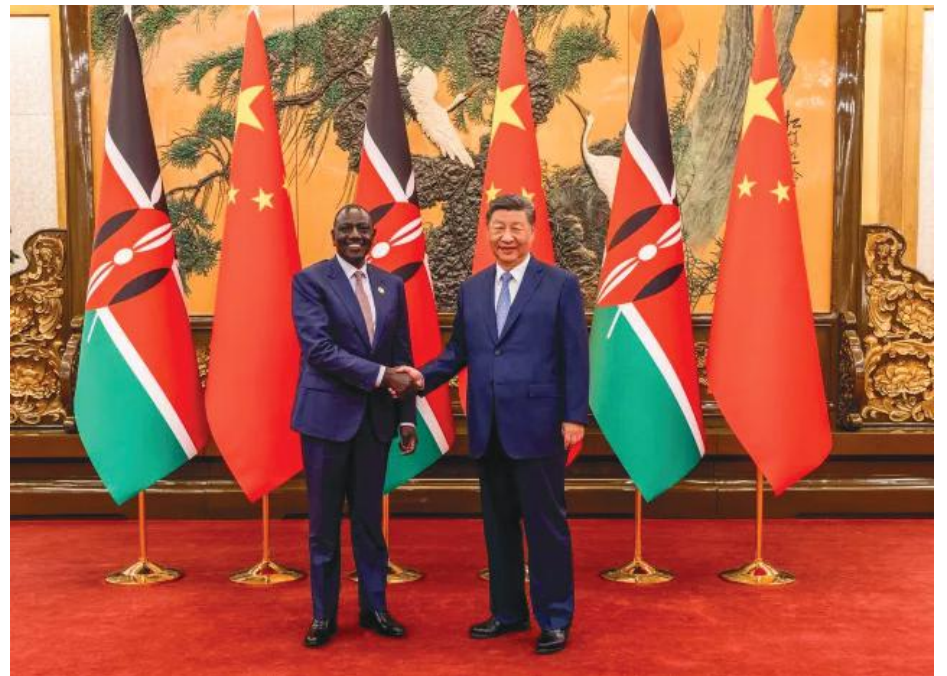


News >> CS Muturi Pushes for Public Sector Reforms and CBA Rollout

P. 12. The Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Justin Muturi, provided updates on the ongoing Public Sector Reforms and Transformation, with a particular focus on enhancing performance, service delivery, and the Civil Service Scheme of Service.

Kenya, China Cement Cordial Diplomatic Relations

President William Ruto emphasized the strong diplomatic relations between Kenya and China, describing the ties as "excellent and cordial," with mutual benefits that have significantly transformed Kenya's railway, road, and port infrastructure. He noted that the partnership has deepened people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.



Presidents William Ruto and Xi Jinping of China

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Coffee Farmers Roots For More Players In The Direct Settlement System

By: Morris Githenya
@themtkenyatimes

There is a clamour for appointment of a second bank to provide Direct Settlement System (DSS) to satisfy the expanding coffee sector in Kenya.

As the farmers prepare for the second year under the coffee regulations of 2019, the stakeholders say there is dire need for the regulators in the industry, Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to provide them with alternatives.

The growers allied in the cooperatives and estates indicate their suffering under the DSS controlled by the Cooperative Bank coupled by delayed payments and lack of information.

In May this year, when the NCE conducted farmers sensitisation forums in the coffee belts, the farmers expressed reservations on the performance of the DSS calling for appointment of other players in the banking sector to offer the services.

Rachel Momonyi and Joyce Nyambura from Kisii and Murang'a counties respectively say the payment system in the sector remains well thought of but farmers are denied opportunity to make decisions.

Momanyi said it was the best time for the farmers to evaluate the performance of the DSS in the first year.

“As we proceed to the second year we demand the government initiate a process to recruit another player,” said Momanyi, a member of a cooperative society.

Nyambura, a farmer in Kiambu, accused the government of having failed to allow appointment of three players to handle and disburse the farmers finances.

“As we cross to the second year on October 1, the farmers seek the government to recruit another DSS player,” said Nyambura.

“We are tired of a single institution providing services we need more than four to enable the farmers to have the alternative,” said James Moiben from Kericho county.

Moiben, an estate farmer, says Kenyan farmers are yet to get the financial freedom as the DSS facility needs to be expanded to other players, to enhance



Coffee

transparency.

Francis Muthui, a farmer Kangunu farmer society in Mathiyoia, says the impact of coffee reforms has not been felt owing to several bottlenecks in the regulations thus need for an additional player for checks and balances.

At the society, he reveals the details on DSS new to the members as the management committee safeguard information pertaining payment rates.

“The farmers need to be free and have access to information pertaining to his finances, The DSS has been a major let down in the industry thus needing for re-

ruitment of other players,” said Muthui. Kenya Coffee Producers Association Chairman Peter Gikonyo pleads with the government to consider recruiting three other players to provide the DSS services in the lucrative coffee sector.

Gikonyo said the DSS platform needs to be enhanced to provide effective services to the farmers and the government to achieve the results.

“There is a big gap between DSS and the estate farmers who have been claiming to have been left out,” said Gikonyo.

Harrison Chege, chairman at Gatagua farmers Cooperative Society, says the

DSS should be scrapped as it has failed to add value to coffee farming.

“The facility is a mere rip off as the farmers’ proceeds should be credited directly in the accounts after the sale is completed,” said Chege.

He adds that in most of the times remittance of proceeds from the DSS to the society bank accounts take longer.

“Gatagua society sold its coffee when the dollar rate was exchanged at Sh130 but we got less money,” said Chege.

Worth Noting:

- Rachel Momonyi and Joyce Nyambura from Kisii and Murang'a counties respectively say the payment system in the sector remains well thought of but farmers are denied opportunity to make decisions.
- Momanyi said it was the best time for the farmers to evaluate the performance of the DSS in the first year.
- “As we proceed to the second year we demand the government initiate a process to recruit another player,” said Momanyi, a member of a cooperative society.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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Mama Judith Ongoro



MEDICAL APPEAL

Our Mother, Mrs. Judith Ongoro is battling Cancer of the Oesophagus. She has been referred to India, Apollo Hospital, for treatment and management. We have started the first course of urgent treatment at MP Shah Hospital, Nairobi. The Ongoro Family is seeking your humble and generous support to enable the doctors commence urgent and immediate treatment at the cost of:

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nandi East Sub County public servants have been counselled on pre-retirement preparation in a meeting organised by the human resource management department. The aim is to help workers gain awareness of emotional issues surrounding retirement transition and tackle the challenges that come with retirement effectively. County Director of Human Resources, Joseph Ng'asike, stated that preretirement training helps retirees face retirement in a more focused way, helping them develop a fruitful plan in the post retirement period on what to do after withdrawal from active working life. Ng'asike advised public servants to cultivate a healthy relationship with their spouses to avoid divorce after retirement, as they will spend more time together with their spouses than any other time before.



326 vulnerable pastoral households in Laikipia North Sub County have benefited from a donation of Gala goats worth Sh17.4 million that are aimed at improving local breeds. The Gala goats which were distributed by National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in Partnership with the Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT) targeted families which had lost their livestock due to drought. NDMA CEO Hared Adan speaking in Kimanjo, Laikipia North during the distribution exercise said that the initiative would boost restocking in the pastoral communities.



Agriculture Secretary Collins Marangu, said that through the Circular Economy project, the government can ensure that whatever comes out of the value chain is utilised and build a food system that nourishes both people and the planet. He pointed out that climate change, urbanisation, and resource depletion have put immense pressure on how we produce, process, and consume food, and contemporary linear models of production where food is extracted, used, and discarded continuously become unsustainable. "This "take-make-waste" approach leads to significant environmental degradation, economic inefficiencies, and social inequalities. Imagine a world where agricultural by-products are recycled to provide energy, where food waste is decomposed to fertilise soils, and where every product is used to its fullest potential. This is the essence of a Circular Economy in the food system," Marangu said.



Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Dr. Margaret Ndung'u, says the launch of Presidential Directives Management Information System (PDMIS) and Foreign Travel Management Information System (FoTMIS), demonstrates Kenya's technological advancement towards achieving the Digital Agenda. Dr. Ndung'u maintained that Kenya continues to lead by example by spearheading initiatives that position the nation at the forefront of the Digital Agenda. She cited the development of the deployment of the Cargo Information Management System, as a testament to the history of enhancing efficiency and accountability within the highest epitome of the government. The CS implored that the end-to-end automated system streamlines the process of foreign cargo clearance for Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and CEOs of State Corporations, who require approval from the President, through the Office of Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service.



Activist Boniface Mwangi and four other suspects have been released by a Magistrate Court after spending over a month in custody. Senior Principal Magistrate Gilbert Shikwe dismissed the Prosecution's request to extend the investigation period for another two weeks, allowing the release of the five individuals. The suspects had been brought to court under a Miscellaneous Application following their arrest on July 26th during a crackdown after protests. Despite their arrest, the five had been out on cash bail for the past few weeks. In his ruling, Magistrate Shikwe ordered the release of the cash bail to the five individuals, criticizing the Prosecution for unclear motives. He noted that 37 days had passed since their initial arrest and no significant progress had been made in the investigation. The Magistrate further expressed concern that some people allegedly involved in the protests were still missing, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the ongoing investigation. The ruling marks a significant moment for Mwangi, a vocal critic of the government and well-known activist, who has frequently called out the state on matters of justice and human rights.

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THEME: "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for sustainable Economic Growth"



Stanbic Bank Launches Money Market Fund In A Bid To Generate Superior Returns

By: Michael Omondi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The court heard that Kazungu was found dealing in a specified critically endangered live wildlife without a permit or other lawful exemption contrary to the Wildlife Conservation and management Act 2013 using a motorcycle.

- Particulars of the charge indicate that on September 1, 2024 at around 5.30 pm at Come Back area in Malindi Sub County, he was found dealing in a live green turtle weighing 6.5 kilograms carved carapace width of 38cm and carved carapace length of 40cm using a motorbike registration KMFF 614M.



Stanbic Bank Kenya has today launched the Stanbic Money Market Fund (KES) and the Stanbic Fixed Income Fund (USD) following approval by the Capital Markets Authority earlier this year.

The funds will be managed by SBG Securities Limited, a subsidiary of Stanbic Holdings Plc.

This launch marks Stanbic Bank's official entry into asset management through its newly established Insurance and Asset Management Unit, with plans to introduce more investment products in the future.

This initiative aligns with the Bank's strategy to offer comprehensive solutions, creating a seamless, one-stop financial services hub tailored to meet the specific needs of its clients through a range of client-centric products and services.

The initiative also supports the Bank's

purpose to drive growth by providing meaningful solutions.

With minimum investments of KSh1,000 and USD 100, the funds are designed for investors seeking to diversify their portfolios and achieve long-term growth with minimal risk and high liquidity. Clients' investments will be managed by a team of seasoned investment professionals.

Speaking at the event, Dr Joshua Oigara, Stanbic Bank Chief Executive Kenya and South Sudan maintained that to drive growth, the bank must mobilise domestic savings and investments by strengthening its capital markets and developing investment products that cater to its people's needs.

"We need to create accessible entry points for investors, offering affordable and user-friendly solutions that lower barriers to investment," he added.

Dr Oigara observed that the Asset Management unit is strategically positioned to deliver investment solutions that drive growth for both retail and institutional investors.

Concurrently, Anjali Harkoo, Head Insurance and Asset Management, Stanbic Bank Kenya echoed, "We strategically set up a fourth business unit called Insurance and Asset Management to ensure that we were offering a holistic suite of Banking and non-Banking solutions to our clients".

He reiterated that investing in Stanbic's Unit Trusts offers vast advantages, including expert management and diversification across various asset classes.

Licensed and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority, Harkoo stressed that these funds adhere to stringent investment guidelines, ensuring stability and security for investors.

"Leveraging our extensive asset management experience across our Group network, we will implement best investment practices and utilise our robust internal capabilities to deliver value to our clients," he affirmed.

The funds currently provide investors with an annualized yield of 15.12 per cent for the Money Market Fund (KSh) and 5.56 per cent for the Fixed Income Fund (USD).

In addition, the Money Market Fund charges up to 2 per cent in management fees, while the Fixed Income Fund charges up to 1 per cent.

The funds will be available to both existing and new Stanbic Bank clients, catering to both individual and institutional investors.

The

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Mugwongo Family

KNH Launches The Kenya-Japan Endoscopy Onsite Training Programme

By: Mwendwa Mwenda
@themkenyatimes

Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan has launched the on-site training programme focused on human resource development for gastrointestinal diseases in Kenya particularly in the endoscopy field.

The launch will mark the beginning of a three-day hands-on training programme in various endoscopy specialties which aims to enhance skills and knowledge in gastrointestinal care.

During a side bar interview at KNH in Nairobi yesterday, the Head of Endoscopy Unit at KNH Dr Linda Gathara revealed that the programme will run for three years where experts from Japan will come and train with them at the Hospital.

“It is a three-year programme but for on-site training in Kenya. The training and lectures will take three days where we will engage with specialists from Japan and come November,

a team from KNH will travel to Japan for training for a period of one month,” explained Dr Gathara.

She added that the programme usually runs twice a year with the hospital on-site training at Kenyatta and later a team of five doctors would travel to Japan to receive further training.

“This year, we have 13 trainees where we have 6 from KNH and 7 from counties all over the country,” she disclosed.

Dr Gathara insisted that the programme is very beneficial since it equips doctors both from Kenyatta and around the counties with skills to enable them to treat their patients better, words echoed by the Director of TEMDEC at Kyushu University Dr Tomohiko Moriyama who reiterated that the programme aims to tackle health coverage all over Kenya.

Dr Gathara elaborated that endoscopy is a procedure where they evaluate the gastrointestinal (GI) system involving the upper GI that is the stomach, esophagus and the first part of the small intestines and the lower GI which involves the large intestines.

“We have advanced procedures that we do in endoscopy which include



Head of Endoscopy Unit at KNH Dr Linda Gathara.

the Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), procedures for diagnosis and treatment,” she highlighted.

Looking forward to more partnerships in the future, Dr Gathara thanked the Embassy of Japan for sponsoring the programme and the

KNH staff for participating in the programme.

Female University Students Benefit From KSh10 M ICT-Digital Innovations Scholarship

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Seventy female university students from Nakuru county are benefiting from a KSh10 million World Bank scholarship programme that is geared towards equipping them with technical skills to promote digital innovations.

The World Bank scholarship programme is being funded through the Ministry of Trade and Investment’s Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project—Strengthening Kenyan Innovation Ecosystem (KIEP-SKIES), which aims to build the capacity of young incubators and Technology boot camp providers as well as subsidising tuition costs for female students to ensure rapid technological advancement in Africa.

Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies (RVIBS) Head of ICT, Mr. Patrick Mwai, says the scholarship program targets students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects who

are being empowered to innovate and enjoy a hands-on approach to teaching and learning.

Mwai said the programme has established a special classroom space at the Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies (RVIBS), which is fitted with equipment that enables the students drawn from both public and private universities to carry out activities such as coding, 3D printing, laser cutting, soldering, electronics, robot building, or robotics.

He said the 70 female students are being equipped with other skills, including digital marketing, cyber security, and web design, among others.

The ICT head further explained that the special classroom was using robots and computers to teach STEM lessons where they integrate the lessons with Information Communication Technology (ICT).

The learners, he added, are also being enabled to carry out creative coding, physical computing, and incubation of viable STEM ideas, in addition to the students being enabled to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, and network.



“This is a space targeted for female students with a maker mindset where they can come together and create something out of nothing and explore their own interests,” stated the Head of ICT.

Tutors at the special classroom say the teaching module has not only made learning easy but also full of fun where the robots are assembled using tiny pieces of plastic consist-

ing of either studs or holes and other standardised components to fit into each other to form one functional unit.

Mwai said the use of robots makes young learners work in logical and effective ways that foster scientific reasoning and critical thinking, which may not be guaranteed in theoretical learning.

He indicated that the learners also

engage in ‘robotic challenge’ which entails assembling and programming, which requires a lot of creativity and learning.

As Kenya rushes to establish its own version of the Silicon Valley and industrial parks, Mwai said there was a need to develop the right manpower to drive the vision, including the youthful innovators.

Kenya, China Cement Cordial Diplomatic Relations

By: Beth Nyaga

President William Ruto emphasized the strong diplomatic relations between Kenya and China, describing the ties as “excellent and cordial,” with mutual benefits that have significantly transformed Kenya’s railway, road, and port infrastructure.

He noted that the partnership has deepened people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

Speaking about the results of this bilateral cooperation, President Ruto highlighted the construction of key infrastructure projects such as the Mombasa-Naivasha Standard Gauge Railway, the Nairobi Expressway, and various rural roads.

These developments, he said, have opened up the country, positioning Kenya as a major transport hub not just in Eastern Africa but across the continent.

The President also recounted his recent meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, ahead of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit.

During their discussions, President Xi agreed to open the Chinese market to Kenya’s agricultural produce, which President Ruto said was a major boost to Kenya’s export opportunities.

The two leaders also agreed to pursue further regional infrastructure projects, including the expansion of the Standard Gauge Railway and the construction of the Rironi-Mau Summit-Malaba dual carriageway, which would enhance trade and connectivity in the region.



Presidents William Ruto and Xi Jinping with delegates from Kenya and China in a meeting in Beijing

Leaders Raise Concern Over Mount Kenya Unity

By: KNA

East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) lawmaker Kanini Kega says disunity among leaders from Mount Kenya region will be the region’s political Waterloo come 2027.

The former Jubilee firebrand and a one-time National Director of the party’s election board now says the region must urgently put its house in order or risk being confined into political oblivion in the coming poll.

Kega who lost his parliamentary seat in 2022 to businessman Njoroge Wainaina has also claimed that lack of unity among the elected leaders from the Mount Kenya region almost cost him a seat at the East Africa legislative body.

“Leaders from the Mount Kenya area have never have never been for long unless faced by a real political crisis. We only come out when our political future is under threat but that unity fizzles out once we are out of the woods.

It is this lack of serious unity that will cost us in 2027 unless we decide to put our house in order and work as a team. Every elected leader from the

region should know that our disunity will spell our ultimate death knell,” he told Inooro TV on Monday morning.

The lawmaker has also termed the cooperation between former Prime Minister Raila Odinga (who is eyeing the AUC chair) and the Kenya Kwanza government as a political masterstroke by President Dr William Ruto.

He says leaders from Mount Kenya should now open their eyes and be ready to work alongside leaders from any part of the country for the sake of peace and tranquility of the nation.

Kega described the rousing welcome Dr Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua received in Nyanza during their four-day visit to the region last week as a testament that political feuds and camaraderie are faces of the same coin when it comes to dynamics of politics.

“The 2002 presidential elections were too close to call and the seat would have gone either way. It was therefore a work of ingenuity for Dr Ruto to reach out to Raila Odinga’s camp and incorporated political luminaries in his government for the sake of solidifying his political base ahead of 2027.

Any leader from Mount Kenya who still believes our bargaining chip is

still intact will be in for a rude shock. It is now clear that Odinga’s Orange Democratic Party could be and Dr Ruto’s United Democratic Alliance could be the political outfit that will decide the next presidential contest,” he pointed out.

Among ODM big names that were incorporated in Dr Ruto’s cabinet include former Suba MP John Mbandi (Treasury), Ugenya MP Opiyo Wandayi (Energy), former Mombasa Governor and ODM deputy chair Hassan Joho (Mining and Blue Economy) and former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives and SMEs).

Dr Ruto concluded his Nyanza tour on Sunday after launching several multibillion projects aimed at enhancing food security, boosting the blue economy and also open up job opportunities for the locals.

In his whirlwind tours, Dr Ruto also inspected several development projects in the counties of Migori, Homa Bay, Siaya and Kisumu.

Among projects he launched include the Ksh 800 million Lake Victoria Maritime Rescue Coordination Center and the Lake Basin Development Authority Rice Mill Project in Kibos earmarked to process a total of 4,000 tonnes of rice per hour.



East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) lawmaker Kanini Kega during a past church function.

It Takes Both Visions And Dreams To Make A Mark On The Earth Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

To live a life of impact you must discover your purpose for living and be a committed dreamer. It takes both visions and dreams to make a mark on the earth. One cannot survive without the other. The easiest way to paralyse a vision is to be dreamless, because a dream is what drives vision. It is what gives motion to vision. On the other hand, to lack vision is not to have a purpose for living. Vision sets the pace, dreams determine the extent. Three things that dreams do for you are:

- ü They become a force that drives you on to accomplishment. That is why most successful men are dreamers. They are the ones who make a mark in their generation. Friend, we live in a dreamer's world. If you do

not have a dream, you are doomed. A dream is the gateway to a boom.

- ü A dream establishes your expected end. In Jeremiah 29:11, God makes a very powerful declaration concerning your future: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

When you have a dream, the expected end God has for you is secure, and nothing can stop you from arriving at it. That dream infuses into you an unusual drive towards achieving your goal. So what you see, THE PICTURE YOU HAVE IN YOUR MIND IS CRUCIAL IF YOU WILL MAKE MAXIMUM IMPACT. I am persuaded that the devil knows how important the mind is in charting a course for the future. So he makes it the hottest battlefield for man. You must guard your mind jealously because the devil is looking for how to corrupt and pollute it.

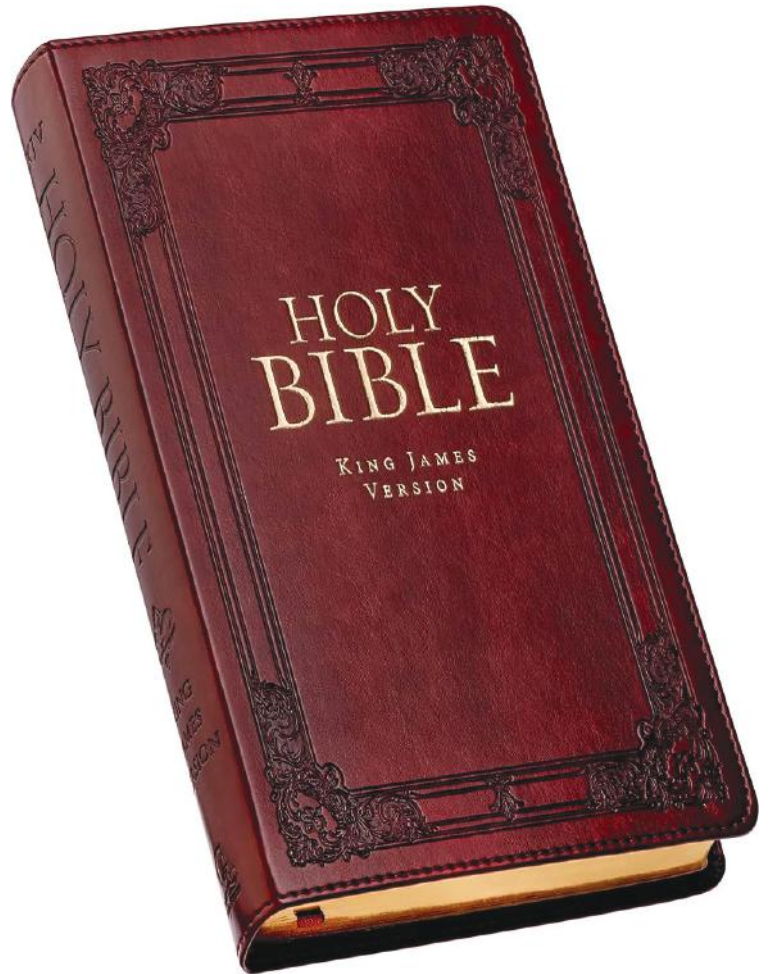
WE SERVE A WONDERFUL GOD, PRAISE, HONOR BE UNTO HIS NAME FOREVER.

References:

The Living Bible.
 Pastor Dr. David Oyedepo.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.



The Mt. Kenya Times



IMF/World Bank's Move To Confront Damning Accusations Of Reckless Lending To Kenya Did Not Come As A Surprise



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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A few days ago, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) released a strong-worded statement.

The Bretton Wood institutions vehemently denounced the damning accusations of reckless lending to Kenya.

We have over the years had engagements with the Government of Kenya. Our terms of lending have not changed.

The approval of the respective loans is hinged on due diligence.

Our core business is to jumpstart the economies of the countries which had been run down.

The statement by IMF and World Bank came hot on the heels of the audit report released some days earlier by Kenya's Auditor General

It also came at a time when two Kenyan politicians namely Okiya Omtata and Jimmy Wanjigi had taken their claims a notch higher.

The duo wanted Kenyans to believe that a huge chunk of loan monies had been diverted to bankroll the pockets of corrupt individuals in government and their accomplices.

The two politicians, who were known to be fierce critics of President William Ruto, would not however provide tangible evidence to support their claims.

The Auditor General's report on the other hand mainly highlighted allocations made during the reign of Ruto's predecessor, President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The timelines for the projects being implemented by the current government have not lapsed. One can therefore understand why the Auditor gave little attention on these projects.

I'm persuaded to believe that the statement by Bretton Wood Institutions was also prompted by my earlier article in this column.

I wrote it in the wake of GenZees protests.

I argued that reports indicated that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had fuelled the recent Generation-Z protests.

This comes just a few days after the new National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi held talks with visiting IMF top official.

The agenda focused on the board meeting between IMF and the government of Kenya scheduled to be held in September.

CS Mbadi had some days earlier announced that he has set up a team to review the controversial Finance Bill 2024.

President William Ruto did not reject this Bill because it was bad. But as you know the political temperature had been polluted by toxic politics.

Gen-zees had been made to believe that the Bill was punitive and oppressive and that it had been 'drafted by the IMF'.

One thing remained clear. Those inciting them would not furnish them with tangible evidence. They would only want the young people to believe that President Ruto was being held hostage by IMF.

According to Mbadi, his team will draft a new financial blueprint that contains non-controversial and non-conten-



International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank

tious proposals.

As you know, the government needs money to implement a raft of development projects and programmes.

If the Finance Bill 2024 sailed through, we intended to raise Sh346 billion more.

We are going to find a way of bridging this gap.

So, Mbadi reaffirmed that the National Treasury will present the revised Bill to parliament for consideration and we are hopeful that the members will approve it.

At this juncture, allow me to ask this question. Did IMF fuelled the Generation-Z protests?

I disagree. Allow me to explain why. Bretton Wood institutions do not invite themselves into a country.

Failure to live up to the terms of agreement is the main reason why many African countries have been grappling with the conditionalities.

During their respective tenures, Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta faced public back-rashes.

For President Ruto, he has been assuring Kenyans that his main goal was to safe guard their economic interests.

Therefore, we are not going to embrace these conditionalities blindly.

We will only implement what is good for our country in terms of uplifting the living standards of our people. He is walking the talk.

Being a global financial institution, IMF engages both the developing countries and developed/industrialized nations.

For me, GenZ protests were a blessing in disguise for President William Ruto.

The writing was already on wall that the President was uncomfortable with several things that were happening in the country.

To avoid a political back rash, he knew that he needed to undertake some of these reforms with caution.

Gen-Z protests were timely trigger. Going by his latest pronouncements, President Ruto is committed to address this recurring problem.

In the initial stages the protests were

peaceful. The President was happy to see young people coming out in big numbers to speak their mind. He in particular admired these protests because they were tribe less and party less.

Their message is clear. Kenya belongs to all of us. As your President, I have been reiterating this. So, when he dissolved the entire cabinet, he minced no word in stating.

As he promised, President Ruto has since unveiled a new-look cabinet that is broad based, all-inclusive and composed of experts.

On IMF prescriptions, there was no doubt that he was opposed to some of them.

On reconstitution of his cabinet, the President had earlier read several riot acts to his cabinet secretaries (CSs).

In the eyes of the public, your performance is below expectation.

Some of you are totally clueless about what you are supposed to do.

I even know more than you regarding the mandate of your respective ministries.

So, I don't see the point of having you in my cabinet.

With this, the President had drawn the line and it was only a matter of time before the he cracked the whip and sent them home.

As per the constitution, the prerogative to hire and fire members of the cabinet lies squarely with the President. The role bestowed on them is delegated. The President is the CEO of Kenya and he hires them to help him discharge the constitutional mandate of his office.

Since he assumed office, the President curves a niche of being a strong believer in the tenet of democracy and rule of law.

President Ruto followed the footsteps of former President Mwai Kibaki.

In the aftermath of 2007/2008 post-election violence, Kibaki caved in to pressure and agreed to form a unity government with ODM leader Raila Odinga.

The only difference at the time was that the pressure came from the international community.

For President Ruto, he has so far managed to use his wisdom to contain pockets of violence and prevent Kenya from sliding into a full blown anarchy.

The other key demand raised by Generation-Z and millennials touched on reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

A few days ago, the President signed the IEBC Bill into law paving the way for the recruitment of the commissioners.

The Bill emanated from the talks held at the Bomas of Kenya.

The 10-member national dialogue committee (NADCO) was co-chaired by national assembly majority leader Kimani Ichungwah and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The President was flanked opposition leaders led by Raila Odinga during the signing ceremony held at KICC.

The new law to reform the IEBC is a product of the views and memoranda presented by the people of Kenya during the public hearings.

So, we have no reason to doubt that this process will lead to formation of a truly independent commission.

We want to assure Kenyans that the commissioners will conduct a free, fair and credible polls in 2027, the opposition leaders reiterated.

I have heard some members of Gen-Z expressing reservations to the steps that President Ruto has so far made.

A friend of mine told me. Those were extremists who had coined a Hastag of 'RutoandGachaguaMustGoNow'.

We know their ultimate goal was to attempt to overthrow President Ruto through popular uprisings.

So, they won't see anything good that the President was doing.

Why their bid won't see the light of day? Majority of Kenyans abhor use of unconstitutional means to remove a democratically government from power.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Worth Noting:

- The duo wanted Kenyans to believe that a huge chunk of loan monies had been diverted to bankroll the pockets of corrupt individuals in government and their accomplices.
- The two politicians, who were known to be fierce critics of President William Ruto, would not however provide tangible evidence to support their claims.
- The Auditor General's report on the other hand mainly highlighted allocations made during the reign of Ruto's predecessor, President Uhuru Kenyatta.
- The timelines for the projects being implemented by the current government have not lapsed. One can therefore understand why the Auditor gave little attention on these projects.

CS Muturi Pushes for Public Sector Reforms and CBA Rollout

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Justin Muturi, provided updates on the ongoing Public Sector Reforms and Transformation, with a particular focus on enhancing performance, service delivery, and the Civil Service Scheme of Service.

In his address, CS Muturi highlighted the government's commitment to improving the operational and reward standards within the public sector, aimed at bolstering productivity and restoring public confidence. He emphasized that these reforms are crucial in establishing a performance-driven culture across the civil service.

He also provided an update on the recent engagements between the State Department for Public Service and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), discussions which he said are part of the broader efforts to harmonize government

payroll and ensure fair compensation for civil servants. He noted that the government has already secured concurrence from the SRC to sign a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Civil Servants Trade Union for the period 2021-2023, which will be implemented within the agreed parameters for the year 2023/2024 and year 2024/2025.

"The first phase of the CBA's implementation was successfully completed in for 2023/2024, with the second phase set to commence on 1st July 2024," Muturi announced.

He further revealed that the National Treasury has approved the release of Kshs 1.5 billion to facilitate the implementation of the already agreed and signed CBA, with the State Department for Public Service set to utilize the allocated budgetary resources for Personnel Emoluments in year 2024/2025.

In light of the looming strike threat by the Union of Kenya Civil Servants, he assured the public that the government is committed to engaging in a constructive, win-win dialogue with the union to avert any industrial action. He pledged to spearhead discus-



Kenya Union of Civil Servants Secretary General Tom Odege, CS Public Service Justin Muturi and National Organizing Secretary Ali Sokor

sions with all stakeholders, including ongoing engagements with the SRC and National Treasury, to ensure alignment on resource allocation and address any outstanding issues.

Additionally, he highlighted the government's plans to bring services closer to the people through the establishment of one-stop Huruma

Centres in every county.

"These centres will embody the new service with a smile initiative, where Kenyans can expect to be served by motivated and well-compensated public personnel. The face of the public service is changing, Kenyans will soon notice a new era of service delivery, characterized by efficiency,

professionalism, and a genuine commitment to meeting the needs of the public," Muturi remarked.

The government's comprehensive approach to public sector reforms is set to transform the civil service, making it more responsive, accountable, and effective in delivering services to all Kenyans.

Businessman Writes To CMA Over Alleged Breaches At Old Mutual

By: Capital Correspondent

Businessman Joel Kibe now wants the Capital Markets Authority to protect minority shareholders at Old Mutual.

In a letter to the authority, Kibe urged the regulatory body to investigate alleged breaches by the public listed company.

He further urged CMA to take necessary and lawful steps to stop alleged continued oppression of minority shareholders.

He is also seeking that the regulator should halt the dilution of shares through the issuance of preference shares without proper consultation and approval.

"In light of the breaches, we respectfully request the Capital Markets Authority to furnish us with copies of the application and other transaction-

al documents submitted to the CMA prior to the approval of the takeover, as per the requirements of Regulation 5 of the Takeover Regulations," he stated.

Kibe, the sixth largest shareholders in the company has separately sued the insurer and wants to be bought out at a price that is likely to exceed Sh1 billion.

The businessman bought 1.54 million shares in the insurer between 2014 and 2015 for Sh290.9 million.

He said in the suit that was certified as urgent by the High Court that the shareholder loans, which are set to be converted into equity, will dilute small investors.

The firm recently announced a Sh249 million net profit in the half-year period to June 2024, driven by lower finance costs and a reduced tax burden, marking a significant turnaround from a net loss of Sh348 million it reported in the six months to June 2023.



Kibe pointed out in the letter to the CMA that in notice dated January 26, 2015, Old Mutual Holdings announced its intention to acquire effective control of UAP Holdings Ltd at a price of Sh180 per share.

The notice, the letter added, recognised the need to obtain the consent from the CMA as required Takeovers and Mergers Regulations.

However, the subsequent actions by Old Mutual were highly prejudicial to the minority shareholders, including himself because of various reasons including the alleged failure to list in the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) within 24 months following the public offer.

He said despite the representation made in the 2012 prospectus, Old

Mutual failed to list its shares on the NSE, within the period stated by the Regulations 19 of the Capital Markets (securities) Regulations of 2002.

The lawyer said this was also in breach of Section 31 of the CMA and the principles of transparency and accountability set in the CMA's corporate governance code of issuers.

Nyeri County To Partner With Outspan Hospital In Enhancing Community Services

By: Samuel Maina
@themkenyatimes

Nyeri County Government plans to enter into a working partnership with the Outspan Hospital as a way of improving the lives of the local community.

Under the agreement, the parties hope to among others cooperate in improving social amenities such as playing fields as one of opening avenues where youths can nurture their God-given talents through sports.

Yesterday Nyeri CECM Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, Esther Ndung'u met with a team from the Outspan Hotel led by the Executive Director Dr Godfrey Kiruhi where a proposal to have a working agreement was mooted.

Ms Ndung'u told journalists that once the two parties sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) the contents of the agreement will become abiding even for future administrations.

"Yesterday we only had an initial meeting where the possibility of developing a working partnership was

discussed with the delegation from the Outspan hospital. Therefore, as we speak we don't have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the hospital. But with such an arrangement, the validity of what we discussed must first be validated before it can be implemented" she pointed out.

One of the primary agenda of yesterday's meeting was to explore potential collaboration in the improvement of the Kinunga Stadium in Tetu Sub County.

The official has nevertheless said this is not the first time the private Level 5 health facility which also runs a Medical College is partnering with the county in community centered programs.

She said the health facility has in the past worked with the Department of Health in addressing health challenges affecting the residents of the county.

Ms Ndung'u also said the hospital has been instrumental in undertaking renovation works at the Kinunga stadium as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the public.

"Outspan hospital has been working closely with the County Government through various programmes with



Nyeri CECM Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, Esther Ndung'u

the sole object of providing quality services to the public. The proposed MOU is intended to ensure the longevity and stability of the collaboration, safeguarding it against potential changes in government," she added.

If implemented, the MOU will also integrate the Nyeri Youth Development Policy to address critical areas such as drug abuse, sports development and mental health challenges.

The proposed MOU is intended to ensure the longevity and stability of the collaboration, safeguarding it against potential changes in subsequent administrations.

This initiative aligns with the department's mandate to develop programs that engage the youth, promote sports, tackle challenges such as drug addiction, and introduce modern solutions to improve the

quality of life.

The CEC assured the Department's commitments in supporting collaborations that contribute positively to community development and encourage further initiatives that will advance the welfare of the people of Nyeri.

Suspected Sea Turtle Poacher Charged In Malindi

By: Judith Nyaboke
@themkenyatimes

A suspected sea turtle poacher was yesterday arraigned in a Malindi court charged with illegal possession of a live sea turtle without a permit.

Appearing before Malindi Resident Magistrate Grace Mutemi, Kazungu Mwavuo Ngala, denied the charge, claiming he was a bodaboda operator who had been hired to carry the sea creature to a destination he did not disclose.

Ms Mutemi ordered Kazungu to be released on a Sh200,000 bond or alternatively pay a Sh100,000 cash bail pending the hearing and determination of the case, which would be mentioned on Thursday next week.

The court heard that Kazungu was found dealing in a specified critically endangered live wildlife without a permit or other lawful exemption

contrary to the Wildlife Conservation and management Act 2013 using a motorcycle.

Particulars of the charge indicate that on September 1, 2024 at around 5.30 pm at Come Back area in Malindi Sub County, he was found dealing in a live green turtle weighing 6.5 kilograms carved carapace width of 38cm and carved carapace length of 40cm using a motorbike registration KMFF 614M.

He was also charged with being in possession of the 6.5 kilogram green turtle at the same scene.

Speaking to journalists before the accused person took plea, Ms Abigail Cate, the project manager of Local Ocean Conservation Organization, said that the suspect was arrested on Sunday after a tip off from members of the public adding that the turtle was transported from Kipini area in Tana River County.

She said that they would move the court for video and photographic ev-



Sea Turtle

idence to be used as evidence during the hearing of the case instead of transporting the endangered creature

in and out of court during trial.

According to the conservationist, the arrest and arraignment in court of the

suspect will help send a stern warning to poachers in Kenya.

Oh, Kisgaldok...



By: Rakhmon Pirimov

(I dedicate to the 60th anniversary of the birth of poet Muhammad Yusuf, a true son of the Uzbek people, a great soul) The author.

Seventy years have passed, look at one pass,
In front of Charkhalak, our lives are the same,
When I think of Muhammad, my heart is sick.
Oh, what did you do to Muhammad,
Kisgaldok .

"Male stags" are also sullen,
The Venuses remained in torment without Tahir,
Lola also cried hard after her.
Oh, what did you do to Muhammad,
Kisgaldok ..

He was a father to his dear daughters,
How do you look into her eyes now?
Uzbegin's street to the traces of zor,
Oh, what did you do to Muhammad,
Kisgaldok .

You beat your hand on the rock, standing on the hill,
Read and cry now your head is pounding
Are there tears in your eyes?
Oh, what did you do to Muhammad,
Kisgaldok .

There is no Muhammad who says to kiss your forehead,
He took your soul to the heavens,
A lamp swings over his grave,
Oh, what did you do to Muhammad,
Kisgaldok .

There is no Muhammad, long life to the generation,
May people like Muhammad be born as pure,
Hold the torch high, my motherland,
You call us to Kisgaldok.

All memories surround Muhammad,
The souls of my wandering poet are happy,
Their minds are beating in their veins,
Be happy and shine yourself, you Kisgaldok!

Morning Star



Venus star, sahar chog,
You walk alone

Do you want to leave?
We and the straw,

Does not start,
Early rise to the sun.

Do you know the age

Korganmikan is a thousand years old.

What a time it was,
This is his great head.

The child is gone soon,
One is a trump card and the other is a black card.

Venus wanders alone,
The sky at dawn

It's even earlier than the sun,
Don't sleep.

I have a desire for a star
You are alone.

There will be time for the moon,
Don't cancel now.

Venus travels alone

ZariFa Tursunboy's daughter

Let's Cherish Nature



By Hotamova Lola
Country: Uzbekistan

Let's cherish nature, our green embrace,
A gift from God, in every plant's grace.
His command, for all humankind's sake,
Each bloom, a blessing, for our life's sake.

With every prayer, a plant Finds its way,
From humble seeds, a vibrant display.
God whispers, "Grow, and help those in need,"

A verdant shelter, for every creed.
If ruthless hands, our green world despoil,
The silent meadows, cry out with toil.
To safeguard nature, hearts must be kind,
With conscience strong, a loving mind.

To nurture life, in every form and hue,
A soul with honor, must see it through.
A thriving land, a garden so bright,
With fragrant flowers, a pleasing sight.
To fill our markets, with bounty untold,
Strong farmers, brave, with stories to unfold.

We Know That The Aral Sea Will Return



By: Kazakbaeva Gulayim

The Aral Sea, once the world's fourth-largest lake, was renowned for its vast size and rich ecosystem. However, due to misguided water policies implemented in the mid-20th century, much of the sea dried up, leading to an ecological disaster that attracted global attention. Despite this, recent efforts give us hope that the Aral Sea may one day return.

Ecological Catastrophe:

The drying of the Aral Sea began during the Soviet era, when large-scale irrigation of cotton fields diverted water from the rivers that fed the sea. As a result, the inflow of water to the sea sharply decreased, causing its surface area to shrink and salinity levels to rise. This led to the collapse of the fishing industry, and the health and quality of life of the local population deteriorated dramatically.

Restoration Efforts:

Numerous initiatives at both the international and local levels are being undertaken to restore the Aral Sea. One such initiative is Kazakhstan's "Small Aral" project. Through the construction of a dam, the northern part of the sea has been refilled, and fishing has been revived. This small but significant

step serves as an inspiring example for the complete restoration of the sea.

Scientific Approaches:

Modern scientific approaches and innovative technologies are being employed to aid in the restoration of the Aral Sea. For instance, satellite monitoring, water conservation, and effective management techniques are crucial components of this process. Additionally, local and international scientific communities are conducting research in various fields to support the sea's recovery.

Local Cooperation:

The active participation of the local population and government is also crucial for the Aral Sea's restoration. Working with local communities, considering their needs, and providing them with ecological education play a significant role in the success of this process. Moreover, international cooperation and financial assistance are essential in this endeavor.

Hope and the Future:

We know that the Aral Sea will return. This process may be long and difficult, but the ongoing efforts and innovative approaches give us the opportunity to rectify this disaster and bring the sea back to life. The return of the Aral Sea is not only vital for restoring ecological balance but also for the economic and social development of the region.

The Aral Sea is coming back before our eyes, and this beacon of hope is being realized through the united efforts of the global community. We know that the Aral will return!

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JUSTICE

Wanjigi Accuses President Ruto Of Abductions And Killings Amid Anti-Government Protests



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The businessman specifically accused the President of being a "Constitution delinquent," claiming that Ruto has not only violated the Kenyan Constitution but has also breached the oath of office he swore to uphold. According to Wanjigi, the recent wave of violence, which he attributes directly to the government, has led to the deaths of more than 60 youths and the abduction of over 100 individuals.

- "The Constitution of Kenya is clear on the role of the President in protecting the lives and rights of its citizens. However, President Ruto has done the exact opposite, using state power to oppress and silence dissent. His actions have led to the loss of innocent lives and the violation of human rights on an unprecedented scale," Wanjigi stated.



Jimi wanjigi addresses the press at a hotel in Nairobi.

Businessman and former presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi has launched a scathing attack on President William Ruto, accusing him of being directly responsible for the recent surge in abductions and killings that have accompanied the anti-government protests across the country. In a strongly worded statement issued on Tuesday, Wanjigi condemned the government for allegedly misusing state machinery to instill fear and terror among Kenyans.

Wanjigi, known for his sharp criticism of the current administration, did not mince words as he accused President Ruto of transforming state institutions into tools of oppression. "The President's administration has resorted to illegal tactics, using the police and military to spread terror through abductions, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings," Wanjigi alleged. His statement comes at a time when the country is grappling with widespread unrest, with citizens taking to the streets to protest against what they see as government overreach and disregard for democratic principles.

The businessman specifically accused the President of being a "Constitution delinquent," claiming that Ruto has not only violated the Kenyan Constitution but has also breached the oath of office he swore to uphold. According to Wanjigi, the recent wave of violence, which he attributes directly to the government, has led to the deaths of more than 60 youths and the abduction of over 100 individuals.

"The Constitution of Kenya is clear on the role of the President in protecting the lives and rights of its citizens. However, President Ruto has done the exact opposite, using state power to oppress and silence dissent. His actions have led to the loss of innocent lives and the violation of human rights on an unprecedented scale," Wanjigi stated.

The allegations come amid heightened tensions in the country, as protests against the government have intensified in recent weeks. Demonstrators, driven by grievances over the high cost of living, unemployment, and perceived government corruption, have clashed with security

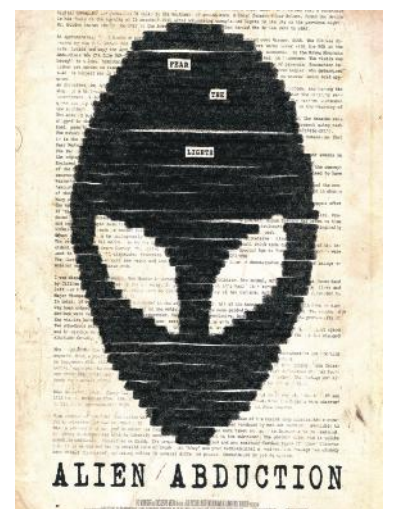
forces in various parts of the country. Reports of brutal crackdowns by police and mysterious disappearances of protest leaders have fueled fears of a return to the dark days of repression that many Kenyans thought were behind them.

Wanjigi's statement has added fuel to the fire, with opposition leaders and civil society groups rallying behind his accusations. They have called for an independent investigation into the claims and for accountability at the highest levels of government. "We cannot allow this country to slide back into dictatorship. The people of Kenya deserve to live in peace and security, free from the fear of being targeted by their own government," said a representative of a leading human rights organization.

The government, however, has dismissed Wanjigi's accusations as baseless and politically motivated. A spokesperson for the presidency accused Wanjigi of attempting to incite public unrest and undermine the authority of the state. "These are wild allegations with no basis in fact. The government is committed to main-

taining law and order and protecting the rights of all Kenyans," the spokesperson said.

As the nation watches these developments with growing concern, the calls for transparency and justice continue to mount. Whether Wanjigi's accusations will lead to any significant political fallout or changes in government policy remains to be seen. However, the gravity of the claims has undoubtedly cast a shadow over the administration's handling of the ongoing crisis.





PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.129,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
Great Oasis Gardens	NANYUKI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.399,000	Ocean View Ridge Vipingo	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.750M
Wema Gardens	NARO MORU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.439,000	Vuyanzi Gardens	KITALE	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Love Gardens	KAJIADO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.950,000	Achievers Paradise Phase 2	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
Shalom Gardens	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.450M	Joy Lovers Club	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes. 3.95M

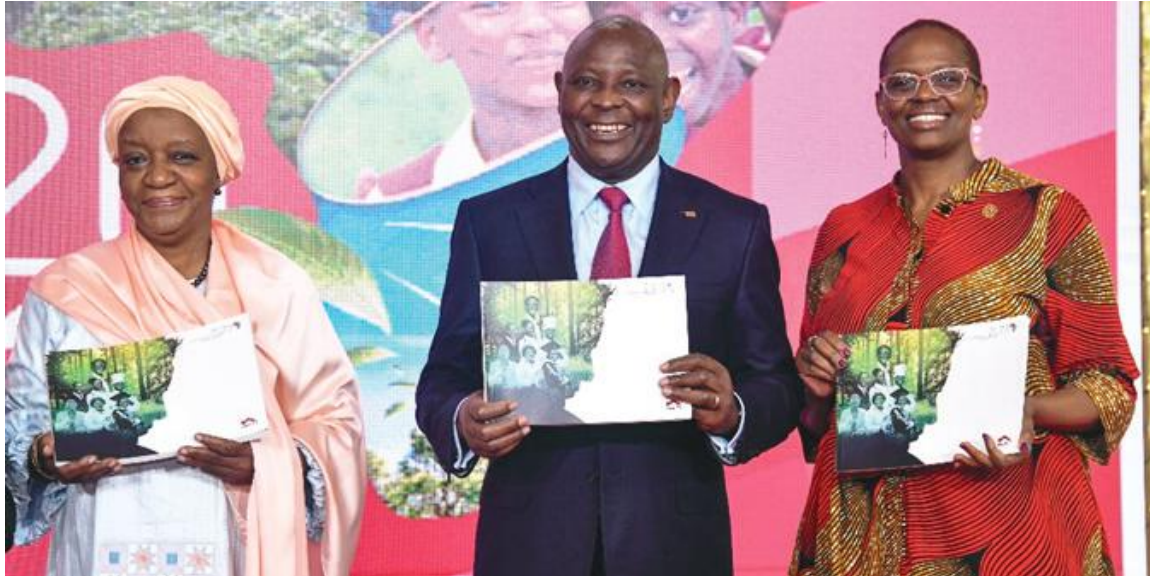
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Equity Group Unveils 2023 Sustainability Report: “A Sustainable World Is A Transformed Africa” Showcasing Bold Vision And Impact

By: Daniel Okoth
 @themkenyatimes



Zainab Bangura, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Equity Group Managing Director and CEO, Dr. James Mwangi and Wanjira Mathai, Managing Director of the Africa Division, World Resources Institute, during the launch of Equity Group's 2023 Sustainability Report.

Worth Noting:

- Equity Group's 2023 Sustainability Report underscores its commitment to advancing sustainability through the enhancement of its strategy from a twin engine to a holistic tri-engine model focusing on Social, Economic, Nature and Environment all driving a sustainable business model. This go-to market approach will see the Group accelerate its actions in key sustainability areas such as Environmental, Social, Climate and Nature risk management, climate finance, socio-economic resilience support, sustainable integrated financial services, and stakeholder impact.
- The Group acknowledges the important role that natural capital plays in Africa's economy and has taken a leading role by becoming an early adopter of the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), leading to the incorporation of nature risk in decision making, undertaking the first nature and biodiversity risk assessment on its mining and agricultural sectors.

Equity Group unveiled its third annual sustainability report for the year 2023, themed “A sustainable world is a transformed Africa.” The theme points to the significant role that global substantiality practices can have on transformation of the African continent, a challenge that Equity Group has undertaken to lead.

This landmark report exemplifies Equity's unwavering commitment to socio-economic and environmental transformation across its entire business. It showcases Equity's dedication to sustainable business practices and the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspirations into our core operations including the integration of the Task Force for Nature Related Finance Disclosures as a new focus beyond climate risk management.

Speaking during the unveiling of the report, Equity Group Managing Director and CEO, Dr. James Mwangi, stated, “Today, our business model encompasses a tri-engine approach with an economic focus, a social focus, and a nature, and environmental focus, all working to achieve positive impact. We have not only applied our efforts to realizing social impact, but also have a strong focus on environmental and nature stewardship, promoted through an intentional approach to addressing our own footprint and imparting knowledge to de-risk and empower our broader ecosystem. Additionally, we understand that a sustainable future requires mindful consideration of our impact on the planet, and this report demonstrates how Equity is leading the charge in this effort.”

Professor Isaac Macharia, Chairman

of Equity Group, underscored the importance of this report in providing an unwavering vision to be a catalyst for sustainable, socio-economic prosperity in Africa.

“As a purpose-led institution, we understand the important role we play both in the economy and society. We strongly believe that deepening sustainability is not just a moral imperative, but also critical for the long-term health of the business, as sustainable institutions are better placed to thrive and create value for all stakeholders in the long term,” said Professor Macharia.

He further noted, “Our strategic ambition envisioned in the Group's Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan (ARRP), which aims to achieve long-term transformation of the continent, requires the support and participation of diverse stakeholders. These valuable strategic partnerships with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), global implementation partners and social institutions have enabled us to deliver a wide variety of social and commercial outcomes with sustainable results.”

The 2023 Sustainability Report epitomizes Equity Group's proactive approach to driving positive change in society and continues to attract global accolades with Brand Finance ranking the Bank as the Second Strongest Banking Brand in the World and as the Most Valuable Brand in East and Central Africa. In addition, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) ranked the Group as the global leader with the highest number of climate-related transactions among 258 financial institutions worldwide. The Group also earned the recognition of

Euromoney as the Best Bank for Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa for 2 years running.

Zainab Bangura, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi, commended Equity for exemplifying how businesses can prioritize sustainability while achieving profitability.

“Sustainable development requires an integrated approach that considers both environmental concerns as well as social development. The work you do as Equity makes it clear that the role of the private sector in delivering a more sustainable world is key. You are leading the way in showing the world that profitability and sustainability can co-exist,” she said.

Also speaking during the event, the French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Arnaud Suquet, said “For us to achieve a sustainable future, we need to rely on all agents of change. Not only the public sector but also the private sector should be heavily involved.”

Equity Group's sustainability approach comprises of three main components. First, the promotion of environmentally friendly business operations, including energy and resource efficiency, water and waste reduction practices in its offices and branches. Second, a commitment to the continuous improvement of its business approach and market offerings to ensure they reflect best practices for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria. This includes offering sustainable finance, credit and investment products as well as continuing its long-standing practice of promoting financial in-

clusion, maintaining stringent ethical standards for all its operations and being a responsible employer. Third, is the recognition that deepening sustainability cannot be achieved by any single institution. The Group's strategic ambition envisioned in the Group's Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan (ARRP), which aims to achieve long-term transformation of the continent, requires the support and participation of diverse stakeholders and partners.

During the report's launch, Wanjira Mathai, Managing Director of the Africa Division, World Resources Institute, urged participants to focus on the present and future of the continent.

“We must begin to think of a shift in narrative, instead of only envisioning the Africa of tomorrow, we must also concentrate on the Africa of today. We should recognize the abundance we currently possess and challenge ourselves, both as a continent and as individual nations, to achieve far more than our current reality.”

Baraka Moruri, the Little Mr. Environment Kenya 2023 said, “I started my journey a few years ago and so far I have been able to plant 7,900 trees. The support I have received from my school and my society is pushing me forward. Let's just not plant trees, let's also nurture them until they are able to stand by themselves.”

The 2023 sustainability report unpacks how Equity is walking the talk within its business operations across the seven markets it runs offices in; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda, DRC and in Ethiopia where it operates a representative office as it aims to deepen environmental stewardship.

Energy: In 2023, Equity Group observed fluctuations in grid-based energy consumption. Some regions experienced a slight increase in energy consumption, including Rwanda (by 0.4%) and DRC (by 13.1%). Kenya reduced its energy consumption by 9.7%. On energy intensity per staff, it is observed that the highest consumption figures are recorded in the DRC at 4,307 kWh per staff. However, there was an improvement of energy intensity by 7% compared to 2022. Rwanda saw the highest energy intensity at 1,679 kWh per staff, representing a decrease of 15%. Following Rwanda and DRC, Kenya recorded electricity consumption at 1,482 kWh per staff, indicating a reduction of 6%



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wamalwa Criticizes ODM Leaders For Downplaying President Ruto's Achievements

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

Democratic Action Party (DAP-K) leader Eugene Wamalwa has taken issue with some ODM leaders for allegedly sugarcoating President William Ruto's administration and downplaying its achievements. Speaking in Bungoma, Wamalwa accused ODM leaders of being disingenuous in their assessment of the Kenya Kwanza government's performance, particularly regarding development projects and appointments from the Western region. "Some ODM leaders are not being truthful when they claim that the Western region has not received its fair share of appointments and development projects from the Ruto administration," Wamalwa stated. He argued that while there is always room for improvement, the region has already benefited significantly from the current government.

Wamalwa's remarks come amid ongoing bipartisan talks between the government and the opposition, where the high cost of living has been a key agenda item. The former CS maintained that ODM leaders should acknowledge the positive strides made by the Ruto administration instead of constantly criticizing it. He urged the opposition to engage constructively with the government to address the challenges facing Kenyans, rather than resorting to

political grandstanding.

His statement underscores the growing tensions between the ruling Kenya Kwanza coalition and the opposition Azimio la Umoja, as both sides jostle for political relevance and public support. Wamalwa's comments reflect a broader dissatisfaction within the opposition ranks, particularly regarding the actions of ODM leaders who have joined the government.

In recent weeks, Wamalwa has been vocal about the perceived betrayal within the Azimio coalition, particularly criticizing ODM members who have accepted positions in Ruto's cabinet. He argues that this undermines the coalition's integrity and its commitment to opposing the government. Wamalwa's frustrations mirror the sentiments of many within the opposition who feel that their leaders are compromising their principles for political gain.

The former CS's criticisms are not isolated. Other Azimio leaders have also expressed concerns about the direction of the coalition, particularly after Raila Odinga's admission of his role in stabilizing Ruto's administration amid protests. This admission has fueled speculation about the future of the opposition and its ability to effectively challenge the government.

Wamalwa's remarks come at a time when the opposition is facing internal strife, with some leaders calling for a

reevaluation of their strategies. The Democratic Action Party of Kenya (DAP-K), which Wamalwa leads, is reportedly considering its position within the coalition, citing a lack of direction and unity among its members.

During a recent interview, Wamalwa lamented that the ODM's actions have created irreconcilable differences within the coalition. He stated, "Kenyans are saying that this government must go, but some of our partners are saying it has to stay. Those are irreconcilable differences which are grounds for a divorce." This statement highlights the growing rift within the opposition and raises questions about its future cohesiveness.

Wamalwa has also criticized Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua for suggesting that the Western region has received adequate representation in government. He countered Gachagua's claims, stating that the region encompasses five counties, and the appointments made thus far do not reflect the promised 30 percent representation.

In the ongoing bipartisan talks, Wamalwa emphasized that the high cost of living remains a critical issue that must be addressed. He argued that dismissing this concern undermines the struggles faced by ordinary Kenyans, who are grappling with rising prices and economic challenges. His insistence on discussing this topic re-

fects a commitment to addressing the pressing needs of the populace.

As the political landscape evolves, Wamalwa's criticisms of ODM leaders and the Ruto administration will likely resonate with many Kenyans who feel disillusioned by the current state of politics. His call for accountability and transparency in governance aligns with a growing demand for effective leadership that prioritizes the needs of the people.

Amidst these tensions, Wamalwa's position as a prominent figure in the opposition may be tested as he navigates the complexities of party politics. His ability to maintain support within his party while challenging ODM leaders will be crucial as the political climate continues to shift.

Wamalwa's leadership within DAP-K has also been marked by efforts to solidify the party's presence in the political arena. He has been actively engaging with constituents and advocating for issues that resonate with the electorate, including economic empowerment and infrastructural development.

His commitment to the Western region's development is evident in his calls for increased government investment and representation. Wamalwa has been vocal about the need for equitable resource allocation to ensure that the region does not lag behind in national development.

As the DAP-K party leader, Wamalwa has also focused on strengthening party structures and mobilizing grassroots support. His efforts to popularize the party in Western Kenya have been met with enthusiasm, as many constituents seek alternatives to the traditional political parties.

Wamalwa's criticisms of ODM leaders are part of a broader strategy to position DAP-K as a viable alternative within the opposition coalition. By highlighting the shortcomings of ODM, he aims to attract disillusioned voters who are seeking new leadership that prioritizes accountability and development.

In conclusion, Eugene Wamalwa's criticisms of ODM leaders for downplaying President Ruto's achievements reflect a broader struggle within the opposition coalition. As tensions rise and allegiances shift, Wamalwa's call for constructive engagement and accountability may serve as a guiding principle for those seeking to navigate the complexities of Kenyan politics. The future of the opposition hinges on its ability to unite and effectively address the concerns of the electorate, a challenge that Wamalwa is keenly aware of as he advocates for change.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

Strengthening Governance: Mechanisms For Fostering Collaboration

Among Governors, Deputy Governors, And MCAs In Kenya

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

In Kenya, the relationship between governors, deputy governors, and Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) is pivotal for effective governance and development. However, political squabbles and misunderstandings often hinder collaboration, leading to inefficiencies and stalled projects. To foster a harmonious working environment, several mechanisms can be implemented to improve these relationships.

One of the most critical steps in fostering a good working relationship is the clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. Amending the County Governments Act to mandate governors to assign specific roles and portfolios to their deputies can significantly reduce conflicts and supremacy battles. By defining these responsibilities, both governors and deputy governors can work together more effectively, minimizing misunderstandings and enhancing accountability.

Enhancing intergovernmental relations between the national government, county governments, and county assemblies is essential. Regular consultations and co-decision-making processes can align administrative and governmental systems, ensuring that all parties are on the same page. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of shared purpose and encourages open communication, which is vital for addressing grievances before they escalate into serious disputes.

Investing in capacity building and peer learning is another effective

mechanism for improving relationships among county leaders. By documenting and recognizing success stories of county management, local leaders can learn from each other's experiences. The national government can support this initiative through policy direction, legislative frameworks, and technical assistance, ultimately leading to more effective governance.

While formal intergovernmental relations are important, informal collaboration should not be overlooked. Encouraging platforms such as the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) allows MCAs and governors to consult, share experiences, and learn best practices from one another. These informal interactions can strengthen relationships and foster a collaborative spirit that benefits the entire county.

Political leaders must prioritize unity and collaboration over division. By setting aside personal and party differences, governors, deputy governors, and MCAs can work together for the greater good of their constituents. Partnerships between leaders from different political parties can serve as a model for fostering stability and progress, demonstrating that collaboration is essential for effective governance.

Public participation in governance is crucial for building trust and accountability. When constituents have a say in development priorities, it reduces tensions over project allocations and ensures that funds are directed toward the community's needs. Regular public forums, town hall meetings, and online platforms can be utilized to gather input from

citizens, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration among all stakeholders.

Establishing bipartisan committees within county assemblies to oversee major projects can ensure that all political factions have a voice in decision-making. This inclusivity helps build consensus and reduces the likelihood of partisan conflicts. By involving members from different political parties, these committees can ensure that diverse perspectives are represented, leading to more equitable and effective governance.

Implementing structured conflict resolution mechanisms, such as mediation or arbitration, can help address disputes amicably before they escalate. Both parties should be willing to engage in mediation facilitated by neutral third parties, such as respected community leaders or legal experts. This proactive approach can help maintain a positive working relationship and prevent political squabbles.

Regular training and capacity-building initiatives for both MCAs and governors on governance, negotiation, and conflict management can significantly improve their working relationships. Workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs can equip leaders with the necessary skills to navigate political challenges and foster a collaborative atmosphere.

Promoting accountability and transparency within county governments is essential for building trust among leaders. Regular audits, public reporting, and open communication about decision-making processes can help ensure that all parties are held

accountable for their actions. This transparency fosters a culture of trust and collaboration, essential for effective governance.

A supportive legislative framework that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of governors, deputy governors, and MCAs can help minimize misunderstandings and conflicts. By ensuring that there is no overlap or ambiguity in authority, this framework can facilitate smoother governance and enhance cooperation among county leaders.

Regular meetings between governors, deputy governors, and MCAs can provide a platform for discussing key issues, addressing grievances, and brainstorming solutions. These meetings can help foster open communication and collaboration, ensuring that all parties are aligned in their goals and objectives.

Recognizing and celebrating the achievements of county leaders can foster goodwill and encourage collaboration. By acknowledging the contributions of governors, deputy governors, and MCAs, counties can create a positive working environment that promotes teamwork and collective success.

Encouraging leaders to engage with their communities can strengthen relationships and foster a sense of shared purpose. By actively participating in community events and initiatives, governors, deputy governors, and MCAs can build trust and rapport with their constituents, ultimately leading to more effective governance.

Establishing mentorship programs where experienced leaders guide

newcomers can help foster a collaborative atmosphere. By providing support and guidance, seasoned leaders can help their colleagues navigate the complexities of governance, ultimately leading to stronger working relationships.

Financial constraints often hinder the effectiveness of county governments and can lead to conflicts between leaders. Ensuring that deputy governors have access to budgets and resources to carry out their functions can help alleviate tensions and promote collaboration. This financial support is essential for empowering leaders to fulfill their roles effectively.

Inclusivity in decision-making processes is vital for fostering good working relationships. By ensuring that all voices are heard and considered, counties can build consensus and reduce the likelihood of conflicts. This approach encourages collaboration and strengthens the bonds between governors, deputy governors, and MCAs.

Fostering good working relationships between governors, deputy governors, and MCAs is essential for effective governance and the success of devolution in Kenya. By implementing these mechanisms, counties can build strong, cooperative relationships that enhance service delivery, public participation, and overall development. Addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting collaboration is crucial for realizing the full potential of devolution and improving the lives of Kenyans.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.

Equity Group Unveils 2023 Sustainability Report: “A Sustainable World Is A Transformed Africa” Showcasing Bold Vision And Impact

Contd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- The Group’s focus on sustainability is demonstrated by its continuous initiatives in social interventions, economic resilience and empowerment efforts which has resulted in the creation of 1,266,182 cumulative jobs under our Young Africa Works Programme amongst other successes. The Group earned recognition by Euromoney as the Best Bank in Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa for 2 years running.
- The Group continues to lead the way in combating climate change through climate financing, emerging as the leading financial institution among 258 globally partnering with IFC to have the highest number of climate transactions at 47,000 addressing climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

compared to 2022.

Waste: Equity aims to minimize overall waste generated and eliminate waste sent to landfills from all subsidiaries and subsequently branches across the region. In 2023, the Group tracked waste generated in Kenya identifying various waste streams including glass, paper, metals, organic matter, plastics, medical waste, and e-waste. Paper waste accounted for 72% of the total waste generated, totaling 316 tons. In Kenya generated wastepaper continues to be recycled through support of a circularity approach with our suppliers.

Some of the initiatives that were implemented to reduce waste generated include reduction in printing through digitization, engaging of e-waste recyclers, roll out of reverse osmosis water points across business premises and usage of glass water bottles in place of single use plastic bottles in operational activities where reverse osmosis has not been deployed.

Water Consumption: In the year 2023, the total water consumption in the Group totaled 57,235 cubic meters. The Group continues to monitor and improve related data collection regarding this metric. The Group is also implementing systems to reduce water use across its operations, reflecting its commitment to sustainable water management.

Our People: Equity Group recognizes the important role that its staff play in its success. To this end the Group established an Employee Share Ownership Programme with 198,614,463 ordinary shares at Kshs. 0.5 each, which amounts to 5% of the share capital of the Company, which was approved by the shareholders, driving a strong sense of ownership. The capabilities of staff to tackle modern financial challenges is important. To address this the Group spent over Kshs. 316.5m on employee training.

The report further showcases Equity Group’s steadfast commitment to its social engine ‘program pillars.’

Education and Leadership Development: Equity Group Foundation seeks to break the cycle of poverty and develop the next generation of leaders through increased access to secondary and tertiary education. The Wings to Fly and Elimu scholarship programs have seen 60,009 brilliant scholars receive comprehensive high school scholarships, while the Equity Leaders Program (ELP) has supported 23,825 University scholars and alumni of the program. The program has seen 891 scholars attend global universities,



French Ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet, Wanjira Mathai, Managing Director of the Africa Division, World Resources Institute, Equity Group Chairman Prof. Isaac Macharia, Baraka Moruri, the Little Mr. Environment Kenya 2023, Equity Group Managing Director and CEO, Dr. James Mwangi and Zainab Bangura, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi, during the launch of Equity Group’s 2023 Sustainability Report

including 199 who have attended the Ivy League universities.

Health: In its flagship Health program, Equity Group Foundation has increased access to comprehensive health financing and private sector-led, affordable, high-quality, and standardized health services. At the end of 2023, Equity Afya had launched a total of 98 outpatient medical centers in Kenya and so far, it has been able to manage over 2.1m patient visits. Equity Afya continues in its expansion strategy, with ongoing rollout in DRC, and continues to avail quality, affordable health services across the franchise network.

Food and Agriculture: Equity Group Foundation helps create jobs, improve market access, and expand agricultural production by working in partnership with small and medium-sized farmers to increase their production capabilities, business acumen, and access to technology and financial services. In the agriculture sector, EGF under its Food and Agriculture pillar has impacted over 3.8 million small scale farmers and supported over 292,362 MSMEs in the agriculture sector. It has delivered these efforts through technology, training of over 186,077 farmers and over 18,030 Micro-Small and Medium Agriculture Enterprises, access to markets and access to finance.

Enterprise Development and Financial inclusion: Equity Group Foundation stimulates job creation and economic growth by providing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises [MSMEs] with advice, mentorship, and entrepreneurship training. In 2023,

Equity Group Foundation trained over 2.4 million youth and women in Financial Education; 517,2467 MSMEs trained in entrepreneurship with over Kshs. 275.3B disbursed to trained youth, women and MSMEs.

Energy, Climate Change and Environment: Equity Group promotes the conservation and smart use of natural resources by expanding forest cover, improving water security, and promoting the use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. The Group continues to contribute to combating climate change through nature conservation and promoting renewable energy. Through the Equity Group Foundation over 25.2 million trees have been planted and over 420,243 clean energy products distributed to institutions and households. This has saved over 539,000 trees. The Group has been able to disburse over Kshs. 24Bn towards climate finance covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate smart agriculture

The Group further recognizes that water is not only essential for life but also serves as a fundamental resource for various socioeconomic activities. Access to clean water is crucial for health, sanitation, agriculture, and economic productivity. Through our initiatives, over 105 million litres of water storage have been installed, profoundly impacting the lives of more than 20,000 households.

Financial Inclusion: Equity Group maintains its focus on providing inclusive Financial Services that transform livelihoods, give dignity, and expand opportunities. To ensure we achieve this, the Group lever-

aged technology to see over Kshs. 11.72bn transactions done digitally, Kshs. 240.7bn transactions under mobile banking and internet banking, 28.17bn transactions under agency. This has seen a last mile financial reach to customers who would otherwise remain underbanked.

Social Protection: Equity Group Foundation is committed to reducing social and economic risk and vulnerability, and to alleviating extreme poverty and deprivation through cash transfer programmes. The Group has reached 5.4 million individuals with social assistance programs including cash transfers, fee waivers, subsidies and social pensions delivered to vulnerable and marginalized populations. Cumulatively, Kshs. 138.39 billion has been disbursed via cash transfers under these programs. Capacity building has been availed as a pathway to transition beneficiary cohorts into economic stability and self-reliance.

The comprehensive report encompasses the entirety of Equity Group, comprising Equity Group Holdings Plc, alongside its esteemed banking subsidiaries in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania. Additionally, it includes the Representative Office in Ethiopia, the Equity Group Foundation (EGF), and the subsidiaries Equity Investment Bank, Equity Bancassurance Intermediary Limited, Finserve Africa Limited, Finserve Africa Trustees Limited, Equity Life Assurance (Kenya) Limited, and Equity Group Insurance Holdings Limited.

New Project To Reduce Post-Harvest Losses

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

National Government, development partners, and counties are launching a one-year pilot project called “Circular Economy in the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs)” to address post-harvest losses, which currently account for 40 per cent of national production.

The project aims to create closed-loop systems where agricultural products are reused, repurposed, and recycled, reducing waste and maximizing value.

The project is targeting two value chains, mainly banana and livestock, in Laikipia and Nyamira counties.

The Norwegian Government has funded the project with KSh193.5 million on top of what the Kenyan government has already invested in.

The project focuses on producing food in ways that protect and regenerate nature, ensuring that agricultural practices enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystems for future generations.

The cost to transform the global agri-food system to make it more resilient, nutritious, inclusive, and net-zero is estimated at about KSh65 Trillion a year for the next 10 years.

FAO Interim representative in Kenya, Nyabenyi Tipo noted that agri-food systems should be solutions rather than problems, and the transformation should begin at the grassroots level within local communities.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Country Representative Tally Einav said that their role will be to create bankable green projects and platforms to help connect businesses that take up production through FAO and have created a business.

They will develop tailored guidelines for the two value chains to assist businesses in integrating circularity into their processes and provide training and technical support to enhance the capacities of policymakers and business organisations.

Asha Kerubo Myakwara, a banana farmer from Nyamira, said they have started value addition and utilisation of waste management from bananas due to high post-harvest losses of up to 46%. She hopes that from UNIDO,



they will have zero post-harvest losses in their county.

“Through this we were able to reduce to 15 per cent, and we are hoping that from UNIDO we are going to

have zero post-harvest losses in our county,” she said.

The project is also aligned with the Kenyan government’s prioritisation of food and nutrition security and

ambition to establish CAIPs, promoting agro-processing and strong market linkages.

President Ruto Urged Fast Track Mariguini Slum Upgrading Program

By: Capital Correspondent

Residents of Mariguini informal settlement in Nairobi South have implored President William Ruto to hasten the Slum Upgrading Program earmarked for the region.

Nairobi South MCA Waithera Chege has expressed their satisfaction with the construction designs and standards saying it will uplift the standards of living for the residents in the informal settlement.

“The priority of Kenya Kwanza Alliance regime is housing and the Mariguini Informal Settlement started in the previous regime. When I came on board one of the updates I was given by the locals is for the upgrading of the project,” Chege stated.

The Nairobi South MCA spoke during a site visit at the ongoing Mukuru Social Housing project where the landlords and the resi-

dents gave nod to the government to undertake the slum upgrading project planned for in their residence within a maximum period of 2 years.

“A real upgrade of the residents of Mariguini is when they are relocated to houses with better social amenities at the same amount of rent. I will be happy as a leader within South B to relocate constituents to houses with better amenities like toilets,” Chege noted.

Officials from the State Department for Housing and Urban Planning were part of the site tour where they expressed their plans to kickstart construction of 4000 housing units in the area early next year set benefit over 2700 residents.

Director Slums Upgrading Department Mary Wanjiku promised that within two years of the commencement of the project set for next year the resident will have moved in to the new homes.

“Seeing is believing and even their project which is the evaluation stage will start it by early next year and we they are going to benefit from this



project. Living in the poor conditions will be a thing of the past but in two years they will move to their houses,” Wanjiku stated.

Thousands are squeezed into 100,000 households made of rusted corrugated iron. They live a life with

limited access to water, schools, roads and even toilets.

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and other stakeholders, initiated the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP).

The objective is to improve lives and livelihoods of people working and living in slums through various initiatives and interventions.

Sports >> *Former Gor Mahia forward Benson Omalla says he is ready to step up and be Kenya's leading striker in the opening two games of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations

No Olunga? No Problem: Omalla Says He Is Ready To Step Up For Stars



Harambee Stars striker Benson Omalla during a training session at the Police Sacco Stadium. PHOTO/Raymond Makhaya.

SPORTS NEWS

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Former Gor Mahia forward Benson Omalla says he is ready to step up and be Kenya's leading striker in the opening two games of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers if captain Michael Olunga will be unavailable.

Olunga picked up an injury in the opening weeks of the Qatar Stars League (QSL) and is highly likely to miss the first game against Zimbabwe on Friday in Kampala.

In his absence, Omalla, the FKF Premier League golden boot winner from last season, says he is ready to take the mantle.

"As a player, you always have

to be ready if you are in the team because anything can happen and you can be called upon. I have been in the system for a while and I have learnt a lot both from the coaches and from the captain. If given a chance, I believe in myself and I believe I can show something," Omalla told Capital Sports.

Omalla has recently moved to Lebanon from Gor and has made the final squad for the two games against Zimbabwe and Namibia. Skipper Olunga will undergo an MRI in Kampala, to ascertain whether he can play part in the second game in Johannesburg next Tuesday.

At the same time, Omalla says he yearns to give his all for the national team, as he dreams of playing at the Africa Cup of Nations.

"Every player wants to play at the highest level and I am taking these qualifiers very seriously. I also want to compete at the top level and heading to the AFCON qualifiers, I am confident that we can come through," Omalla notes.

He adds; "We have trained very well for the past few days and preparations have been good. We are looking forward to start well and win our first game."

Despite starring for Gor, Omalla

is yet to hit the notes for the senior national team, though he scored for the Under-23 team during the COSAFA Cup last month.

Capital Sports

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Portugal legend Cristiano Ronaldo says he has no plans to retire from international football yet – but it “won’t be a difficult decision to make” when the time comes.

When The Time Comes, I’ll Move On – Cristiano Ronaldo



Portugal skipper Cristiano Ronaldo takes a selfie with a young fan who invaded the pitch. PHOTO/BB..

Portugal legend Cristiano Ronaldo says he has no plans to retire from international football yet – but it “won’t be a difficult decision to make” when the time comes.

The 39-year-old has more caps and more goals than anybody else in men’s international football history, with 130 strikes in 212 games.

He is in Portugal’s squad for Nations League games with Croatia and Scotland.

But Ronaldo comes into these games after a hugely disappointing Euro 2024 campaign where he failed to score and many felt he held the team back.

The Manchester United and Real Madrid legend now plays in Saudi Arabia for Al-Nassr.

“When the time comes, I’ll move on,” he said. “It won’t be a difficult decision to make.

“If I feel like I’m no longer contributing anything, I’ll be the first to leave.”

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner says he “never considered leaving the national team” despite the post-Euro 2024 criticism.

Ronaldo and team-mate Pepe, aged 41, were the two oldest players at Euro 2024.

After their Euros exit, former Portugal international Jose Fonte

told BBC Sport: “They probably know it’s the end of the line in the national team.

“They’ve done so much for Portugal. Sometimes you just have to give your place to the young boys coming up.”

Pepe has retired, with Ronaldo saying the defender “left through the front door”. But the forward has opted to carry on.

“People’s expectations of the national team were too high,” added Ronaldo on their quarter-final exit to France on penalties.

Last month he said: “I don’t know if I will retire soon, in two or three years, but probably I will

retire here at Al-Nassr.

“When I leave the national team, I won’t tell anyone in advance and it will be a very spontaneous decision on my part, but also a very well thought-out one.”

BBC.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Cage Inside Us



By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The old father was ashamed to ask for help from his mother. She did not say anything to them. She had to work in cold winter days. No matter what the poor mother did, she had to feed her children, at least earn money for food.
- 4 years passed like this Samia turned 10 years old. At school, he was used to being treated differently by others. Even though her mother was sick, she had to work in the cold, doctors diagnosed her with pneumonia. His brother was only 13 years old at the time, a helpless boy struggling to earn money for his mother's medicine.

- Uhhh I'm alone, I'm so alone in this world. I have neither father nor mother.

She wept as he thought about these words. It wasn't the first time she cried. This little girl, who spent nights awake and alone, had high hopes for her life when her mother was alive, when her father did not abandon her, and when her brother did not die in a car accident. She wrote letters to Allah every day in her diary and she shed tears, because there was still hope for the future. When Samia was 6 years old, when she had just left school, she heard her father and mother's constant quarrels. In the end, it seems that her father could not bear it, so he left his family and went to another country to find his own happiness. And nothing can be done by the mother alone. The old father was ashamed to ask for help from his mother. She did not say anything to them. She had to work in cold winter days. No matter what the poor mother did, she had to feed her children, at least earn money for food. 4 years passed like this. Samia turned 10 years old. At school, he was used to being treated differently by others. Even though her mother was sick, she had to work in the cold, doctors diagnosed her with pneumonia. His brother was only 13 years old at the time, a helpless boy struggling to earn money for his mother's medicine. As soon as he heard about his mother's death, he rushed to the hospital and was hit by a car while crossing the road. Samia lost 2 close people in one day. She was brought to the house of her elderly grandparents. Here, she has been living here for 9 years. They didn't even hire her because she couldn't read well, she looked for herself everywhere, the light for the future is fading more and more. She is giving up hope, she has no strength left to live. Several times she told her grandparents and acquaintances that she was going to study in another country, but they strongly opposed it. She wanted to fly to a foreign country in search of her happiness without telling anyone, but when she decided to do so, she always repeated the same words inside "what if I can't achieve anything anyway? How can I justify the trust of my grandparents. After

I went there, my knowledge of me will it be enough for me to get into university or not. Where will I get this much money to live on? What if something bad happens?". She did not have the strength to go to a foreign country. Every time she thought about her dreams, it seemed that they would not come true.

- O Allah, why did you put these tests on me, after all there were people who lived so well. Isn't this unfair?

Allah does not give any trial in vain. It took her a long time to understand this. She still wrote long sentences in her diary. She envied her friends who had a mother and friends who had families. I wish you knew how important the mother's role is in the life of a girl child. If you knew that it was difficult for Samia then and now. Ignoring the words of his grandparents, she wanted to take her passport and the money she had been saving for a long time and fly to Turkey. This money was enough to get there. She learned the language from some Turkish movies. Everyone who knew her made a fool of her. Samia knew that she could not find her happiness here anymore.

Even though she felt inside that no one would believe her, she managed to find the strength to leave this time.

Now she was in a completely new world, among completely new people. She did not lose herself, she quickly adapted to the place, because she grew up in difficulty, found her way easily. Exams are coming soon, now she has to study more than ever, the money she brought from home has run out, she can't find a job, she's depressed. Decided to return to her homeland several times, but she knew that it would not be easy to succeed. While preparing for the exam, she met a boy from her village in the library, this boy's name was Kamron.

Kamron was a 3rd year student at the university Samiya was applying to and helped the girl get a job and prepare for the exam. Samia worked and studied day and night. In the meantime, she sent some money home. That day came, Samia took the exam with excitement and fear in her heart. Everything was fine now. A few weeks later, she rushed to see the test results online. Her all

hopes were dashed, tears began to flow from her eyes, she did not know what to do, she sat on the ground trembling. She failed the exam.

- Oh Allah, will I be so unlucky? "Why you give me so many test?" said.

She cried continuously for 2 days, she could not come to herself. She had given up hope of living now. She even thought about suicide. She prayed to Allah and continued to live. It has been more than 20 days since this event took place. Kamron came to Samia with the news that Samia had been accepted to one of the top universities she had applied to. The girl's eyes shone with happiness that day. She heard this news and thanked once again. For being patient and not giving up.

Time passed very quickly, 5 years have already passed, it has been more than 1 month since Samia returned to her homeland. Now she is not just a timid little girl who always complains about life, but has become a mature journalist, who managed to interview several great people, this girl is now known by the whole city. And now they have a little happiness in the happy family that she created with Kamron, they named him Ali.



Conclusion: Allah will never test us more than our patience, we should be thankful and continue on our way. If Allah has given us a test, then there is something good in it. The important thing is not to stop moving. Let's always appreciate the people who are with us even in our worst moments. Achieving the right goal is never easy, we have to let the little boy or girl and his or her dreams out of the cage we have built inside of us.

