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Kenya, like many developing nations, stands at a critical juncture in its economic development, facing the dual challenges of fostering economic growth and addressing the pressing issue of climate change.

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Daily ePAPER

Thursday, October 17, 2024

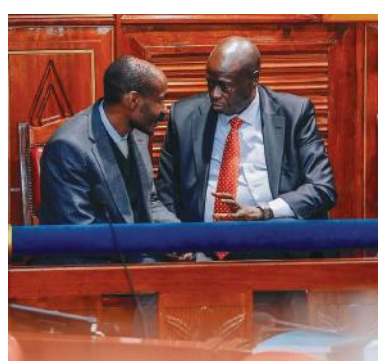
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News>>Thousands Of Tharaka Nithi Farmers Get Free Certified Seeds From County Government

P. 8. Thousands of farmers in Tharaka Nithi County have benefited with free certified seeds from the county government.



News>>Gachagua's Impeachment Session In Photos

P. 12.

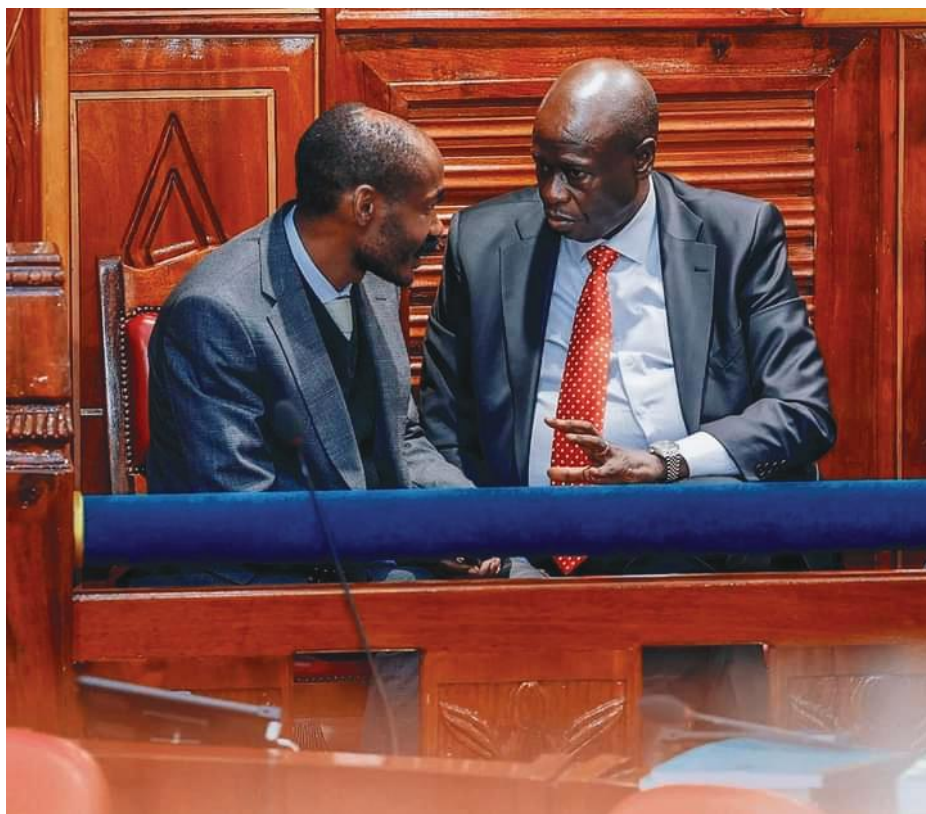
Gachagua's Lawyers Tear Mutuse Claims



A dramatic showdown unfolded in the Senate yesterday evening during the impeachment trial of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

After a day of submissions from various parties, tensions escalated when DP Gachagua's legal team took the floor to cross-examine Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse, the mover of the impeachment motion.

Advocate Elisha Ongoya challenged Mutuse to substantiate the claims in his motion, alleging that the DP had amassed a Ksh.5.2 billion fortune since taking office as the country's second-in-command.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with lawyer Elisha Ongoya in Senate

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

Ondiri Wetlands: Kikuyu Town's Hidden Gem And Largest Peat Bog

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Nyongara River, which is the main tributary of Nairobi River, sources its waters from Ondiri wetlands and has been the main and oldest source for piped water in Nairobi City.
- In 2016, due to dilapidating conditions at the bog, Friends of Ondiri Wetland Kenya (FOWK) was founded to restore and protect the bog; they run awareness campaigns, planted trees, and held community events aimed at restoring this geographical marvel.

Ondiri Wetlands is a secluded natural peat bog surrounded by lush greenery and crystal-clear waters that lies 200 meters South of Kikuyu town and 20 km West of Nairobi Central Business District.

It covers an estimated area of about 34.5 hectares with a perimeter of about 3.3 km. Its waters are about 3-4 meters deep, making it Kenya's largest natural peat bog. These are dense wetlands filled with partially decayed vegetation that has accumulated over years, building an acidity that prevents the vegetation from fully decaying.

They are mainly located in cold temperate climate areas; a quality Kikuyu town and its environs are well known for.

Ondiri wetland gets its name from the English name "Old Lake" accrued by the white settlers after occupying the area during the colonial era.

Nyongara River, which is the main tributary of Nairobi River, sources its waters from Ondiri wetlands and has been the main and oldest source for piped water in Nairobi City.

In 2016, due to dilapidating conditions at the bog, Friends of Ondiri Wetland Kenya (FOWK) was founded to restore and protect the bog; they run awareness campaigns, planted trees, and held community events aimed at restoring this geographical marvel.

Friends of Ondiri Wetlands Chief Coordinator David Wachoge affirms this saying: due to the wetland's strategic location on the highlands of Kikuyu Town, water from the wetland trickles down and recharges the Kikuyu springs through an underground passage.

"This water is from the Aberdares, and this is the first place where it resurfaces and diverges into many streams, all of which run many projects," says Wachoge, pointing downstream to a number of projects, mainly greenhouses that utilise waters from the wetlands.

Speaking to the media, Wachoge continues to say that the wetland operates on a recharge-discharge system at the nearby Rungiri dam, which formed after an Italian contractor used the area as a source of raw materials that were used in the construction of the Nakuru-Nairobi highway.

ways.

"Rungiri Dam came as a result of rock mining by an Italian contractor that was used to build the Nakuru-Nairobi highway. It is now a vibrant dam serving as an important reservoir, which in turn supplements the existing water supply at Ondiri," Wachoge says.

He says that as long as the recharge-discharge relationship remains uninterrupted, the water level at Ondiri will not change, and locals have expressed their fears of the lake drying up one day.

"Any apparent fears of the wetland drying is likely to be more because of eutrophication and not reduced input of water," Wachoge reaffirms, adding that waters from the wetland have been utilised by the surrounding area population for decades.

One popular example is the famed Alliance High School, which since its inception back in 1926 has always used water exclusively from Ondiri wetland.

Charles Kogi, a Senior Teacher at the school and who Wachoge describes as a modern-day Wangari Maathai due to environmental conservation efforts he has undertaken at the school and its environs, reiterates this.

"We have been using this water for the last 99 years, and we will be celebrating hundred years next year," Kogi says.

Due to the reliance of water from Ondiri, the Senior Teacher explained that Alliance High School has in turn been at the forefront of conservation efforts at the wetland by joining forces with the National Defense College, Kiambu Conservatoire of Forests, and other organisations to ensure that they conserve the wetland, and during the recent Mazingira Day celebrations last week, they joined in to plant over 4000 tree seedlings at Ondiri Botany.

Ondiri wetland also doubles up as a sanctuary for flora and fauna, with over 68 plant species (aquatic and semi-aquatic) recorded in the area and a further estimated 94 species of resident and migratory birds, such as the endangered grey-crowned crane fabled for its gentle nature, which is the symbol for the Nairobi City Council and a prominent figure



on the Ugandan flag, largely known as having the biggest freshwater tower in East Africa.

Ondiri wetland has also subsequently become an ideal destination for eco-tourism, as according to locals, it offers a peaceful setting in which one may relax while taking in the breathtaking scenery of the yet-unexplored nature route along the 30 HA of land that make up the 10 KM course.

Despite this, challenges facing the wetland include encroachment by nearby communities to acquire farming land and the recent increase in institutions around the area leading to unregulated water consumption and pollution of the wetland from chemicals and human waste.

Even in the face of these anthropogenic

activities, Ondiri wetland remains an important ecological area due to its resilience and significance in the lives of people in Kikuyu Town.

In order to ensure Ondiri wetland is sustainably conserved for its rich and diverse biodiversity and productivity, stakeholders have developed Ondiri wetland management plan that will ensure the wetland is sustainably conserved and managed for its ecological, social, and economic importance.

To achieve this, political good will and stakeholder support and commitment in the implementation have seen the Kiambu Government supporting the management plan and highly encouraging all to ensure ecological integrity of the wetland.



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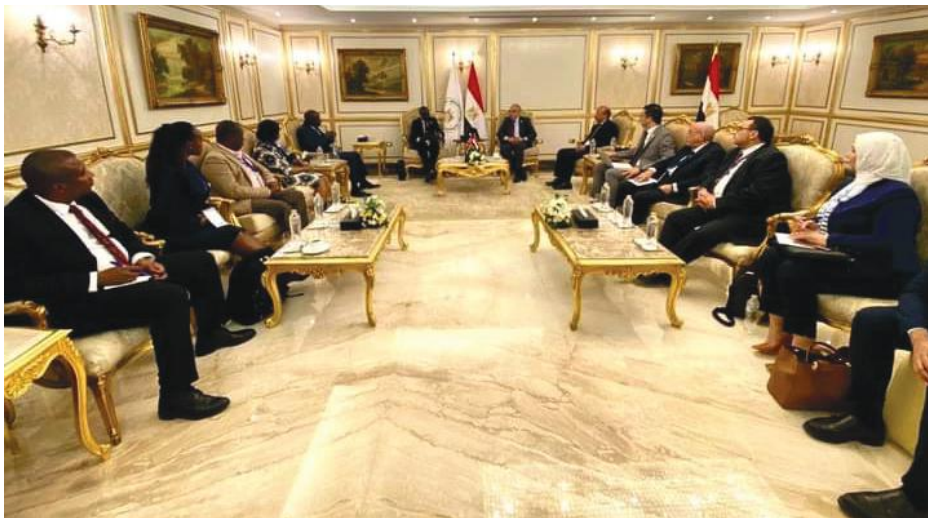
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Police officers at Rodi Police Station in Homabay Sub-County are hot on the heels of an elusive trafficker who slipped through their grasp, abandoning eight sacks of Cannabis Sativa. Acting on a tip-off from vigilant locals about a suspicious vehicle parked in a homestead, officers sprang into action. As they arrived, a black car bolted towards Homabay, while three men jumped over the fence, fleeing the scene. Upon search, officers uncovered eight hefty sacks of cannabis in one of the houses, alongside a motor vehicle plate, KDN 374Z. The seized narcotics were taken to Homabay Police Station for safe custody as exhibits, while the relentless hunt for the elusive traffickers continues. #FichuaKwaDCI. Call 0800 722 203 to report anonymously



The Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Mugaa met and held discussions with the Egyptian Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation Dr. Haney Atef Swailem on the sidelines of the 9th Africa Water Week in Cairo. Matters discussed include various areas of cooperation especially in water resources management through conservation and restoration of the catchment areas that form water sources that feed the Nile ecosystem. On his part, Dr. Swailem assured the Cabinet Secretary of Egypt's support in the restoration efforts and will be particularly partnering with Kenya in capacity building for water related professionals.

The government will disburse KSh 1.5 billion this week to settle claims owed to healthcare facilities, with an additional KSh 3 billion to be cleared next week, bringing the total to KSh 4.5 billion. Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Mr. Kimtai, confirmed that all claims owed by the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) will be fully paid, stating, "We are optimistic that we will settle all the claims." A committee will be established to oversee the payment process, ensuring transparency. Mr. Kimtai also noted that NHIF liabilities now fall under the Social Health Authority (SHA), which has implemented a fully digitised claims portal. As of Monday, over KSh100 million worth of claims had been recorded, with the system enabling real-time monitoring. The PS assured that all outstanding claims will be settled within 90 days. SHA is digitising health records and will distribute tablets to healthcare workers. "This will transform our healthcare system," said Kimtai. He highlighted the adoption of e-contracting for healthcare facilities, replacing the previous manual system, and urged facilities to establish customer service desks to help Kenyans register with SHA.



The Principal Secretary for Irrigation, yesterday Ephantus Kimotho, officiated the launch of ICPAK's 5-year Strategic Plan for 2025-2029, dubbed Spurring Change and Transformation for the Accountancy Profession. The PS delivered a keynote address, on behalf of CPA John Mbadi Ng'ongo, the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning, emphasizing on the critical partnership between ICPAK and the government, especially promoting transparency, accountability, and governance of the public sector with current limited fiscal space. He emphasized that ICPAK can play a critical role in promoting Public Private Partnership (PPPs), helping the government to continue tapping on private capital for national development and economic growth. The Principal Secretary noted that the ICPAK Strategic Plan was aligned with national priorities such as fiscal responsibility, economic growth, public finance management, policy formulation, and human resource development. Therefore, ICPAK's strategic goals, which focus on enhancing professional standards, capacity building, technology adoption, public accountability, and advocacy, will directly contribute to the national goals.



The National Public Health Institute (NPHI) is hosting a two-day stakeholder meeting in Nairobi, Nakuru County, to align its strategic goals with national health priorities. Acting Director General Dr. Kamene Kimenye highlighted that NPHI's establishment addresses fragmented public health functions across various sectors amid threats like Mpox and Marburg. Fatima Ravat from the CDC stressed the importance of NPHI as a central hub for public health activities, emphasizing the need for strong networks in surveillance, laboratories, and emergency response. She called on stakeholders to support NPHI's initiatives and reaffirmed CDC's commitment to collaborating with Kenya to tackle public health challenges. The strategic plan aims to address health disparities, promote health equity, enhance access to quality healthcare, and strengthen preparedness for infectious diseases and emerging pandemics.



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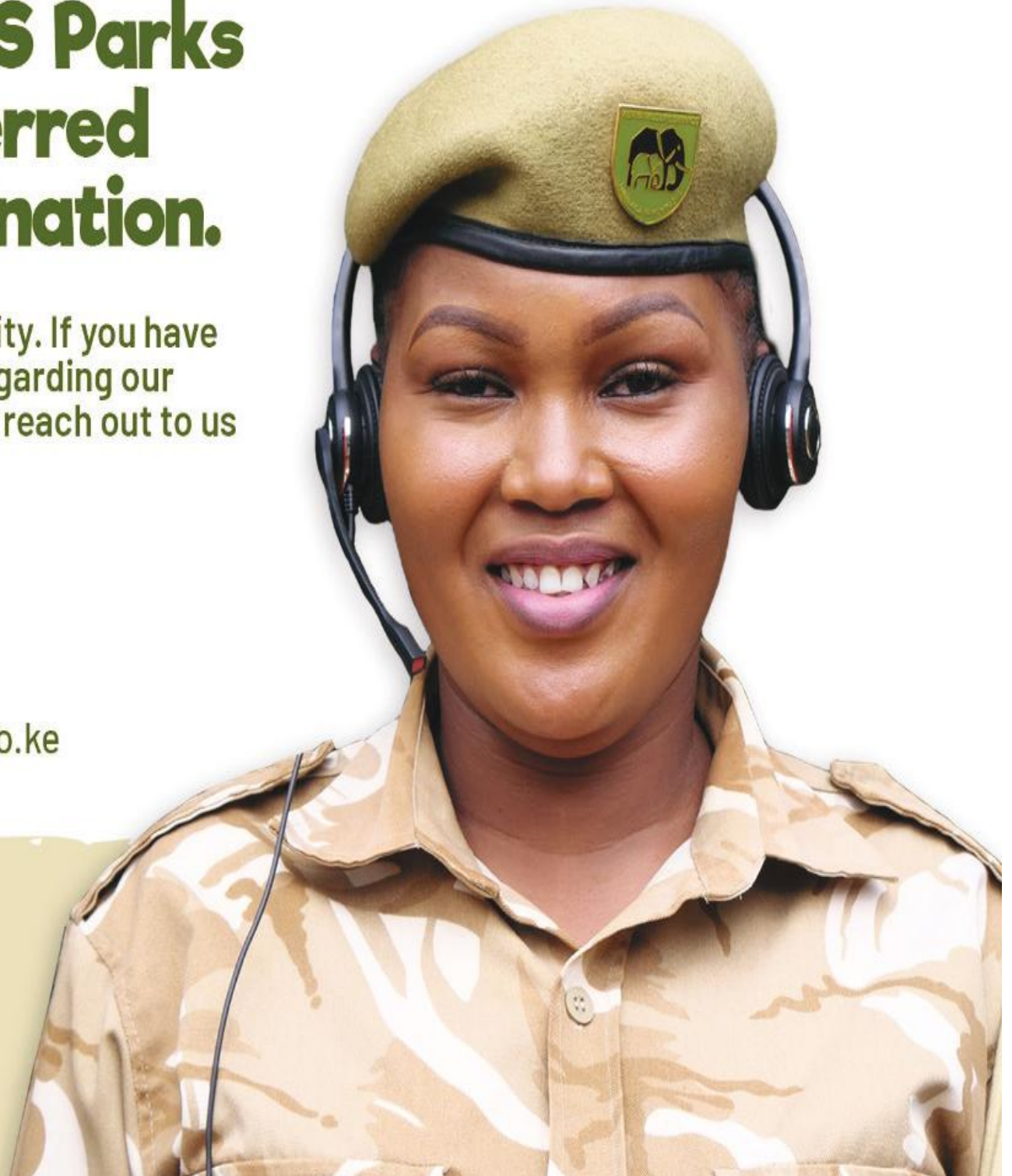
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Goat Rearing Boosts Income For Mwihoko Dairy Farmer

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The farm operates on a compact 40 by 60 plot, demonstrating that successful farming can be achieved even in limited spaces.
- The farm utilises smart techniques, focusing on high-quality feed and clean water to maintain the health and productivity of the goats.
- Prioritising what their goats require, starting from the quality fodder that their goats feed on instead of just feeding to fill their stomach, has enhanced production and minimised health risks.

Robert Macharia, a passionate dairy goat farmer with over 13 years of experience, has made a significant impact in the competitive dairy production industry in Githurai 45, Kiambu County.

His farm was recognised as the best in Kenya during the ASK Nairobi Show held in October 2023, highlighting the farm's excellence and contributions to the sector.

Macharia's journey into goat farming began with providing fresh milk for his family. Today, the farm is home to over 86 goats, with 33 actively milking, producing around 80 litres of milk daily.

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"The farm's primary customer base comprises individuals with specific health needs, including those suffering from arthritis, eczema, and lactose intolerance.

Around 70 per cent of customers are under medication, drawn to the numerous benefits of goat milk, and this has seen the demand increase significantly.

Macharia is dedicated to educating others about dairy farming and offers training sessions for a nominal fee of Ksh 2000 per person and provides consultancy services to those looking to establish their own operations.

He also collaborates with various uni-



Robert Macharia a passionate dairy goat farmer.

versities, such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Egerton University, and Eldoret University, to send their students to learn from the practices and innovations at the farm.

"When I started doing this, I was facing a lot of discrimination from other people. It was part of the biggest challenges I ever went through," he recounted.

However, his determination and passion for agriculture propelled him forward, allowing him to turn adversity into opportunity.

He adds that many people still associate agriculture primarily with cows and chickens, creating a gap in the market for goat products and advocating for more farmers to consider dairy



goats as a viable option.

Looking to the future, Macharia aims to expand his herd to between 500 and 1000 goats over the next five years, exploring opportunities for value-added products like cheese and pasteur-

ization. "Education is key," his advice to anyone interested in entering the industry. "Do your research, understand the breeds, and learn from experienced farmers."

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Thousands Of Tharaka Nithi Farmers Get Free Certified Seeds From County Government

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themkenyetimes

Thousands of farmers in Tharaka Nithi County have benefited with free certified seeds from the county government.

Speaking yesterday during issuance of the seeds in Maara constituencies G

governor Muthomi Njuki said the programme has greatly managed to curb food insecurity in the region.

When he took over the county’s top leadership in 2017, crop production was very low resulting in the residents begging for relief food from the government and other well-wishers.

The county boss said he realized that one of the main reasons why crop farmers especially in the lower parts of the county experienced crop failure was planting of wrong seeds which either gave very little or no harvest.

“The farmers planted seeds from



Governor Muthomi Njuki addressing farmers.

their stores which they had harvested in the previous seasons or even bought from the market without caring about the variety or even the fertility leading to poor or even no harvest,” said Njuki.

He said the challenges occasioned the start of the programme that also involves agricultural officers going

around the villages to ensure that all the other necessary measures are taken for a bumper harvest.

Because the free seeds cannot reach all farmers across the county, the rest are encouraged to buy the same variety distributed by the county government according to the zones.

“I encourage you to use the subsidi-



Tharaka-Nithi County governor Muthomi Njuki handing over seeds to one of the farmers.

dized fertilizer which my government has brought closer to the farmers to avoid inconveniences and spending on transportation,” he said.

County Executive in charge of Agriculture Njue Njagi also appealed to farmers to form cooperatives so that they can benefit from government support.

He noted that it is not possible for the government to support individual farmers and the unity also helps in seeking a better market for their agricultural produce.

Coffee Nets Sh372 Million During This Week’s NCE Auction

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Coffee farmers have earned Sh. 372 million after selling 9,030 bags equivalent to 562,266 kilos of cherries during this week’s auction at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE).

During the Tuesday auction that attracted 10 brokers, a bag of 50 kilos of cherry was sold at an average of Sh31,247.

Mbee Factory, allied to Mitaboni Cooperative Society in Machakos County, got the best price after selling 56 bags of coffee equivalent to 3,391 kilos of grade AA at Sh40,824 per bag.

Kaukiswa Factory under Kambusu Cooperative Society got the second-best price of Sh40,506 for a bag of their AA grade.

Gachuiro and Kapsaos Toremo factories, which traded their coffee through Alliance Berries Limited, achieved the third highest price of Sh38,892 for their 197 bags of AA grade.

Grades AA and AB of coffee presented for auction accounted for

5,170 bags, representing 57 per cent of the total volume traded.

Ten brokers that participated in this sale include New KPCU, Alliance Berries, Kirinyaga Slopes, Meru Union, KCCEMA, Kiambu Coffee, United Eastern Kenya Coffee, Minnesota CEBBA, Baringo Kawa, and Kipkelion.

In the category of brokers, New KPCU traded the highest volume of 2,105 bags equivalent to 131,906 kilos at Sh. 87.35 million.

Alliance Berries Ltd. came in second after selling 1,992 bags of cherry at Sh. 82.308 million, while Kipkelion Broker Company Ltd. sold 1,320 bags of cherry at Sh. 55.44 million.

Baringo Kawa sold 34 bags for Sh13, 67,625; Coffee Estates Bourgeoisie Brokers Limited sold 261 bags for Sh10, 467,346, KCCE 993 bags for Sh39, 988,910, among others.

Fourteen buyers participated in the auction, where Ibero Kenya Ltd. bought the highest volume of 2,702 bags equivalent to 168,585 kilos at Sh. 107.2 million.

Luis Dreyfus Company bought 1,677 bags of cherry at Sh. 63.5 million, and C. Dorman Ltd. purchased 1,225 bags at Sh55.34 million.

NCE Chief Executive Officer Lisper



Coffee farmers

Ndungu said buyers are interested in the quality of coffee presented in the auction.

She called upon leaders of 619 cooperative societies which present their coffee in the auction to consider producing cherries of premier quality.

“Both the local and international buyers are much after the best qual-

ity of coffee presented in the auction, thus the need for the leaders of various cooperative societies to encourage their farmers to engage in recommended coffee farming practices,” she said.

Speaking to the media, Kenya Coffee Producers Association (KCPA) Chairman Peter Gikonyo said the

farmers are interested in achieving the best prices in the market.

“Our aim is to ensure farmers earn better returns from their produce, and as an association, we have been holding meetings with the farmers across the counties encouraging them on the production of better quality,” said Mr. Gikonyo.

‘Hostile Witness’: DP Gachagua’s Lawyers Tear Into MP Mutuse Impeachment Claims

By: Joseph Muia



Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse before Senate on October 16, 2024. PHOTO|COURTESY



Worth Noting:

- Mutuse was also under pressure to provide evidence that Gachagua used proxies to participate in a Ksh.3.7 billion mosquito net tender, which was allegedly marred by corruption.
- The impeachment motion accuses Gachagua of pressuring KEMSA officials to award the tender to Crystal Ltd, a company that allegedly submitted a fake bid bond with the intent to fraudulently secure the contract.
- Another contentious claim involved Gachagua’s controversial statement comparing the country to a company with shareholders. Ongoya cornered Mutuse by asking him to read clauses from the Kenya Kwanza coalition agreement, which explicitly outlines the shares awarded to constituent parties within President Ruto’s administration.

A dramatic showdown unfolded in the Senate yesterday evening during the impeachment trial of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. After a day of submissions from various parties, tensions escalated when DP Gachagua’s legal team took the floor to cross-examine Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse, the mover of the impeachment motion. Advocate Elisha Ongoya challenged Mutuse to substantiate the claims in his motion, alleging that the DP had amassed a Ksh.5.2 billion fortune since taking office as the country’s second-in-command. Ongoya expressed disbelief at the figure, listed as one of the 11 grounds for Gachagua’s impeachment, and pressed Mutuse for clarifications. He demanded that the MP, who is also a lawyer, explain how he and his team arrived at the Ksh.5.2 billion valuation. Mutuse stumbled over his words and, despite multiple attempts to evade the question, eventually admitted that the figure was derived by estimating current land values and adding the worth of properties linked to Gachagua. At one point, Gachagua’s legal team labeled Mutuse a “hostile witness” and questioned whether he was a property valuer or merely a lawyer. Adv. Ongoya: “Who gave you this value of Ksh.5.2 billion?” MP Mutuse: “We said it is estimat-

ed at Ksh.5.3 billion.” Adv. Ongoya: “Who gave you that estimated value of Ksh.5.2 billion?” MP Mutuse: “We have made the additions. It is a matter of additions.” Adv. Ongoya: “So you are saying that when we take you through these properties, we will get a value of about Ksh.5.2 billion?” MP Mutuse: “Approximately, yes.” Adv. Ongoya: “You said you made the additions, and those additions resulted in a definite figure, Mr. Mutuse. Are you saying that adding the values will give us Ksh.5.2 billion?” MP Mutuse: “There is the stated value in the sale agreements and acquisition documents... I will also tell you what, in my view, the properties are worth.” Adv. Ongoya: “What in your view are the values of some of the properties? Have you now graduated from lawyer to valuer?” Adv. Ongoya: “Using what expertise did you assign those values?” MP Mutuse: “Market value. I know you know that in Kitale, an acre goes for Ksh.4 million, and in Kilifi, it goes for Ksh.2 million. That’s the reasonable man’s test.” Mutuse also struggled to support his claim that Gachagua owned the Vipingo Beach Resort, a prime property central to the impeachment case. The advocate pointed out that according to documents submitted by Mutuse, Vipingo Beach Resort is owned by the estate of Gachagua’s

late brother, Nderitu Gachagua. Adv. Ongoya: “It may be getting hotter, but look at the document, compose yourself, and read. What is the total number of shares in Vipingo Beach Company?” MP Mutuse: “10,000.” Adv. Ongoya: “Who is indicated as the owner of all those 10,000 shares?” MP Mutuse: “The late James Nderitu Gachagua.” Adv. Ongoya: “When the DP says this company is wholly owned by his late brother, is he speaking the truth or not?” MP Mutuse: “Yes.” Mutuse was also under pressure to provide evidence that Gachagua used proxies to participate in a Ksh.3.7 billion mosquito net tender, which was allegedly marred by corruption. The impeachment motion accuses Gachagua of pressuring KEMSA officials to award the tender to Crystal Ltd, a company that allegedly submitted a fake bid bond with the intent to fraudulently secure the contract. Another contentious claim involved Gachagua’s controversial statement comparing the country to a company with shareholders. Ongoya cornered Mutuse by asking him to read clauses from the Kenya Kwanza coalition agreement, which explicitly outlines the shares awarded to constituent parties within President Ruto’s administration.

Among the grounds for impeachment is the allegation that Gachagua rapidly accumulated Ksh.5.2 billion in wealth within two years—an amount Mutuse argued was impossible for a public servant to legally amass in that timeframe. The listed properties include Outspan Hotel in the Aberdares, acquired in September 2023 for Ksh.535 million, one year after Gachagua assumed office. Other properties cited are Olive Gardens Hotel and Queens Gate Serviced Apartments in Nairobi, Vipingo Beach Resort in Kilifi, and Treetops Hotel in Nyeri. Mutuse also accused Gachagua of purchasing 40 acres of land in Kamuraini, Nyeri, where he allegedly built a helicopter landing facility, as well as 80 acres in Meru and a dairy farm in Nyandarua. Additionally, the motion claims Gachagua bought land in Embakasi, Nairobi, through proxy companies. The DP is further accused of diverting a contractor working on the Kilifi-Malindi road to instead tarmac a private road leading to Vipingo Beach Resort. Mutuse contends that taxpayers lost millions of shillings through extravagant renovations of the DP’s official residences in Karen and Mombasa, with the expenses running into millions. He also alleges that Ksh.100 million was spent on a red carpet for the DP’s functions and other events.

Kericho Pupil Wins Prestigious First Lady’s Mazingira Award

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Joy Jerop Kibichii, a grade 4 pupil from Kericho Academy, has been awarded the First Lady’s Mazingira Award (FLAMA) for her outstanding spoken word performance in the spoken word category.

The 10-year-old, who was also a champion of conservation, addressed the importance of planting more trees to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and addressed issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, and environmental pollution.

She was honoured by the First Lady Mama Rachael Ruto at the FLAMA Awards ceremony in State House Nairobi.

Jerop was gifted a laptop, a medal, and a certificate, along with three other pupils from the school. According to Kericho Academy Managing Director Julia Njambi, three other pupils from the school also participated in other categories, such as Amanda Chepngo (Essay competition) and

Spencer Muia (Painting and Drawing).

Ms. Njambi disclosed that this was the second time Kericho Academy was participating in the FLAMA awards, noting that in 2023 they also emerged as number one after Jayden Wakaru delivered an outstanding piece that won the award.

“We are happy that we have won twice in FLAMA Awards against the hundreds of schools that participated countrywide. This is a significant milestone that reflects our passion as a school for environmental conservation,” added Ms. Njambi.

The school has taken proactive strategies to assist students in discovering, nurturing, and enhancing various talents and skills, such as indoor games, music, and dance.

Kericho Academy is also running tree planting initiatives in response to the government’s call to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 to increase tree cover and mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

The school has planted hundreds of trees both inside and outside the school and plans to plant more trees



First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto with the winning girl and Environmental Cabinet Secretary Adan Duale.

in the coming year.

The FLAMA is an annual environment and climate change award aimed at empowering learners in public and private primary and junior schools across Kenya. It is conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, the Ministry of Education, the National Treasury, and other stakeholders.

This year’s program saw over 400 pupils, 100 teachers, and 200 guests participate under the theme “Restore Our Land, Secure Our Future.”



Does Gachagua Stands A Chance Of Surviving?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- When I started hearing that plans were underway to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, two questions came to mind. Did the MPs who have initiated the process stood a chance of marshalling enough numbers in parliament? Did the grounds of impeachment met the requisite threshold?
- After analysing and perusing the grounds listed for his removal, I realized that the MPs were leaving nothing to chance.
- The motion of impeachment was also enjoying the support of MPs from his stronghold of Mount Kenya including those from his home county of Nyeri. This was another clear indication that his chances of survival were nil.

The Senate is currently prosecuting the motion of impeachment against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in line with constitutional mandate bestowed on this house.

This comes just a few days after members of parliament dispensed off with this matter.

282 members voted to impeach the DP while 44 voted in his favor and one abstained.

This also comes in the wake of Gachagua losing court battles. The DP and his supporters had a filed a total of 26 petitions seeking to stop the impeachment motion against him.

The judges however declined to rule in favor of his prayers.

Notably, one of the key roles of bicameral parliament is oversight of the state officers in terms of how they were performing their constitutional mandates.

The Deputy President (DP) is a principal assistant to the President. The holder of this office was therefore required to perform duties assigned to him by the President.

In light of this, the motion touching on impeachment of Deputy President falls in this category.

When I started hearing that plans were underway to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, two questions came to mind. Did the MPs who have initiated the process stood a chance of marshalling enough numbers in parliament? Did the grounds of impeachment met the requisite threshold?

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The motion of impeachment was also enjoying the support of MPs from his stronghold of Mount Kenya including those from his home county of Nyeri. This was another clear indication that his chances of survival were nil.

Some of the grounds cited were; gross violation of the constitution and other laws of the land, abuse of office, gross misconduct and violation of international laws.

After concluding the impeachment trial, the Senators will vote and the opinion of Kenyans is divided on whether they should endorse the resolution of the National Assembly. It is however worth noting the tabulations released showed that majority of Kenyans supported the impeachment of DP during the public participation. The results were based on those who had signed the form containing the grounds of motion.

The judges have already pronounced themselves on this matter. So, many believe Gachagua stood no chance of winning the case if he opts to return back to court to challenge the verdicts of the two houses were nil. They include his supporters and some are now advising him to resign

Articles 145 and 150 of constitution stipulates the process of removing the DP from office.

The National Assembly had followed



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

these provisions to the letter and spirit and many Kenyans are waiting a concurrence of the senate.

I have been listening to the remarks attributed to Gachagua's supporters.

They were yet to drop this warped mentality that President William Ruto was behind his woes.

As we know, the President has never commented about this matter touching on impeachment of DP.

He always steered clear even when pressed to make a comment on the matter.

The President once told a journalist during a live TV interview. Gachagua is still my deputy. If you think we are not

reading the same script, please look for him and ask him to respond.

Constitutionally speaking, the President has no power to interfere, influence or coerce members of parliament to vote in certain way or how to their job.

The President is not a member and hence he has no vote.

Parliament is an independent organ just like the executive which is headed by the President.

Yes, the law allows the President as the leader of ruling party/coalition to chair a meeting of the party parliamentary group. This is ahead of critical debates and this would give the MPs a free hand to build a consensus/common position.

The President is however not compelled to chair these meetings.

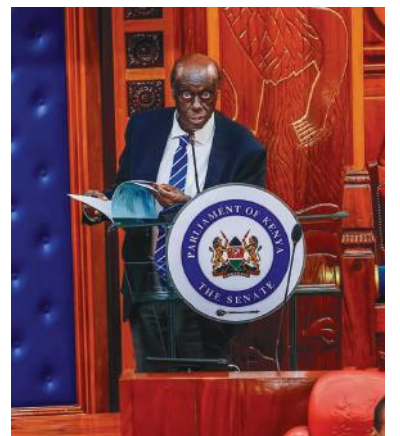
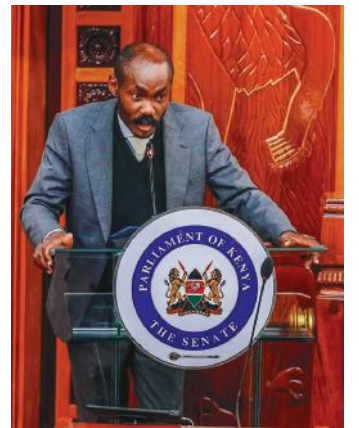
He can delegate someone else to do that.

In respect to Gachagua's motion of impeachment, he never chaired the PG meeting.

This is because the MPs brought this matter at a time when he was having a busy/tight schedule.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Gachagua's Impeachment Session In Photos



Kiambu County Unveils 109 New EDCE Centres

By: KNA

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Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has launched 109 newly constructed Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres during a function at the Githiga ECDE centre, Githiga Ward, Githunguri Sub-County.

The new facilities are part of an ongoing effort by the county government to modernise all 524 public ECDE centres.

Speaking in Githunguri, Wamatangi observed the impact of the county’s ongoing ECDE initiative, noting that the number of children in school has surged from 2,000 to 8,000.

He announced that from January 2025, parents of ECDE pupils would no longer need to buy exercise books and school uniforms for their children, as the county government would provide them.

Wamatangi further announced that an additional 138 ECDE projects were underway and would be completed in the next two months.

“We are committed to ensuring that every child in Kiambu has access to quality early education. An additional 138 ECDE projects are currently underway, and I am pleased to announce that they will be completed in the next two months,” said Wamatangi.

Chief Officer for ECDE and Culture Dr. Mercy Njagi revealed that 61 pupils have already enrolled for January 2025 at the newly launched Githiga Centre.

She noted that the 61 pupils would also receive free school shoes courtesy of a partnership with BATA Shoes Company, Kenya.

Dr. Njagi further announced that the county government has promised to recruit 250 ECDE teachers in January to cater for the increasing enrolment in the county’s schools.

“To meet the growing demand for quality early childhood education, we will be recruiting 250 ECDE teachers



Governor Kimani Wamatangi and other stakeholders during the Unveiling ceremony

.....

by January. This move will ensure that our schools are well-staffed, providing the support needed to nurture our young learners across Kiambu County,” Njagi said.

Adoption Of Climate-Smart Seeds Key To Boosting Food Security

By: MKT Reporter

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

.....

The government and stakeholders in the agriculture sector are advocating for the production and adoption of climate-smart seed varieties that are drought-resistant to adapt to climate change and enhance food security.

The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Director of Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection, Simon Maina, reported that in 2024, 37% of newly released seed varieties were climate-smart, indicating the growing demand for resilience in farming.

Maina explained that the country currently produces around 50,000 metric tonnes of certified seed annually, with over 200 registered seed companies, about 70 of which actively deal in crops like cereals, pulses, and horticultural products.

Over the past decade, Kenyan breeders have developed drought-tolerant varieties of crops like maize, sweet potatoes, cassava, and sorghum,

along with maize varieties resistant to Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) and Fall Armyworm (FAW).

Maina said that KEPHIS is currently reviewing the National Seed Policy (2010), which promotes the availability of high-quality seeds through both public and private sector involvement.

“The Seed Trade Association of Kenya (STAK) and the Plant Breeders Association of Kenya (PBAK) represent seed merchants and breeders, respectively, and are key members of committees that shape seed-related policies,” explained Maina.

The Centre for Resilient Agriculture for Africa Director Dr. Stephen Mugo highlighted that Kenya has made significant progress in the seed sector, but misinformation about seeds continues to hinder the acceptance of improved, climate-smart crops.

“It is crucial for stakeholders to collaborate and invest in addressing these misconceptions to ensure the country’s agricultural growth and food security,” said Dr. Mugo.



We See You



You, check it,
 We see you—y'all up there in the suits,
 Flexin' like you runnin' things, but you ain't got
 the roots.
 Manz out here hustlin', trying to stay afloat,
 While you're busy fatterning pockets, building
 that moat.

Aii, basi, what's the plan?
 You promised us change, but you're ghost like a
 deadbeat man.
 Wamesema tuko free, but where's the receipt?
 'Cause the system feels heavy—yeah, we can't
 eat.

Eh, vibe check—fopped it,
 You thought we'd stay silent, but we clocked it.
 Tunakuona, bro, out here acting woke,
 Meanwhile, it's our dreams, our futures you
 broke.

Kelele mingi, no results—
 You shout unity, but it's just for clout.
 Tunaitwa "vijana wa kesho"—nah, we want
 today,

Si we've waited for long, bado mnachill with our
 pay?

Mi, siwezi lie, tumekuwa maskini,
 Na Gen Z tumeamka, hatuko bini.
 Twitter fingers, streets alive,
 Mafisi mna-run out of time to survive.

Mazee, your plot? Boring,
 Y'all sipping tea while the country's burning.
 Mboka ni gani? Zero accountability,
 Useless vibes, hakuna responsibility.

Si mlikuwa mkisema, "mambo ni poa"?
 But kila kitu ni sasa tu ni showa.
 Tupe results, story za shida ziishe,
 Ama utaiana kwa ballot, maisha ni ngori—
 zimechemka, zimeshika moto!

Sisi ndio story, sisi ndio nguvu,
 Hata mkijificha kwa palace, hatuko nyuma.
 Tunadai justice, tunadai peace,
 We are the ones who won't just cease.

Sa, juu ya hiyo, endelea kucheza hizo games,
 But trust—when we pull up, we'll be calling
 names.

This is Kenya, our home, our pride,
 Lakini sasa tunajenga, sio hii jaba you tried to
 hide.

Mnasema mko juu, but it's our time to rise—
 Wacha tu show you how we gon' break these
 lies.

(Evans Asikoya, the poet)

Teacher – The Beacon Illuminating The Path Of Life



"It is better to study for one day with a great teacher than to study for a thousand days with persistence." (Japanese proverb)
 By: Matkurbonova Yulduz

The word "teacher" alone encompasses a world of meaning and respect. Teachers are tireless individuals who dedicate all their knowledge, intellect, and heart to their students.

The role of a teacher in acquiring knowledge is incomparable. Every person—whether a student, pupil, or apprentice—must view their teacher as the one who provides the greatest benefit. A person's spirituality and education are nurtured by the teacher, their mentor. If this understanding does not awaken in the student's consciousness, they will undoubtedly fail to receive the full blessings and enlightenment from their teacher.

A teacher must be highly knowledgeable, experienced, broad-minded, a master in their field, and possess integrity, sincerity, and good character. Not only do we learn skills and knowledge from teachers, but we also learn from their behavior, words, and actions. There is a famous story: Abu Hanifa (may Allah bless him) carefully chose a teacher and became a disciple of Hammam ibn Abu Sulayman. Hammam was extremely knowledgeable, wise, dignified, and patient. A student headed to Bukhara for studies sought advice from a scholar. The scholar advised him not to rush into learning under just anyone upon arrival, saying: "Do not hastily become a disciple of someone. If you later find them unsuitable, you will have to leave them, which will result in you falling behind in knowledge and wasting time. Be patient, think carefully, consult scholars, and then choose a teacher." An experienced teacher knows well which knowledge is essential for their student. When Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari approached the jurist Muhammad ibn Hasan (may Allah bless him) to study, the latter said, "Your knowledge is suited for the science of hadith" and sent him to hadith scholars. As a result, Imam Bukhari became the "Imam of Hadith Science."

There is a saying among our people: "A teacher is as revered as your father." This isn't said without reason. In life, no matter what position or role a person holds or where they receive their education, someone plays the role of their teacher. Eventually, you too

may become a teacher to someone. But sometimes, as time passes, the teachers who taught and educated us are forgotten. Yet, teachers never forget their students. Like your parents, as you rise in life, they silently rejoice for you and celebrate your successes. A teacher may not be a renowned scholar or the top expert in their field, but they are caring, compassionate, and dedicated to their students. Sometimes, a teacher will work so hard for the literacy, discipline, potential, and success of their students that even some parents may not be able to match such dedication. When Imam Abu Hanifa (may Allah have mercy on him) learned that his student Abu Yusuf had fallen gravely ill and was not expected to recover, he became deeply saddened and wept. Every teacher dreams that the seed they planted and nurtured will grow, flourish, and benefit others. Imam Abu Hanifa not only imparted knowledge and wisdom to his students but also showed love and compassion. It was this care and dedication that led Abu Yusuf to become a great scholar and eventually the chief judge of his time.

From a teacher, a student gains not only knowledge but also spiritual qualities, which later become evident in the student's work. This is why students should always think well of their teachers, show respect and appreciation, and honor them. Only then will the doors to enlightenment and wisdom open for them.

Nowadays, in educational institutions such as schools, lyceums, and universities, it is common to see a lack of sufficient respect and reverence shown by students to their teachers. This is truly regrettable. How can one show disrespect or neglect to a teacher who is sharing all their knowledge and passion? After all, as the saying goes, "A teacher is as revered as your father." Parents also share some responsibility for this situation. Children are not being taught enough about respecting and valuing their teachers. If this continues, it will be difficult for our land, which has produced great scholars and thinkers, to produce such remarkable individuals again.

My devoted, hardworking, meticulous, and beloved homeroom teacher, Nilufar Yakubova, has helped me grow and taught me to view life from a different perspective.

Where would faith be without a teacher?
 Where would wisdom be without a teacher?
 Where would Amir Temur, where would Navoi,
 Where would Cho'lpon be without a teacher?

In conclusion, we can say that we must always regard teachers as the beacon that illuminates our life's path, and we must instill this respect in the hearts of the youth.

Matkurbonova Yulduz
 Khorezm region, Urganch district
 3rd-year student of the Faculty of Philology and History, Uzbek Language and Literature department, Urganch State Pedagogical Institute.

Youth Of Uzbekistan



Youth of Uzbekistan!
 Heaven is in Boston,
 let's hold hands.
 It's almost in Gulistan,
 let's build the future.
 * * *

Youth of Uzbekistan!
 On the road to maturity,
 let's be like stars.
 Ancestral trace,
 let's be companions.
 * * *

Youth of Uzbekistan!

I mean in the heights,
 shine forever.
 Navoi, Babur,
 Slaves of Yassavis.
 * * *

Youth of Uzbekistan!
 The third renaissance
 let's build a foundation.
 In the five supreme initiatives,
 let's try it.

Diyorbek Ergashov was born on May 19, 2002 in a middle-class family in TINCHLIK village, NUROBAD district, SAMARKAND region. Writer, poet, artist, singer and future historian

Diyorbek Ergashov is a student of TASHKENT STATE UNIVERSITY OF ORIENTAL STUDY.

His creative works have been published in many newspapers, magazines and anthologies... as well as in the USA and Germany...

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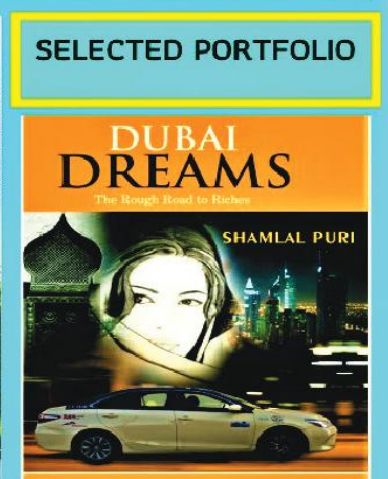
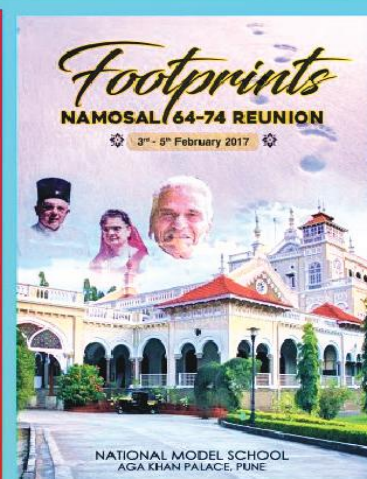
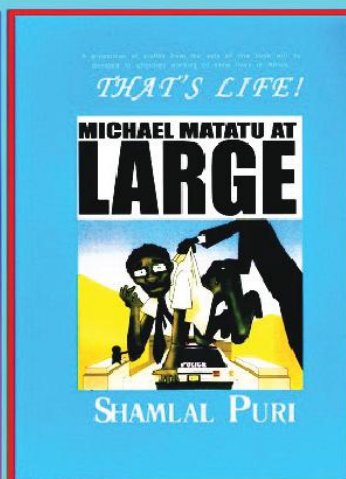
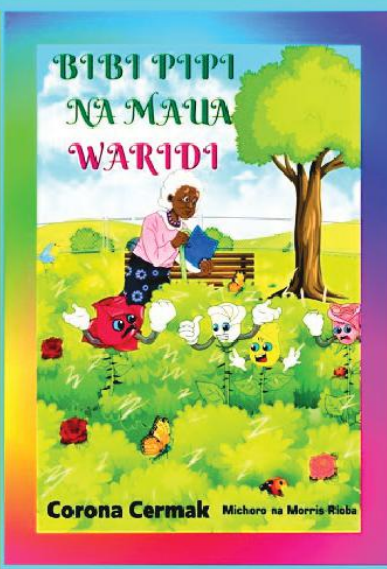
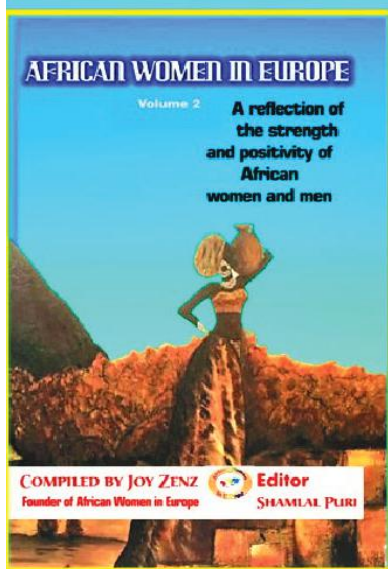
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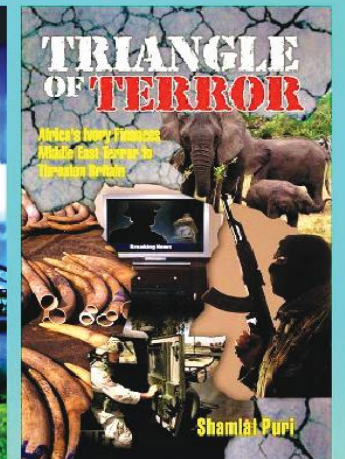
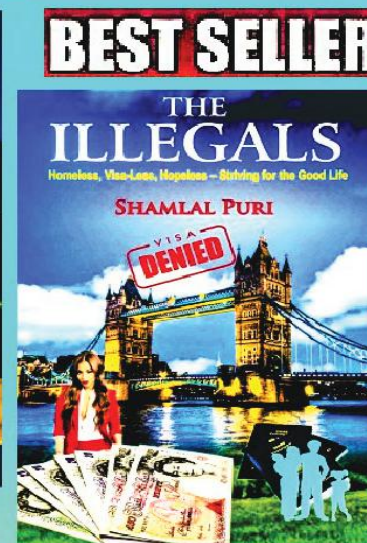
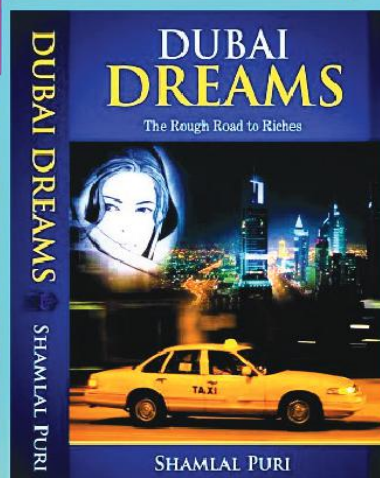
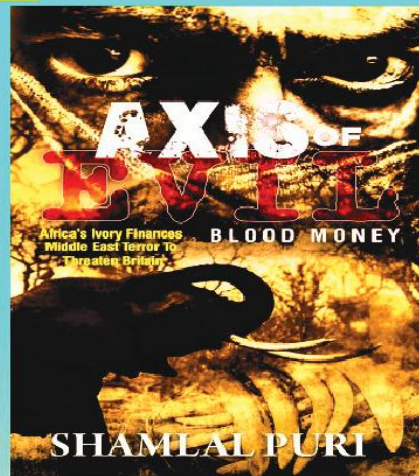
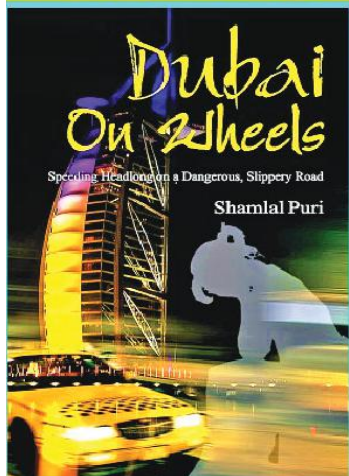
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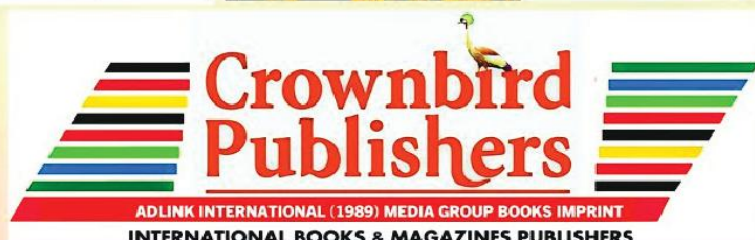
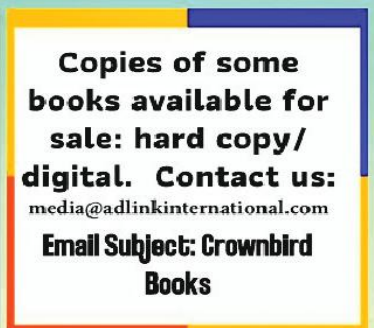
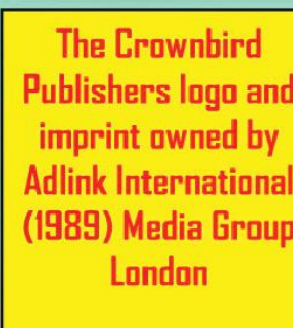
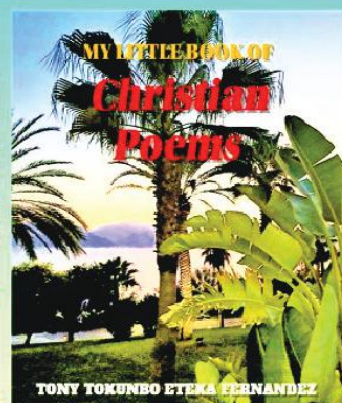
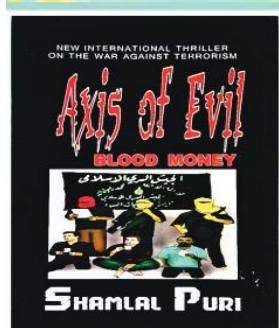
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HEALTH

Navigating Cerebral Palsy: Caregivers Share Experiences

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Simon Mwangi, an Occupation Therapist at the Metropolitan Sanctuary (a rehabilitation centre in Kamakwa in the outskirts of Nyeri town that provides free therapy for children with different forms of disability), says that through consistent therapy, CP patients can improve their physical and motor skills.
- “The long-term goal is for the child to be able to do something with their hands because we believe everybody is an occupation person. In occupational therapy, the child is helped to achieve the milestones through activities that exercise their muscles,” says Mwangi.
- For Wangeci, watching her secondborn sit without support is a huge accomplishment. It is one of the many milestones that she is happy about since she started taking her child for therapy sessions to help manage his deliberating condition.

Five-year-old Felix Nderitu sits patiently on a small blue plastic chair. He marvels at the camera hanging across my neck. Whenever our eyes lock, he breaks into an innocent, friendly smile.

“He used to be very shy and uncomfortable around strangers, but consistent therapy has driven out that fear. He is no longer afraid of being in the midst of unfamiliar faces or crowds,” says Felix’s mother, Magdalene Wangeci.

Felix suffers from Cerebral Palsy (CP), a condition caused by damage to or disruptions in the development of brain areas responsible for muscle control.

The condition can happen before, during, shortly after birth, or in the first few years of a child’s life, when the brain is still developing. When it strikes, it affects movement and posture.

The Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation estimates that about 18 million people in the world have some form of cerebral palsy.

A recent population-based study by the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the prevalence estimates that 1 to nearly 4 per 1,000 children in the world have CP. The CDC notes that CP is the most common motor disability in childhood. Locally, it is estimated that about 150,000 people are living with the condition.

With no known cure for the condition, physicians recommend a combination of therapy and medication to improve the overall wellbeing of the patient.

Simon Mwangi, an Occupation Therapist at the Metropolitan Sanctuary (a rehabilitation centre in Kamakwa in the outskirts of Nyeri town that provides free therapy for children with different forms of disability), says that through consistent therapy, CP patients can improve their physical and motor skills.

“The long-term goal is for the child to be able to do something with their hands because we believe everybody is an occupation person. In occupational therapy, the child is helped to achieve the milestones through activities that exercise their muscles,” says Mwangi.

For Wangeci, watching her secondborn sit without support is a huge accomplishment. It is one of the many milestones that she is happy about since she started taking her child for



therapy sessions to help manage his deliberating condition.

“Before the therapy, you would put Felix on the chair, and he would flop to the side or kneel forward. But now he sits by himself and without support. He is also crawling. It is not a smooth crawl, but it is still remarkable. His first crawl was from the table room to the kitchen,” says Wangeci.

Felix was born normal, but a bout of jaundice struck him two weeks after birth. He was admitted to two hospitals in Nyeri, where a series of medical tests showed that he had high bilirubin levels in his blood. Bilirubin is a yellowish pigment that is made during the breakdown of red blood cells. If left unchecked, can cause CP.

Wangeci says that her son was eventually discharged, but during one of the immunisation clinics, a nurse diagnosed him with some delayed milestones.

What Wangeci would later find out during a visit to a paediatrician was that the jaundice had caused some damage to the brain, disrupting his ability to control his muscles.

The news that Felix had CP momentarily dashed all the dreams she had for her child and took a toll on her mental health.

“I had been advised to start him on therapy immediately. However, due to the weight of the new reality of Felix’s condition, I sunk into depression. I wasn’t certain about my son’s future. What made it worse was that I had been asked to take him for therapy in the same facility where he

was first admitted with jaundice,” she narrated.

The mother of three says that it took the support of her family for her to pull herself together and start seeking help for herself and her son. Her family also secured sponsorship to support her psychiatric care and occupational therapy for Felix.

“I realised that parents whose children have CP are weak psychologically. You have to heal first before you can start helping your child. Once you heal, you also accept your child’s condition, and that is when you can start the journey towards the child’s healing,” she says.

When we met with Wangeci and Felix, they had just had a therapy session. She has been attending the session for the last two and a-half years. In addition to rehabilitating her child, the sanctuary has also restored hope to Wangeci that Felix may live a full life.

“Cerebral palsy is not healed completely, but therapy helps the child achieve certain milestones; they also gain something during the sessions,” she says.

It is not just Wangeci who harbours big ambitions for her son; Margaret Wambui is optimistic that her five-year-old granddaughter, Melissa Wanjiru, will eventually catch up with her twin sister. She has been bringing her granddaughter for therapy for seven months, and in her estimation, Melissa is slowly regaining some of the motor functions she lost.

“Melissa can sit with support. She is also attempting to stand on her own,

and when you put her to sleep, she can now change her sleeping position. Her dysarthria (the slow and slurred speech) is not as bad as it was, and I am optimistic she will eventually utter her first words,” remarks Wambui.

Melissa had enjoyed a normal life until 2019, when she contracted Meningitis at the age of one, and after being hospitalised for two months, her life took a detour for the worst. The infection dealt a blow to the development of her speech and eroded the little progress that she had made with her motor skills.

“After she was discharged, she had lost her head control; she could not sit up or stand without support,” narrates Wambui.

Wambui forms the increasing number of grandparents who have stepped in as caregivers for their ailing grandchildren. She says that she took in her granddaughter due to the financial strain and the mental anguish that Melissa’s condition had left her children in.

“Her parents are not well off; that is why I took up the responsibility of caring for Melissa. They also have too much on their in-tray. In addition to taking care of her two siblings, her mother is still in school,” she says.

While Melissa is lucky to have her parents check in on her every now and then, Princess Sophia Wairimu is not that lucky. At the tender age of six

Contd page 17

HEALTH

Navigating Cerebral Palsy: Caregivers Share Experiences

Contd from page 16

Worth Noting:

- “I realised that parents whose children have CP are weak psychologically. You have to heal first before you can start helping your child. Once you heal, you also accept your child’s condition, and that is when you can start the journey towards the child’s healing,” she says.
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- “Cerebral palsy is not healed completely, but therapy helps the child achieve certain milestones; they also gain something during the sessions,” she says.

months, her mother upped and left her under the care of her grandparents. Last year, her father passed away due to diabetes complications, leaving her a partial orphan.

Princess suffers from Congenital CP, a severe form of the condition that makes her fully dependent on her caregivers for everything. Her grandmother, Esther Wairimu, says that Princess’s condition had become a cause of conflict between her son and her daughter-in-law forcing her to intervene.

“I do not judge her. Giving birth to a child with the kind of complications Princess had is not easy, so when she learnt that her child had severe CP, she left,” she tells us.

Her birth was also difficult. She came to the world through assisted delivery, a procedure also known as vacuum extraction. When the medics noticed that she had CP, they immediately transferred her newborn to a nursery. For seven months, Wairimu says, they hoped and prayed that her condition would be reversed.

Today, six years down the line, Princess is fully dependent on her caregivers. Even though her grandmother has already resigned to the fact that Princess will never become independent, she remains committed to ensuring that her granddaughter doesn’t miss any of her therapy sessions.

“Due to the severity of her condition, Princess is not aware of her surroundings or us, her caregivers. All the same, I am determined to give her whatever she needs,” says Wairimu.

Even though the severity of the three children’s CP varies, these three women are confronted by a set of similar challenges. The lack of an emotional support system for parents whose children have CP tops their list of difficulties that they have to contend with.

Wairimu laments that since society still discriminates against mothers whose children are living with the disability, for many of them, therapy centres offer them a safe haven where they debrief and encourage each other.

“It is really difficult for us as mothers because you feel stigmatised because of your child. We are the outcasts in the community, and that is why we isolate ourselves. When I first came for therapy, I was able to interact with other mothers, and after seeing their children, I felt encouraged to continue with the journey,”



Wairimu tells us.

In addition to the lack of psychosocial support, CP caregivers are also confounded by a myriad of economic challenges. First, free rehabilitation centres for CP patients are hard to come by, so a parent has to part with Sh500 in public hospitals to as much as Sh4,000 in private facilities for a therapy session.

This means that many of these children remain locked out of these essential therapy sessions due to financial constraints. In order to attend a session, the caregivers say that they mostly opt for taxi services, which also come at a premium. And before they can catch a break, they are confronted by the high cost of diapers where a 10-pack of diapers costs Sh800.

Both Wambui and Wairimu say a majority of the caregivers lack sustainable income-generating activities, forcing them to depend on donations and handouts to help them care for their children.

These two grannies reveal that many young caregivers have to choose between prioritising medication, food, and diapers against their ever-depleting monetary resources.

“I am one of the lucky few who is benefiting from the free rehabilitation services from this sanctuary. Mothers of CP children out there need a lot of support because securing a job is hard. These children need diapers, a balanced diet, and standing and sitting aids that also come at a cost.

They also need anticonvulsant drugs, which are quite costly, and I wish the government would intervene even through stocking these drugs in public hospitals,” says Wairimu.

But even as these caregivers religiously take their children for therapy with the hope of helping their children achieve the significant milestone, they lament over the lack of integrated schools to accommodate their children. Wangeci tells us she had already started scouting for a school in Nyeri that could accommodate Felix without success.

“He has really progressed very well, and I believe he can catch up academically. However, getting a school nearby to accommodate Felix with his condition is very difficult. The nearest school is in Thika, but the entry requirements automatically lock him out,” she says.

The seclusion also extends to recre-

ation activities, with Wangeci pointing out that most recreational facilities lock out children living with the condition.

“It is really difficult for these children to be incorporated into some of the activities, like paly, so most times, parents opt to keep them at home,” says Wangeci.

Despite all these challenges that come with having a CP child, these three women are quick to discourage other caregivers from locking up their children due to the stigma. Their advice is for parents to accept the situation of their children and seek medical assistance.

“Hiding your child is the same as worsening the child’s condition because they will not receive the help they need,” says Wambui in her parting shot.



Climate Finance And Green Banking: Legal Imperatives For Sustainable Development In Kenya's Financial Sector



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Climate Change Act of 2016 forms the cornerstone of Kenya's legal framework for climate action, including provisions for climate finance. Section 25 of the Act mandates the National Treasury to develop financial mechanisms for climate change response, including incentives for investment in low-carbon development strategies.
- However, the implementation of these provisions has been slow, necessitating further regulatory action to operationalize the Act's climate finance objectives. This could include the development of specific regulations on green bonds, carbon trading, and climate risk disclosure for financial institutions.

Kenya, like many developing nations, stands at a critical juncture in its economic development, facing the dual challenges of fostering economic growth and addressing the pressing issue of climate change. Recent data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reveals that climate-related disasters cost the country an estimated 3-5% of its GDP annually. This stark reality underscores the urgent need for innovative financial mechanisms to support sustainable development and climate resilience. The concepts of climate finance and green banking have emerged as potential solutions, necessitating a robust legal framework to guide their implementation in Kenya's financial sector.

Climate finance, as defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), refers to local, national, or transnational financing drawn from public, private, and alternative sources of financing to support mitigation and adaptation actions addressing climate change. In the Kenyan context, this encompasses a range of financial instruments and mechanisms designed to channel funds towards climate-friendly projects and initiatives. The legal framework governing climate finance in Kenya is multifaceted, involving international commitments, national legislation, and sector-specific regulations.

At the international level, Kenya is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, which obliges developed countries to provide financial assistance to developing nations for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This commitment is reflected in Kenya's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, which outlines the country's climate action plans. The legal imperative here lies in creating domestic mechanisms to access and effectively utilize international climate finance. For instance, the establishment of the National Climate Change Fund, as provided for in the Climate Change Act of 2016, serves as a legal vehicle for receiving and managing climate finance from various sources.

The Climate Change Act of 2016 forms the cornerstone of Kenya's legal framework for climate action, including provisions for climate finance. Section 25 of the Act mandates the National Treasury to develop financial mechanisms for climate change response, including incentives for investment in low-carbon development strategies. However, the implementation of these provisions has been slow, necessitating further



CLIMATE FINANCE

regulatory action to operationalize the Act's climate finance objectives. This could include the development of specific regulations on green bonds, carbon trading, and climate risk disclosure for financial institutions.

Green banking, a subset of climate finance, refers to banking practices that promote environmentally friendly practices and reduce the carbon footprint from banking activities. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), as the primary regulator of the banking sector, plays a crucial role in promoting green banking. In 2015, the CBK issued guidelines on sustainable finance, encouraging banks to integrate environmental and social considerations into their lending decisions. However, these guidelines are voluntary, raising questions about their effectiveness in driving substantial change in banking practices.

To strengthen the legal framework for green banking, Kenya could consider emulating countries like Bangladesh, which has made green banking mandatory through central bank directives. The CBK, under its mandate provided by the Central Bank of Kenya Act (Cap 491), could issue binding regulations requiring banks to allocate a certain percentage of their loan portfolios to green projects, implement environmental risk management systems, and report on their green banking activities. Such regulations would provide a clear legal basis for the transition towards a more sustainable banking sector.

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) of Kenya has also taken steps

to promote green finance through the issuance of the Policy Guidance Note on Green Bonds in 2019. This guidance provides a framework for the issuance of green bonds in Kenya, outlining the requirements for labeling, verification, and reporting on green bonds. While this is a positive step, there is a need for more comprehensive legislation to cover other aspects of green finance, such as green loans, sustainability-linked bonds, and climate risk disclosure.

One area where legal reform is particularly crucial is in the realm of fiduciary duty. Currently, Kenyan law does not explicitly require institutional investors to consider climate-related risks in their investment decisions. Amending the Retirement Benefits Act and the Insurance Act to include climate risk as a material financial consideration would align Kenya's financial sector with global best practices and promote the integration of climate considerations into investment decisions.

The legal framework for climate finance and green banking in Kenya must also address the issue of transparency and accountability. The Access to Information Act of 2016 provides a general framework for public access to information, but specific regulations are needed to ensure transparency in climate finance flows and the use of green financial instruments. This could include mandatory climate-related financial disclosures for both public and private sector entities, in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-re-

lated Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Another critical aspect of the legal framework is the need for capacity building within the judiciary and legal profession. The Environmental and Land Court Act of 2011 established specialized courts to deal with environmental matters, but there is a need for further training and specialization in climate finance and green banking law. This could be achieved through amendments to the Legal Education Act to include climate finance as a mandatory subject in legal education curricula.

The role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in advancing climate finance cannot be overstated. The Public Private Partnerships Act of 2013 provides a general framework for PPPs in Kenya, but there is a need for specific regulations to facilitate climate-focused PPPs. This could include streamlined approval processes for green projects, risk-sharing mechanisms, and financial incentives for private sector participation in climate finance initiatives.

As Kenya seeks to position itself as a regional hub for green finance, there is a need to harmonize its legal framework with international standards and best practices. This includes aligning with the Principles for Responsible Banking, the Equator Principles, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Legislative amendments to the Banking Act and the Microfinance Act could incorporate these principles, making them binding on financial institutions operating in Kenya.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Impeachment Trial Of Rigathi Gachagua: A Crucial Test For Kenya’s Democracy

By: **James Bwire Kilonzo**

The impeachment trial of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua represents a watershed moment in Kenya’s political landscape, highlighting the intricate dynamics of power, accountability, and public trust. Gachagua’s legal team has labeled the impeachment motion “ridiculous” and “the most embarrassing motion ever approved by a parliament under the commonwealth,” reflecting a growing sentiment that political maneuvering often overshadows genuine accountability.

The National Assembly’s decision to impeach Gachagua on 11 serious charges, including corruption and inciting ethnic tensions, raises profound questions about the integrity of Kenya’s political institutions. The Deputy President has firmly denied all allegations, asserting that the impeachment lacks constitutional grounding. This

defense underscores a critical aspect of Kenyan politics: leaders frequently invoke constitutional protections to evade scrutiny and maintain their positions.

As the Senate trial unfolds, it serves as a litmus test for Kenya’s democratic health. If the Senate upholds the impeachment, it could signify a shift toward greater accountability among high-ranking officials. Conversely, an acquittal may reinforce perceptions of impunity within the political elite, further eroding public trust.

The backdrop of this trial is marked by increasing public disillusionment with political leaders. Citizens are demanding transparency and ethical governance, particularly in light of allegations that Gachagua mismanaged public resources and engaged in corrupt practices. The outcome could either restore faith in Kenya’s political system or deepen cynicism among

voters.

Moreover, this trial occurs amid rising tensions between Gachagua and President William Ruto. Reports indicate that Gachagua feels marginalized within the administration, claiming he is being sidelined in favor of others. This internal rift raises concerns about stability within the government and could have far-reaching implications for national unity.

Recent developments further complicate Gachagua’s situation. The Director of Public Prosecutions withdrew Sh7.3 billion fraud charges against him due to incomplete investigations, yet this withdrawal does not absolve him from the serious allegations he currently faces in the Senate trial. The charges include gross violations of the Constitution, undermining national unity, and promoting ethnic discrimination through divisive public statements²³. These accusations paint

a troubling picture of a leader whose actions may threaten Kenya’s social fabric.

The trial also highlights how political issues often distract from pressing economic challenges facing Kenyans. With soaring living costs and recent violent protests against tax hikes, many citizens view the impeachment as a diversion from substantive governance issues. This sentiment underscores a critical need for leaders to prioritize the welfare of their constituents over personal ambitions or political rivalries.

In addition to these issues, Gachagua’s alleged financial improprieties raise eyebrows. He is accused of amassing assets valued at Sh5.2 billion (\$40 million) within two years of taking office—an amount deemed incompatible with his known legitimate income⁶. Such allegations not only fuel suspicions about corruption but also reflect

broader systemic issues within Kenya’s governance framework.

In conclusion, Deputy President Gachagua’s impeachment trial transcends his individual fate; it encapsulates broader themes of governance, accountability, and public trust in Kenya. As senators deliberate on the charges presented, they must weigh not only the evidence but also their responsibility to uphold democratic principles and serve the interests of the Kenyan people. The stakes are high, and the implications will resonate far beyond these proceedings, shaping the future trajectory of Kenya’s democracy and governance. Ultimately, this trial is not just about one man; it is about the very essence of Kenya’s commitment to justice and integrity in leadership.

James Bwire Kilonzo is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

University Staff Notice For Strike Again

University staff strikes in Kenya often stem from unresolved grievances related to salary disputes, working conditions, and delayed allowances. The frequent issuance of strike notices reflects longstanding dissatisfaction and the struggle for better compensation and improved working conditions in the education sector.

While it’s crucial for the government and university management to engage in meaningful dialogue to address the issues and avoid disruption of learning, frequent strikes also highlight systemic challenges in Kenya’s higher education funding. The situation is complex: while

staff deserve fair compensation, the government may face budgetary constraints. Sustainable solutions should focus on long-term strategies to address the root causes and ensure stability in the sector.

Ultimately, avoiding frequent disruptions requires a balance between fair staff remuneration and responsible financial planning by institutions and the government.

Perpetual John
Student Rongo University



University Staff during past strike

Homabay County Celebrate Global Handwashing Day

By: **Kennedy Omollo**

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

Theme this year: Why are clean hands still important

Global Handwashing Day is an opportunity to design, test, and replicate creative ways to encourage people to wash their hands with soap at critical

times.

Clean hands remain a fundamental defense against the spread of infections, illnesses, and harmful germs. Whether in hospitals, schools, or everyday interactions, practicing handwashing with soap contributes to better health outcomes and a safer world for everyone. As the world shifts beyond these recent years, we are asking a critical question, why are clean hands still important? The answer lies in our collective responsibility to safeguard public health, prevent infections, and promote wellbeing.

This important event took place in Ndhiwa Sub-County, Kobodo primary school, representatives from the school, community, National Government, County Government and Non-Government Organisations eg Amref, Western Kenya sanitation programme, UNICEF and World Vision who supported the event.



The Circular Economy In Kenya By Transforming Waste Into Wealth

Adopting a circular economy can reshape Kenya's approach to sustainability, waste management, and economic development



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- At the core of the circular economy lies the principle of reducing, re-using, and recycling. The initiative launched by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) to promote sustainable packaging is a prime example of this approach. By encouraging businesses to design products with their end-of-life in mind, KAM exemplifies the ethos of responsibility and innovation.
- The alliteration of "reduce, reuse, recycle" resonates deeply, reflecting a collective commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability.
- However, this transformation requires collaboration between stakeholders, from government to private sector, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every resource optimized. The symbolism of the circular economy as a wheel turning continuously illustrates the interconnectedness of various sectors.

In the heart of Kenya, a revolutionary movement is silently gaining momentum, one that promises to reshape the narrative of waste and resource management in a nation poised for sustainable growth. The circular economy emerges not just as a concept but as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path toward a future where waste transforms into wealth, and resources are cherished rather than discarded. Imagine a vibrant ecosystem where every discarded item finds new purpose, where the cycle of consumption is as rhythmic as the beat of a drum, echoing the wisdom of generations past. The irony lies in our modern fixation on convenience, leading to a linear economy that treats resources as disposable rather than invaluable treasures.

The metaphor of a phoenix rising from the ashes perfectly encapsulates the potential of the circular economy in Kenya. By reimagining waste as a resource, the country can forge a path toward economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

With nearly 80% of waste in Kenya going uncollected and an urban population projected to double by 2030, the urgency for a paradigm shift has never been more apparent. This urgency prompts us to ask a critical rhetorical question: How can Kenya harness the power of the circular economy to combat waste while fostering economic growth?

At the core of the circular economy lies the principle of reducing, reusing, and recycling. The initiative launched by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) to promote sustainable packaging is a prime example of this approach. By encouraging businesses to design products with their end-of-life in mind, KAM exemplifies the ethos of responsibility and innovation.

The alliteration of "reduce, reuse, recycle" resonates deeply, reflecting a collective commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability.

However, this transformation requires collaboration between stakeholders, from government to private sector, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every resource optimized. The symbolism of the circular economy as a wheel turning continuously illustrates the interconnectedness of various sectors.

In agriculture, for instance, the adoption of agroecological practices enhances soil fertility while mini-

mizing waste.

The return of organic matter to the earth symbolizes a harmonious relationship between farming and nature, demonstrating that sustainability can be both productive and profitable. The juxtaposition of traditional farming methods with innovative practices embodies the spirit of progress, echoing the wisdom of our ancestors while embracing modernity.

The paradox of growth versus sustainability is a central theme in this discourse. As Kenya strives for economic development, the need for responsible resource management becomes paramount. The government's commitment to achieving Vision 2030, a blueprint for sustainable development, underscores this ambition.

Yet, the challenge remains: how can we cultivate an economy that thrives while respecting the planet's boundaries? The antithesis of short-term gains versus long-term sustainability often clouds this vision, yet the circular economy offers a pragmatic solution.

By fostering a culture of sustainability, Kenya can nurture industries that are not only economically viable but also environmentally conscious. In the realm of innovation, the circular economy is a fertile ground for creativity and entrepreneurship.

The rise of waste-to-energy initiatives, such as the KenGen's geothermal power plants, showcases how waste can be transformed into a valuable resource. The onomatopoeia of "crunching" waste into energy echoes a future where trash is not just discarded but repurposed.

Moreover, social enterprises like EcoPost are pioneering ways to convert plastic waste into sustainable building materials, contributing to job creation while tackling pollution. The irony of turning waste into building blocks symbolizes a new paradigm—one where sustainability fuels economic development.

Yet, the road to a circular economy is fraught with challenges. The antagonism of hope and despair manifests in the bureaucratic obstacles that often hinder progress. The lack of adequate policies and regulations can stifle innovation, leaving many aspiring entrepreneurs at a standstill.

A poignant anecdote emerges from the experiences of small-scale recyclers in Nairobi, who face hurdles in accessing markets and financing. These barriers, akin to stumbling

The circular economy model: less raw material, less waste, fewer emissions



Source: European Parliament Research Service



blocks on a winding path, highlight the need for comprehensive support systems to nurture circular initiatives.

Furthermore, education and awareness play a pivotal role in advancing the circular economy. The ethos of community engagement must extend to schools, empowering the next generation with knowledge and skills to navigate this new landscape.

Initiatives like the Green Schools Programme seek to instill a sense of environmental stewardship in students, fostering a culture of sustainability from a young age. The proverb "it takes a village to raise a child" rings true in this context; a collective effort is required to cultivate a sustainable mindset across all sectors of society.

As we gaze into the future, the circular economy stands as a transformative force capable of reshaping Kenya's economic landscape. The promise of sustainable growth, where waste is minimized, and resources are maximized, beckons like a lighthouse guiding ships to safe harbor.

By embracing innovative solutions, fostering collaboration, and priori-

tizing education, Kenya can embark on a journey toward a circular economy that not only enhances economic resilience but also nurtures the planet.

The circular economy in Kenya is more than a blueprint for sustainable growth; it is a call to action for all stakeholders to rethink their approach to consumption and waste management. As the nation navigates the complexities of urbanization and economic development, the principles of the circular economy offer a path toward a future where resources are revered, waste is minimized, and communities thrive.

The time to act is now, for as we embark on this journey, we hold the power to shape a legacy of sustainability for generations to come. The circular economy invites us to reimagine our relationship with the planet, transforming waste into wealth and paving the way for a brighter, more resilient future.

*This article was scripted by;
MIDMARK ONSONGO, SGS
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UK NGO To Equip Uasin Gishu VTCs With Training Tools

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes

United Kingdom based NGO, Work Aid International is partnering with Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Uasin Gishu County to provide them with training tools and equipment.

Through the partnership, the VTCs across the county will benefit from plumbing, milk pasteurisers, masonry tools, bakery equipment, and tailoring, among other tools and equipment.

Work Aid International East Africa Regional Coordinator, Grace Mwangi, said the NGO was involved in empowering young people in Africa towards assisting them to become self-reliant by developing their skills and knowledge needed to compete for the limited gainful employment

opportunities.

“We equip the institutions with tools for welding, fashion and garment making, wiring, food and beverages, salon, barber, bakery, and pasteurisers, among other courses,” Ms. Mwangi said.

The Work Aid International team and county government officials visited Mugundoi, Ngenyilel, and Eldoret Vocational Training Centres.

County Executive Committee Member, CECM for Education and Vocational Training, Antony Sitienei, praised the partnership, stating that the equipment will equip learners to be ready for the job market and grow the capacity of colleges.

“Our youthful population needs technical training that will help them gain skills to help them generate employment and be independent,” noted the CECM.



KAMP Accuses KECOBO Of Defying Court Order On Music Licenses

By: KBC Digital

The Kenya Association of Music Producers (KAMP) has raised alarm over what it describes as continued defiance by the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) in implementing a key Copyright Tribunal ruling.

KAMP is accusing the regulator of deliberately obstructing the licensing process and undermining the creative industry.

In a statement issued Wednesday, KAMP criticised KECOBO for delaying the issuance of provisional licenses to Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) despite a recent Copyright Tribunal judgment directing compliance.

“We are deeply saddened by KECOBO’s continued display of favoritism and failure to act impartially as the

regulator of Kenya’s creative industry. These actions have resulted in a flurry of legal disputes, further eroding trust in the system and damaging the livelihoods of rights holders,” Kamp Chair, Ms. Angela Ndambuki stated.

“The continuous legal battles, fueled by KECOBO’s malpractices, have substantially affected the collection and distribution of royalties, plunging artists, producers, and performers into financial uncertainty,” she added.

KAMP has further accused KECOBO of bad faith, alleging that the regulator misled the organization into withdrawing legal cases under the pretense of pursuing an out-of-court settlement.

In a letter dated September 24, 2024, KECOBO reportedly proposed a path to resolve the ongoing dispute, only for the regulator to continue with actions KAMP deems unlawful.

KAMP submitted the letter as evidence before the court, accusing

KECOBO of insincerity and manipulative conduct adding that the regulator’s actions are harming the industry by disrupting the licensing process, which he termed the “lifeline” of the creative sector.

KAMP has also threatened to take further legal action if KECOBO does not comply with the tribunal’s ruling.

“Kamp Copyright and Related Rights Ltd remains fully committed to adhering to the law, protecting the interests of its expanded membership, which now includes performers in the music sector, and fighting for the rights of all creatives.”

“The creative industry in Kenya is bleeding. It is time to stop the bleeding. We expect immediate compliance with the rulings of the Copyright Tribunal and for KECOBO to act with the integrity expected of a regulator.”



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Sports >> *Former England captain Alan Shearer says the Three Lions "need a manager who can deliver a trophy" after German Thomas Tuchel agreed to become the next boss.

England Need Manager Who Can Deliver Trophy, Says Former Captain Shearer



Thomas Tuchel is the new Bayern Munich coach

Former England captain Alan Shearer says the Three Lions "need a manager who can deliver a trophy" after German Thomas Tuchel agreed to become the next boss.

Tuchel, 51, is set to become the third non-British permanent manager of the England men's team, with a media conference expected on Wednesday at Wembley.

Tuchel, who won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021, will be tasked with leading England to the 2026 World Cup, where they will hope to end a 60-year wait for a major trophy.

"We need a trophy – it's as simple as that. We need a manager

who can deliver that," Shearer said on The Rest Is Football, external podcast.

"There's no doubt [Tuchel] has an incredible CV, but this is going to be a very different test for him. It's a bold move from the FA, there's no doubt about it.

"You have to win the tournament, that's what he's been hired for. They [the FA] have seen the bunch of players are the best England have had for a long, long time."

England have been without a permanent manager since Gareth Southgate resigned after eight years in charge following the Euro 2024 final defeat by Spain, with Lee Carsley appointed on

an interim basis.

Sven-Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello are the only previous non-British permanent England men's managers, but unlike his predecessors Tuchel is familiar with English football – having managed Chelsea between January 2021 and September 2022.

"Tuchel will have looked at this squad and thought there is so much talent in there, this is an unbelievable opportunity of winning the greatest trophy of all," former England striker Gary Lineker said.

"I would have given the job to Carsley. I have seen enough to suggest the players really trust him, that he's imaginative

enough to produce something that is a joy to watch – entertaining front-footed football."

Former England defender Michal Richards said: "The point is we don't have an English candidate strong enough to take that job, that's one of the most interesting things.

"I was of the opinion that we don't need an English manager, just go out and get the best person for the job. I think Tuchel is an outstanding manager, a proven winner."

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Sports >>> *Lionel Messi scored his 10th international hat-trick as Argentina thrashed Bolivia 6-0 in World Cup qualifying.

Messi Secures Hat-Trick As Argentina Demolish Bolivia 6-0 In World Cup Qualifier



Lionel Messi scored his 10th international hat-trick as Argentina thrashed Bolivia 6-0 in World Cup qualifying.

The 37-year-old Inter Miami forward, who also set up two goals at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, moved level with Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo for the most hat-tricks in men's international football.

Argentina are three points clear of Colombia at the top of the South American qualifying group for the 2026 World Cup, despite losing to Colombia in September and drawing with Venezuela last week.

"It's really nice to come here, to feel the affection of the people.

It moves me how they shout my name," Messi said.

"This drives me – enjoying being happy where I am. Despite my age, when I'm here, I feel like a kid because I'm comfortable with this team. As long as I feel good and can keep performing the way I want, I'll keep enjoying it."

Messi, making only his second appearance for Argentina since suffering an injury at the Copa America in July, capitalised on a defensive error to put them ahead after 19 minutes.

He set up Lautaro Martinez and then Julian Alvarez before substitute Thiago Almada made it 4-0.

Messi struck twice in two minutes late on, beating two defend-

ers to fire in his second and completing his hat-trick by finding the bottom corner.

Messi has scored 112 goals in 189 games for Argentina – second only to Ronaldo, who has 133, in men's internationals.

Raphinha scored twice as struggling Brazil made it back-to-back victories with a 4-0 win over Peru in Brasilia.

Brazil, record five-time World Cup winners, had lost four of their past five qualifiers before defeating Chile on Thursday.

Dorival Junior's side are fourth in the table – six points behind Argentina – after 10 games.

The top six teams qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup

in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Raphinha converted a penalty in each half before late goals from Fulham's Andreas Pereira and Luiz Henrique.

"We needed this. It was really important winning both games to get back on track," Raphinha told TV Globo.

In-form Aston Villa striker Jhon Duran scored his seventh goal of the season in all competitions as Colombia beat Chile 4-0.

Davinson Sanchez, Liverpool's Luis Diaz and Bournemouth's Luis Sinisterra also scored in Barranquilla.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Combating Misinformation: A Critical Global Trend In Media And Information Literacy

By: Daisy Moraa
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The goal is to empower citizens of all ages to become informed consumers and producers of information. For instance, UNESCO's Global MIL Week highlights the importance of media literacy in countering the spread of false information, promoting critical engagement with media, and fostering media ethics.
- The fight against misinformation has also prompted the development of fact-checking initiatives. Platforms like PolitiFact, Africa Check, and FactCheck.org verify news stories and public statements, helping audiences distinguish facts from fiction. Social media companies, including Meta, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube, have introduced fact-checking labels and content moderation policies to reduce the spread of false information

In today's interconnected world, misinformation poses a significant threat to societies. False information spreads quickly through digital platforms, influencing public opinion, undermining trust in institutions, and even endangering lives. As the media landscape continues to evolve, Media and Information Literacy (MIL) has become crucial for equipping individuals with the skills needed to identify, analyze, and counter misinformation. Governments, educators, and civil society are increasingly focusing on MIL as a response to this growing challenge.

The spread of misinformation has accelerated with the rise of social media platforms and instant messaging applications. Unlike traditional media channels, digital platforms enable anyone to create and disseminate content without verification processes. Clickbait, rumors, and false narratives often travel faster than factual information, capitalizing on emotions and sensationalism. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the dangers of misinformation. From false cures to vaccine conspiracy theories, misinformation had real-world consequences, fueling fear, confusion, and distrust in public health systems. Similar challenges arise during elections, where disinformation campaigns manipulate voters, polarize societies, and erode democratic values.

Media and Information Literacy has emerged as a powerful tool to combat misinformation. MIL promotes critical thinking, fact-checking skills, and responsible media consumption, helping individuals evaluate the reliability of the information they encounter. Educating people to verify sources, distinguish between facts and opinions, and understand media biases is crucial in today's digital environment. Governments, organizations, and educational institutions worldwide are integrating MIL into school curricula and public campaigns.

The goal is to empower citizens of all ages to become informed consumers and producers of information. For instance, UNESCO's Global MIL Week highlights the importance



Combating Misinformation.

of media literacy in countering the spread of false information, promoting critical engagement with media, and fostering media ethics.

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However, these efforts are not foolproof, as algorithms sometimes fail to catch misinformation or inadvertently limit freedom of expression. Collaboration between governments, media outlets, and technology companies is essential for combating misinformation. Policymakers are working to regulate online content, while media organizations are adopting transparent practices to restore public trust. Simultaneously, civil society groups are conducting awareness campaigns to educate communities on the dangers of misinformation and the importance of verifying information before sharing it.

AI-driven technologies are playing

an increasingly important role in identifying and combating misinformation. Machine learning algorithms can detect patterns associated with false information, flagging suspicious content for review. Additionally, chatbots and browser plugins provide users with fact-checks in real-time, improving their ability to assess information on the spot. However, AI tools are not without challenges. Sophisticated techniques like deepfakes—AI-generated media that convincingly imitates real people—make it harder to distinguish between genuine and manipulated content. As these technologies evolve, MIL becomes even more critical in teaching individuals how to identify signs of manipulation and understand the limitations of AI systems.

While progress is being made, the fight against misinformation faces challenges. Language barriers, resource constraints, and limited access to digital tools hinder MIL efforts in some regions. In addition, balancing content moderation with freedom of expression remains a contentious issue. Over-regulation may lead to censorship, while under-regulation leaves space for harmful content to proliferate. The way forward lies in integrating MIL at all levels of education and rais-

ing public awareness. Governments should allocate resources to ensure that media literacy programs reach underserved communities. Media companies and tech platforms must strengthen their content policies while promoting transparency in their algorithms and operations.

Combating misinformation is an essential part of Media and Information Literacy in the digital age. As false information continues to spread, the ability to critically evaluate media content is becoming a necessary life skill. MIL equips individuals to make informed decisions, resist manipulation, and contribute to meaningful public discourse. Through collaborative efforts between governments, educational institutions, media organizations, and technology companies, societies can build resilience against misinformation. By promoting critical thinking and responsible media engagement, MIL lays the foundation for an informed and empowered global citizenry capable of navigating the complexities of the digital information landscape.

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