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Wednesday, October 16, 2024 No. 01154 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke themtkenyatimes



News>> National Assembly Committee On Agriculture And Livestock Gets Submissions On Extension Bill

P. 8. The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, chaired by Tigania West MP John Mutunga has held a stakeholder meeting with the KENAFF on the Agricultural and Livestock Extension Services Bill, 2022.



News>> British Council Leads Education Dialogue On Inclusion And Belonging In Nairobi

P. 12. The British Council kicked off the Policy Dialogue Leading Inclusion and Belonging in Schools' conference. The three-day event aims at fostering inclusive education practices in schools across Kenya and beyond.

Kalonzo: Ruto Should Go Before Gachagua

Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka now says President William Ruto should have been the first to be impeached, long before the motion to remove his deputy Rigathi Gachagua from office was tabled in Parliament.

According to Kalonzo, the recently held public participation exercise on the impeachment motion against DP Gachagua proved that Kenyans are fed up with the entire Kenya Kwanza top administration, beginning with President Ruto himself.



Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka

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

Women Ask President Ruto To Return Favour As They Endorse Waiguru For Deputy President

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Hundreds of women from Kirinyaga county have asked President William Ruto to reciprocate their support by appointing Governor Anne Waiguru as the Deputy President.

They endorsed Waiguru as the most suitable candidate to take up the Deputy President's position should Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment sail through.

Speaking in Kutus town, the women who included community leaders drawn from all the 20 wards said Kenya is now ripe for a woman Deputy President and Waiguru was a sure bet for the position.

They asked President Ruto to return the DP position to Mt. Kenya Region and this time give it to a woman in keeping with his promise of having a female running mate in future.

"As residents of the Mountain and Kirinyaga, we fully supported President Ruto in 2022 and we are asking him that should that opportunity arise, he should reciprocate our support by giving us Waiguru as the Deputy President" said Mary Nyawira.

She said that Waiguru has a proven track record in transformational leadership as seen in Kirinyaga where she has supported thousands of households to implement economic empowerment programs that have uplifted the lives of county residents.

"If that opportunity comes, we know that governor Anne Waiguru has what it takes to lead the country into greater prosperity. If she has done it Kirinyaga, she can as well do it in the entire country. We are also confident that she can uplift the lives of women and children in the whole country" added Nyawira.

She said that even though they hadn't envisioned the current turn of events, the region is not short of able leaders adding that they will be appeased if the seat was given back to one of their own should there be such an eventuality.

"We have our back-up plan which is Governor Anne Waiguru, whose track record has been exceptional. As a county we have reaped the best from devolution courtesy of governor Waiguru. We don't want just a woman, but we want a women



Hundreds of women from Kirinyaga county

who can deliver. That woman is Waiguru and we are giving her to Kenyans" said Khadija Wanjiru.

Wanjiru cited Waiguru's vast expertise in economic policy and governance, development track record and education as key ingredients to helping the President get the country back on track.

The women said that they are aware that the seat might be falling vacant but then, the people of the mountain are not orphans since they have tried and tested leaders such as Waiguru.

She noted that Waiguru has turned Kirinyaga into a benchmark for other counties in terms of development and as far as giving life to Ruto's Bottom Up Economic Transform Agenda at the grassroots.

Their sentiments were echoed by Irene Wakio who noted that women have always wanted to be represented at the top and should that chance come, the president should consider giving it to Waiguru. They reminded the president of his pledge to support alternative gender leadership where if the president is a man, the deputy is a woman and vice versa.

"Kirinyaga has the best female candidate and we are appealing to you to take

her as your deputy and we assure you she will not put us to shame. Waiguru is a worker, she has a national vision and does not discriminate," said Wakio.

Since Deputy President Gachagua's impeachment process commenced, there have been calls to replace him with a candidate from the Mountain region, with intense lobbying by women across the country to have woman appointed to the position.

On Monday, groups of women in Murang'a and Nairobi counties called on the president to appoint Waiguru hailing her as the best suited candidate who has a national outlook and comes with experience needed to take the country forward. They termed her as a leader who is not concerned about tribal affiliations but rather interested in service delivery to the people.

Even before the process to impeach Rigathi commenced, governor Waiguru had already started getting endorsements to run for DP position in 2027. In a recent G7 Strategy activation in Kirinyaga, more than 30 leaders from across the country hailed the governor as best suited candidate to take the mantle of DP

given that she had already shattered the glass ceiling both at National and county levels.

Leaders including governors, members of parliament, members of various county assemblies as well as Idah Odinga, wife of former Prime Minister showered praises on her as progressive leader and a woman of many firsts whose development record both at the National and county government is outstanding.

The two-term governor had served as a Cabinet Secretary before joining politics in 2017. She also became the first woman to Chair the Council of Governors. At the National level, she will be remembered for having transformed public service delivery through initiatives such as Huduma Centers, Integrated Financial Management Information System (FMIS) and Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO)

At the county level, she became the first governor to come up with a development sessional paper, 'The Mountain Cities Blueprint 2032' which guides the implementation of Kirinyaga's development agenda.

Worth Noting:

"If that opportunity comes, we know that governor Anne Waiguru has what it takes to lead the country into greater prosperity. If she has done it Kirinyaga, she can as well do it in the entire country. We are also confident that she can uplift the lives of women and children in the whole country" added Nyawira.

She said that even though they hadn't envisioned the current turn of events, the region is not short of able leaders adding that they will be appeased if the seat was given back to one of their own should there be such an eventuality.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, Adverts: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, Web: www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Yesterday, Mount Kenya University main campus in Thika joined the world in celebrating White Cane Day. This is an international annual day that highlights the importance of the white cane as a tool of independence for people who are visually impaired. It symbolizes their right to move freely, safely and confidently in society. The event included a 4km walk which was flagged off by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi.



**ZETECH
UNIVERSITY**

Inventing the future

Zetech University has organised a career fair that starts today up to Friday. This year's event whose theme is "Youth Skilling for Entrepreneurship and the Labour Market" will see speakers from different professions addressing those who will attend the fete at the institution's Ruiru campus. There will be exhibitions that will be showcasing different issues like business automation, financing, training and mentorship. The fair will feature key university partners like Diamond Trust Bank, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Qwetu Residences, Odo, Dream Educators Consultants, Palio Hotel and SPA among others. The program will also include trainings by the key speakers and panel discussions, exhibitors and pitching of the entrepreneurs. Some of the key speakers include; James Githeki, HR Consultant and CEO Human Capital Outsourcing limited, Lydia Macharia, People and Talent Development, PKF Kenya LLP, Jemima Ngode CHRPK Group HR Manager, Radio Africa Group, Jane Kiguru, Council member, International Relations Society of Kenya and Irene K. Wales, founder Dream Educators Consultancy and member of the Canadian consortium for Education.



The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has been ordered by Eldoret High Court Presiding Judge, Justice Reuben Nyakundi, to gazette Evans Kapkea as the newly appointed Deputy Governor of Uasin Gishu County. The court ruled that in the absence of a duly constituted IEBC, the CEO should issue the gazette notice, as the Governor of Uasin Gishu County and the County Assembly complied with the procedural requirements of the law on the nomination and vetting of Evans Kipruto Kapkea as the new Deputy Governor. "An order of mandamus be and is hereby issued directed to the respondent administrative unit headed by the CEO to initiate the instruments to the government printer for the name of Evans Kapkea to be formally entered in the official Kenya gazette notice as the newly nominated Deputy Governor Uasin Gishu County, effective from the date of vetting by the county assembly," directed the judge.

Nakuru County Senator Tabitha Karanja yesterday hosted some of her constituents at her home for a public participation forum regarding the impending Senate debate on the impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. "I am deeply grateful for the candid and heartfelt opinions shared by everyone present. Rest assured, I will examine the charges with wisdom and fairness, ensuring that my vote reflects the best interests of Nakuru," she said after the meeting, adding, "In the meantime, let us remain calm and keep Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his family in our prayers. Together, we will continue to uphold justice, peace and unity for Nakuru and our nation."



The affordable housing project in Nyeri town, currently at only 6% completion, is expected to be finished in one and a half years. Speaking to journalists at the Ruringu B project, the project agent Eng David Gitahi said that although the construction is two weeks behind schedule, the contractor is confident they will make up for the delay and complete the project on time. The project, valued at KSh1.5 billion, will consist of 480 units, including a public school, a social hall, and commercial spaces. According to the project agent, the development will create employment for around 200 local residents. By Paul Wanjiru



The U.S. government is teaming up with Kisii County to revitalise the agricultural sector and mining industry, aiming to enhance food security and create job opportunities. U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman, is on a two-day fact-finding mission to explore initiatives like biodegradable banana fibre sanitary pads from EcoBana, agricultural produce value addition (including bananas and avocados), soapstone mining, and sunflower farming. At the county headquarters, Ambassador Whitman highlighted that the U.S. has invested \$80 million in various sectors in the region. During her visit, she will tour the EcoBana factory, KTRH, and soapstone mining industries in Tabaka, South Mugarango. Kisii Governor Simba Arati expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, emphasising the potential to boost agriculture, including coffee, tea, and avocados.



In Nakuru, over 4,000 smallholder farmers will benefit from a Sh 114 million Kenya Rural Transformation Centres Digital Platform (KRTC DP), designed to centralise agricultural information and connect farmers with key stakeholders in the agricultural value chain. Developed by the Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK) with funding from the African Development Bank, this open-source platform aims to enhance decision-making by providing timely weather forecasts, market prices, and agribusiness services. The platform will be piloted for two and a half years, targeting 152 cooperatives in Nakuru and surrounding counties, and will serve as a one-stop shop for accessing resources and support. It addresses the critical challenges of information scarcity and connects farmers with service providers, veterinary officers, and financial institutions.



YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

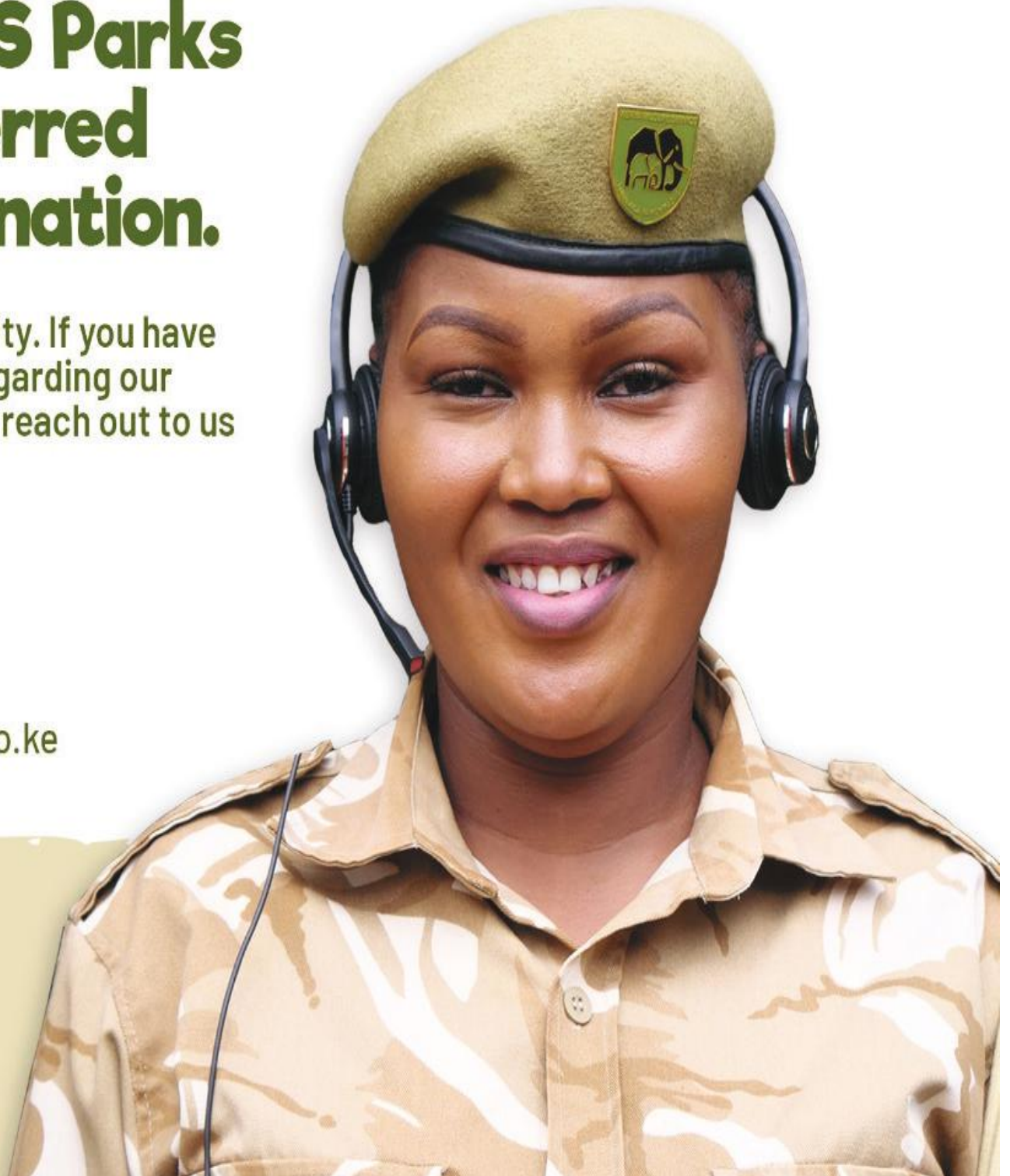
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Kajiado Women Trained On Land And Property Rights

By: Diana Meneto
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

While recognizing that land is an emotive issue, Oyumbo noted that their target is not to separate families or bring conflicts but to train people to be change agents so that cases of Gender Based Violence reduce after putting both women and men at par especially in decision making on matters regarding land.

Kenneth Otieno Akatch, KELIN's Programs officer and an advocate of the High Court noted that most people claim to be relying on culture while violating the law

Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN) has trained women in Kajiado on land and property rights in a bid to transform social norms regarding women rights.

Caroline Oyumbo, a paralegal at KELIN noted that Maasai women do not have a say in matters land and properties in general and their main aim was to change this so that women can also be given equal rights.

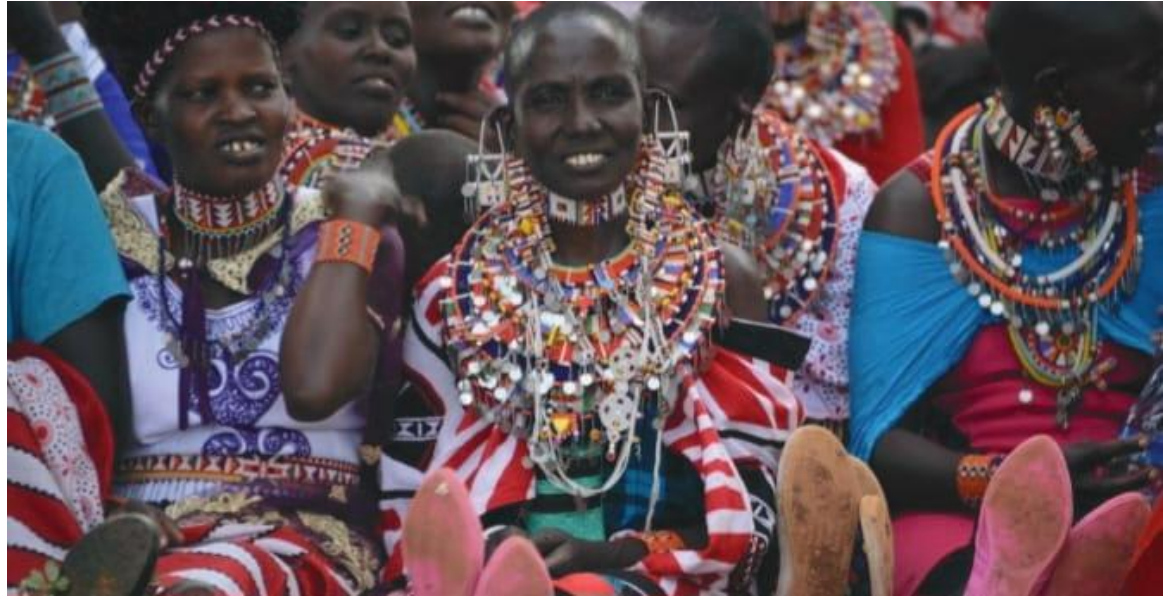
"In the long run, we want to see marriages registered, joint registration of land, written wills and women being involved in leadership positions as they will be listened to more easily than when they are housewives," said Oyumbo.

While recognizing that land is an emotive issue, Oyumbo noted that their target is not to separate families or bring conflicts but to train people to be change agents so that cases of Gender Based Violence reduce after putting both women and men at par especially in decision making on matters regarding land.

Kenneth Otieno Akatch, KELIN's Programs officer and an advocate of the High Court noted that most people claim to be relying on culture while violating the law

He stated that though people are allowed to use their culture, according to articles 11,44 and 2 of the constitution which gives them an opportunity to look at culture, choose which culture to belong to and make reference to where they belong to and be part of it, they should not violate anyone's Bill of Rights.

"Some cultures are biased towards a section of the community and there-



Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN) has trained women in Kajiado on land and property rights

fore one should ensure that in as much as they are taking part in their cultural activities, they should not violate anyone's Bill of Rights. Women and widows are mostly denied rights to own, control and even make decisions on land while article 40 states that everyone has a right to own land anywhere with anybody," said Otieno.

The advocate adds that article 27 of the constitution talks of equity and non-discrimination and therefore when a community says that women or girls should not own land, they are becoming discriminative as one should not be discriminated on the basis of sex, gender, race, and pregnancy among other things.

The advocate further noted that Article 45 talks of the family as a basic unit and therefore a nation or any per-

son who is interpreting the constitution should see to it that the family is well protected.

"The family comprising of a man, woman and the children is a basic unit of a nation and should be protected from any violation. KELIN therefore looks at ensuring that the basic unit of the family is protected by sensitizing on issues of law such as succession law and the marriage act," said Otieno.

Felistus Kashu, one of the trainees appreciated KELIN for the training and said that Maasai women have been discriminated for long in matters land and inheritance due to their lack of information on the matter but after the eye opening training, they will be ensuring that they advocate for their rights and entitlement under the constitution.

"Lack of vital documents such as the marriage certificate, National Identity cards and vices such as Female Genital Mutilation and early marriages have also played a great role in us being discriminated against. We will use the knowledge we have gained today as change agents to reclaim our rights and entitlement under the constitution," said Kashu.

In its flagship program dubbed 'Securing Your Family's Future', KELIN intends to sensitize communities in the country about harmful social practices, norms, culture and patterns towards promoting gender equality.

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Parliamentary Committee Seeks Status Update Of Kenya Airways Privately Initiated Investment Proposal To KAA

By: PSCU

A Committee of the National Assembly has urged the Ministry of Roads and Transport to apprise the House on the status of Kenya's long-term aviation strategy after the withdrawal of the National Aviation Management Bill 2020 which among other reforms sought to nationalize the national carrier, Kenya Airways.

The Members of the Committee on Implementation made the call when they met with the Principal Secretary, State Department for Transport, Mr. Mohamed Daghar, Kenya Airways CEO, Mr. Allan Kivaluka and the Ag. Kenya Airports Authority Managing Director, Mr. Henry Ogoye.

The lawmakers underscored the need for the House to be briefed on the matter after it emerged that the implementation of the House resolution seeking the nationalization of Kenya Airways was no longer viable.

The deal which was part of a plan to re-organise Kenya's aviation assets into an ecosystem to make the Kenyan aviation sector more competitive failed to take off, after the withdraw-

al of the National Aviation Management Bill by the then Speaker on the request of the Leader of Majority.

Led by the Committee Chairperson, Raphael Wanjala, the members noted that there was need to inform the House what strategies the ministry had put in place in the absence of the proposed legal framework, given the role the aviation sector plays in the development of the country's economy.

"Principal Secretary, it is important to inform this Committee and indeed the House the alternative strategy your ministry has put in place following the withdrawal of the Bill," Wanjala held.

The Committee is following up on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Transport, Public Works and Housing on the Inquiry into Proposed Kenya Airways Privately Initiated Investment Proposal to Kenya Airports Authority.

Key among the approved committee's recommendations was the nationalization of Kenya Airways and the establishment of an aviation holding company with four wholly owned subsidiaries.

KQ CEO however noted that the carrier had no plans to nationalize, stating that they had embarked on another project dubbed "Kifaru 2.0"



which was focused on accelerating the growth of the company while improving efficiency.

"It is important for Kenya Airways to grow in tandem with the airport. We're looking for a strategic investor to help us get additional aircraft and grow the airline", he disclosed.

"Project Kifaru 2 is aimed at reducing operational costs and improving efficiency as well as improving the productivity of the staff and the company's facilities. We also want to deal with cultural issues in the organization," he added.

Committee members present however faulted the airline for the influx of flight delays and urged the airline to improve on service delivery so as to position itself competitively.

The meeting also delved into the proposed Adani deal and how it

would impact on the projected growth of Kenya Airways which plans to purchase 15 aircrafts in the next five years.

Responding to members' questions, Daghar who noted that the matter was active in court, disclosed that Adani Group had made an investment proposal of Kshs. \$1.85bn covering a period of 30 years. He however was quick to add that no project agreement had been signed.

"We received a privately initiated proposal for Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in March this year. The proposal worth \$ 1.85bn is set to see the roll out of infrastructure investment for a period of 30 years", he stated.

"The matter is active in court and I wish to confirm that no project agreement has been signed", he in-

formed the members.

The MPs led by the Chairperson however questioned why the Ministry had not sought an alternative arrangement where the Ministry would seek a yearly budgetary allocation to the project for the next 30 years and roll out the infrastructure program itself, instead of engaging a private firm to do so.

In response, the PS explained that the government had welcomed the Adani initiative since the country is currently financially incapacitated to commit to the crucial investment.

The lawmakers called on the PS to scale up public sensitization on the deal, so as to shed more light on a number of issues that have arisen on the matter.

Global Nutrition Caucus Seeking Innovative Strategies To End Insecurity Through Competition

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

A nutrition champion, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) has launched a dietary shifts competition (DISH) competition to find solutions to the food insecurity in Kenya and Indonesia.

The competition consists of 5 categories for participation, including policy and advocacy, advertisement and cultural strategies, food services intervention, culinary skills, and project-level interventions.

Food system stakeholders are encouraged to come up with solutions that encourage positive dietary shifts in the country.

According to GAIN, 23 million Ken-

yans are undernourished, while 18% of children under age five are stunted, 5% are wasted, 10% are underweight, 17% of women, and 4% of men (20-49 years of age) are obese.

The Executive Director at GAIN, Lawrence Haddad, encouraged participants to submit innovative, evidence-based, out-of-the-box ideas that promote healthy and sustainable dietary changes.

"Too many of us choose unhealthy dietary options, even when we know better. Over time, these decisions are harmful to us and the ones we love; therefore, if you can help us move these decisions towards health, we want to hear from you," he said.

The competition seeks to bring Kenya's dietary habits into closer alignment with the Planetary Health Diet, the global reference diet, which seeks to emphasise a plant-forward

diet where whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes comprise a greater proportion of foods consumed.

Chief Action Officer at EAT Lujain Alqodmani said that shifting towards healthy and sustainable diets as outlined by the Planetary Health Diet may be perceived as being complex, but it was made possible through the collective expertise, passion, and commitment of local actors.

"DISH provides a unique platform to hear directly from these leaders and to support the implementation of systemic solutions that protect both human health and the health of our planet," she said.

The finalists of the competition include an appreciation award of USD 1000 each, recognition at key global platforms, national and international level media coverage, mentorship



with subject matter experts, and networking with like-minded participants for knowledge sharing.

The 15 finalists from each country will also have the option to enter Phase 2 of the DISH Competition

in 2025 for further shortlisting and showcasing of the winning entries at global events and platforms.

Participants are encouraged to submit their solutions by October 31, 2024.

National Assembly Committee On Agriculture And Livestock Gets Submissions On Extension Bill



MP John Mutunga.



Nominated MP Sabina Chege with her colleague during yesterday's session

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, chaired by Tigania West MP John Mutunga has held a stakeholder meeting with the Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF) on the Agricultural and Livestock Extension Services

Bill, 2022. Presenting before the committee, Ms Mary Kageni, the research policy and lobby advocacy officer at KENAFF, stated that the Bill is a timely regulation aimed at organizing and boosting the agriculture sector, arguing that it will enhance farmer support, promote sustainability and make agriculture a lucrative industry through effective extension services and stakeholder involvement.

However, according to Ms. Kageni, the definition of the extension services needs to be included in the interpretation of terms in the Bill. She called for a clear definition of the services questioning whether the services are only limited to advisory on farm inputs or factors of production. In her presentation, she also recommended for extension services to be involved in the monitoring of the impacts of the new agricultural commodities and the new production

methods stated in Clause 8c, which mandates KALRO and the Biosafety Authority on the development of new uses and new products for agricultural commodities and alternative production method to develop new crops. "In Clause 8 of the Bill, there is a need to incorporate monitoring impacts of farm inputs use as one of the responsibilities of the extension services, and ensuring farmers rights are well taken care of to ensure the

quality of products farmers use is safe for both their safety and the environment. Extension officers could also be mandated to enforce the Agricultural regulations and any person contravening the guidelines held accountable for their actions," she told the Committee. The Bill sponsored by Sen. Tabitha Mutinda (nominated) seeks to provide for agricultural and livestock extension and establish the Agricultural and Extension services.

Ugandan To Serve Five Years In Prison For Hoaxing Security Officers

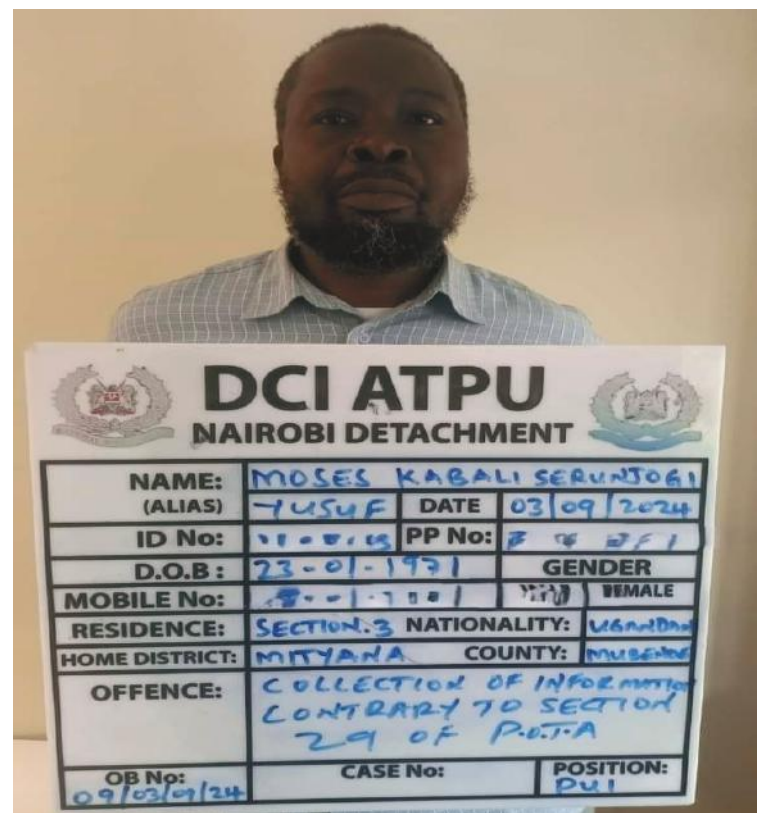
By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Moses Kabali, a Ugandan national, has been sentenced to five years in prison by the Kahawa Chief Magistrate Court. Kabali faced hoaxing charges under Section 26 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 30 of 2012. Before arraignment, it was established that on June 30, 2024, Kabali emailed the Interpol General Secretariat in France, requesting them to inform Kenyan security agencies, specifically the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU), of an imminent terrorist attack by a known terrorist group. He further alleged that two individuals known to him working with other unknown terror operatives were planning to carry out an imminent terror attack in Kenya by use of Improvised

Explosive Devices. The ATPU detectives launched investigations where they arrested a female suspect whose phone number was mentioned in Kabali's report. Upon questioning, she disclosed that the said phone number had been registered using her ID card but was being used by her cousin. A manhunt for the said cousin ensued, and she was arrested in Eastleigh, Jam Street, on August 31, 2024. However, further investigations revealed that she had no links to any terrorist group and was unaware of any planned attack. To unravel the mystery, Moses Kabali was arrested on September 3, 2024, at the California Group of Schools in Eastleigh. A search of his residence led to the seizure of two mobile phones, two laptops, and various documents. Forensic analysis at the Anti-Terrorism Forensic Laboratory revealed that Kabali was the author of the said email as the same

was found to have originated from his yahoo mail account. It was further established that Kabali authored and sent the malicious email to the Interpol General Secretariat in France acting out of anger to punish his wife whom they had separated. Kabali was arraigned to face the charges and the matter came up for sentencing before Hon. Gideon Kiage where the accused was sentenced to a fine of Sh5,000,000 and in default to serve a term of 5 years imprisonment.

Moses Kabali, a Ugandan national



Ruto Should Have Been Impeached Before Gachagua – Kalonzo

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka now says President William Ruto should have been the first to be impeached, long before the motion to remove his deputy Rigathi Gachagua from office was tabled in Parliament.

According to Kalonzo, the recently held public participation exercise on the impeachment motion against DP Gachagua proved that Kenyans are fed up with the entire Kenya Kwanza top administration, beginning with President Ruto himself.

He went ahead to cite what he termed as a clarion call coined by Kenyans – “kufa dereva, kufa makanga” – which implies that both of the country’s two top leaders have lost the confidence of the country hence should be ousted as one.

“Before Gachagua was allowed to defend himself, they (Parliament) went out there and purported to do

public participation, which turned out to be actually a referendum vote on the presidency of William Ruto, including his own deputy. Because Kenyans were out saying it loudly, that both of them should leave office; kufa driver, kufa makanga,” he said.

“In terms of public participation and perception, the clarion call was that if Gachagua has to be impeached, it should not be him [alone]. In fact Kenyans are saying, on a balance of scale, William Ruto himself should actually have gone first to be impeached. That’s what Kenyans are saying.”

If, for nothing else, the opposition Azimio coalition co-principal went ahead to point out that President Ruto should have been impeached following the youth-led protests of June 25, 2024 where a number of Kenyans were killed and others abducted.

“Following the events of June 25th, a lot of young Kenyans were killed, other were abducted, and many others are still missing as we speak today,” he said.

“If that is not an impeachable offense



Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka speaks during an interview on Citizen TV on October 15, 2024. PHOTO | COURTESY

on the part of the President, then I do not know what it is. Because the President is supposed to safeguard the lives, uphold the principles and basic rights of every Kenyan citizen under the Constitution.”

Speaking on Citizen TV’s ‘The Explainer’ show yesternight, Kalonzo rubbished the 11 grounds of impeachment against DP Gachagua tabled in the National Assembly by Kibwezi West MP Mwenzi Mutuse.

The Wiper boss termed the charges as “frivolous,” but went ahead to add that “that’s a matter perhaps for the courts to decide.”

Gov’t Continue Fighting Against Retrogression Vices, Says PS Wang’ombe

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Principal Secretary, State Department Gender and Affirmative Action, Anne Wang’ombe, has emphasized the need to fight against retrogression vices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) to create an aggression-free society.

Wang’ombe highlighted the importance of creating awareness at the community level and engaging with developmental partners to promote gender equality in Kenya.

She also suggested that FGM and GBV could be eradicated through investing in programs that promote access to education for girls, economically empowering women and youths, and strengthening programs that propagate gender inclusion and human rights.

The PS said that the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action would continue to partner with

developmental partners like World Vision to address issues of FGM and GBV to safeguard the rights and freedom of girls and women.

Wang’ombe also disclosed that they will work with partners to identify gaps and challenges in eradicating negative vices to effectively achieve set goals.

“Gatekeepers in society are very important, and incorporating them in our programmes through mutual respect, meaningful engagement, and persuasion can help us achieve our goals of eradicating negative vices within our society,” said Wang’ombe.

On the issue of cross-border FGM, Wang’ombe noted that the East African community has been at the forefront of addressing the matter to safeguard the safety and rights of women across the region.

However, Wang’ombe said there is a need for more advanced advocacy, community sensitisation, and interventions to enlighten communities that are still practicing FGM.

World Vision Kenya has launched an initiative in the Kuria region to distribute dairy goats to local house-



Principal Secretary Anne Wang’ombe addressing the media

holds, aiming to eradicate poverty and FGM.

The Big Dream Programme initiative has provided 504 dairy goats to 504 families in Kuria to enhance their livelihoods by eradicating poverty

and FGM.

Migori County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture Lucas Mosenda announced that the 2019 Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) policy would soon be pre-

resented to the County Assembly to make it a bill, assisting the county in addressing challenges of GBV, teenage pregnancies, early marriage, and child labour.

How A Former Banker Is Now Reaping Big In Farming

By: Paul Wanjiru
@themtkenyatimes

After working as a banker for eight years, Samuel Wanjohi Kihagi decided to quit his job and return to his home village to pursue poultry and pig farming. He started small, with only 50 chicks and two pigs, and today, his business has grown into a thriving poultry and pig farm known as Baraka F1 Poultry Farm.

For the past five years since starting the farm, Wanjohi has worked tirelessly towards his goal, although he believes he has yet to achieve it. His focus is on selling the Improved Kienyeji F1 breed not only within Kenya but also internationally.

Wanjohi has also been helping fellow villagers venture into poultry farming by teaching them how to vaccinate their birds for free. "I have been talking to local youths, telling them that one doesn't need to pursue a white-collar job. Farming is also a viable option since it doesn't require

a lot of space or a huge amount of capital," he says.

"The demand for this improved Kienyeji breed is very high, and we are struggling to meet it. Our birds lay fertilized eggs, which are scarce on the market," Wanjohi explains.

He does not regret leaving his banking career, saying, "I don't regret quitting my job because what I've achieved in farming over the last five years could not have been accomplished in my banking career."

As the director of Baraka Farm, Wanjohi highlights the unique advantages of the Improved Kienyeji breed, describing it as a multipurpose chicken. "For those interested in eggs, these birds can lay continuously for up to 18 months. For those focused on meat production, the birds grow quickly when well-fed."

Located in Othaya, Ruruguti, Iriaini Ward, Nyeri County, Baraka Farm was established in 2018. It has since expanded, with a capacity of 178 laying birds and 200 meat birds, with the price per kilogram of chicken meat going for 500 shillings.

Wanjohi acknowledges the challeng-



Samuel Wanjohi Kihagi in his pouty farm attending to his bird's and pigs.

es he faces, particularly in accessing veterinary services. He urges the government to support farmers by providing mobile veterinary officers,

as many farmers have to travel long distances to find veterinary care.

Looking ahead, Wanjohi is confident that Baraka Farm will continue to

grow, with plans to tap into both local and international markets through networking opportunities.

The Mt. Kenya Times



President Ruto's Commitment To Affordable Housing Is Unstoppable



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Sometimes back I wrote an opinion article in this column zeroing in on petitions filed in courts by the opposed to Dr Ruto's housing plan.
- At the time a High Court judge had directed on the consolidation of six petitions. This decision was informed by the fact that the grounds cited were similar.
- The judge, however, declined to rule in favor of petitioners' prayer to stop the government from implementing the project until the cases were heard and determined.
- The cases were filed after President William Ruto signed the newly enacted Bill into law. As expected, the government immediately filed a counter-suit.

The construction of affordable houses for Kenyans was one of the key pillars of campaign manifesto of the Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William Samoei Ruto, now the 5th President of the Republic of Kenya.

The President kept assuring Kenyans particularly hundreds of thousands of low income earners who were living in slums in urban centers, that he meant his word.

I'm aware of the shame and indignity that you going through in these slums. This will now become a thing of the past if you elect me President.

My government will build decent houses for you in compliance with provisions of the constitution-the Bill of Rights-which recognizes Shelter as one of the basic rights.

We will approach and request well-endowed Kenyans, donors and private sector to financially support this noble course.

The President Ruto has since been walking the talk and he has so far launched the affordable housing projects in all counties.

He has been working closely with the county governments in these endeavors. However, the going has not been a smooth sailing. The President's critics have been throwing all manners of spanner in the work.

But the President would leave no doubt that he is not a pushover. He is a hard nut to crack and this explains why he has so far outmanoeuvred them.

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As expected, the government immediately filed a counter-suit.

As we know, the judges are always guided by the law, constitution and precedents in arriving at their final determinations.

The petitioners wanted Kenyans to believe that the affordable housing project is a function of the county governments. But those who understand the law would disagree.

The function of housing is a shared responsibility between the national government and counties. This new law have addressed this issue.

After the President discharged his constitutional mandate and signed the new Affordable Housing Bill into law, one of the mainstream print media houses published a screaming headline titled 'Ruto has his way'.



This headline was totally misleading. It is the people of Kenya who had won but not President William Ruto.

If Kenyans were opposed to this housing plan one would not have expected them to overwhelmingly elect Dr William Ruto during 2022 polls.

The new Bill had been enacted by parliament as required by the law. The State had earlier scored big after it managed to convince the benches of the High Court and Court of Appeal to struck out the petitions filed by those opposed to the Housing plan.

This demonstrated the commitment of President William Ruto to protect and uphold the constitution and other laws of the land.

As law making body, parliament kicked off the process by conducting public participation. After collecting and collating the views of the public, the relevant house committees drafted the bill. The bill later sailed through. Of 199 members present, 141 voted in support of the bill while 66 rejected it.

As required by the law, the bill was forwarded to the Senate for concurrence. It became the law after President Ruto assented to it

As we know his predecessors-Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta-efforts to rollout the affordable housing project did not yield much. So, if President William Ruto succeeds this will shape up his legacy.

Commenting about the petitions filed in courts, the President would aver. I know my critics were working in cahoot with corrupt judicial officers. The officers resorted to sabotaging my agenda of housing after receiving hefty bribes from them.

Their machinations are bound to fail.

At one point, the President held a meeting with Chief Justice Martha Koome and Speaker of national assembly Moses Wetangula.

Sources indicated that the President took unprecedented move when he declassified some intelligence reports which he shared with CJ. He disclosed that corrupt judges were working hand in hand with corrupt and rogue lawyers.

As the CJ, the buck stops with you. The people of Kenya expects you to tame members of your team. The corrupt riddled judges must be shown the door.

On his part, the President assured the CJ of his commitment to eradicate corruption in the executive.

The three judge bench of Court of Appeal had upheld the High Court order allowing the government to continue collecting the housing levy until an appeal is heard and determined.

So the change of heart by a bench of same court was bound to raise queries. Was the decision based on law or it was an escalation of the ongoing war. What has changed? The ruling was later overturned after the government filed a petition to counter it and managed to argue its case.

I had earlier listened to President William Ruto's interview when he hosted journalists from different media houses at State House Nairobi.

One of the journalist told him. You rode to power on a platform of promising to respect and uphold the constitution and other laws of the land but today you are doing the opposite.

In his response, the President told him this is not true. I have been walking the talk in terms of respecting the constitution and decisions of the courts.

On housing levy, you the people of the media are to blame for misinterpreting that ruling. The problem of unconstitutional was indeed created by you.

That is not what the bench of the three judges stated. The bench only took issue with what they termed as discriminative aspects of the law.

The president further noted. The housing plan is a noble idea whose time has come. As I speak to you, It has created 120,000 jobs. The job opportunities are set to increase to 200,000 and 500,000 in coming days.

The mega project resonated very well with Ruto's concept of bottom up economic model and was designed to address two main challenges: joblessness and lack of decent houses.

The President announced that 250,000 affordable housing units will be con-

structed in the first phase.

He said the housing project is being opposed by those employed who received a payslip every month.

For opposition leaders, he stated each was pocketing a pension of more than 1 million from the National Treasury per month.

These are the same personalities who say they love you and were ready to die for you. Really, do they?

At the time, the Affordable Housing Plan was one of the proposals contained in the controversial Finance Bill 2023.

The 'Hustlers' (those without a payslips) had been excluded. The judges now say this is discriminatory.

The affordable housing plan is a game-changer. For the first time in our history, the sons and daughters of the hustlers will own decent houses.

Initially Ruto's critics wanted Kenyans to believe that he was forcing the levy down their throat.

I totally disagree. The President had no legal mandate to pass this proposal into law. This power is exercised by parliament.

For starters, the government is made up of three main arms: parliament, executive and Judiciary.

During the campaigns the proposal to build affordable housing units stood out as one of the key plank of Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition manifesto.

If elected President, the coalition's flag bearer Raila Odinga had promised to rollout a massive affordable housing plan. Majority of our people, who migrated to urban centers, were living in poor and highly deplorable conditions in slums. 'My government' will build decent houses for you. This is a commitment I have given you.

Raila would add: A huge chunk of the money to build these houses will come from our pockets. He would single out those employed, civil servants, state officers and other workers.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and social commentator

Embu County Suspends Facility Improvement Fund (FIF)

By: Samuel Waititu
@themkenyatimes

The County Government of Embu has suspended the collection of Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) in level 2 and 3 health facilities across the county.

Three facilities have however been exempted including Gategi, Kianjokoma and Kiritiri level 3 facilities as they have been earmarked for upgrading to level 4 status.

According to Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, the development comes after a huge public outcry over cost implication on patients seeking service in the public health facilities.

Since implementation five months ago following passage of the bill into law at the County Assembly, patients have been forced to shoulder the cost of treatment from consolation fees, laboratory tests to drugs.

The move has led to patients shunning public health facilities and opting to seek services in private hospitals or resulting to self-medication with over-the-counter medicines.

“After listening to the outcry and plea from our people, we have deemed it fit to suspend the payments for now,” she said, noting that the majority were not prepared for such a move.

She said the move will also allow them time to have all residents’ transition to the Social Health Authority (SHA) so that cost will be taken care of by the scheme.

“I remain dedicated to improving our healthcare infrastructure and services to better serve the needs of my people,” she said.



Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire

British Council Leads Education Dialogue On Inclusion And Belonging In Nairobi

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

The British Council kicked off the Policy Dialogue Leading Inclusion and Belonging in Schools’ conference.

The three-day event aims at fostering inclusive education practices in schools across Kenya and beyond.

The conference, running from yesterday to tomorrow has brought together leading education policymakers, school leaders, and international experts to explore strategies for creating more inclusive school environments.

In his opening remarks, Chief Guest Dr. Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary State Department for Basic Education, stated that Inclusive education is about giving every school going child the right and an opportunity to access quality and relevant education. “It is estimated that there are about 240 million children with disabilities worldwide. These children have ambitions and dreams for their future and need quality education to develop their skills and realize their full potential. They face persistent barriers to education stemming from discrimination, stigma and the routine

failure of decision makers to incorporate disability in school services. Evidence has shown that in most cases, a student’s sense of belonging improves academic outcomes, increases continuing enrolment, and is protective for mental health thus the need for us to create an environment in our learning institutions, that make the learners feel accepted and regarded,” noted Kipsang.

Tom Porter, Country Director British Council Kenya noted that The British Council is proud to host this dialogue, which is crucial for shaping education policies that ensure no child is left behind.

“By bringing together experts from different sectors, we aim to foster a collaborative approach to addressing challenges in education inclusion, particularly for pupils with disabilities and girls. Next year, in 2025, we’ll focus on learner and worker assessment, preparing them for new opportunities. Recently, we hosted a conference on language, which is something we will continue to explore over the next two days, particularly around the role of English in a multilingual world.” Re-marked Porter

Key themes of the conference included the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), promoting gender equality



Dr. Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary State Department for Basic Education, Grace Wongani regional Education advisor for UNICEF, Tom Porter Country Director, British Council Kenya and other members during the British Council Education Dialogue on Inclusion and Belonging in Nairobi.

with a focus on girls’ education, and addressing the role of language in education as both a barrier and an enabler of inclusion.

The event’s programme included keynote addresses, hands-on workshops, and facilitated discussions. The conference also facilitated the exchange of experiences and solutions among policymakers, leading to valuable insights into addressing inclusion challenges, the creation of international networks committed to fostering inclusive policies at both local and global levels and the dissemination of evidence-based approaches to building inclusive school systems,

with a focus on sustainability and cultural sensitivity.

The event featured a rich program of presentations, workshops, and panel discussions, alongside site visits to select schools in Nairobi that are successfully implementing inclusive education strategies. These activities aim to provide participants with a platform to share best practices, learn from global experts, and explore innovative solutions for advancing inclusive education policies.

Throughout the conference, Participants will engage in hands-on workshops and interactive sessions over the next two days, delving deeper

into the challenges and opportunities around inclusive education. They will also visit Nairobi schools that have been at the forefront of adopting inclusive practices, offering real-world examples of successful implementation.

The conference set the stage for continued dialogue and collaboration on the global push toward inclusive education, and is expected to yield actionable insights that will help reshape education policies to better support diverse learners and create an environment where every child feels a sense of belonging.

KeBS Marks World Standards Day

By: Michael Omondi
@themtkenyatimes



From left; Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, KeBS MD Esther Ngari, and her organisation chairman Anthony Muniyiri (right) during the event on Saturday

Worth Noting:

- Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei noted that quality standards play a pivotal role in promoting good governance and enhancing service delivery in Kenya's public sector.
- By establishing clear benchmarks for performance, efficiency, and accountability, Koskei observed that standards ensure government services are delivered consistently, transparently, and with integrity, helping streamline operations, reduce inefficiencies, and foster a culture of continuous improvement across public institutions.
- "At the heart of public service and governance lies one word-Trust. Good governance is not measured by the mere provision of services, but by the quality, reliability, and integrity of those services. Standards are the custodians of this trust," he added.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS) joined the global community in celebrating World Standards Day last Saturday.

The event celebrates the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements published as International Standards that guides parameters of quality measures.

This year's World Standards Day theme, 'Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure in the age of AI', focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.

International Standards are the backbone of global progress because they ensure interoperability, security, and sustainability, fostering global collaboration to accelerate innovation through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Standards have been a key pillar in KEBS's mandate to protect Kenyan consumers, ensuring that the goods and services they use are reliable and safe.

Further, by working in collaboration with industry, government, and consumer groups, KEBS has successfully implemented standards that safeguard sustainable industrial growth, and cutting-edge innovation – powered by artificial intelligence that drive Kenya's economic transformation, today and for future generations.

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ing good governance and enhancing service delivery in Kenya's public sector.

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"At the heart of public service and governance lies one word- Trust. Good governance is not measured by the mere provision of services, but by the quality, reliability, and integrity of those services. Standards are the custodians of this trust," he added.

Affirming the government's commitment to economic transformation, Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Investment, Trade and Industry Salim Mvurya stressed that Manufacturing is at the heart of this agenda.

"Through initiatives like the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs), we are building hubs where innovation and value addition will flourish," explained Mvurya.

The CS highlighted that these parks will create jobs, stimulate growth, and position Kenya as a global industrial leader, however, none of these will be possible without ensuring that standards are met at every step.

Speaking during the celebrations in Nairobi, KEBS Managing Director (MD) Esther Ngari lauded all stakeholders for their critical role in developing and advancing the adherence and conformity to standards to safe-

guard the safety of consumers and facilitate trade.

"Manufacturers, importers, exporters, and MSMEs are the lifeblood of our standards' movement. Whether creating products for local households or exporting goods across the globe, they have elevated 'Made in Kenya' to become synonymous with trust and excellence. Together, we've crafted an ecosystem where standards are not just regulations but a promise to every consumer", she implored.

According to the MD, KEBS recognizes that the future of standards cannot be shaped in isolation, and that it takes the collaboration of all stakeholders – including industry leaders, policymakers, academic institutions, consumers, civil society and media – to ensure that Kenya's standards remain forward-looking, relevant, and adaptable to the changing global landscape.

"As we mark this 50th anniversary, KEBS is committed to strengthening partnerships and fostering dialogue with stakeholders to entrench sustainability in the standards development process," maintained Ngari, adding that this collaboration will ensure future standards not only meet the needs of today but also address the challenges of tomorrow, particularly in the areas of climate action, resource conservation, and social equity.

Projecting a more vibrant and fruitful future, Ngari reiterated that for the next 50 years and beyond, KEBS will remain dedicated to ensuring that standards are not only a tool for eco-

nomie growth but also a foundation for building a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive society, as well as adapting to emerging global realities including climate change.

"As we reflect on the achievements of the past 50 years, KEBS is also looking ahead to the future of standards development. This year's theme focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation," she remarked.

"The future will be defined by how we respond to global challenges," said the National Standards Council Chairman Anthony Muniyiri in a quick rejoinder.

Muniyiri noted that resilient infrastructures, especially smart cities and communities and the ever-shifting consumer expectations are reshaping industries faster than ever before and in this dynamic landscape, standards will be crucial.

He emphasized that these standards will serve as the blueprint for adapting to change, ensuring that innovation and sustainability walk hand in hand.

Meanwhile, the celebrations also coincided with KEBS 50th anniversary, marking five decades of the National Standards Body being at the forefront of Kenya's development, safeguarding consumer safety, improving product quality, and boosting the country's competitiveness in international markets.

Climate Change



By: Palak Chauhan

Is climate change primarily driven by human activities or natural processes? One of the biggest reasons for climate change is through human activities but natural processes also play a major role. As human activities have significantly accelerated the rate of climate change since the Industrial Revolution. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas for energy and transportation is the biggest example releasing of vast amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂), and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Deforestation and land – use changes also contribute by reduction in the number of trees that can absorb CO₂, further increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has constantly reported that human influence is the dominating force in climate change the evidence includes rising global temperatures, shrinking ice caps, and the

increasing sea levels. Further, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere has increased by 40 since pre – industrial times primarily due to human activities. On the other hand, natural processes such as volcanic eruptions, solar radiations, and natural greenhouse gases emissions have always influenced the Earth's climate. Paleoclimate data, which studies past climate conditions, show that current CO₂ levels and the rate of temperature increase are unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. This reinforces the conclusion that the current climate change is not part of a natural cycle but is significantly driven by human activities. In summary, while natural processes have historically influenced the Earth's climate, the current and rapid changes are primarily driven by human activities the overwhelming scientific consensus supports this conclusion, highlighting the urgent need for mitigation efforts to address human contributions to climate change. Captions – Climate change is primarily driven by human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation while, natural resources play a role in the rapid increase in global temperatures and greenhouse gases since the industrial revolution is primarily a result of human influence. Hashtags- #ClimateChange #GlobalWarming #Sustainability #Environment #Green Energy #CarbonFootprint #ClimateAction #SaveOurPlanet #Ecofriendly

Nawruz



Nawruz has come, welcome,
Light has come into our hearts.
As flower,
A new age has come.
This time is our time
for young generation.
Glowing like rainbow.
Aroma is filled with light,
We get out of winter.

We reached Nawruzoy,
Butterflies fly
The girl laugh out loud.
This is a sign of Nawruz
Ambassador of the new day
Enjoy your new day,
To give people joy.

Norsafarova Zuhail, daughter of Obid, was born on October 6, 2005 in Dehkanabad district of Kashkadarya region. Currently, student of the 2nd level of legal education at Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute, the national idea, spiritual foundations, is a member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) of Dehkanabad district. Zuhail is currently organized by the administration of Kashkadarya region, the Five Initiative Project Shahrizabz 2nd place winner of the Youth Festival "Zukko Kitabkhan" contest held in "Our happiness and perfection is embodied in you", a participant of the regional stage of the constitutional competition, as well. His poems are included in the anthology collection "Nurli izlar" published by the Russian publishing house.

Chasing The Wind



Life is the wind,
Fated in its mystery,
Yet we chase after it,
For we must live.

At times, the air reeks,
Yet we still breathe.
The sun may scorch,
Yet we toil beneath.

Life, they say, is fleeting,
Yet we press on through strife,
Bound to endure each season,
As we cling to the wind of life.

About the Poet:

Simiyu S. Stanford, author of *The Ring of The Moon* (2023) and *The Biography of Robai Nabisino Makokha*, holds a Master of Arts in Literature. He teaches English and Literature at St. Patrick's High School, Iten, one of Kenya's prestigious national schools. For inquiries, contact him at +254726651428 or stanfordsiboe@gmail.com.

Come Into My Dreams



With longing for my Messenger As you
sleep in the still night,
While counting the stars,
While resting like the moon in the blue,
Come into my dreams,
O Messenger of Allah,
smile at me my refuge from sorrow I
want to see you every day in my dreams,
I pray with emptiness in my heart A face
filled with love InShaaAllah I will also see in
a dream As soon as I saw Rasulullah I run
forward She hugs him tightly and tells him
not to leave I hold his hands tightly. Don't

go! begged and prayed I pour out what's
inside of me.
I say: Do not leave us, return to the world
Call everyone to the path of goodness,
Honesty and kindness are replaced
Arrogance, greed and envy have taken
over There are fights for a piece of land,
He doesn't know that's why it will
happen...
When I finished speaking, O Messenger
of God,
Listening to your words with a tight hug
again,
Asking God to see him again,
I open my eyes with peace in my heart.
There is not an iota of confusion left in
my heart, The morning will be a beautiful
steppe weather.
With a smile on everyone's face,
InShaaAllah he will definitely see Rasulullah!

Bibikhanifa Jumanazarova, daughter of Oktam, was born on May 15, 2007 in Zomin district of Jizzakh region. She has participated in many newspapers, magazines and books with her creative work. He is studying in the 11th grade.

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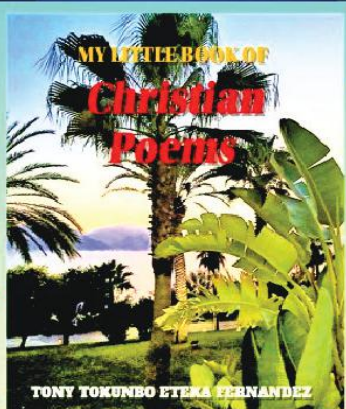
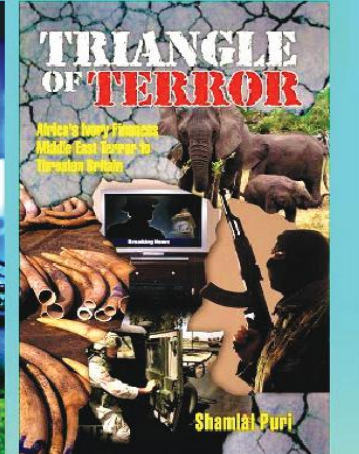
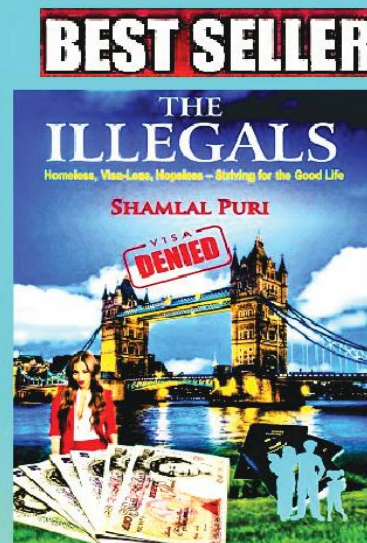
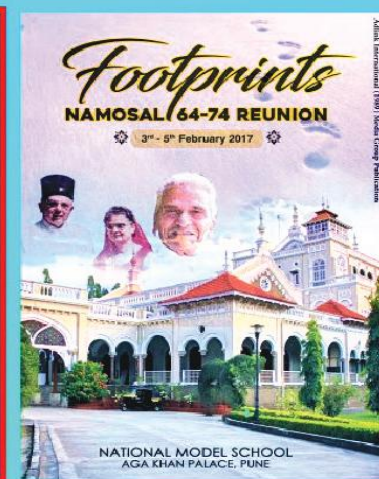
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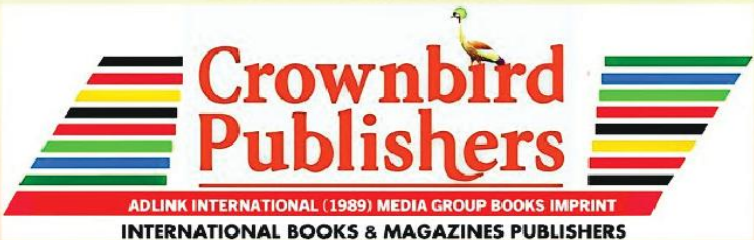
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AGRI-BUSINESS

Mercy Corps Agrifin 8th Annual Learning Event Urges Boost In Investment For Women Entrepreneurs And Smallholder Farming Transformation



By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Going forward we need to improve the quality and relevance of data on the AgTech ecosystem in Africa to ensure that we can match ventures with the right type of funding and the right type of support to unlock their potential to support smallholder farmers and improve food systems in Africa.” Saunders stated.
- During the event, AgTech stakeholders stressed the importance of expanding technological solutions to smallholder farmers, emphasizing that time is of the essence. According to the State of AgTech Investment 2024 Report, the AgTech sector has attracted approximately \$1.6 billion in funding over the past decade. However, experts believe this is not enough to meet the growing demands of the industry.

Over 400 participants from across Africa’s digital agriculture sector gathered in Nairobi, for the 8th Annual Mercy Corps AgriFin Learning Event. The conference brought together key stakeholders, including innovators, policy makers, and AgTech entrepreneurs, to showcase cutting-edge technologies transforming smallholder farming, addressing climate change, and boosting food security across the continent.

Sieka Gatabaki, Program Director for Mercy Corps AgriFin, said that the organization’s efforts is to support gender inclusion in the AgTech sector.

“Our program has developed a gender toolkit to help public and private sector actors better understand the needs of women farmers. These initiatives allow for the creation of gender-responsive products that enhance the productivity and income of women in agriculture. When women in rural communities earn more, they reinvest in their families, improving household resilience through better access to education and healthcare.” He stated.

He further emphasized that incorporating women into the AgTech ecosystem not only uplifts communities but also boosts agricultural efficiency and sustainability.

“As more women become involved in the sector, new ways of addressing some of the most pressing challenges can be discovered and solved.” Gatabaki said.

David Saunders, Director of Strategy and Growth at Briter Bridges, underscored the importance of data collection to direct funding where it is most needed.

“Going forward we need to improve the quality and relevance of data on the AgTech ecosystem in Africa to ensure that we can match ventures with the right type of funding and the right type of support to unlock their potential to support smallholder farmers and improve food systems in Africa.” Saunders stated.

During the event, AgTech stakeholders stressed the importance of expanding technological solutions to smallholder farmers, emphasizing that time is of the essence. According to the State of AgTech Investment 2024 Report, the AgTech sector has



David Saunders, Briter Bridges, Sieka Gatabaki, Program Director Mercy Corps, Toffene Kama, Mercy Corps Ventures, Tamara Cook, FSD Kenya and Ali Hussein Kassim, AHK Corp during a panel discussion at AgriFin 8th Annual Learning Event.

attracted approximately \$1.6 billion in funding over the past decade. However, experts believe this is not enough to meet the growing demands of the industry.

To fully unlock AgTech’s potential, stakeholders are advocating that this needs to double over the next decade to more than \$3 billion in investment over the next decade to keep pace of innovation.

The event featured a vibrant exhibition hall, where participants explored innovative solutions such as precision farming tools, mobile-based advisory platforms, and climate-smart agricultural practices. These technologies aim to enhance productivity for smallholder farmers, helping them mitigate climate risks and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

A key theme at this year’s event was the urgent need for increased investment in empowering women entrepreneurs in agriculture. Industry leaders called for more targeted financial support and capacity-building initiatives to ensure that women, who make up the backbone of Africa’s agricultural labor force, have access to the tools and resources necessary to drive digital transformation in farming.



Sieka Gatabaki Program Director Mercy Corps Agrifin during a presentation at the Mercy Corps Agrifin 8th Annual Learning Event

The 8th Annual Learning Event serves as a critical platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities in the AgTech space, with a special focus on how digital innovations can transform farming and improve livelihoods, particularly for women and smallholder farmers across Africa.

With Africa facing rising food insecurity exacerbated by climate risks,

the event underscored the critical role of AgTech innovation in creating sustainable agricultural systems. Participants also highlighted the importance of collaboration among private sector players, governments, and NGOs in scaling digital solutions for smallholder farmers across the continent.

KRA Sounds Alarm On Vandalism And Theft Of Cargo Seals

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has raised concerns about the alarming rise in vandalism and theft of cargo tracking seals along the busy Mombasa-Malaba highway. Long-distance truck drivers are particularly affected, as thieves are breaking into their vehicles to steal these seals, complicating their border clearance process.

KRA's Deputy Commissioner for Border Control and Enforcement, Chege Macharia, explained that the primary motive for these thefts is not the cargo itself but rather the batteries in the seals, which are repurposed for lighting homes in Busia and other rural areas. "They believe these batteries hold power for a long time," Macharia noted.

In response to this issue, KRA has formed a special task force in collaboration with the National Police Service (NPS) and National Intelligence Service (NIS) to investigate these thefts and track down the stolen devices. Macharia urged the public to come forward with any information

that could aid in apprehending those responsible.

The Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) is essential for KRA's revenue collection efforts and enables real-time tracking of transit cargo from the port of Mombasa to its final destination. However, the theft of these seals poses a significant threat to this system.

The Kenya Long Distance Drivers Association (KLDDA) expressed frustration over the hefty fines imposed by KRA for lost devices, which can reach up to USD 2,500.

KLDDA Chairman Sudi Mwatela emphasized that drivers often fall victim to theft while parked or during accidents, yet they still face penalties.

To enhance security along the Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba corridor, Mwatela urged the police to increase patrols.

"It is a requirement to have the tracking system, but when we park our vehicles, the thieves strike at night. Sometimes our drivers are involved in accidents and the devices are damaged, but KRA still demands that they pay," he said.



KRA's Deputy Commissioner for Border Control and Enforcement, Chege Macharia addressing journalists

Clean Energy Campaign Gains Momentum In Nakuru

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The County Government of Nakuru is on a mission to revolutionize cooking practices by promoting modern, clean cooking technologies.

The campaign aims to tackle climate change and combat health issues caused by dirty fuels.

With the support of the national government's Clean Cooking Strategy, Nakuru is pushing towards universal access to clean energy by 2028.

County Chief Officer for Environment, Mr. Kennedy Mungai, emphasises that reliance on traditional cooking methods poses serious health and environmental risks.

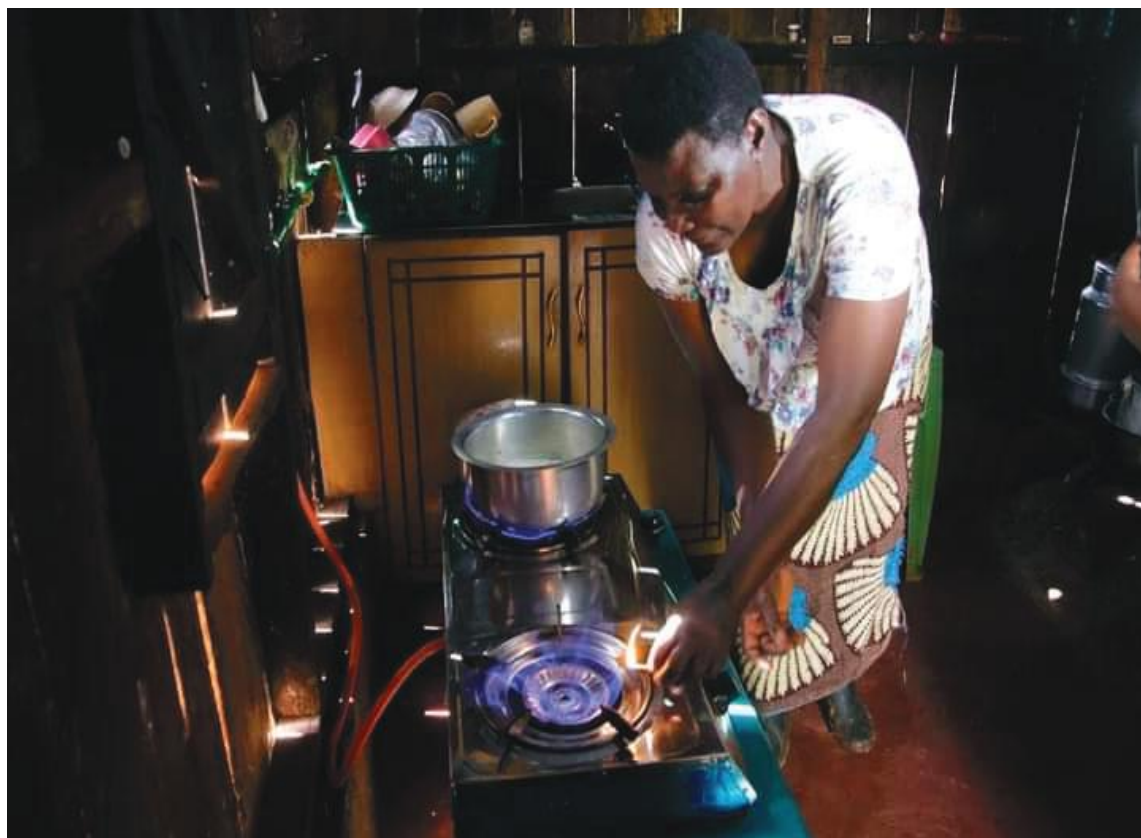
The Chief Officer said the World Health Organisation estimated that 84 per cent of Kenyan households primarily rely on solid fuels such as

wood, charcoal, and crop residues that emit toxic fumes and which contribute immensely to indoor pollution.

The World Health Organisation further identifies household air pollution as a global environmental risk, causing some 1.6 million premature deaths per year worldwide.

The Energy Ministry indicates that about 59 percent of households in Kenya use traditional fireplaces for cooking, while only 30 percent have access to clean cooking solutions.

The campaign will promote eco-friendly solutions such as biogas, LPG, and electric cooking—methods that can reduce fuel use by up to 60% and significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions.



The Synergy Of Humanities And Technology: Nurturing Human-Centric Innovation



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In the contemporary context, the importance of humanities in technological development is increasingly recognized by leading thinkers and institutions. Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple Inc., famously stated, "Technology alone is not enough. It's technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that make our hearts sing." This sentiment echoes the growing realization that the most impactful innovations are those that resonate with human values, aspirations, and cultural contexts.
- The field of human-computer interaction (HCI) serves as a prime example of how humanities-informed approaches enhance technological design. By drawing insights from psychology, anthropology, and sociology, HCI researchers and practitioners create interfaces and systems that are not only efficient but also intuitive and culturally sensitive.

The 21st century has witnessed unprecedented technological advancements, from artificial intelligence to biotechnology, reshaping the landscape of human existence. These innovations have revolutionized industries, altered social dynamics, and redefined the boundaries of human capability. The global expenditure on research and development has steadily increased, reaching \$2.2 trillion in 2019 according to UNESCO's Institute for Statistics. In the same year, the number of researchers worldwide exceeded 8.8 million, with a significant portion dedicated to STEM fields. The tech industry's market capitalization has grown exponentially, with companies like Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon each surpassing the \$1 trillion mark in recent years.

Despite the undeniable impact of technological progress, a critical examination reveals that the true value of these innovations lies not in their mere existence, but in their ability to serve and enhance human life. This realization underscores the indispensable role of humanities in shaping the trajectory of technological development. The humanities, encompassing disciplines such as philosophy, history, literature, and the arts, provide the essential framework for understanding human nature, values, and societal needs. It is through this lens that we can ensure technology remains a tool for human flourishing rather than an end in itself.

The interplay between humanities and technology is not a recent phenomenon but has deep historical roots. The Renaissance, often regarded as the bridge between the Middle Ages and modern history, exemplified the power of combining scientific inquiry with humanistic ideals. Leonardo da Vinci, the quintessential Renaissance polymath, embodied this synthesis, seamlessly blending art, engineering, and scientific observation. His work demonstrates that technological innovation, when infused with humanistic perspectives, can transcend mere functionality to become transformative expressions of human creativity and understanding.

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impactful innovations are those that resonate with human values, aspirations, and cultural contexts.

The field of human-computer interaction (HCI) serves as a prime example of how humanities-informed approaches enhance technological design. By drawing insights from psychology, anthropology, and sociology, HCI researchers and practitioners create interfaces and systems that are not only efficient but also intuitive and culturally sensitive. A study published in the ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction found that incorporating cultural models into user interface design led to a 22% increase in user satisfaction and a 15% improvement in task completion rates across diverse user groups.

Moreover, the ethical implications of technological advancements necessitate a strong foundation in philosophical inquiry. As artificial intelligence systems become increasingly autonomous and pervasive, questions of accountability, privacy, and fairness come to the forefront. The work of philosophers like Luciano Floridi on information ethics provides crucial frameworks for addressing these challenges. Floridi argues that we need a new ethical framework for the information age, one that considers the moral status of artificial agents and the responsibilities of their creators.

The intersection of humanities and technology also plays a vital role in addressing global challenges. Climate change, for instance, requires not only technological solutions but also a deep understanding of human behavior, cultural practices, and societal structures. Environmental humanities scholars like Rob Nixon have introduced concepts such as "slow violence" to articulate the long-term, often invisible impacts of environmental degradation, thereby informing more holistic and effective technological interventions.

In the realm of healthcare, the integration of humanities with medical

technology has led to significant improvements in patient care. Narrative medicine, a field pioneered by Dr. Rita Charon at Columbia University, emphasizes the importance of understanding patients' stories and experiences in conjunction with biomedical data. This approach has been shown to enhance diagnostic accuracy, improve treatment adherence, and increase patient satisfaction. A study published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine reported that physicians trained in narrative medicine demonstrated a 30% improvement in empathetic communication and a 25% increase in patient trust scores.

The digital humanities represent another frontier where technology and humanistic inquiry converge. By applying computational methods to traditional humanities research, scholars can uncover new patterns and insights in vast corpora of texts, artworks, and historical records. For example, the Venice Time Machine project, a collaboration between computer scientists and historians, uses AI to analyze and reconstruct historical documents, offering unprecedented insights into the social and economic life of Renaissance Venice.

Education systems worldwide are recognizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches that bridge the gap between STEM fields and the humanities. The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) movement advocates for integrating arts education into traditionally technical curricula. A longitudinal study conducted by the Rhode Island School of Design found that students exposed to STEAM curricula demonstrated a 17% increase in innovative thinking skills and a 23% improvement in cross-disciplinary collaboration compared to those in traditional STEM programs.

The business world, too, is acknowledging the value of humanities in driving innovation and leadership. A survey conducted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities found that 93% of employers

agree that "a candidate's demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate major." This underscores the transferable skills cultivated by humanities education, such as critical thinking, communication, and ethical reasoning.

Furthermore, the humanities play a crucial role in shaping public discourse and policy around technological issues. Scholars like Shoshana Zuboff, author of "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism," bring critical perspectives to the societal implications of data-driven technologies. Their work informs regulatory frameworks and public awareness, ensuring that technological progress aligns with democratic values and human rights.

As we look to the future, the convergence of humanities and technology holds immense potential for addressing complex global challenges. From developing AI systems that respect human values to creating sustainable technologies that honor cultural diversity, the synergy between these fields will be instrumental in shaping a more equitable and human-centric technological landscape.

In conclusion, while technological innovations continue to push the boundaries of what is possible, it is the humanities that ensure these advancements serve the greater good of humanity. By fostering a dialogue between technical expertise and humanistic inquiry, we can create a future where technology enhances rather than diminishes our human experience. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the integration of humanities into technological development stands as a beacon, guiding us towards innovations that not only advance our capabilities but also enrich our shared human journey.

The writer is a legal scholar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Impeachment Of Gachagua: A Test Of Kenya's Political Stability And Unity

By: James Bwire Kilonzo
 @themkenyatimes

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) has raised alarm over the potential threat to national unity posed by the impending impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Chair Samuel Kobia cautioned that if the Senate upholds the National Assembly's decision to impeach Gachagua, it could lead to significant conflicts, particularly between communities in Mount Kenya and other regions. This warning highlights the delicate balance of political power and ethnic relations in Kenya, where the repercussions of such a high-profile impeachment could resonate far beyond the political sphere.

Gachagua's impeachment is unprecedented; he would be the first Deputy President in Kenya to face such a fate since the 2010 Constitution was enacted. The allegations against him—ranging from corruption and insubordination to fostering ethnic divisions—are serious and have already resulted in a super-majority vote in the National Assembly, with 282 MPs supporting his removal. However, as the Senate prepares to deliberate on this motion, it is crucial to consider not only the legal implications but also the broader societal consequences.

The NCIC's concerns reflect a growing unease about how political decisions can exacerbate existing tensions among communities. Gachagua's strong support base in Mount Kenya is significant; his removal could alienate many constituents who feel their interests are not being represented. This situation raises critical questions about governance in a country still grappling with its ethnic dynamics. The potential for conflict underscores the need for careful handling of this impeachment process by the Senate, ensuring that all actions taken are perceived as fair and just.

Moreover, Gachagua's situation is emblematic of deeper issues within Kenyan politics, including accusations of corruption and mismanagement that have plagued leadership for years. His defense against the allegations—claiming they are politically motivated—resonates with many who view this impeachment as part of a larger struggle for power within President William Ruto's administration. The rift between Gachagua and Ruto adds another layer of complexity; should Gachagua be impeached, it could destabilize Ruto's government



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Worth Noting:

- As senators prepare to vote on this matter, it is imperative for lawmakers to reflect on their responsibilities to their constituents and the nation as a whole. The outcome will not only determine Gachagua's political future but also serve as a litmus test for Kenya's commitment to democratic values and governance standards. A hasty or politically motivated decision could further erode public trust in political institutions at a time when confidence is already fragile.
- In light of these developments, it is essential to recognize that this impeachment process may also serve as a catalyst for broader reforms within Kenyan politics. The ongoing anti-government protests over economic issues have highlighted widespread dissatisfaction with leadership and governance.

and alter political alliances within their coalition.

As senators prepare to vote on this matter, it is imperative for lawmakers to reflect on their responsibilities to their constituents and the nation as a whole. The outcome will not only determine Gachagua's political future but also serve as a litmus test for Kenya's commitment to democratic values and governance standards. A hasty or politically motivated decision could further erode public trust in political institutions at a time when confidence is already fragile.

In light of these developments, it is essential to recognize that this impeachment process may also serve as a catalyst for broader reforms within Kenyan politics. The ongoing anti-government protests over economic issues have highlighted widespread dissatisfaction with leadership and governance. Many citizens are not merely focused on Gachagua's fate but are demanding systemic changes that address corruption and economic mismanagement.

The NCIC's warning serves as a reminder that political actions have real consequences on societal cohesion. If Gachagua is impeached, it may not

only deepen divisions among communities but also set a precedent for future political maneuvers that could destabilize Kenya's fragile unity. As such, it is crucial for all stakeholders—lawmakers, citizens, and civil society—to engage thoughtfully with these developments.

In conclusion, the impending impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua represents more than just a personal battle; it embodies critical issues surrounding governance, accountability, and national unity in Kenya. As we await the Senate's decision, it is essential that all stakeholders engage thoughtfully with these developments. The judiciary must act as an impartial arbiter, ensuring that justice is served while respecting the rights of all individuals involved.

The eyes of the nation are upon this process; may it reinforce our democratic foundations while respecting the rule of law. Ultimately, how this situation unfolds will serve as a litmus test for Kenya's political maturity and commitment to democratic ideals. It is an opportunity not only for reflection but also for action—a chance to redefine what accountabil-

ity means in Kenyan politics while safeguarding the rights of all citizens involved in this complex narrative.

As we navigate these turbulent waters, it is essential that all parties involved remain committed to upholding democratic principles. The judiciary must act as an impartial arbiter, ensuring that justice is served while respecting the rights of all individuals involved. Meanwhile, lawmakers must reflect on their responsibilities to their constituents rather than succumbing to partisan pressures.

In light of these complexities, this moment serves as both a challenge and an opportunity for Kenya—a chance to strengthen its democratic institutions while fostering unity among its diverse communities. The outcome of Gachagua's impeachment will undoubtedly shape Kenya's political landscape for years to come; therefore, it is imperative that we approach this moment with both caution and hope for a more cohesive future.

James Bwire Kilonzo is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

The Unseen Hand of Green Financing Lifting Kenya's Sustainable Aspirations

Delving into the transformative potential of green financing in driving sustainable development projects across Kenya



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The chiasmus of growth versus sustainability challenges us to reconsider our priorities: can we grow economically while preserving the environment? The answer lies in the embrace of green financing. As we peel back the layers of this financial enigma, the need for capital becomes increasingly clear.
- The Climate Finance Landscape in Kenya reveals a staggering funding gap; according to the Kenya National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022, the country requires approximately \$62 billion to implement its climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Yet, the current investments fall woefully short, leaving many initiatives stranded in the planning phase, like ships anchored without a crew. This is where green financing steps in, with its promise of filling the gaps and unlocking capital for projects that safeguard our natural heritage.

In the ever-evolving landscape of Kenya's economic aspirations, where the vibrant hues of innovation clash with the stark realities of environmental degradation, a quiet revolution is taking shape—a revolution rooted in green financing.

Like a sprouting seed pushing through the cracks of a parched earth, this financial paradigm emerges as a beacon of hope, promising to unlock the capital needed to catalyze sustainable projects that not only mitigate climate change but also invigorate the economy.

The irony of our predicament is evident: while Kenya is endowed with abundant natural resources, the paradox of underfunding sustainable initiatives looms larger than Mount Kenya itself, threatening to stifle our ambitions and dreams.

At the core of this financial awakening lies a profound understanding of what green financing entails—a blend of investments, grants, and innovative financial instruments specifically designed to promote environmental sustainability.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasizes that green financing is not merely an option; it is a necessity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Kenya, where agriculture accounts for nearly 33% of GDP and employs over 75% of the population, the importance of sustainable agricultural practices cannot be overstated.

The chiasmus of growth versus sustainability challenges us to reconsider our priorities: can we grow economically while preserving the environment? The answer lies in the embrace of green financing. As we peel back the layers of this financial enigma, the need for capital becomes increasingly clear.

The Climate Finance Landscape in Kenya reveals a staggering funding gap; according to the Kenya National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022, the country requires approximately \$62 billion to implement its climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Yet, the current investments fall woefully short, leaving many initiatives stranded in the planning phase, like ships anchored without a crew. This is where green financing steps in, with its promise of filling the gaps and unlocking capital for projects that safeguard our natural heritage.

To illustrate, consider the case of



the Lake Victoria region, a vibrant ecosystem that is vital for both biodiversity and the livelihoods of millions. The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), exemplifies the power of green financing to rejuvenate fisheries while promoting sustainable practices. By engaging local communities and incorporating their knowledge, this initiative not only protects marine resources but also enhances food security.

The personification of the lake's restoration paints a hopeful picture, suggesting that with the right financial backing, our ecosystems can flourish anew, breathing life into the communities that depend on them. Yet, the journey toward unlocking capital for sustainable projects is not without challenges.

The irony of our situation is stark; while Kenya's green bonds market has gained traction—issuing its first green bond in 2019 to raise \$40 million for renewable energy projects—the majority of funding continues to flow toward traditional sectors that prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability.

The juxtaposition of potential versus reality highlights a systemic issue in our financial landscape, where risk aversion often eclipses the promise of green investments. As the world moves towards a greener future, Kenya must rise to meet the challenge and harness the full potential of green financing.

The socioeconomic implications of green financing extend beyond mere capital infusion; they touch the very fabric of our society. Empowering

local communities through access to financial resources fosters an ethos of stewardship, where individuals become active participants in the preservation of their environment.

The Asante Sana Youth Initiative, for instance, provides training and funding for youth-led eco-entrepreneurship ventures, showcasing the power of green financing to cultivate innovation and drive job creation. Here, the metaphor of planting seeds of opportunity resonates; as these young entrepreneurs thrive, they sow the seeds of sustainability, nurturing a future where economic growth harmonizes with ecological integrity.

Furthermore, the emotional appeal of green financing cannot be overlooked. The pathos of climate change—manifesting in the form of erratic weather patterns, droughts, and floods—affects us all, yet it is the vulnerable communities that bear the brunt of these impacts. By prioritizing green investments, we not only address immediate environmental concerns but also create a safety net for those most affected by climate change.

The compelling narrative of resilience emerges, reminding us that sustainable projects are not just about preserving nature; they are about uplifting communities, enhancing livelihoods, and fostering a sense of hope in the face of adversity.

The call for strategic partnerships is a critical element in the pursuit of effective green financing. Collaborations between the public and private sectors, NGOs, and international organizations create a synergistic

effect that amplifies the impact of investments.

The Kenya Green Bond Program, supported by the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), exemplifies the power of collaboration, providing a platform for investors to channel funds toward environmentally sustainable projects.

This initiative stands as a testament to the potential of green financing to catalyze a shift in investment culture, moving from short-term speculation to long-term sustainability. The unseen hand of green financing holds the key to unlocking Kenya's sustainable aspirations and addressing the pressing economic challenges posed by climate change.

As we navigate the turbulent waters of development, it is imperative that we prioritize investments that align with our environmental goals, ensuring that the seeds of sustainability are sown deeply into the fabric of our economy.

By harnessing the power of green financing, we can create a prosperous future—one that celebrates the rich tapestry of Kenya's natural heritage while fostering innovation, resilience, and economic growth.

The journey ahead may be fraught with challenges, but as we embrace the transformative potential of green financing, we illuminate a path toward a sustainable future where economic despair gives way to renewed hope, and the lush landscapes of Kenya flourish once more.

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

Kenya Flower Festival 2024 Celebrates Innovation And Sustainability In Floriculture

By: Aoma Keziah
 @themtkenyatices

The 4th edition of the Kenya Flower Festival kicked off in vibrant fashion highlighting the immense contributions of Kenya's floriculture industry. Held in Nairobi, this year's festival drew industry stakeholders, enthusiasts, and the public to a grand celebration of Kenya's world-renowned flower sector.

The Chief guest of the event Henriette Geiger, the European Union Ambassador to Kenya, graced the opening ceremony alongside key players from the flower industry and in her opening speech, she lauded Kenya for its leadership in floriculture.

"The country plays a significant role as one of the world's top flower exporters, and therefore the importance of sustainable practices in the industry, a key focus of the 2024 festival," Geiger emphasized.

In her remarks, Rosemary Kimunya Founder Kenya Flower Festival noted that KFF was founded with a clear

vision, to promote a culture of appreciation for the incredible diversity and beauty of Kenyan flowers.

"As many of you know, our country produces some of the finest flowers in the world. We are the 4th biggest exporter of cut flowers in the World. In fact, 40% of all roses sold in the European Union are sourced from Kenya. The floriculture sector is also the country's top foreign exchange earner, making it a cornerstone of international trade. Moreover, Kenyan flowers are sold across 60 destinations." Said Kimunya

Representing Imani flowers at the Kenya Flower Festival, Mr. Roy Gachoki Managing Director, said that Imani flowers is passionate about helping women with cancer and supporting campaigns whose objective is to help in early cancer detection.

This year's event showcased not only the beauty of Kenya's diverse flower species but also the innovation and eco-friendly approaches that the industry is adopting to maintain its global competitive edge. Various exhibitors, including florists, growers, and floral designers, showcased cutting-edge techniques in flower



Rosemary Kimunya Founder Kenya Flower Festival and Henriette Geiger, the European Union Ambassador to Kenya, during the Kenya Flower Festival 2024.

cultivation, preservation, and floral artistry.

The Kenya Flower Festival con-

tinues to position Kenya as a global leader in floriculture while promoting sustainable practices that preserve

both the environment and the country's rich floral heritage.

Supporting Women In Politics Kenya

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatices

The Kenya Women Parliamentarians KEWOPA hosted an engaging community forum in Makueni County, bringing together women leaders, CBO representatives, PWDs, youth, and other community groups. With the support of Uraia Trust and the embassy of Denmark

the forum focused on empowering participants to support women in politics and educating them on their rights. County MP for Makueni Rose Museo highlighted the importance of public participation, urging the community to actively engage in governance and support the leadership of women already in office.

She also encouraged attendees to share the knowledge gained with others, fostering greater awareness and involvement within their communities.

Women have fought tirelessly for their space in the political sphere, in efforts to attain gender parity and women empowerment. Leveraging on Article 27 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which upholds the principle of equality and non-discrimination by guaranteeing fair treatment for either gender, women have risen to break the glass ceiling.

Women's underrepresentation in policymaking institutions means that their interests are also underrepresented (this goes the same for other vulnerable and marginalized groups in the country). This shortcoming has been addressed by Article 100 of the Constitution, which empowers Parliament to pass laws that advance the representation of marginalized groups. The persistent exclusion of women in Kenya to engage in politics is instigated by numerous factors that promote the prevailing standards of social, political, and economic barriers across the forty-seven devolved governments.



Rose Museo, County MP, Makueni

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Sports >> *Nine candidates submitted their papers to the Football Kenya Federation electoral board signalling their intention to vie for the presidency of the forthcoming national football elections.

Nine Hand In Nomination Papers For FKF Presidency



Nine candidates submitted their papers to the Football Kenya Federation electoral board signalling their intention to vie for the presidency of the forthcoming national football elections.

The candidates beat the October 14th deadline set by the board which required both those vying for the presidency and National Executive Committee positions to hand in their nomination papers.

After verification of the documents the electoral board is set to make known names of those cleared to vie on Monday next week with the final list set to be published on November 2nd.

Among those who presented their nomination papers is the incumbent FKF Vice president Doris Petra who will be vying for the top seat with her current boss Nick Mwendwa as her running mate.

“For the first time in history of football I bring you the first female contestant. We are hopeful of winning” Mwendwa said

“I believe in what we have done with him and everybody can see the successes of what we have achieved we look forward to

doing more together” Petra remarked.

Kakamega Homeboyz FC Chairman Cleophas Shimanyula has roped in veteran football administrator Twaha Mbarak as his running mate.

“We are seriously in the contest we are determined to win”, Shimanyula said.

Former FKF president Sam Nyamweya is set to make another stab at the seat and has former Mlango Kubwa MCA Patricia Mutheu as the running mate.

Others who also presented their nomination papers are former international Sammy ‘Kempes’ Owino who is vying alongside Evance Kadenge.

Tom Alila will contest together with Beryl Adhiambo while Sam Ocholla and Willis Waliaula are seeking the ticket together. Chris Amimo and Antony Makau, former fkf ceo Barry Otieno and Lucy Kageni are the other contestants.

Hussein Mohammed will be making a second stab at the top

seat and has tapped former Kenyan international MacDonald Mariga.

“The process has been smooth, we are hopeful that the electoral board will do the right thing, it's now time for the team to get to the ground and go vote counting” Hussein Spoke.

KBC



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Spain based Aldrine Kibet scored a hat trick as the National Under 20 soccer team Rising Stars registered a well deserved 4-0 win over Sudan to qualify for the semifinals

CECAFA U20: Kenya Thumps Sudan To Seal Semi Final Spot In 2025 AFCONU20 Qualifiers



Spain based Aldrine Kibet scored a hat trick as the National Under 20 soccer team Rising Stars registered a well deserved 4-0 win over Sudan to qualify for the semifinals of the ongoing AFCON Under 20 CECAFA qualifiers at KMC Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Salim Babu charges came into the match focused to bag maximum points to avoid a match up against tournament favorites

Uganda in the last four. Aldrine Kibet scored for Rising Stars in the opening minutes of the crucial tie. The former St Anthony Kitale's hit man extended Kenya's lead before the break. Midfield sensation Kevin Wanyanya added the third goal in the 66th minute before the Nastic Academy forward Kibet completed his hat trick in added time. Kenya kicked off their AFCON

Under 20 CECAFA qualifiers campaign with a 2-1 win over hosts Tanzania who have also qualified for the semifinals, followed by a goalless draw against Rwanda before humbling Djibouti 4-0 on Sunday. Kenya will now play Burundi in the semi final scheduled Friday October 18th. Uganda will face hosts Tanzania in the second semi final. The final is set to be played

on Sunday October 20th. Two finalists will represent CECAFA region in next year's U20 Africa Cup Of Nations finals. **KBC**

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The FKF Presidential Race: A Reflection of Kenya's Footballing Future

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This election comes at a time when Kenyan football is at a crossroads. The national team has struggled to make an impact on the continental stage, and domestic leagues suffer from mismanagement and lack of funding. The new leadership must address these issues head-on. Candidates like Dorris Petra and Nick Mwendwa emphasize accountability and transparency within the federation—essential qualities needed to restore public confidence in Kenyan football governance.
- One pressing issue that all candidates must confront is the need for improved infrastructure. Many local clubs lack adequate facilities, which hamper player development and limit opportunities for young athletes. Running mates like Beryl Akot and Twaha Mbarak have highlighted the importance of building partnerships with local governments and private investors to secure funding for sports facilities.

As the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) gears up for its upcoming elections, the list of presidential candidates and their running mates reveals a diverse array of individuals, each bringing unique perspectives and experiences to the table. The candidates—Hussein Mohammed, Sam Nyamweya, Barry Otieno, Tom Alila, Dorris Petra, Toto Shimanyula, Sammy Owino, Sam Ochola, and Chris Amimo—alongside their respective running mates, represent a critical juncture for Kenyan football. This election is not merely about leadership; it is about the future direction of a sport that has immense potential yet faces significant challenges.

The candidates vary in their backgrounds and visions for the FKF. Hussein Mohammed and Macdonald Mariga bring a blend of media experience and footballing prowess, aiming to leverage their visibility to attract investment and sponsorships. Mariga, a former international player, has the potential to connect with both fans and players alike. Sam Nyamweya, a seasoned politician in the football arena, represents continuity but must convince voters that his past tenure was beneficial. His experience could be an asset if he can effectively communicate a vision that resonates with the current needs of Kenyan football.

Barry Otieno and Lucy Kageni focus on youth engagement and grassroots development, which are essential for nurturing future talent. Their emphasis on building a strong foundation for young players aligns with global trends where successful football nations invest heavily in youth programs. Tom Alila and Beryl Akot aim to bring fresh ideas to the table, advocating for innovative approaches to address the systemic issues plaguing Kenyan football.

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tion—essential qualities needed to restore public confidence in Kenyan football governance.

One pressing issue that all candidates must confront is the need for improved infrastructure. Many local clubs lack adequate facilities, which hamper player development and limit opportunities for young athletes. Running mates like Beryl Akot and Twaha Mbarak have highlighted the importance of building partnerships with local governments and private investors to secure funding for sports facilities. This approach can create an ecosystem where clubs thrive, ultimately benefiting the national team.

Moreover, the FKF election should prioritize inclusivity in decision-making processes. The voices of women in football have often been marginalized; thus, candidates like Sammy Owino and Evans Kadenge must advocate for gender equality within the sport. Their commitment to promoting women's football can help tap into an underutilized resource that could elevate Kenyan football on both national and international platforms.

The impending election also raises questions about how effectively these leaders can navigate the political landscape surrounding Kenyan football. The federation has faced scrutiny over financial mismanagement and corruption allegations in recent years. Candidates must demonstrate integrity and a clear plan to ensure that funds are used effectively to benefit players and clubs

rather than being siphoned off into personal accounts.

As we approach the election date, it is crucial for voters—clubs, players, fans—to engage actively in the process. This election is an opportunity to reshape the future of Kenyan football profoundly. Voter turnout will be critical; a high turnout signals strong public interest in reforming FKF governance.

The FKF Electoral Board's recent announcement regarding nomination papers has added urgency to this process. With candidates required to meet stringent qualifications—including proof of active involvement in Kenyan football—there is hope that this election will bring forth leaders who are genuinely invested in the sport's growth.

Additionally, there is a pressing need for transparency regarding financial dealings within FKF. Past administrations have faced allegations of corruption that have eroded public trust. Candidates must commit to upholding ethical standards and ensuring that all financial transactions are transparent and accountable.

Furthermore, it is essential that new leadership fosters collaboration between FKF and other stakeholders such as local governments, corporate sponsors, and educational institutions. By creating partnerships aimed at developing talent from grassroots levels up to professional leagues, Kenya can cultivate a robust football culture that nurtures its players.

In conclusion, the FKF presidential candidates represent a spectrum of ideas that could either rejuvenate or further stagnate Kenyan football. As they campaign for votes, they must articulate clear visions that prioritize transparency, inclusivity, infrastructure development, and accountability. The future of Kenyan football hinges on this election; it is not just about who leads but how they lead.

For the sake of players, fans, and the sport itself, it is imperative that this election catalyzes meaningful change within the FKF. The time for action is now—Kenya's footballing future depends on it. As stakeholders unite in this endeavor, we have an opportunity to create a more informed populace capable of making sound financial decisions that will benefit both individuals and society at large.

Ultimately, this election should not just be seen as a transition of power but as a pivotal moment where Kenyan football can redefine its identity on both local and international stages. The path ahead may be fraught with challenges; however, with committed leadership focused on genuine reform and community engagement, there is hope for a brighter future for Kenyan football—a future where every player has access to opportunities that allow them to shine both domestically and internationally.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.