



Valuing Intangibles: Challenges And Opportunities In Kenya's IP Landscape

Intellectual property (IP) valuation in Kenya is an evolving field that reflects the country's increasing recognition of the economic significance of intangible assets. The legal framework surrounding IP has seen substantial developments, particularly with the enactment of the Movable Property Security Rights Act (MPSR Act) in 2017

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News>>Taifa Sacco Celebrates 50 Years Of Excellence, Opens Ultra-Modern Headquarters

P. 8. Nyeri town headquartered Taifa Sacco yesterday opened a state of the art headquarters as parts of its Golden Jubilee celebrations.



News>>Makueni County Equips Seven Hospitals With X-Ray Machines

P. 12. Makueni County Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr. has announced that seven hospitals in the region will soon be equipped with X-ray machines to improve healthcare services.

Gachagua's Day With Judiciary

⚡ A three-judge bench is expected to rule today on the legality of impeaching and replacing Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Judges Eric Ogola, Antony Mrima and Freda Mugambi will hear an application challenging an order barring the swearing-in of Prof. Kithure Kindiki as the Deputy President. Kindiki was last Friday nominated to fill the vacancy and in a rushed process endorsed and gazetted by the National Assembly on the same day



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zingy and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Marjan Hussein Marjan: The De-Facto Boss Sitting At The Helm Of Crippled IEBC

By: Moses Kinyanjui
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The famous 'Cherera four' comprising Vice Chairperson Juliana Cherera, Commissioners Francis Wanderi, Irene Masit and Justus Nyang'aya disputed President William Ruto's victory, sending the nation in disarray.
- Chebukati, Abdi Guliye and Boya Molu supported Ruto's victory while Marjan remained tight-lipped, seemingly careful to not reveal his limbo.
- On January 16, 2023, Marjan was left a loner after Chebukati and team exited, leaving him with a powerless commission that can not conduct electoral exercises.

After being the caretaker of Kenya's electoral commission - Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) - for nearly four years, Hussein Marjan officially took the reigns of the commission just months before the August 2022 General Election.

He vowed to be a stalwart proponent of having credible elections owing to what he termed as a trusted team of commissioners led by now-retired IEBC chairperson Wafula Chebukati.

The six commissioners - two currently retired and four ousted - alongside Chebukati made Marjan's rule a ride down the waterslide since he was assured of a seamless running of operations.

His sound rule was however short-lived as the commissioners failed to read from the same page on the 2022 presidential results, rocking the commission's boat.

The famous 'Cherera four' comprising Vice Chairperson Juliana Cherera, Commissioners Francis Wanderi, Irene Masit and Justus Nyang'aya disputed President William Ruto's victory, sending the nation in disarray.

Chebukati, Abdi Guliye and Boya Molu supported Ruto's victory while Marjan remained tight-lipped, seemingly careful to not reveal his limbo.

On January 16, 2023, Marjan was left a loner after Chebukati and team exited, leaving him with a powerless commission that can not conduct electoral exercises.

He has since pioneered an impotent IEBC with the absence of commissioners leaving him with limited powers.

Marjan, with a professional background in accounting, heads the IEBC Secretariat which according to the IEBC Act is mandated with executing decisions of the Commission and supervises all employees of the Commission.

Section 10 (7) of the Act added that the CEO is also mandated with facilitating and ensuring the execution of the Commission's mandate, ensuring staff compliance with public ethics, and undertaking any duties as may be assigned by the law and Commission.

With no Commission in the electoral



File image of IEBC Chief Executive Officer Marjan Hussein Marjan. PHOTO| COURTESY.

body, Marjan can only undertake specific tasks and cannot oversee IEBC's most critical task of conducting and regulating electoral processes.

The Act dictates that the Commission is responsible for registering voters, delimiting constituencies and wards in accordance with the Constitution, regulating and settling electoral disputes, and conducting voter education.

Marjan will hold office until 2026 (five years) and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

Ruth Kulundu is the Secretariat's Deputy CEO who survived an interdiction moved by IEBC after Marjan accused her of misconduct for arranging an illegal commission plenary meeting without approval.

The Employment and Labour Relations

Court (ELRC) suspended IEBC's decision on January 2023 and ordered her reinstatement.

The Commissioners debacle

Pressure mounted after the 2022 General Elections as opposition leader Raila Odinga accused Ruto of attempting to constitute an electoral commission that will favour his re-election bid in 2027.

This was after Ruto was expected to appoint a Selection Panel to recruit new IEBC commissioners, which was disputed and dissolved.

A National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) constituting representatives from the opposition and the government was then formed to iron out contentious matters on the reconstitution of IEBC.

President Ruto later signed into law the

IEBC Amendment Bill 2024 which aims to establish the country's electoral management system.

The appointment of a selection panel has however hit a snag after a new case challenging the ruling of the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal was filed in court.

Leaders have called for the quick establishment of IEBC, emphasizing the importance of timely by-elections and a transparent process for resolving unresolved electoral disputes.

Apart from the top bosses, IEBC currently has 10 directors, 24 managers, 47 county election managers and 290 constituency election coordinators.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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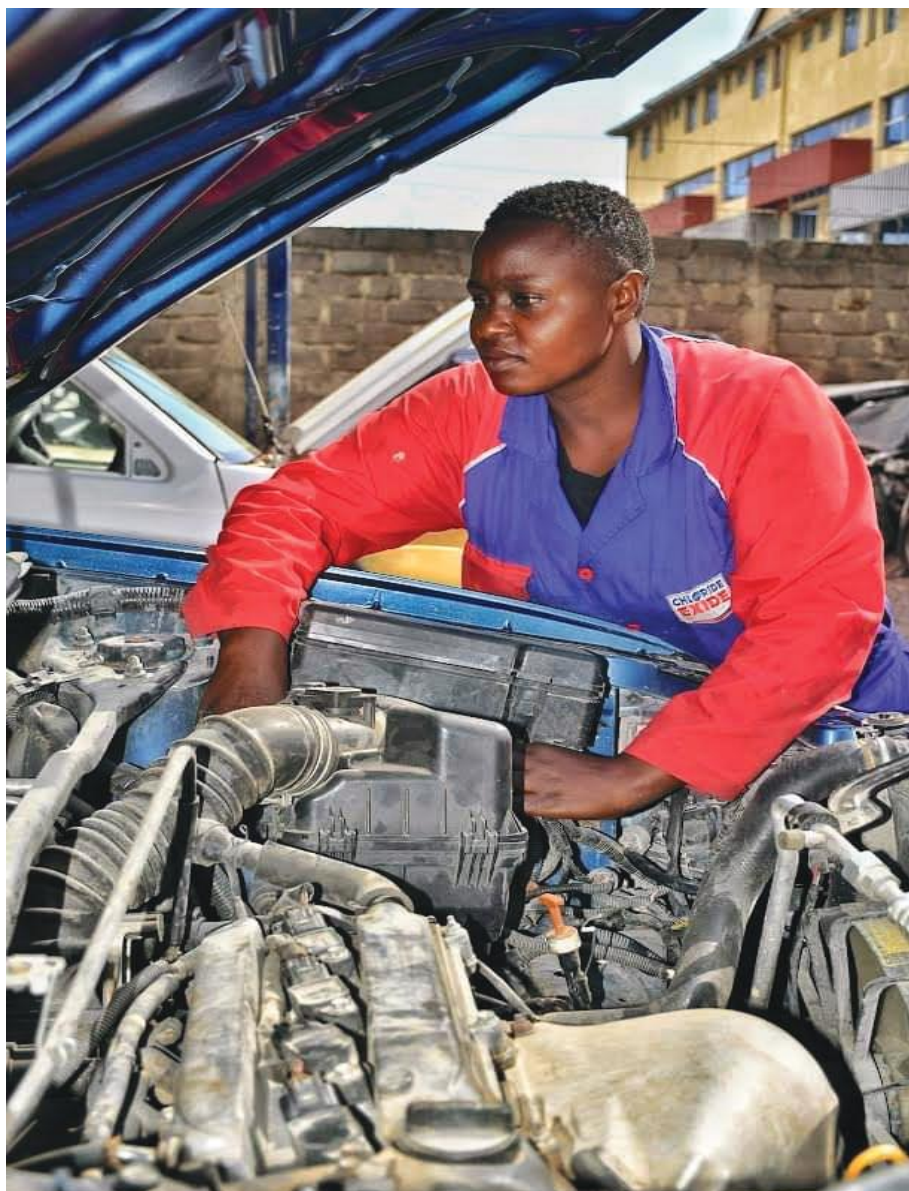
NEWS IN BRIEF



Government relief food awaiting distribution to residents during the launch of the Drought Response Interventions initiative at Mryachakwe village. The government has stepped in to provide urgent relief to Kilifi County residents as the ongoing drought worsens, leaving thousands grappling with severe food and water shortages. The prolonged dry spell has crippled agricultural activities, particularly in the hardest-hit areas like Ganze, where families are struggling with the devastating effects of the drought. Led by Cabinet Secretary for Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) Beatrice Moe, the government launched the Drought Response Interventions initiative at Mryachakwe village, where 40,000 litres of water, 300 bags of rice, and 270 bags of beans were distributed to hundreds of affected residents in the area.



Jubilee Secretary-General Jeremiah Kioni and former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu have declared that the Mount Kenya region will support Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka in his bid for the presidency in 2027. Speaking during a fundraiser in Mwingi, they revealed that the Gikuyu, Embu, and Meru communities have been engaging in grassroots consultations to unite with the Kamba community in a broader alliance aimed at unseating President William Ruto.



Naomi Thuo, a practicing mechanic, works on a car at one of the garages in Naivasha town, breaking barriers in a sector majorly dominated by men. Mechanical skills are among the technical skills the government is promoting among the youth in Technical Training and Vocational Training institutions (TVETs) to bridge market skills gaps and create jobs for thousands of youths.



Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu and Narok North Member of Parliament Agnes Pareyio, during the Mashujaa Day celebrations held at Ole Ntimama secondary school in Narok North Sub County. Ntutu used the Mashujaa Day platform to highlight the key projects he has implemented in the county since he took office for his first term as a governor. Ntutu said so far, he has rolled out over 600 projects across the 30 wards that had been fully funded by the county government. Among the completed projects are: water projects, maternity wings, administration blocks, computer laboratories, roads, bridges, classrooms, dormitories, and livestock sale yards that had been prioritised by residents in the public participation forums.



Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA) has officially been licensed by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) to operate the Northern Collector Bulk Water Supply System. According to a statement this move marks a major milestone in Kenya's efforts to improve access to clean, reliable and safe water. The statement noted that the NCT project is set to transform water service provision for millions of residents in Nairobi and its surrounding counties.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

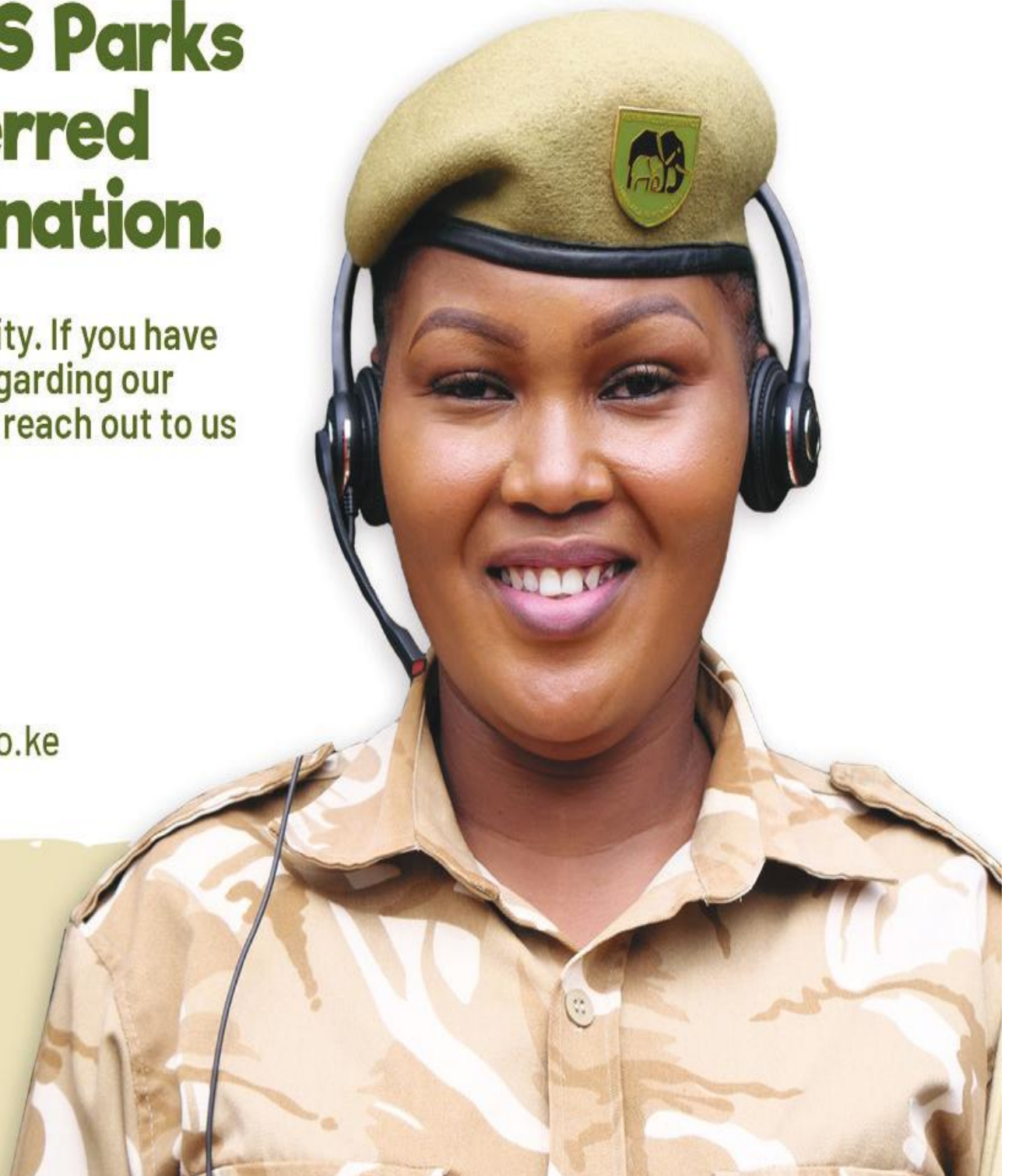
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Over 2,000 Residents In Muranga Benefit From Free M-PESA Foundation Medical Camp

By: Capital Correspondent

Worth Noting:

- Patients diagnosed with or at risk of cancer received nutritional and psychosocial support, while telemedicine was also leveraged to enable patients to consult with oncologists. To ensure proper aftercare, the foundation has also committed to providing free one-year medical cover for up to 20 patients diagnosed with cancer at each of the camps.
- The first and second medical camps for the month were held in Nairobi and Taita Taveta Counties, respectively. Over 6,500 patients received treatment, and over 50 patients received cancer screenings. The next camp will be held in Homa Bay County



More than 2,000 residents in Muranga County benefitted from a free specialised medical camp hosted by the M-PESA Foundation in partnership with Zuri Health and Amref at Kigumo Sub County Hospital in Kigumo Sub County.

The Foundation also distributed 50 mama packs at Longisa County Referral Hospital containing essentials for mothers and babies as part of its efforts to enhance maternal and child health.

This marked M-PESA Foundation's third cancer-themed medical camp, as the world continues to observe

Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Foundation has invested KES 36 million to hold the camps in 4 counties, where the focus is on screening and providing healthcare services related to breast, prostate, cervical, and colon cancer.

"As we continue to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we aim to raise as much awareness as possible on the importance of early cancer screenings for better chances at treatment. This marks our third cancer-themed medical camp, where we have provided breast, cervical, colon and prostate cancer screenings for over 50 patients

in Nairobi and Taita Taveta Counties," said Patricia Ithau, Trustee, M-PESA Foundation.

Patients diagnosed with or at risk of cancer received nutritional and psychosocial support, while telemedicine was also leveraged to enable patients to consult with oncologists. To ensure proper aftercare, the foundation has also committed to providing free one-year medical cover for up to 20 patients diagnosed with cancer at each of the camps.

The first and second medical camps for the month were held in Nairobi and Taita Taveta Counties, respective-

ly. Over 6,500 patients received treatment, and over 50 patients received cancer screenings. The next camp will be held in Homa Bay County.

Other services offered at the camp were eye care consultations, fistula screening, general doctor consultations, diabetes screening, hypertension monitoring, and elderly and child health consultations in partnership with Zuri Health, Lion's Sightfirst Eye Hospital, and the respective county governments.

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Taifa Sacco Celebrates 50 Years Of Excellence, Opens Ultra-Modern Headquarters

By: WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri town headquartered Taifa Sacco yesterday opened a state of the art headquarters as parts of its Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Pomp and colour marked the day-long activities that were preceded by thanks giving service at ACK Church in the Nyeri County headquarters.

Area governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga who described the opening of the new building as a beginning of a new era in the financial institutions that serves hundreds of thousands of farmers, business community as well workers in both public and private sectors.

The Sacco has several branches in among other counties; Laikipia, Kiambu, Nairobi and Nyandarua.

Addressing shareholders, customers and the pubic after opening the iconic building, Dr Kahiga said, “This structure stands as a testament to your growth, resilience, and commitment to delivering exceptional service to

your members. The construction of this new head office marks the beginning of a new era,” adding, “This building will serve as a hub of operations and innovation for the Cooperative, reinforcing your mission to provide quality service and support to your members”.

Dr Kahiga noted that Taifa Sacco is an institution that has been instrumental in shaping the socio-economic fabric of Nyeri County, which takes pride in its strong Co-operative movement, currently at over 198 active co-operative societies spanning a membership of over 500,000 and an annual turnover exceeding KSh8 billion.

The co-operative sector is a significant driver of economic growth, employment, and poverty alleviation, he added.

Further, the governor observed that the Cooperative movement is a pillar of his County’s economy, and institutions such Taifa Sacco play a pivotal role in ensuring that mwananchi can access financial services that would otherwise be out of reach.

“The County Government of Nyeri remains committed to fostering an



Nyeri County governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga, his deputy David Kinaniri, Taifa Sacco chairman James Giting’a, CEO Samuel Ngugi among other guests on group photo taken after official opening of the building.

environment where cooperatives can thrive, and will continue to allocate resources to ensure the growth and sustainability of this vital sector,” he quipped.

“As we celebrate the opening of the building in Nyeri town, my administration will continue to create an enabling environment for the investors in the County. This includes improvement of infrastructure like

roads, water, and street lights for security, and favourable incentives among others,” he said.

Among the leaders who accompanied by among others, his deputy David Kinaniri, Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina, Trade CECM Diana Kendi and her Education counterpart Margaret Macharia.

The guests were hosted by dozens of Taifa Sacco staff and management

led by chairman James Giting’a and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Samuel Ngugi.

Other guests included John Munyiri (Johnny) of Media Council of Kenya, representatives from the banking sector and various saccos and academies.

Seven Suspects Arrested In Kisumu During The Crackdown On Criminal Gangs

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Seven suspects have been arrested in Kisumu following a crackdown on criminal gangs terrorising area residents.

This comes after a public outcry over rising insecurity in the area, where several lives have been lost to the gangs who waylay and attack unsuspecting members of the public with knives, pangas, and blunt objects.

Kisumu County Commissioner Benson Leparmorijo said one of the key suspects was shot by the police and is hospitalised, adding that the crackdown will continue until all the suspects are nabbed.

“We have one of the suspects behind the rising cases of attacks using blunt objects. Our officers are interrogating him, and he is going to lead us to the other suspects,” he said.

The County Commissioner said police have profiled 12 other suspects in Kisumu Central Sub-County who are still at large, asking them to surrender to the nearest police station before the full arm of the law catches up with them.

“We know them, and we have their mobile telephone numbers. I am giving them a last warning to surrender. If you think your name has been wrongfully mentioned, take advantage of this window and come to us so that we can determine if indeed it is a mistaken identity,” he said.

Some of the suspects, he added, have threatened members of the public who are aware of their criminal activities and warned them against reporting to the police.

He asked all the victims not to fear but to share the threats and messages with the police to ensure that the suspects are rounded up and charged.

Speaking at Obunga Sports grounds in Kisumu City during Mashujaa Day celebrations, Leparmorijo added that



police have intensified patrols in the area to ensure that all criminal elements are weeded out.

He urged members of the public to volunteer information to the police to ensure that the joint opera-

tion called to restore peace and security in the Lakeside city is successful.

Gachagua Writes Protest Letter To Judiciary Ahead Of Ruling Today

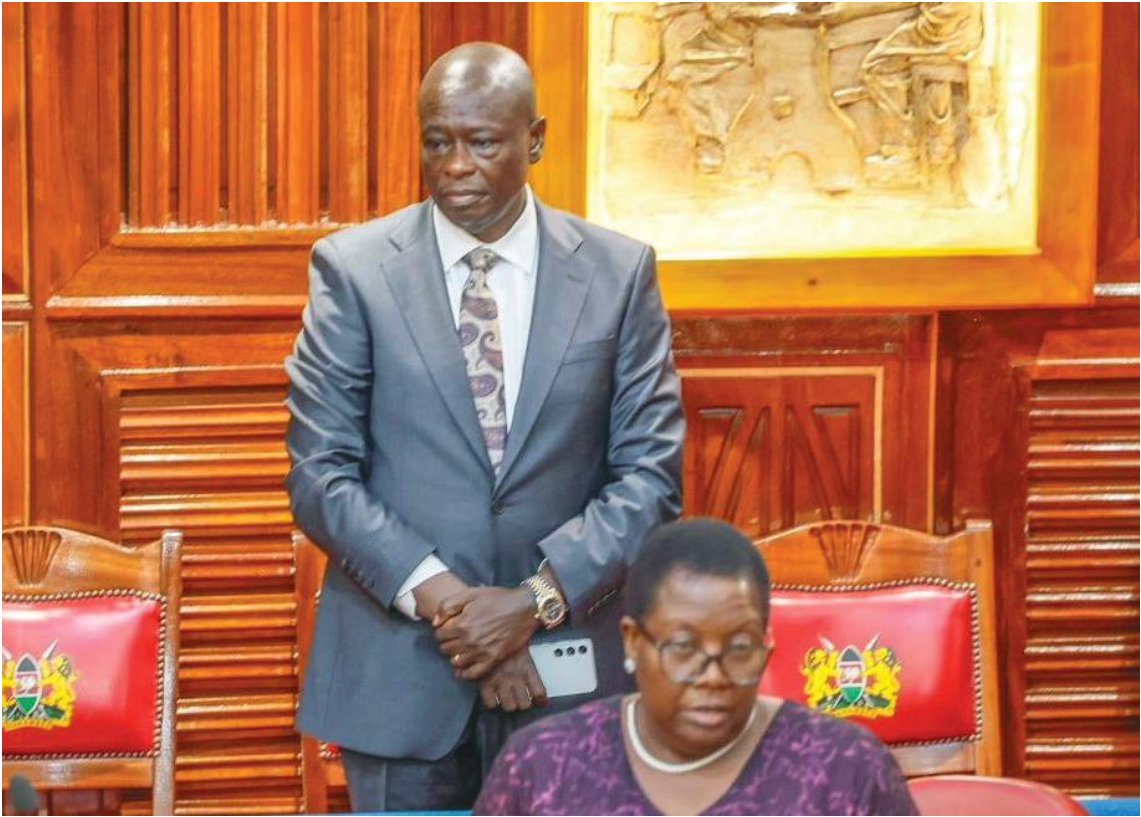
By: KBC Reporters

A three-judge bench is expected to rule today on the legality of impeaching and replacing Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Judges Eric Ogola, Antony Mrima and Freda Mugambi will hear an application challenging an order barring the swearing-in of Prof. Kithure Kindiki as the Deputy President. Kindiki was last Friday nominated to fill the vacancy and in a rushed process endorsed and gazetted by the National Assembly on the same day. Gachagua had made numerous unsuccessful attempts to stop the impeachment process, with at least 26 cases filed in court.

Unfair Trial

Meanwhile, Gachagua has written to the Judiciary requesting an investigation into how one of the cases challenging his impeachment was assigned to the judges without explicit

direction from the Chief Justice. In a six-page letter to the Deputy Registrar of the High Court, Gachagua, through his lawyer John Njomo, says it appears there is a coordinated plan to undermine his rights by denying him a fair trial. He argues the jurisdiction of the Chief Justice is being usurped, as one of the cases challenging his impeachment was moved from Justice Chacha Mwita to a three-judge bench without the express direction of Koome. The legal team further asserts that the three-judge bench was constituted to oversee six cases and is set to address two more on Tuesday, October 22, despite not being appointed to handle those cases. The judges are also accused in the letter of stating there was no open date to hear the petitioners' cases until October 29. However, when the government approached the same bench with two new cases, it managed to find availability for hearings before the 29th, including a sitting on Saturday, October 19.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua..

DCI Summons Gachagua Over Assassination Claims

By: Margaret Kalekye
@themtkenyetimes

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has summoned impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over assassination claims he made when he was discharged from the Karen Hospital. Gachagua accused the government of trying to poison him twice. The DCI, in a letter Monday evening ordered Gachagua to appear before its headquarters Tuesday, October 22 for questioning. "These are serious allegations emanating from a person of your stature and cannot be taken lightly. In light of the seriousness of this matter, we kindly request your presence on 22nd October 2024 at DCI Headquarters-Kiambu Road, to formally record your statement to enable prompt and thorough investigations into the matter" the statement reads. "We understand the sensitivity of the allegations and assure you that this

matter will be handled with the seriousness it deserves. Your statement is a crucial component of our investigation" it adds. Addressing a press conference outside the hospital on Sunday Gachagua claimed that there had been multiple assassination attempts on his life. He alleged that on August 30th, in Kisumu, undercover security agents bugged his room, and one of them tried to poison his food. "We detected it and were able to escape the scheme. I was supposed to be killed by food poisoning." He revealed. The second attempt he said was on September 3rd, when the National Intelligence Service came to Nyeri and tried to poison food that was meant for himself and the Kikuyu council of elders. This comes as the court is expected to rule on the legality of Gachagua's impeachment. A three judge bench will also hear an application challenging the swearing in of Kithure Kindiki as the new DP.



President Ruto’s Commitment To Rollout Of Affordable Housing Is Palpable



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

The rollout of affordable housing stands out as one of the key milestones of President William Ruto since he assumed office two years ago. Speaking in Kwale when he led the nation in marking this year’s Mashujaa day celebration, the President William Ruto enumerated progress that his administration has made in these endeavors. As I promised you during campaign, the concept of the affordable housing is now a reality. The shame and indignity of our people living in the slums is now becom-

ing a thing of the past. Today, every Kenyan can now apply and own a decent and safe house. Most of the banners, posters that were displayed inside and outside Kwale stadium bore the message of Boma Yangu (my home). Handbills with similar message were also distributed to all members of public in attendance. The President was upbeat when noted this. He praised the Ministry of Housing and officials of state department of Special Projects and Creative Economy for preparing these materials. Notably, the creativity of the Team that had done graphic and design work was awesome. The information was disseminated in a way that all classes of people would understand. Kenyans, who want to own a house, only needed to visit the portal and fill application form by entering all personal details required. The President observed: As we celebrate our heroes who fought for independence, I want you to bear this in mind. In our generation, acquiring



Affordable Housing

house for your family is also an act of heroism. Bid goodbye to rent, have your own house. President William Ruto’s affordable housing plan had initially encountered hurdles.

While noting that this will become one of his key legacy, his critics did not want him to succeed. His efforts would not however bore any fruits. Reason? Majority of Kenyans continues to rally and support the Presi-

dent’s plan.
Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator



Four Turkish Nationals Reportedly Abducted Repatriated, PS Sing'Oei Says

By: Capital Correspondent

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The government says four Turkish nationals reportedly abducted on Friday have been repatriated.

In a statement, State Department of Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'Oei stated that this was done at the request of their country.

He indicated that the rights of the four will be upheld after assurances from Turkish authorities.

"Kenya acceded to this request on the strength of the robust historical and strategic relations anchored on bilateral instruments between our respective countries," he stated.

He also expressed the government's commitment to the international community to protect and promote refugee rights as prescribed under national and international law.

'Kenya is committed to the privacy

and confidentiality of the repatriated individuals and will refrain from responding to media inquiries on the subject until the ongoing inter-agency inquiry review of the case is complete," he said.

"As such, the rights welfare and wellbeing of the more than 780,000 refugees residing in the country will remain the government's singular priority."

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'Oei/FILE

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Teachers Aim For Standing And Detoxification Allowance In New CBA

By: George Amolo

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

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Members of the Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) are now demanding for the introduction of more benefits that are unique to the teaching profession.

Ronald Tonui, KUPPET Assistant Treasurer says that only other professions have provisions for strenuous allowances, hence the same should be allocated to teachers.

He says the demand will be made in their new Collective Bargain Agreement (CBA) that they will ink with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) next year.

"Next year we must sign a new CBA with TSC. A salary increase is a must in the CBA. We also want something called standing allowance because this is a very strenuous job. Others are asking for extraneous allowances and given, but we are yet to be given

any. Standing allowance must be in our payslips," Tonui says.

Tonui also called on union members to come forward and suggest other proposals on issues that they would wish to be included in the new CBA that they are currently working on.

The Assistant Treasurer added that they shall also seek introduction of 'detoxification allowance' to science teachers owing to the dangerous chemicals that they are often exposed to during their practical lessons.

"Those teaching chemistry deal with very dangerous chemicals, and we need to be compensated for that. Detoxification allowance must also be introduced."

He also pushed for introduction of 'special duty or acting allowance' arguing that the majority of teachers have been acting as Principals of various institutions but are never compensated for such role.

Mr. Tonui made the remarks during KUPPET Siaya branch Annual General Meeting in Siaya town where stated that the recent decision by



their sister union KNUT to snub the nationwide teachers' only strengthened KUPPET.

He stated that decision was a blessing in disguise for KUPPET since it provided them with opportunity prove their strength in the labor movement, adding they disapproved those who thought that they could not mount a strong countrywide teachers strike without the participation of KNUT.

Makueni County Equips Seven Hosipitals With X-Ray Machines

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Makueni County Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr. has announced that seven hospitals in the region will soon be equipped with X-ray machines to improve healthcare services.

During his speech at the Mashujaa Day celebrations in Matiliku town, the governor revealed that six X-ray machines have already been purchased for Kibwezi, Kisau, Mbooni, Kilungu, Tawa, and Sultan Hamud Sub County hospitals. The first digital X-ray for Matiliku Subcounty Hospital will be delivered in the next two weeks.

In addition to the X-ray machines, the governor announced the purchase of two ambulances for Kambu and Kilungu hospitals to enhance the referral system and ensure timely medical attention for patients across the

county.

“These ambulances will improve our referral system and have already led to a significant increase in patient workload, up to 300% in Kilungu and Matiliku hospitals,” he said.

Governor Mutula also shared that Mutyambua, Emali, Kyambeke, and Nthongoni hospitals have been upgraded to Level 4, resulting in increased staffing and modern equipment, allowing them to handle more complex cases.

To further support healthcare, he has directed the health department to implement a locum programme, ensuring that facilities with only one healthcare worker remain operational during leaves or official duties.

On the matter of drug availability, the governor assured that all health facilities will be stocked in the second quarter and that discussions are underway to address any shortages.



Thika: Probe After 23-Year-Old Woman Raped, Killed

By: Franklin Wallah
@themtkenyatimes

The killing of 23-year-old Seth Nyakio Njeri is the latest brutal manifestation of extreme violence against women in the country.

Seth was killed yesterday and her body was discovered at a rented house in Biafra, Thika in Kiambu County.

Her distraught mother says the Zetech University graduate left their home in Kamakis on Saturday a jovial soul.

The two talked until Sunday but thereafter efforts to reach her daughter have been futile; her calls and text messages went unanswered and this got the parent disturbed.

A search was mounted without success.

On Monday morning, the family received a strange phone call from

a friend. The caller on the other side notified them Seth had been killed.

Police were notified, only to find the naked lifeless body of the young girl.

“I saw visible injuries on the neck, it was horrible to see that,” her mother Lucy Njeri tells Citizen TV.

Preliminary investigation revealed she had been strangled. Police say the assailant sexually abused the deceased before committing the heinous act.

Investigators have zeroed in on a male friend who was aggrieved after the two separated.

It is suspected that the boyfriend got wind of the whereabouts of the girl, seduced her and ended up killing her.

It is a theory that Seth’s parents dismissed alleging the friend Seth was visiting has information of what might have transpired.

Detectives have recorded statements from the female friend Seth had visited.



Seth Nyakio Njeri

Vihiga County Hounours Her Heroes And Heroines

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Vihiga County has identified and fet-ed her heroes and heroines in various fields during this year’s Mashujaa Day commemoration.

Speaking during the event at Emusire High School in Emuhaya subcounty, Governor Wilber Ottichilo said the county would be annually recognis-ing and appreciating the outstanding achievements of her sons and daugh-ters.

The county head stated that it is im-perative that those community mem-bers who contribute in various ways to the well-being of humanity have to be celebrated.

“As a county, we feel heavily indebt-ed to those who do marvellous work in education, environment conserva-

tion, promoting human rights, music, and creative arts, as well as communi-ty service and the decision to honour them,” he observed.

The governor added that the respon-sibility of honouring the achievers cannot be left to the national govern-ment alone, and that is why they re-solved to launch the initiative.

Apart from receiving medals, the champions would be documented in the county records for future refer-ence.

Twelve individuals were feted, in-cluding Prof. Egara Kabaji in the ed-ucation field; Jael Abukutsa, human rights and community service; and Elam Malenge, peace and conflict resolution; Kevin Makova, climate change; while Victor Mwanga was recognised for environmental conser-vation efforts.



MP Warns Against Forest Land Selling Racket

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Lugari lawmaker Nabii Nabw-era has issued a strong warning to his constituents about a fraudulent scheme involving the sale of forest land.

Speaking at the Mashujaa Day cel-ebrations at Lumakanda grounds, he emphasized that the government has not de-gazetted any forest land in Lugari, and those extorting money by claiming to sell land to squatters are criminals.

Nabwera called on Deputy County Commissioner Simon Mutai to take urgent action to apprehend these fraudsters, stating, “Bwana DCC, I will be coming to your office to make a formal report. There are fraudsters moving around deceiving the public that a section of the forest land is being sold.”

He revealed that some of these scammers are prominent figures in the community, luring innocent in-dividuals to bars and hotels in Ka-

kamega town and demanding up to Sh 100,000, depending on the num-ber of people wanting to be settled.

Nabwera reiterated that the govern-ment is not allocating land to squat-ters and that the Mautuma Central Settlement Scheme is not being ex-panded. He urged the public to re-port any suspicious activities to the authorities.

On security issues, he praised local authorities for maintaining peace in the constituency. Mutai, reading the President’s speech, highlighted the importance of peace and security for development, stating, “Without calmness and security, life is difficult and unbearable.”

Mutai expressed gratitude to Nabw-era for recognising the efforts of se-curity agencies in combating illicit liquor and enhancing safety in the area. He also noted that surveillanc-e will be intensified as national exam-inations approach.



Princess Nodira's Dreams



By: Nodira Jo rayeva

Once upon a time, in ancient times, in a beautiful and unique country, Princess Nodira lived. She had a wonderful beauty and lived with the most glorious dreams in her heart. Princess Nodira always wanted to see her people happy, she always helped her people, but she had another dream in her heart – she wanted to discover the heavenly stars and learn their secrets, create her own world, thinking about the appearance of everything in it. Princess Nodira was very kind, shy, open-hearted and sincere. Our princess, who can do whatever she wants, dreamed of living in her own world, with her loved ones. However, what she always wanted was a dream. But she wanted to live in the world of her dreams.

One day, after dinner, the Princess sat down on an old red stone in the garden. In the garden, red, white, and pink roses bloomed profusely. On a clear moonlit night, when the stars decorated the sky, Princess Nodira thought about her biggest dream – to meet the stars. He wanted to walk in the sky, play in the lap of clouds, see the moon and stars up close, even hold and hide them with a blanket...

Because princess Nodira likes them. It's natural for a person to love what he likes from everyone...

Looking at rare stars:

– "O stars! Do you hear me? Talk to me, say something, I want to hear you... I know the world I dream of exists, if it didn't exist I wouldn't have to think about it. I want to know your secrets!" he said looking at the brightest shining star.

Suddenly, the sky became even brighter.

It was as if a miracle happened...

"Hello, Nodira! I am Nodir," said the star. "Your dreams are very powerful and I am sent to help you make them come true. I came to help," he said.

Nodira was surprised: "Really? It seems to me that if my dreams come true, my

joy is boundless, my joy is immeasurable...
How can you help me?"

Nodir, closing his eyes to Nodira, took a deep breath and said:

– "You have to trust me today. If you listen to me and open your heart, if you tell me about your dreams, all your dreams can come true."

Princess Nodira excitedly agreed, and Nodir told her divine secrets:

– "The stars are always close to you. You have to believe in them. You have to work hard to achieve your dreams." Save the love in your heart, give it to those who deserve it and appreciate it. The world is one space, different destinies and different people live in it. Even if people have the same name, each of them is a different world. They are not alike.

The world you dream of exists in your heart, in your heart...

After that, Nodir taught Nodira how to imitate the stars. He told him about the purpose of each star and showed him how to make it even more helpful to his people. He taught him.

Princess Nodira watched the sky every night and followed Nodir's advice. He did many things to help his people.

Uyangi opened schools, built hospitals and helped people solve their problems.

Undeterred by her despair, Nodira was eventually inspired by the heavenly stars and understood their meaning. One day, he discovered not only his dreams, but also the happiness of his people.

Finally, one night Nodir reappeared...

– Rare! I am proud of you. You opened the doors of happiness not only for yourself, but also for your loved ones and parents. People are very changeable and adaptable. But you always worked for your dreams, no matter what the difficulties were. I want to show you the world you want, where you dream, where you want to live, from your heart, your dreams, your dreams, come here, give me your hand, and close your eyes,

– said Nodir...

Nodira Jo rayeva is a student of the Bukhara Institute of Engineering and Technology

Seven Facts To Know About Poverty In India



By: Palak Chauhan

India is the second most populous country two – thirds of people in India live in poverty 688 of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and the other half of the population have less than \$1.25 to survive.

These living conditions are:

Malnutrition – More than 200 million people do not have access to sufficient food, including 61 million children. 78 million infants are found to have a birth weight of less than 2.5 kilograms.

Limited access to education – Despite making strides in improving the literacy rates in general, access to adequate education remains out of reach for many groups in India, especially for those who live in remote areas.

Unequal distribution of wealth and resources – According to the Harvard Business Review, the wealthiest 10% of people in India hold 77% of the nation's wealth.

Lack of healthcare facilities – The healthcare

that the government provides for people living in poverty in India is inadequate in geographic areas leading to untreated diseases and worsen health conditions.

Prevalence of Child marriage – According to an investigation by the medical journal the Lancet, 44.5% of girls are still married in India before they are of a legal age.

Child labour – Although child labour is prohibited in India according to official figures 125 million children between the age of 5 and 14 are working in factories, quarries, and in private households. High infant mortality rate – 14 million children die each year in India before their fifth birthday and India is one of those countries with high infant mortality rates.

Expert's view on India's poverty

Lekha Chakraborty, professor and chair at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, pointed out that any composite index has limitations as it is highly skewed based on the specific choice of variables as well as the methodology used.

"Even the Human Development Index (HDI) constructed by the UN every year is not free from conceptual and methodological criticisms as it is based on only selected three indicators and the way weightage is given to each of the variables," Chakraborty told DW.

"Poverty is dynamic, like chasing a moving target – using MPI for the policy decisions will be highly controversial," she added.

The Impact Of Social Media On Youth



Nowadays social Media are becoming more and more popular among people, especially among young people. About 60 or 70 percent of individuals are active on social networks in our modernized world. But, as the coin has two sides, social media has also both advantages and drawbacks.

Firstly, it can cause insecurity for some people.

Because most peoples on social media post highlighted parts of their lives. They show their perfect body, clear skin or unforgettable trips. It can cause the lack of confidence for some adults. They begin to think like that why I do not have such kind clear skin or perfect body or why I cannot go such kind of places. And I think we should not compare ourselves with other because

everybody is perfect and unrepeatable. Furthermore, they only post their videos or photos for collecting likes, comments or sharing regardless of its usefulness or importance for others. They think that collecting lots of likes or comments mean their perfectness.

Also it has a bad effect on human's health. Besides, the coin has another side also. We can use it for positive and useful things. For example, we can broad our horizon by taking important information from the internet also, 2 or 3 people can join together and start a business or something similar with online collaboration.

In conclusion, although the Social Network offers many opportunities to young people, its negative aspects cannot be denied. Therefore, parents and educators should direct young people to use social networks wisely. The main thing to pay attention to is to maintain a balance: support access to useful information, but at the same time does not forget to control the time.

Social networks are not only a means of communication for young people, but also play an important role in their development as individuals.

Therefore, it is necessary for every young person to know how to use the social network effectively.

Rasulova Dilbar
Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

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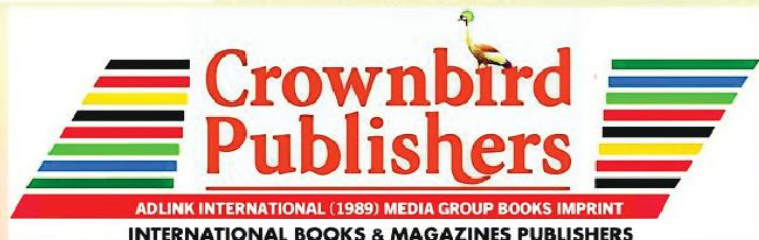
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HEALTH

Egypt Is Certified Malaria-Free By WHO

By: Christine Muchira
 @themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “I reaffirm that we will continue with determination and strong will to safeguard the health of all people in Egypt under the wise leadership’s guidance and proceed with enhancing our healthcare system, this will remain a cornerstone in protecting the lives of all people living in and visiting Egypt.”
- Certification of malaria elimination is granted by WHO when a country has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous three consecutive years. A country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Egypt as malaria-free, marking a significant public health milestone for a country with more than 100 million inhabitants.

The achievement follows a nearly 100-year effort by the Egyptian government and people to end a disease that has been present in the country since ancient times.

“Malaria is as old as Egyptian civilization itself, but the disease that plagued pharaohs now belongs to its history and not its future,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“This certification of Egypt as malaria-free is truly historic, and a testament to the commitment of the people and government of Egypt to rid themselves of this ancient scourge. I congratulate Egypt on this achievement, which is an inspiration to other countries in the region, and shows what’s possible with the right resources and the right tools.” He added.

Egypt is the third country to be awarded a malaria-free certification in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region following the United Arab Emirates and Morocco, and the first since 2010. Globally, a total of 44 countries and 1 territory have reached this milestone.

“Receiving the malaria elimination certificate today is not the end of the journey but the beginning of a new phase. We must now work tirelessly and vigilantly to sustain our achievement through maintaining the highest standards for surveillance, diagnosis and treatment, integrated vector management and sustaining our effective and rapid response to imported cases. Our continued multisectoral efforts will be critical to preserving Egypt’s malaria-free status,” said Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt.

“I reaffirm that we will continue with determination and strong will to safeguard the health of all people in Egypt under the wise leadership’s guidance and proceed with enhancing our healthcare system, this will remain a cornerstone in protecting the lives of all people living in and visiting Egypt.”

Certification of malaria elimination is granted by WHO when a country has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous three consecutive years.

A country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission.

Egypt’s journey to elimination Malaria has been traced as far back as 4000 B.C.E. in Egypt, with genetic evidence of the disease found in Tutankhamun and other ancient Egyptian mummies.

Early efforts to reduce human-mosquito contact in Egypt began in the 1920s when the country prohibited the cultivation of rice and agricultural crops near homes.

With most of Egypt’s population living along the banks of the Nile River and malaria prevalence as high as 40%, the country designated malaria a notifiable disease in 1930 and later opened its first malaria control station focused on diagnosis, treatment and surveillance.

“Today, Egypt has proven that with vision, dedication, and unity we can overcome the greatest challenges. This success in eliminating malaria is not just a victory for public health but a sign of hope for the entire world, especially for other endemic countries in our region. This achievement

is the result of sustained, robust surveillance investments in a strong, integrated health system, where community engagement and partnerships have enabled progress. Furthermore, collaboration and support to endemic countries, such as Sudan, remain a priority,” said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

By 1942, malaria cases in Egypt had spiked to more than 3 million as a result of the Second World War population displacement, the disruption of medical supplies and services, and the invasion of Anopheles arabiensis, a highly efficient mosquito vector, among other factors.

Egypt succeeded in controlling the malaria outbreak through the establishment of 16 treatment divisions and the recruitment of more than 4000 health workers.

The construction of the Aswan Dam, completed in 1969, created a new malaria risk for the country, as standing water produced breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Egypt, in collaboration with Sudan, launched a rigorous vector control and public health surveillance project to rapidly detect and respond to malaria outbreaks.

By 2001, malaria was firmly under control and the Ministry of Health and Population set its sights on preventing the re-establishment of local malaria transmission.

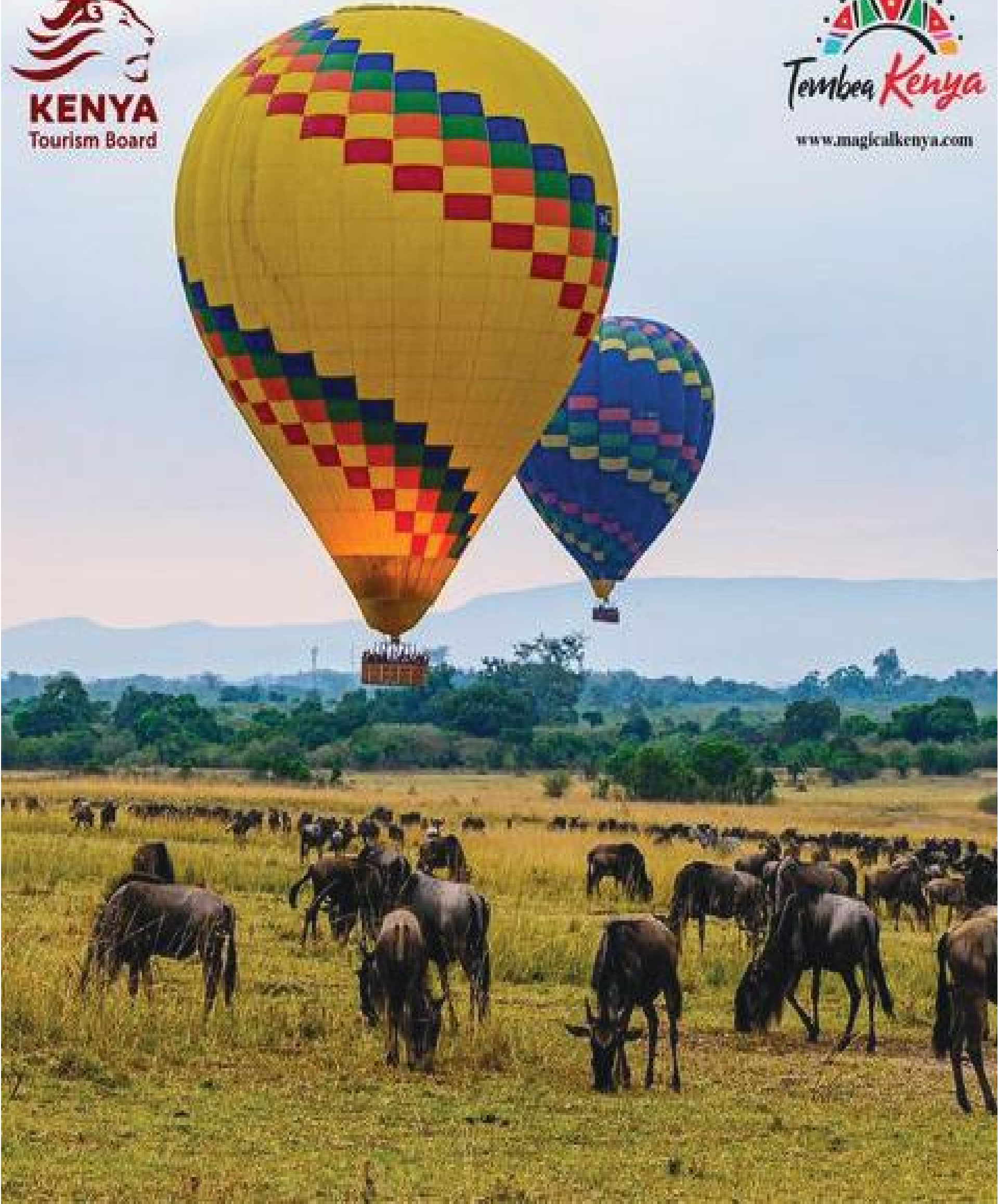
Egypt rapidly contained a small outbreak of malaria cases in the Aswan Governorate in 2014 through early case identification, prompt treatment, vector control and public education.

Malaria diagnosis and treatment are provided free-of-charge to the entire population in Egypt regardless of legal status, and health professionals are trained nationwide to detect and screen for malaria cases including at borders.

Egypt’s strong cross-border partnership with neighbouring countries, including Sudan, has been instrumental for preventing the re-establishment of local malaria transmission, paving the way for the country to be officially certified as malaria-free.



World Health Organization



Valuing Intangibles: Challenges And Opportunities In Kenya's IP Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyentimes



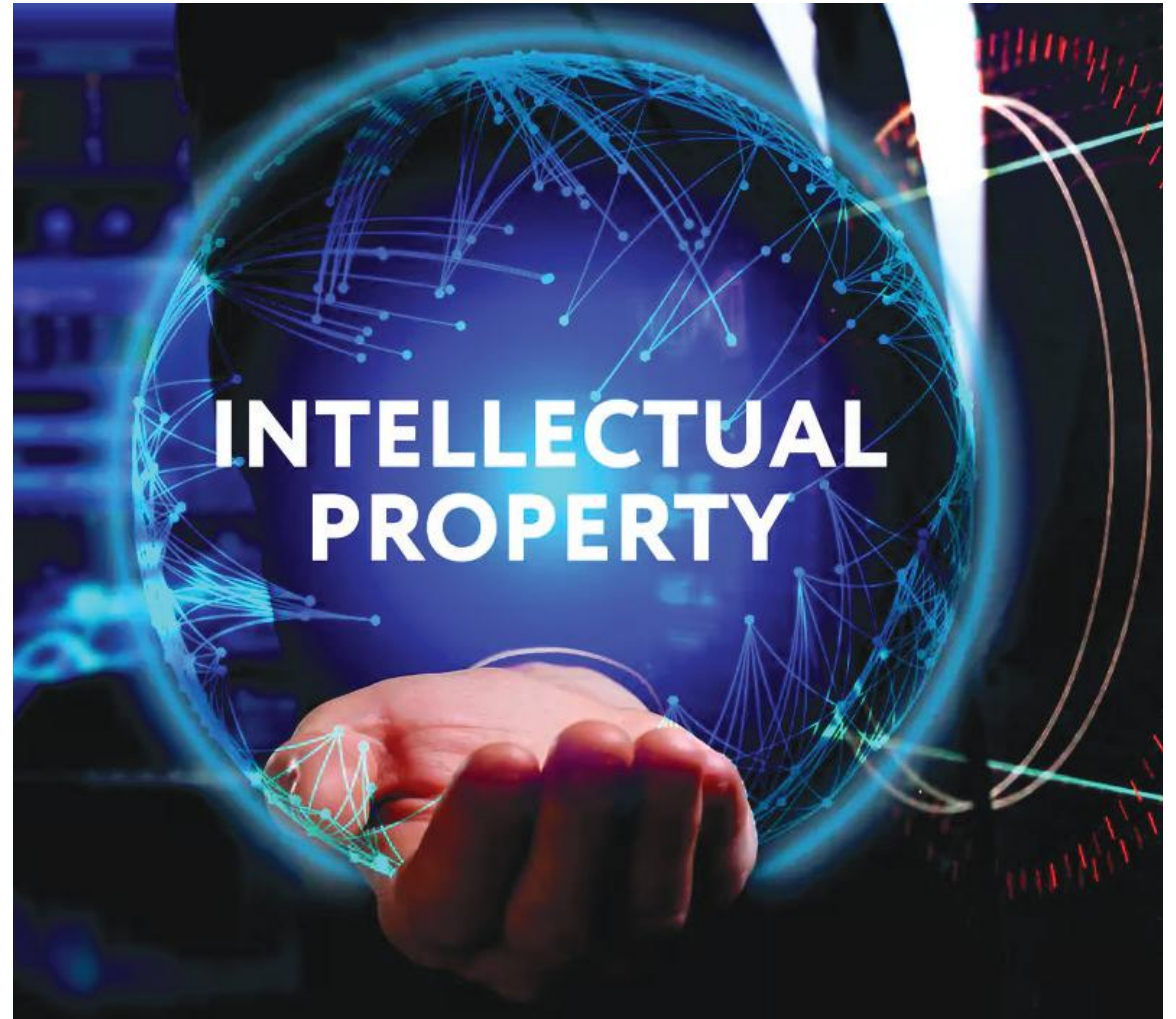
Worth Noting:

- To address these challenges, it is essential for Kenya to develop standardized methods for valuing different types of intellectual property. Establishing clear guidelines will help create a predictable framework for lenders and borrowers alike, fostering greater trust in the use of IP as collateral.
- Additionally, training programs aimed at equipping professionals with the necessary skills for accurate IP valuation are crucial. Engaging with banks and financial institutions to develop tailored approaches for assessing IP value can further enhance their willingness to accept it as collateral. By building a robust ecosystem around IP valuation, Kenya can unlock new avenues for growth and innovation while empowering entrepreneurs.

Intellectual property (IP) valuation in Kenya is an evolving field that reflects the country's increasing recognition of the economic significance of intangible assets. The legal framework surrounding IP has seen substantial developments, particularly with the enactment of the Movable Property Security Rights Act (MPSR Act) in 2017, which allows intellectual property to be used as collateral for loans. This legislative change has opened new avenues for businesses and individuals to leverage their IP assets for financing, thereby enhancing access to capital. However, despite these advancements, the valuation of IP remains fraught with challenges due to a lack of qualified professionals and standardized methods for assessing its worth. The inherent intangible nature of IP complicates its valuation compared to tangible assets, making lenders hesitant to accept IP as collateral without a clear understanding of its value. Consequently, the potential for IP to serve as a financial asset is underutilized in Kenya, limiting opportunities for innovation and economic growth.

The MPSR Act represents a significant shift in Kenya's approach to intellectual property rights by recognizing IP as a legitimate form of collateral. This legal framework aims to broaden credit access by allowing individuals and businesses to use their intangible assets as security for loans. The Act establishes a registry for security rights over movable assets, including various forms of IP such as trademarks, patents, and copyrights. However, the successful implementation of this framework hinges on the ability to accurately value these intangible assets. Without reliable valuation methods, financial institutions may remain skeptical about accepting IP as collateral, thereby stifling potential economic development. The Act's provisions are designed to inspire confidence among lenders, but the absence of qualified valuers poses a significant barrier to realizing the full potential of IP in financing.

The process of valuing intellectual property is complex and requires specialized knowledge and skills that are currently scarce in Kenya. Many financial institutions lack the expertise needed to assess the value of IP accurately, leading them to prefer traditional forms of collateral that are easier to appraise. This preference limits opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses that rely heavily on their intellectual property for revenue generation. Furthermore, the valuation process must consider various factors



such as market trends, legal protections, and potential income streams generated by the IP. The challenge is compounded by the fact that non-registered IP rights may limit access to credit opportunities, as registration provides proof of ownership that can instill confidence in lenders.

To address these challenges, it is essential for Kenya to develop standardized methods for valuing different types of intellectual property. Establishing clear guidelines will help create a predictable framework for lenders and borrowers alike, fostering greater trust in the use of IP as collateral. Additionally, training programs aimed at equipping professionals with the necessary skills for accurate IP valuation are crucial. Engaging with banks and financial institutions to develop tailored approaches for assessing IP value can further enhance their willingness to accept it as collateral. By building a robust ecosystem around IP valuation, Kenya can unlock new avenues for growth and innovation while empowering entrepreneurs.

The commercialization and monetization of intellectual property rights are vital components of Kenya's economic landscape. Various methods exist for individuals and entities to exploit their IPRs, including licensing agreements, franchising, and se-

curitization. These avenues not only generate revenue but also contribute significantly to job creation and economic development. However, systemic barriers such as high costs associated with enforcing IPRs can deter smaller businesses from pursuing commercialization strategies. A lack of awareness regarding available options further exacerbates this issue, preventing many from realizing the full value of their intellectual property assets.

The role of specialized intellectual property tribunals in Kenya cannot be overstated when it comes to enforcing IPRs effectively. These tribunals provide a quicker and more efficient decision-making process compared to mainstream courts, encouraging vigilance among rights holders in protecting their interests. The existence of specialized courts has led to an increase in investments aimed at enhancing the value of IPRs due to reduced litigation costs and improved legal certainty. Consequently, more companies are likely to engage in activities that capitalize on their intellectual property rights when they feel confident about enforcement mechanisms.

Despite these positive developments, challenges remain in ensuring that all stakeholders understand the importance of intellectual property valu-

ation. A concerted effort is needed from government agencies, industry players, and educational institutions to raise awareness about the significance of valuing IP assets accurately. Initiatives aimed at educating entrepreneurs about how they can leverage their intellectual property will be crucial in fostering a culture where IP is recognized as a valuable asset class. Such awareness will not only benefit individual creators but also contribute positively to Kenya's overall economic landscape by promoting innovation.

In addition to domestic efforts, international cooperation plays a critical role in enhancing IP valuation practices in Kenya. Collaborating with global organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) can provide valuable insights into best practices for valuing intangible assets. By adopting international standards and methodologies for IP valuation, Kenya can improve its competitiveness on a global scale while attracting foreign investment into its creative industries. This alignment with international norms will facilitate smoother transactions in-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Alarming Reality Of Police Brutality And Abductions In Kenya

By: Atieno Dorothy
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The government's response to these protests was often met with further violence, leading to a cycle of abuse that has left many Kenyans feeling unsafe in the hands of those sworn to protect them. Families continue to mourn loved ones lost to police violence, often with little recourse for justice. The failure to hold officers accountable fosters an environment where brutality becomes the norm rather than the exception.
- Equally disturbing is the issue of extrajudicial abductions, where individuals are taken by police without legal justification or due process. These abductions often target marginalized communities, with victims disappearing without a trace. Reports indicate that many of those abducted are never heard from again, while others are released after prolonged detention, often bearing the physical and psychological scars of torture.

In recent years, Kenya has witnessed a troubling escalation of police brutality and extrajudicial abductions. The alarming frequency of these incidents has sparked outrage among citizens, human rights organizations, and the international community, revealing systemic issues within the police force and raising critical questions about the rule of law and governance in the country.

To understand the current situation, we must examine the historical context of policing in Kenya. The police force has long been viewed as an extension of political power rather than a protector of citizens. The legacy of colonialism has left deep scars, where the police were often used to suppress dissent rather than uphold justice. This culture of impunity has persisted post-independence, allowing brutality and misconduct to thrive within the ranks.

Reports from organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch paint a grim picture of police conduct in Kenya. Allegations of excessive use of force, torture, and extrajudicial killings have become commonplace. The 2020 protests against police violence following the killing of George Floyd in the United States resonated globally, but in Kenya, they brought to light the urgent need for accountability. Many citizens took to the streets, demanding justice for victims of police brutality, including those killed or injured during operations purportedly aimed at combating crime.

The government's response to these protests was often met with further violence, leading to a cycle of abuse that has left many Kenyans feeling unsafe in the hands of those sworn to protect them. Families continue to mourn loved ones lost to police violence, often with little recourse for justice. The failure to hold officers accountable fosters an environment where brutality becomes the norm rather than the exception.

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Police Brutality

The Kenyan government has repeatedly denied allegations of abductions, claiming that such actions are isolated incidents rather than systemic issues. However, eyewitness accounts and evidence from human rights organizations contradict this narrative, suggesting a coordinated effort to silence dissent and instill fear among the populace. The lack of accountability for these actions perpetuates a culture of fear, where citizens are reluctant to report crimes or cooperate with police for fear of retribution.

The ramifications of police brutality and abductions extend far beyond the immediate victims. A society plagued by fear and mistrust of law enforcement cannot thrive. Citizens, who should feel safe in their communities, live in constant apprehension. This pervasive atmosphere of fear stifles civic engagement and encourages a withdrawal from public life, undermining the foundations of democracy. Moreover, the psychological toll on victims and their families is profound. Survivors of police violence often struggle with trauma, anxiety, and depression, while families of victims grapple with grief and the stigma associated with police encounters. These societal wounds run deep, affecting community cohesion and trust in institutions.

In light of these disturbing realities, there is an urgent need for comprehensive police reform in Kenya. Efforts must focus on establishing clear protocols for the use of force, promoting community policing initiatives, and ensuring that police officers are held accountable for their actions. Training programs should emphasize human rights, de-escalation tactics, and the importance of building trust within communities.

Furthermore, establishing an independent oversight body to investigate allegations of police misconduct is crucial. Such an entity should have the authority to hold officers accountable, ensuring transparency and fostering a culture of respect for human rights. Civil society organizations and the media play a vital role in advocating for these reforms, shining a light on abuses and mobilizing public support.

The international community also has a critical role to play in addressing police brutality in Kenya. Diplomatic pressure, public statements, and, where necessary, sanctions can encourage the Kenyan government to take action against human rights violations. Supporting local human rights organizations and providing them with the resources necessary to document abuses is equally important. The power of advocacy should not be underestimated; when

the world watches, governments are compelled to act.

Police brutality and extrajudicial abductions in Kenya are not merely isolated incidents; they represent a systemic failure that undermines the rule of law and erodes public trust. The time for action is now. Citizens deserve a police force that protects them rather than preys upon them. Reforming the police is not only a matter of justice for victims but a necessity for building a more equitable and peaceful society.

As Kenya stands at a crossroads, the choices made today will determine the future of governance, justice, and human rights in the nation. It is imperative that all stakeholders—government, civil society, and the international community—work together to confront these issues head-on, ensuring that the tragic stories of victims of police violence become a catalyst for meaningful change rather than a recurring narrative in Kenya's history. Only then can the country hope to reclaim its path toward democracy, justice, and respect for human rights.

Atieno Dorothy,
Rongo University

How Humble Hands Handle Heavy Hopes

Narendra Raval's journey from a modest start to building Kenya's economic backbone through steel and faith



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Narendra Raval's journey wasn't just a solo endeavor. His wife, Neeta, whom he married at the young age of 22, has been a cornerstone of his success. Building an empire is no small feat, and doing so while nurturing a young marriage requires a delicate balance.
- In one of his interviews, he spoke about how their partnership has been key to the growth of Devki Group, both in personal and professional realms. Together, they have built not just a family but a legacy that continues to inspire many.
- Working with a spouse in business can be challenging, but for Guru and Neeta, it seems to have been a harmonious blend of ambition and love

Have you ever wondered what it takes to rise from humble beginnings and build an empire that not only sustains a country's economy but also inspires millions across the globe? As a young socio-geographic scholar and sustainable development activist with deep admiration for Mr. Narendra Raval Guru, I find his journey remarkable, a blueprint for the entrepreneurial spirit that Kenya so desperately needs. Narendra Raval, fondly known as Guru, has a vision for this nation, one that transcends the immediate and delves into sustainable economic growth. He's not just a businessman; he's an institution, a man who has built his reputation from the ground up, quite literally, with the grit and tenacity that only a true visionary can muster. His companies, including Devki Group, are the backbone of Kenya's industrial landscape, providing steel, cement, and infrastructure that powers the nation's development. It is his ability to connect these successes to the broader Kenyan economy that makes him a figure worth lauding.

Guru's rise from a modest hardware store to owning Devki Group, which is responsible for some of the largest cement and steel production in Kenya, shows a man deeply committed to the betterment of the nation. His business empire spans several industries—steel, cement, roofing materials, and more—all critical sectors that support Kenya's infrastructure. These industries create employment, foster economic independence, and boost local production. Guru once mentioned in an interview with Jeff Koinange that Kenya can be self-reliant if it reduces imports and focuses on local production of steel. This is no mere corporate bravado but a carefully calculated vision that, if realized, could reduce Kenya's dependency on foreign markets and enhance its economic sovereignty.

What makes Narendra Raval stand out is not just his business acumen but his philosophy, one rooted in humility and spiritual devotion. He often speaks about his strong connection with God, stating that he used to talk to God in his own language, and in return, God answered. This unwavering faith, he claims, has guided him through the ups and downs of entrepreneurship. In today's impatient generation, where everyone seeks instant gratification, Guru offers a refreshing perspective: patience, hard work, and a deep spiritual connection can yield unimag-

inable success. His advice to the youth is simple yet profound—trust the process, put in the work, and never waver in your faith. This is a message that transcends business; it speaks to life itself.

Narendra Raval's journey wasn't just a solo endeavor. His wife, Neeta, whom he married at the young age of 22, has been a cornerstone of his success. Building an empire is no small feat, and doing so while nurturing a young marriage requires a delicate balance. In one of his interviews, he spoke about how their partnership has been key to the growth of Devki Group, both in personal and professional realms. Together, they have built not just a family but a legacy that continues to inspire many. Working with a spouse in business can be challenging, but for Guru and Neeta, it seems to have been a harmonious blend of ambition and love. When I think of asking Mr. Raval a question, this is what comes to mind: "You married at the age of 22 and began this journey with Neeta. What was the experience like, building both a family and a business empire together? How did you manage the inevitable challenges of both realms, and what advice would you give to young couples who aspire to do the same?"

In his interview with Citizen TV, Guru also touched on the importance of giving back to society, stating that his success is not his alone but a blessing that he shares with others. His philanthropy, particularly in education and healthcare, underscores his belief that success should be shared. He has set up hospitals, funded schools, and provided scholarships to countless students. This, to me, is the mark of a great man—not just one who builds, but one who ensures that others are elevated in the process. The Devki Group is more than just a company; it is a symbol of hope for many, a reminder that one can rise from humble beginnings and still have the grace to lift others along the way.

If I were to meet Mr. Narendra Raval, these are some of the questions I would ask him. In one of your interviews with Jeff Koinange, you said that Kenya can become self-sufficient if we focus on local production and reduce our dependence on imported steel products. Could you elaborate on how you envision this shift taking place, and what role Devki Group would play in making Kenya a self-reliant economy? Given the challenges of globalization and competition, what are the



Mr. Narendra Raval Guru

practical steps that the government and private sector should take to ensure that local industries thrive in the face of foreign competition? These are critical questions because they touch on the heart of Kenya's economic future, and Guru, with his deep understanding of the industrial landscape, is uniquely positioned to provide answers.

Another question that fascinates me is about his personal life. Guru once mentioned that he got married at the age of 22, a time when most people are still figuring out their paths in life. I would love to ask him, "You mentioned that you married young, at the age of 22. What was it like working closely with your wife, Neeta, in building your empire? How did you navigate the challenges that come with balancing a growing business and a young family? What can young entrepreneurs learn from your experience in blending business with personal life?"

Lastly, Guru's connection to spirituality is another intriguing aspect of his life. In a world where material success is often divorced from spiritual fulfillment, Guru stands as a paradox, a man deeply rooted in both worlds. I would ask him, "You once mentioned that you used to talk to God in your own language and that He answered you. In today's fast-paced world, where patience is scarce and success is often measured by quick wins, what advice would you give to young entrepreneurs about the importance of faith and spirituality in business? How can one maintain a spiritual connection

while navigating the often ruthless world of business?"

In many ways, Narendra Raval embodies the dualities that make life both challenging and rewarding—he is at once a hard-nosed businessman and a deeply spiritual man, a husband and a philanthropist, a Kenyan and a global figure. His life is a testament to what can be achieved with perseverance, faith, and an unwavering commitment to one's vision. Kenya is fortunate to have a man like Guru steering its industrial future, and we can only hope that more will follow in his footsteps. Mr. Raval's story is one of triumph over adversity, of faith guiding ambition, and of love supporting success. As I reflect on his journey, I am reminded of the proverb, "A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence." This is Narendra Raval in a nutshell—a man who has persistently carved a path through the rock of adversity to build a future not just for himself, but for an entire nation. And if Kenya is to realize its full potential, it will need more leaders like him, men and women who understand that true success is not measured by what you take, but by what you give back.

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

SHAFDB Wins Pan-African Development Bank Leadership Award

By: Mike Omuodo
@themtkenyetimes

Shelter Afrique Development Bank (ShafDB), a leading Pan-African multilateral development bank, dedicated to financing and promoting housing, urban & related infrastructure development across the African continent, has been honored with the prestigious “Pan-African Development Bank Leadership Award – A Pioneer in Housing Finance” for its outstanding contributions to the development of the continent.

The award, presented during the 40th Anniversary Gala of the African Union for Housing Finance (AUHF) and the International Secondary Mortgage Market Association (ISSMA), recognized Shelter Afrique Development Bank for its pioneering leadership and 42 years unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable development in Africa’s housing sector. This prestigious honor was

conferred by Ambassador Sharon Trail, founder of the AUHF 40 years ago, who was also honored with a lifetime achievement award at the same event.

Receiving the award, Shelter Afrique Development Bank Managing Director, Thierno-Habib Hann expressed gratitude for the recognition, stating, “This honor is a testament to our mission of transforming Africa’s housing and urban landscape. We are proud of the work we’ve done in collaboration with governments, development finance institutions (DFIs), private developers, and financial institutions across Africa to provide affordable housing solutions.”

The award highlights the transformative changes taking place at ShafDB, driven by its visionary leadership and the ‘New Dawn’ strategy now coming to light.

Last month, ShafDB was designated as the anchor resource mobilization partner at the African Union’s Inaugural Africa Urban Forum in its Addis Ababa Declaration, further solidifying the Bank’s central role in

shaping Africa’s urban development and housing landscape.

Shaping the housing agenda

Over the past four decades, ShafDB has spearheaded various affordable housing projects in over 40 African countries, playing a crucial role in shaping the housing agenda by providing long-term financing solutions, promoting green building initiatives, and supporting the construction of inclusive communities.

Going forward, the institution aims to build on its success by leveraging its expertise and resources to address Africa’s housing and urban challenges, focusing on scalable, sustainable, inclusive, and impactful solutions.

“We dedicate this award to our shareholders, partners, clients, and the communities we serve. It is through these collaborations that we will continue to make a lasting impact on Africa’s development. My thanks go to our esteemed Board Members who have shown relentless support to our transformation, and to our bold staff at Shelter Afrique De-



Shelter Afrique Development Bank Managing Director, Thierno-Habib Hann .

velopment Bank. They are the reason that we can elevate ShafDB to fulfill its mission for Africa,” Mr. Hann concluded.

Valuing Intangibles: Challenges And Opportunities In Kenya’s IP Landscape

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volving intellectual property rights and bolster confidence among investors.

The future of intellectual property valuation in Kenya is promising but requires coordinated efforts from multiple stakeholders. Policy-makers must prioritize creating an enabling environment that fosters innovation while simultaneously addressing existing barriers related to valuation and enforcement. This includes establishing comprehensive regulations governing IP valuation practices and providing incentives for professionals who specialize in this area. Furthermore, ongoing dialogue between government agencies, financial institutions, and industry representatives will be essential in

shaping policies that support effective valuation methodologies.

In conclusion, while Kenya has made significant strides in recognizing intellectual property as an asset class through legislative reforms like the MPSR Act, challenges persist regarding its valuation and commercialization. Addressing these challenges will require a multifaceted approach involving education, training, regulatory reforms, and international collaboration. By investing in building a robust framework for IP valuation and fostering awareness among stakeholders about its importance, Kenya can unlock the full potential of its intellectual property assets—ultimately driving economic growth and innovation across various sectors.

The writer is a legal researcher



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Sports >> *Erik ten Hag said he is relishing this week's Europa League showdown with Jose Mourinho, calling the former Manchester United boss "an example for many, many managers".

Man Utd's Ten Hag Relishing Europa League Clash With Mourinho



Manchester United's English midfielder Kobbie Mainoo (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Liverpool at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on April 7, 2024. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP) /

Erik ten Hag said he is relishing this week's Europa League showdown with Jose Mourinho, calling the former Manchester United boss "an example for many, many managers". United head to Istanbul this week to take on Fenerbahce, meaning a reunion with Mourinho, who joined the Turkish club in June following his sacking by Roma. The Portuguese is one of the most decorated managers in history and while he proved a divisive figure at United during his tenure from 2016 to 2018, he won the League Cup and Europa League. United are under pressure after drawing their first two fixtures in this season's Europa League but manager Ten Hag is looking for-

ward to pitting his wits against Mourinho on Thursday. "It's a big game for both of us," he said at the Football Writers' Association Northern Managers Awards dinner on Sunday. "I really enjoy facing him and playing against him. He has always good teams, he is a winner - he (has) won so many trophies -- I think he is an example for many, many managers." Despite leading United to FA Cup glory at the end of last season, Ten Hag is again under intense scrutiny after an poor start to this campaign -- they are 11th in the Premier League with just three wins in eight games. But the Dutchman accepts the pressure comes with the territory. "It is football, you have to live for now," he said. "(What hap-

pened) is in the past, you have to prove (yourself) every day, you have to prove yourself every season, so we have to go for it. "We are in the start of the season and we will see where we end but our target is to win a trophy again." Some of the pressure on Ten Hag was eased on Saturday as United came from behind to beat Brentford 2-1 at Old Trafford, with Rasmus Hojlund scoring the winner. Having shown promise in a stop-start first campaign with United, Hojlund has had an injury-disrupted start to this season and his goal at the weekend was his first in the Premier League since May. But now Hojlund is inching closer to full fitness, Ten Hag be-

lieves the 21-year-old Dane will continue to excel. "He will always score," Ten Hag added. "What is important is he is keeping fit. He picked up so many injuries in the first season and when he stays fit, he will score goals because that (is) proved (in) his stats." AFP

Sports >>> *Former AFC Leopards midfielder Charles Okwemba has hailed the performance of the national under-20 football team, the Rising Stars, at the just concluded CECAFA Africa Cup of National qualifiers.

Okwemba Hails Rising Stars Growth, Call For More Friendlies To Offer Exposure



Kakamega Homeboyz and Rising Stars goalkeeper Ibrahim Wanzala (C - in black), with his teammates in a past match. Photo courtesy of FKF Media.

Former AFC Leopards midfielder Charles Okwemba has hailed the performance of the national under-20 football team, the Rising Stars, at the just concluded CECAFA Africa Cup of National qualifiers. Rising Stars fell 2-1 to host Tanzania in the final played last evening but despite the defeat still qualified for the tournament that will be taking place in January at a host country that will be named Tuesday after CAF General As-

sembly meeting in Addis Ababa. “They played really well for them to get to the final, that is good progress for the junior teams having seen the under 18 reached the final last year so that final bit of winning the title is what is remaining,” Okwemba said, adding that, “I see it happening very soon.” Having qualified for the continental showpiece Okwemba has called on the federation to organize more competitive friendly matches ahead of the tournament

for them to have a feel of what to expect during the competition. “They need more exposure for them to get a feel of what to expect, I trust the federation is putting in place the right measure to ensure they organize high end friendlies as they gear up for the tournament ,”added Okwemba The ex-Leopards man also urged the technical bench to keep tabs on the players’ progress, both local and international, in order to select the best to represent the

country in the showpiece.

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The Africa We Want: Achieving Development And Stability Without Donor Dependency



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyaintimes

For decades, Africa has been a continent rich in resources yet often viewed through the lens of poverty, instability, and dependency. The dominant narrative is one of foreign aid and donor-driven solutions to African problems. However, as Africans, we must envision a different future, one in which the continent thrives on its own terms, free from the constraints of external conditions and dependency. The Africa we want is one where development, political stability, and prosperity are achieved through self-reliance, innovation, and unity.

Development Through Local Resources and Innovation

Africa is home to vast natural resources, including minerals, oil, fertile land, and renewable energy sources. Yet, many African countries continue to rely on external financial aid, which often comes with strings attached. These donor conditions may require economic policies that do not align with the continent's unique needs, leading to economic instability and social inequality.

The first step towards achieving sustainable development is harnessing our own resources. By promoting local industries, investing in value addition, and strengthening regional trade, Africa can reduce its reliance on raw material exports and create jobs at home. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), for example, offers a tremendous opportunity for intra-African trade and economic growth. If fully implemented, this framework could stimulate local manufacturing, reduce unemployment, and boost innovation.

Innovation must also be at the heart of Africa's development. African countries should invest in education, research, and technology, empowering young people to create solutions tailored to local challenges. Initiatives like renewable energy projects, agritech innovations, and digital solutions for healthcare and education are already transforming parts of the continent. If scaled up, these innovations can drive development from within. Namibia has recently taken a significant step toward boosting its local economy by investing in green hydrogen, positioning itself as a key player in the renewable energy sector. The country's abundant natural resources, particularly its solar and wind energy potential, make it an ideal location for producing green hydrogen, a clean energy alternative. This initiative is expected to create jobs, enhance energy security, and contribute to economic diversification. However, while the project is a positive move for Namibia, it heavily involves foreign companies and

investors, raising concerns about the extent to which local communities and businesses will benefit from this burgeoning industry. The reliance on external expertise and capital could limit the overall impact on Namibia's economy and the potential for local ownership of the green hydrogen sector.

Building Political Stability Through Accountability

Political instability has been a significant barrier to Africa's progress. The root causes often lie in weak governance, corruption, and external interference in domestic politics. To achieve the Africa we want, political stability must be anchored in strong, transparent, and accountable leadership. This requires African governments to put their citizens first, promoting policies that foster inclusion, justice, and economic equity.

One of the critical steps towards stability is strengthening democratic institutions. This includes ensuring free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, and a robust legislative system that holds the executive accountable. African countries should prioritize the rule of law, human rights, and the protection of civil liberties. Political leaders must be committed to serving the interests of their people rather than external actors or personal enrichment.

Regional bodies like the African Union (AU) can play a significant role in promoting stability by supporting good governance, peaceful transitions of power, and conflict resolution. African nations should work collaboratively to prevent and resolve conflicts, using regional solutions tailored to local dynamics. In this way, Africa can reduce external political interference and chart its path towards peace and stability.

Economic Independence Without Donor Conditionalities

Foreign aid often comes with economic prescriptions that may not suit African contexts. These conditions, such as austerity measures, privatization, and trade liberalization, can exacerbate inequality and weaken public services. To break free from these constraints, African countries must focus on economic self-reliance. This means prioritizing domestic resource mobilization, such as efficient tax collection, reducing capital flight, and curbing illicit financial flows. By plugging financial leaks and ensuring that wealth generated on the continent stays in Africa, governments can increase their ability to fund public services and infrastructure projects without relying on donor assistance. Additionally, African countries should focus on diversifying their

economies to reduce dependence on a single sector, such as mining or agriculture. A diversified economy is more resilient to external shocks, such as fluctuations in commodity prices or global economic downturns. Investing in sectors like tourism, information technology, manufacturing, and creative industries can drive sustainable growth.

A few African countries have made strides toward reducing reliance on foreign aid by focusing on self-sufficiency and economic resilience:

Botswana: Known for its strong governance and economic management, Botswana has significantly reduced its dependency on foreign aid. It leverages its diamond industry and prudent fiscal policies to sustain economic growth and development. Botswana's government has prioritized infrastructure, education, and health, using revenues from natural resources.

Rwanda: Under visionary leadership, Rwanda has focused on reducing aid dependency through good governance, a strong focus on innovation, and domestic resource mobilization. Its remarkable economic recovery after the 1994 genocide has been driven by local agricultural production, technology, and tourism development.

South Africa: As one of the continent's most industrialized nations, South Africa largely finances its own development initiatives. The country has built a diverse economy that includes mining, manufacturing, finance, and tourism, reducing the need for foreign aid.

Morocco: Morocco has a diversified economy driven by agriculture, manufacturing, mining, and tourism. With increasing investments in renewable energy and infrastructure, Morocco has managed to maintain a relatively low reliance on foreign aid, focusing instead on regional and international trade partnerships.

These countries provide examples of how African nations can build robust economies by leveraging local resources, encouraging investment, and adopting strong governance. This is a good move to the Africa We Want.

Achieving Social Development Through African-Led Solutions

In the social sphere, Africa faces challenges in health, education, and poverty reduction. Many of these areas are heavily funded by international donors, with programs often designed externally. To create the Africa we want, social development must be driven by African-led solu-

tions that reflect the realities on the ground.

For example, community-based healthcare systems, like those in Rwanda, have shown how African countries can build effective health infrastructures with limited resources. African governments must prioritize public health investments, ensuring that every citizen has access to quality healthcare without relying on donor-funded programs that may be short-lived or unsustainable.

Education is another critical area where Africa can take the lead. By investing in quality education systems that focus on critical thinking, innovation, and entrepreneurship, Africa can equip its youth to solve the continent's challenges. African curricula should prioritize STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, as well as African history, culture, and governance, fostering a generation of leaders grounded in the continent's heritage and future.

Fostering Unity and Pan-Africanism

Finally, the Africa we want can only be achieved through unity. Pan-Africanism, the ideology of African solidarity, must guide the continent's development. African countries should collaborate, share best practices, and support one another in areas such as trade, security, and social development. The African Union and regional blocs must continue to play a central role in uniting the continent's efforts to achieve shared goals.

By working together, African countries can reduce their vulnerability to external pressures and build a strong, united front that speaks with one voice on the global stage. A united Africa can negotiate better trade deals, resolve conflicts internally, and ensure that development is driven by African priorities rather than external interests.

Conclusion

The Africa we want is within reach, but it requires a fundamental shift in how we approach development and stability. By focusing on self-reliance, innovation, and unity, Africa can achieve its goals without donor dependency and the conditions that come with it. The path forward will not be easy, but with strong leadership, accountable governance, and a commitment to African-led solutions, the continent can realize its full potential and build a future of prosperity and peace for all its people. This is the Africa we must strive for, an Africa that stands on its own, strong and united.

Worth Noting:

- Africa is home to vast natural resources, including minerals, oil, fertile land, and renewable energy sources. Yet, many African countries continue to rely on external financial aid, which often comes with strings attached.
- Political instability has been a significant barrier to Africa's progress. The root causes often lie in weak governance, corruption, and external interference in domestic politics. To achieve the Africa we want, political stability must be anchored in strong, transparent, and accountable leadership. This requires African governments to put their citizens first, promoting policies that foster inclusion, justice, and economic equity.
- Foreign aid often comes with economic prescriptions that may not suit African contexts. These conditions, such as austerity measures, privatization, and trade liberalization, can exacerbate inequality and weaken public services.