

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards
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News>>MKU Set To Host Its Second Annual Research And Innovation Week 2024

P. 8. Mount Kenya University (MKU) will host its 2nd annual Research and Innovation Week from from today upto Friday, at the university's main campus in Thika town.



News>>KRA Opens Service Centre At Malaba To Enhance Trade Efficiency

P. 12. The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) marked service week by establishing a service centre at the Malaba One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) to enhance trade efficiency and expand revenue collection. The under-one-roof centre will integrate all PGAs operating at the Malaba OSBP to help address the traffic snarl-up, which is majorly orchestrated from time wastage by clearing agencies

Gachagua Calls For Calm As He Faces The Senate

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday called on Kenyans to remain calm and peaceful irrespective of the outcome of his trial at the Senate this week. Gachagua also appealed to Kenyans to pray for him and the country over the heightened political tensions after Members of Parliament voted to impeach him last week.



Some of the clergy welcoming the Deputy President in Embu yesterday.

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

Kalonzo Musyoka Warns of Kenya's State Capture Amid Controversial Deals



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Musyoka highlighted a 30-year deal worth Sh236 billion for the upgrade of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), which he and his party have already challenged in court. The opposition is expected to appear in court on October 17 to contest the deal, with Musyoka affirming that they are fighting on behalf of the Kenyan people. "We will not allow this government to auction our country to foreign interests," he declared.
- The energy sector has also come under scrutiny following the government's signing of a Sh95 billion deal between the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) and Adani.

A significant portion of the Kenyan public expressed growing concerns about the country's future, with 73 percent of respondents in a national opinion poll stating that Kenya is heading in the wrong direction. Speaking on behalf of the opposition, Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka has issued a stark warning, accusing the government of leading Kenya towards state capture, a fate he likened to South Africa's controversial "Guptagate."

In a press briefing, Musyoka emphasized that key sectors such as energy, transport, and healthcare have been targeted by foreign interests, notably the Indian conglomerate Adani Group. He expressed alarm over a series of opaque, non-competitive, and secretive deals that have allegedly been awarded to Adani, describing the situation as a grave threat to the country's sovereignty.

Musyoka highlighted a 30-year deal worth Sh236 billion for the upgrade of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), which he and his party have already challenged in court. The opposition is expected to appear in court on October 17 to contest the deal, with Musyoka affirming that they are fighting on behalf of the Kenyan people. "We will not allow this government to auction our country to foreign interests," he declared.

The energy sector has also come under scrutiny following the government's signing of a Sh95 billion deal between the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) and Adani. The 30-year agreement, which Musyoka condemned as another attempt to hand over control of critical infrastructure, has faced fierce resistance from the public. The opposition has vowed to fight this deal through legal channels.

Kalonzo further pointed out a controversial Sh104 billion deal in the healthcare sector, where a partnership involving Adani is responsible for what the opposition leader called a "defective SHA/



Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka addressing the media at a hotel in Nairobi.

SHIF system." According to Musyoka, the system has caused widespread suffering among Kenyans, exposing citizens to inadequate healthcare services and even resulting in loss of life. The deal, he said, is another example of the government ignoring public outcry while pushing through deals that favor foreign entities.

Musyoka suggested that these secretive deals were being finalized amid the ongoing political drama surrounding the impeachment case, which he described as a "smokescreen." According to him, the impeachment was designed to distract Kenyans while the government moved forward with these agreements. "The impeachment drama was a calculated move to divert attention from the multi-

billion-shilling deals being sealed by this bread-based regime," he said.

The opposition leader also expressed concern about the independence of Kenya's judiciary, which he described as the nation's last line of defense. "Our Judiciary is under attack. We urge them to continue being our shield and defender against an increasingly autocratic regime," Musyoka said, accusing the executive of capturing Parliament. He argued that the impeachment process provided stark evidence of this executive overreach.

On the matter of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Selection Panel, Musyoka confirmed that his party would respect the

court ruling expected on October 14. However, he reiterated that the formation of a credible and independent electoral commission, trusted by the people, is essential to the preservation of Kenya's democracy.

With accusations of state capture looming and public unrest growing, Musyoka made it clear that the opposition would continue its fight on multiple fronts, from the courts to the streets, to protect Kenya's sovereignty and democratic institutions.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nyaribari Chache constituency Member of Parliament Jhanda Zaheer over the weekend opened Kegati Police Post and thereafter addressed the local people where he gave them updates on various development programs in the area.



Teso North MP Oku Kaunya leads a transformative initiative, encouraging residents to shift from traditional and harmful cash crops like tobacco to more sustainable options like Hass avocados and groundnuts. With changing weather patterns impacting livelihoods, it's time for a change! At a recent event at Kocholia Avocado Farm, Kaunya emphasized the profitability and low maintenance of Hass avocados. The legislator has set a target of establishing 20 Hass avocado trees for every household with the help of Achiya Echakara NYS Agriculture College, which is in the constituency.



Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Ann Wang'ombe says that the fight against the FGM practice has not been easy as it is deeply rooted in culture and often conducted in secrecy. She, however, expressed optimism that the outlawed practice will completely be done away with in the next two years as a result of spirited campaigns and sensitisation against the vice. "FGM cases have been declining over the years, we are confident that in the next two years it will have completely been done away with," she said. The PS underscored the need for all stakeholders to work together in eradicating FGM even as schools close for the long holidays during which the vice is usually rampant.



Residents of Igembe are being urged to avoid self-treatment and the misuse of over-the-counter medicines. Dr. Thiakunu Mwirabua, Nyambene Clinic, and Nursing Home warns that many people are buying medications without prescriptions, which can lead to dangerous misdiagnoses and delayed treatments. "We are witnessing more people making queues in pharmacies and purchasing drugs without any prescription, which is so dangerous," Dr. Mwirabua said. Self-medication, he said, can be particularly harmful for those with chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and asthma, potentially causing serious health complications.



Expectant mothers in Nandi County can now breathe a sigh of relief after health workers called off a four-day strike after reaching a successful Return to Work Agreement with the County Government. The development is a beacon of hope for many, as the strike had severely disrupted services in over 280 public health facilities and dispensaries. During the strike, public hospitals were unable to provide essential maternity services, including deliveries, many pregnant women were left stranded.



Zipporah Kittony, a former Kenyan politician and advocate for women's and children's rights, passionately asserts that adolescent girls deserve a safe, educated, and healthy life. This is crucial not only during their formative years but also as they transition into adulthood. Kittony emphasises that with the right support during their adolescence, girls can change the world—becoming tomorrow's mothers, entrepreneurs, mentors, and leaders.



The newly opened Huduma Centre in Kamwangi in Gatundu is set to transform lives by making government services more accessible. They said they no longer have to travel for kilometres to access the services at the Huduma Centre in Thika town, thus saving time and travel costs of getting vital documents like birth certificates, HELB, and KRA services right at their doorstep. James Karanja shared, "This centre has saved us big time!" Just two weeks in operation, the Kamwangi centre is already alleviating pressure on the Thika office, which previously handled over 2,500 clients daily. Thika manager Susan Wangu noted, "The new centre has made a significant difference for residents from Gatundu."

Mount Kenya University



MKU Research and Innovation Week 2024 (MKU_RIW2024)

Theme:
Research and Innovation for Sustainable Production and Livelihoods

Date: 14th to 18th October 2024

Venue: Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre Grounds, MKU, Thika



Introduction

The research and innovation week is expected to provide a platform for stakeholders (Higher Education Institutions, TVETs, Industry, Regulators, Government Institutions, NGOs, Innovation Hubs, and International Partners, Individuals) to showcase their inventive ideas that have the potential to yield pioneering products and services (spin-offs and new ventures). This is in addition to promoting stronger ties with industry through the Service-Learning (SL) initiative.

Activities includes

- . Week-long Schools Symposium
- . AI For Education Hackathon
- . Exhibitions by Industry, Students and Researchers.



Best School Symposia will be recognized. **Top Innovations** will be awarded with Cash Prizes in addition to Business development support at the Innovation and Incubation Centre.

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Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

Thousands Of Farmers Trained On Modern Agricultural Techniques

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyentimes

Thousands of farmers from different parts of the mountain region were recently trained on modern techniques.

Different organizations took part in the training that took place in Mwea area, Kirinyaga County.

Agitech, an independent seedlings company, was among the different firms that conducted a grand agricultural expo in Mutithi area, aiming to equip farmers with knowledge on how to deal with current challenges and empower them with new ideas on farming.

“Farmers have a chance to learn and look at farming in a different way. Through Agitech, farmers will learn how to use different fertilisers for different crops and also have different varieties to choose from,” explained William Ngeno, Yara Company Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The expo, in partnership with Yara Company, aimed to teach farmers how to use different fertilisers for different crops and have different varieties to choose from. Live demonstrations of the Farmcare Platform, a digital farming mobile accessible application, were among the major attractions.

“The Agitech Centre serves one of Yara’s knowledge centres, where farmers learn practically about sustainable water management, improving soil health, and any other farming techniques based on the challenges they face. The centre also affords them the chance to experiment with crop rotation techniques, check on the balance between fertiliser input and expected yields, and assess what they can take back to their farms to increase both their yields and their income,” Ngeno said.

The expo also offers live demonstrations of the Farmcare Platform, which offers easily understood crop cycles, weather forecasts, and a fertiliser calculator. Agitech Expo 2024 aims to provide farmers with solutions to their woes, such as sustainable water management,



Principal Secretaries and other stakeholders during the expo.

improving soil health, and experimenting with crop rotation techniques.

Farmers like James Mwaniki, a maize farmer from Embu, praised the expo for exposure to best farming practices and called on the government to conduct more agricultural trainings regularly to maximise productivity in their farms.

Dr. Matthew Mwangi of Kerugoya Fortis Medical and Cancer Centre urged farmers to attend agricultural trainings to learn from agrochemical manufacturers and trainers on basic knowledge on handling agrochemicals and fertilisers.



Farmers undergoing training at Mutithi area last week.

Worth Noting:

- “Farmers have a chance to learn and look at farming in a different way. Through Agitech, farmers will learn how to use different fertilisers for different crops and also have different varieties to choose from,” explained William Ngeno, Yara Company Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

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MKU Set To Host Its Second Annual Research And Innovation Week 2024

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) will host its 2nd annual Research and Innovation Week from today upto Friday, at the university's main campus in Thika town.

Themed "Research and Innovation for Sustainable Production and Livelihoods," the event aims to showcase creative solutions and foster collaborations between academia, industry, and government to address real-world challenges.

This year's Research and Innovation Week offers a vibrant platform for a wide range of stakeholders, including Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), TVETs, government bodies, NGOs, industry players, innovation hubs, regulators, and international partners. Participants will present groundbreaking ideas that have the potential to spark new ventures, spin-offs, and innovative products, strengthening the link between research and practical application.

"A key focus will be on enhancing partnerships through MKU's Service-Learning (SL) initiative, aligning academic programs with industry needs to equip students with hands-on experience for career success,"

says the chairman of the organizing committee, Dr. Henry Yatich.

Highlights

He said the five-day event will feature school-specific symposiums from today, to Thursday, where renowned panelists will delve into topics tailored to their disciplines.

Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and gain actionable insights on how to integrate innovative practices into their programs, ensuring graduates are industry-ready.

"The event will culminate on October 17 with an exciting hackathon, challenging participants to solve pressing societal and industry issues through creative solutions," said Dr Yatich, who is also Principal College of Graduate studies and Research at MKU. On Friday, the final day will see an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding projects from participating schools, innovators, and sponsors.

The event's Chief Guest is expected to be Dr. James Mugo, Secretary-General of the Kenya National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), underscoring the importance of research and innovation in achieving sustainable development goals.

Dr Yatich said MKU has also lined



From left; Monica Blagescu, Head of Programmes, Higher Education, British Council, Donatus Njoroge, MKU's Head of Innovations, Intellectual property and Community Engagement and Githinji Gatambu, MKU Student Exhibitor during the 2023 Innovation Week held at Sarit Centre, Nairobi.

up a media segment on TV47's morning breakfast show, where university and industry representatives will explore ways to enhance employability among graduates. Discussions will highlight real-world problem-solving strategies, the integration of artificial intelligence in entrepreneurship, virtual laboratories, and the use of case studies and capstone assignments for postgraduate students.

"These conversations will reinforce the critical role of collaboration between academia and industry in shaping future-ready professionals," he added.

The forum has attracted support from leading organizations, including

Equity Bank, the National Research Fund, Maxfre Ltd, Maruti Ltd., Innova Ltd., GTCO Bank, DAAD through the ACCESS Project, and Modern Tents Ltd.

Their sponsorship reflects a shared commitment to nurturing innovation and promoting sustainable production and livelihoods.

Further, a research and innovation week will be held on October 16th under the theme; AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Social Change; Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st century.

The keynote speaker will be Allan Cheboi (Data and Digital Technology (DigiTech) while Dr Judy Mwan-

gi of Kenyatta University, Dr Sylvia Ndanu of TUC Mombasa, Mr Tony Kwalanda (Cape Media) will be the panelists.

The moderator will be Dr Daniel Ong'ong'a of MKU.

"MKU's Research and Innovation Week promises to be a dynamic forum for thought leaders, educators, students, and innovators to exchange ideas and catalyze change. Participants can expect to leave with practical strategies, a wealth of new ideas, and a renewed focus on preparing learners for successful careers in their fields," said Dr Yatich.

Parliamentary Health Committee Toured Moi Teaching And Referral Hospital

By: Kenya News Agency

The Committee on Health in the National Assembly visited the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret City on Friday to review project implementation, budget allocations, and legal matters.

The Chairman of the Health Committee, Robert Pukose, praised the hospital's effective services, urging the administration to maintain their high standards of cleanliness and care.

However, he expressed concerns about the transition from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the new Social Health Authority (SHA),

noting that it required a lot of sensitisations in terms of updating details online, especially for communities at the grassroots who do not possess smartphones or have no access to cyber services.

"We're pleased with the services offered here at MTRH, but we need to ensure everyone can navigate the transition from NHIF to SHA, especially those without easy access to technology," Pukose stated, adding, "This is critical, especially for those who do not have smartphones and might not be able to reach where we have cyber so that their details can be properly entered into the SHA system. But despite that, we think that from the feedback, I think the system should be able to look for a way on how those people without smart-



phones can be helped update their details."

He reassured the public that no patient has been turned away due to lack of medical cover or the need to purchase medicines externally.

He called on private hospitals to sup-

port government efforts by not turning away patients during this transition period.

After touring various departments, including the renal dialysis and cancer units, Pukose noted that the facility is functioning well and encouraged

any patients with concerns about accessing specialised services to reach out.

He asked Kenyans with issues with SHA to call a 24-hour toll-free line, 0800720601, so that they could be assisted.

DP Calls For Calm As He Faces The Senate

By: DPCS and MTK Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “I am a believer in the independence of the judiciary. I am certain that the courts will exercise judicial authority and protect and uphold the Constitution and the will of the people. Our Judiciary is efficient. They (judicial officers) protect the Constitution, rule of law and always ensure the will of the people is respected. I have confidence that rule of law will prevail and the will of people will be upheld,” he said.
- He added, “Pray for us and our country. We elected many leaders (in the 2022 General Election). Is it possible to remove others from office? The President (William Ruto) and I were elected on one ticket. We are asking that the people’s choice and their will be respected”.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday called on Kenyans to remain calm and peaceful irrespective of the outcome of his trial at the Senate this week.

Gachagua also appealed to Kenyans to pray for him and the country over the heightened political tensions after Members of Parliament voted to impeach him last week.

“Despite everything happening in the country, my plea is that we maintain peace and calm. God is on the throne. Let’s preach and maintain peace irrespective of the outcome. Kenya is our country,” he said at St. Mark Teachers’ Training College, Kigari, Manyatta, Embu County, during a church service and the 34th Anniversary of the ACK Embu Diocese.

The Deputy President further said that he has confidence in the Judiciary in adjudicating the matter if it gets there.

“I am a believer in the independence of the judiciary. I am certain that the courts will exercise judicial authority and protect and uphold the Constitution and the will of the people. Our Judiciary is efficient. They (judicial officers) protect the Constitution, rule of law and always ensure the will of the people is respected. I have confidence that rule of law will prevail and the will of people will be upheld,” he said.

He added, “Pray for us and our country. We elected many leaders (in the 2022 General Election). Is it possible to remove others from office? The President (William Ruto) and I were elected on one ticket. We are asking that the people’s choice and their will be respected”.

While commending 44 Members of Parliament who voted against the impeachment motion, including the host Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, the DP encouraged leaders to listen to the people.

“I thank MPs like Gitonga Mukunji and Njoki Njeru (Embu Woman Representative) for respecting and adhering to the wishes of the people,” he said.

At the church event, the Deputy President was in the company of his Spouse Pastor Dorcas, the host MP Gitonga Mukunji, Embu Woman Rep Pamela Njoki Njeru alias Double N, Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), George Koimhuri (Juja), Kirinyaga Senator Kamau Murango, MCAs, former Laikipia County MP Cate Waruguru and the Clergy.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse Pastor Dorcas posing for a photo with a young girl who presented a banquet of flowers to him upon arrival in Embu yesterday.



Some of the lawmakers who accompanied the Deputy President in Embu yesterday.

Divine Revolution Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

If there is a great change a person needs in his/her life, business, ministry, family it is God's divine revolution, such that everything is directed, ordained and centred on God.

The inspirational Scripture Reading is Isaiah 6, meditate on it as you read, visualise the word.

Confessions is the word Isaiah 43: 19, as we pray fervently the following prayer points, believing it is done by the blood of Christ Jesus, and in the mighty name of Christ Jesus:

PRAYER POINTS :

- 1. I overthrow the strength of my oppressors, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. I bring destruction against spiritual blindness, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. Every altar that strengthens wickedness in my life, die, in the name of

Jesus.

4. I pull down the power bases of the wickedness of my family line, in the name of Jesus.

5. I frustrate every fetish power targeted against me, in the name of Jesus.

6. I pluck out every satanic monitoring eye, in the name of Jesus.

7. Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Gather my stolen oil back to my head, in the name of Jesus.

8. Every arrow from within, perish by fire, in the name of Jesus.

9. O Lord, deliver me from evil strangulation, in the name of Jesus.

10. I speak by fire of the Holy Spirit, the mouth of the wicked shall not speak against my life, in the name of Jesus.

11. Every power stealing my promotion from me, die, in the name of Jesus.

12. O day, you shall no longer record any problem against me, in the name of Jesus.

13. Every cloud of bewitchment, scatter, in the name of Jesus.

14. I claim surplus miracles, in the name of Jesus.

15. Every satanic checkpoint mounted against my success, die, in the name of Jesus.

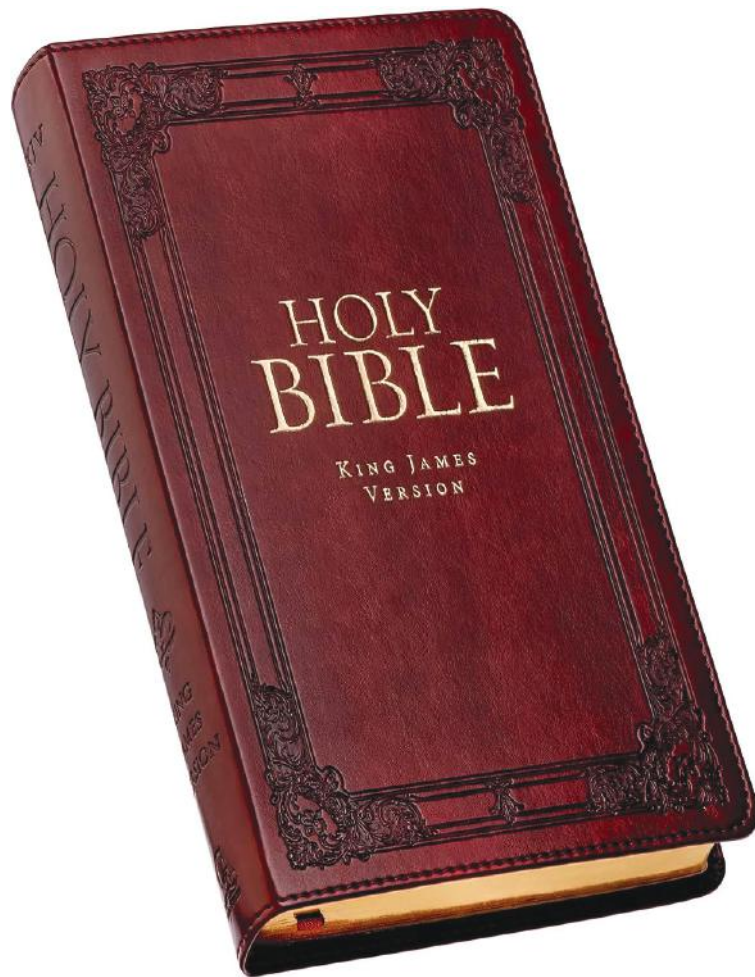
16. Every hanging miracle, be released by fire, in the name of Jesus.

17. Every power asking for my head in a charger fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.

HALELUJAH, GLORY BE TO GOD.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God LOVES you unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM



The Mt. Kenya Times



North-Eastern Parliamentary Group Stakeholders Unveils Forum Master Plan To Address Decades Of Marginalisation

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The North-Eastern Parliamentary Group concluded its three-day stakeholders' engagement conference, which brought together senators, members of the National Assembly, and key professionals from the North Eastern region.

The forum aimed to forge a unified front among the region's political leaders, professionals, and opinion leaders.

"Our shared objective is to chart a collective path towards addressing the pressing challenges facing the region. For over 60 years, our region has been consciously excluded from the broader national development agenda," said the Secretary General of the Caucus, Yakub Salah who is also the MP for Fafi constituency.

Treasurer of the group and Mander County Women Representative Ummulkheir Kassim expressed concerns about the systemic underdevelopment in the region.

She highlighted poor infrastructure, lack of basic services, and the fact that about 851,000 pupils are unable to attend school.

Kamukunji MP Yusuf Hassan commended the group and professionals for the extensive deliberations during

the forum.

"What we want now is a master plan and action. No one will develop your area without you walking together," he emphasized.

Vice Chairperson of the Group and Mander East MP, Hussein Weytan, echoed the call for collective efforts.

He revealed that the forum resolved to develop a comprehensive master plan for the North-Eastern region that aligns with national development goals while addressing its unique challenges and opportunities.

The master plan will serve as a strategic blueprint for economic growth, infrastructure development, and social progress, ultimately culminating in a sessional paper to guide the national policy for North Eastern Kenya.

The Secretary General Yakub Salah further called for the expedited construction of key infrastructure, including the Modogashe-Samatar and Rhamu-Mandera roads, and filling in missing links such as Moyale-Wajir, Moyale-Mandera via Takaba, and the Garissa-Liboi security roads.

These routes, he argued, are crucial for regional connectivity and development.

Patron of the group Farah Maalim expressed gratitude for the successful engagement, reaffirming the caucus's commitment to amplifying their collective voice. He stressed that the group would continue advocating for



Members of the North-Eastern group briefing journalists after the meeting.

increased investments in critical sectors such as infrastructure, water, energy, security, education, healthcare, and climate resilience.

Chairperson of the group and Eldas MP Adan Keynan called for unity, emphasizing the homogeneity of the Somali community in the North East.

He stated that "the residents of the North East are a single ethnic community, the Somali," and urged them to leverage this identity for regional development.

The conference also called for the enactment of the Livestock Bill 2024 to establish the Livestock and Livestock Products Marketing and Development Authority and the Kenya Livestock Research Organization. Additionally, the group advocated for an increased budget allocation to the livestock sector and improved access to markets.

A key proposal was the introduction of a government-financed medical insurance scheme to cover residents of the North East, aiming to relieve the rising healthcare costs and address emergent household needs.

The forum also called for the urgent completion of the Horn of Africa Gateway Project, particularly the Isiolo to Mandera Road, and the construction of key roads such as Moyale-Wajir and the Mandera-Lamu Circuit, which are vital for security and economic development.

Addressing the educational crisis, the group demanded that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) deploy all trained, unemployed teachers to the North Eastern region to address the significant shortage. They also called for the strengthening of adult education programs and the revival of low-

cost boarding schools.

The forum marked the beginning of a renewed commitment to advocate for the region's rightful place in Kenya's development agenda.

Both Maalim and Keynan expressed their gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula, and the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge, for their support in ensuring the success of the North Eastern Parliamentary Group Forum.

"I want to sincerely thank the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for providing the necessary support and staff to ensure that this engagement was fruitful," said Keynan.

School Heads: Delayed Capitation May Affect KCSE Practicals

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Secondary school heads are sounding the alarm over the delayed disbursement of capitation funds, which they said may affect the upcoming Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) science practicals.

Willy Kuria, national chairman of the Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (KESSHA) and Principal at Murang'a High School, emphasized that many schools are running low on funds to purchase essential materials for the practical exams.

He noted that several Day Secondary Schools have been forced to seek assistance from larger institutions to

facilitate their students' practicals.

"We have Form-3 students from Gikuu Day Secondary and Kambirwa Day Secondary schools doing their practicals here at Murang'a High School," Kuria said.

He highlighted the struggles teachers face in providing adequate training, as many can only conduct practical sessions once a month due to financial constraints.

Kuria warned that if the government doesn't release at least part of the remaining Sh24 billion in capitation, schools may have to close earlier than the scheduled end date of October 25, 2024.

He urged the Ministry of Education to act swiftly to ensure that KCSE practicals can proceed smoothly and that students can complete their term as planned.

Headteachers Samuel Mwangi of



Gikuu Day Secondary School and Peter Wanyama of Kambirwa Day Secondary School echoed these con-

cerns, noting that students from Day Schools are performing poorly in sciences compared to languages and

humanities due to a lack of facilities and resources for practicals.

KRA Opens Service Centre At Malaba To Enhance Trade Efficiency

By: Absalom Namwalo
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) marked service week by establishing a service centre at the Malaba One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) to enhance trade efficiency and expand revenue collection.

The under-one-roof centre will integrate all partner government agencies (PGAs) operating at the Malaba OSBP to help address the traffic snarl-up, which is majorly orchestrated from time wastage by clearing agencies moving from one department to another to seek clearance.

“This collaborative model seeks to break down silos among government entities, fostering synergy and eliminating delays in the clearance process for traders,” said Macharia, the KRA Deputy Commissioner Border Control and Enforcement.

According to KRA, the service centre aims to expedite the movement of goods and people by reducing clear-

ing time and mitigating revenue pilferage, which results from smuggling and massive bribery occasioned by cartels at the customs.

He added that they anticipate revenue collected to grow by 80% along the busy border of Malaba OSBP in the next financial year.

“The centre will play a significant role in revolutionising public service delivery and establishing a citizen-centric approach that improves the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery,” Macharia added.

KRA has crucial mandates which extend beyond revenue collection which include trade facilitation, border control, and security by enhancing civic education and training for traders and social groups in an effort to mitigate the effects of smuggling.

“Our primary mandate is customer service delivery and providing a business-enabling climate by reducing barriers and costs associated with doing business,” he noted.

KRA has experienced remarkable growth in customs revenue, largely

attributed to the implementation of One-Stop Border posts at various border posts.

Malaba OSBP is very instrumental in domestic revenue as it enhances regional and international trade, and the post controls over 80% of the customs revenue collected at all border posts.

“The service centre will help break down silos among various government agencies and enhance cooperation, thus boosting trade and revenue both at local and international forums at OSBP,” Macharia added.

The DC gave a stern warning to custom officials who were behind the revenue pilferage and theft of KRA gadgets that their days are numbered and already the government has set intelligence in place to crack down on the syndicate.

The sentiments were echoed by Deputy Commissioner of Marketing and Communication Grace Wandera that the institution has taken the concerns raised by truck drivers, cross-border traders, and clearing agencies seriously, and they will see drastic changes in security, operation, and service de-



Opening of the new KRA service center at Malaba to enhance trade and cooperation to boost trade and revenue collection.

livery.

The KRA officials served over 200 truck drivers with a cup of coffee and a snack to express its gratitude to them for the partnership.

Currently, the Malaba OSBP handles an average of 2,000 trucks daily, 1,400 for outbound cargo and 600 for inbound cargo, and is expected to boost numbers with a revenue target

of over 10 billion per year.

This visit came one month after truck drivers issued a strike notice over insecurity and inefficiency at the custom where drivers experienced regular scanner breakdowns, causing snarl-up to go as far as beyond Kanduyi.

Gov't Fast-tracking Wildlife Compensation In Nyandarua County

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife is set to expedite the unveiling of the Nyandarua County Wildlife Compensation Committee.

Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano announced this during a tree planting ceremony at Iriani Primary School, emphasising the need to process claims for residents affected by human-wildlife conflict.

“I will soon unveil the committee so that it can process the claims for payment,” she assured.

In response to appeals from County Commissioner Abdirisack Jaldesa, who highlighted the ongoing conflicts involving local wildlife, particularly hippos and buffaloes, the CS acknowledged the challenges faced by communities coexisting with nature. Jaldesa noted recent inci-

dents, including a buffalo attack that claimed a life.

Additionally, the County Executive for Water, Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, Wachira Mugo, called for the gazetting of Lake Olbolosat as a national reserve.

The move would empower the county to fund conservation efforts and develop the lake into a tourist attraction.

With a commitment of Sh7.5 million from the World Bank for conservation initiatives, the local government is working alongside self-help groups to minimise human-wildlife conflicts, ensuring a safer environment for residents.



Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano at Iriani School in Nyandarua County.

New Comic Book Promotes Menstrual Health Awareness

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

In celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child last week, Polycom Girls, in partnership with Womankind Worldwide, launched “Siri Ya Mwezi,” a groundbreaking comic book focused on menstrual health education.

Written by Abigail Arunga and illustrated by Nzilani Simu, the comic follows Hakima, a young girl who embarks on a journey that challenges longstanding taboos and celebrates the courage to ask questions and seek answers.

“Together with Womankind Worldwide, we are not just telling stories, we are creating a movement for dignity, equity, and a future where no girl is left behind because of something as natural as her periods,” she said.

During the launch, Anne Agar, Executive Director of Polycom Girls, emphasized the importance of breaking the silence around menstruation, urging for its integration into school curricula. “Periods should never be a

barrier to a girl’s ambitions,” she said, highlighting the need for open conversations to remove stigma.

“The stigma, shame, and lack of access to information and basic sanitary products keep girls and young women from living in dignity,” she said.

Diana Njuguna, Co-CEO of Womankind Worldwide, added that the comic book aims to create an environment where menstruation is seen as a natural part of life, free from shame.

This initiative is not just about storytelling; it’s a movement for dignity and equity, ensuring no girl is left behind due to something as natural as her period.

“We believe the conversations sparked by this comic book will catalyse a transformative shift in menstrual health and reproductive rights for young women and girls,” said Njuguna.

“This initiative will not only improve school attendance for girls but also contribute to the overall wellbeing of women and girls across the country,” she said, adding that it underpins their solidarity with all women and girls.



Some of the stakeholders during the launching of the book last Friday.

Water Supply Project Fosters Peace In Isiolo And Laikipia

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The Tura-Narasha water supply project has become a beacon of hope for pastoral communities in Isiolo and Laikipia, promoting peace and harmony where water scarcity once sparked conflict and loss of life.

At the launch of the Sh20 million project, residents shared how access to water has transformed their lives, allowing them to focus on livelihoods like bead-making without the fear of violence.

Mary Mosian, a Laikipia resident, highlighted the collaboration between women from both counties to resolve conflicts through peace committees.

Supported by the Swedish gov-

ernment and Northern Rangeland Trust, this initiative has effectively addressed long-standing tensions in the region.

NRT Chief Executive Officer Tom Lalampaa emphasized that the project acts as a unifying factor, bringing communities together through shared resources.

With women playing a crucial role in peacebuilding, the project not only uplifts lives but also fosters dialogue and collaboration.

Sweden’s Embassy Head of Development Cooperation, Ms. Annika Otterstedt, said that the Swedish government was keen on supporting women in the local communities to better their lives through water and peacebuilding initiatives.



Feless Jez Uganda's Upcoming Afrobeat, and RnB singer Star



Am an Afrobeat, and RnB singer, singing in English, because I feel comfortable and it's the best language to express love music
Was born, lived my childhood life and went through my primary and high

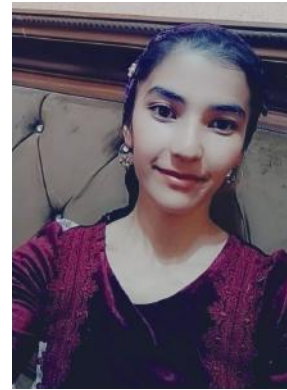
school studies in Tororo, district found in the Eastern part of Uganda

Having that passion of becoming an engineer (electrical)
My parents had to move me in Kampala to achieve that,

Though I had started my music journey way back in 2018 at high school, professional 2023 was the year my sound changed, due to the vast opportunity in the capital, it was a step up

Alot of things inspired and continues inspiring me in this music journey, good music is one of them whether it's of an established o a raising talent, good music moves me a lot

My Mother Without Paradise



My beautiful flower
You are my angel mother
You are unmatched in the world
My mother without paradise

There is no women like you in the world
No even in heaven
No even yours
My mother without paradise

You made me out of nothing
You who washed and combed white
You are sorry if I make a mistake
My mother without paradise

It is true that I love you
It's true that I even got hit

This word is also true. Yes, it is true
My mother without paradise

There is little I can do for you
Even the moon in the sky little
Just laugh a little
My mother without paradise

If I cheer you up with my poem
If I say my love, my flower
Don't let my father be jealous, mother
My mother without paradise

Madaminova Ogiloy was born in 2002 in Koshkopir district Khorezm region Republic of Uzbekistan.3rd stage student of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. His work has been published in the German magazine Raven Cage Zine, in Kenya; Mt. Kenya Times, in Thailand Page3 news, in India's Namaste India newspaper. She is a poet. Likes to write poetry. She is currently studying English and Turkish. In her free time, she enjoys reading and baking.

Scars Of A Vampire....



I will say you came by my embrace
To suckle my mother's nipple
Whose colostrum fostered
A bulge tender bald.

I will consent that my
Predecessor's invitation
To a vampire-through
A mediator's letter written
By none him-from whom I spring
Tamed us as inmates.

I will hail AKORIMO .K.,

Who stood in his short pants
With his arms playing
A pulley- like any organist
In a lower-raise symbiosis.

I will read you
Dear alighted visitors,
The death of our Uhuru:
"dear English, we resent thy
Sabotage on our mental sufficiency and
autonomy
Thy bombs, the shells,
The repatriated precious stone
Of Kilembe, our cotton from
Namasagali in present day
Sister Kamuli
And our tobacco from brother Pakwach.
Did you ever give back without
Stringes?"
And as I read you this
'Common people's letter,"
What have you to say without shame?

Labass. S. Degro
+256 700133179(Whatsapp)
Is a poet brought to earth in a local
kitchen in
Ruijogoro. All glory to God.

Tokhtasinova Sadokat Avazbek Drawings



Tokhtasinova Sadokat Avazbek 1996.03.13 City name: Fergana region, Rishton district. 24-Children's music and art school Landscape-"Bugishamol"

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HEALTH

Navigating Mental Health In Higher Learning Institutions

By: Daisy Moraa
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Social isolation and identity exploration present further challenges, as noted by Shadrack Wanyonyi from the University of Nairobi. “You come to campus, and you’re supposed to figure out who you are,” he remarked. “But fitting in with certain groups and living up to expectations can really mess with your head.” Many students struggle with a sense of disconnection, especially when they fail to meet societal or familial expectations. This can lead to withdrawal, loneliness, and worsening mental health.
- The pressure to excel academically also takes a toll, as Michelle Wangui from Kaimosi Friends University explained. “It’s not just about attending classes; it’s the exams, assignments, and expectations to perform well every semester,” she said.



Mental health challenges, particularly stress and depression, are widespread among students in higher learning institutions. Globally, mental health conditions affect one in seven adolescents aged 10–19, with anxiety and depression accounting for nearly 40% of these disorders. Suicide, tragically, remains the third leading cause of death among people aged 15–29, reflecting the severity of this crisis. Conversations with students from various universities shed light on the many dimensions of mental health struggles on campus, highlighting how relationships, financial difficulties, academic pressure, and social isolation intertwine to affect student well-being.

Amos Bahati from Rongo University expressed concerns about how students often misattribute mental health issues to relationships alone. “People think relationships are the main cause of depression in school, but it’s not just about that,” she shared. “Yes, they can affect mental health, but focusing only on them makes students ignore other serious triggers.” While unhealthy relationships—whether romantic, familial, or friendships—can lead to emotional stress, Bahati emphasizes that mental health issues are often the result of multiple overlapping challenges rather than one singular cause.

Financial instability emerged as another significant stressor, according

to Ouma James from Masinde Muliro University. “Some of us come from homes where even raising school fees is a struggle,” he said. “Now you get to campus, and everything costs money—food, rent, class materials. If you can’t meet these needs, the stress catches up with you, and it’s hard to concentrate on your studies.” Financial stress can be particularly debilitating for students from low-income households, leaving them juggling part-time jobs and coursework to survive. The uncertainty of meeting basic needs while keeping up academically can exacerbate anxiety and depression.

Social isolation and identity exploration present further challenges, as noted by Shadrack Wanyonyi from the University of Nairobi. “You come to campus, and you’re supposed to figure out who you are,” he remarked. “But fitting in with certain groups and living up to expectations can really mess with your head.” Many students struggle with a sense of disconnection, especially when they fail to meet societal or familial expectations. This can lead to withdrawal, loneliness, and worsening mental health.

The pressure to excel academically also takes a toll, as Michelle Wangui from Kaimosi Friends University explained. “It’s not just about attending classes; it’s the exams, assignments, and expectations to perform well every semester,” she said. “When you

feel like you’re drowning in deadlines and no one understands, it becomes really tough to cope.” The relentless demand for academic performance without sufficient support structures often results in burnout and anxiety, making it difficult for students to stay motivated and engaged.

To address these mental health challenges, institutions need to provide comprehensive support systems. Accessible counseling services and mental health awareness campaigns are essential to ensure students feel safe seeking help early. These interventions can prevent minor issues from escalating into severe mental health crises. “We need to talk about it more, so people don’t feel embarrassed about seeking help,” Jane added, emphasizing the importance of reducing stigma.

Financial assistance programs can also play a critical role in easing the burden on students. Scholarships, work-study programs, and emergency funds can help mitigate financial stress. Furthermore, universities can encourage students to develop financial literacy to manage limited resources more effectively.

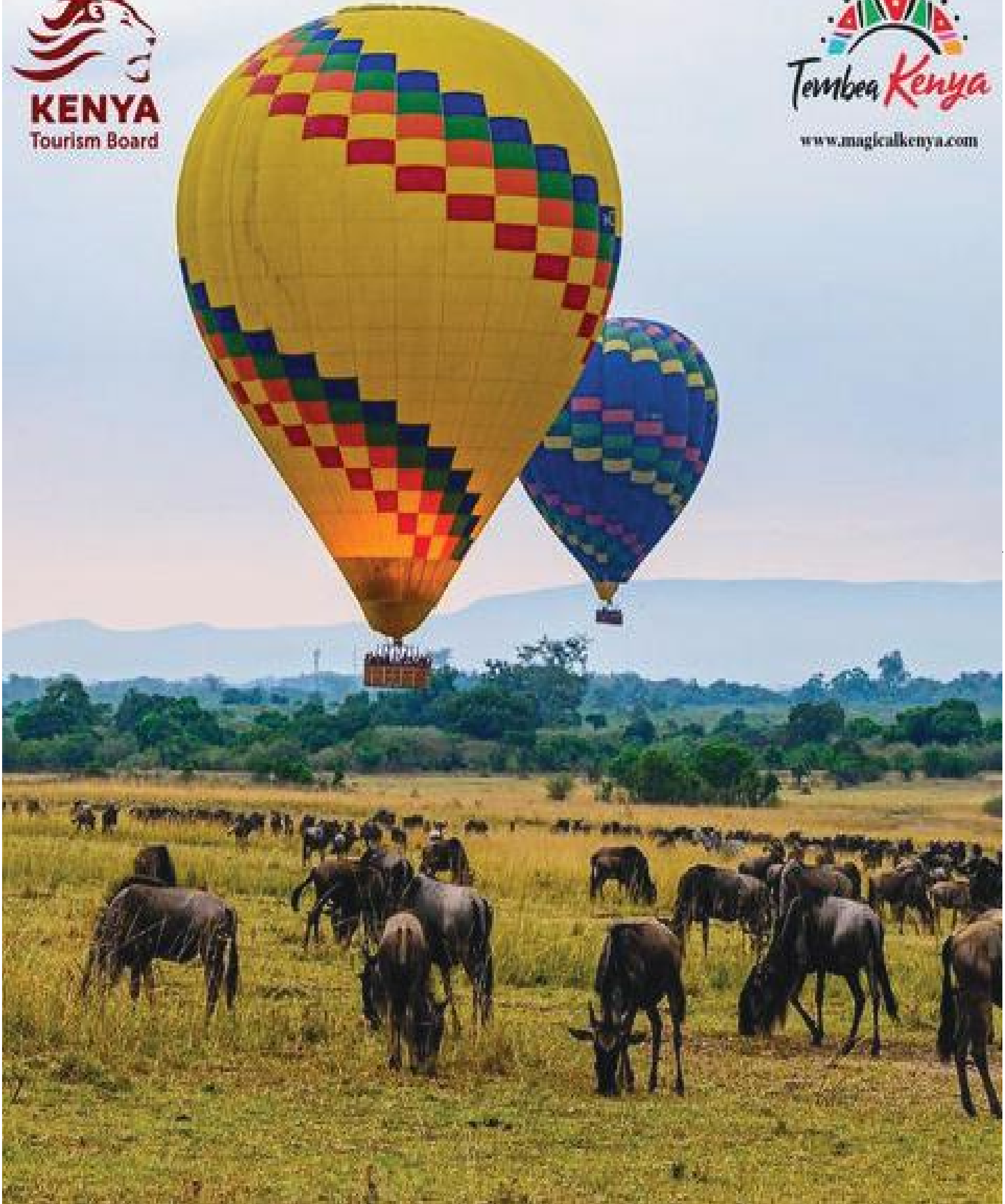
Fostering social inclusion is equally important. Encouraging students to join clubs, peer support groups, and extracurricular activities can create a sense of belonging. This helps mitigate isolation and provides a supportive network for students navigating

personal challenges. Universities must also promote open dialogue about mental health to destigmatize these conversations, making it easier for students to access help without shame or fear.

The World Health Organization and UNICEF stress the importance of creating protective environments for young people, particularly as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. When mental health challenges remain unaddressed, the impact can extend well into adulthood, limiting individuals’ ability to thrive personally and professionally. However, with the right support systems, students can overcome these challenges and focus on their academic and personal development.

Shadrack summarized it well, saying, “We need to realize that mental health matters just as much as physical health—if not more.” Addressing mental health issues requires collaboration between universities, families, and communities to ensure students receive the tools and support they need to navigate university life successfully. By fostering awareness, providing adequate resources, and creating safe spaces, institutions can empower students to thrive both mentally and academically.

Daisy Moraa
Rongo University.



Viability Gap Funding: A Catalyst For Public-Private Partnerships In Kenya's Infrastructure Sector



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themtkenyatimes

Public-Private Partnership



Public



Came into a collaboration



Private

Worth Noting:

- The strategic use of VGF also aligns with Kenya's broader economic objectives under Vision 2030, which aims to transform the country into an industrialized middle-income economy. By fostering an environment conducive to private investment, VGF contributes to job creation, improved service delivery, and enhanced economic growth. The successful implementation of projects funded through VGF can generate substantial social and economic returns, ultimately benefiting both the government and its citizens.

- However, while VGF enhances project attractiveness, it is essential for policymakers to ensure that it does not lead to dependency on government support. A careful balance must be struck between providing sufficient funding to make projects viable and encouraging private investors to develop sustainable revenue models.

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is a critical mechanism designed to enhance the attractiveness of infrastructure projects to private sector stakeholders in Kenya. By addressing financial shortfalls associated with projects that are socially desirable but not financially viable, VGF plays a pivotal role in mobilizing private investment in sectors where traditional funding models may falter. This funding mechanism is particularly relevant in a country like Kenya, which faces a significant infrastructure financing deficit estimated at \$2.1 billion annually.

VGF operates by providing government grants to cover the gap between the actual project costs and the revenue that can be generated from user fees. This approach allows projects that would otherwise be deemed unbankable—such as those in rural areas or in sectors like healthcare and education—to become financially viable. For instance, a road project that cannot charge sufficient tolls to cover its construction and maintenance costs can receive VGF to make it attractive to private investors. By mitigating financial risks, VGF encourages private stakeholders to participate in projects that contribute to national development goals.

The mechanism also enhances the bankability of projects by ensuring that they meet specific financial criteria before they are tendered. Government entities are required to conduct thorough project appraisals to ascer-

tain the viability of proposed projects. This process not only increases the likelihood of successful project implementation but also instills confidence among private investors regarding the project's financial soundness. The establishment of a robust regulatory framework, supported by the PPP Policy Statement, further facilitates this process by outlining clear guidelines for project preparation and funding allocation.

Moreover, VGF serves as a liquidity reserve, providing assurance to private investors that their financial exposure is mitigated. This assurance is particularly crucial in sectors characterized by high initial capital costs and long payback periods, such as energy and transportation. By offering VGF, the government signals its commitment to supporting essential infrastructure projects, thereby attracting private sector participation. This is evident in ongoing initiatives such as the Nairobi-Nakuru-Mau Summit Highway project, where VGF plays a role in making the project more appealing to potential investors.

The strategic use of VGF also aligns with Kenya's broader economic objectives under Vision 2030, which aims to transform the country into an industrialized middle-income economy. By fostering an environment conducive to private investment, VGF contributes to job creation, improved service delivery, and enhanced economic growth. The successful implementation of projects funded through

VGF can generate substantial social and economic returns, ultimately benefiting both the government and its citizens.

However, while VGF enhances project attractiveness, it is essential for policymakers to ensure that it does not lead to dependency on government support. A careful balance must be struck between providing sufficient funding to make projects viable and encouraging private investors to develop sustainable revenue models. This requires ongoing evaluation of funded projects' performance and adjustments to funding criteria as necessary.

In addition to addressing financial viability, VGF can also facilitate partnerships between local and international investors. By making projects more attractive through government support, local stakeholders can leverage these opportunities to engage with foreign investors who bring additional expertise and resources. This collaboration can lead to knowledge transfer and capacity building within the local context, ultimately strengthening Kenya's infrastructure development ecosystem.

Furthermore, transparency in the allocation of VGF is paramount for maintaining investor confidence. Clear communication regarding eligibility criteria and funding processes ensures that all stakeholders understand how decisions are made. This transparency not only fosters trust among private sector participants but

also encourages competition among potential bidders, leading to better project outcomes.

The successful implementation of VGF requires strong institutional capacity within government agencies responsible for managing PPPs. Training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of public officials involved in project appraisal and management can significantly improve the effectiveness of this funding mechanism. The establishment of a dedicated PPP unit within the National Treasury has already made strides in this direction by building capacity and streamlining processes.

In conclusion, Viability Gap Funding is a vital tool for enhancing the attractiveness of infrastructure projects to private sector stakeholders in Kenya. By addressing financial shortfalls and providing assurances against risks, VGF plays a crucial role in mobilizing investment for essential services that contribute to national development goals. As Kenya continues its journey toward sustainable economic growth under Vision 2030, effective utilization of VGF will be essential for building resilient infrastructure that meets the needs of its citizens while fostering public-private collaboration.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BETRAYAL AND FORGIVENESS



(A)
BETRAYAL AND FORGIVENESS
- DECIDING TO FORGIVING
OTHERS -

OBSERVATION:

It goes beyond our human nature to Forgive the unforgivable. Though we hold GRUDGES and resentment. We battle and biker among ourselves. It is God's nature, however, to forgive anything and everything.

The worst crime ever committed? God can Forgive that. Your worst mistakes and harshest moments? God can Forgive those, too. Even when you feel that God would never accept you as you are, He invited you to come just as you are, and He forgives you completely.

INSPIRATION:

Joseph's brothers did the unforgivable by selling their little brother into slavery. What an awful thing to do! They didn't deserve to be forgiven. Why didn't Joseph revenge for the years of pain and rejection they caused him? He could have mocked or punished. But instead Joseph called off and embraced them In Genesis 45:4-15. Tears spilled down his cheeks as he forgave them. Joseph managed to forgive his brothers from his HEART in Matthew 18:35. Matthew 18:21-35

After independence, the founding Father of the nation, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta urged the nation to

Forgive the British Colonies. Are we then not bound to Forgive others?

SITUATION:

Maybe you're face-to-face with someone who doesn't deserve to be forgiven. Don't focus on the betrayal by your friend, your buddy, boss, sibling, spouse but focus on your loyalty to your God. And through the Grace of Jesus Christ you can Forgive. Only when you are bathed in God's forgiveness can you extend that same, rich, unresentful, ungrudging FORGIVENESS to others.

For Jesus Christ died for us while we were sinners in Romans 5:8

By Paul Kinyanjui
EMAIL: Kinyanjuipaul2030@gmail.com

A Freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic and Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends with an aim to Create Awareness Educate Enlighten Empower and Inspire

(B)
CALMING THE STORM OR
SINKING WITH THE SHIP - LET
IT BE

As people continue to encounter various forms of storms in life, whether in the families, churches, schools, offices, politics, businesses, leaderships and hospitals.

There is a lot of Hope in God as provided in the Book of Luke 8:22-25

When Jesus Calms a Storm

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, ²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. ²⁴ And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another,

"Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

PRAYER:

"Master, Master!!!". Dear Master! Jesus Christ, We pray and intercede! We trust you for you have power over nature. We stand firm in Faith during trials. We turn to you now for assistance during all our difficult situations. We beseech you to command and rebuke the storm before us, we acknowledge we are frightened. Please stop them, dissipate and disappear these storms forever and ever in Jesus Christ name! AMEN.

By Paul Kinyanjui
EMAIL: Kinyanjuipaul2030@gmail.com

A Freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic and Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends with an aim to Create Awareness Educate Enlighten Empower and Inspire

Combating Climate Change: A Global Imperative For Sustainable Survival

Climatic change, commonly referred to as climate change, is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity today. It encompasses a range of long-term shifts in temperature, precipitation patterns, sea levels, and other aspects of the Earth's climate system. This phenomenon is primarily driven by human activities, particularly the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere.

The consequences of climatic change are far-reaching and profound. Rising global temperatures have led to more frequent and intense heatwaves, altering ecosystems, and endangering vulnerable species. Melting glaciers and ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels, posing threats to coastal communities and island nations. Changes in precipitation patterns lead to extreme weather events, including more severe hurricanes, droughts, and flooding, with devastating impacts on agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure.

Addressing the climatic change crisis requires a multi-faceted approach, involving international cooperation, policy changes, technological advancements, and individual efforts. One of the key solutions lies in transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. This shift away from fossil fuels would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the drivers of climatic change.

Another crucial aspect is the adoption of sustainable land use and forestry practices. Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere, so protecting and restoring forests is essential. Additionally, promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing deforestation can help prevent further degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity loss.

International agreements and policies play a pivotal role in addressing climate change. The Paris Agreement, for instance, outlines commitments from nations to limit global temperature

rise and enhance climate resilience. Governments must work together to set and achieve emission reduction targets, while also providing support to vulnerable countries in adapting to the impacts of climatic change.

Individual actions are also vital in this fight. By reducing energy consumption, using public transportation, and adopting more sustainable lifestyle choices, individuals can collectively contribute to reducing carbon footprints. Raising awareness and educating the public about the importance of climate change can foster a sense of responsibility and drive further actions.

Technological innovations are key in developing solutions to the crisis. Advances in carbon capture and storage, renewable energy storage, and sustainable agriculture practices can significantly mitigate the impact of human activities on the environment. Investing in research and development of these technologies is essential for a sustainable future.

In conclusion, climatic change poses



es a serious threat to the planet and its inhabitants. However, by implementing a combination of strategies, including transitioning to renewable energy sources, adopting sustainable land use practices, international cooperation, and individual efforts, we can

work towards mitigating its effects. It's a collective responsibility that requires immediate and sustained action to ensure a habitable planet for future generations.

By Ruth Adhiambo, Rongo University

Stomping Out The Fire Of Modernity While Embracing The Wisdom Of The Ancients

Exploration of the critical role of indigenous knowledge in shaping sustainable development practices in Kenya, highlighting its potential and challenges.



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

In the vast expanse of Kenya, where the sun spills its golden rays across the savannah and mountains rise like ancient sentinels, a quiet revolution brews. It's a revolution steeped not in the clamor of modernity but in the wisdom of generations long past. As we stand at the crossroads of development and sustainability, the role of indigenous knowledge emerges as a beacon of hope, illuminating pathways toward a future where nature and humanity coexist harmoniously.

In this rich tapestry of culture, where every thread tells a story, the wisdom of the elders often whispers truths that resonate with the very essence of sustainable development, yet it remains overshadowed by the allure of contemporary methods.

The irony is stark; while high-tech solutions are heralded as the panacea for our environmental woes, the age-old practices of indigenous communities—treasured repositories of knowledge—often go unnoticed, left to gather dust like forgotten relics in the museum of progress. Indigenous knowledge, a rich tapestry woven from the experiences of those who have thrived on the land for centuries, offers invaluable insights into sustainable practices.

The Kikuyu, Maasai, and many other communities possess a deep understanding of their environments, honed through generations of observation and adaptation. This knowledge encompasses everything from crop rotation and sustainable grazing practices to the intricate relationships between flora and fauna.

The metaphor of the tree, rooted deep in the earth yet reaching for the sky, embodies the essence of indigenous knowledge—anchored in tradition yet ever-growing, adapting to the winds of change. As we dive into this narrative, we must confront the stark realities of modernity's impact on traditional practices.

The encroachment of urbanization and industrialization threatens to uproot these ancient systems, much like a raging wildfire consuming a forest in a matter of minutes. With an estimated 50% of Kenya's population now residing in urban areas, the disconnect between urban life and rural wisdom widens, creating a chasm that is difficult to bridge.

The irony lies in the fact that as we race toward development, we often leave behind the very solutions that



could guide us through this maze of modernity. The paradox of progress is that in our quest for advancement, we frequently overlook the treasure troves of knowledge that lie in the hearts of our indigenous peoples.

Moreover, the increasing climate crisis demands a reevaluation of our approach to development. As global temperatures rise and erratic weather patterns disrupt agricultural cycles, the importance of indigenous knowledge becomes even more pronounced.

Local farmers, well-versed in their land's rhythms, possess the resilience and adaptability needed to navigate these challenges. The hyperbole of climate change is staggering; projections indicate that by 2030, up to 25 million people in Africa could be displaced due to climate-related factors.

Yet, amidst this bleak outlook, the resilience demonstrated by indigenous communities offers a glimmer of hope. Their strategies—rooted in centuries of interaction with the environment—often provide sustainable alternatives that modern science is only beginning to validate. One poignant anecdote illustrates this: in the Laikipia region, the Maasai have practiced rotational grazing for generations.

This traditional method, which involves moving livestock between pastures, prevents overgrazing and promotes biodiversity. In stark contrast, the large-scale commercial

farming operations that have proliferated in recent decades often lead to soil degradation and a loss of natural habitats.

Herein lies a profound juxtaposition; the very practices that sustain indigenous communities are often dismissed as archaic, while modern methods are praised despite their detrimental impacts. The rhetorical question looms large: who truly holds the key to sustainable development?

While the importance of indigenous knowledge is clear, the road to its integration into mainstream sustainable development practices is fraught with challenges. The ethos of inclusivity must prevail; policies aimed at promoting sustainability should prioritize the involvement of indigenous communities. Yet, this is easier said than done.

For years, land grabs and displacement have marginalized these communities, stripping them of their rights and their voices. The allusion to David and Goliath resonates deeply; indigenous peoples often find themselves battling against powerful interests, armed only with their knowledge and determination.

A poignant example lies in the case of the Ogiek community, whose fight for land rights in the Mau Forest has spanned decades. In 2017, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ruled in favor of the Ogiek, recognizing their right to the land they have inhabited for centu-

ries. This victory, however, is bitter-sweet; while it highlights the power of indigenous knowledge and rights, the battle is far from over. The struggle for land and recognition continues, reminding us that the path to sustainable development is paved with both victories and setbacks.

To harness the potential of indigenous knowledge effectively, a concerted effort must be made to create synergies between traditional practices and modern scientific approaches. The essence of chiasmus—where one thing reflects another—captures the heart of this endeavor; just as modern science can benefit from traditional wisdom, so too can indigenous communities evolve through the application of new technologies.

For instance, incorporating GIS technology into traditional land-use practices can enhance agricultural productivity while respecting indigenous methods. This partnership symbolizes a new frontier in the quest for sustainability, where collaboration replaces competition.

Moreover, education plays a pivotal role in this integration. Schools in Kenya must embrace curricula that reflect the values and practices of indigenous communities, teaching

Worth Noting:

- The Kikuyu, Maasai, and many other communities possess a deep understanding of their environments, honed through generations of observation and adaptation. This knowledge encompasses everything from crop rotation and sustainable grazing practices to the intricate relationships between flora and fauna.
- The metaphor of the tree, rooted deep in the earth yet reaching for the sky, embodies the essence of indigenous knowledge—anchored in tradition yet ever-growing, adapting to the winds of change. As we dive into this narrative, we must confront the stark realities of modernity's impact on traditional practices.
- The encroachment of urbanization and industrialization threatens to uproot these ancient systems, much like a raging wildfire consuming a forest in a matter of minutes.

Men Encouraged To Take Up Beauty Courses

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Education stakeholders are encouraging men to consider pursuing cosmetology courses, as it is a promising path amid a shrinking job market.

The beauty industry, traditionally dominated by women, is rapidly growing and offers great opportunities for self-employment!

The call came during the fourth graduation ceremony of Embu Glamourland Technical and Vocational Training Institute, where key speakers underscored the need for a cultural and mindset change with regard to beauty courses.

Glamourland Board of Management (BoM) Chair Rev Manase Nguo, speaking on Friday during the graduation ceremony held at Embu Stadium, said the beauty industry was growing rapidly and the onus was on young men to grab the opportunity.

He said the majority of men who have undertaken these courses have

been able to establish their own hair and beauty salons, adding that some have even ended up being employers.

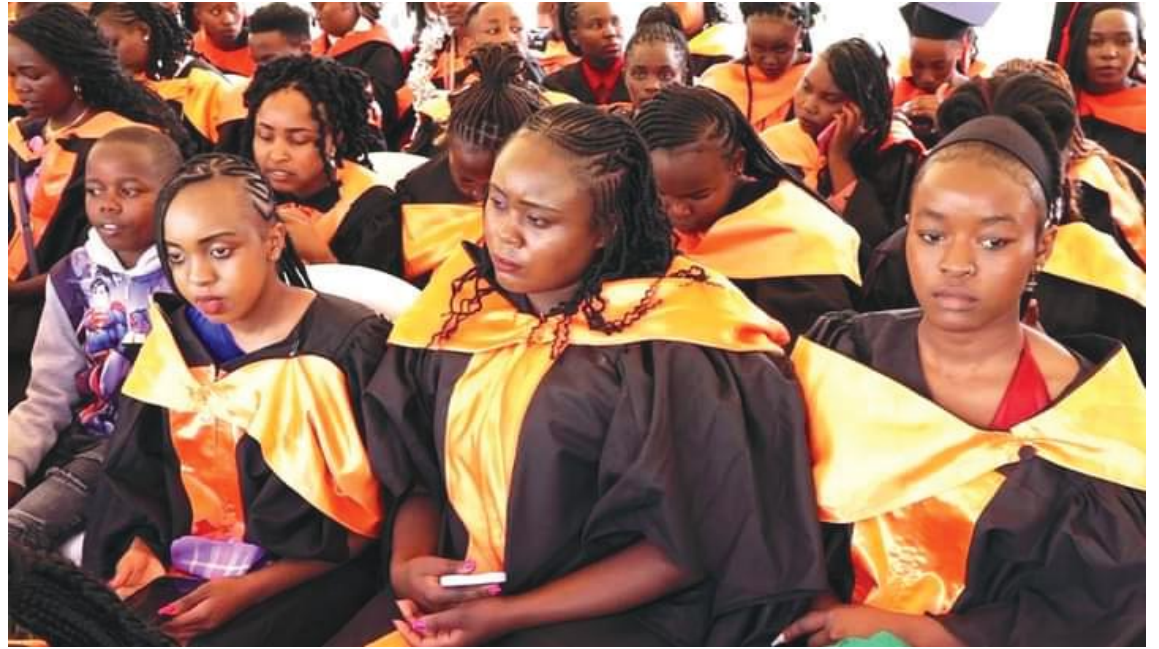
“We have seen young men engage in alcoholism and drug abuse as a result of frustrations emanating from lack of jobs, yet this industry can offer some of them opportunities to earn a living,” he said.

The institution’s Manager Elizabeth Njeri, announced a discount offer of 20 percent on fees for men enrolling in beauty courses at the institution.

She also encouraged parents preparing to take their children to higher institutions of learning to take them for short courses that can equip them with skills that they can depend on for daily upkeep.

“I would encourage a young man going to the university to, for instance, acquire a skill in barbering and nail polishing for girls,” she said.

Mt Kenya University Lecturer Dr. Rahab Gathuci, who was the chief guest, attributed the low uptake by boys in beauty courses to deep-seated cultural biases that view such careers as feminine.



Some of those who graduated last Friday

She underscored the necessity to dismantle these stereotypes, which are denying boys access to an industry that is expanding rapidly.

The County Government that was represented by TVET Chief Officer

Ephantus Mugendi, announced that they had set aside Sh15 million this financial year to offer scholarships to 300 young people in technical courses.

He said after graduating, the county

will also give them tools of trade to enable them to start their own businesses.

Stomping Out The Fire Of Modernity While Embracing The Wisdom Of The Ancients

Exploration of the critical role of indigenous knowledge in shaping sustainable development practices in Kenya, highlighting its potential and challenges.

Contd from page 20

young minds about the importance of biodiversity, ecological stewardship, and the historical significance of traditional knowledge. This approach not only empowers the next generation but also fosters a sense of pride and ownership over their cultural heritage.

The proverb “it takes a village to raise a child” resonates profoundly in this context; by fostering a culture of respect for indigenous knowledge, we cultivate a community committed to sustainability. As we contemplate the future, it is crucial to acknowledge that the survival of indigenous knowledge is intrinsically linked to the survival of our

planet.

The paradox stands before us—while the world may be moving forward at breakneck speed, the solutions to our most pressing challenges may lie in the past. The elephant in the room stomping out the fire of modernity reminds us that in our pursuit of progress, we must not forget the wisdom that has guided us for centuries.

The landscapes of Kenya, rich in diversity and resilience, beckon us to embrace this knowledge as we forge a path toward sustainable development. The role of indigenous knowledge in sustainable development in Kenya is not merely a footnote in the narrative of progress; it is a vital chapter that must be embraced and celebrated.

The harmonious blend of tradition and modernity offers a roadmap to a future where food security, en-



vironmental integrity, and cultural heritage coexist. The time has come to listen—to engage with the voices of our indigenous communities, to recognize the power of their knowledge, and to collaborate in crafting solutions that reflect both our past and our aspirations for the future.

As the sun sets over the vast Kenyan landscape, casting long shadows across the earth, let us remember that the strength of a nation lies not only in its innovations but also in its ability to honor and integrate the wisdom of its ancestors. In doing so, we create a sustainable legacy for

generations to come, ensuring that the fire of indigenous knowledge continues to burn brightly amidst the storms of change.

This article was scripted by; MIDMARK ONSONGO, SGS (Socio-Geographic Scholar)

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Ruth Chepngetich became the first woman to ever run a marathon in under two hours and 10 minutes, as she broke the world record in a time of 2:09:56 on her way to winning the Chicago Marathon yesterday.

Kenya's Chepngetich Breaks Marathon World Record, Dedicates To Late Kiptum



Ruth Chepngetich celebrates after breaking the women's marathon world record in Chicago. PHOTO/World Athletics/X

By: Capital Sport

Ruth Chepngetich became the first woman to ever run a marathon in under two hours and 10 minutes, as she broke the world record in a time of 2:09:56 on her way to winning the Chicago Marathon yesterday.

Chepngetich, who had hinted before the race that she would be interested in the Course Record, went further on to break the world mark, breaking Ethiopian Tigst Asefa's mark of 2:11:53 set in September last year in Berlin.

She also lowered Sifan Hassan's course record of 2:13:44 set at the same marathon last year, and in the end, set a new massive personal best for her.

Kenya now has both the men and women's world record, both set in the same city. The late Kevin Kiptum, who was celebrated with a minute's silence before the race, set the record on his way to winning in Chicago last year.

"I am dedicating this world record to Kevin Kiptum. I am sure if he was here today, he could have defended his title and maybe gone for a world record again. I am also happy that this world record has come to Kenya," Chepngetich said after the race.

Chepngetich's intent was clear from the start. She breezed through the first 5km in 15:00 and had Ethiopia's Sutume Asefa Kebede for company, and then

reached 10km in an astonishing 30:14 with Kebede still just two seconds behind.

Chepngetich continued her relentless pace and hit the half-way mark in an incredible 1:04:16, the fifth-fastest clocking in history for the half marathon distance and putting her on course for a sub-2:09 finish.

The gap between Chepngetich and Kebede continued to grow throughout the second half. The pace of both women dropped, Kebede's more so than Chepngetich, and by 30km (1:31:49) the Kenyan had a lead of almost two minutes over her Ethiopian rival.

Chepngetich's next 10km was covered in 31:22, which was her

slowest of the race so far, but still remarkably quick and enough to increase her leading margin to more than six minutes.

With little more than two kilometres left to run, she was still well inside world record pace, the likelihood of breaking it increasing with every step.

Spurred on by her memories of the 2022 race, when she missed out on the world record by just 14 seconds, Chepngetich powered through the final stages and crossed the line in 2:09:57, becoming the first woman to break 2:10. Remarkably, only nine athletes went quicker in the men's race.

-Additional reporting by World Athletics

Sports >> *Kenya's John Korir mustered a dominant performance as he clinched his first ever major marathon title, winning the Chicago Marathon in 2:02:43, almost two minutes ahead of Ethiopia's Mohamed Esa, who timed 2:04:39

Kenya's John Korir Runs Dominant Race To Clinch Chicago Marathon



John Korir celebrates after winning the Chicago Marathon. PHOTO/World Athletics/X

By: Capital Sport

Kenya's John Korir mustered a dominant performance as he clinched his first ever major marathon title, winning the Chicago Marathon in 2:02:43, almost two minutes ahead of Ethiopia's Mohamed Esa, who timed 2:04:39.

Korir, younger brother of former marathon great Wesley Korir broke away from the leading pack just as they passed the 30km mark, and didn't look back.

"Feels very good to win. I want to thank my big brother Wesley for his help. It was tough. I came here to win and battle. My brother

Wesley told me to be patient and believe in myself and run my race. I am really delighted," Korir said after the race.

On whether the late Kevin Kiptum, winner of the race last year inspired him, Korir said; "Yes I came here thinking about him and said, If last year Kiptum ran 2:01 why not me? So I just came here inspired and did my best."

A lead pack of 10 men ran together through the first 10km in 29:27, and they were still one big group as they passed through the half-way point in 1:02:19, putting them on course for a 2:04:38 finish.

Korir, along with fellow Kenyans Daniel Ebenyo and Amos Kipruto, continued to push the pace into the second half.

By 30km, reached in 1:28:18, the lead group was down to seven men. But soon after, Korir increased his pace and broke free from the pack, creating a gap of 29 seconds by the time he reached 35km.

His leading margin continued to grow, and by 40km his lead was 92 seconds over Kipruto and Ethiopia's Huseydin Mohamed Esa.

Korir sped up in the final kilometres and crossed the line in 2:02:43, having covered the sec-

ond half in 1:00:24. Esa was second in 2:04:39 and Kipruto third (2:04:50).

On his debut, Ebenyo finished an impressive fifth, clocking 2:06:04, behind compatriot Vincent Kipngetich (2:05:15).

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mt Kenya Times



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A Man Of Exceptional Virtues

By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

As a journalist, Gaybullayev's pen cuts through to the core of truth, addressing even the most complex topics with deep analysis. His articles, rich with literary and analytical insights, engage readers to reflect, uncover hidden truths, and find their role within society. His journalism not only informs but awakens and motivates readers to act. With each word, he pushes society towards awareness, change, and active participation.

In the realm of poetry, Nematilla Gaybullayev holds a unique place within our district. His verses compel deep contemplation, filled with thought-provoking lines that reflect life's essence and wisdom. Despite their simplicity, his poems carry profound emotions, philosophy, and truths.

There are people in this world whose mere presence is a blessing, and their existence adds meaning and joy to life. Whenever the topic of such individuals arises, I think of Nematilla Gaybullayev—a versatile creator, sensitive journalist, talented poet, experienced educator, and a truly virtuous person.

Nematilla Gaybullayev is a well-known figure in the Pop district, where he is deeply respected for his unique expertise and contributions. His experience in education goes beyond mere teaching; he is known as a mentor who continuously explores new ideas, inspires students, and creates innovation. Throughout his career, he has not only enriched young minds with knowledge but also instilled in them essential human values like kindness, generosity, and empathy. His lessons transcend textbook knowledge, offering profound life lessons on what it means to be truly humane.

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In the realm of poetry, Nematilla Gaybullayev holds a unique place within our district. His verses compel deep contemplation, filled with thought-provoking lines that reflect life's essence and wisdom. Despite their simplicity, his poems carry profound emotions, philosophy, and truths. Each word he chooses resonates with power and stirs the reader's soul, leaving a lasting emotional impact. His poetry elegantly blends national traditions, contemporary ideas, and the inner world of the human spirit, touching the deepest corners of the reader's heart.

It is impossible not to acknowledge his unmatched human virtues. As a devoted mentor, Gaybullayev has guided numerous young people, helping them develop into self-confident, determined, and independent

individuals. He has left behind generations of students, illuminating the path toward great aspirations and ideals.

His generosity and sincerity are worth mentioning. Gaybullayev extends help not only to those close to him but also to strangers, sharing in their troubles and offering a helping hand without hesitation.

His kind-heartedness and willingness to assist have earned him profound respect within the community. His warmth and compassion are felt even in brief encounters, awakening the same humane qualities in others.

As a loyal friend, Gaybullayev strengthens relationships and never withholds his support.

He has been a reliable companion, offering selfless advice and unwavering encouragement. His friendships are built on steadfast trust, standing strong against life's challenges, and growing richer over time.

In summary, Nematilla Gaybullayev is a remarkable individual who has made significant contributions in every field he touched—education, journalism, literature, and beyond.

His life and work serve as a true school of wisdom and example for many.

He has embodied the highest human virtues, spreading kindness not only through his writing but also in everyday life. To be his student, to walk this world alongside such an outstanding teacher, is an honor and a blessing.

I would like to conclude with the following thought: "There are many scholars who achieve great success and discoveries in science. But without the essence of humanity, their accomplishments remain incomplete. No matter whom we become, let us first strive to be humane." Nematilla Gaybullayev, who elevates the ideal of humanity to great heights, remains a shining example for all of us.

*Jakhongir NOMOZOV,
Student of the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan*



Jakhongir NOMOZOV with Teacher Nematilla Gaybullayev



Teacher Nematilla Gaybullayev