



A Unified Front Against Counterfeiting: Collaborative Efforts In Kenya's IP Protection Landscape
 Kenya has made significant strides in combating counterfeiting through a robust legal legislation aims to safeguard the interests of IP owners while promoting fair competition in the marketplace. With counterfeiting posing a serious threat to both consumers framework designed to protect intellectual property (IP) rights.

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P. 8. Several women who have been suffering from fistula have breathed a sigh of relief following successful surgery at Chuka County Referral Hospital.



News>> Kiambu Tackles Environmental Challenges Through Stakeholder Collaboration

P. 12. Kiambu County has been working with various stakeholders to address environmental challenges that have been affecting the community and development.

Ruto Wants Gachagua Ouster Cases Dropped

President William Ruto is urging the High Court to drop embattled Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment cases arguing that the dispute falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Through his lawyer Adrian Kamotho, Ruto says that the High Court lacks the authority to adjudicate matters relating to presidential electoral processes.



A photo montage of President William Ruto and 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

25 TEA BAGS

CHAI NI KETEPA

Bank Unveils Solar Photovoltaic Campaign For Sustainability

By: Gift Maina and Moses Nduati
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mugambi explained that as part of NCBA's larger plan to participate in environmental sustainability composition and in line with their sustainability commitments, they are presenting a new solution called solar PV leasing.
- "This major innovation aims to create a sustainable environment for all individuals and businesses to control their energy expenses and reduce environmental impact. Solar power not only provides sustainable solutions but also enhances wise financial planning," said Mugambi.



The NCBA group has launched the solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) campaign, which aims at addressing the global demand for energy and sustainable development by promoting environmental sustainability and reduction of carbon emissions through the use of solar energy.

NCBA Group Director Asset Finance and Business Solutions Lenox Mugambi said that the increasing global demand for energy and sustainable development have led to the adoption of solar photovoltaic energy as a promising solution.

"In Kenya, solar power installation capacity stands at around 110 megawatts, which translates to nearly 1.8 million homes using small solar home systems," Mugambi added.

He further detailed that these numbers indicated that the market understands the importance of installing solar energy in their homes not just for saving money but also for its impact on the environment.

Mugambi explained that as part of NCBA's larger plan to participate in environ-

mental sustainability composition and in line with their sustainability commitments, they are presenting a new solution called solar PV leasing.

"This major innovation aims to create a sustainable environment for all individuals and businesses to control their energy expenses and reduce environmental impact. Solar power not only provides sustainable solutions but also enhances wise financial planning," said Mugambi.

He highlighted that with the solar PV leasing options, organisations would have the ability to lower electricity expenses by switching to a more affordable energy source and attain higher dependability with solar power, which is known for being clean, secure, and dependable.

"Moreover, organisations will be able to achieve their sustainability targets through the reduction of their carbon footprint as solar energy generates low emissions. It also increases flexibility since the solution can be extended to accommodate evolving energy require-

ments and be upgraded as necessary," said Mugambi.

He added that organisations would be able to receive asset management services that encompass insurance, upkeep, and maintenance, thus addressing their customers concerns about operational costs.

He urged everyone to consider how solar PV leasing solutions could positively impact businesses by allowing them to decrease expenses, lessen environmental impact, and attain increased financial independence.

NCBA Leasing LLP Deputy Director Robert Marete said that customers were not looking for equipment to put up on their roof but rather, they were looking for safer, cheaper, and more convenient power.

Head of Design and Engineering at Chloride Exide Sammy Waite stated that they have an interesting PV unit, which is the photovoltaic module, which is put in the sun, and in turn, it converts light

energy into electricity, which could run a factory, a home, and even an office.

He added that with net-metering in place, it's now possible to send the energy to the grid and use it at night.

Waite detailed that one of the key features for the PV systems is remote monitoring, which brings information to your desktop or handheld devices like mobile phones. System email alerts are sent from the platform to create user accounts at predetermined intervals. With a click of a button, you will know how much carbon has been saved by the system.

With solar PV leasing, there is no capital required, so the power bill savings could go into rental payments with no cash commitment at inception. The repayment of the lease is up to 10 years hence flexibility while guaranteeing rental payments lower than monthly KPLC power bills.

Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kwale's new Sh 30 million recreational park has been officially commissioned by Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development Alice Wahome. The park, funded under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), is a multibillion-shilling project by the World Bank and the Kenyan government aimed at establishing and strengthening urban institutions to deliver improved infrastructure and services in participating counties. "The new recreational centre will make Kwale town more alluring with positive impacts on the mental and overall well-being of residents and visitors alike," she said. She went further: "The new recreational park will aid the beautification projects in Kwale municipality, which is part of the elaborate urban renewal plan of my administration."



Co-operatives and MSMEs Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya has called on farmers to have faith in the reform process at the New Kenya Cooperative Creameries (New KCC), which he claims is already yielding positive results. "I have given the New KCC management only 90 days to turn around this loss-making entity," Oparanya stated. The proposed reforms include restructuring human capital, increasing the producer price per litre to Sh55, reducing payment timelines to two weeks, and prioritising farmers' welfare. Oparanya emphasised that dairy cooperatives across the region are eager to partner with New KCC to facilitate easier market access for farmers. In a meeting with the board of management of the Meru Central Dairy Co-operative Union Ltd., a key player in the Mount Kenya Milk sector, Oparanya highlighted the significant potential within the dairy industry. He praised the cooperative's commitment and performance, noting that it processes over 450,000 litres of milk daily and supports over 1 million livelihoods along the value chain.



Officials of Engineering Board of Kenya yesterday attended the IEK Media Launch for the upcoming 31st International Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) Convention. The event, which was graced by Chief Guest Eng. Eric Mugaa, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, also unveiled this year's sponsors and exhibitors.



Despite government efforts following the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act in 2006, violence against women continues to escalate in Migori County. Between January 2022 and June 2024, the region experienced a significant increase in crimes such as sexual abuse and domestic violence, with alarming rates of incidents reported. Other forms of violence against women are the age-old forced early marriage, female circumcision, otherwise popularly known as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and child labour practices. While national statistics indicate that every half an hour a woman is sexually assaulted in Kenya, research has revealed that rape, defilement, and wife battering were recorded after every fortnight within Migori County's Kuria West, Kuria East, and Uriri sub-counties during this period.



Cooperatives Principal Secretary Patrick Kilemi has underscored the significance of the dairy value chain as a cornerstone of the Bottom-up Economic Agenda (BETA). "Through cooperatives, we are determined as a government to ensure farmers realise higher returns for their milk production," Kilemi stated, emphasising the role of cooperatives in enhancing the livelihoods of dairy farmers. He also stressed the importance of good governance within cooperatives, advocating for transparency, accountability, and member participation.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

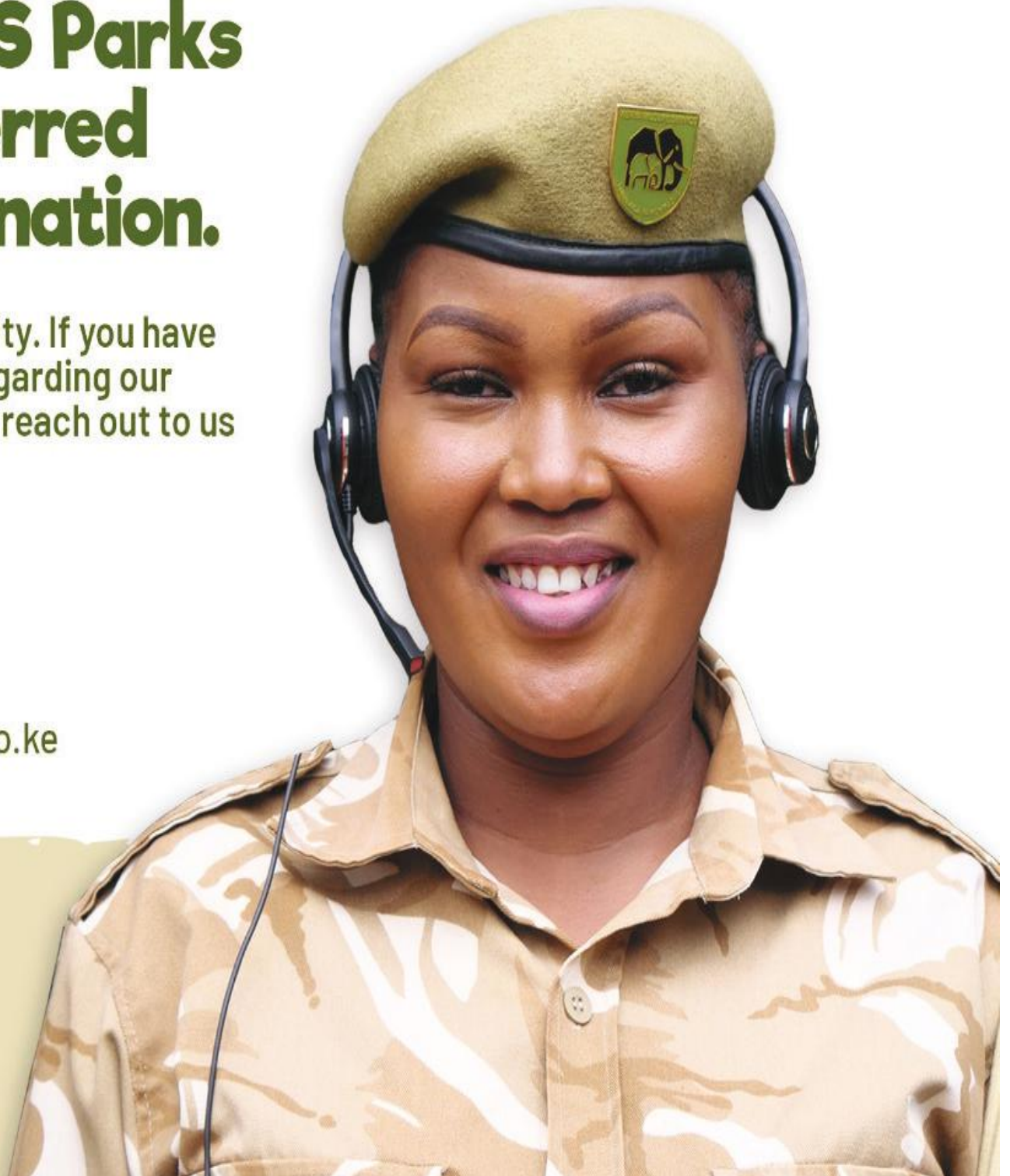
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Nairobi Suburbs' Land Appreciates By 1.6 Per Cent

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
 @themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Parklands, which has had a surge of development activity—for both commercial and residential developments in the last two years—led the market with land price increases of 3.4 per cent to average Sh434.2 million per acre.
- Langata and Kileleshwa also made a strong showing with gains of 2.9 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively, indicating that demand is shifting back to areas that can support multi-dweller units in a market that still remains price sensitive in a tough economy.

Land prices in Nairobi City's suburbs rose by 1.6 per cent during the third quarter of 2024, while those in Nairobi's satellite towns rose by 3.02 per cent; this is according to the HassConsult Land price indices.

The indices indicate that the price growth was supported by rising land demand for new developments as the real estate sector continued its recovery from a prolonged slump. In the city's suburbs, land prices have now gone up by more than one per cent in each of the last four quarters, breaking the prior run of 26 straight periods of sub-one percent growth.

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cent to average Sh434.2 million per acre.

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“The leading suburbs in quarterly land price growth have emerged as the city's hotspots for apartment and mixed-use developments, hence the demand-driven price increase,” said Ms. Sakina Hassanali, Head of Development Consulting and Research at HassConsult.

Nairobi's satellite towns, Mlolongo (6.6 per cent), Thika (6.3 per cent) and Kiserian (4.7 per cent), recorded impressive price growth in the second

quarter, driven by a mix of attractive pricing levels and upcoming infrastructure development.

Mlolongo continued to enjoy the benefit of easier access to the city via the Nairobi Expressway, with the areas mix of residential and land industrial developments helping sustain demand for land.

In Thika, the Kiambu County government's recent announcement of a new masterplan to transform the town into an industrial smart-city has seen developers race to take up land in anticipation of a potential jump in demand for housing and commercial outlets in the area.

The county plan envisages additional roads that will open up the outlying areas of Thika for commercial development, creating new jobs that will

attract demand for residential units.

“Prices are more dynamic in satellite towns compared to suburbs, due to evolving development plans and the impact of new infrastructure on buyer behaviour,” Ms. Hassanali added.

Land in the Nairobi satellite towns has also been growing at an annual rate that rivals the returns from other competing asset classes such as bonds and shares at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

Prices in Syokimau, Limuru, and Mlolongo went up by between 18 and 18.5 per cent in the year to September, with bond returns expected to fall as the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) cuts its rate. The attractiveness of land as an investment asset will continue to increase.

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Tharaka Nithi County Intensifies War On Fistula

By: Mwenda Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

Several women who have been suffering from fistula have breathed a sigh of relief following successful surgery at Chuka County Referral Hospital.

Tharaka Nithi County Government is having a free fistula medical camp that started on Friday last week and running up to end of the month in collaboration with several partners including M-Pesa Foundation.

Speaking at the hospital, County Health Department Executive, Dr Gichuyia Nthuraku said the devolved government has been organizing free medical camps for fistula to not only treat but also eradicate the stigma associated with the health complication.

Fistula complications are mainly a result of prolonged labour pain and women and girls in the society face stigma resulting in suffering silently.

“We are having a medical camp for fistula at our Chuka County Referral Hospital which started on 18th this month and will end on 30th and our

services are completely free because we want to restore dignity to our mothers,” said Dr Nthuraku.

Dr Nthuraku pointed out the need for government and non-governmental organisations to join hands to achieve the target of having a fistula-free Kenya by 2030.

He also encouraged women to embrace delivering in hospitals where they are handled by professional medics.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than two million women live with fistula worldwide and at least 30,000 cases are recorded in Kenya every year out of which only 7.5 percent of the women are able to access medical care leaving the rest, about 2700 suffering.

Physically, women living with fistula complication develop rashes and painful sores around the vaginal area, may have difficulty walking and a range of other physical ailments, including frequent infections, kidney diseases and sometimes infertility.

The victims of this health condition suffer psychological traumas, distress, depression and grievance resulting from loss of baby, anxiety, loss of self-worth and other mental



Chuka County Referral Hospital in Tharaka Nithi County where the devolved government in collaboration with M-Pesa Foundation is conducting a free fistula medical camp. Photo/ Mwenda Njeru.

health complications.

In the year 2022, a total of 50 women successfully underwent surgery and medical advice for fistula at the same hospital during a one-week

free medical camp organized by the Health.

county government in collaboration with Beyond Zero, M-Pesa Foundation, UNFPA, Amref, Flying Doctors Society of Africa and Ministry of

Narok Boda Boda Operators Distance Themselves From Criminal Claims

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Boda boda operators in Narok County have refuted claims on social media platforms that the sector members are involved in criminal activities that have put Narok in the limelight in terms of insecurity in the recent past.

The Sector’s Chairman, Gideon Punyua, said investigations conducted by the police and CCTV footage have not linked any boda boda operator to crime, wondering why some people want to associate some of their members with crime.

He noted that the sector has over 1,000 members who meet often to discuss issues affecting them, saying one of the key points they stress on is the need to boost security in the county.

“We are peace-loving people. I want the members of the public to report any of us to whom they have evidence that links anyone to crime so that we as their officials can take the

necessary action,” he said.

Punyua reiterated that the sector is ready to work with the police to eliminate criminals in the town and boost security.

“When the county is peaceful, we get more returns from our business because we operate for 24 hours a day. But when there is chaos, we are forced to close our businesses as early as 8 p.m.,” he said.

Stephen Ole Nakola, the official in charge of safety in the sector, said the members are united and peaceloving. “Though some of us are not learned, while others come from poor backgrounds, we came together and agreed on a common goal of uplifting our standards of livelihood,” he said, adding that the boda boda business is like any other business that people do to earn a living.

Nakola revealed that the County Government of Narok has sponsored about 500 operators for a driving course so as to reduce cases of accidents in the town.

The officials were speaking to journalists in Narok town yesterday.



Ruto Wants Gachagua Ouster Cases Dropped, Says High Court Lacks Jurisdiction

President Ruto says the High Court lacks the authority to adjudicate matters relating to presidential electoral processes.

By: KBC Digital

President William Ruto is urging the High Court to drop embattled Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment cases arguing that the dispute falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Through his lawyer Adrian Kamotho, Ruto says that the High Court lacks the authority to adjudicate matters relating to presidential electoral processes.

He is opposing a suit filed by David Mathenge and four others at the Kerugoya Law Courts, where conservatory orders were granted, temporarily barring Kithure Kindiki from assuming office until the case is heard and determined.

"By dint of Article 165 (5) (a) of the

Constitution, the Honorable Court cannot determine the Petition as canvassed and/or grant the prayers sought, being a matter reserved for the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court," Ruto argues.

Ruto further says that the petition contravenes Article 140 in conjunction with Articles 148 and 149 of the Constitution, which place presidential electoral disputes squarely within the Supreme Court's mandate.

President Ruto is listed as a respondent in the case alongside the National Assembly, Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetang'ula, the Senate, and Speaker Amason Kingi, among others.



President William Ruto and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Rights Advocate Rejects Kindiki's Nomination For Deputy Presidency

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

A human rights crusader has expressed deep concerns over the recent appointment of Professor Kithure Kindiki as Kenya's Deputy President, highlighting his history of suppressing peaceful protests and alleged human rights violations.

President William Ruto appointed Kindiki, the Interior Minister, on Friday, but a court has temporarily blocked his ascension pending a hearing on a case challenging the impeachment of Kindiki's predecessor, Rigathi Gachagua.

The Senate's vote on Thursday to uphold the impeachment charges against Gachagua marks a historic moment, as it is the first time a Kenyan deputy president has been removed from office through impeachment.

The rights advocate believes that Professor Kindiki played a crucial role in the violent crackdowns on protests related to the Finance Bill and the youth-led Gen Z demonstra-

tions earlier this year. They accuse him of being a key architect behind Ruto's oppressive policies.

More than 40 people died in clashes with the police and at least 300 others were wounded, but Kindiki lauded the officers for exercising "restraint" while enforcing law and order. He also denied any shoot-to-kill orders were issued.

Dr. Isaac Newton Kinity remarked that Kindiki's rapid rise to the Deputy Presidency is a "reward" for his execution of Ruto's repressive orders, particularly the violent suppression of youth-led demonstrations that resulted in numerous casualties.

Dr. Kinity is a former Secretary General of the Kenya Civil Servants Union who was forced to flee Kenya in 1998 after being targeted by the late former President Daniel Moi's regime due to outspoken criticism of rampant corruption, political harassment, and the brutal killings.

"Professor Kithure Kindiki has been instrumental in executing Ruto's orders, and his appointment signals even harsher measures on the horizon now that President Ruto is uncertain of his re-election for a second term," Kinity stated in a media statement.



A photo montage of Dr Kinity and Professor Kindiki.

This was not surprising, as he had long been a close ally of the president, having served as his lawyer over a decade ago in a case before the International Criminal Court (ICC). At that time, Ruto, then an MP, faced accusations of crimes against humanity related to the violence that erupted after the 2007 election, which resulted in the deaths of more than 1,200 people.

He expressed growing fears of rising authoritarianism in Kenya's political landscape, drawing parallels to the regime of the late former President

Moi, during which government dissidents were tortured, and some were killed.

Dr Kinity noted, "The arrest of cultural elders during a prayer session at Mt. Kenya and the controversial arrests of landowners in Gilgil serve as clear evidence of Kindiki's involvement in politically motivated crackdowns."

Professor Kindiki has asserted that the deaths recorded during protests cannot be attributed to the police. Speaking before the National Assembly Committee on Administration

and Internal Security, he stated that while police are permitted to use lethal force under certain circumstances, this should not automatically imply that they are responsible for the deaths.

He further emphasized that the presence of a bullet wound in an individual does not necessarily mean that the police are to blame. "The fact that someone has been shot is not conclusive evidence that they were shot by a police officer," Kindiki remarked.

Gov't Bans Macadamia Harvesting To Curb Immature Exports

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themkenyetimes

The Ministry of Agriculture has banned macadamia harvesting with effect from November 2, 2024, until March 1, 2025 to curb the export of immature nuts.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Dr. Andrew Karanja said that they have reached the agreement after consultations with industry stakeholders, as he explained that the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) is tasked with enforcing strict compliance with this directive, including revoking licenses of violators.

"The Authority will also increase inspections and surveillance to eliminate unscrupulous business dealers," said the CS.

Dr. Karanja explained that the Kenyan macadamia industry is heavily export-oriented, with approximately 95% of its annual production shipped to international markets.

"In 2019, farm gate prices for macadamia Nuts in Shell (NIS) peaked at an all-time high of Sh180 per kilogram. However, by early 2023, prices had dropped significantly, to Sh30-40/kg," said Dr. Karanja.

To address this, the CS said that the Ministry, under Section 43 of the AFA Act, 2013, lifted the ban on raw macadamia exports, providing a one-year export window effective from 3rd November 2023.

The CS said that this remedial measure was aimed at stabilising prices and helping farmers manage excess stock impacted by global market conditions.

"A rapid industry assessment shows that many local companies lack quality stocks for processing. It also highlighted the harvesting, processing, and export of immature nuts has led to poor performance of the Kenyan macadamia in the global markets," said the CS.

Dr. Karanja added that exporting processed macadamia nuts (kernels) is more beneficial to Kenya than exporting raw in-shell.



Cabinet Secretary Dr Andrew Karanja.

He said that to facilitate the ban, dealers must submit their current stock for inspection, verification, and clearance by November 15, 2024.

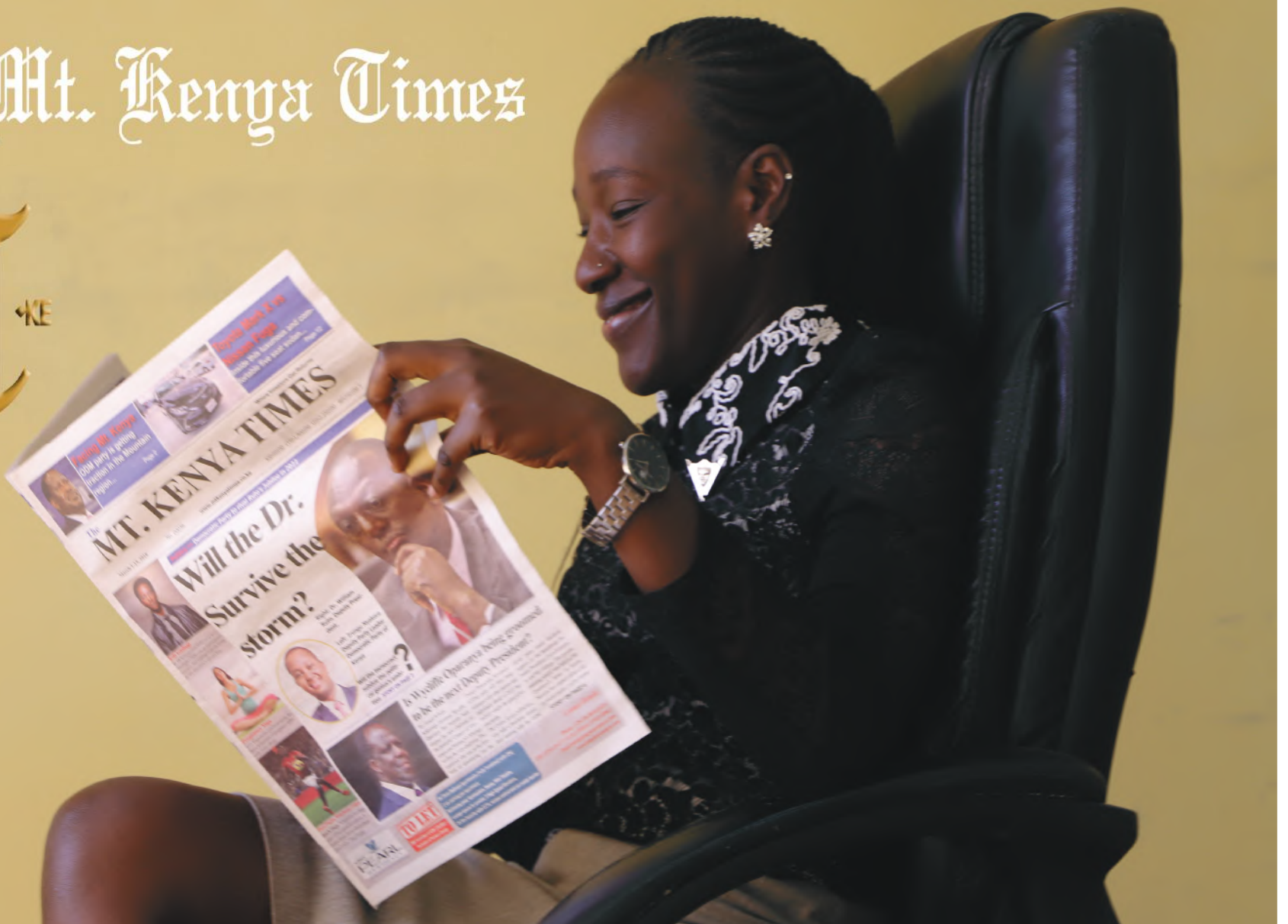
"A minimum guaranteed farm gate

price of at least Sh100 per kilogram will be implemented," assured the CS.

"The National and County Governments will continue working together

to enforce the provisions of the Crops Act, 2013, and the Crops (Nuts and Oil Crops) Regulations, 2020," said Dr. Karanja.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Court Gives President Ruto's Affordable Housing Program A Clean Bill Of Health



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@yaho.com



Worth Noting:

- Ever since, President Ruto never caved in to the machinations of his critics. He remained firm and on course. This is because there was no court order stopping him from rolling out this program. Attempts by his critics to secure such orders fell flat. From onset, judges seemed to concur with submissions by the lawyers representing the Office of Attorney General (AG). So, I knew it was only a matter of time before the petitions were dismissed.
- Speaking in Kwale when he led the nation in marking this year's Mashujaa day celebration, the President William Ruto enumerated the progress that his administration has made in the implementation of this program.



President Ruto's Affordable Housing Program

The court has finally delivered the much awaited ruling on a petition challenging President William Ruto's affordable housing program.

A three-judge bench ruled that the housing Act was enacted in accordance with the constitution and other laws of the land.

We, therefore, dismiss the prayers sought by petitioners and give the program a clean bill of health.

The main bone of contention by the well known critics of President Ruto, who started filing the petitions soon after the Act was enacted, was that the public participation conducted was not sufficient.

The bench however disagreed and ruled that it was sufficient. Notably, the constitution does provide for a threshold of the number of people who should participate in this exercise.

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remained firm and on course. This is because there was no court order stopping him from rolling out this program. Attempts by his critics to secure such orders fell flat. From onset, judges seemed to concur with submissions by the lawyers representing the Office of Attorney General (AG). So, I knew it was only a matter of time before the petitions were dismissed.

Speaking in Kwale when he led the nation in marking this year's Mashujaa day celebration, the President William Ruto enumerated the progress that his administration has made in the implementation of this program.

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 becoming 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.

You will start to pay a small amount of money every month. Everyone will afford including mama mboga and boda

riders.

You will only pay for a certain period of time and thereafter you become a proud owner of the house.

The President observed: As we celebrate our heroes who fought for independence, I want you to bear this in mind. In our generation, acquiring house for your family is also an act of heroism. Bid goodbye to rent, have your own house.

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

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Kiambu Tackles Environmental Challenges Through Stakeholder Collaboration

By: Magdaline Wangechi

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- To effectively monitor and control pollution, Kiambu is developing a framework to identify and engage with polluters with the aim of mapping out pollution sources and working collaboratively with industries to reduce their environmental impact, he said.
- “We need to ensure that the industries within Kiambu are responsible for their effluent discharge,” Maniafu stated, saying many septic tanks were insufficient for the volume of waste generated, and this has resulted in pollution of rivers and streams.
- He further underscored the need for improved infrastructure and investment in sustainable wastewater treatment technologies to mitigate this issue, adding that as NEMA, they were collaborating closely with the Water Resources Authority to conserve them, particularly in sensitive areas like Ondiri Swamp in Kikuyu.

Kiambu County has been working with various stakeholders to address environmental challenges that have been affecting the community and development.

Kiambu is a vibrant county known for agriculture, lush landscapes, and biodiversity, but it faces challenges of balancing urban development with environmental conservation and local livelihoods.

Speaking to journalists, the County Director of NEMA, John Maniafu, said they were working towards ensuring that some of the critical issues impacting the community’s future are addressed.

“We are currently decommissioning quarries in Juja and Thika that have been left open and turned into makeshift habitats for hyenas and working together with the Kenya Wildlife Services to eradicate the problem,” he added.

“Hyenas are predators. When they attack, they can injure or even kill people,” Maniafu stated.

To tackle this, a meeting has been scheduled with the Kenya Wildlife Service to devise strategies for eradicating the problem.

Additionally, Maniafu noted that rapid urbanisation in areas like Juja, Thika, and Kiambu town has outpaced the development of adequate wastewater treatment facilities, hence the issue of effluent discharge that looms large across the region.

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“In order to promote responsible agriculture practices, we have implemented riparian pegging to establish boundaries for wetlands, and community education is prioritized. Monitoring efforts, including sampling of water sources, are being conducted to



prevent chemical runoff from agricultural activities,” Maniafu said.

Another significant concern for Kiambu residents is noise pollution that has been worsened by the proliferation of entertainment venues along the Thika Superhighway.

Maniafu pointed out that while regulating noise pollution falls under the county’s purview, many citizens still sought assistance from NEMA, and thus collaborative efforts were underway to ensure soundproof buildings for the entertainment venues so that they could coexist peacefully with the nearby communities.

The NEMA Director stressed that a sustainable Waste Management Act has been enacted to address the growing solid waste crisis by prompting a comprehensive waste management system that encourages source segregation in households and offices to distinguish waste streams like papers, kitchen scraps, and refuse.

The key to the Act, he added, is the establishment of producer responsibility organisations, which hold manufacturers accountable for the lifecycle waste of their products to foster collaboration with waste management entities and prompt a circular economy.

“The county government is responsible for creating waste management facilities and ensuring proper waste regulation. While NEMA develops guiding policies and with this Act, we aim for a cleaner environment through community accountability and effective recycling practices,” the NEMA boss said.

Maniafu noted that as urban growth presents challenges in waste management, Kiambu County is also in the process of establishing a modern landfill and materials recovery facili-

ties. These efforts aim to address the persistent issue of illegal dumping and improve solid waste management practices across the county.

The County Executive Committee member for Water, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources, David Kuria, echoed the NEMA Director’s sentiments and discussed initiatives aimed at securing water sources, particularly riparian zones.

He said that the county has implemented a programme to protect riparian areas alongside rivers and is working closely with local water companies.

“We are marking our riparian areas and collaborating with farmers to plant water-friendly trees,” he stated. This effort is complemented by a legal framework that enforces compliance.

On sewage management, Kuria clarified that water companies were primarily responsible for maintaining sewage systems, with the government supervising their actions. “It’s clear that as a water company, you are supposed to maintain sewage systems,” he said.

The CECM further pointed out the necessity of proactive communication with road development teams to prevent damage to sewage systems during construction of roads.

The CECM also detailed the county’s approach to garbage management in local markets, noting that the county operates over 50 trucks daily in order to transport waste to designated dump sites for sorting and recycling.

“Markets belong to the County, and we manage that,” he stated, emphasising the importance of designated garbage collection areas equipped with skip bins.

He added that they were also work-

ing with partners who want to utilise organic waste through promoting compost and recycling of the drained waste.

Kuria highlighted key partnerships aimed at promoting compost and recycling of the drained waste, adding that they have reached the community through awareness, educating them on proper waste disposal practices.

“We have put mechanisms in place for communication by engaging the communities and opening up ways of getting feedback on the environmental management system, and residents can now be able to report their concerns,” he said, noting that the initiative involves local government officials, environmental officers, community members, and NEMA.

During the recent Mazingira Day, communities in Kiambu were engaged through tree planting and cleanup activities, thus fostering a collective effort to safeguard the environment, with NEMA’s Director urging the residents to make use of their established incident desk set up for reporting environmental issues that would be addressed by relevant county officers.

Lucy Wambui Njenga, a Kiambu resident, commended the County government and NEMA for their efforts in keeping the environment and markets clean.

She, however, pleaded for more bins to be put up along the roads to encourage pedestrians to dispose of waste papers and containers, especially the plastic water bottles, to enhance cleanliness.

Water Agency Threatens To Terminate Contracts Of Non-Performing Firms

Tana Water Works Development Agency Says It Was Working On Terminating The Contract Of A Water Project In Othaya Constituency After The Area MP, Wambugu Wainana Complained Of Delay In Its Completion

By: MWM
@themkenyatimes

A government Water and Sanitation agency says it will terminate contracts of firms that are out of their sites.

Tana Water Works Development Agency (TWWDA) is said to be working on terminating a contract issued to a firm in Othaya constituency over its withdrawal from site.

The firm is said to have abandoned works of a water system meant to serve Mwai Kibaki Level VI Hospital.

Yesterday, the TWWDA board led by its chairman Wanyaga Gathaka and Chief Executive Officer Eng Philip Gichuki toured the project at Kaharo area in Mahiga ward where they met the area MP Wambugu Wainaina who complained of undue delay in its completion.

Wainaina said the project was initially meant to be completed in mid last year but so far, only about 30 per cent has been done.



From left; Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka, Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina and Eng. Philip Gichuki at Kaharo area, Othaya yesterday.

.....
Yo make it worse, the contractor left the site.

Eng Gichuki told the team that following the move by the contractor, his agency would be terminating the contract and give the job to another firm.

The firm is said to have abandoned site over non-payment by the govern-

ment with Eng. Gichuki saying it was practically impossible for the State to pay a firm that is out of the site since it was not clear how such funds would be used.

The MP thanked the team for disclosing to take the step saying the Mwai Kibaki Hospital had been made autonomous and thus needed to have



The team at the site where Makutano Dispensary borehole in Mbeere South constituency in Embu County.

.....
flowing services, including those of water.

The agency board and senior managers embarked on a four-day tour of projects in Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Meru counties.

Some of the other projects that the team visited were KMTC Othaya campus which is part of Othaya Sewerage Last Mile Connectivity Phase II

project.

Others were relocation of Ihwagi water intake project in Mathira constituency, Mung'etho Gacharu Community water project in Ndia, Kirinyaga County, Makutano Dispensary Borehole project in Mbeere South constituency, Embu County and Kerugoya/Kutus sewerage project.

Embracing The KCSE Examination Journey

By: Kelly Awuor
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination exercise has kicked off. This examination is a critical milestone in the educational journey of Kenyan students, marking the culmination of their secondary education and paving the way for further academic pursuits or entry into the workforce.

The KCSE examination assesses students' knowledge and skills in various subjects, including English, Kiswahili, Mathematics, Science, and other elective subjects. The results of this examination play a crucial role in determining the future educational and career paths for students. High performance in the KCSE examination can open doors to prestigious universities and colleges, while lower scores may limit

opportunities for higher education or require additional support and guidance.

As students prepare for the KCSE examination, it is essential to adopt effective study strategies and habits. Regular revision, practice, and review of the syllabus are fundamental to mastering the content and building confidence. Additionally, seeking support from teachers, parents, and peers can provide valuable assistance and motivation throughout the preparation period.

The KCSE examination is not just about academic achievement; it is also an opportunity for students to demonstrate resilience, discipline, and time management skills. Balancing study time with extracurricular activities and personal responsibilities requires careful planning and prioritization. By developing these skills, students can navigate the challenges of the examination with confidence and emerge as



The KCSE Examination

well-rounded individuals.

As students embark on this significant journey, it is important to maintain a positive mindset and stay focused on their goals. The KCSE

examination is a stepping stone to future success, and with dedication and hard work, students can achieve their desired outcomes. Let us support and encourage our students as

they embark on this challenging yet rewarding journey, wishing them the best of luck in their KCSE examination.

Whispers Of Autumn



By: Maksudova Nodira Uzbekistan

The autumn breeze, a quiet sigh,
As golden leaves begin to fly.
They dance and swirl in amber light,
Bidding farewell to fading night.

The branches bend, the trees bow low,
In whispered tones, their secrets flow.
A sky of flame, a world set free,
In hues of red, and rust, and sea.

The earth beneath, so soft, so wide,
Awaits the fall with humble pride.
Each leaf, a memory, each gust, a song,
Of days that linger, but not for long.

Oh fleeting season, gentle and wise,
You paint the world in sweet goodbyes.
With every leaf that drifts away,
You teach us how to let things sway.

For in the quiet, crisp and cold,
We find the stories yet untold.
And though the year may near its end,
In autumn's arms, we learn to mend.

The Unique Subtleties Of Literature



Literature, as a sophisticated art form, is distinguished by its intricate subtleties, which can be experienced through language, symbolism, emotional resonance, and thematic depth. These elements work together to create layers of meaning that offer readers profound insights into the human experience.

The Power of Language

One of the key subtleties of literature lies in the careful selection and arrangement of words. Writers often use *figurative language*—metaphors, similes, and personification—to communicate ideas in a more impactful way. The rhythm and flow of prose or poetry can mirror the mood of the text, creating an immersive experience for the reader. For example, the use of alliteration or assonance can enhance the musicality of a sentence, making it more memorable and emotionally evocative.

Imagery and Symbolism

Imagery is a subtle but powerful tool that allows readers to visualize scenes, characters, and emotions. Through *vivid descriptions*, authors can create mental pictures that make abstract ideas more tangible. In addition, *symbols*—objects, characters, or events that represent larger ideas—are often used to convey complex themes. For example, a setting sun might symbolize the end of life or hope, adding layers of interpretation beyond the literal meaning of the text.

Emotional Nuance

Literature often explores the subtleties of human emotion. Rather than stating feelings directly, skilled authors show emotions through *dialogue, actions, and internal thoughts*, allowing readers to infer the deeper emotional states of the characters. This creates an intimate connection between the reader and the narrative, as they engage with the

unspoken feelings beneath the surface.

Tone and Mood

The tone of a literary work—the author's attitude toward the subject—can be subtle yet pivotal in shaping how a story is understood. *Mood*, on the other hand, refers to the emotional atmosphere created for the reader. Both tone and mood are influenced by word choice, sentence structure, and pacing. A shift in tone can add complexity to a narrative, allowing multiple interpretations based on the emotions or ideas evoked.

Theme and Subtext

Literary themes are often conveyed subtly through *subtext*—the underlying meaning that is not directly stated. Readers must often "read between the lines" to uncover the broader philosophical, political, or moral messages of a work. For instance, a story about a journey may serve as a metaphor for personal growth or self-discovery, prompting reflection on deeper existential themes.

Ambiguity and Multiple Interpretations

Many great works of literature are deliberately ambiguous, inviting readers to explore different meanings. This openness to interpretation is one of the unique subtleties of literature, as it engages readers in active participation, allowing them to bring their own perspectives and experiences to the text. This complexity ensures that each reading can reveal new insights.

In conclusion, the subtleties of literature enrich the reader's experience by creating depth, inviting introspection, and allowing for personal interpretation. Through language, imagery, emotional nuance, and thematic complexity, literature transcends mere storytelling, offering readers a window into the broader human condition.

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Call For Premier Institution To Foster African Public Service Excellence

By: Sadik Hassan and Mariam Sefu
 @themtkenyentimes

We need one premier institution that develops curricula to realise African public service excellence, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Justin Muturi has said.

The unified approach to public service training, Muturi noted, will churn out leaders with unwavering allegiance to their governments, possess the ability to evaluate policy implications, are focused on delivering public services efficiently and effectively, and are committed to implementing administrative decisions regardless of personal preferences.

The CS yesterday opened the 1st Africa Schools of Government Conference hosted by the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Mombasa Campus.

The conference delegates are drawn from Schools of Government, Independent Commissions, Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies, Devolved Governance Institutions, Higher Learning Institutions, Ministries and Agencies, Multilateral and Bilateral Development Agencies, and Development and Governance Agencies.

The four-day forum is themed as “Advancing Africa’s Public Service Excellence: United in Pursuit to Realise Capable Institutions and Transformed Leadership”

In line with the theme, the conference will examine mechanisms of advancing public service excellence and pursue a unified approach to enhance the capacity building of Africa’s public service.

It is also a platform for collaboration and linkages between African Management Development Institutes (MDIs) and Schools of Government to engage in peer-to-peer learning as a strategy for delivering on their mandates.

Muturi noted that the Africa Agenda 2063, under the mantra “The Africa We Want”, envisioned advancing Public Sector Excellence through capable institutions and transformed leadership in Africa.

“This Conference today is united in pursuit of realising capable institutions and transformed leadership coordinated by the Premier Africa School of Government,” said the CS.

He added that the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 clarion call is “Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century, and it aspires that heads of government, ministers, and senior public servants have access to the latest thinking on institutional reform, management, and leadership competencies that drive value creation in policy environments and governments.

The CS said that over the years KSG



Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi.

and MDIs have provided learning and development programmes to capacity-build public officers in different aspects of management and operations of Government in Kenya, the Region, and the Continent and beyond.

“We believe that the mission of KSG situates it in the middle of politics and public service, to solve some of the most contentious issues facing Africa’s leadership today,” stated Muturi. “We also believe that by combining cutting-edge research, training, and direct interaction with practitioners, KSG has proven to be a capable institution with strong leadership to solve capacity building in Africa’s public service that no other institution can match,” he added.

The CS further underscored the need to change Africa for the better, be united in pursuit of realising capable institutions, and transform leadership by changing African schools

of Government to build and develop cutting-edge programmes that can tackle, unlock, and develop transformative solutions to public challenges.

The delegates were urged to use their talents to foster a more diverse and inclusive African community everywhere they are called to serve.

“Change Africa’s public service, change it for the better, make it more humane, make it more just, make it more prosperous, and make it more peaceful,” encouraged the CS.

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Service, Amos Gathecha, stated that capacity building of public servants is a prerequisite for the realisation of AU Agenda 2063.

“African governments must prioritise human capital development. We must agree that training forms our thinking and doing, and without training it would be impossible to im-

plement any government agenda,” he said.

Gathecha noted that Schools of government are obligated to carry out their mandate and remain responsive to the unique circumstances in their countries.

He reiterated calls for a unified African Approach in pursuit of excellence in public institutions and leadership.

The Schools of Government, he noted, should develop strategies to overcome challenges and barriers they encounter in the realisation of their mandates.

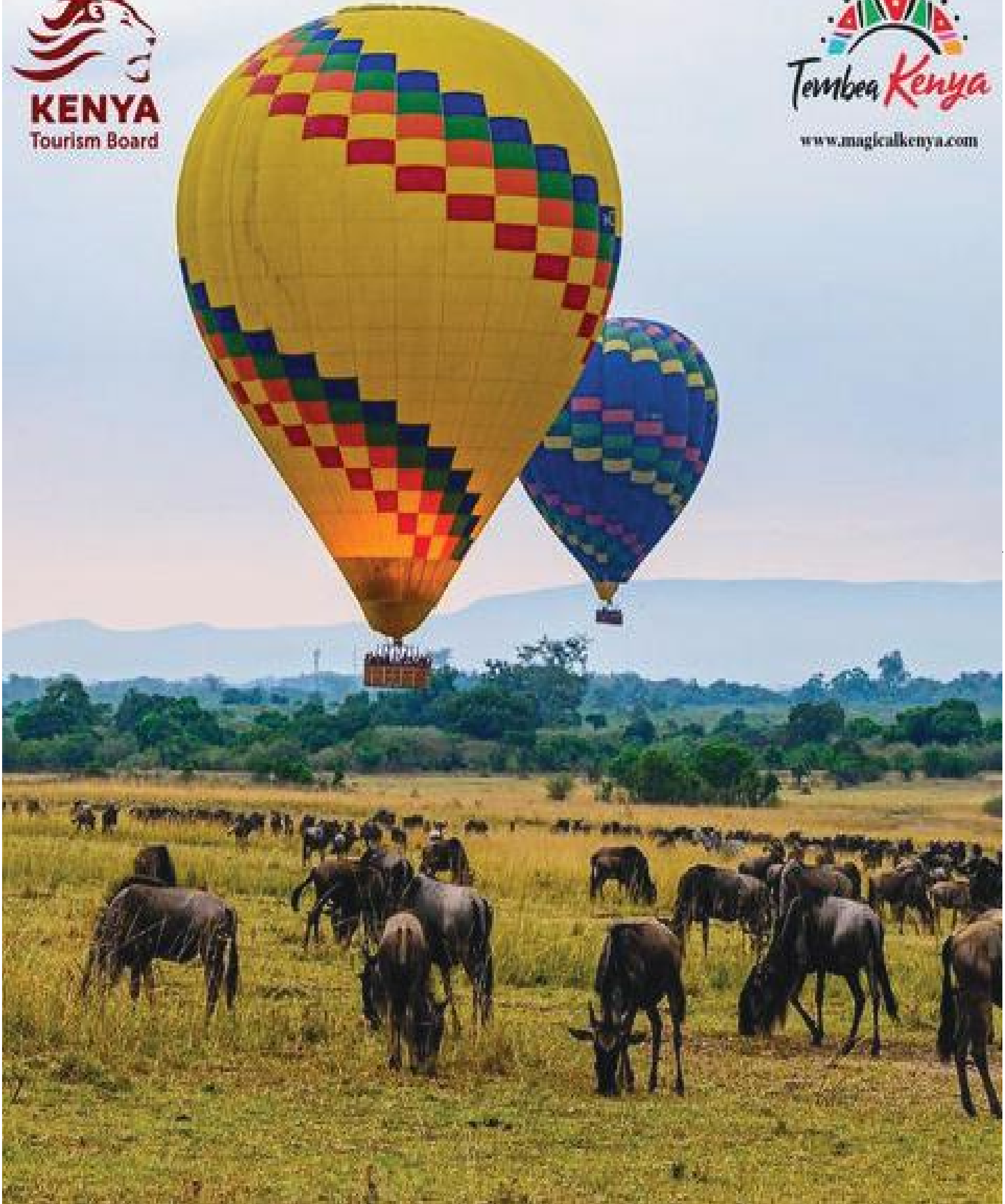
“We should embrace best practices to enhance the capacity building of public service and create collaboration and linkages between African MDIs/ Schools of government for robust engagement and peer-to-peer learning for innovation and continuous training,” he stated.



Delegates drawn from across Africa follow proceedings during the opening of the 1st African Schools of Governance Conference at Kenya School of Government (KSG), Mombasa. Photo/ Andrew Hinga.

Worth Noting:

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A Unified Front Against Counterfeiting: Collaborative Efforts In Kenya's IP Protection Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A critical aspect of Kenya's anti-counterfeit laws is the recordation process mandated by the Anti-Counterfeit (Recordation) Regulations 2021. This regulation requires all IP owners who import goods into Kenya to record their intellectual property rights with the ACA, irrespective of where those rights were originally registered.
- The recordation serves as a preventive measure against the importation of counterfeit goods by enabling authorities to identify and intercept infringing products at entry points. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in severe penalties, including criminal sanctions for importing unrecorded goods bearing protected IP rights.
- This stringent approach underscores the importance of proactive compliance for businesses operating within Kenya's borders, as it directly impacts their ability to safeguard their brands and market presence.

Kenya has made significant strides in combating counterfeiting through a robust legal legislation aims to safeguard the interests of IP owners while promoting fair competition in the marketplace. With counterfeiting posing a serious threat to both consumers framework designed to protect intellectual property (IP) rights. The cornerstone of this framework is the Anti-Counterfeit Act No. 13 of 2008, which prohibits the trade in counterfeit goods and establishes the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) to oversee enforcement. This and legitimate businesses, Kenya's proactive approach includes not only legal measures but also practical initiatives to intercept and destroy counterfeit products at the borders. The introduction of the IP rights recordation system further enhances these efforts by requiring IP owners to register their rights with the ACA before importing goods into the country. This comprehensive strategy reflects Kenya's commitment to fostering an environment where innovation can thrive, thereby ensuring compliance with international standards.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority plays a pivotal role in implementing Kenya's anti-counterfeit laws, serving as the primary body responsible for enforcing these regulations. Established under the Anti-Counterfeit Act, the ACA is tasked with educating the public about counterfeiting and its implications while coordinating efforts among various stakeholders involved in combating this issue. The Authority also conducts training programs aimed at enhancing awareness of intellectual property rights and equipping stakeholders with the necessary skills to identify counterfeit goods. By fostering collaboration between government agencies, industry players, and consumers, the ACA seeks to create a unified front against counterfeiting activities. Furthermore, the ACA's mandate extends beyond enforcement; it also involves conducting research and inquiries into matters related to counterfeiting and IP protection, thereby contributing to informed policymaking.

A critical aspect of Kenya's anti-counterfeit laws is the recordation process mandated by the Anti-Counterfeit (Recordation) Regulations 2021. This regulation requires all IP owners who import goods into Kenya to record their intellectual property rights with the ACA, irrespective of where those rights were originally registered. The recordation serves as a preventive measure against the importation of counterfeit goods by enabling authorities to identify and intercept infringing products at entry points. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in severe penalties, including criminal sanctions for importing unrecorded goods bearing protected IP rights. This stringent ap-



proach underscores the importance of proactive compliance for businesses operating within Kenya's borders, as it directly impacts their ability to safeguard their brands and market presence.

The legal basis for these regulations is rooted in Section 34B of the Anti-Counterfeit Act, which outlines the obligations of IP owners regarding recordation. This section emphasizes that compliance is not merely a bureaucratic formality but a crucial step in protecting one's intellectual property from infringement. The ACA provides guidelines on how businesses can navigate this process effectively, ensuring that they understand their responsibilities under Kenyan law. Additionally, organizations that fail to record their IP rights may find themselves vulnerable to counterfeiters who exploit gaps in enforcement mechanisms. Thus, understanding and adhering to these regulations is essential for safeguarding both brand integrity and consumer trust.

Surveillance is another key component of Kenya's anti-counterfeit strategy, aimed at preventing counterfeit goods from entering the market. The ACA has implemented a phased approach to surveillance that begins with compiling statistics on recorded IP rights and monitoring imports for compliance. This proactive stance allows authorities to identify patterns of counterfeiting activity and respond swiftly to emerging threats. Moreover, by engaging with brand owners during this process, the ACA fosters a collaborative environment where businesses can report suspected infringements and provide valuable insights into market trends. This partnership between regulatory bodies and private sector stakeholders enhances overall effectiveness in combating counterfeiting.

The consequences for non-compliance with recordation requirements are significant and underscore the urgency for businesses to take these laws seriously. As of January 1, 2023, it has become an offense for any person or entity to import goods bearing

an IP right that has not been recorded with the ACA. This legislative change highlights Kenya's commitment to enforcing its anti-counterfeit laws rigorously while providing clear guidelines for compliance. Businesses must be proactive in ensuring that their intellectual property is recorded; otherwise, they risk facing legal repercussions that could jeopardize their operations and reputation in the market.

It is essential to differentiate between IP registration and recordation within the context of Kenyan law. While registration refers to obtaining territorial rights granted by national authorities or international treaties, recordation involves submitting information about these registered rights to the ACA for enforcement purposes. This distinction is crucial because it emphasizes that registration alone does not provide adequate protection against counterfeiting; proactive recordation is necessary for effective enforcement against infringing activities. Therefore, businesses must engage in both processes diligently to ensure comprehensive protection of their intellectual property.

The interplay between anti-counterfeit laws and consumer protection cannot be overlooked in this discussion. Counterfeit goods pose significant risks not only to brand owners but also to consumers who may unknowingly purchase substandard or harmful products. By enforcing strict anti-counterfeiting measures, Kenya aims to protect consumers from potential health risks associated with counterfeit pharmaceuticals, electronics, and other essential goods. This consumer-centric approach aligns with global best practices in IP protection while reinforcing public trust in legitimate brands operating within Kenya's marketplace.

In addition to domestic efforts, international cooperation remains vital in addressing counterfeiting challenges effectively. Kenya actively engages with regional and international organizations focused on combating counterfeiting through shared resources

and expertise. Collaboration with entities such as WIPO allows Kenya to align its anti-counterfeit strategies with global standards while benefiting from best practices adopted by other nations facing similar challenges. Such partnerships enhance knowledge sharing among stakeholders involved in IP protection while facilitating cross-border enforcement actions against counterfeiters.

Looking ahead, continuous improvement of anti-counterfeit laws will be essential as new challenges emerge in an increasingly digital economy. The rapid growth of e-commerce presents unique opportunities for counterfeiters who exploit online platforms to distribute infringing products without detection. Therefore, adapting existing regulations and developing new strategies tailored specifically for online environments will be crucial for effective enforcement moving forward. By embracing innovation within its regulatory framework while remaining vigilant against emerging threats, Kenya can strengthen its position as a leader in intellectual property protection on both national and international stages.

In conclusion, Kenya's comprehensive approach to anti-counterfeit laws reflects a strong commitment to protecting intellectual property rights while ensuring compliance among stakeholders. Through robust legislation like the Anti-Counterfeit Act and proactive measures such as recordation requirements and surveillance initiatives, Kenya aims to create an environment conducive to innovation and fair competition. As businesses navigate this complex landscape, understanding their obligations under these laws will be critical for safeguarding their interests against counterfeiting threats—ultimately benefiting both brand owners and consumers alike.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media Information Literacy And Digital Activism In Kenya

By: **Wairimu Mwangi**
 @themtkenyatimes

The rise of media information literacy in Kenya has fundamentally transformed digital activism, creating a more informed and empowered citizenry capable of leveraging social media and digital platforms for social change. Over the past decade, Kenyans have demonstrated remarkable aptitude in using digital tools to challenge authority, expose corruption, and mobilize for social justice, all while developing sophisticated methods to verify and share accurate information.

The 'MyDressMyChoice' campaign of 2014 marked a turning point in Kenyan digital activism, demonstrating how media-literate citizens could effectively use social media to combat gender-based violence. When a woman was stripped and assaulted at a bus stop in Nairobi, digital activists not only shared the video to raise awareness but also critically analyzed and contextualized the incident within broader societal issues. The campaign garnered over 12,000 tweets within the first 24 hours and led to significant policy discussions about women's rights and public safety.

Media information literacy has played a crucial role in combating misinformation during critical national moments. During the 2022 Kenyan general elections, digital activists and fact-checking organizations like Africa Check and Pesa Check trained over 50,000 Kenyans in digital verification techniques. This resulted in a 30% reduction in the spread of election-related misinformation compared to the 2017 elections, according to a Mozilla Foundation report. Citizens learned to verify sources, cross-reference information, and identify doctored images and videos, skills that proved vital in maintaining social stability during the electoral period.

The KOT (Kenyans on Twitter) phenomenon has evolved from casual social media engagement to a powerful force for accountability. When the Ministry of Health faced allegations of misappropriating COVID-19 funds in 2020, digital activists used their media literacy skills to analyze government documents, track spending patterns, and present their findings in accessible formats. This citizen-led investigation, which trended under #COVID19Millionaires, led to official investigations and the resignation of several officials.

Environmental activism has also benefited from increased media lit-

DIGITAL MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A HANDBOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



eracy. The #SaveKarura campaign demonstrated how digital activists could combine traditional environmental conservation efforts with sophisticated digital storytelling. Activists used geo-tagging, drone footage, and data visualization to document illegal logging and environmental degradation. Their media-literate approach helped them reach over 2 million Kenyans and secure government intervention to protect the forest.

Digital activism has become more sophisticated in terms of data presentation and verification. The "What is Your County Worth?" initiative of 2023 saw activists create infographics and interactive visualizations to break down complex county budget allocations. This campaign reached 70% of Kenya's online population and sparked nationwide discussions about resource allocation and accountability. The success was attributed to activists' ability to transform complex data into easily digestible content while maintaining accuracy and credibility.

The rise of fact-checking networks has further strengthened digital activism. Organizations like iHub and AfricaCheck have trained over 100,000 Kenyans in digital verification techniques since 2020. This has created a network of citizen journalists and

digital activists who can effectively counter misinformation and present accurate, verified information to the public. According to a 2023 UNESCO report, Kenya now ranks among the top five African countries in terms of citizen media literacy and digital activism effectiveness.

The 'WatchYourNeighborhood' campaign of 2023 exemplifies how media-literate activists can leverage multiple platforms for social change. Combining WhatsApp groups, Twitter threads, and Instagram stories, activists documented and verified instances of police brutality across Nairobi. The campaign's success lay in its methodical approach to information verification, with activists establishing clear protocols for verifying incidents before sharing them widely. This resulted in a 40% increase in police accountability cases being brought to court.

However, challenges remain. Despite improvements in media literacy, approximately 35% of Kenyans still struggle with identifying fake news and manipulated media. Digital divide issues persist, with rural areas showing lower levels of media literacy compared to urban centres. Organizations like Digital Literacy Initiative Kenya are working to address these gaps, having reached over

200,000 rural residents with media literacy training programs in 2023.

The impact of media information literacy on digital activism extends beyond social movements. It has created a more discerning public that demands higher standards of evidence and accuracy from both traditional media and online sources. A 2023 study by the Media Council of Kenya found that news organizations have improved their fact-checking processes and digital verification methods in response to increased scrutiny from media-literate audiences.

Kenya's experience demonstrates how the combination of technical skills, critical thinking, and digital verification abilities has created a new generation of activists who can effectively navigate the complex digital information landscape while maintaining credibility and impact. As more Kenyans gain access to digital platforms and media literacy training, the potential for positive social change through digital activism continues to grow.

Wairimu Mwangi
 Rongo University

Worth Noting:

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When Mountains Melt Leaders Limp Lonely Lost

A political tragedy of betrayal within the Kikuyu community



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

Have you ever heard the sound of silence from a people who once roared? The echoes of a mountain once proud, now buried in a whisper, a paradox of icy peaks melted away by the heat of betrayal? I am not a Kikuyu, but I have written deep political content, and I feel bad for Kenya. I feel bad for a country that has turned on its own sons, on its own heritage, and for what? For political theater staged in the heart of Mt. Kenya, where the snow has melted, the rivers have run dry, and the people are left to mourn the son they gave to the nation—Rigathi Gachagua. Once a healthy child of the mountain, now they've sent him home sick, impeached while in the hospital, a casualty of the very system that once celebrated him.

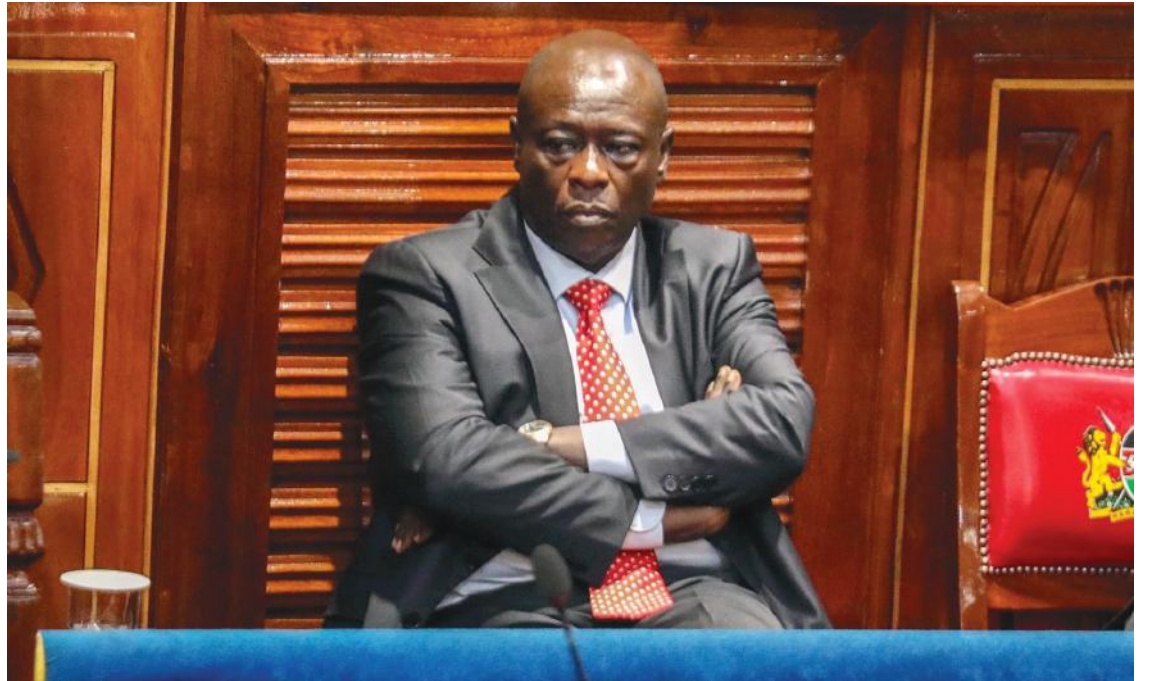
The saga of Rigathi Gachagua is a political tragedy so grand it defies explanation, but not metaphor. Let's start with the snow of Mt. Kenya, that magnificent crown of the country. The white cap that once glistened in the sun has faded into history, not unlike the man who was once a beacon of hope for many. When Gachagua rose to the position of Deputy President, he was seen as a son of the mountain, a symbol of unity for a people that had long been divided.

But now, as the mountain melts, so too does his influence, washed away by the flood of betrayal orchestrated by those who once held him aloft. His impeachment, a final blow, came while he was in a hospital bed—broken, used, and discarded by a government that promised him the world but gave him nothing but chains.

This is not just about Gachagua. It's about the Kikuyu people, a community that has been at the heart of Kenya's political and economic life for decades. And yet, in this moment, they find themselves under attack, not from outside forces but from within.

Look at Kimani Ichung'wa, a man who has chosen to fight his own people rather than stand with them. Ichung'wa, once seen as a promising leader, is now the face of betrayal, a man willing to sacrifice his own community for political expedience.

And where does it end? What if the Kikuyus, tired of being scapegoats and divided, decide that enough is enough? What if they say, "Kiambu si Kenya"? Let's break it down. Kiambu County, a jewel in the crown of Kenya's economy, contributes immensely to the country's GDP.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Worth Noting:

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- Look at Kimani Ichung'wa, a man who has chosen to fight his own people rather than stand with them. Ichung'wa, once seen as a promising leader, is now the face of betrayal, a man willing to sacrifice his own community for political expedience.
- And where does it end? What if the Kikuyus, tired of being scapegoats, tired of being manipulated and divided, decide that enough is enough? What if they say, "Kiambu si Kenya"? Let's break it down.

Agriculture, real estate, manufacturing—all thrive in this region. If the Kikuyus were to secede, or even to pull back their economic contributions, the fallout would be catastrophic. Imagine the loss of revenue from coffee and tea plantations, from the booming real estate market in places like Ruiru and Thika. In 2021, Kiambu alone contributed over Ksh 80 billion to the country's economy.

Now imagine the void that would be left if those contributions ceased. The Kikuyus, despite the political games being played with their loyalty, remain a cornerstone of Kenya's economy. If they were to isolate themselves, the rest of the country would feel it in a heartbeat. But instead of uniting the community, the current administration is working tirelessly to divide them.

President William Ruto's government has not only failed to address the economic and social concerns of the Kikuyu people but has actively fueled internal divisions. By pitting leaders like Ichung'wa against their own people, Ruto has managed to weaken a once-unified force.

It's a strategy as old as time: divide and conquer. But at what cost? The Kikuyu people are beginning to see through the façade, and the question is, how much longer will they allow themselves to be pawns in a game that they neither started nor benefit from? We must also not forget the warnings of Uhuru Kenyatta, a man who, despite his flaws, understood the pulse of the nation.

He warned, time and time again, that the valley would swallow its

own sons if they were not careful. Uhuru's prophecy now rings painfully true. Look at Gachagua, look at Ichung'wa, look at the state of the Kikuyu people. The valley, in all its political treachery, has indeed swallowed them, using them for its own gain before casting them aside like broken tools.

And let's talk about the valley—the Rift Valley, to be specific—the heart of William Ruto's political stronghold. The Rift Valley has become a symbol of the deep political divides in Kenya, a place where loyalty is bought and sold, where alliances shift with the wind, and where leaders are either exalted or destroyed at the whim of a single man.

It's ironic, isn't it? The people of Mt. Kenya gave their son to the valley, and in return, the valley devoured him. Now, as Gachagua lies in his hospital bed, a man who once symbolized strength and resilience, he is but a shadow of his former self—a tragic figure in a political play that cares little for the individual and everything for the spectacle.

The people cry, but their cries are met with silence. The administration is too busy playing its games; too busy dividing the nation along tribal lines, to listen. The dirtiness of Ruto's administration is in full view, yet so many choose to look away. They see the corruption, the broken promises, the political betrayals, but they remain silent. And this silence is deafening. It is the silence of a people who have grown tired, a people who no longer believe in the system that was supposed to serve them.

But what if the silence turns to rage? What if the Kikuyus, a people known for their resilience, decide that they have had enough? What if they rise, not just in protest but in unity, against a government that has taken them for granted for far too long? This is not a rhetorical question—it's a real possibility. The Kikuyus have the economic and political power to shift the balance in Kenya. If they decide to withdraw their support, the entire country will feel the impact.

In the end, this is a story of betrayal. It is the story of a mountain that gave its son to the nation, only for the nation to send him back broken and discarded. It is the story of a people who were promised unity but were instead given division. And it is the story of a country that, unless it changes course, will continue to eat its own sons in the name of political expedience.

So, what now? Will the Kikuyus rise? Will they reclaim their rightful place in the political and economic landscape of Kenya, or will they continue to allow themselves to be divided and conquered by those who do not have their best interests at heart? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain: the snow of Mt. Kenya may have melted, but the fire in the hearts of its people is far from extinguished.

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

Take Good Care Of Your Children While They Are On Holiday

By: **Ajungulu J Gordon**
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Most the schools in the country have started to close for a very long holiday that the students have long awaited for. This is because of the forthcoming national exams but the big question is how prepared parents are on looking after their children while they are on this holiday.

The holiday season is a special time of the year for families to bond, celebrate, and create lasting memories. For children, holidays bring excitement, joy, and a break from the regular school routine. However, as much as holidays are a time for fun and relaxation, they also come with increased responsibilities for parents. During this time, parents play a crucial role in ensuring their children are safe, entertained, and nurtured. Holidays often mean a break from the usual schedules, but that doesn't mean children should be left without structure.

Parents can help by maintaining a

balance between allowing their children time to relax and ensuring they participate in constructive activities. Too much screen time or idleness may lead to boredom or restlessness. Structured activities, such as reading, crafts, or family outings, can keep children engaged and stimulate their creativity and learning during the break.

With the extra time spent at home, it is essential for parents to provide a safe and secure environment for their children. This involves childproofing the home, especially if younger children are present, and ensuring that outdoor play is supervised. Parents must be vigilant about potential holiday-related risks, such as decorations, electrical hazards, and even certain toys. Ensuring safety allows children to explore, play, and enjoy the holidays with minimal risk of accidents.

In today's digital age, children are increasingly reliant on screens for entertainment. During the holidays, when children have more free time, it's tempting for them to spend hours watching TV, playing video games,

or browsing the internet. However, parents need to regulate screen time and encourage alternative forms of entertainment. Engaging in family activities such as board games, outdoor sports, or even simple cooking together can offer meaningful alternatives that also strengthen family bonds.

The holiday season is not just about physical care; emotional support is equally important. Children may experience different emotions during this time, especially if they are aware of family dynamics or social expectations. Whether it's the stress of holiday events, unmet expectations, or just changes in routine, children may need extra emotional support. Parents can foster open communication by regularly checking in on how their children are feeling and offering reassurance when needed.

During the holiday season, there can be a temptation to overload the schedule with parties, visits, and events. While socializing is important, too much activity can overwhelm children and leave them feeling exhausted. Parents should prioritize



family time and ensure that the holiday schedule allows for adequate rest and downtime. By setting limits on how many events the family attends, parents can reduce stress for both themselves and their children.

Perhaps the most crucial role parents play during the holidays is simply being present. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's important for parents to make time for genuine connection with their children. Whether through quiet moments of conversation, reading

a book together, or spending time playing, these moments of undivided attention create strong emotional bonds. The memories children cherish most are often the simplest ones—time spent with their parents.

Therefore it's the duty of the parents to take good care of their children while they are on holiday. Ultimately, the care and attention parents provide during the holidays set the stage for memories that children will carry with them for a lifetime.

Move Fast To Prevent Gender-Based Violence

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Femicide, the targeted and violent killing of women and girls, has become common in Kenya, revealing deep-seated issues of gender-based violence and discrimination. The spate of cases, such as the brutal murder of a young woman in Roysambu, underscores the urgent need for comprehensive action to address this grave violation of human rights. In Kenya, GBV is serious and pressing issue that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts to address one of its most egregious manifestations: Femicide.

Despite recent initiatives, including adoption of a GBV indicator in the government's performance monitoring framework and increased resources allocation due in June 2021, the alarming frequency of femicide cases in the past month signals a crit-

ical need for more comprehensive and targeted actions. Despite these efforts, the recent spike in cases within a month raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of current measures. Femicide is not only a tragic loss of individual lives but also a stark indicator of deeper societal issues that perpetuate violence against women. The fact that such incidents continue to occur despite the government's initiative calls for a critical examination of the root cause and reevaluation of strategies to combat femicide.

It often thrives in an environment of silence and complicity. It is imperative to encourage survivors to speak out, report incidents and seek help without fear of stigma or retaliation. Community awareness campaigns, coupled with accessible and confidential reporting mechanisms, can empower victims and witnesses to break the cycle of violence. Femicide goes beyond mere statistics; it represents profound failure of the state and society to protect the lives



of women and girls. The intentional nature of these killings, often driven by gender-based violence and discrimination, highlights the pressing need for systemic change.

Femicide is not only a crime against individuals but also a reflection of broader issues rooted in gender in-

equality and deeply entrenched anti-feminist cultural norms. Kenya must prioritize legal reforms that provide better protection for women and girls. This includes strengthening laws against gender-based violence, choosing loopholes that allow perpetrators to escape justice, and ensuring

that law enforcement agencies inadequately trained to handle cases of femicide.

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Sports >> *Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Monday he wants striker Kylian Mbappe to focus on scoring goals over pressing to help the team.

Ancelotti Wants Goals Over Pressing From Madrid Star Mbappe



Real Madrid's French forward Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring his team's first goal during the UEFA Champions League 1st round day 1 football match between Real Madrid CF and Stuttgart VFB at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on September 17, 2024. (Photo by Thomas COEX / AFP).

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Monday he wants striker Kylian Mbappe to focus on scoring goals over pressing to help the team.

The Spanish and European champions have not been at their peak this season and are still searching for the best way to incorporate the former Paris Saint-Germain superstar following his arrival this summer.

Madrid lost on the road at Lille in their last Champions League outing and host Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday in a rematch of last season's final, which they won to earn a record-extending 15th European crown.

"I prefer that (Mbappe) scores goals than he presses," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"The central striker position in our team has not changed, I ask him the same I asked of Karim (Benzema, who left in 2023).

"To be well positioned and to be ready every time we get the ball back to make a rapid transition." Mbappe has scored eight goals

for Madrid in 12 games across all competitions this season, compared to Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski's 14 in 12 appearances.

The forward drew criticism in his homeland for not playing in France's recent Nations League games after recovering from a thigh injury.

Swedish media reported he is being investigated over an alleged rape in Stockholm following a trip there during the international break, with Mbappe labelling the reports as "fake news".

One of the knock-on effects of Mbappe's arrival at Madrid is a more defensive role for Jude Bellingham, who was Los Blancos' key attacking figure last season.

The former Borussia Dortmund midfielder is yet to score for the club this season in nine games, after netting 10 in his first 10 appearances last year.

"We're satisfied with his work... because he works a lot on the pitch, he's always there, he com-

petes, fights, sacrifices himself," said Ancelotti.

"The truth is he hasn't scored the goals he did last year, but the surprise isn't this year, it's last year, he scored a heap of goals that no-one expected..."

"We've always scored goals and we'll always score goals, we have players with great attacking talent up front... so for us at this moment, the work he is doing is much more important for us."

Ancelotti said Madrid's array of attacking stars, also including Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes, means the team enjoy end-to-end matches.

"I want (rock and roll football) because I have players with these characteristics," continued Ancelotti.

"We find it harder to play a game based on possession and control because we don't have players with characteristics to play in reduced spaces.

"A back and forth game suits us well, but we're focussed on defending better as we did very

well last year."

Dortmund trained in Germany before flying to Madrid on Monday, with German media suggesting they were afraid of the Spanish giants watching their session.

"We need a strong mentality, the game has to go our way to be able to survive here," Dortmund coach Nuri Sahin told a news conference after arriving at the Bernabeu.

The former Madrid player said his struggling team, seventh in the Bundesliga, needed to work together to stop Mbappe, Vinicius and company.

"It's only possible (to succeed) as a collective, not just against these two, but against all of Real's players," he continued.

"Of course, every coach thinks of (a plan) and the lads know what to do, but we also want to be brave."

Midfielder Julian Brandt said the key was closing down Madrid players quickly.

"It's about working even more defensively... you probably shouldn't give them any breathing room to get close to our goal," said Brandt.

"The defence will be a big factor, but we don't just want to focus on it, we also want to get forward."

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Sports >>> *The Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Arts, under the leadership of Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, has donated Ksh 1.8 million to the Rising Stars as a token of appreciation

Murkomen Boosts Rising Stars With Ksh 1.8 M Donation, Plans 30 Sports Academies Nationwide



The Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Arts, under the leadership of Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, has donated Ksh 1.8 million to the Rising Stars as a token of appreciation for their successful qualification for the AFCON Under-20 tournament, which is set to take place in South Africa next year.

In preparation for the tournament, Rising Stars head coach Salim Babu emphasized the need for better training, noting that the team is stepping up to a more

competitive level. Babu expressed the importance of holding pre-season preparations outside the country to enhance their performance. "We are entering a new level, and the government has been very supportive. It would be beneficial for the team to train abroad," Babu said.

Meanwhile, Murkomen provided an update on the progress of various stadiums across the country, stressing the importance of maintaining and renovating these facilities to support the hosting of

major tournaments and nurture local talent.

In a move to develop young athletes, the Ministry will oversee the construction of 30 football academies across the country. Murkomen confirmed that standardized designs for these academies have already been finalized.

"The Ministry will oversee the construction of 30 sports academies across the country. We have developed standardized designs for these facilities," Murkomen said.

The cabinet secretary also highlighted plans to collaborate with schools that have a strong sports tradition, intending to identify talented players early and improve sports infrastructure nationwide.

"We will work with schools to enhance sports facilities and identify talent at a young age," Murkomen stated.

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Increasing The Effectiveness Of Learning Biology Lessons By Means Of Interactive Games And Interactive Methods



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Abstract: The purpose and tasks of biology teaching methodology. The methodology of teaching biology is about learning, processes, principles and laws related to the fundamentals of biological science, educational processes related to the fundamentals of biological science. Information and instructions on increasing the effectiveness of learning biology lessons by means of interactive games and interactive methods are presented.

Key words: Methodology, task, development, science, program, skills, interactive games, interactive method, technology.

One of the requirements of the "National Personnel Training Program" of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the widespread use of new pedagogical and information technologies in the educational process, and the acceleration of training using the modular system of training.

The purpose and tasks of biology teaching methodology. Biology teaching methodology is the science of learning, processes, principles and laws related to the basics of biology. Knowledge of these principles and laws allows the teacher to organize and manage educational processes related to the school biology course in accordance with the requirements of the time. The biology teaching methodology aims to introduce the content of biology subjects, its teaching forms, methods, and tools in an interdependent manner. The main task of the biology teaching methodology is to provide students with in-depth knowledge of biological subjects, to develop the content of subjects, teaching forms, tools and methods that help them grow as well-rounded individuals. consists of output. Any science is related to the research activity of a person, it is aimed at gathering knowledge about things and phenomena, and the object of research is devoted to obtaining complete and deep knowledge about the phenomena. The main function of science is research. The teaching methodology of biology as a science aims to study the learning,

education and development of students related to this science from a theoretical and practical point of view. Knowing the goals of teaching biology gives the teacher the opportunity to control the teaching process.

The tasks of teaching methodology of biology as a science are as follows:

Determining the place of educational science in the education and upbringing of students;

Develop recommendations for improving school curricula and textbooks and apply them to school practice;

Determining the content of academic subjects and the consistency of learning of the subjects in accordance with the age of the students;

Developing teaching methods and organizational forms, taking into account the specific aspects of biological subjects;

Determining the necessary equipment for use in the teaching process. The biology room is a living corner, the organization of the experimental ground, the designation of natural, pictorial, dynamic, audio, video tools.

Until now, as a result of the pedagogical experiments carried out in the methodology of teaching biology, "Development of biological concepts", "System of forms of teaching in biology", "Methods of teaching in biology", "Development of ecological concepts in biology", "Development of biological concepts" theories such as "material base system", "methodical training system of student biologists of Pedagogical institutions for school work" were developed and put into practice.

For this purpose, today's teacher is required to be a creative, inquisitive teacher who teaches students using new pedagogical technologies. The use of interactive methods in biology classes not only increases the effectiveness of the lesson, but also encourages students to search, use additional materials, and force them to browse the auxiliary literature. Today, in a number of developed countries, the methods that form the



basis of great experience in the use of modern pedagogical technologies guaranteeing the effectiveness of the educational process are called interactive methods. Interactive educational methods are currently the most common and widely used methods in all types of educational institutions. When choosing interactive methods of teaching, the purpose of education, the number and capabilities of students, the educational and material conditions of the educational institution, the duration of education, the pedagogical skills of the teacher, etc. are taken into account. Interactive methods are also considered to be a modern version of active methods.

The active method is a form of interaction between the teacher and the student, in which the student is not a passive listener, but has the same activity as the teacher. In the active method, the teacher-student relationship is democratic. If the teacher uses active methods in the teaching process, the student becomes interested in the lesson process, becomes an active participant in it.

The methodology of teaching biology is the study, processes, principles and laws related to the basics of biology:

Biology teaching methodology is closely related to didactics, which is a part of pedagogy. If didactics studies the laws of acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences by students, and it develops teaching theories and principles for all academic subjects in school, then biology teaching methodology is related to biology. develops theo-

retical and practical issues related to the content, forms, and methods and tools of teaching and training. Biology teaching methodology is closely related to psychology. Because the teaching of biology is effective only if it is suitable for the age characteristics of the students. For example, because the diet is unstable in teenagers, i.e. students of the 5th-6th grade, the biology teacher uses several methods during the lesson and replaces the activities of the students, taking into account the concreteness of their thinking. uses more visual aids. In the upper classes, since the students' attention has stabilized and their abstract thinking has developed, it is enough to conduct lessons in the form of lectures and use one or two methods.

In the methodology of teaching biology, interactive games and interactive methods are used to improve the effectiveness of learning biology lessons in the process of theoretical and practical training of students, not limited to the description of the structure of the school biology course, general secondary and secondary special profession - introduces the unique aspects of the organization of biology teaching in vocational institutions, helps to form skills in the use of biology teaching methods and tools, and the skills that students should master allows students to master a minimum set of knowledge. At the same time, modern pedagogy, the use of information technologies, and an innovative approach to teaching biology create skills.

Worth Noting:

- Determining the place of educational science in the education and upbringing of students;
- Develop recommendations for improving school curricula and textbooks and apply them to school practice;
- Determining the content of academic subjects and the consistency of learning of the subjects in accordance with the age of the students;
- Developing teaching methods and organizational forms, taking into account the specific aspects of biological subjects;
- Determining the necessary equipment for use in the teaching process. The biology room is a living corner, the organization of the experimental ground, the designation of natural, pictorial, dynamic, audio, video tools.