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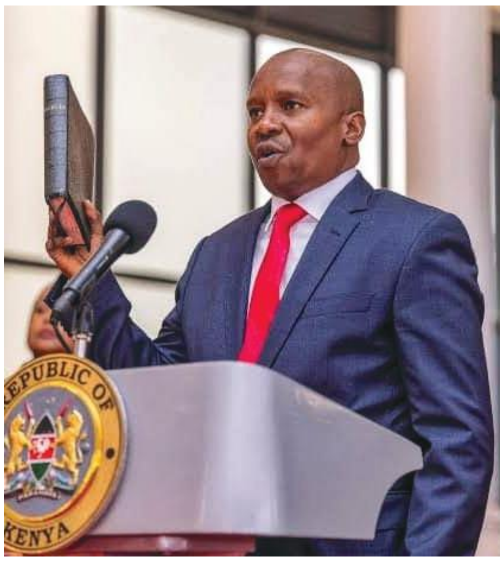

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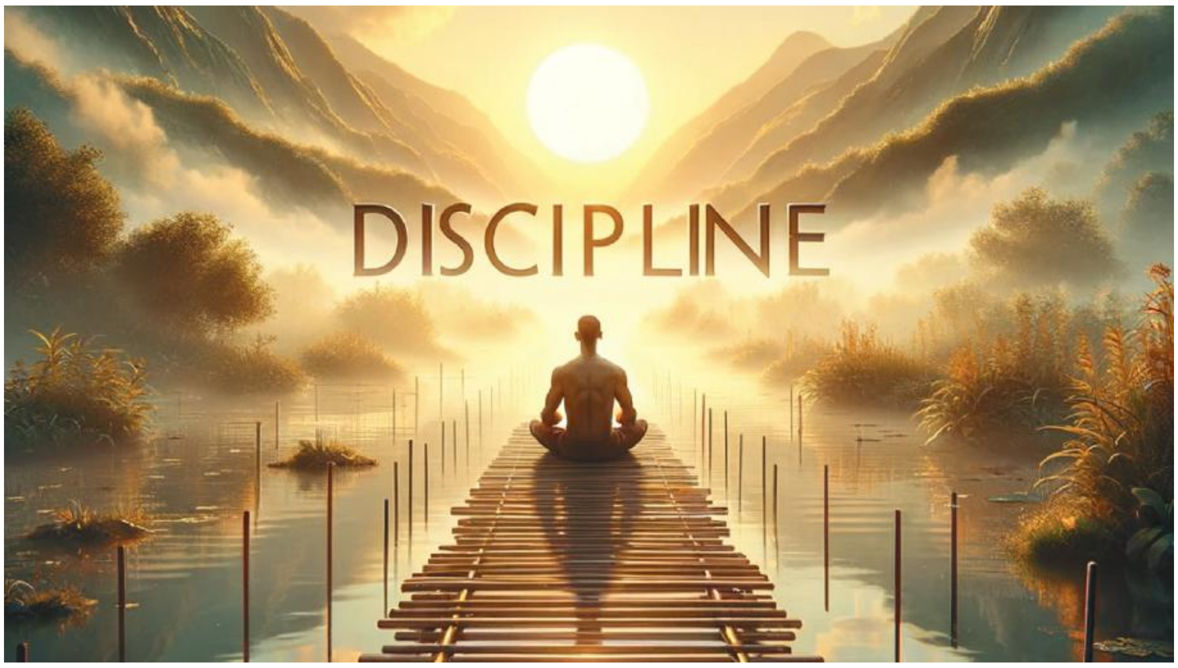
On Discipline: One Last Fight

By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• She appeared to have been waiting for such an opportunity. She told me in detail how she felt her husband was responsible for the indiscipline of their son. He would not punish him or allow her to instil the usual mother's spank or pinch for wrong doing and if she as much as pinched him, the father would be really upset.
• She disclosed that they boy was smoking cannabis and had refused to attend private tuition classes which she had already paid for. It was at this point that I vehemently told her that she should give the boy 'one last fight'.



A couple of years ago, I went to a favourite restaurant on Kiambu Road on a Saturday afternoon. While I was wondering where to sit, a friendly waiter informed that if I could just wait for two minutes, a group of women occupying one of the gazebos was just about to leave.

And so after a few minutes the group left but for two women who were left seated at a table near the entrance. I went in and sat at a table a bit far from them to allow them some privacy as they continued with animated conversation.

The conversation soon gained momentum and the two women's voices rose a crescendo such that I could now clearly hear what they were discussing. The younger of the two was complaining about how her teenage son in form two had become such a rascal. In the past one and half years he had attended three schools having been expelled from two for indiscipline. She was blaming the father, a medical doctor for the boy's lack of discipline since he was 'too soft, on him.

From the conversation, the main disciplinarian in that family was the boy's grandmother (his dad's mother) who was said to live in a particularly affluent neighbourhood called Runda. So whenever the boy misbehaved, the case would be referred to the grandmother but according to the woman it was not working. This situation was taking a big toll on the boy's mother who sounded like she had reached the end of the road and was getting desperate. I realised that I had been closely following their discussion and was getting overly agitated. After a little while, the older lady left leaving the younger one alone at the table. That's when I knew I had to talk to her.

I moved over to her table and apologised to her that I had overheard their conversation and if she didn't mind she could share with me.

She appeared to have been waiting for such an opportunity. She told me in detail how she felt her husband was responsible for the indiscipline of their son. He would not punish him or allow her to instil the usual mother's spank or pinch for wrong doing and if she as much as pinched him, the father would be really upset.

She disclosed that they boy was smoking cannabis and had refused to attend private tuition classes which she had already paid for. It was at this point that I vehemently told her that she should give the boy 'one last fight'.

I really don't know where the 'one last fight' came from but in hindsight I believe it unconsciously emanated from years back when we were growing up in the village. We were brought with our several cousins and among them was this typical boy known as Kĩmbuci. Kĩmbuci was well above the ordinary village boy in 'boyishness'. When he was in standard six, that is at the age of twelve, Kĩmbuci in the company of other two boys decided not to be going to school but instead be leaving in the morning with their school bags and go hide in a tea plantation near the school, run home for lunch with the other children, back to the tea bushes for the afternoon session and back home in the evening with the others. Upon investigation the mother confirmed what was going on. So on the fifth day, towards evening she got herself ready, with a 'nyahunyu' (rhino hide whip) wore heavy duty gum boots and waited for Kĩmbuci.

When he arrived, she ambushed him, wrestled him to the ground and with her booted foot firmly on his back, gave Kĩmbuci a thrashing that was enough to last him a life time. From then onwards he reformed, went back to school and is today a successful businessman in Nairobi well known for his honesty and his big size. When you see Kĩmbuci, you are reminded of those bullish characters of WWF wrestling.

Going back to the Kiambu Road lady, she was really enthusiastic about my idea and she swore to apply it. She called me later that evening very happy with herself. By good luck, her husband was home early that day.

She said that using a mwiko, she gave the son 'one last fight' and when the father attempted to intervene, she told him that she would do the same to him. Almost in tears himself, he retreated to the bedroom and allowed her to continue. To cut a long story short, after several months, the lady informed that that the boy had completely changed. He was back in school, had stopped smoking cannabis and his performance had improved tremendously.

Corporal punishment was banned in Kenya (in schools and homes) some years back for the reason that it would adversely affect the children psychologically. But in my view this is Western hogwash.

If that was the case, then those of my generation would all be psychological wrecks. It is time this ban is reviewed and the situation properly addressed. With the widespread indiscipline and arson cases in schools, it is clear that something is not right.

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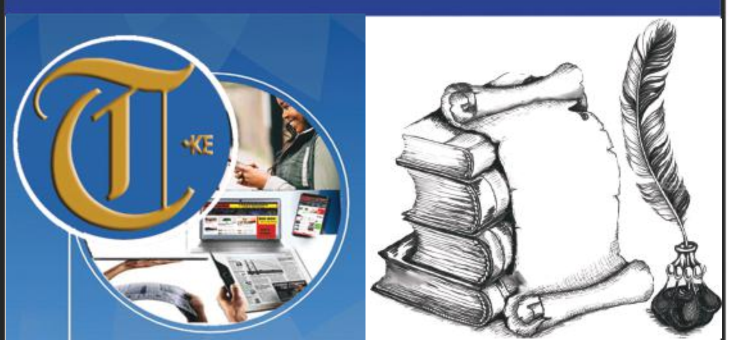
Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS PAPER
IN BUSINESS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Participants follow the proceedings during the 4th Africa International E-Waste Conference at Shamba Events Hotel in Nairobi. Theme of the conference was: E-Waste Police Governance & Regulation Enabling a Sustainable E-Waste Ecosystem.

Principal Secretary for Mining Elijah Mwangi (in cape), Kilifi County Commissioner Josphat Biwott, security officers, and other staff from the state department of mining during a crackdown on illegal mining on Thursday in Ganze Kilifi County. The government is committed to ensuring all mining activities comply with the law as part of efforts to increase the mining sector's contribution to national revenue, targeting a 10% share. "We shall no longer allow illegal operators. Those people who are doing their business without following the laid-out procedures don't pay the government royalties, and we end up losing revenue as a government, the county, and even the community," Mwangi stated. Although PS could not provide specific figures on the annual revenue losses, he disclosed that the mining sector is currently contributing only 1% to national revenue, which is significantly below the government's target of 10 per cent.

Reverend Dominic Kasoo, Administrative Secretary of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Diocese of Makueni, is urging the government to regulate advertisements of processed foods on radio and television to combat the rise of diseases among children. Rev. Kasoo expressed concern that many advertised foods are poorly handled before processing, contributing, saying, "Food is harvested well from the farms, but mishandling in factories can make our children sick. The government should implement checks to ensure these foods are safe for consumption," he stated during a media briefing in Wote. As the Vice Chairperson of the Makueni County Coordination Committee, he also encouraged Kenyans to embrace traditional foods like pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and vegetables, emphasising their nutritional value.

Residents of Orao village in Ugunja Sub County, Siaya County, were filled with joy as the American-based NGO, Munguy's Hand of Compassion (MHC), donated full uniform kits to every student at the local primary and junior secondary schools. Each student received a complete set of uniforms, including socks, shoes, trousers, shirts, and skirts or blouses. Reverend Ayub Kayo, MHC's director for Africa, emphasized the importance of proper uniforms in boosting children's confidence and performance in school. "The aim is to fill the gap and uplift the self-esteem of these children, enabling them to perform better," said Rev. Kayo. The NGO, founded by Steve Mungai, has already supported over 10 schools across Nakuru, Nyeri, and Siaya counties.

Busia Governor Dr. Paul Otuoma is advocating for a review of the Fisheries Act to align it with the 2010 constitution, emphasizing that the current law hinders the growth of the fisheries sector. He attributed the ongoing fish shortages to a lack of clear legal frameworks that have stalled aquaculture programs across counties. As chair of the Council of Governors (CoG) Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Blue Economy Committee, Dr. Otuoma noted that a review is essential to address legal bottlenecks and enhance development in fisheries.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary (CS), John Mbadi (r), in conversation with Chistopher Kirigua, who is the Director General for Public Private Partnerships Directorate at the Kenya Reinsurance Building on Thursday when he toured the directorate offices.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Prof. Edward Kisiang'ani, highlighted the crucial role of media in shaping and advancing Kenya's foreign policy agenda. He emphasized that the media serves as a bridge between the government and the public, facilitating effective communication and enhancing transparency. Kisiang'ani discussed the importance of strategic media engagement to promote Kenya's interests abroad, foster international partnerships, and improve the country's global image. He urged media professionals to play an active role in advocating for national priorities and ensuring that foreign policy narratives resonate with both local and international audiences. Ministry of Information, Communications & The Digital Economy KE State Department For ICT & Digital Economy

Kikuyu Men's Conference Patron Calls For Peace Amidst Gachagua Impeachment

The Patron, Dr Thuo Mathenge Who Is Also The New Democrats (TND) Political Party leader Said They Had No Problem With Prof. Kithure Kindiki Taking Over As It Was The Prerogative Of The President

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

Dr Thuo Mathenge (centre) addressing journalists in Nyeri town on Friday. Photo/Paul Wanjiru

Worth Noting:

- **On Friday morning, Dr Mathenge, who was accompanied by a section of Nyeri religious, political and business leaders said there is a need for the region to remain solidly united despite the top leadership changes.**
- **"Well, the President is within his rights to appoint his deputy. But he should also consider fully that this seat belonged to Nyeri. We are against any form of violence in Mt Kenya region because we are one people. We will not get divided no matter what," he told a press conference in Nyeri town.**
- **He expressed optimism that the embattled Gachagua will get justice in courts of law.**

Kikuyu Men's Conference patron and The New Democrats (TND) party leader Dr Thuo Mathenge has urged residents of Mt Kenya region to remain peaceful and united, following the nomination of Prof Kithure Kindiki to replace Mr Rigathi Gachagua as the country's next Deputy President.

Dr Mathenge said it is the prerogative of President William Ruto to appoint his preferred choice of leader to fill the position.

The Interior Cabinet Secretary is from Tharaka Nithi County in Mt Kenya East region while Mr Gachagua's backyard is Nyeri County in Mt Kenya West region.

On Thursday night, Senators resolved to impeach Mr Gachagua who, by the time of the impeachment voting exercise, was admitted at Karen Hospital in Nairobi where his lead lawyer Paul Muite told the Upper House that he was suffering from severe chest.

On Friday morning, Dr Mathenge, who was accompanied by a section of Nyeri religious, political and business leaders said there is a need for the region to remain solidly united despite the top leadership changes.

"Well, the President is within his rights to appoint his deputy. But he should also consider fully that this seat belonged to Nyeri. We are against any form of violence in Mt Kenya region because we are one people. We will not get divided no matter what," he told a press conference in Nyeri town.

He expressed optimism that the embattled Gachagua will get justice in courts of law.

"We don't have an issue with the President for appointing Kithure Kindiki, but we are also crying for the rights of our son Rithagi Gachagua," Dr Mathenge, a seasoned industrialist in Nyeri county said.

"We are optimistic that our courts of law will accord Gachagua justice. We are asking him to remain strong and remember that we are together with him," he added.

One of the religious leader accompanying him, the Head of Four Square Gospel Churches of Kenya (FSGCK), Archbishop Njoroge Munyori, appealed to Kenyans to pray for Mr Gachagua who is ailing at the hospital.

Archbishop Njoroge said: "As a Church, we urge all Kenyans to remain peaceful and join hands in praying for quick recovery of Gachagua".

"My personal view is that the Senate should have accorded Gachagua more time to avail himself and testify for the 11 impeachment grounds," the Church leader added.

A business community representative Ms Ann Wanjugu equally called for calm saying peace and stability was key to the business environment.

On Friday, the National Assembly unanimously endorsed President Ruto's nominee for Mr Gachagua's replacement - Prof Kindiki.

Prof Kindiki was approved by 236 MPs during a Special sitting that was chaired by National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula.

Last month, elected leaders from Embu, Tharaka Nithi, and Meru counties unanimously agreed to rally behind Prof Kindiki as their core link to the national Executive.

"We have unanimously agreed that Prof Kithure Kindiki will serve as the official link between Mount Kenya East and the Executive," said the leaders during a joint press statement at Izaak Walton Inn in Embu town

A few days later, dozens of law makers from Mt Kenya West met in Nyahururu town where they equally supported Prof. Kindiki.

Kindiki's Second Shot To Serve As Country's Third DP After Gachagua's Impeachment

By: Bruhan Makong
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **An eloquent lawyer, Kindiki has been an Advocate of the High Court since 2001 and served as legal counsel at the International Criminal Court (ICC). He taught law at Moi University and the University of Nairobi, and in his political career, he has held prominent positions, including Senate Majority Leader and Deputy Speaker.**
- **Kindiki's close relationship with Ruto saw him appointed as Ruto's chief agent during the 2022 general election, cementing his place in the President's inner circle.**

After two years and five months of narrowly missing out on the role of Deputy President, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki now has a fresh opportunity to step into the position.

On Thursday, the Senate upheld the National Assembly's decision to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, making him the first Deputy President in Kenya to be removed under the 2010 Constitution.

Gachagua, widely known as "Riggy G," was found guilty of five out of eleven charges brought against him by Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse. The impeachment followed a bitter fallout with President William Ruto.

Gachagua, 59, had denied all charges but fell ill on the second day of the trial, and his lawyers' request for an extension was denied, leading them to withdraw from the process.

This decision opens the path for Kindiki, once a frontrunner for the deputy presidency, to reclaim what many saw as a missed opportunity. During the 2022 presidential campaign, Kindiki was considered a top contender for Ruto's running mate but lost the position to Gachagua after an intense 17-hour deliberation.

Kindiki expressed disappointment at the time, announcing he would step back from elective politics but remain loyal to the United Democratic Alliance (UDA). "I will not seek any appointive positions but will stay available for future leadership roles," Kindiki had said, leaving the door open for his potential return.

Following the Kenya Kwanza Alliance's 2022 election victory, Kindiki was appointed as Interior Cabinet Secretary, a powerful role he held until

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki during a press conference in Nairobi on July 9, 2024.

President Ruto dissolved the Cabinet in July after anti-government protests over the Finance Bill 2024. Kindiki was later reinstated when Ruto reconstituted his Cabinet.

With Gachagua's removal from office, Kindiki is seen as the leading candidate to succeed him as Deputy President. Polls by TIFA and Infotrak show Kindiki as a favorite for the position, especially among political leaders and citizens in the Mt. Kenya region. However, he faces competition from figures like Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru, and Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata.

Kindiki's political fortunes, once dimmed, may now be on the rise as the nation awaits President Ruto's decision on the next Deputy President.

Early Life and Career

Born on July 16, 1972, in Tharaka, Tharaka Nithi County, Kithure Kindiki's rise to prominence is marked by resilience. After failing to meet the university pass mark at Lenana School, he repeated his national exams at Tharaka Boys High School before joining Moi University, where he graduated with a law degree in 1988. He later earned a PhD in International Law from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Work Life

An eloquent lawyer, Kindiki has been an Advocate of the High Court since 2001 and served as legal counsel at the International Criminal Court (ICC). He taught law at Moi University and the University of Nairobi, and in his political career, he has held prominent positions, including Senate Majority Leader and Deputy Speaker.

Kindiki's close relationship with Ruto saw him appointed as Ruto's chief agent during the 2022 general election, cementing his place in the President's inner circle.

Now, Kindiki stands on the brink of becoming Kenya's third Deputy President, a role he nearly secured in 2022.

High Court Bars Kithure Kindiki From Assuming Deputy President's Office

By:Ian Omondi
@themtkenyatimes

The High Court in Kerugoya has now issued orders barring Prof. Kithure Kindiki from assuming the Deputy President's office pending the hearing and determination of a case.

Kerugoya Law Courts Justice Richard Mwongo ruled that matters raised in the petition filed by David Munyi Mathenge and Peter Gichobi Kamotho are of "great national importance and urgency."

In its ruling, the court certified the matter as urgent, further directing that the file be forwarded to Chief Justice Martha Koome to appoint a bench of High Court judges to handle the case.

The judge further directed the Applicants to serve the Respondents with the application by close of business on Friday, after which the Respondents should then file and serve their responses within three days.

"The matters raised in the Petition being of great national importance and urgency; and in the court's considered view having raised extremely substantial issues of law, the matter is certified for a bench of High Court Judges to be appointed by the Chief Justice," ruled Justice Mwongo.

"In light of the nature of the matters raised herein, conservatory orders are hereby issued against implementation of the resolution of the Senate, preventing any person including the 2nd interested party appointed by the President and approved by the National Assembly from assuming the office of the Deputy President."

Justice Mwongo ordered that the matter be mentioned before the High Court bench on October 24, 2024.

The order comes even as National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula already gazetted Prof. Kindiki to take up the Deputy President position after the House approved his nomination.

This was also despite an earlier order by the High Court that suspended the Senate's resolution to uphold former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment motion held on Thursday, October 17.

Justice Chacha Mwita ruled that Gachagua's petition raised pertinent issues of law and public interest.

Interior CS Prof. Kithure Kindiki arrives at his office on March 31, 2024. PHOTO | COURTESY | MINA.

He issued a conservatory order staying the implementation of the impeachment charges, including the appointment of his replacement until October 24, 2024, when the matter will be mentioned before the court.

Oparanya Urges Dairy Farmers To Keep Politics Out Of Cooperative Societies

By: Paul Wanjiru
@themtkenyatimes

Co-operatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya has called on dairy farmers to avoid allowing politics into their cooperative societies, warning that many societies have collapsed due to political interference.

Speaking to dairy farmers during a tour of the New KCC Kinganjo Cooling Plant, the CS emphasized the importance of staying focused on business growth and keeping politics at bay.

"If you want to succeed and have something in your pockets, elect leaders without political influence. Choose those with business acumen who will safeguard your wealth," Oparanya said.

He further urged farmers to come together for a common purpose, advising them to convene Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and select leaders who will help them achieve their goals. He also addressed the issue of equipment shortages, encouraging farmers to submit proposals for assistance.

"Write a proposal, and through the ministry, we will cover 70% of the cost, while you, as farmers, contribute the remaining 30%. There is nothing for free," Oparanya continued.

Additionally, the CS announced that the government will disburse an extra 1 billion shillings on top of the 4 billion previously released to support the dairy sector. He emphasized the need for responsible use of the funds, stating that no further allocations would be made.

"I urge you to train your young men and women in agriculture. There is money in agriculture—don't just push your sons and daughters towards white-collar jobs. Encourage them to return to the village and engage in dairy farming like you," Oparanya advised.

Wycliffe Oparanya

He also promised to convey farmers' requests to the president, including the appeal for zero-rating cow feeds.

"You've asked me to speak to the president about the zero-rating of cow feeds, and I will. When he visits, I know you'll ask him if I delivered your message, and I'll be there to ensure your issues are addressed," he assured.

Oparanya concluded by affirming the government's commitment to turning the New KCC into a profitable corporation within 90 days.

Can Gachagua Overturns His Impeachment?

By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- **For Gachagua, does he stand any chance of having his way? Many people believe that he doesn't. It is worth to recall his legal team had filed 26 petitions all seeking to stop the impeachment process.**
- **All the judges handling the matter however declined to rule in his favor. This include the petition he had filed before the three-judge bench.**
- **While reaffirming the verdict delivered one day earlier by Justice Chaacha Mwita, the bench noted that it did not have the legal power to stop the Senate from prosecuting Gachagua's impeachment trial.**
- **The judiciary fully recognizes the constitutional mandate of the two houses-National Assembly and the Senate.**

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

The latest media reports indicate that the court has stopped former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua replacement process until October 24.

Two Judges-one sitting at Milimani court in Nairobi and in Kerugoya law court-issued the orders moment after members of parliament unanimously approved the name of Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki and consequently Speaker Moses Wetangula announced that he will forward the name of Kindiki to President William Ruto for appointment.

After hearing this, this question came to my mind. Which court issued this order? My understanding of the law is that this order is null and void if it was not issued by a three-judge bench. I however stand to be corrected.

The bench had been established by the Chief Justice Martha Koome following a request made to her by the Senior Counsel Paul Muite who is leading a team of lawyers representing the former DP. Well, I know the court cannot deny a Kenyan the right to be heard if he or she is not contented with a decision made on a matter that touched on him.

The court will interpret whether that decision had complied with law or not.

For Gachagua, does he stand any chance of having his way? Many people believe that he doesn't. It is worth to recall his legal team had filed 26 petitions all seeking to stop the impeachment process.

All the judges handling the matter however declined to rule in his favor. This include the petition he had filed before the three-judge bench.

While reaffirming the verdict delivered one day earlier by Justice Chaacha Mwita, the bench noted that it did not have the legal power to stop the Senate from prosecuting Gachagua's impeachment trial.

The judiciary fully recognizes the constitutional mandate of the two houses-National Assembly and the Senate.

One of the key mandate is oversight and this matter touching on impeachment of DP falls in this category.

The process started with public participation and majority of Kenyans who turned up supported the grounds of impeachment.

If the DP is impeached, the President is supposed to nominate the replacement. Therefore, his decision to nominate Interior CS Professor Kithure Kindiki was within the law.

We recall that the UDA leaders from Mount Kenya region had in run-up to 2022 General Elections settled on Kindiki to be his running mate.

Dr Ruto however opted to pick Gachagua who have been impeached after serving for two years as DP. A friend of mine told me. Power is sweet and that is why Gachagua is ungrateful to the President. He is determined to fight to the bitter end. This is while knowing very well he had fallen out with his boss. He had also fallen out with MPs. Does he expect to perform his constitutional when working under this environment? The answer is a big No. So, what is the point of fighting to save your job? Kenyans will not get value of the salary and other hefty perks which you will continue to receive from exchequer. This is a weighty matter and the court will not lose sight of it, my friend added.

As Interior CS, Kindiki has been performing very well. This is in terms of helping the President to realize his pre- election pledge of providing security to all Kenyans.

As DP, Kindiki will even do better to help President Ruto to perform his constitutional national duties. For now, the eyes of the President are trained on uniting the people of Kenya and rolling out development projects in all parts of Kenya.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Hospitality Experts Warn Of Skill Mismatch Among Graduates

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

International experts in the hospitality sector have decried skill mismatch among local graduates in the industry, saying it limits their competitiveness in the international market.

They said several students lack strategic skills besides being not proficient in foreign languages, among other skills, making it difficult to adapt to the global trends in the industry.

The experts from EUHOFA, the International Association of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism Schools in Australia, said foreign languages, finance, and strategic management, among other courses, should be compulsory courses in the hospitality industry.

Gerald Lipman, a representative from the school, called on institutions of higher learning to review their curriculum to address the skills mismatch and make their students relevant.

He cited foreign languages courses, saying the students should be proficient in at least three international languages to effectively interact with clients.

"You see, most hospitality students in the country are only proficient in English. We always advise that they pursue other foreign languages, including Spanish, Arabic, or French," he said while addressing students at the School of Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism Management at Mount Kenya University (MKU) Main Campus in Thika town on Friday.

He emphasised the need for networking between the schools and the industry to establish linkages for placement of students for attachment and job opportunities.

"Securing placements in large cities can be challenging and costly for most students, and thus the need for linkages to assist the students. Some find it challenging to adapt due to the varying environments in different countries, which students need to adapt," he said.

Other stakeholders called on the students to use the wide range of opportunities to advance their studies so as to gain more knowledge and experience.

State Banks On Youth Agripreneurs To Revitalise Extension Services

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- "To create an enabling environment, the Ministry has developed the Kenya Agricultural Sector Extension Policy (KASEP) and the Extension Guidelines and Standards to guide extension service providers with an aim of fostering coordination," said Dr Karanja.
- The CS highlighted that as a Ministry, they have resumed the Public Private Dialogues to continue working together to unlock the many challenges faced by farmers and stakeholders in accessing vital agricultural information and services geared towards enhancing productivity and market access as well as ways of mitigating against climate change effects.
- "The linkages between the research, academia, extension, and private sectors need to be strengthened so that we can contextualise the Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPS) promotion and enhanced adoption," said the CS.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in liaison with the county governments, has started off an agripreneur model where the youth, using digital technology, have been on boarded to provide extension services to farmers at the Ward level.

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Dr Andrew Karanja said that the government is continually relying on technology and digitisation to bridge the gaps in delivery of services to the farmers

Dr. Karanja said that for Kenya to increase agricultural production and reduce the food importation bill of Sh500 billion annually, it is necessary for all extension service providers to come together and devise ways to reach out to the agricultural producers with the latest production technologies, especially through digital platforms.

"Under the Kenya Integrated Agricultural Management Information System (KIAMIS), we are planning to launch an extension module to leverage digital platforms in enhancing access to extension services," explained the CS.

Speaking during the Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services—Kenya (KeFAAS) 2nd National Agricultural Extension Symposium, Dr Karanja said that through KIAMIS, they have a database of 6.45 million farmers who can be targeted with a number of services, including the provision of input subsidies, agricultural market information, crop and livestock advisories, among other services.

"To create an enabling environment, the Ministry has developed the Kenya Agricultural Sector Extension Policy (KASEP) and the Extension Guidelines and Standards to guide extension service providers with an aim of fostering coordination," said Dr Karanja.

The CS highlighted that as a Ministry, they have resumed the Public Private Dialogues to continue working together to unlock the many challenges faced by farmers and stakeholders in accessing vital agricultural information and services geared towards enhancing productivity and market access as well as ways of mitigating against climate change effects.

"The linkages between the research, academia, extension, and private sectors need to be strengthened so that we can contextualise the Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPS) promotion and enhanced adoption," said the CS.

Dr. Karanja said that they are also streamlining resource utilisation, explaining that they have around Sh150 billion worth of donor-funded programmes within the ministry and its agencies, and it is critical that the funds are used efficiently to avoid duplication of roles and wastage of funds.

"Through the intergovernmental coordination framework, we are in talks with county governments so that they can increase budgetary allocation for agriculture, which will stimulate economic growth. Most of our counties are agricultural, and we cannot expect them to grow without necessary budgetary investment. Without agriculture development, we lose on foreign exchange as a result of importing more than we export," said Dr Karanja.

Dr Andrew Karanja

He explained that the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security proposed a 10 per cent budget allocation towards agriculture development, but in Kenya the allocation by both the National and County governments is at an average of between 4-5 per cent.

"We are working with other stakeholders like the Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services—Kenya (KeFAAS) and looking at similar activities that they have in offering extension services. We don't have to reinvent the wheel; we will take up what has been working and incorporate it into our policy guidelines," said Dr. Karanja.

KeFAAS CEO Peter Gitika said that this year's 2nd Agricultural Extension Symposium theme, "Delivering pluralist extension to the last mile for an improved agri-food system" is geared towards bringing all stakeholders together to deliberate on ways to incorporate technology into extension services.

"We have recognised the need for employing digital technology in offering extension to farmers. In Murang'a County, we have trained seven digital connectors using the agripreneur model," said Gitika.

He explained that digital connectors have degrees in agriculture, but they were able to take them through a one-year training to have the mindset of an agripreneur, and they supported them to setup small enterprises where they are offering extension services and earning a living.

Gitika explained that from three years of monitoring and evaluating the extension services, statistics indicate that the farmers have increased their incomes by 30 per cent.

"We are also working with counties in efforts to help them build the capacity of cooperative societies to come up with policies, particularly on governance, human resource management, and institutionalising some of these activities within their frameworks," said Gitika.

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Dr Andrew Karanja (Second from Right) and KeFAAS CEO Peter Gitika (r) visiting exhibition stands during the Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services – Kenya (KeFAAS) 2nd National Agricultural Extension Symposium. Photo/Joseph Ng'ang'a.

KenGen Aims To Add 1500 MW Of Green Energy To National Grid

By: Erastus Gichohi and Bernice Nge'ndo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Speaking during the launch of the strategy in Olkaria, Naivasha, Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi lauded KenGen's efforts in tapping green energy, which he noted is key to driving the country's economic and social development.**
- **Wandayi said the extra 1500 MW of power will be sourced from the expansion and development of Olkaria six and seven power plants, rehabilitation of decades-old Olkaria one plant, and expansion of solar and wind projects across the country.**
- **Already, the ongoing rehabilitation of the Olkaria One power plant in Naivasha is expected to boost its generating capacity from the current 45 MW to 63 MW, with the Muhoroni Gas Power plant expected to add an extra 60 MW to power western Kenya industrial sectors and households.**

The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) has committed to adding an extra 1500 MW of power sourced from green energy sources to the national grid in the next ten years.

The remarkable milestone, once achieved, will position Kenya on the world map as a key producer and user of green energy, which will help in climate mitigation through reduced carbon emissions.

Currently, the country sources over 90 per cent of its power-generating portfolio from green energy sources of geothermal, wind, solar, and hydro, with an output of 1726 MW.

This has positioned Kenya at the top of the map in the African continent in green energy production and is ranked seventh in the world in green energy production thanks to the government's commitment to transition to 100 per cent use of green energy by the year 2030.

Within the next decade, KenGen seeks to Marshall more than USD 4.3B (est. Sh556.8B) from its key funding partners to implement the now-launched strategy where it seeks to add an extra 1500 MW of power from green energy sources with 800 MW sourced from geothermal.

In addition, the company said the achievement would be realised in partnership with the Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC) in exploring new sources of geothermal to replace old ones, with Kenya estimates to sit on 10,000 MW of geothermal potential.

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Already, the ongoing rehabilitation of the Olkaria One power plant in Naivasha is expected to boost its generating capacity from the current 45 MW to 63 MW, with the Muhoroni Gas Power plant expected to add an extra 60 MW to power western Kenya industrial sectors and households.

At this time, KenGen has already awarded the tender to a Chinese company to undertake the rehabilitation works at the Olkaria One power plant, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year 2026.

On the other hand, the government has also committed to reviving the Muhoroni gas turbine plant to generate 60 MW, which is expected to curb frequent power blackouts due to system overloads within the western Kenya region.

The CS said the government will continue to support the sector with revamped policies to meet the growing demand of Kenyans seeking reliable and affordable power tariffs.

On his part, KenGen's Managing Director Peter Njenga said currently, the company's energy portfolio stands at 1726 MW, including Geothermal 754 MW, Wind 25 MW, Thermal 120 MW, and Hydro sources 826.4 MW.

Njenga said KenGen will invest USD 4.3B (est. sh. 556.8B) over the next ten years to add the extra 1500 MW of green energy to the national grid as well as establish 500 MW hours of storage to help stabilise power transmission and curb cost disruptions.

The MD added that the company is undertaking a diversification strategy by helping neighbouring countries of Zambia, Eswatini, Djibouti, and Ethiopia in geothermal exploration.

The diversification strategy, Njenga added, will add an extra USD 2B (est. sh 258B) to the company within the next ten years, which will boost its economic contribution to the government.

Njenga said that the company has already established a green energy park in excess of 740 acres within the Olkaria-rich geothermal valley, where investors will tap 100 per cent of their energy needs to power their industries.

In addition, the MD said the company has already secured a USD One billion (est. Sh.129B) investment towards the advancement of a modern data centre by Microsoft that is set to revolutionize data storage for local and multinational companies in the new digital era.

These efforts, Njenga said, are geared towards assuring investors of a steady and affordable power supply, ensuring competitive power tariffs, and lowering the cost of electricity for consumers.

On his part, KenGen's Board Chair, Frank Konuche, said the strategy is in line with the company's commitments to expand power generation to wind and solar sources, stabilise regional energy security through revamped partnerships, and achieve carbon neutrality.

According to former company managing director and current CS for Tourism and Wildlife, Rebecca Miano, the two state agencies will partner to explore opportunities for investment to drive conservation and attract tourists to the large swath of land at Olkaria.

This, Miano said, can be achieved by building eco-lodges that promote sustainable conservation efforts at the geothermal and forested rich area for both local and international tourists to promote tourism for economic growth.

Governor Njuki Welcome Prof Kindiki's Nomination As DP

At The Same Time Residents Of Prof. Kindiki's Home Neighbourhood Of Embu County Lauded The Move By President William Ruto And National Assembly

By: Mwenda Njeru and Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki lauded President William Ruto's choice of Rigathi Gachagua's successor – Prof. Kitthure Kindiki, saying it shows every person in the country has the ability to lead.

Governor Njuki who spoke from the County's official residence in Kajuki, Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency, said the appointment of Kindiki, was a true manifestation of the end to the politics of shareholding, and a hold of the politics of inclusivity, where, a person from one of the smallest counties in the country, now ascends to the second highest office in the country.

According to Governor Njuki, the appointment of Kindiki is an answered prayer, as his work as Interior Cabinet Secretary has earned him admiration in the hearts of Kenyans, now saying his swearing in will be the icing on the cake, beginning a journey of returning Kenya right on its development tracks.

Prof Kindiki was approved by the National Assembly on Friday afternoon and his name gazzetted as Deputy President - elect, awaiting swearing in, albeit Court Orders issued in Nairobi and Kerugoya halting the move.

Governor Njuki also called on Prof Kindiki to work for the betterment of the whole nation, while bringing each and every community to work in harmony.

At the same time, Embu County residents expressed diverse views with regard to the nomination of Prof. Kithure Kindiki by President William Ruto as the next Deputy President following the impeachment of Rigathi Gachagua.

Many hailed the move, saying he was fit for the job given his national demeanour and vast experience in governance, administration, and law that sets him apart from others.

Prof. Kithure Kindiki addressing residents of Embu County during a past function..

Political Lobbyist Kirangacha Mwaniki said it was also a win for Mt. Kenya East, which has for the first time produced a Deputy President.

"For over 50 years we have supported our brothers from Mt. Kenya West from the time of first President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, and it is time now for them to reciprocate the gesture," he said.

He said the move will also create equality within the region and bring an end to politics of tribalism and ethnic Balkanisation.

A resident Gikundo wa Gikundo termed Kindiki as a man of good repute who has never been implicated in any criminal or graft-related matter.

However, another resident, Joseph Njeru said it was unfair for the former DP to be impeached, yet he was elected on the same ticket as the president without proper public participation being done.

The Role Of Religious Leaders In Democracy Today Goes Beyond Mediation And Prayers

By: Paul Kinyanjui
@themtkenyatimes

I deeply thank the Church for its efforts in facilitating a reconciliation.

Many thanks and gratitude to all mediators, especially both the Evangelical Churches and NCCK body. As the Church Leadership or Clergy struggles to explain the role of the Church in failed reconciliation and a rushed impeachment, may our Good Lord bless those religious leaders who have never been partisan or been in compromised situations either by accepting, receiving or asking for a bribes or gifts from politicians.

May our Good Lord bless those church leaders and churches that always diligently play the role of being the conscience of the society.

Benefit of the doubt is well foreseeable in Proverbs 18. There are two sides to every story. Solomon says: "The person who tells one side of a story seems right, until someone else comes and asks questions."

Therefore, by giving each other the benefit of the doubt, living unoffended and giving up the right to be angry, are some of the ways to seek unknown truths, realities and understanding.

Nevertheless, the Church must be willing to both forgive itself and redeem itself from any past mischief or misconduct that could have compromised its role in carrying out progressive mediations.

Taking sides, hypocrisy and partisanship is a short-lived scheme. Manipulations of churches by politicians will always be scandalous and to whom and whoever dragged some churches or clergy into politics it will be them to blame.

Likewise, whoever invited the other to their 'bedroom' between the clergy and the politicians are responsible for most of the ongoing political tensions, confusion, misunderstanding and turmoil.

Only genuine prayers and cleansing rituals shall heal the endless wounds of betrayal, suspicion and witch-hunting.

The challenge before the Church in the coming days will be to balance between avoiding partisanship, hypocrisy and to remaining faithful as the conscience of the society.

The Church must deliberately engage all government organs and citizens in seeing the urgent need to establish Proper Civic Education procedures and policy as well as instituting proper Public Participation engagements, guidelines and policies.

And to remain relevant, the xlergy must choose between serving God or serving mammon. Matthew 6:24 says: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

As many churches vanish and remain voiceless and betrayed, I am left asking the deep question who owns the Church of today? Is it God, Clergy, Builders, State, Politicians, Believers or gods? Who?

By Paul Kinyanjui is A Freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic, Tutor and Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends with an aim to Create Awareness Educate Enlighten Empower and Inspire. E-Mail; kinyanjuipaul2030@gmail.com

When We Say Mother

"Mother, When we say mother, a beautiful woman is embodied before our eyes."
The teacher began. One of the students asked:
"Teacher, why do not mothers cry?"
The teacher said, "They do, but they do not reveal it to anyone, especially to their children. Another student said:
"But when my mother cries everyone knows that"
When the teacher asked to explain her words, she answered "
My grandmother said that my mother is in the heaven.
And if something happens to me, she cries and it rains that day."
The lesson was over, and it was raining heavily outside ...

Mahliyokhan Kadirova was born on May 4, 2004 in Andijan region. Her poetry books "Heart of Wonders" and "The Sea in My Heart" have been published. Currently, she is a 2nd-year student of the Faculty of English Language and Literature, in Ferghana State University

Geology Is An Important Field

Schools do not have an understanding of what this field is.
Many people think that geology is the same as geography.
In fact, it is not.
Geology is an important area in the development of the economy.
Imagine if there were no mineral deposits?
How difficult our lives would be.
Iron, copper, gold, silver and even coal are all extracted from mineral deposits.
Geologists find useful mineral deposits.
Do you understand the importance of our field?
Geology not only studies minerals,
But also earthquakes, which are natural disasters,
and geologists are very necessary in building earthquake-resistant houses.

Dilshodova Munisa Dilshod
Dilshodova is the daughter of Munisa Dilshod
4th year student of the Geology Department of the Faculty of Geography and Ecology of Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov

People Close To My Heart

You are very close to my heart,
You are as bright as fire,
Wishing you good luck,
People close to my heart.

Thank you,
May your heart be filled with joy,
May the names die unseen.
People close to my heart.

You are there, why am I sad?
Without a friend, what is missing?
I am full of joy, how many days I have,
People close to my heart.

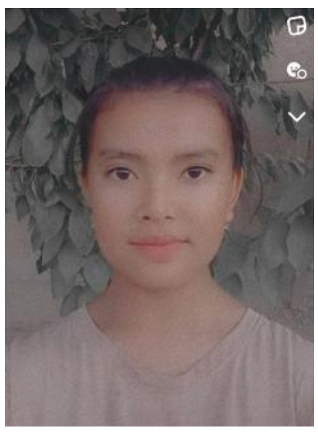
My arms are always open to you,
It burns, my hearth of love,
All the happy times you have passed,
People close to my heart.

I always say, stay safe
Always laugh and don't be sad
Ozodbek wishes you happiness, always,
People close to my heart.

Author: Ozodbek Narzullayev

Ozodbek Narzullayev was born on December 20, 2006 in Rahimsofi MFY village, Koson district, Kashkadarya region. He began his work in 2023. Currently, his poems are published in many international anthologies, Raven Cage of Germany, Kenya Times of Kenya.
His work is also included in the poetry collection "Republic of Artists Bayozy" published by "Yulduz" Publishing House of Artists.
He was also a guest in the "Fayzli Kun" program broadcast on the Kashkadarya TV channel. The poet was also interviewed on the Golden Oasis radio.

In The Hospital



Mubina has been suffering for four months without finding a cure for her pain. Doctors say that he is seriously ill. The legs of the moon Mubina do not give rest at night. He seemed to get used to it later. But Mubina's heart ached very badly. Lying in this four-walled hospital is heartbreaking. He also wants to walk the streets and sit in a circle with his relatives. Mubina especially misses her only son very much. His son has gone to the city. Oisi has come once since he was admitted to the hospital. He sat there for half an hour and said he had work to do. That day Mubina's mouth was in his ear. Relatives of other patients come almost every day. They bring different types of food. Foods are also linked to the month of Mubina. Mubina eats a bite of food and lays down facing the door. And so the days pass. The same door opened and his son came. Hot bread and cream in hand. He sat hugging his mother.
- Have you recovered, mother?
- Yes, thank you, my child. What are you doing?
- On the go with work. After all, business does not wait.
- Yes, learn from my businessman son, said Mubina happily.
- Frankly, I want to sell the house. Don't give me money for business.
Mubina's eyes widened and she screamed.
- The yard left by your father! I will never agree!
- After all, this is business
- After all, there is no end
His son was also angry
- Shall I ask for your consent? I can sell the house in my name if I want, I can make it one with the land if I want.
After saying these words, he closed the door and left. Mubina's eyes filled with tears.
Hospital. It's nine o'clock in the evening. A poor mother who didn't even need her own son passed away. His illness did not kill him. Endless heartache killed him.

Nurullayeva Mushtari
She is a student of the 8th grade of the creative school named after Hamid Olimjon and Zulfiya

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BUSINESS

Leading The Global South: India's Inclusive Vision Vs China's Extractive Strategy

By: Vaishali Basu Sharma
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor have further illustrated India's vision of global cooperation, highlighting inclusive growth and sustainable development.**
- **Programs like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative and India's leadership in forums such as the International Solar Alliance highlight its commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. India's policy stresses capacity building, with an emphasis on shared history and culture, offering development assistance that fosters self-reliance rather than dependency.**
- **China, on the other hand, has pursued a more assertive and top-down approach in its engagement with the Global South, particularly through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**

The Global South is beginning to find some much-needed resurgence within the larger international arena. International forums are visibly re-orienting their focus towards the developing world, albeit through different mediums and with a different intent. Within this landscape of changing global dynamics, two Asian giants, India and China seem to be playing contrasting roles in bridging the development divide within the Global South. Both their approaches in engaging with the developing world differ significantly, particularly in terms of inclusivity, transparency, and long-term partnership strategies. While both have sought to strengthen ties with Africa, Asia, and Latin America, their strategies reflect contrasting philosophies and long-term goals.

India's approach to the Global South has largely been rooted in principles of mutual respect, historical solidarity, and cooperation without conditionality. Since its independence, New Delhi has emphasized South-South cooperation, promoting developmental partnerships that prioritizes local needs and empower nations without imposing external models.

A prime example of this is India's recent role in bringing the African Union (AU) into the fold of the G20 during its presidency in 2023. Such an effort underscored India's commitment to amplifying the voices of the Global South on the global stage. Furthermore, India has consistently positioned itself as a partner in development, focusing on areas like capacity-building, education, healthcare, and sustainable growth through its South-South cooperation efforts.

Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor have further illustrated India's vision of global cooperation, highlighting inclusive growth and sustainable development. Programs like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative and India's leadership in forums such as the International Solar Alliance highlight its commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. India's policy stresses capacity building, with an emphasis on shared history and culture, offering development assistance that fosters self-reliance rather than dependency.

China, on the other hand, has pursued a more assertive and top-down approach in its engagement with the Global South, particularly through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While these projects have been celebrated for accelerating infrastructure development, they have often been criticized for their lack of transparency, unequal partnerships, and concerns over debt sustainability.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a light moment with former African Union Chairman and Comoros President Azali Assoumani during the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, Sept 9, 2023.

Several countries have voiced apprehensions over the debt trap diplomacy, where Chinese loans for infrastructure projects have saddled developing nations with unsustainable debt, eroding local sovereignty. Take Africa for instance, Beijing has provided financial loans for infrastructural projects to more than 32 African nations including Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Cameroon and Zambia in some of the recent years.

Combined together, the continent owes China a deficit of $93 billion dollars which is predicted to reach $153 billion in the coming years. Moreover, China's strategic focus on resource extraction and market expansion in the Global South has raised questions about whether its developmental assistance is truly aimed at promoting local growth or primarily serving Beijing's geopolitical interests. The continent of Africa has been granted excessive debt in order to gain influence over its natural resources, subsequently making China the largest bilateral creditor to African countries.

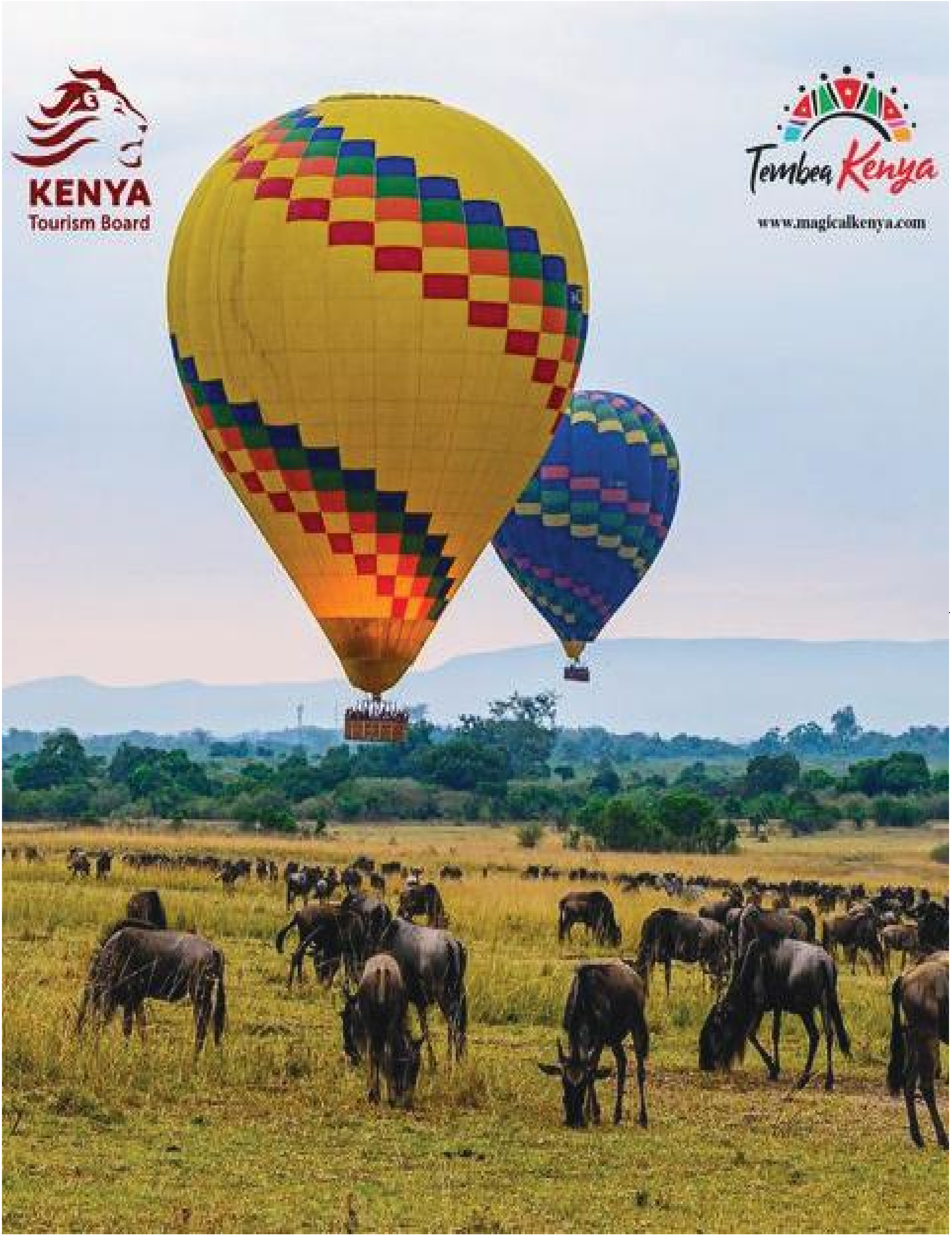
While both India and China are major players in the Global South, their approaches reflect contrasting philosophies. India's inclusive and partnership-driven strategy stands as an extreme contrast to China's transactional, and often self-serving model of leadership.

From India's perspective, its global pitch for mutual cooperation has aimed to promote various agendas that include digital transformation, inclusive development, clean energy, gender equality, sustainable infrastructure and adequate reforms in the international system. Its quest to channelise its leadership for a greater push towards fulfilment of the goals that bring better development for the developing world is also meant to motivate other like-minded nations in adopting similar.

Moreover, India's own domestic economic goals too are moving in the positive direction in response to its ambition of promoting the goals as a primary agenda in its objectives. Welfare schemes aimed towards decreasing economic and social inequalities as well as improving healthcare accessibility is playing a significant role in taking it a step closer to living onto its global commitments of paving the way for other countries to follow upon.

Thus, India's focus on empowering the Global South through inclusive partnerships stands in stark contrast to China's extractive and infrastructure-centric model. While China has faced criticism for exploiting the natural resources under-developed and the developing world, leaving countries burdened with debt, India has cultivated relationships rooted in mutual benefit, emphasizing long-term capacity-building and people-centric development to bring the much-needed reforms in how the world views the Global South.

The author is an analyst on geopolitical and macroeconomic issues. Email: postvaishali@gmail.com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Taking the Leap: Unveiling the Commercial Potential of Sky-Diving in Kenya's Aviation Market

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's aviation sector has experienced significant growth in recent years, with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) reporting a 10.8% increase in air traffic movements in 2019 compared to the previous year. The country's strategic location as a regional hub and its thriving tourism industry have contributed to this growth. In 2019, Kenya's tourism earnings reached KES 163.6 billion, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, highlighting the potential for adventure tourism activities such as sky-diving.

The global sky-diving market was valued at USD 1.4 billion in 2020 and is projected to reach USD 2.7 billion by 2028, growing at a CAGR of 8.5% during the forecast period, according to a report by Grand View Research. This growth is driven by increasing disposable incomes, a growing adventure tourism sector, and rising popularity of extreme sports among millennials and Gen Z consumers.

Kenya's regulatory framework for civil aviation is governed by the Civil Aviation Act of 2013 and various regulations issued by the KCAA. These regulations cover areas such as aircraft registration, airworthiness, personnel licensing, and air operator certification. For recreational aviation activities like sky-diving, specific regulations apply, including those related to parachute operations and safety standards.

The process of establishing a recreational aviation company in Kenya, particularly one focused on sky-diving, involves navigating a complex regulatory ecosystem and addressing various business considerations. This multifaceted endeavor requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses regulatory compliance, financial planning, operational setup, and risk management.

One of the primary challenges in entering the Kenyan sky-diving market is obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals from the KCAA. This process involves demonstrating compliance with safety standards, operational procedures, and personnel qualifications. Dr. Gilbert Kibe, former Director General of KCAA, emphasizes that "safety is paramount in aviation, and any new entrant must demonstrate a robust safety management system and adherence to international best practices" (KCAA Annual Report, 2021).

Financing is another critical aspect of establishing a sky-diving business in Kenya. According to a report by the Kenya Association of Air Operators (KAAO), the initial capital investment for a small-scale recreational aviation company can range from KES 50 million to KES 200 million, depending on the scale of operations and equipment required. This significant capital requirement necessitates careful consideration of financing models, which may include equity investment, debt financing, or a combination of both.

The development of a comprehensive operations manual is a crucial step in the regulatory approval process. This manual outlines standard operating procedures, safety protocols, emergency response plans, and training requirements for personnel. Captain Irene Koki Mutungi, Kenya's first female airline captain, notes that "a well-crafted operations manual is not just a regulatory requirement but a vital tool for ensuring consistent, safe operations in the dynamic environment of aviation" (African Aviation Magazine, 2023).

Leasing agreements play a significant role in the financial and operational structure of a sky-diving business. Wet leases, where aircraft are leased with crew, maintenance, and insurance, can provide flexibility and reduce initial capital expenditure. Dry leases, on the other hand, involve leasing only the aircraft, which requires the operator to provide crew and handle maintenance. The choice between wet and dry leases depends on factors such as operational capacity, cost considerations, and regulatory requirements.

Securing suitable aerodrome agreements is essential for sky-diving operations. These agreements typically cover aspects such as use of runways, hangar space, and support facilities. Dr. Mercy Korir, an aviation consultant based in Nairobi, points out that "negotiating favorable aerodrome agreements can significantly impact the operational efficiency and cost structure of a recreational aviation business" (East African Aviation Symposium, 2024).

Liability management is a critical consideration in the high-risk environment of sky-diving. Tandem liability, which pertains to jumps where a customer is harnessed to an instructor, requires careful legal structuring and robust insurance coverage. According to a report by AON Insurance Brokers, the liability insurance premiums for sky-diving operations in Kenya can range from 2% to 5% of annual revenue, depending on the company's safety record and risk management practices.

The market potential for sky-diving in Kenya is closely tied to the country's tourism sector. Professor Mugambi Mwithiga of the University of Nairobi's School of Business observes that "adventure tourism, including activities like sky-diving, represents a growing niche in Kenya's tourism market, appealing to both international visitors and affluent local residents seeking unique experiences" (Kenya Tourism Board Report, 2023).

However, entering the Kenyan sky-diving market is not without challenges. The seasonal nature of tourism in Kenya can impact revenue streams, necessitating careful financial planning and diversification strategies. Additionally, the high cost of equipment maintenance and the need for specialized personnel can pressure profit margins.

Despite these challenges, the potential for growth in Kenya's recreational aviation sector remains strong. The Kenya Vision 2030 economic blueprint identifies tourism as a key growth sector, with adventure tourism playing an increasingly important role. This government support, coupled with Kenya's natural beauty and diverse landscapes, creates a favorable environment for sky-diving operations.

To succeed in this market, companies must adopt a holistic approach that balances regulatory compliance, operational excellence, and market development. Innovations in marketing, such as leveraging social media and partnering with tour operators, can help drive customer acquisition. Furthermore, diversifying service offerings to include training programs or corporate team-building events can help stabilize revenue during low tourist seasons.

In conclusion, while entering the Kenyan sky-diving market presents significant regulatory and operational challenges, it also offers substantial commercial opportunities for well-prepared entrepreneurs. The combination of Kenya's growing aviation sector, thriving tourism industry, and increasing interest in adventure sports creates a promising environment for recreational aviation businesses. As Captain John Mutahi, a veteran Kenyan pilot, aptly puts it, "The sky is not the limit in Kenya's aviation industry – it's the beginning of a thrilling journey for those bold enough to take the leap" (African Aerospace Journal, 2024).

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher

Worth Noting:

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- Leasing agreements play a significant role in the financial and operational structure of a sky-diving business. Wet leases, where aircraft are leased with crew, maintenance, and insurance, can provide flexibility and reduce initial capital expenditure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urgent Action Needed To Stop Kenya's Mysterious Killings

By: Alvan Mabeya
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The time for passive response has passed - Kenya needs immediate and comprehensive action to protect its people and restore faith in the justice system. It is disheartening to witness the apparent lack of progress in solving these cases, with many remaining shrouded in mystery.
- A swift and effective investigation is imperative to bring the culprits to justice and prevent further loss of innocent lives. Law enforcement agencies must demonstrate unwavering commitment, deploying specialized units and adopting advanced investigative techniques to unravel the truth behind these incidents.
- Collaborating with international partners or seeking expert assistance, if necessary, should be considered to expedite the resolution of these cases. The Kenyan government bears the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of its citizens.

In recent times, Kenya has been grappling with a disturbing wave of mysterious killings that has left its citizens both shocked and deeply concerned. The rising death toll and lack of clarity surrounding these incidents have plunged communities into fear and insecurity, demanding urgent attention and decisive action.

As we grapple with these mysterious killings, it is vital for the government, law enforcement agencies, and the public to unite and prioritize efforts to bring an end to this dark chapter in Kenya's history.The current wave of mysterious killings in Kenya highlights a growing crisis that cannot be ignored.

Innocent lives are being taken away under bizarre circumstances, leaving families devastated and communities on edge. These incidents are not isolated; they are gradually eroding the trust and confidence citizens have in their safety and security.

The time for passive response has passed - Kenya needs immediate and comprehensive action to protect its people and restore faith in the justice system. It is disheartening to witness the apparent lack of progress in solving these cases, with many remaining shrouded in mystery.

A swift and effective investigation is imperative to bring the culprits to justice and prevent further loss of innocent lives. Law enforcement agencies must demonstrate unwavering commitment, deploying specialized units and adopting advanced investigative techniques to unravel the truth behind these incidents.

Collaborating with international partners or seeking expert assistance, if necessary, should be considered to expedite the resolution of these cases. The Kenyan government bears the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of its citizens.

Addressing this crisis demands a multi-faceted approach, starting with increased funding for law enforcement agencies. Adequate resources will enable them to enhance their capabilities, improve intelligence gathering, and boost community policing initiatives.

Additionally, government agencies should regularly update the public on progress made, fostering transparency and maintaining trust with the citizens.

The time has come for Kenyan communities to unite and actively engage in the fight against these mysterious killings. It is crucial for citizens to be vigilant, reporting any suspicious activities or individuals to the authorities promptly.

Furthermore, community leaders should create safe spaces for dialogue and information-sharing, emphasizing the importance of collective security. Public awareness campaigns, both online and offline, can also help educate citizens on personal safety measures and how to respond effectively in emergency situations.

In seeking a comprehensive solution, we must not overlook the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to crime and violence. The government should prioritize initiatives that address inequality, unemployment, and social unrest.

By investing in education, skills training, and job creation, we can empower vulnerable individuals and communities, reducing the likelihood of desperation and resorting to crime. Ensuring a fair distribution of wealth and resources will also promote a more harmonious society with fewer tensions and conflicts.

While we demand swift action, it is essential to remember the fundamental principles of justice and human rights. Law enforcement agencies must conduct thorough investigations, respecting due process and ensuring suspects are treated fairly.

Equally important is maintaining the rule of law during trials, upholding the principles of transparency and accountability to restore public trust in the judiciary. The ongoing mysterious killings in Kenya stand as a dark cloud over the nation, demanding immediate and collective action from the government, law enforcement agencies, and citizens alike.

It is only through decisive measures, including swift investigations, enhanced community engagement, socio-economic empowerment, and fair justice systems, that we can hope to bring an end to this crisis. Let us unite in our pursuit of a safer and stronger Kenya, where every citizen can live without the fear of becoming the next victim of these unexplained and tragic deaths.

The Metamorphosis Of Kenyan Urban Landscapes Into Smart Cities

The concept of smart cities is reshaping urban life in Kenya through innovative technologies and sustainable practices.

By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **At the heart of this transformation lies the role of technology as a catalyst for change. From smart grids that optimize energy consumption to intelligent transportation systems that alleviate traffic congestion, the advancements in urban technology echo a symphony of progress.**
- **The City of Nairobi has partnered with tech firms to deploy smart traffic management systems, utilizing real-time data to optimize flow and reduce emissions. The alliteration of "smart" and "sustainable" encapsulates the essence of this movement—urban spaces that are not only technologically advanced but also environmentally responsible.**
- **However, this progress prompts a rhetorical question: will the benefits of smart technology reach all corners of society, or will they create a new digital divide?**

As the sun rises over the bustling metropolis of Nairobi, the city awakens to the hum of possibility, a dynamic tapestry woven from the threads of technology, society, and sustainability. The emergence of smart cities in Kenya symbolizes a metamorphosis—an evolution that promises to revolutionize urban living. In a country where over 26% of the population resides in urban areas, and this figure continues to climb, the intersection of these elements is not merely a vision but an urgent necessity.

The irony is stark: while urban centers pulse with the vibrancy of human endeavor, they also bear the burdens of congestion, pollution, and inadequate infrastructure. Can technology truly be the salve for these urban ailments, or will it merely mask deeper societal issues? The metaphor of a phoenix rising from the ashes encapsulates the potential of smart cities in Kenya.

Imagine a landscape where innovative technologies seamlessly integrate into daily life, enhancing efficiency and sustainability. This vision is not merely a dream but is being actively pursued through initiatives like the Nairobi Smart City Project, which seeks to harness the power of information and communication technology (ICT) to improve urban services.

With Kenya being a trailblazer in mobile technology—evident in the success of M-Pesa—there exists an untapped reservoir of ingenuity that can propel smart city initiatives forward. The juxtaposition of innovation against the backdrop of traditional urban challenges beckons us to explore the possibilities.

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The City of Nairobi has partnered with tech firms to deploy smart traffic management systems, utilizing real-time data to optimize flow and reduce emissions. The alliteration of "smart" and "sustainable" encapsulates the essence of this movement—urban spaces that are not only technologically advanced but also environmentally responsible.

However, this progress prompts a rhetorical question: will the benefits of smart technology reach all corners of society, or will they create a new digital divide? To ensure inclusivity, the ethos of community engagement must be woven into the fabric of smart city initiatives.

The involvement of local residents in decision-making processes fosters a sense of ownership, creating a platform for dialogue between government, private sector, and citizens. The Kasarani Housing Project, for instance, exemplifies this approach, providing affordable housing integrated with smart technologies that enhance energy efficiency and resource management. The paradox of affordability versus innovation arises here, as communities seek modern amenities without breaking the bank.

In this regard, urban planners must act as stewards, guiding the development of smart cities in ways that respect local contexts while embracing innovation. Moreover, the symbolism of sustainability must resonate throughout the design of smart cities.

As we confront the looming threat of climate change, it becomes imperative to adopt practices that mitigate environmental impacts. The implementation of green roofs, rainwater harvesting systems, and urban gardens not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of urban spaces but also contributes to biodiversity and food security.

The personification of cities as living entities reinforces the notion that urban areas can thrive through a harmonious relationship with nature. For instance, the Green Nairobi Initiative aims to plant over 10 million trees by 2030, turning Nairobi into a green city—a vision that marries sustainability with urban development.

However, the journey toward smart cities is not without its challenges. The antithesis of progress and resistance often plays out in the form of bureaucratic hurdles, lack of funding, and outdated regulations. The Nairobi City County's efforts to establish a smart waste management system have faced delays due to fragmented governance and inadequate infrastructure.

The metaphor of a ship navigating treacherous waters captures the complexities of steering urban initiatives amid political tides and economic uncertainties. Nevertheless, the importance of strategic partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society cannot be overstated. By pooling resources and expertise, stakeholders can foster an environment conducive to innovation and sustainable development.

Furthermore, the role of education and capacity building cannot be overlooked in the transition to smart cities. Empowering citizens with digital literacy equips them to engage meaningfully in the transformation process. Initiatives like the Digital Literacy Program, launched by the Kenyan government, aim to bridge the knowledge gap and promote skills essential for thriving in a smart urban environment.

The allusion to the adage "knowledge is power" underscores the necessity of equipping communities with the tools they need to navigate this new urban reality. As we look to the future, the concept of smart cities in Kenya embodies the convergence of technology, society, and sustainability.

The drive to create urban environments that are efficient, inclusive, and resilient reflects the aspirations of a nation eager to embrace progress while honoring its cultural heritage. The antanagoge of challenges and opportunities presents a compelling narrative: while obstacles abound, the potential for transformative change remains within reach.

By prioritizing investments in technology, engaging communities, and fostering partnerships, Kenya can cultivate smart cities that enhance quality of life and serve as a model for sustainable urban development.

The metamorphosis of Kenyan urban landscapes into smart cities stands as a testament to the power of innovation in addressing contemporary challenges. As the nation navigates the complexities of urbanization, it must remain steadfast in its commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable communities.

The promise of smart cities offers a glimmer of hope—a future where technology, society, and sustainability coalesce to create vibrant urban spaces that honor the past while embracing the future. The time to act is now, for as the sun rises over Kenya's urban centers, so too must we rise to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, forging a path toward a sustainable and prosperous tomorrow.

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The Arrival Of Starlink: A New Era For Kenya's Internet Landscape

By: James Bwire Kilonzo
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Worth Noting:

- The CA's decision to allow Starlink to operate is a strategic move aimed at promoting a competitive environment that benefits consumers. With increased competition, users can expect better services and more affordable pricing, which are crucial in a country where internet access remains a vital component for economic development and social inclusion.
- Starlink's entry into the Kenyan market has already led to significant changes among local internet service providers (ISPs). Safaricom, for instance, has responded by upgrading its fiber internet speeds and introducing new plans to retain its customer base. The company recently launched ultra-fast packages, including a 1 Gbps plan tailored for heavy users such as gamers and content creators.

The Communication Authority of Kenya (CA) has recently confirmed that it will not block Starlink from operating in the country, marking a significant shift in the telecommunications landscape. This decision comes in the wake of Elon Musk's satellite internet service gaining traction since its launch in July 2023, providing high-speed internet to underserved areas. As Starlink enters the market, it promises to reshape the competitive dynamics within Kenya's digital and telecommunications sectors.

Historically, Safaricom has dominated Kenya's telecommunications market, controlling a substantial share of both mobile and fixed internet services. However, the introduction of Starlink has intensified competition, prompting Safaricom to enhance its offerings. President William Ruto has emphasized the importance of competition in fostering innovation and improving service quality. He stated, "Competition helps you keep ahead," encouraging local providers to up their game.

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Starlink's entry into the Kenyan market has already led to significant changes among local internet service providers (ISPs). Safaricom, for instance, has responded by upgrading its fiber internet speeds and introducing new plans to retain its customer base. The company recently launched ultra-fast packages, including a 1 Gbps plan tailored for heavy users such as gamers and content creators. This competitive response is essential not only for maintaining market share but also for ensuring that consumers have access to high-quality internet services. Safaricom's proactive measures demonstrate an understanding that complacency could lead to losing customers to newer entrants like Starlink.

One of Starlink's most compelling advantages is its affordability and flexibility. The company recently introduced a $30.87 monthly residential plan, making high-speed internet more accessible to cost-conscious consumers. Additionally, the option to rent equipment at a lower upfront cost allows users to try the service without committing to long-term

contracts. This pricing strategy is particularly important in Kenya, where many households struggle with the high costs associated with traditional ISPs. By offering competitive rates and flexible options, Starlink is likely to attract a diverse range of customers, including those in rural areas who have historically been underserved by existing providers.

While Starlink's entry into Kenya presents numerous opportunities for consumers, it also raises questions about regulatory oversight and market dynamics. Safaricom has expressed concerns regarding potential regulatory challenges posed by satellite services operating across borders. The company has urged the CA to ensure that satellite ISPs partner with local telecom operators to maintain oversight and protect consumer interests. However, this perspective may be seen as an attempt by Safaricom to safeguard its dominant position rather than genuinely prioritizing consumer welfare. Advocacy groups like Kituo Cha Sheria have already filed lawsuits against Safaricom and the CA, arguing that restricting access to services like Starlink would infringe upon Kenyans' rights to affordable and reliable internet.

The CA's decision not to block Starlink aligns with a broader trend towards liberalizing telecommunications markets across Africa. By allowing new players into the space, regulators can foster innovation while ensuring that existing providers remain accountable to their customers.

As Starlink continues to expand its operations in Kenya, it is poised to play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide. The service's high-speed capabilities are particularly beneficial for rural areas where traditional infrastructure is lacking. By providing reliable connectivity, Starlink can empower communities through improved access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Moreover, as more users adopt satellite internet services, local providers will be compelled to innovate further. This could lead to advancements in technology and service delivery that benefit all consumers in Kenya.

Since entering the Kenyan market in July 2023, Starlink has gained significant traction among users seeking reliable Internet connections, particularly in areas underserved by fiber networks. Official data from the Communications Authority of Kenya indicates that the number of satellite Internet users grew from just 405 in March last year to 4,808 as of March this year due to Starlink's entry into the market.

Additionally, at least two county governments in Kenya have hooked up their ICT infrastructure to Starlink services—Nairobi being one of them—highlighting the growing institutional adoption of this technology as a viable alternative for enhancing service delivery.

In conclusion, the entry of Starlink into Kenya's telecommunications market heralds a new era characterized by increased competition and improved access to high-speed internet. While challenges remain regarding regulatory oversight and market dynamics, the potential benefits for consumers are significant. As President Ruto aptly noted, fostering competition will ultimately lead to better services at more affordable prices—an outcome that all Kenyans can look forward to as they navigate an increasingly digital world.

Starlink's arrival is not just about providing internet; it represents a transformative shift towards greater connectivity and inclusivity in Kenya's digital landscape—a change that could have lasting implications for the nation's socio-economic development. As we witness this evolution unfold, it becomes imperative for stakeholders—including regulators, local ISPs, and consumers—to adapt collaboratively in order to harness these advancements for collective growth and progress.

James Bwire Kilonzo is a Media and Communication Practitioner

Sports >> *Referees' chief Howard Webb says there has been an 80% reduction in the number of video assistant referee (VAR) errors this season.

Premier League VAR Errors Down 80% – Referees' Chief Howard Webb

PL PG Match Officials HUB 16DEC22

Referees' chief Howard Webb says there has been an 80% reduction in the number of video assistant referee (VAR) errors this season.

It has now been five years since VAR was introduced in the Premier League, but the system and the way it is used continues to attract plenty of debate.

According to the independent Key Match Incidents panel (KMI), there were 31 incorrect uses of VAR during the 2023-24 season.

In June Premier League clubs voted 19-1 in favour of keeping VAR after Wolverhampton Wanderers triggered a vote to scrap it.

An independent survey commissioned by the Premier League suggested that four out of five fans want to keep VAR in the league.

The Premier League has started explaining VAR decisions using a dedicated social media channel, but the introduction of semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) – originally scheduled for after either the October or November international break – has been delayed until 2025.

Webb – chief refereeing officer at Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) – has claimed that mistakes are down 80% this season.

"I don't think we managed expectations well in terms of VAR," the former Premier League referee told the Stick to Football podcast, external.

"We knew it was always going to be a situation where it was going to do well on those clear situations, the ones where you think, 'that's clearly wrong on first view'. We're good at spotting those most of the time.

"We have this independent panel which has got ex-players on it, and they judge each decision each week, and according to the panel – which is independent from us [PGMOL] – there has only been two VAR errors this season compared to 10 at the same time last year."

Webb added that greater emphasis has been placed on reducing the time taken to reach decisions.

"We've been better at hitting the mark but that can change and we're not going to get complacent, but it's been better," said Webb.

"For me, the biggest thing of all is that it's been quicker. The average delay last season through VAR was 70 seconds per game and this year it's 25 seconds. It's way better.

"I said to the guys, 'don't ponder for too long, if you see a situation that jumps off the screen at you then get involved, but if you're having to think about it too much and analyse it too many times then just say check complete because we'll leave it with the referee on the field'. That's why the term, 'referee's call' is useful."

'I was frustrated' – Webb on Fernandes red card

Though overall errors are down, Webb admitted that VAR failed to intervene when Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes was sent off against Tottenham Hotspur last month.

Referee Chris Kavanagh showed Fernandes a straight red card in the 42nd minute for a late challenge on Tottenham's James Maddison.

The Portuguese midfielder appeared to catch Maddison with a high studs-up challenge, but replays showed that Fernandes actually caught him with the side of his boot.

VAR Peter Bankes and assistant VAR Simon Long did not overturn the decision because they mistakenly thought it did not meet the threshold for an on-field review.

"We released the audio, you can hear the assistant referee – who's got a good view of it – just saying 'that looks awful, 100% red [card] for me'," said Webb.

"From his angle it looked it, because it looks like the studs have gone in. But then there's another angle shown on the replay on Sky Sports. Straight away I've gone 'that'll be an overturn', but it wasn't.

"I was frustrated that we didn't step in to rectify it because it was clearly wrong in my opinion. He slipped, he tried to trip him but it was the side of the foot and he didn't drive the studs in. If he had then it would have been a red card."

United went on to lose the match 3-0 and Fernandes' red card was overturned on appeal two days later. He was sent off during United's next match, a 3-3 draw with Porto in the Europa League.

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Sports >> *Wayne Rooney says he is "surprised" that Thomas Tuchel has been appointed England head coach instead of a homegrown coach.

Former Captain Wayne Rooney 'Surprised' By Tuchel's England Appointment

England's Wayne Rooney

Wayne Rooney says he is "surprised" that Thomas Tuchel has been appointed England head coach instead of a homegrown coach.

Tuchel will succeed Gareth Southgate in January and the German, 51, is the first non-British coach to take charge of England's men's side since Fabio Capello left in 2012.

Former England captain and record goalscorer Rooney played under both Capello and Sven-Goran Eriksson, and said he felt an English coach would be appointed.

"I think he's [Tuchel] a very good coach, but surprised the FA have employed him," Plymouth Argyle boss Rooney said.

Interim boss Lee Carsley, who will remain in charge for next month's Nations League matches against Greece and the Republic of Ireland, led England to the European Under-21 Championship title last year.

England also won under-20 and under-17 World Cups in 2017, both following the opening of the Football Association's national football centre at St George's Park, near Burton-upon-Trent, in 2012, with the aim of developing a pathway for players and coaches.

"What the FA have built – and I was part of that and have seen first hand what they've built over the last 10, 15 years – it's been great," added Rooney.

"It's been a great platform for young coaches coming through, so I'm surprised they haven't gone in with one of their own.

"But they've made the decision and I wish him all the best, and I hope he does well for us."

Rooney won 120 caps for England and scored 53 goals – a record mark that was only bettered by Harry Kane in March 2023 – between 2003 and 2018.

Rooney played in three World Cups and three European Championships, helping England reach the knockout stages five times as he played under six permanent managers including Southgate, Steve McClaren, Roy Hodgson and Sam Allardyce.

"I think it is slightly different when you go to a World Cup or a European Championship and you're watching your [foreign] coach watch his home nation," Rooney added.

"I've experienced that first hand and it's not ideal.

"But I'm sure Thomas is very professional and he'll do everything he can to help England win."

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

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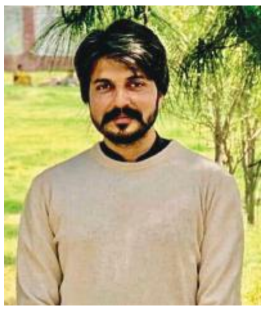
The Unsaid and Unsung Heroes of Compassion: Dr. Salman and Dr. Abdul Quddus



By: Muhammad Adnan Gujjar
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Worth Noting:

- **Dr. Salman is the embodiment of compassion, perseverance, and calmness. I have interacted with many medical professionals in my life, but none have inspired me like these two. My mother (Babay) was struggling with dengue fever. She was restless, sick, and in denial about the severity of her condition, unwilling to accept the bitter truth of dengue. After losing many platelets, she finally agreed to treatment. Thankfully, under the care of these visionary doctors, she was successfully treated and cured.**
- **Then there is Dr. Abdul Quddus Quddus, another God-gifted individual whose character transcends words. He is truly a man of both words and actions. In this materialistic age, few stand out as he does. Recently, he called to check on my mother's health, showing genuine concern.**

Morality is a luxury, and few can afford it. I have been reading and reciting this aphorism for ages, but I saw its concrete image yesterday when I visited the emergency ward of Tehsil Headquarter Hospital, Mandi Bahauddin. There, I encountered a living picture of morality, spirituality, punctuality, and authenticity.

I realized that the world is full of moralists, the transparent facets of humanity. Such individuals are rare, but they are like Keats' verse , "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Indeed, the two doctors, Dr. Salman and Dr. Abdul Quddus, are beauties in bareness and a shadow in the desert. In this meta-modern age, it's a rare gift to find individuals whose compassion touches the heart so deeply.

Humanity, as they say, is a luxury that few can afford. Just last week, I had the privilege of meeting two visionary doctors at the District Headquarter Hospital in Mandi Bahauddin: Dr. Salman and Dr. Abdul Quddus. Both are like living poems, and I feel compelled to immortalize them in words.

Dr. Salman is the embodiment of compassion, perseverance, and calmness. I have interacted with many medical professionals in my life, but none have inspired me like these two. My mother (Babay) was struggling with dengue fever. She was restless, sick, and in denial about the severity of her condition, unwilling to accept the bitter truth of dengue. After losing many platelets, she finally agreed to treatment. Thankfully, under the care of these visionary doctors, she was successfully treated and cured.

He doesn't know who I am, but I am keenly aware of his true and empathetic character. I've observed him many times, and with each encounter, I've learned something valuable. Sometimes, I think tolerance and love were woven into his very being. He is unwavering in his commitment to his profession. It's not easy to deal with distressed minds in an emergency ward, but what a divine gift he possesses! He knows the art of encouragement, and his temperament while dealing with patients is remarkable. Like a savior, he performs his duties in a way that mesmerizes those around him. My mother often says these two men are the pride of their parents. May God continue to bless him.

Dr. Salman's beauty lies in his language and the genuine care he shows to his patients. He treats every patient with politeness and respect, never differentiating between them. One of his most significant traits is the way he explains even the smallest details to his patients, ensuring they understand fully. He encourages them and relieves the pressure they feel, leaving the impression of a psychologist. His thought-provoking and compassionate conduct makes him unique and influential among his peers.

Another striking aspect of his character is his ability to remain calm under pressure. He faces challenges with courage and confidence in emergency situations, never letting stress overwhelm him. He handles difficult circumstances with a smile—a smile that is a unique gift, always brightening his face. His welcoming, expressive eyes speak volumes, not only to elders but also to his juniors, not in a commanding way, but with cooperation and respect.

I've visited him approximately four or five times. Each time, he greets me as though we've known each other for decades. His smile and unwavering support have left a lasting impression on my heart. It's not always about offering formal prayers with cupped hands; sometimes a person touches your heart, and you feel positive energy for them. An unconditional soft corner develops within you, and that too is a kind of prayer, one that God cherishes most.

So, my heart always prays for him whenever his image crosses my mind. Such individuals are the essence of beauty and duty. Though he may not know that I am aware of him, these words serve as a testament that he is not an ordinary figure—he is truly a man of both words and action. May he continue to live with dignity and positivity.

Then there is Dr. Abdul Quddus Quddus, another God-gifted individual whose character transcends words. He is truly a man of both words and actions. In this materialistic age, few stand out as he does. Recently, he called to check on my mother's health, showing genuine concern. He consistently inquires about Amma's condition, and I was in awe that a professional like him still exists in this meta-modern era. He didn't just ask about her; he also adjusted her prescription and shared his thoughtful concerns over WhatsApp. His words left a deep impression on me. That a doctor from Civil Hospital is so concerned, and his words showcase sympathy, care, and empathy:

"Please continue the treatment two times a day. It's dengue. Consider adding Inj. Esomeprazole/Risek 40mg, Inj. Provas 1g, along with other drips. She will get well soon, InshaAllah."

Dr. Salman

Dr. Abdul Quddus.

For me, these are not just words, but a process that resonated in my mind, urging me to pay tribute to both of them. My mind has tried its best to portray them in their best light, though I have only visited them a few times. Such medical professionals are the need of the hour—those who energize and inject newness and freshness into the minds of their patients.

Such gestures were unfamiliar to me, and I found myself reflecting on them as Dr. Quddus's pure and affectionate conduct echoed in my mind. I pray to Allah, asking for more people like him, for such men are rare. Suddenly, Leigh Hunt's poem Abou Ben Adhem came to mind: "And showed the names whom love of God had blessed, And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest." To me, Dr. Quddus is like Abou Ben Adhem—someone who truly loves Allah's creations on earth.

Like Dr. Salman, his aura is exemplary and unparalleled. We often talk about the 'black sheep' in the medical profession, but meeting these two remarkable individuals has completely shattered that cliché. Their humane and humble vision and mission are truly masterful, and their conduct, even in emergencies, is nothing short of extraordinary. "May God bless them with greater kindness, dignity, and understanding." Aameen

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