



Exploring The Funding Windows For Public-Private Partnerships In Kenya: A Critical Analysis

As Kenya strives to achieve its Vision 2030 objectives, the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development has gained significant traction. Central to this strategy are the various funding mechanisms, or "windows," established to facilitate collaboration between the government and private sector.

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News>>County Government Commits To Enhance Disaster Preparedness

P. 12. Nakuru County Government is putting in place comprehensive disaster preparedness strategies that will facilitate quicker response to high-risk occurrences such as floods, sink-holes, fires, drought and major accidents among others.

Petition Filed To Block Swearing In Of New DP

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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zingy and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Kiambu PLWDs Calls For More Bursaries And Infrastructure

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “The special needs pupils and students require more money for their bursaries and we request the county government to allocate more funds for them,” Ng’ang’a said.
- He said that the bursary committee should identify the PLWDs in their areas since some do not get timely information whenever the bursary forms are being distributed hence they are locked out.

Kiambu County’s Persons Living With Disability (PLWD) have called on the county government to consider allocating them more money for bursaries and adding an extra ECDE classroom for their children.

According to Francis Ng’ang’a, a PLWD speaking during the issuance of bursary forms to needy students said that they are grateful that they are being considered by the county government during bursary allocations but more funds should be set aside since the special schools require a beneficiary to pay more money.

“The special needs pupils and students require more money for their bursaries and we request the county government to allocate more funds for them,” Ng’ang’a said.

He said that the bursary committee should identify the PLWDs in their areas since some do not get timely information whenever the bursary forms are being distributed hence they are locked out.

He added that whereas the county government is committed to build new ECDE centers in every primary school they should consider putting up a classroom for the PWDs so that they do not leave any child out of education.

“The ECDE centers being constructed we appreciate are being built with consideration of a ramp for those who are using wheelchairs. We also need the government to consider classrooms for the PWDs as they are abled differently and they too deserve an education,” he said.

Charles Kimani, a PLWD said that sign language is also a major challenge where the ECDE centers do not have a sign language teacher hence those who are in need seek education elsewhere which has turned to be costly.

“We need sign language to be taught in our ECDE as many parents cannot afford to take their deaf children to private centers due to the hard economic times,” Kimani said.

The PLWDs called on the government to consider constructing schools for special needs students since there are not many.

“In Kiambu County, we have a challenge of having few schools for the special children. we urge the government



Governor Kimani Wamatangi joined by Deputy governor Rosemary Kirika in distribution of bursary forms to bursary committee members of Bibirioni ward..

to have more schools so that many children who are abled differently can get a chance at education,” they said.

Rosemary Kirika, Deputy Governor encouraged the bursary committee members to ensure they apply the highest standards of accountability and fairness in the vetting process to ensure that they prioritize the most vulnerable cases.

“This will help us to avoid dropouts which can have long term effects in our society,” she said.

She however thanked Governor Kimani Wamatangi for showing commitment, goodwill and consistency in supporting education in the county, for education is the most powerful tool the county government can use to empower individuals to reach their full potential.



Rosemary Kirika Kiambu county deputy governor speaking during the issuance of bursary forms.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has partnered with the SMACHS Foundation to rehabilitate the degraded Chepalungu Forest, focusing on the 220-hectare Kapchumbe Block. Chief Forest Conservator Alex Lemarkoko announced protective measures, including a 21-kilometer electric fence to prevent further human encroachment. Local youths will participate in tree planting under the Climate Works program. SMACHS Foundation, led by patron Charlene Ruto, will work with the Kapchumbe community to establish tree nurseries, contributing to Kenya's larger goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. This initiative supports global reforestation efforts and aims to combat climate change while creating jobs.



The leading water and sanitation services provider; Nyeri Water and Sewerage Company (NYEWASCO) this week held its second Quarter General Corporate meeting that brought together senior management and staff for a day of reflection, motivation, and updates. Various departments presented their reports where they highlighted progress and achievements over the last quarter. The firm Managing Director Eng. Peter Kahuthu expressed his gratitude for the dedication and commitment of all staff members. He emphasized the importance of teamwork, innovation, and continuous improvement in the workplace to ensure the organisation remains a leader in service delivery. The MD also took a moment to wish all our valued customers a Happy Customer Service Week, recognizing their crucial role in the company's success and reaffirming our commitment to delivering exceptional service.



Worshippers from Praise Chapel Kenya in Mombasa take part in a 5km walk to raise awareness on World Mental Health Day 2024, themed "Mental Health at Work." The church launched Tumaini Hub, a counseling group offering support for those facing depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Counseling Psychologist Roselyn Omole emphasized the importance of breaking the stigma around mental health, encouraging people to seek help. Bishop Tee Nalo urged society to support those with mental disorders instead of hiding or chaining them, noting the impact of current economic and political challenges on mental well-being.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday welcomed his Haiti counterpart Dr. Garry Conille to Nairobi for his four-day State visit.

Dr. Garry was received at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and is scheduled to engage in high-level bilateral talks with President William Ruto.

Discussions will focus on strengthening the longstanding ties between the two countries particularly on areas of mutual interest including security cooperation and fostering partnerships that promote regional stability.

"This visit by Dr. Conille represents a significant moment in the deepening of diplomatic relations between our two countries, with both Kenya and Haiti eager to explore new avenues for collaboration in economic development and security partnerships," PCS Mudavadi said.

Present during Dr. Garry's reception were Labour Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, Ambassador Dr. Monica Juma and National Security Advisor Tindi Mwale, MP for Butere.

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PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.139,000	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	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
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	Vipingo Prime	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.2.795M
Shalom Gardens	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.450M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
Joy Lovers Club	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes. 3.95M			

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National Tree Planting Initiative Registers Tremendous Progress

By: Chris Mahandara

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The CS, who was joined by 1, 000 students at the school to plant 2, 000 trees, underscored the importance of roping in learning institutions to achieve the national target of planting 15 billion trees by the end of the initiative in the year 2032.
- He challenged the learners to watch over the trees and ensure they grow to help the country build resilience and counter the effects of climate change being felt across the globe.

The National Tree Planting Initiative has registered tremendous progress in Kisumu, Siaya and Bungoma counties with some 37 million trees planted since the inception of the programme.

Through support from the National Youth Service (NYS), the Ministry of Public Service and Human Capital Development which spearheads the initiative in the three counties targets to plant 500 million trees in the area by the year 2032.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi said the progress made since the inception of the programme was encouraging, urging the community and all stakeholders to double their efforts to help reach the target.

Speaking at Maseno School in Kisumu County during a tree planting drive to mark Mazingira Day, Muturi said climate change was a reality adding that every effort must be made to green the country to weather through the adverse effects of the phenomenon.

The CS, who was joined by 1, 000 students at the school to plant 2, 000 trees, underscored the importance of roping in learning institutions to achieve the national target of planting 15 billion trees by the end of the initiative in the year 2032.

He challenged the learners to watch over the trees and ensure they grow to help the country build resilience and counter the effects of climate change being felt across the globe.

“As a Ministry we are happy with the progress made so far. I want to assure the community in this part of the country that we will continue to partner with them to ensure that this initiative succeeds,” he said.

The CS asked members of the com-



Public Service Cabinet Secretary JB Muturi watering a tree he planted at Maseno School yesterday.

munity to play an active role and ensure that they plant at least five trees before the end of the day and at the same time inculcate the culture of environmental conservation amongst the youth.

Public Service and Human Capital Development Principal Secretary Amos Gathecha said through partnership with NYS, each county has received 50, 000 free seedlings for

planting since the inception of the initiative.

The NYS, he added, will continue to produce seedlings and actively engage in the tree planting initiative to ensure that the target set by President Dr William Ruto is realised.

“We are on course to deliver this target. We are doing well but we need to redouble our efforts because time is not on our side,” Gathecha said.

Maseno School Principal Peter Owino said marking the day at the school was a big milestone towards the school’s greening initiative.

The exercise carried out by Form-One students, he said, was deliberate since they still have time at the school to ensure that the trees grow.

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DCI Joins The Nation In Mazingira Mazingira Day Celebrations By Planting 3,000 Trees

By: The DCI

In a significant step towards environmental conservation, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) yesterday actively participated in the national Mazingira Day celebrations by planting 3,000 trees. This initiative aligns with the recent legislative changes where Utamaduni Day was substituted with Mazingira Day through the Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2024, amending the Public Holidays Act. Henceforth, Mazingira Day will be celebrated annually on October 10, marking a pivotal shift towards prioritizing environmental preservation within Kenya.

The commemoration of Mazingira Day by the DCI was led by the Deputy Director of Criminal Investigations, Mr. John Onyango.

The tree planting exercise saw participation from various directorates within the DCI, taking place at the headquarters of the agency. This move underscores the DCI's com-

mitment to not only uphold law and order but also to play a crucial role in environmental conservation.

The initiative is in direct response to President William Ruto's directive to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, a monumental goal aimed at combating climate change and enhancing the country's green cover. The DCI has shown commendable progress towards this target, with a total of 14,000 trees planted in various locations to date. These include 3,000 trees at the DCI headquarters, another 3,000 trees at the National Criminal Intelligence Academy (NCIA), 5,000 trees at the National Police Service GSU Field Training Camp in Magadi, and an additional 3,000 trees planted on Mazingira Day itself.

Mr. Onyango emphasized the DCI's intention to extend its collaborative efforts with schools, hospitals, and other institutions for tree planting. This approach is geared towards overcoming space limitations and ensuring the broad reach and impact of this green initiative. He also praised the dedication of DCI officers and staff, who have shown overwhelming support for the cause.



To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, the newly appointed head of Reforms, Research, and Innovation Development (RRID), Phillip Ouma, has been tasked with overseeing the maintenance and growth of the newly planted trees. Mr. Onyango highlighted the importance of not just planting trees, but also nurturing them to maturity, to fully realize their environmental benefits.

The Mazingira Day celebrations saw

the participation of directors from different DCI directorates and civilian staff, all coming together to mark this important day. The event not only signifies the DCI's environmental stewardship but also sets a precedent for other government agencies and the private sector to follow suit in contributing to the country's reforestation efforts.

As Kenya celebrates Mazingira Day, the DCI's proactive participation in

this national initiative showcases its dedication to safeguarding the environment for future generations. It's a reminder that every effort counts in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation, and collective action can lead to significant positive impacts.

Govt Institutions Join Forces To Make Mandera Green

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

In a resolute effort to combat climate change, various government institutions have come together to launch an initiative aimed at making Mandera greener and more sustainable.

The exciting project focuses on tree planting, environmental conservation, and sustainable agriculture to combat desertification and restore the region's natural landscape.

Key players, including Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), are committed to planting thousands of trees across the county while promoting eco-friendly policies to protect Mandera's vulnerable environment.

Jillo Wako, Branch Manager at KCB Mandera, emphasized the bank's

dedication to this cause, particularly in schools, stating that the initiative will continue until Mandera achieves 100% forest cover. So far, KCB has planted over 10,000 trees, making a tangible impact in the fight against climate change!

Mandera Secondary School Principal Noor Sheikh expressed his gratitude, noting how these trees have improved the learning environment for students, creating a more comfortable and enriching educational experience.

The collaborative effort is just the beginning, with more organisations expected to join the green movement in Mandera.



Petition Filed To Block Swearing In Of New Deputy President

Lawyer Morara Omoke is seeking orders to allow Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua remain in office until all impeachment related cases are heard and determined.

By: Prudence Wanza
@themtkenyatimes

As the Senate prepares to decide the fate of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, a court petition has been filed seeking to block Chief Justice Martha Koome or anyone acting under her instructions, from swearing in any nominated Deputy President.

In the petition filed on Wednesday at the Eldoret High Court, Lawyer Morara Omoke is seeking orders to allow Gachagua remain in office until all cases related to his impeachment are heard and determined.

“A conservatory order be issued restraining the Chief Justice or any person acting under her instructions, including the Deputy Chief Justice, from swearing in any nominated Deputy President for purposes of assuming the role of the current Deputy President under Article 149(1) of the

Constitution of Kenya, 2010, pending the hearing and determination of this Petition,” Omoke urged the court.

Omoke criticized the impeachment process, citing a lack of proper public participation and alleged irregularities in the collection of signatures.

The lawyer noted that the public was given only one day for input across all 47 counties, a period he considers insufficient for meaningful engagement.

“On October 1, 2024, the Speaker of the National Assembly directed that a public participation exercise be conducted on October 4, 2024, in the 47 counties before the impeachment motion is considered. The one day set aside out of the seven-day constitutional timeline is inadequate to allow for meaningful public participation,” Omoke argued.

The Eldoret High Court, presided over by Lady Justice Emily Ominde, certified Omoke’s petition as urgent.

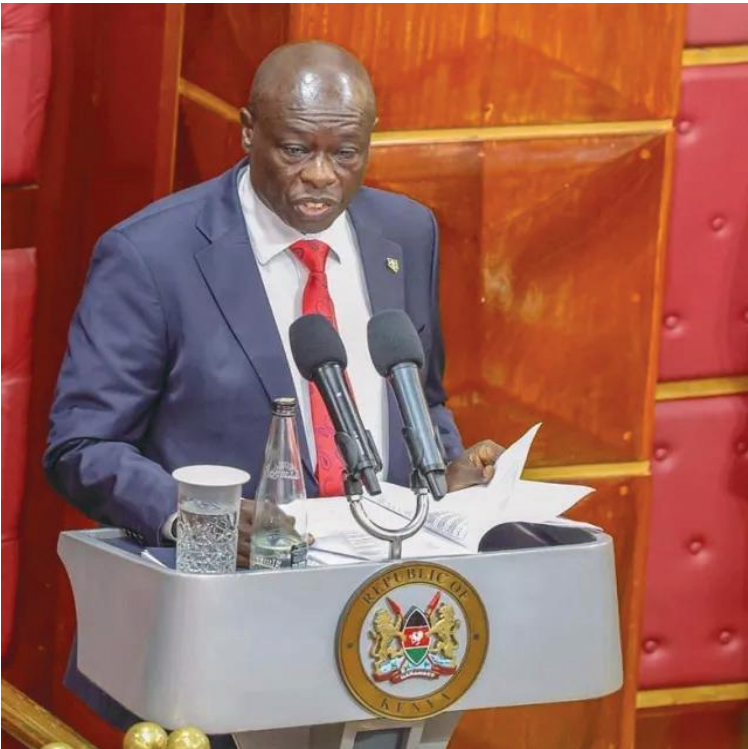
Respondents, including the Attorney General and the Speaker of the Na-

tional Assembly, have been directed to file their responses by October 16, 2024.

The matter will be mentioned before Justice Reuben Nyakundi on October 17, 2024.

Meanwhile, Justice Lawrence Mugambi on Wednesday consolidated 22 petitions filed across the country seeking to halt Gachagua’s impeachment.

Justice Mugambi is expected to deliver a ruling on Friday regarding whether he will refer the consolidated cases to Chief Justice Martha Koome to establish a panel of judges to hear and determine the matter.



DP Rigathi Gachagua at the National Assembly.

MOH Probes Reported Adverse Effects From Recent Polio Vaccination Drive

By: Margaret Kalekye
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health has launched investigations into reports on adverse reactions to the polio vaccine administered during the nationwide campaign rolled out last week.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry confirmed receiving the unverified reports and assured that it will issue a formal statement in due course.

“The Ministry of Health has received unverified reports regarding adverse events arising from the recent polio vaccination campaign. Investigations are ongoing, and a formal statement will be issued in due course” the statement reads.

The Ministry has further warned against spreading rumours and misinformation.

“We discourage members of the public from spreading rumours and

misinformation until the Ministry issues official information on this matter. Additional information on the polio vaccination campaign can be accessed from <http://health.go.ke>. For inquiries, please call 719” MoH appeals.

The government last week launched a nationwide polio vaccination campaign in response to a recent outbreak of circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2 (cVDPV2) in Kenya.

Five cases have been confirmed, including four children from Kakuma Refugee Camp in Turkana County and one positive environmental surveillance sample in Kamukunji Sub-County, Nairobi.

The vaccination campaign covered over 3.8 million children under the age of five across nine high-risk counties of Nairobi, Busia, Bungoma, Turkana, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Kiambu, Machakos, and Kakajiado.



Open Door Policy For Investors In Machakos, Says DG

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi has announced an open-door policy aimed at enhancing relations and engaging with potential investors.

Speaking during the launching of Mabati Rolling Mills (MRM) Branch and showroom in Machakos town, Mwangangi, expressed that Machakos policy of opening doors and co-operating with investors has positively impacted development.

The speaker acknowledged MRM’s decision to select Machakos for business, stating it will boost the local economy and revenue by generating trust and confidence for potential investors.

“Machakos county has intensive opportunities for investors across all sectors of production,” said the Deputy Governor.

Mwangangi highlighted the need for

increased investment by the county government and private sectors to address the housing deficit in Nairobi metropolitan.

He however swore to deal ruthlessly with those selling counterfeit building materials such as asbestos that are destroying the business for hardworking and genuine investors in Machakos.

Lastly, he encouraged the county government and National government collaborative efforts that will enforce strict measures in curbing the selling of counterfeit building materials and encouraged residents to buy building materials only from reputable suppliers.



Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi



Scrutiny Of Gachagua's Strategy Of Engaging President Ruto In Bare-Knuckled Attacks



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- I'm sure some of you have also read the 48 rules of power and one of them states. Don't ever try to outshine your boss or openly come out to portray him as a weakling and an enemy of the people.
- For Gachagua, this is exactly what he has been doing ever since the debate touching on his impeachment started. Parliament has already impeached him.
- The DP had escalated this matter a day before parliament impeached him. Addressing a televised press conference at his Karen residence, he said.
- I'm a good student of President Ruto because I'm doing exactly what Ruto was doing when he served as the deputy President.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

When it dawned on Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua that the members of parliament planning to impeach him meant their word, he immediately started crafting strategies to counter the threat.

As it turned out, the action of engaging President William Ruto in bare-knuckled attacks stood out as one of the key strategy.

A friend of mine told me. This person who advised him to do this totally misled him.

I have read the history of the world and I have never heard a deputy who had engaged his boss in direct attacks and survived.

I'm sure some of you have also read the 48 rules of power and one of them states. Don't ever try to outshine your boss or openly come out to portray him as a weakling and an enemy of the people.

For Gachagua, this is exactly what he has been doing ever since the debate touching on his impeachment started. Parliament has already impeached him.

The DP had escalated this matter a day before parliament impeached him. Addressing a televised press conference at his Karen residence, he said.

I'm a good student of President Ruto because I'm doing exactly what Ruto

was doing when he served as the deputy President.

Turning to the claims of alleged involvement of the security forces in abductions and extrajudicial killings, he minced no word in casting aspersions on President Ruto's commitment to end this crime.

"We promised Kenyans during the campaigns that these things will not happen again. I want to assure you of my commitment to deal with these matter without fear. It is true I sit in the cabinet but I will never allow my hands to be tied by the rule of collective responsibility. If this is the reason why they want to remove me from office, so be it".

The DP spoke just a few days after President Ruto vehemently dismissed claims of his administration having a hand in these vices.

If there are people missing, I ask their families to present that information to my office.

I never heard more cases of missing persons being filed.

For those who have read Gachagua's history, he served as District Officer (DO) during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi.

At the time cases of alleged abductions and extrajudicial killings were rampant

particularly in the run-up, during and after the 1992 general elections.

There is no record showing Gachagua condemning these heartbreaking incidents at any given time.

So, how does he expect Kenyans to trust him now?

When he assumed office, President Ruto showed by deeds and actions that he was truly committed to end these vices.

He started by dismantling the elite Police Squad that was suspected to be behind the extra judicial killing of Kenyans whose bodies were dumped in Yala river.

He also called on investigative agencies to commence the probe and bring the culprits to justice.

As you are aware, a number of people were reported to have gone missing during the era of my predecessor. I want to assure you this will not happen under my watch, the President added.

During the press conference, Gachagua also hit out at the government for evicting and displacing poor Kenyans who were living on riparian and public lands.

During the campaign we said we will not repeat the mistakes of the previous government.

We said we will handle these matters

with a human face and ensure the affected families were compensated.

Today, this government is repeating the same mistake. As DP, I want to assure Kenyans that I have been opposed to these evictions.

He also queried the initial amount of money that President Ruto gave the families affected by the recent floods stating it was too little.

These families were living on the bank and few metres from Nairobi River.

It is worth to recall DP Gachagua was among the leaders who had attended an emergency meeting chaired by President William Ruto where the decision to immediately evacuate these people was made.

When he visited the affected families, President Ruto assured them his government was doing all it can to help them resume their normal life. He also coordinated the distribution of food stuff, drugs and mattresses and blankets to them.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

County Government Commits To Enhance Disaster Preparedness

By: Jane Ngugi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr Thabanja added that Governor Susan Kihika's administration was encouraging integration of disaster risk reduction into other activities, including education, livelihoods, health, environment, and planning, either by incorporating risk considerations into existing activities or initiating projects that address multiple issues simultaneously.
- The Manager outlined Nakuru city's challenges as rampant urbanisation, poor urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events precipitated by climate change.
- To mitigate these risks, he explained the County Government and its partners were focusing on several key areas, including a detailed geological survey of the city and capacity building for the city's technical team through training and knowledge transfer.



Nakuru County Government is putting in place comprehensive disaster preparedness strategies that will facilitate quicker response to high-risk occurrences such as floods, sinkholes, fires, drought and major accidents among others.

City Manager Mr Gitau Thabanja stated that despite the rise in extreme weather events and threats posed by climate change, urbanisation does not have to lead to an increase in risks posed by disasters.

"We are demonstrating leadership and competence by working with low-income populations living in informal settlements to reduce flood impacts and minimise threats from other natural hazards," stated Mr Thabanja.

The City Manager indicated that the devolved unit's administration was sustaining a campaign that provides a critical forum for experts and policy makers to raise awareness, learn about disaster risk reduction, share ideas and identify solutions.

He spoke during a workshop on disaster preparedness and mitigation organised by the County Government with support from Tomorrow Cities and UN-Habitat that brought together residents, experts and individuals ravaged by devastating floods and heavy rains that have been plaguing the city.

Mr Thabanja added that Governor Susan Kihika's administration was encouraging integration of disaster risk reduction into other activities, including education, livelihoods, health, environment, and planning, either by incorporating risk considerations into existing activities or initiating projects that address multiple issues simultaneously.

The Manager outlined Nakuru city's challenges as rampant urbanisation, poor urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events precipitated by climate change.

To mitigate these risks, he explained the County Government and its partners were focusing on several key areas, including a detailed geological survey of the city and capacity building for the city's technical team through training and knowledge transfer.

The City Manager added that civic education and community engagement initiatives will be implemented to raise awareness about disaster preparedness as well as the development of a comprehensive storm water master plan.

He explained that part of the approach was to empower the community to have ample time to evacuate or take protective measures adding this will save countless lives and reduce economic losses.

The strategy, he noted, would include – developing and regularly rehearsing emergency response plans, ensuring that evacuation routes are well-maintained, and accessible. In addition, social and behaviour change programmes to help people, modify their beliefs, attitudes and adopt new ways of perceiving risks, and change behaviours, will be part of the package.

'Tomorrow's Cities' is the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and an Urban Disaster Risk Hub. The five-year global interdisciplinary research project is one of 12 UKRI GRCF Hubs funded through an UKRI Collective Fund award, as

part of the UK AID strategy to drive research towards delivering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The collaborative effort involving 12 UK research organisations and 42 global partners carries its operations from four cities of Quito (Ecuador), Nairobi (Kenya), Istanbul (Turkey) and Kathmandu (Nepal) – to engage communities, coordinate research and inform decision-making about urban hazard risk management.

Combining local knowledge with research expertise, 'Tomorrow's Cities' work includes utilising drone photography to engage communities and help map the probabilities of natural disasters. It works alongside local authorities and people in urban areas so that they can plan for, prevent and respond to the multiple hazards that threaten their communities.

Mr Thabanja indicated that the partnership with the UK based – Tomorrow's Cities will involve investing in robust early warning systems that leverage advanced weather forecasting, risk modelling, and community centered risk communication approaches.

"The devastation caused by natural calamities such as the Mai Mahiu flood disaster should be a stark reminder of Kenya's extreme vulnerability to climate-fueled hazards. Due to perennial floods and other natural disasters that have caused havoc across the country, the question is no longer "if" another disaster will strike, but rather "when" and "where,"" stated the City Manager.

Mr Thabanja pointed out that Kenya must shift its focus from reactive responses to more proactive measures to disaster management and that the

country needs to embrace anticipatory action approaches to risks and disaster management to mitigate the impact of future catastrophes.

He expressed regret that despite the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, many Kenyan communities remain ill-equipped to cope with such disasters mainly because there are limited or no early warning systems among many communities in Kenya and those available are often unreliable.

"Often, this leaves many people unaware of impending disasters. The consequences of such gaps are often devastating. Lives are lost, livelihoods destroyed, and economic progress is set back years, if not decades. It's a vicious cycle that perpetuates poverty and vulnerability, particularly among marginalised communities who often live in hazard-prone areas," observed Mr Thabanja.

In flood-prone areas, the City manager indicated that the devolved unit's administration was reinforcing critical infrastructure like dams and bridges to withstand extreme rainfall, and exploring other nature-based solutions.

He assured that the County Government was setting up a climate change response initiative framework, a comprehensive action plan and resource mobilisation.

Mr Thabanja explained that establishing community-driven data/knowledge systems linked to higher-level policy spaces is necessary to inform context-specific and adaptive responses to disasters.

ASAL Youths Urged To Embrace Regular Tree Planting

By: Robert Githu
@themtkenyetimes

Youths in Samburu County have been urged to embrace regular tree planting activities to increase forest cover and mitigate communal conflicts brought by climate change.

Speaking yesterday at the Maralal GK Prison during the Mazingira day celebrations, Samburu Journalists Association Vice chairperson Nancy Leaduma called on the young people living in Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) areas to plant and grow more trees as a way of reducing perennial conflicts over resources in future.

Leaduma stressed the need to involve the youth from ASAL areas in creating environmental impact through environmental education and tree growing.

“In the next ten years the trees planted today will increase the forest cover and as a result there will be rain water and pasture thereby reducing violent inter communal conflicts,” she said.

The officer in charge of the local prison Justus Aganyana said that over 300 trees were planted during yesterday’s exercise adding that the institution plans to plant ten thousand trees by April 2025.

“In order to actualise the government’s target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, we have a target of planting ten thousand trees within our compound by April of 2025,” he said.

Also joining the Maralal GK prison officers and inmates to celebrate the day was the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) officials led by Jackson Karanja and the Katiba Institute.



Maralal Prison officials, inmates, journalists and other stakeholders in a group photo after marking the Mazingira day yesterday.

Nyahururu Prison Releases 30 Inmates In A Bid To Decongest The Facility

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

In a significant step towards decongesting prisons, the State Department for Correctional Services has released 30 inmates from Nyahururu main prison to engage in community service projects.

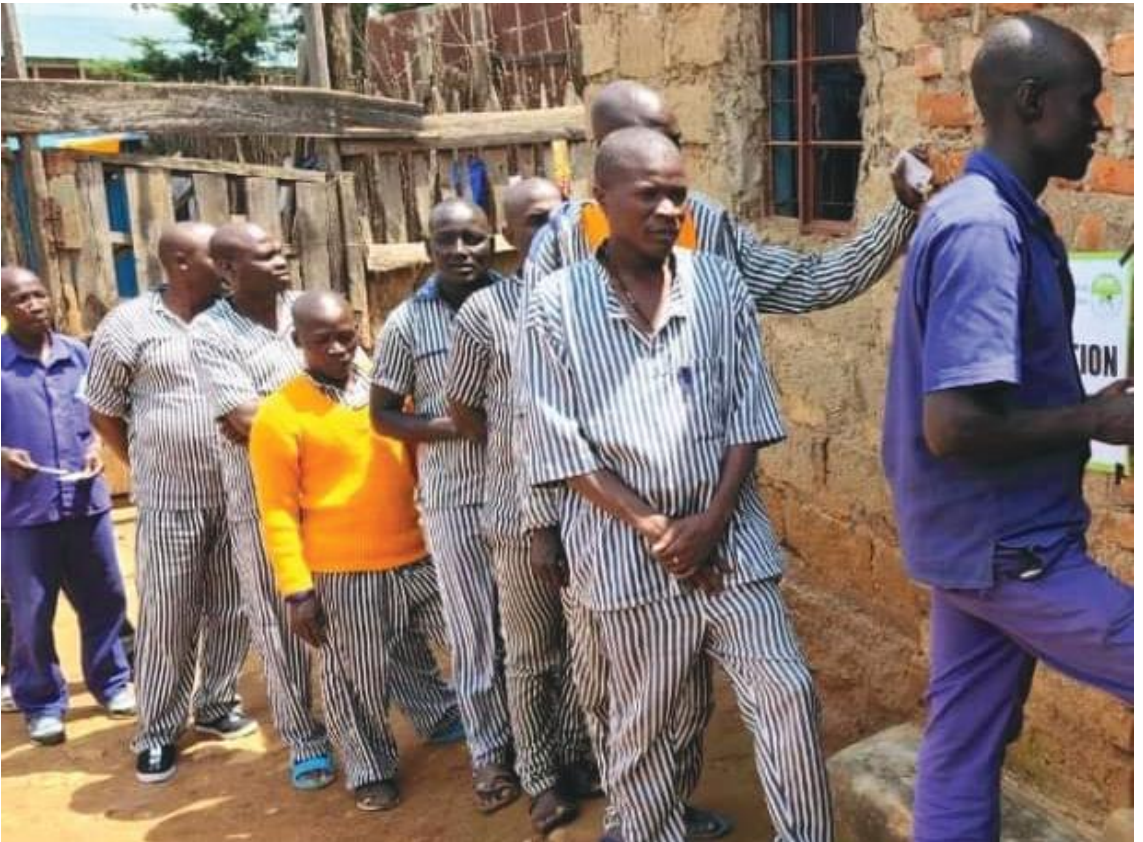
The initiative is part of a larger plan to release a total of 132 inmates to support Laikipia County’s development efforts through activities like tree planting and cleaning public spaces.

Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco underscored the importance of collaboration with county governments.

“By assigning inmates to work in schools and hospitals, we not only reduce prison numbers but also provide valuable services to the community. This is a routine effort that

not only benefits the inmates but also vindicates victims and enhances community development,” Dr. Beacco stated.

During her visit to Laikipia County, she also discussed plans to inspect prison infrastructure and explore partnerships in agriculture, sanitation, and water management, ensuring that prison lands are properly secured for future generations.



Birthday



I am like the sand in the desert asking
the stars at night and the sun to show
you your beauty. Tell me, unstable, do
you remember me too, do you think
about me?

I look for your name in the stars,
I can't find you even in the sky full
of stars. Tell me, my unstable, what
trouble did you put me in?

You are such a smart, young, beautiful,
conscientious person that I am very
happy to be with you, to know you, and
I say again that you are conscientious,
you see everyone as equal, I thank fate
for meeting you, always be with me The
second Friend congratulates his close
Friend on his birthday.

I am unstable
Moonless evenings without you.

Otayeva Dinora Urinboy's daughter
was born on May 31, 2004 in Khorezm
region. He is interested in the world of
creativity and creators. Currently, he is
a student of Urganch State Pedagogical
Institute. Interests are listening to
music, learning other languages. I partially
know English and Turkish.

Hope On The Horizon: Celebrating Victories In The Battle Against Cancer



In this relentless fight against cancer,
every year is filled with its share of
challenges and triumphs. This Cancer
Awareness Month draws us to reflect
upon the great strides taken in cancer
research, treatment, and prevention that
have saved countless lives and given hope
to millions worldwide.

Cancer care has changed greatly over
the last few decades. According to the
American Cancer Society, since 1991, the
overall cancer death rate has declined by
33% in the United States, translating
into an estimated 3.8 million cancer
deaths. This steep drop is credited to
improvements in early detection methods,
more effective treatments, and increased
public awareness of how to prevent
cancer.

Success stories in cancer treatment
probably have never been so victorious as
with the development of immunotherapy.
This promising novel treatment modality
against cancer uses the body's immune
system to fight against malignant
cells. According to the National Cancer
Institute, it is very impressive that
immunotherapy has been used to
treat a range of cancers, which include
melanoma, lung cancer, and several
blood cancers. Certain patients with
advanced malignancies, who had used up
all treatment modalities, were able to
achieve long-term remission following
immunotherapy.

Precision medicine has also altered
cancer treatment. Today, as doctors can
decode the genetic nature of tumours,
treatments are tailored to the particular
patient; this increases their effectiveness
while reducing side effects. The Precision
Medicine Initiative was launched in 2015
to accelerate progress in this field. As
of 2024, over 1,000 targeted cancer
therapies are approved or in clinical trials.
The Foundation for cancer management

remains prevention and early detection
of the disease. Screening programs have
been the backbone of declines in mortality
rates for several malignancies. Routine
mammograms have contributed to a 40
per cent reduction in deaths from breast
cancer since 1989. There have been 30
per cent reductions in colorectal cancer
deaths attributed to colonoscopy in the
past two decades.

Public health efforts aimed at reducing
the risk factors of cancer have equally
been highly effective. Anti-smoking
campaigns and policies have seen lung
cancer incidence drop dramatically.
According to the CDC, smoking rates
among adults in the United States have
gone down from 42% in 1965 to less than
13% in 2023, averting millions of cases of
cancer.

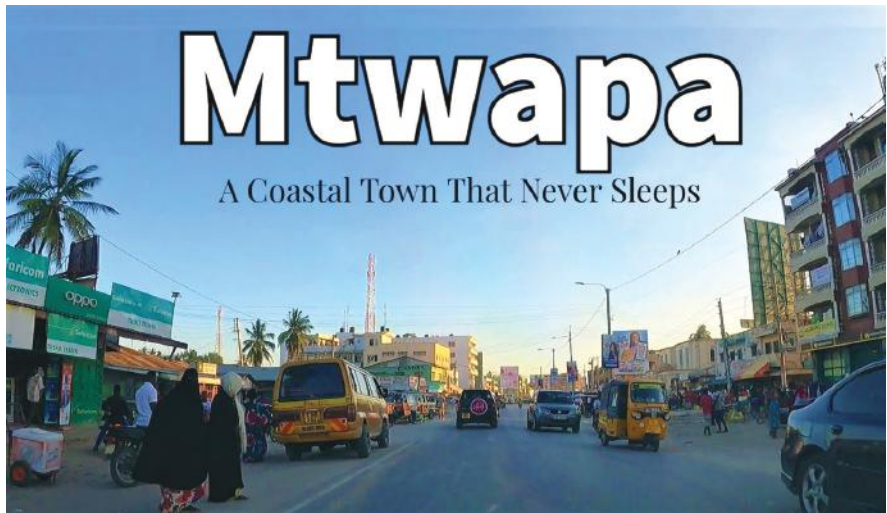
With these positive trends, the war
against cancer is far from being won.
In 2024 alone, approximately 1.9 million
new cases of cancer are expected to
be diagnosed in the United States. Yet,
studies and clinical trials continue to
promise an even brighter future. The
revamped Cancer Moonshot initiative
in 2022 has ambitions for at least a 50
reduction in the rate of death due to
cancer in the next 25 years.

Because we are in Cancer Awareness
Month, the important thing to remember
is that in the fight against cancer,
everyone can make some difference. We
can contribute through healthy lifestyles,
regular screenings, and research in the
fight against cancer towards a possible
future where no person will ever have to
die from this terrible disease but learn to
live with it.

The fight against cancer has taught us
the power of human resilience, scientific
ingenuity, and international cooperation.
Though much more remains to be done,
what has been achieved so far inspires
us to be hopeful and gives us continued
determination for the future. Together,
we can look forward with optimism to a
future in which cancer no longer has the
power to destroy individual lives or disrupt
families.

FAITH MWANGI
RONGO UNIVERSITY

MTWAPA



They say she left
A just boobbed teen
Seventeen and no more
In chase of riches

They say she went south
Of the village she knew
With no one as guide
But her whiff of money
And the vision of plenty

They say a song sung
Praised her endowments
As she danced the pole
Charging fares all night
Then drums ceased beating

They say Mtwapa
reeks of money
respects no beauty
knows no Husbands
knows no Belle
breaks them all

They say Mtwapa
where sin sojourns
sent her home
in a casket to rest
just like the rest.
The Literate Gardener

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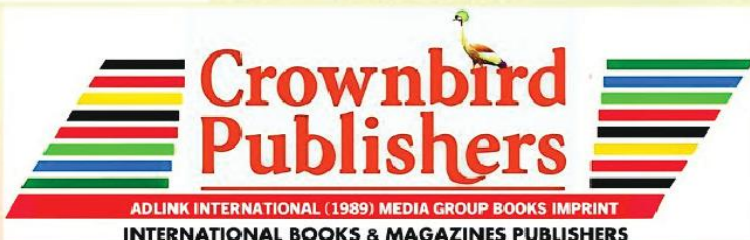
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HEALTH

Muslims Unveils GAZA Medical Campaign

By: Benard Mulwa
 @themtkenytimes

Worth Noting:

- The vice for Palestine is working with internationally recognized agencies to help the people of GAZA receive medical treatment in and outside the enclave, through this initiative the Muslims leaders said hope to raise US Dollars.500, 000 towards the GAZA medical campaign.
- The Israel attack on GAZA has unfortunately spread over to Lebanon where it is facing daily attacks which killed hundreds of thousands of people and led to massive destruction and displacement of thousands of other people.
- In a joint press statement yesterday in Nairobi, the Muslims leaders called upon the Kenya government to join the global efforts to call for peace and stability in the region and an end to carnage in GAZA and Lebanon.



The voice for Palestine, a consortium of different organizations which include Jamia Mosque Committee, Supreme Council of Muslims (SUP-KEM) and National Muslims leaders forum (NAMLEF), council of Imams and preachers of Kenya (CIPK) Kenya, Association of Muslims of Medical Practitioners and other mosques around Nairobi have raised concerns about the harrowing humanitarian disaster in the GAZA terming it a massacre of human dignity, a brutal assault on the very essence of life.

Kenyans like other people from around the world have been responding to the plight of the people of GAZA and have in the past raised more than Ksh.50 Million to assist humanitarian efforts in GAZA.

The vice for Palestine is working with internationally recognized agencies to help the people of GAZA receive medical treatment in and

outside the enclave, through this initiative the Muslims leaders said hope to raise US Dollars.500, 000 towards the GAZA medical campaign.

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The chairman voice for Palestine Ahmed Sharraf said in accordance with the Africa Union charter, the government should not relent its efforts to support the people of Palestine towards achieving freedom, "it is our call on the government of Kenya

to stand for fairness and justice for the people of Palestine and use its influential role to push for an end of the genocide of the People of Palestine and see to it that their inalienable rights to exist and live in peace and harmony like other people around the world it attained" adding that Kenya is known for its role in fostering peace and this was seen notably in South Sudan and other African Countries where Kenya tirelessly worked to achieve peace and stability.

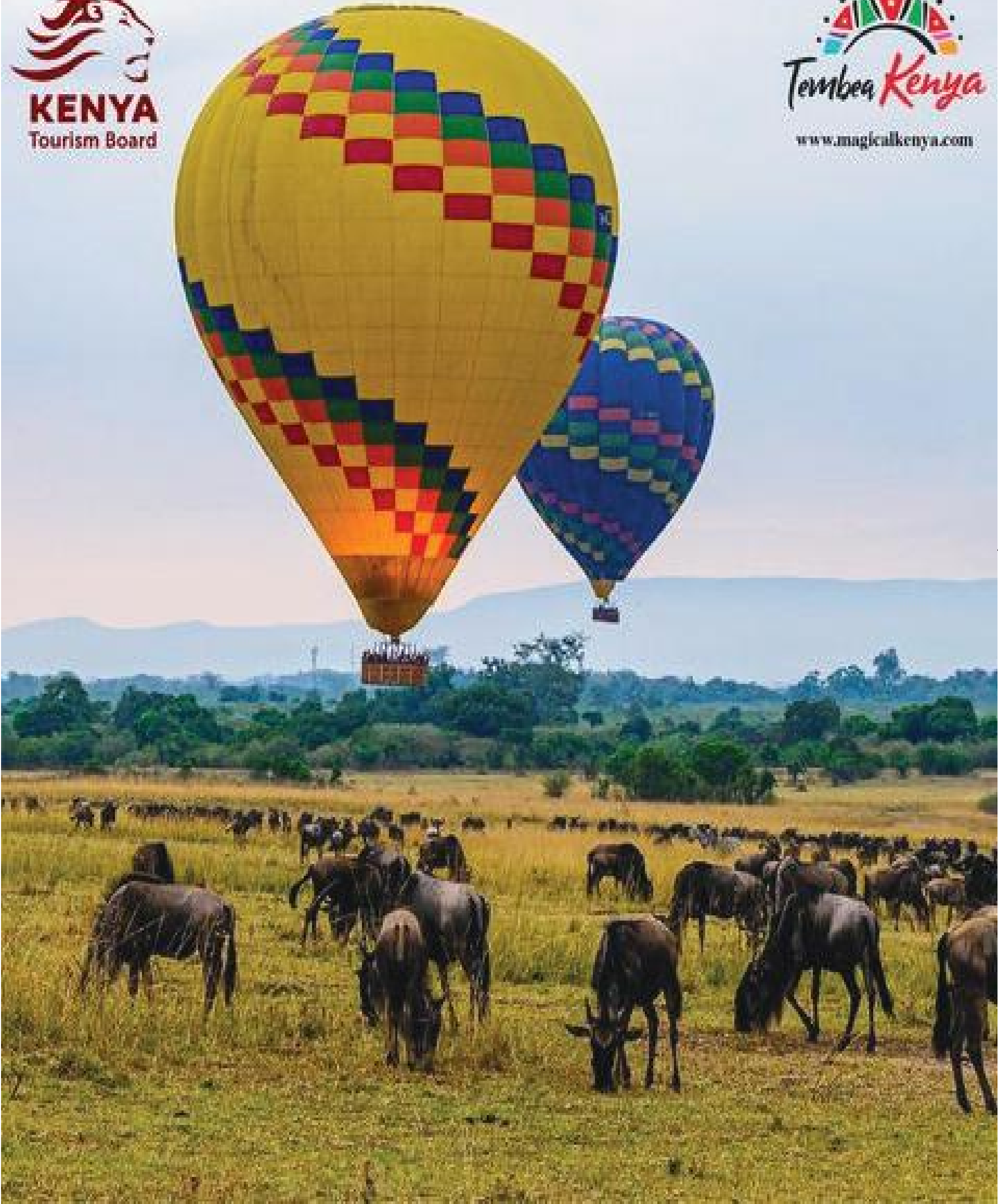
With Israel cutting off that enclave from the rest of the world and restricting the entry of food and other much needed humanitarian supply, most of the people of GAZA are living under the threat of starvation and are in need of urgent relief aid.

The National Chairman Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims Hassan Ole Naado also called upon during the unveiling of this campaign to all

Kenyans from diverse background to join the efforts to support the medical needs of the people of Palestine, adding that, "Support can be made through M-Pesa paybill number 150770 account GAZA," he said.

More than 42,000 people have been killed in a relentless bombing camps by Israel which has virtually decimated the whole of the GAZA strip with many of the victims being innocent women and children.

Almost the whole of the population of GAZA, more than 2million people have been displaced by the conflict which has been raging on the past year.



Exploring The Funding Windows For Public-Private Partnerships In Kenya: A Critical Analysis



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Critically, while VGF serves as a vital tool for attracting private investment, it raises questions about the sustainability of such funding. Relying on government resources to fill viability gaps can create a dependency that may not be tenable in the long run. Moreover, there is a risk that projects funded through VGF may prioritize short-term financial viability over long-term sustainability and impact. Therefore, it is essential for policymakers to establish clear criteria for VGF allocation that prioritize projects with enduring benefits for communities.
- Contingent Viability addresses potential risks that could derail projects due to factors beyond the control of private investors, such as political instability or regulatory inefficiencies.

As Kenya strives to achieve its Vision 2030 objectives, the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development has gained significant traction. Central to this strategy are the various funding mechanisms, or “windows,” established to facilitate collaboration between the government and private sector. This article critically examines these funding windows—specifically Windows 3 and 4 of the Project Facilitation Fund—highlighting their implications for project viability, risk management, and overall effectiveness in fostering sustainable development.

Window 3: Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is designed to address financial shortfalls in projects that are essential for national development but may not be attractive to private investors due to their inherent risks or low profitability. By providing financial support, VGF aims to enhance the bankability of these projects, making them more appealing to private stakeholders. This mechanism recognizes that certain projects, particularly in sectors like healthcare and education, may not generate immediate returns but are crucial for societal welfare.

Critically, while VGF serves as a vital tool for attracting private investment, it raises questions about the sustainability of such funding. Relying on government resources to fill viability gaps can create a dependency that may not be tenable in the long run. Moreover, there is a risk that projects funded through VGF may prioritize short-term financial viability over long-term sustainability and impact. Therefore, it is essential for policymakers to establish clear criteria for VGF allocation that prioritize projects with enduring benefits for communities.

Window 4: Contingent Viability addresses potential risks that could derail projects due to factors beyond the control of private investors, such as political instability or regulatory inefficiencies. This window provides a safety net by ensuring that private entities are protected against losses incurred from unforeseen circumstances. By mitigating risks associated with government failures, this mechanism encourages private investment in sectors that might otherwise be deemed too risky.

However, the effectiveness of contingent viability hinges on the robust-

ness of the framework established to manage these contingencies. If not properly structured, this window could lead to moral hazard, where private investors might take undue risks, knowing they have a safety net. It is crucial for the government to implement stringent guidelines and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that contingent viability provisions are used responsibly and do not undermine accountability among private partners.

The interplay between Windows 3 and 4 highlights the importance of a balanced approach in managing risks within PPPs. While VGF seeks to enhance project attractiveness through financial support, contingent viability ensures that investors are shielded from external shocks. Together, these mechanisms can create a more resilient environment for infrastructure development; however, they must be carefully calibrated to avoid creating an over-reliance on government support.

In addition to these two windows, it is essential to consider how other support mechanisms—such as technical assistance and guarantee funds—complement the funding strategies.

The establishment of a guarantee fund can mitigate contingent liabilities arising from PPP projects, ensuring that unexpected operational challenges do not derail progress. Furthermore, providing technical assistance through the Public Private Partnership Unit can enhance project selection and implementation processes, ultimately leading to better outcomes.

Despite these advantages, challenges remain in effectively utilizing these funding windows. Bureaucratic inefficiencies and lengthy approval processes can hinder timely project execution, deterring potential investors who seek agility and responsiveness in their partnerships. Streamlining these processes through digital platforms and clear guidelines will be critical in fostering an environment conducive to successful PPPs.

Moreover, transparency and stakeholder engagement play pivotal roles in ensuring the success of these funding windows. Engaging local communities and stakeholders early in the project lifecycle fosters ownership and mitigates potential conflicts down the line. By prioritizing inclusive dialogue and feedback mechanisms, the government can enhance trust among all parties involved in PPPs.

As Kenya continues its journey toward sustainable development through PPPs, it is imperative to adopt a holistic approach that considers both funding windows' strengths and limitations. Policymakers must remain vigilant in assessing the impacts of VGF and contingent viability on project sustainability while fostering an environment where private investment thrives without compromising public interests.

In conclusion, Windows 3 and 4 of the Project Facilitation Fund represent critical components of Kenya's strategy for enhancing public-private partnerships. By providing financial support and risk mitigation measures, these windows aim to attract private investment into vital infrastructure projects. However, their success depends on careful management and oversight to ensure they contribute positively to long-term development goals. As Kenya navigates its path toward Vision 2030, leveraging these funding mechanisms effectively will be essential for building resilient infrastructure that meets the needs of its citizens while fostering economic growth.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Empowering Tomorrow: The Journey To Girl Child Education Equality

Education for the girl child in Kenya has long been a subject of significant importance and ongoing challenges. Despite progress in recent years, girls in Kenya still face barriers to accessing quality education due to factors like poverty, cultural norms, early marriages, and lack of resources.

Over the past few decades, the Kenyan government and various organizations have made efforts to promote gender equality in education. One notable

success is the introduction of free primary education in 2003, which led to a significant increase in school enrollment for both boys and girls. However, girls still face challenges such as long distances to schools, lack of sanitation facilities, and discriminatory attitudes.

These challenges often result in high dropout rates among girls, especially as they reach adolescence. Many girls are forced to drop out of school due to early pregnancies, cultural practices

like female genital mutilation, and household responsibilities. This not only affects their individual potential but also perpetuates a cycle of poverty and gender inequality.

To address these issues, various initiatives have been implemented to support girls' education in Kenya. Programs providing scholarships, mentorship, and menstrual hygiene management have proven effective in keeping girls in school and empowering them

to reach their full potential. Additionally, advocacy efforts have focused on changing cultural attitudes towards girls' education and promoting gender equality in schools.

Despite these efforts, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every girl in Kenya has access to quality education. Sustainable solutions must address not only the immediate barriers to education but also the broader social and cultural factors that

perpetuate inequality. By investing in girls' education, Kenya can unlock the full potential of its female population and drive social and economic development for the country as a whole.

*Regards,
Winnie Joy and Yvonne Wanyonyi
Rongo University.*

Peace And Democracy Through The Lens Of Mazingira Day

Mazingira is a Swahili word for environment. In the words of Wangari Muta Maathai, "environment is not something you talk about or read about or hear about." It is what you read, what you drink, what you smell: It is your life.

Mazingira day is celebrated on 10th October every year. It is a day when people from across all walks of life take a moment to care for and protect the environment. To some, it is the time when they organize get-together and catch up on a few issues of their lives. In my understanding, there is still more that we need to do to realize the full potential of what really needs to be done.

In many parts of Kenya and the world at large, the understanding of Mazingira day is a day when people plant trees, take care of the markets by collecting wastes, doing mulching and generally, what seems to care for the environment. This is an under-exploration of what the day really means.

We live in a beautiful environment. In order to gain this beautiful environment, some people have laid down their lives just for the sake of all the beauty we see. Activists such as Rigoberta Menchi and Wangari Maathai fought for the environment. This is because they knew that as a sanctuary, the environment goes be-

yond the geophysical space and extends to democracy, pan africanism, values and human rights. For instance, Maathai linked the problems that affect humanity- corruption, poor governance, climate change crisis among other challenges as all having their origin from poor management of democratic spaces such as unequal share of resources.

She argued that most of the civil wars that come to hinder democracy in most of African countries are due to unequal share of resources and poor governance. In most of her metaphors, she linked the interconnectedness of environment, peace and democracy. Here, I agree with her.

The environment is our home and our mother. Failure to take care of it, we shall fight and we shall kill. in the process, our democratic rights will be questioned

Today, I wish to challenge the thinking of our people, especially those endowed with positions of influence and activities of privilege that as we plant trees and sweep markets, let's also reflect on the issues of democracy as being a free space for everyone just as it is the case of oxygen that we get from the environment. Let us question the values that we have as people and what rights and freedoms as people do we have. It is not always about planting the literal trees but

trees of peace and democracy.

Let us all embrace the spirit of extending democracy and the protection as well as observance of human rights as integral parts of the ecosystem.

Together, let us hold civic education to remind ourselves what we need to do for sustainability and personal as well as communal development in this changing world.

*By Enos Odero
Literary and social critic*

International Girl Child Day

"Did you know that millions of girls around the globe are often denied their basic rights, including education and healthcare, being exposed to early marriages? A 2011 UNESCO report estimated that 30 million girls were out of junior secondary school, often due to early marriages, inadequate healthcare, and socio-economic barriers. This alarming reality underscores the urgent need for global action, which stimulated the United Nations to establish the International Day of the Girl Child."

"On October 11, 2012, the United Nations established the International Day of the Girl Child, which is recognized and celebrated annually worldwide. The day is dedicated to amplifying awareness of the unique challenges faced by girls globally and advocating for gender equality, access to education, healthcare, and opportunities. For instance, a 2018 UNICEF report highlighted that the global rate of child marriage has declined by 15% from 2015 to 2020, translating to approximately 25 million fewer girls married before the age of 18. Additionally, the day addresses critical issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), with campaigns like the UNITE Campaign to End Violence Against Women leading to increased legal protection for girls in over 70 countries since 2012. Through these efforts, the

International Day of the Girl Child has nurtured a global commitment to creating a safer and more equitable world for girls."

Before the establishment of the International Day of the Girl Child, the Global Education Digest reported that 93% of girls were enrolled in primary education in developing countries. However, only 65% of these girls completed primary education, and completion rates for secondary school were even lower, highlighting significant barriers to girls' education. In response to these challenges, the International Day of the Girl Child has inspired numerous initiatives aimed at promoting girls' education. Efforts such as providing free scholarships, implementing targeted awareness campaigns, and enhancing community support for girls' .

As a result, the 2020 UNESCO report revealed a significant improvement in educational outcomes: over 80% of girls are now completing primary school, reflecting the positive impact of these initiatives. Moreover, the focus on girls' education has been complemented by broader global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. These combined efforts are fostering an environment where girls can thrive academically and pursue their

dreams without the constraints that previously held them back.

In 2006, a report by the International Centre for Research on Women revealed a staggering statistic: over 100 million girls worldwide were married before the age of 18. This early marriage phenomenon not only robs girls of their childhood but also significantly limits their opportunities for education, personal development, and economic independence. In response to this alarming trend, a range of campaigns has emerged globally, from international advocacy to grassroots initiatives. In Kisumu, Kenya, a remarkable organization called Health Economic Development strategy organization "HEDSO" has been among the organization on the lead. Hedso has organized numerous campaigns and events aimed at empowering the girl child and raising awareness about the detrimental impacts of early marriages. One of their recent initiatives, "Knit Her Future," focuses specifically on empowering girls and providing them with the tools they need to resist early marriage. This program encompasses workshops, mentorship, and community engagement, all designed to build confidence and provide educational opportunities.

Efforts to improve access to healthcare services for girls, particularly in the areas of reproductive and

menstrual health, have intensified in recent years. Historically, these critical issues were often overlooked, leaving millions of girls without the resources or education necessary to manage their According to UNICEF around 500million girls and women worldwide lack access to adequate facilities for managing their menstruation as they lack the sanitation and menstrual products. To address this gap, international organizations like Days for Girls International have been at the forefront, donating sanitary towels to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds and providing education on menstrual hygiene.

Grassroots organizations have also played a crucial role in breaking the silence and stigma surrounding menstruation. One such initiative is the Nyalenda Period Festival, held annually in Kisumu, Kenya. This campaign not only provides girls with menstrual products but also teaches menstrual hygiene, boosting their confidence and allowing them to stay in school during their periods. Importantly, the initiative also includes boys and men in the conversation, challenging the cultural taboos that have long surrounded menstruation.

The International Day of the Girl Child has had a profound impact on empowering girls to take up leadership roles in their communities. This initiative encourages girls to

actively participate in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of agency and leadership from a young age. One of the key successes of this initiative has been the increased awareness of the issues faced by girls globally. This heightened awareness has sparked advocacy efforts from governments, international organizations, and community-based organizations. Campaigns such as "Girl Up" and "Let Girls" Learn have played significant roles in this movement, focusing on ensuring girls' access to quality education, promoting gender equality, and encouraging girls to pursue leadership roles.

While progress has been made since the establishment of the International Day of the Girl Child in 2012, significant challenges still persist, reminding us that much work remains to be done. This day serves as a powerful reminder to stand with the girl child and to continue advocating for her rights, opportunities, and empowerment. When a girl succeeds, the whole world benefits—stronger communities are built, economies grow, and future generations thrive. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every girl has the chance to realize her full potential and contribute to a more just and equitable world.

*Edith Awino-Environmental
Advocate*

The Politics Of Renewable Energy

Intricate dynamics of renewable energy politics in Kenya, examining the interplay of local and global forces shaping the future of sustainability



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The allure of renewable energy is undeniable, offering a pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. Ironically, this very promise often finds itself entangled in the thicket of political interests.
- In 2018, the Kenyan government unveiled its ambitious plan to achieve a 100% green energy target by 2030, a goal that sings sweetly to the ears of environmentalists. However, as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.
- The irony is palpable: while the government sets lofty targets, the reality is a web of bureaucracy, corruption, and competing interests that often undermines these aspirations.

In the grand tapestry of human endeavor, where ambition often takes the wheel, a peculiar dance unfolds in the realm of renewable energy. Picture this: a spirited chase, akin to the famed fable of the tortoise and the hare, where the hare—a metaphor for fossil fuels—dashes ahead, seemingly unstoppable, while the tortoise—symbolizing renewable energy—plods along steadily. Yet, as history reveals time and again, the race is not always to the swift. In Kenya, a land rich with sun-soaked days and windswept plains, the politics of renewable energy takes center stage, echoing with the whispers of opportunity, challenge, and perhaps, a bit of irony.

Kenya, the cradle of humanity, finds itself at a pivotal juncture. As of 2023, renewable energy sources contribute over 70% to the national electricity grid, showcasing the potential for a clean, sustainable future. This is no small feat in a world still tethered to the chains of fossil fuel dependency. Yet, beneath this shiny facade lies a labyrinth of political maneuvering, economic aspirations, and social considerations that shape the landscape of renewable energy in this East African nation. Here, we witness a paradox, where the promise of progress dances cheek-to-cheek with the specter of stagnation.

The allure of renewable energy is undeniable, offering a pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. Ironically, this very promise often finds itself entangled in the thicket of political interests. In 2018, the Kenyan government unveiled its ambitious plan to achieve a 100% green energy target by 2030, a goal that sings sweetly to the ears of environmentalists. However, as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. The irony is palpable: while the government sets lofty tar-

gets, the reality is a web of bureaucracy, corruption, and competing interests that often undermines these aspirations.

Kenya's political landscape is a fertile ground for allusions to power struggles and corruption. Just as the Nile flows through various terrains, shaping the land and its people, so too does the flow of political capital influence renewable energy projects. The Kenyan Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), which oversees the sector, often finds itself caught in the crossfire between governmental ambitions and corporate interests. The tension is akin to a game of tug-of-war, where the stakes are not merely financial but profoundly tied to the livelihoods of millions. Can the tortoise, with its steadfast resolve, triumph over the hare's reckless speed?

To understand the dynamics at play, one must consider the role of foreign investment in Kenya's renewable energy sector. The country's geothermal potential, especially in the East African Rift, beckons international players, offering a tantalizing prospect for profit. In 2022, Kenya became the first country in Africa to host a geothermal power plant, with the Olkaria IV facility generating over 140 megawatts. This success story, however, is shadowed by concerns over the environmental impact and the displacement of local communities. Here, we witness the antithesis of progress: while energy production increases, so too does social unrest, as communities grapple with the consequences of development. Moreover, the recent rise of private energy companies presents a double-edged sword. On one hand, they inject much-needed capital and innovation into the sector; on the other, their motives often remain shrouded in ambiguity. As the saying goes, "the road to success

is always under construction," but what happens when the construction leads to a cul-de-sac? The irony lies in the fact that these companies, purporting to champion sustainability, sometimes prioritize profit over genuine ecological stewardship. This juxtaposition raises a critical rhetorical question: are we truly committed to renewable energy, or merely enamored by its allure?

In this intricate dance of politics and energy, the Kenyan government must navigate the murky waters of policy-making. The Renewable Energy Act of 2006 aimed to facilitate investment in the sector, but implementation has been sluggish. The failure to streamline regulatory processes has left many potential projects stranded in a bureaucratic limbo, a bitter pill for investors hoping to capitalize on Kenya's renewable energy potential. Here, we see an oxymoron: the promise of progress hindered by the weight of red tape. As the sun rises on the horizon of renewable energy, the notion of community participation becomes paramount. The local populace, often sidelined in the conversation, possesses invaluable insights that could enhance project efficacy. An anecdote comes to mind: in 2021, a community-led solar project in Kisumu not only provided electricity but also fostered a sense of ownership and pride among residents. This serves as a vivid reminder that true sustainability must embrace the voices of the people. As the old proverb goes, "it takes a village to raise a child," but what about raising a nation? In light of these complexities, the ethical implications of renewable energy politics in Kenya cannot be overlooked. The ethos of sustainability demands accountability from all stakeholders involved. The Nairobi Declaration of 2019 reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the

Paris Agreement, yet accountability remains a challenge. The metaphor of a tree falling in a forest resonates here: if a promise of sustainability is made without enforcement, does it truly matter? As citizens, we must engage in the dialogue, holding our leaders accountable for the promises they make. To navigate this multifaceted landscape, a shift in mindset is imperative. The path to renewable energy success lies not in competition but in collaboration. The spirit of synergy must prevail, as diverse stakeholders—from government to private sector to local communities—come together to forge a sustainable future. The chiasmus of this scenario is clear: together we rise, divided we fall. The message resonates profoundly: we must unite in our quest for sustainable energy, for the stakes are high, and the consequences of inaction are dire.

As we cast our gaze toward the future, one cannot ignore the overwhelming evidence pointing to the necessity of renewable energy. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that we have only a decade to avert the catastrophic effects of climate change. In Kenya, where climate vulnerability looms large, the urgency to transition to renewable energy becomes a rallying cry. The hyperbole of the situation is striking: if we fail to act, we risk not just our environment but the very fabric of society itself. The politics of renewable energy in Kenya is a multifaceted tapestry woven with threads of ambition, contradiction, and opportunity. The race may be long, but as the tortoise reminds us, slow and steady wins the race against greed. It is imperative that we embrace a collective vision for a sustainable future, one where the voices of the people, the integrity of the environment, and the tenets of equity are at the forefront. As we stand at this crossroads, let us not forget the wisdom of the ancients: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Together, let us take that step toward a brighter, greener future, where the politics of renewable energy becomes a force for good, not just a tale of irony. The time to act is now, and the stakes could not be higher; let us rise to the challenge with courage, conviction, and collaboration, for the future of our planet and generations to come rests on our shoulders.

*This article was scripted by:
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Rongo University SDGs Club's Approach To Tree Growing: Moving Beyond Tree Planting

By:Daisy Moraa
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The difference between planting and growing trees may seem subtle but is vital for long-term environmental sustainability. Tree planting, as typically practiced, involves planting saplings during celebratory events, which are then often forgotten. The problem with this is that many of these trees fail to thrive due to neglect. Whether due to a lack of water, poor soil conditions, or encroachment by weeds, the seedlings are left to fend for themselves, reducing their chances of survival.
- The planet's future hinges on the effectiveness of reforestation efforts. Trees play a critical role in the environment by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, providing habitat for wildlife, and preventing soil erosion. Without careful management and nurturing of these trees, efforts at mitigating climate change can fall short of their potential impact.

As the world confronts the realities of climate change, environmental conservation has taken center stage in many global discussions. One of the most widely recognized efforts in combating climate change is tree planting. However, an essential yet often overlooked aspect is tree growing, which involves not just planting but also nurturing trees to maturity. This distinction is what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Club at Rongo University seeks to emphasize, particularly in their activities during the commemoration of National Mazingira Day.

On this day, the Rongo University SDGs Club, specifically the Sustainable Development Girls Club, did not engage in the typical ceremonial tree planting often seen during such celebrations. Instead, they focused on tree growing, an approach that goes beyond the act of putting seedlings in the ground. The club members, under the banner of climate action (Sustainable Development Goal No. 13), revisited trees that had been planted during previous tree planting days, tending to them to ensure their continued growth and survival.

Tree Planting vs. Tree Growing

The difference between planting and growing trees may seem subtle but is vital for long-term environmental sustainability. Tree planting, as typically practiced, involves planting saplings during celebratory events, which are then often forgotten. The problem with this is that many of these trees fail to thrive due to neglect. Whether due to a lack of water, poor soil conditions, or encroachment by weeds, the seedlings are left to fend for themselves, reducing their chances of survival.

Growing trees, on the other hand, is a more holistic approach. It requires

ongoing commitment to not just planting, but also ensuring that the trees survive and mature. This means watering the saplings, weeding, pruning, and protecting them from any form of harm. This is exactly what the SDGs Club students from Rongo University have committed to, recognizing that the health of the environment depends not only on the number of trees planted but also on the survival and maturity of these trees.

The Importance of Tree Growing

The planet's future hinges on the effectiveness of reforestation efforts. Trees play a critical role in the environment by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, providing habitat for wildlife, and preventing soil erosion. Without careful management and nurturing of these trees, efforts at mitigating climate change can fall short of their potential impact.

"We need to get the difference," says Wafula Meshack, one of the club members. "We are not just supposed to plant trees, but to grow trees." This shift in focus is a direct response to the pattern where trees are planted ceremoniously, but no one returns to ensure they thrive. It is a waste of resources to keep planting trees if they aren't allowed to mature and fulfill their environmental role.

In Line with SDG 13: Climate Action

Rongo University SDGs Club's initiative is directly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal No. 13: Climate Action. This goal emphasizes the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. One of the key ways to do this is through reforestation and afforestation, both of which are important components of reducing carbon lev-

els in the atmosphere.

However, what sets the Rongo University club apart is their commitment to ensuring that the trees they plant survive. On Mazingira Day, instead of planting new trees, the students revisited trees from previous events, weeding around them and pruning where necessary. This attention to detail helps increase the chances of the trees' survival, ensuring they contribute meaningfully to environmental restoration efforts.

Moreover, their actions are part of a broader initiative to engage students and the community in understanding the long-term commitment required for environmental conservation. By focusing on growing trees, they are setting an example of responsible environmental stewardship for the rest of the community.

The Challenges of Tree Growing

Of course, tree growing is not without its challenges. It requires consistent attention and resources, including water, labor for weeding and pruning, and protection against threats such as livestock or natural calamities. These are obstacles that many communities face, which can make tree growing seem less attractive than the one-time event of tree planting. However, the SDGs Club at Rongo University is undeterred. They understand that the short-term effort invested in growing trees yields long-term benefits that far outweigh the initial challenges.

The club hopes to inspire more institutions, both within and outside of Kenya, to adopt this practice. If more tree planting initiatives were followed by sustained efforts to ensure tree survival, the environmental impact could be immense. It's not enough to ceremoniously plant a tree and move on; there has to be a real commitment to nurturing these trees

to full maturity.

Growing a Culture of Sustainability

In shifting the conversation from tree planting to tree growing, the Rongo University SDGs Club is fostering a culture of environmental responsibility that prioritizes sustainability. Their hands-on approach teaches an important lesson: that true conservation requires more than symbolic gestures. It demands commitment, patience, and a willingness to get involved beyond the initial planting phase.

By ensuring that the trees they planted in previous years survive and grow, these students are making a tangible contribution to the fight against climate change. They are also setting a precedent for future environmental efforts, highlighting the fact that growing trees is a vital, often overlooked aspect of conservation.

As we reflect on the broader implications of tree growing, it becomes clear that this shift in perspective is necessary if we are to tackle the pressing environmental issues of our time. Rongo University's SDGs Club is leading by example, showing that tree growing, not just planting, is the way forward for a sustainable and greener future.

Their efforts serve as a reminder to all that the real work begins after the saplings are in the ground. Only through sustained care can trees grow and thrive, ultimately benefiting the environment and supporting life on Earth.

Daisy Moraa
Rongo University

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Sports >> *The National Basketball Association of the United States NBA will build 100 basketball courts in schools and communities across the country.

NBA Africa To Build 100 Basketball Courts In Kenya



The National Basketball Association of the United States NBA will build 100 basketball courts in schools and communities across the country.

This was revealed today by the NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating officer Mark Tatum when he met President William Ruto at State house Nairobi where he was accompanied by five times NBA Champion Derek Fisher and the US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman.

The construction of the Basketball courts will commence in the next decade in an effort to grow

the sport in the country.

“Our collaboration with Opportunity International reflects our commitment to investing in local basketball ecosystems across Africa and providing youth with the resources and opportunities to develop their leadership and basketball skills,” said Mark Tatum.

NBA Africa today launched a multi year youth basketball development partnership in collaboration with Safaricom Kenya which targets more than 10,000 youth in Kenya through the junior NBA tournaments, fit clinics, coaching development and other basketball development

programmes.

Atul Tandon, CEO of Opportunity International, said, “We are thrilled to work with NBA Africa to bring world-class basketball courts and coaches to Africa. This initiative is key to our long-standing commitment to bringing more education and more opportunities to the youth of Africa. We are grateful to NBA Africa, NBA Deputy Commissioner Tatum, and our longtime friend and partner Sam Garvin for coming together to help build a rising Africa.”

The NBA is one of the major professional sports leagues in the

United States and Canada and is considered the premier professional basketball league in the world.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The complete squads for all 16 countries competing in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024 have been revealed, with one week till the competition begins.

FIFA Announce Squads For Women's World Cup U 17 In Dominican



The complete squads for all 16 countries competing in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024 have been revealed, with one week till the competition begins.

336 of the world's best young talents will converge in the Caribbean for the eighth edition of the tournament, each with the dream of lifting the iconic trophy.

16 teams will compete for the crown currently held by Spain after they won the last tournament in India two years ago.

The first-ever FIFA tournament to take place in the Dominican Republic will be held between 16 October and 3 November 2024.

The 16 participating teams will be Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Japan, Kenya, Korea DPR, Korea Republic, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Spain, USA and

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Dominican Republic 2024™									
16 October 2024 - 3 November 2024									
Kenya (KEN)									
#	POS	PLAYER NAME	FIRST NAME(S)	LAST NAME(S)	NAME ON SHIRT	DOB	CLUB	HEIGHT (CM)	
1	GR	ABWIRE Wairia	Wairia	ABWIRE	ABWIRE	15/09/2008	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	170	
2	FW	OGOLA Joan	Joan	OGOLA	JOAN	26/03/2008	St. Maurice Mtwira (KEN)	158	
3	DF	AKINYI Kimberly	Kimberly	AKINYI	KIMBERLY	10/05/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	170	
4	DF	WILLIAMS Jennifer	Jennifer	WILLIAMS	JENNIFER	30/07/2008	Ngakathi Girls (KEN)	170	
5	MF	MUNDAI Emani	Emani	MUNDAI	EMANI	26/12/2007	St. Joseph's Kileleshwa Girls HS (KEN)	152	
6	MF	AKOTHY Susan	Susan	AKOTHY	SUSAN	29/10/2007	Academy Football Academy (KEN)	152	
7	FW	KESAMBEI Quaker	Quaker	KESAMBEI	QUAKER	30/06/2007	St. Andrew's (KEN)	167	
8	MF	ATENO Lindsey	Lindsey	ATENO	LINDSEY	12/04/2009	Suziflowers Academy (KEN)	158	
9	MF	AWUDU Wairia	Wairia	AWUDU	AWUDU	26/06/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	146	
10	FW	SEWANE Marion	Marion	SEWANE	SEWANE	05/11/2007	Jambanja Sports Club (KEN)	168	
11	MF	AMUNGOI Diana	Diana	AMUNGOI	DIANA	01/06/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	158	
12	DF	OKUNGA Elizabeth	Elizabeth	OKUNGA	ELIZABETH	30/06/2009	Kenya Police Bullets FC (KEN)	176	
13	FW	MEKESA Valerie	Valerie	MEKESA	VALERIE	24/07/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	145	
14	FW	KATH Lorna	Lorna	KATH	LORNA	21/11/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	158	
15	DF	ASHIMBEI Christine	Christine	ASHIMBEI	CHRISTINE	27/06/2007	Ngakathi Girls (KEN)	170	
16	GR	AWUDU Emani	Emani	AWUDU	EMANI	13/09/2007	Madira Girls HS (KEN)	171	
17	MF	BARASA Hellen	Hellen	BARASA	HAI BAI	26/11/2008	Themi Girls HS (KEN)	146	
18	GR	AWUDU Emani	Emani	AWUDU	EMANI	26/11/2008	Kileleshwa Secondary School (KEN)	171	
19	DF	OKUNGA Lorna	Lorna	OKUNGA	LORNA	17/05/2008	Mwika Girls HS (KEN)	170	
20	MF	OKATO Rebecca	Rebecca	OKATO	OKATO	18/12/2007	Ngakathi Mixed (KEN)	152	
21	FW	SAROA Joyce	Joyce	SAROA	JOYCE	10/09/2008	St. Marcellus Mtwira (KEN)	167	
COACHES									
ROLE		COACH NAME		FIRST NAME(S)		LAST NAME(S)		NATIONALITY	
Head coach		CHELIE Miliad		Miliad Omon		CHELIE		Kenya	
Assistant coach		ALUCHO Alex		Alex Abuch		ALUCHO		Kenya	
Goalkeeping coach		ONYENGA Dick		Dick Francis Omon		ONYENGA		Kenya	

Zambia.

Ecuador, Kenya and Poland are all set to make their tournament debuts.

This edition of the tournament will be the last to feature 16 teams before the expansion to 24 teams in the next edition, set for Morocco.

Kenya will open its campaign on 18th of this month in group C against England before facing North Korea 2 days later before concluding group fixtures against Mexico on 24th October.

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Inkomoko Named In 2024 Audacious Project Cohort For Innovative Approach In Humanitarian Assistance

By: Capital Correspondent

Worth Noting:

- This scaling its previous reach nearly 6x, enabling 3.4M people affected by forced displacement in East Africa to live dignified and financially independent lives.
- Inkomoko already provides training, capital, and market linkages to refugee and host community entrepreneurs across 30 communities in 5 countries.
- Founded in 2012, Inkomoko has supported 90,000 entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, improve their livelihoods, and create jobs for others in their communities as a pathway out of poverty.
- Inkomoko believes that humanitarian aid is critical to emergency response, and that direct financial investment in displaced persons is the most effective and sustainable model for the future.



Inkomoko, a leading impact organization addressing refugee economic development across Africa, has been named in the 2024 Audacious Project cohort for their innovative approach in humanitarian assistance.

As the global refugee crisis continues to grow, Inkomoko offers a sustainable solution by investing in refugee entrepreneurs with advisory support and direct financing of refugee-run small businesses.

The Audacious Project convenes funders to scale bold solutions to the world's most urgent challenges.

Inkomoko has been selected for its impact and vision to develop thriving economic markets in displacement-affected communities.

Funding through The Audacious Project will accelerate Inkomoko's growth over the next six years.

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Founded in 2012, Inkomoko has supported 90,000 entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, improve their livelihoods, and create jobs for others in their communities as a pathway out of poverty.

Inkomoko believes that humanitarian aid is critical to emergency response, and that direct financial investment in displaced persons is the most effective and sustainable model for the future.

Forcibly displaced people are asking for the chance to rebuild their lives with the tools of economic development, and with the right support, refugees can contribute meaningfully to local and regional economies.

Today, Inkomoko is the largest lender to refugees in Africa, offering flexible repayment schedules and in-

terest rates less than half the market rate.

Inkomoko has disbursed nearly \$40M in capital, all of the investments de-risked by their capacity-building services.

With a 96% repayment rate, Inkomoko is proving that displaced entrepreneurs are just as investable as any other business.

"We are deeply honored to partner with The Audacious Project to scale opportunities for forcibly displaced persons in Africa," said Julianne Oyler, CEO and co-founder of Inkomoko.

"Together, we will demonstrate the economic viability of displaced markets, ultimately attracting more investors and private sector companies to join this cause, bringing additional opportunities to marginalized communities in the future."

"Inkomoko's selection as an Audacious project highlights the importance of supporting local entrepreneurs as they navigate the challenges

and opportunities within their communities," said Inkomoko Chief Program Officer, Mary Mwangi.

Managing Director Emerson Collective, an Inkomoko partner and a funder of The Audacious Project, Anne Marie Burgoyne said selection into this year's Audacious cohort is a testament to Inkomoko's innovative approach.

"Inkomoko's mission has always been about more than just supporting entrepreneurs. It's about ensuring that everyone, including overlooked forcibly displaced people, has the opportunity to live with dignity and contribute meaningfully to their families and communities," said Burgoyne.

Since 2018, The Audacious Project has catalysed more than \$5.9 billion to changemakers with bold visions for addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges.