The MT. KENYA TIMES WEEKEND ePAPER
Sat & Sun, October 26-27, 2024
Creative Rewards
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Uhuru Calls For Unified, Self-Sustained Peace

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Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday attended the 15th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability in Africa Africa, held at the Sofitel Hotel in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Opinion: Womanese': The Most Widely Used Universal Language P.11

News: Tenwek Hospital launches Cardiothoracic Centre P.13

Key Initiatives In Housing, Energy, Education And Healthcare To Boost Quality Of Life For Kenyans

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **During a press briefing, he highlighted the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) as a core initiative aimed at addressing the country's housing deficit.**
- **Currently, 75 construction projects are underway in 37 counties, offering 124,000 affordable homes for various income levels. The program is divided into three categories—Social, Low-Cost, and Mortgage Gap Housing—allowing Kenyans earning between KSh3,200 to KSh149,999 per month to afford homeownership through the Boma Yangu platform. Over 547,000 Kenyans have already registered.**

Government Spokesperson Dr Isaac Mwaura has outlined the government's renewed commitment to improving Kenyans' quality of life through transformative programs in housing, energy, education, and healthcare.

With the overarching goal of creating an inclusive, prosperous Kenya under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA Plan), Dr. Mwaura emphasized the administration's dedication to fostering economic growth and social equity.

During a press briefing, he highlighted the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) as a core initiative aimed at addressing the country's housing deficit.

Currently, 75 construction projects are underway in 37 counties, offering 124,000 affordable homes for various income levels. The program is divided into three categories—Social, Low-Cost, and Mortgage Gap Housing—allowing Kenyans earning between KSh3,200 to KSh149,999 per month to afford homeownership through the Boma Yangu platform. Over 547,000 Kenyans have already registered.

The AHP is also a catalyst for economic empowerment, with 160,000 jobs created and KSh 4.4 billion allocated to support local artisans and fabricators. This includes a substantial KSh720 million contribution to artisans under the Kibra Jua Kali Association, supporting 300 tradespeople in the production of essential housing materials like windows and doors.

"The Affordable Housing Program is not only about homes; it's about building lives and communities," Dr. Mwaura remarked.

In a move toward energy sustainability, the government has partnered with Adani Group Holdings to construct a 35MW geothermal power plant in Menengai, Nakuru County, aimed at bolstering energy reliability and affordability. The KSh95 billion investment, fully funded by the private sector, ensures fiscal responsibility as the government avoids accruing additional debt. The initiative is expected to drive economic growth across towns such as Nanyuki, Meru, and Nyeri, create jobs, and boost local capacity in renewable energy production and transmission.

Government Spokesperson issuing his address at his Office

Dr Mwaura detailed the New Higher Education Funding Model, introduced by President Ruto, as a reformed approach to financing tertiary education.

The model categorizes students into five financial need bands, offering varying levels of scholarships, loans, and household contributions. For instance, students in the highest-need category receive up to 70% of tuition as a scholarship. Additionally, upkeep allowances between KSh40,000 and KSh60,000 help cover basic expenses, enhancing student welfare and support.

Dr. Mwaura highlighted a recent case where a Dedan Kimathi University student, initially categorized in a lower funding band, successfully appealed for reassessment and received enhanced financial aid.

The Social Health Authority (SHA) is set to bolster Kenya's healthcare infrastructure by providing accessible and affordable healthcare across urban and rural areas.

With over 13 million Kenyans enrolled, the SHA focuses on preventive, curative, and palliative care.

Employers have been urged to onboard employee data promptly to ensure consistent coverage. The government has also cleared KSh1.5 billion in outstanding payments to contracted health facilities, reinforcing healthcare reliability.

Addressing the importance of religious freedom, Dr. Mwaura reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to safeguarding this constitutional right.

The government is working closely with religious leaders to foster mutual respect and counter misconceptions, ensuring that all Kenyans can practice their faith freely.

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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NEWS PAPER
IN BUSINESS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu (in a cap) issues a driving license to a boda boda rider in Narok town. Looking on from the extreme right is Narok County Commissioner Kipkoech Lotiatia. “Ensure you have two helmets, one for your customer and another yours, to protect your lives in case of an accident. Ride carefully, observing all the traffic rules so that we can minimise accidents in our area,” he advised.

Over 25,000 participants have registered for the 2024 Standard Chartered Marathon, marking the highest record in registration, according to Peter Gitau, chairperson of the Nairobi Marathon Local Organising Committee. Scheduled for this Sunday, the marathon will feature various categories, including a 42km run, a 21km wheelchair race, and a 5km family run. Gitau assured that the route will include designated areas for spectators, pacers, and water mists to enhance the experience. He emphasized that adequate hydration would be provided with sufficient water, electrolytes, and fruits available. The prize money has increased significantly, with the 42km prize rising from Sh750,000 to Sh1 million for both men and women, totalling Sh12,900,000 in the prize kitty. Standard Chartered Head of Corporate Affairs and Brand Marketing, Ms. Joyce Kibe, revealed that they have managed to register 300,000 participants in the marathon since the onset of the Nairobi Marathon.

Principal Secretary State Department for Public Health and Professional has recognised Emergency Medical Services Personnel for their critical role in Primary Health Care. Speaking at the 10th graduation ceremony of the Kenya Red Cross Training Institute (KRCTI), where 186 graduates qualified in the fields of paramedicine, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Community Health Assistance,the PS highlighted the essential role these professionals play. She noted how their expertise is vital to building a stronger health workforce and improving primary health care access across Kenya. PS Muthoni also underscored the government’s commitment to fostering a robust career path for EMS professionals, announcing plans to create a Scheme of Service and a governing body to uphold standards and support career progression.

The government has assured Iten residents that accountability measures are in place for those involved in the Sh. 50 million Iten Economic Stimulus Project market following the partial caving of the top gutter. Keiyo North DCC Julius Maiyo emphasized that all parties must provide a report explaining the incident. He expressed concern over the potential dangers posed to the public, especially if traders had already begun operations. Residents are urged to stay away from the building due to safety risks. Governor Wisley Rotich stated that the contractor will bear responsibility for the substandard work, and both the Ministry of Housing engineers and the National Construction Authority have been called in to assess the situation thoroughly. Keiyo North MP Adams Kipsanai pledged to demand a detailed report, stating that such mediocrity on government projects is unacceptable. He called for justice for taxpayers funding these initiatives.

The construction of the second phase of the multi – billion shilling Lower Nzoia Irrigation project is set to kick off soon following the completion of the phase one, principal secretary for irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho has said. According to the PS, phase two of the project, whose construction will take eight months, will see 7,500 acres of land put under irrigation. “This is a very impactful project that will help the country address rice deficit,” said the principal secretary who led a team of Ministry of Irrigation and the National Irrigation Authority officials on a tour of the project. He was flanked by Budalang’i member of parliament, Raphael Wanjala.

Tanzania's Amsons Group Pursues A KSh23.5 Billion Bamburi Buyout Bid

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **According to the shareholders circular issued by Bamburi Cement Directors, Amson's acquisition offer opened for acceptance on Friday morning and will run until December 5, 2024. The offer's closing date may be extended with the Capital Markets Authority's approval.**
- **Amsons Group Managing Director Mr Edha Nahdi confirmed that Amsons Offer Price represents a 42.39% premium to the closing market price of Bamburi Shares on the Reference Date and a 52.94% premium to the 30-trading day VWAP of Bamburi Shares from the Reference Date. The 30-trading-day VWAP metric most accurately depicts Bamburi's share price when the news of the offer had not been communicated to the public.**

Amsons Group, the Tanzanian business conglomerate, has started its marketing campaign to secure the support of Bamburi Cement shareholders following the release of a shareholder circular yesterday.

The Amsons Group bid is fully financially backed by KCB Bank and secured by a US $5.3 million break fee held in an escrow account at ABSA Kenya. This is a first in the Kenyan capital markets scene and a demonstration of the seriousness of the Amsons Group's take-over offer.

Through its Kenyan subsidiary and investment vehicle, Amsons Industries (K) Ltd, Amsons intends to invest more than KSh 23.5 billion to acquire up to 100% of the shares in Bamburi at KSh 65 per share.

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Amsons has partnered with KCB Investment Bank as its transaction adviser, underscoring its commitment and determination to engage professionally with the Kenyan market.

While describing Amsons' offer as robust—based on Bamburi Cement's underlying value and guaranteed financial underwriting by KCB Bank Kenya—Nahdi also said the firm is keen to foster bilateral relations between Kenya and Tanzania with the US$180 million (Ksh 23.5 billion) investment bid. As part of the acquisition bid, the firm will engage Bamburi shareholders to explain Amsons' offer in the coming days.

As of 31 December 2023, regulatory filings indicate that the Bamburi Cement register features 3,954 local individuals holding a 4.28% stake, 557 local institutions holding a 33.56% stake, and others.

"We respect all the shareholders very much, and the engagements are meant to seek their support. During these sessions, we will candidly explain our offer and share details, including the break fee we are offering and our financial guarantees, as this bid is underwritten by Kenya's largest financial solutions provider, KCB Group," Nahdi said.

Amsons Group Managing Director, Mr Edha Nahdi

He added, "Solid financial guarantees from reputable East African entities back our bid. We greatly respect Kenya's capital markets, and our offer adheres to all applicable laws and regulations."

"Beyond the acquisition offer, we are also exploring a medium-term investment commitment in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to modernize Bamburi Cement's grinding and clinkerisation plants."

"Thanks to the support of our beloved President's Mama Samia Suluhu and William Ruto, the foremost Tanzania-Kenya investment advocates, we are betting big on the Kenyan market in a shared prosperity model," Nahdi said.

Amsons Group is a family-owned business founded in 2006 in Tanzania.

Its primary business operations historically involved bulk oil and petroleum products importation under the Camel Oil Tanzania retail brand.

The group has steadily diversified and grown its portfolio in the manufacturing sector with a 6,000MT/day cement manufacturing capability, including through the recently acquired Mbeya Cement facility. In addition, the group has a 500MT/day Wheat Flour Milling Plant, a state-of-the-art premix Concrete plant, Inland Container Depots (ICDs), Fuel and lubricants, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), and a transportation fleet across Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Tanzania.

In the fuel sector, Amsons Group has fuel depots in several countries, including Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and DRC, with over 150 retail stations across the countries.

"Amsons Industries (T) Ltd is a quality cement products manufacturer in Tanzania under the brand names "Camel Cement" and "Tembo Cement," two household brands in the Tanzanian construction market. Our offer to acquire shares in Bamburi is part of our corporate market expansion plan and will mark the formal entry of Amsons Group into the Kenyan market, where we plan to make investments in other industries in the coming months," Mr Nahdi said.

He added, "To produce our cement, we deploy world-class cement manufacturing technology that has afforded us sustained market growth and partnerships as the preferred supplier of choice to leading building and construction sector players. We intend to replicate our success in Kenya by building on the solid foundation already set by Bamburi Cement."

AMSONS GROUP

AAR Insurance Celebrates 40 Years With 40,000 Trees Initiative For Climate Action

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - According to AAR Insurance - Kenya CEO, Justine Kosgei, a tree will be planted for every insurance policy issued by the company, demonstrating AAR Insurance's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint and actively preserving natural ecosystems.
> - "Our 40th anniversary is not just a time to reflect on our achievements but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the future. This is more than a symbolic gesture; it is a concrete commitment to the future health of our planet," he stated.

In a bid to support Kenya's afforestation efforts and help mitigate the effects of climate change and deforestation, AAR Insurance - Kenya has committed to planting 150,000 trees throughout Kenya by the end of this year, underscoring the company's unwavering commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

AAR Insurance - Kenya is a leading medical and general insurance company providing innovative underwriting solutions to individuals, families, and businesses, currently serving over 100,000 customers in Kenya.

Already, as part of the broader 'A Tree a Life' program, the all-risk insurance group has rolled out a nationwide tree-planting initiative dubbed '40,000 Trees to Mark AAR@40' to mark its 40th anniversary, which officially kicked off yesterday, Friday, in Nairobi and at all AAR Insurance branches nationwide.

According to AAR Insurance - Kenya CEO, Justine Kosgei, a tree will be planted for every insurance policy issued by the company, demonstrating AAR Insurance's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint and actively preserving natural ecosystems.

"Our 40th anniversary is not just a time to reflect on our achievements but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the future. This is more than a symbolic gesture; it is a concrete commitment to the future health of our planet," he stated.

AAR Insurance has partnered with Greenspace, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), Lenana School, SNDBX (Sandbox), schools, and others to

Mr Justine Kosgei, CEO of AAR Insurance – Kenya together with Lynne Okoth and Winnie Rotich (right) pose for a photo during the tree planting event at Lenana School in Nairobi. Photo/Courtesy

bring together resources, expertise, and commitment for a meaningful, scalable impact of the initiative.

"This partnership is critical to ensure the proper management and nurturing of the planted trees until they reach maturity as part of AAR Insurance's broader campaign," noted AAR Group Chief Financial Officer and Head of Environmental, Social, and Governance, Hosea Kiprop.

On his part, Greenspace Chairman, Mattias Andrew noted that the partnership exemplifies how businesses can lead by example in supporting sustainable practices. He also called upon other private sector players to join the cause.

Earlier this year, President William Ruto led the nationwide tree-planting campaign in Kiambicho Forest in Maragùa, Mùrang'a County, with a target to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 to increase the country's forest coverage from 12 percent to 30 percent.

Planting and growing trees, the President emphasized, is a crucial strategy to combat climate change and its severe impacts, such as prolonged droughts, intense heat waves, and frequent, destructive floods. Science show that by expanding green cover, communities can create more resilient ecosystems.

Environmental experts note that trees not only absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thus reducing greenhouse gases, but they also help regulate water cycles, stabilize soils, and support biodiversity.

Governor Kihika: NHIF-SHIF Transition Strains Healthcare Delivery In Nakuru County

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

The technical and policy challenges experienced during the transfer and implementation of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) and specifically the Linda Mama program to the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) have affected the quality of healthcare service delivery in Nakuru County.

Launched in 2013 under former President Uhuru Kenyatta, Linda Mama program was designed to address high maternal mortality rates linked to poverty by providing free maternity services in public health facilities, with the government reimbursing registered hospitals later.

As of last week, the government owed hospitals over Sh30 billion in unpaid NHIF claims, worsened by delays and low reimbursement rates during the migration to SHIF. To build trust, Sh1.5 billion has been paid, with remaining payments to follow based on fund availability.

According to Governor Susan Kihika, these challenges have restricted revenue flow for hospitals, straining resources and affecting the availability of essential services and drugs, particularly at Nakuru's Level 5 Hospital, the county's main referral center, and other lower-level facilities.

"Due to NHIF and Linda Mama delays, and in an effort to counter these challenges, we are more reliant than ever on buffer stock to meet the needs of our patients," said Governor Kihika while flagging off a consignment of medical supplies valued at Sh21,266,982 from the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA).

The consignment, including essential pharmaceuticals for 216 public facilities ranging from Level 2 to Level 4 hospitals, represents 92 percent of the first-quarter order for the 2024/25 fiscal year, ensuring health facilities remain stocked with critical medicines.

Seventy-five percent of the drugs will be delivered to each hospital, while the remaining 25 percent will constitute the county buffer stock, which cushions health facilities from supply chain shocks before the next order is processed. The buffer stock now supports Level 5 and other county facilities affected by funding shortfalls.

To ensure a continuous supply of medicines, the county is expecting another consignment of drugs from the Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS) worth Sh22,082,528 to be delivered within 2 to 3 weeks. These drugs are for use in Quarter II- from October to December.

For transparency and accountability, the Governor stated that each delivery is labeled for its respective facility, and all staff are required to update stock control cards to track every item. Non-pharmaceuticals valued at Ksh30,670,558 have also been secured for the upcoming festive season, a time when road traffic accidents typically surge, further straining medical resources.

To promote rational medicine use, the Governor explained that certain essential medicines are primarily available at Level 4 hospitals that offer advanced diagnostic services to manage complex conditions effectively, as per government policy. The essential medicine list outlines the medications deemed necessary for basic healthcare services.

Deputy Governor David Kones flagging off a consignment of drugs at the County headquarters

"Everyone must be aware of this system to access the appropriate level of care when seeking medical assistance, ensuring that patients receive the treatments they require without unnecessary delays or complications," she noted while stressing her government's unwavering undertaking to ensure the availability of health products.

To bolster preventive health efforts, the Governor revealed that the Department of Health is procuring various vaccines and antidotes valued at Sh2,449,972. These include the yellow fever vaccine for international travelers and snake antivenom for managing snake bites.

StarTimes Brings Romance, Drama, And Intrigue To Your Screens With New Telenovelas

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

StarTimes is set to captivate Kenyan audiences with its fresh lineup of international dramas, each bringing powerful storytelling to Novela E Plus and Rembo Plus channels.

The Filipino drama 'Can't Buy Me Love' airs daily on Novela E Plus at 9:40 pm.

The series dives into a modern love story between Bingo, a hard-working young man from humble beginnings, and Caroline Tiu, a wealthy Filipino-Chinese heiress.

Bingo, who is dedicated to reaching his savings goal of one million pesos, unexpectedly risks everything when Caroline's life is in jeopardy.

After using his hard-earned money to secure Caroline's release from a dangerous kidnapping plot, he finds himself drawn into her complicated family dynamics, marked by power struggles and judgment.

Their budding romance faces trials as the couple fights to hold onto their bond amid these external challenges.

At 10:30 pm, audiences can tune into Lost in Love, a Turkish drama also on Novela E Plus.

Set against the lives of two wealthy families, the series follows Mete and Naz, who have been promised to each other since childhood.

However, Naz's family maid, Incila, disrupts their lives, prompting Mete to reevaluate his commitments and question the life he has known, adding layers of intrigue to the unfolding family saga.

Rembo Plus airs The Stepmom, a Mexican drama premiering at 8:00 pm.

This story follows Marcia Cisneros, who, after a 20-year prison sentence, returns to Mexico to clear her name.

Wrongly convicted for a murder she didn't commit, Marcia reenters her estranged family's life, disguised as Marisa Jones, in a bid to reconnect with her children and investigate her past.

Her complex journey of redemption and revenge has struck a chord with viewers around the world.

Sports fans can also tune into Rembo Plus on Channel 56 to catch live and exciting match broadcasts.

Additional live matches and comprehensive sports coverage are available on Sports Premium (Ch. 246/252), Sports Life (Ch. 243/253), Sports Arena (Ch. 241/251), Sports Focus (Ch. 240/250), and World Football (Ch. 245/254).

With this lineup, StarTimes promises audiences thrilling evenings filled with romance, mystery, and complex family dynamics.

For the best viewing experience, StarTimes offers an Aerial Decoder for KSh1,699 or the Dish Decoder for KSh3,499. Don't miss out on these top-tier dramas—tune in and experience unforgettable stories.

Uhuru Calls For Unified, Self-Sustained Peace Efforts At AU Retreat In Abidjan

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday attended the 15th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability in Africa.

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday attended the 15th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability in Africa, held at the Sofitel Hotel in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The event brought together prominent African Union (AU) Commission leadership, Special Representatives, Heads of Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs) and International Envoys to discuss the future of conflict resolution and peacebuilding on the continent.

The retreat focused on preventive diplomacy and mediation as vital tools in maintaining peace amidst emerging security challenges.

In his remarks, the former Head of State emphasized the need for Africa to fund and support its own peace initiatives, underscoring the importance of African-led, sustainable solutions.

"If we truly want sustainable solutions that are African-born and led, we can't do that if we are not in a position to back what we do through the resources that we generate," he stated.

He urged African nations to work toward self-sustainability in peace processes, stressing that this approach is essential for achieving a peaceful and stable continent.

Kenyatta who is a Member of the AU High-Level Panel for Ethiopia and Facilitator of the EAC-Led Nairobi Peace Process also praised AU Chairperson Moussa Faki for establishing the AU Peace Fund, which aims to support peace operations and crisis response across the continent.

Kenyatta highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, noting that Africa cannot realize true integration unless it addresses challenges related to ethnicity, religious conflicts, resource disputes, and climate change-induced conflicts.

"No individual country can deal with them," Kenyatta emphasized, urging for a collective approach: "None of us is an island." His call for unity reflected the conference's theme, as leaders from diverse organizations and backgrounds gathered to assess the AU's impact on peace and security and to explore new approaches to sustainable conflict resolution.

The retreat provided a platform for AU and global representatives to review past AU-led peace initiatives and exchange insights on improving the impact, effectiveness, and sustainability of future mediation efforts.

Absa Bank Kenya Partners With IFC To Train 600 Suppliers On Corporate Procurement Readiness

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatimes

Absa Bank Kenya has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, to provide training for over 600 suppliers in the past two years, preparing them to access corporate procurement opportunities.

As part of this initiative, implemented under the IFC's Sourcing2Equal Kenya program, the partners recently hosted a corporate procurement readiness training session for more than 100 suppliers that included an expanded supplier base of women, youth, and persons living with disabilities.

Speaking during the training session, Absa Bank Kenya Head of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Charles Wokabi underscored the Bank's commitment to diversifying its supply chain to be more inclusive and diverse. The Bank aims to increase its supplier diversity and inclusion ratio to 30% by 2025, up from the current 18%, thereby expanding opportunities for women, youth, and individuals with disabilities to participate in procurement processes.

"We are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing our sustainability initiatives. As we diversify our supply chains, we prioritise environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in our training programs to raise awareness of corporate sustainability and responsible business practices among our supply chain partners," Mr. Wokabi said.

On its part, the IFC applauded Absa Bank Kenya for its commitment to diversity and inclusion and emphasised that supply chains are an essential lever for the private sector to create a positive and sustainable impact. IFC's Sourcing2Equal Kenya is a three-year project implemented by IFC with the support of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) and Norway to advance gender-inclusive sourcing in Kenya.

"Corporate supply chains can be a true game changer for women entrepreneurs and other underserved groups striving to grow their enterprises to the next level. In Kenya, corporate buyers estimate that less than three per cent of their corporate spending is with women suppliers. IFC partners with corporates like Absa Bank to close these gaps and make supply chains more inclusive and diverse," said Anne Kabugi, Regional Gender Africa Lead, IFC.

The corporate readiness training session provided a platform for SMEs owned by women, youth, and people living with disabilities to acquire knowledge and expertise in best practices for establishing a sustainable business and accessing corporate procurement opportunities.

Other partners at the event were Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry -Nairobi County Chapter, Youth Connect Kenyan Chapter, and We Connect International.

A Three Judge Bench Declines To Recuse Itself From Hearing Gachagua's Case

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

Impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Worth Noting:

- **During the hearing of the recusal application I wrote an article in this column. I argued that when I heard the legal team of the impeached Deputy President has written a letter to the Deputy Registrar of Judiciary expressing doubt that a three-judge bench would not give him a fair hearing, my attention immediately shifted to the grounds they cited.**
- **One, the bench changed the hearing date from 29th to 22rd of this month.**
- **Two, one of the cases before the bench had allegedly not referred to them by Chief Justice (CJ) Martha Koome.**
- **Did these grounds hold any water? As a layman, my understanding of law is that the Judges were at liberty to exercise discretions on certain decisions. Did the change of date falls in this category?**

A three-judge bench has finally delivered the ruling on an application filed by the legal team of the impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua that sought to have them recuse themselves from hearing Gachagua's case.

The judges maintained the grounds cited did any carry any weight. We keep asking the lawyers casting aspersion on us to confine themselves to the matters of law. We gave them enough time to argue their case.

Finally, they failed to prove the allegations against us.

The judges also dismissed claims that the law was not followed when the bench was constituted.

The process of setting up of this bench fully complied with relevant provisions of the law.

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One, the bench changed the hearing date from 29th to 22rd of this month.

Two, one of the cases before the bench had allegedly not referred to them by Chief Justice (CJ) Martha Koome.

Did these grounds hold any water? As a layman, my understanding of law is that the Judges were at liberty to exercise discretions on certain decisions. Did the change of date falls in this category?

If yes, then the only thing the bench needed to do is to inform the parties involved and their lawyers. In the earlier ruling, the judges observed that the date of 29th had been set before the empanelling of the bench.

Regarding the issue of how one of the disputed of case file landed before the bench, two questions came to mind. Is there law that requires the CJ or her deputy to forward all the cases touching on the same matter to the bench?

If it is true that this file did not pass through her office, does this ground carry enough weighty to force the judges to recuse themselves from hearing impeached DP's case?

In their ruling, the bench stated the Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu had not broken any law when she empanelled the bench to hear Gachagua's petitions. The CJ is entitled to delegate her to handle this matter.

In my considered view, the CJ have no power to dictate or micro-manage the judges on how to carry on with their duties. Therefore, the judges reserve the right to even admit or reject applications of individual and parties seeking to be enjoined in the case.

Upon request, the power of CJ is limited to only establishing the bench.

In Gachagua's case, this request had made by senior counsel Paul Muite, who is leading impeached DP team of lawyers.

Muite argued this matter is weighty and so we plead with the CJ to set up a bench of more than two judges.

Now, one may ask. Does it mean the team does not have faith in CJ, the head of judiciary? Notably, Gachagua is seeking justice from the same institution.

At this juncture, allow me to look this matter from another point of view. Taking cognizant of the fact that all 26 petitions filed by Gachagua's legal team were being heard by High Court, the question is. Does this court have the jurisdiction to hear matters touching on presidential disputes?

For the first time, President William Ruto has waded into this matter and I agree with his opinion that the disputes involving the presidency ought to be handled by the Supreme Court of Kenya.

As per the constitution, the presidency is comprised of the President and his Deputy. The apex court is exclusively bestowed with the power of handling presidential election petitions. So, if the impeached DP feels that had been unfairly hounded out, he is required to register his reservations with this court.

The judges will give him chance to argue his case and other parties will also present their submissions.

The seven- judge bench will retreat to write their ruling and later each judge would deliver his or her the judgement. Does the Supreme Court have the power to reinstate him? This is the first time the apex court will be handling a case of this nature. As such, there were no precedents.

The constitution is however clear that the impeachment trial of DP ought to be exclusively handled by the National Assembly and Senate.

Well, I know the case filed by Gachagua's legal team is hinged on two main grounds.

One, there was no proper public participation. Two, Gachagua was 'denied a chance' to defend himself in person before the Senate.

Do these grounds carry any weight? The constitution does not provide the threshold of the number of people who should turn up during the public participation.

I remember this issue rose up during the hearing of a petition filed before the Supreme Court challenging the Finance Bill, 2024.

This prompted one of the judges to ask the parties involved. Can you help us to understand what is sufficient? This is because the constitution does not give the threshold.

Regarding Gachagua's no-show when he was supposed to face Senior Counsel James Orengo for cross examination, the law states.

If he is not available, the lawyers should represent him.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Kirinyaga Central MP Gachoki Gitari Donates Tanks To Schools

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Twenty-seven Kirinyaga Central secondary schools have received water tanks to ensure sufficient water supply for their operations.

At a function led by Joseph Gachoki Gitari at the NG-CDF offices, the tanks will be distributed to respective schools within the constituency.

"This project ensures schools have sufficient water access, collects rainy water, minimizes water wastage, and saves money, promoting education and allowing schools to focus on other important matters," said Gitari.

The MP plans to install a 10,000-litre tank in schools, serving approximately 500 students daily, alongside gutters for rooftop water collection during rain.

The project aims to ensure students' health and cleanliness by providing water, curbing diseases like kwashiorkor and diarrhea, and maintaining cleanliness, as per the MP.

He urged schools not benefiting from tank supply to be patient and

Kirinyaga Central MP Joseph Gachoki Gitari flagging off tanks outside his constituency office.

assured that they will be considered in the next fiscal year.

Gitari also added that the schools will not only depend on rainy water but will also use the tanks to have a central place to store water when they get it from water suppliers and water projects, helping them treat it before use.

He endorsed the NG-CDF, claiming it has significantly impacted society and supported numerous projects across the country.

"The NG-CDF, currently at 2026, requires a new law to protect it, requiring President's approval, as it is unlikely to remain in its current location," said the MP.

Principal Emilio Njeru of Kiandieri Secondary School lauds the project as a significant achievement in enhancing school hygiene. Whereas, Njeru schools are implementing tanks to save money on water purchases, as they have been burdened by the surrounding water project.

"Over a time we have had a challenge of clean water that we get from projects and supplies. We have water projects, and many times that water we get from water projects is never treated. When we have water in a mood like this, we assure you we are going to treat that water and supply our students with clean water," said Njeru.

Tanzania's Bongo Star Search Heads To Kenya For Auditions

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The popular Tanzanian reality TV singing competition, Bongo Star Search (BSS), which airs on Startimes, is set to hold auditions for its highly anticipated Kenyan edition starting next month.

This exciting development was announced during a press briefing at StarTimes Kenya offices, signaling a major step in expanding the competition beyond Tanzania.

The event was graced by notable figures including Rita Paulsen, CEO of Benchmark Production Tanzania, Tamima Ibrahim, StarTimes Marketing Director, Jing Du, Head of Content at StarTimes, and Myke Mwai, Head of PR at StarTimes Kenya.

Rita Paulsen revealed that the auditions will take place on 30th November and 1st December at the Kenya National Theatre.

She also announced that the overall winner of Bongo Star Search Season 15 will walk away with a grand prize of USD10,000 (about KSh1,3 Million).

In a thrilling addition, celebrated Kenyan media personality and singer Sanaipei Tande will serve as one of the judges for the competition.

"We are here in Kenya to discover exceptional talent, and the entire process will be free of charge," Paulsen said.

"We've successfully conducted similar searches in Uganda and other countries, and the top five contestants from Kenya will be flown to Dar es Salaam to compete with participants from other nations. All their expenses will be covered."

The auditions are expected to attract a wide range of participants, from singers and dancers to musicians from diverse genres, all eager to make their mark.

Myke Mwai head of PR and content syndication at Startimes emphasized the unique opportunity it presents for Kenyan talent as part of promotion of the local talents in the country.

"We are thrilled to introduce the Bongo Star Search Kenyan edition," Mwai stated. "This is not just a competition; it's a platform where artists can shine and gain recognition. We are confident that Kenya has a wealth of talent, and we're committed to offering these artists the exposure and opportunities they deserve."

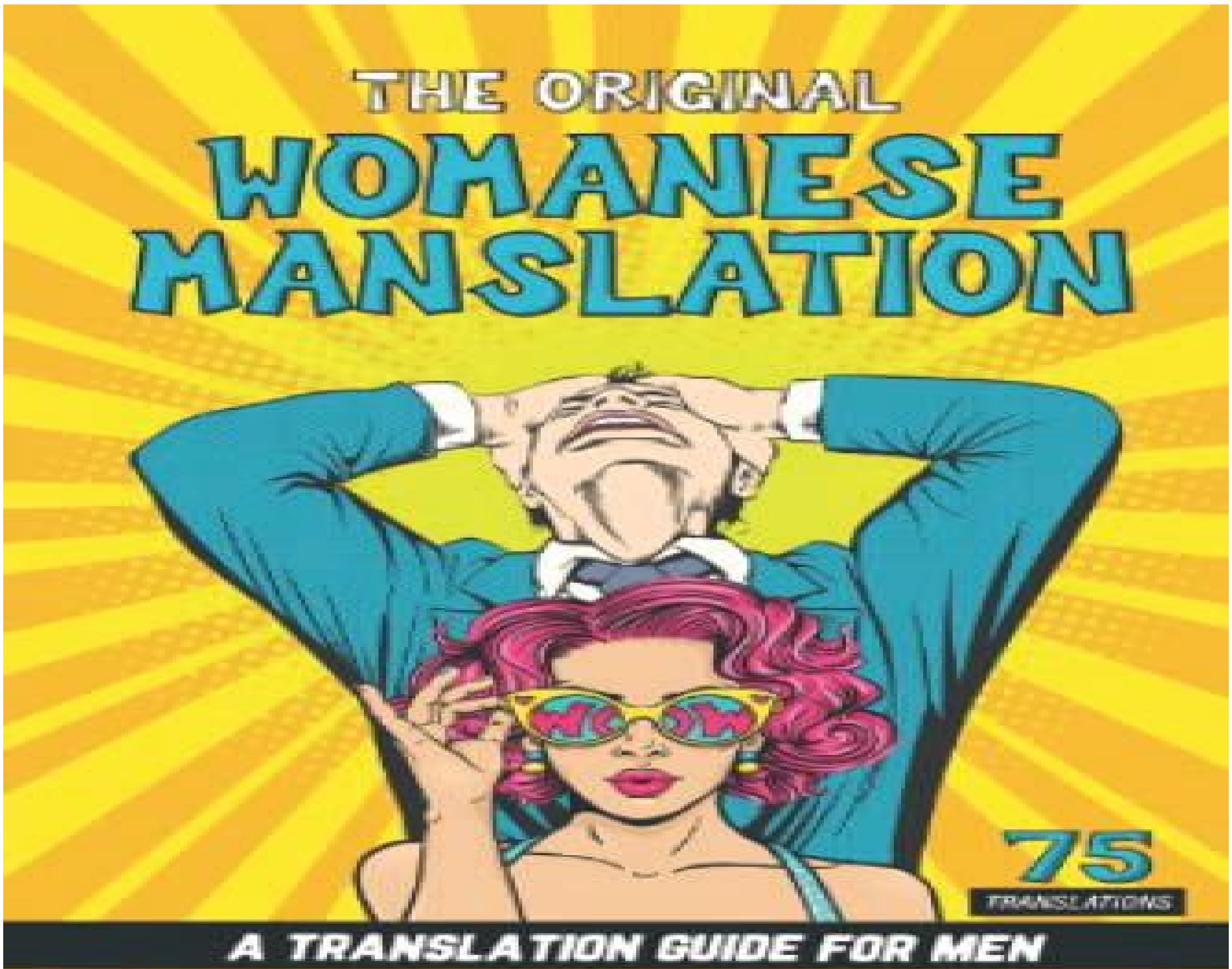
Winners of the Kenyan auditions will also benefit from an exclusive mentorship program in Tanzania, where they will sharpen their skills ahead of the final showdown.

He noted that the Kenyan edition of Bongo Star Search promises to be an exciting and life-changing opportunity for aspiring performers, as it aims to provide a gateway to stardom and regional recognition.

‘Womanese’: The Most Widely Used Universal Language

By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - **When it was time to attend the first disco whereby Chinga Girls’ High School (intimately called Abroad by Baraki boys) was coming over, Wanjohi Muriu took me through a crash session on how to manage affairs in the disco.**
> - **He taught me the mechanics of dancing to the fast disco music and also the Slow style (these days I think it is called ‘Blues’) where you hold the girl close and dance slowly and rhythmically.**
> - **He taught some of the sweet words to whisper to the girl while in this position but particularly cautioned me to be very careful not to step on the girl’s toes.**



A couple of decades ago while I was in Form Two at Chinga Boys’ High School (fondly called Baraki by the students), I had a good friend known as Wanjohi Muriu.

His name was a bit unusual because in my language Wanjohi translates to ‘of beer’ while Muriu translates to ‘drunkard’ so his name suggests something like ‘drunkard of beer’. Someone told me that these days Wanjohi Muriu is a pastor in Nairobi. Being in that profession, I can bet his name sounds like there is conflict of interest. Wanjohi Muriu was a pleasant and very generous fellow but most importantly he taught many things about how to relate with girls.

He took me through techniques of catching the attention of a girl you have an interest in and what language to use (called ‘mistari’ these days) and other mannerisms for good effect.

When it was time to attend the first disco whereby Chinga Girls’ High School (intimately called Abroad by Baraki boys) was coming over, Wanjohi Muriu took me through a crash session on how to manage affairs in the disco.

He taught me the mechanics of dancing to the fast disco music and also the Slow style (these days I think it is called ‘Blues’) where you hold the girl close and dance slowly and rhythmically.

He taught some of the sweet words to whisper to the girl while in this position but particularly cautioned me to be very careful not to step on the girl’s toes.

Last and most important, he told me; “If the girl says that it is dusty, she wants you to buy her a soda”.

This surprised me a bit. I asked him, “Why can’t she just directly say she wants a soda?” He told me – that’s how they do it. For my comfort, he told me that he had learnt this from his elder sisters.

Yes – it worked and I had a fairly successful first disco experience thanks to my friend Wanjohi Muriu.

Today, having acquired lots of experience through interaction with several female members of human species, and with the benefit of my friend’s lessons.

I have concluded that women have their own unique language which is universal. We can safely call it ‘Womanese’ for purposes of this discussion.

I have no problem with ‘Womanese’, if only the women could keep it to themselves.

The problem is that they expect us men to understand it with no training at all.

Some years back, we were having a discussion with a lady friend and colleague called Nyako.

As the name suggests, you have rightly guessed that she was a daughter of the Lake. That morning Nyako came to work quite upset. Incidentally, she had a big argument with her husband the previous evening and in the heat of it she had told him that she had had enough and the following morning he should drop her at Country Bus Station.

That she was going back to her mother in the village in Nyanza. So come the following morning, instead of the husband dropping her at her workplace, he silently drove to Country Bus and stopped at the Nyamasaria Bus booking office.

Nyako who had pensively sat watching the happenings asked him, “What do want here?” “But you said that you were going to the village”.

The husband replied. “Just drop me at the office.” Nyako said without another word. So that morning, Nyako was complaining that she doesn’t know what was wrong with her husband.

“He simply doesn’t understand me”. She lamented.

This means that the previous night Nyako was speaking ‘Womanese’ but the husband only understands ordinary language.

I believe ‘Womanese’ comes inbuilt in the female psyche and thus they need no training.

Unfortunately the men have to learn on the job. This would not be a problem were it not for the complicated nature of the language.

A man will in the morning leave his woman jovial and in a good mood only to come in the evening to find her curled on the sofa staring at the TV as if she is studying for an exam.

He will go on to ask her what is wrong upon which she answers, “Nothing. Am ok”.

In ‘Womanese’ this could mean several things including, am upset with you, or with the cat, or with the neighbour, or with my mother, or your mother, or my sister etc.

It might also mean that, am bored with you, am tired…anything. How the…is the man supposed to figure out what the issue is?

The men of this world will be forever grateful to the woman who will be sympathetic enough to our situation and come up with a book titled something like, “Understanding Womanese – A beginners Guide.” Or, what’s your take brothers?

David Ndirangu Bsc. International Business Administration (USIU- A) CPA (K). Business Management Consultant and Author of the book; This is DAVE. Email: ndirangudavid2023@gmail.com

Mombasa Formulating Legal Frameworks To Improve Ease Of Doing Business

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Mombasa is formulating a raft of legal frameworks to improve the ease of doing business in the Port City of Mombasa.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Tourism and Culture Mohamed Osman says they plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) to deepen their collaboration.

"Our primary objective is to have a conducive environment for the businesses to thrive. From last year, our Own Source Revenue (OSR) has moved from Sh3.5 billion to Sh4.4 billion, which is a big stride. It is because we can interact with our business partners," said Osman during a breakfast meeting hosted by KNCCI Mombasa Chairman.

The CECM stated that Public participation on the Market Management and Street Vendors bill has been concluded and awaits enactment in the County Assembly.

"That is a bill that wants to bring order and sanity. We have done our mapping and found out that we have around 10,000 street vendors on our streets. These are informal traders, our primary objective is to grow them to be formal traders," he said.

The Department of Trade will provide linkages to financial institutions for the vendors to be recognized and be able to access loans.

"Once we have that bill, we will able to have vending zones to allow the traders to sell their wares with social amenities. They will be restricted zones, that are areas we will allow to do business but within timeframes and non-vending zones like the CBD," explained the CECM Osman.

KNCCI Mombasa Chapter Chairman Aboud Jamal urged business people to embrace partnerships in their businesses, and innovative ideas to navigate their ways.

"The Chamber is playing a critical role, especially partnering with Mombasa County Government in just trying to ensure we create a very conducive atmosphere. We want to hear more from the business persons to hear the challenges they are facing," said Jamal.

The Consulate General of Uganda in Mombasa Paul Mukumbya says they are keen to enhance trade and investment relations between Uganda and Kenya.

The forum, he stated provides a platform to attract Kenyan traders to the Uganda market.

The Assistant Vice President of the Commercial International Bank (CIB) Kenya Limited Soliman El Ashkar said Egyptian firms are setting base in the country due to the impressive trade balance between Egypt and Kenya is about Sh83 to Sh90 billion a year.

He noted that Egypt imports mainly tea from Kenya and Kenya imports gypsum, papers, plastics and sanitary wares from Egypt.

"Part of our mandate as CIB is to grow the trade between Egypt and Kenya. Part of what we do is if a Kenya producer has something that they would like to offer to the Egyptian market, we will connect them with potential buyers and Kenyan importers who want to source something we will also connect," stated El Ashkar.

CEO AAR Insurance Kenya and East Africa Justine Kosgei, said they have curated products for KNCCI members to increase insurance penetration to the traders. Compared to other markets in Africa like South Africa the CEO divulged that Kenya's insurance is at 2.7 per cent.

In a bid to remove the barriers that prevent people from taking insurance, KNCCI will enjoy no waiting periods, and no pre-joining medical exams.

He cited a lack of knowledge, trust and affordability for low insurance uptake among Kenyans.

Through the partnership with KNCCI chapters, Kosgei says the uptake of insurance has improved among business people.

"We are glad to see thousands of SMEs that we have insured. We have hundreds of SMEs that we bring on board every month. We are trying to demystify that aspect that insurance penetration is low, we are trying to raise that so that we can fill that gap and ensure that everybody is protected," he said.

He urged insurance firms to be innovative and create products that resonate with the people. The conversations around the Social Health Insurance Fund are also creating awareness of insurance needs.

Worth Noting:

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Mombasa County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Tourism and Culture Mohamed Osman during the forum.

Tenwek Hospital launches Cardiothoracic Centre

By: Lamech Willy
@themtkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Debora Barasa has announced that the government is prioritizing coverage for cardiovascular and related conditions under the Social Health Authority (SHA), as part of its commitment to enhance Universal Health Coverage in Kenya.

Speaking at the AGC Tenwek Hospital in Bomet county during the inauguration of its new Cardiothoracic Centre, which was opened by President William Ruto, Dr. Barasa highlighted that cardiovascular diseases are among the leading causes of mortality in the country.

Many patients currently rely on specialized health facilities, including AGC Tenwek, which has been compliant and admitted into the Social Health Authority grid which is promoting Universal Health Coverage.

"In line with our commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we have prioritized cardiovascular conditions within SHA's three health insurance funds, to ensure comprehensive coverage for those affected," Dr. Barasa explained.

An official explaining how one of the equipment works.

To improve access to care, she noted that the government has strengthened community health systems by training Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and implementing community screening programs.

These initiatives, coupled with expanded SHA coverage, aim to enhance the prevention, detection, and management of cardiovascular diseases in Kenya.

Dr. Las White, chief cardiologist at the AGC Tenwek Cardiothoracic Centre, shared alarming statistics, stating that patients with heart-related issues often die while waiting for surgery.

He revealed that the facility currently has around 850 patients on its waiting list, many of whom are children, and that previously, the facility could only handle one surgery per day.

"It is unfortunate that we continue to lose patients from our waiting lists daily. Our facility had been limited to one surgical procedure a day due to having just one operating room equipped for complex open-heart surgeries. However, with the opening of this new facility, which is equipped with cross cutting-edge technologies, we expect to perform a greater number of complex procedures," Dr. White stated.

President William Ruto cutting a ribbon to officially open Tenwek Cardiothoracic center, the first facility of its kind in Sub Saharan and Central Africa flanked by Rtd. Col. Edward Graham president of Samaritan Purse (R) CS for Health Dr. Debra Barasa and Tenwek Hospital Board Chairman Dr. Rev. Robert Langat (L).

AGC Tenwek is the first rural hospital outside Nairobi to perform heart surgeries, with 2,000 major and minor procedures conducted since its first open-heart surgery in 2008.

The newly inaugurated Cardiothoracic Centre (CTC) features 174 beds, including 52 intensive care unit/post-anesthesia care unit (ICU/PACU) beds, six major operating theatres, a catheterization suite, five endoscopy rooms, an outpatient clinic, and modern equipment—all at an estimated cost of over Sh 4.5 billion.

The CTC has been under construction since July 2021, following its commissioning by Director-General for Health Services, Dr. Patrick Amoth.

Africa Schools Of Government And Management Development Institutes Urged To Deepen Collaboration In Capacity Development

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has urged Africa Schools of Government and Management Development Institutes (MDIs) to deepen collaboration in Capacity Development.

This, he said, will further strengthen their networks and engagements in the area of training and build a highly skilled, agile, and adaptable public sector workforce that responds to the needs of the Public Service with its diversity and opportunities.

The schools were also encouraged to enhance collaboration in research and resource mobilization.

Mr Koskei stated that MDIs and Schools of Government are expected to carry out research to inform policy gaps and evidence-based capacity-building programs but due to limited resource allocations, many are unable to perform the roles and fall short of realizing their mandates.

"Collaboration will revitalize this research function for many MDIs," said the Head of Public Service Thursday during the closing ceremony of the 1st Africa Schools of Government Conference hosted by the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Mombasa Campus.

The four-day conference brought together accomplished scholars, professionals, thought leaders and managers of Schools of Government and MDIs from across Africa under the theme: "Advancing Africa's Public Service Excellence: United in Pursuit to Realize Capable Institutions and Transformed Leadership"

The schools were further encouraged to be innovative, develop inclusive policies and to collaborate in sharing of knowledge.

"The Continent is in dire need of innovative ways to deliver to a highly informed and demanding citizenry. This is further aggravated by the increasing digital transformation taking place across the Continent and the ever-changing global context within which we must operate," Koskei said.

"Our Continent is highly interconnected and interdependent. Its development must then be anchored on policies that promote inclusivity and strengthen networks between Governments, stakeholders, the private sector, donor agencies and other critical drivers to ensure that no one is left behind," he added.

The Head of Public Service observed that the criticality of Public Service in the achievements of the socio-economic goals of individual countries and the collective goals of the Continent as espoused in Africa Agenda 2063 under the mantra of "the Africa we want" cannot be overemphasized.

"The Public Service is the fulcrum of the development of the Continent and therefore this Conference is most fitting and timely noting the global and regional challenges facing the Continent," he said.

Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei

He also called for concerted efforts to address emerging global challenges like Climate change, dwindling resources, growing population, youth unemployment, peace, security and technological advancement facing Africa.

On his part, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission Amb. Anthony Muchiri reiterated the importance of collaboration among African institutions.

Amb. Muchiri said that African schools of government must mainstream their courses with leadership values.

My Mother Tongue...

What injustices and criticisms have you seen?
Sometimes you were fun, sometimes you were an example,
You made my history bloom,
My mother tongue is the only language!

You are forever my dear

You are the sun, my eternal star
My immortal inheritance for a thousand centuries,
My mother tongue is one language!

How many months and days passed,
You are the sun that does not fade day and night,
Beautiful lines with you,
My mother tongue is our friend!

I read you the first time,
You have been in my blood since the cradle,
Your fragrance is in my soil,
My mother tongue is a masterpiece!

Byron, byron my tongue sounds,
May happiness be strong, my people.
The key to goodness is ancient,
My mother tongue is my mother tongue!

Barnokhanim Yuldasheva Maribzhanovna

Mother

A mother is not just a person who gave birth to a child.
It is not for nothing that it is said that it is not the mother who gave birth, but the mother who raised him.

For me mom...
It is possible to describe the beauty of the world. But not my mother's beauty...
People's love is easy to say, but not my mother's love...
People, tell stories about your patience, but you can't tell about my mother's patience!"
What a beautiful mother. Mother. My mother did everything she could for me. He forgot his identity because of me.
To this day they will be the mother who made me. No matter what I do, I cannot repay my debt to him.
But until now, mom, I didn't say I love you once, I don't know why. It seems very difficult for me to say these words. How many times I tried to say it, unfortunately I couldn't. At that moment, something sticks in my throat.
Mom, I'm sorry for your stupid child, forgive your stupid daughter, who until this day couldn't tell you that she loves you for the rest of the world! Mom, you have given me the best of everything In my life, I have never met a better person than you, nor have you shown me such unconditional love.

Mother is a happiness that you cannot see! Some people cannot even feel this happiness. Life is beautiful for me because my mother lives in it. There will be days when my mother will always be proud of me, Inshallah! I will do my best for it!
Thank you, my mother!

Author: Tursunboyeva Zubayda

Studying Abroad

Studying abroad is currently one of the biggest aspirations for every young generation and their parents. However, studying abroad has both advantages and disadvantages. In this article, I would like to openly discuss them. If we start by listing the positive aspects, first and foremost, a young student or individual has the opportunity to learn about the culture, people, and traditions of another country.
Most importantly, they can master a foreign language. Additionally, if the person studying abroad is a student, they become independent by being away from their family, can make their own decisions, and take confident steps in life.
Another benefit is that, with the skills they acquire abroad, they may be able to secure a good job. They also become responsible for household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and paying bills.
Now, if we turn to the disadvantages, the most challenging aspect is being far from home and the homeland. If they don't have a good command of the language, they may encounter various problems. Moreover, many students struggle to find accommodation. Others may experience homesickness.
As for my opinion, I believe that the advantages of studying abroad outweigh the disadvantages, and I would like to have such an opportunity.

Nasriddinova Donoxon
Bukhara state pedagogical institute

Types Of Fake News

Claire Wardle of First Draft News, has identified seven types of fake news:
- Satire or parody ("no intention to cause harm but has potential to fool")
- False connection ("when headlines, visuals or captions don't support the content")
- Misleading content ("misleading use of information to frame an issue or an individual")
- False context ("when genuine content is shared with false contextual information")
- Impostor content ("when genuine sources are impersonated" with false, made-up sources)
- Manipulated content ("when genuine information or imagery is manipulated to deceive", as with a "doctored" photo)
- Fabricated content ("new content is 100 false, designed to deceive and do harm")

Scientific denialism is another potential explanatory type of fake news, defined as the act of producing false or misleading facts to unconsciously support strong pre-existing beliefs.

According to an academic library guide, a number of specific aspects of fake news may help to identify it and thus avoid being unduly influenced.[67] These include: clickbait, propaganda, satire/parody, sloppy journalism, misleading headings, manipulation, rumor mill, misinformation, media bias, audience bias, and content farms.

Author: Maftuna Yusupboyeva

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Certified Human Resources Professional Get Industry Recognition

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The first certification for students under the Certified Human Resource Professionals revised curricula, as well as for private candidates saw a total of 708 candidates from the Human Management Professionals drawn from the examination periods of June2024: 396 candidates, November 2023: 283 candidates and other exam series, 30 candidates on the 5th CHRP (Certified Human Resource Professional) Certification Ceremony, with 159 male candidates (22%) and 549 female candidates (78%).

CHRP exams are typically held twice a year, in November and June. However, starting 2025, the Board has introduced three examination windows—April, August, and December—to offer more flexibility for candidates.

HRMPEB Milestones on Program Expansion, Revising CHRP Curricula and introducing CBET Diploma Curricula, Implementing 5th Strategic Plan (2023-2027), Rebranding through its new Brand manual, Introduction of a new Student Portal, streamlining accessibility for students to HRMPEB services, Accredited over 50 CHRP Training Institutions and Over 10 CBET Institutions.

Here's why CHRP certification holds paramount importance in the field:

Recognized Certification offered by a Professional Exam Body established under an act of parliament: CHRP is Offered by Human Resource Management Professionals Examinations Board (HRMPEB), a body corporate established under the HRMP act of parliament No 52 of 2012. The act gives HRMPEB Mandate to develop curricula, examine and certify HR Professionals.

Gazettement as a Certified HR Professionals: Upon achieving certification as a Human Resources Professional, individuals are formally gazetted in the Kenya Gazette. This official recognition signifies recognition as Certified HR Professionals.

Recognized by The Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM), the CHRP certification is not just a testament to one's knowledge but among the key requirement to be registered by IHRM as a practicing HR professional.

Industry Recognition and Credentialing: The CHRP certification is more than just a badge; it's a symbol of proficiency acknowledged by industry stakeholders. In a competitive job market, having CHRP attached to your name sets you apart, signaling to employers your commitment to excellence in HR practices.

Career Progression/Advancement Opportunities: For those aspiring to carve a successful career path in HR, CHRP serves as a vital stepping stone. Whether you're aiming for a promotion within your organization or seeking opportunities in new domains, CHRP certification equips you with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in various HR roles.

Government and Private Sector Relevance: In both governmental and private sectors, HR professionals play a pivotal role in driving organizational success. CHRP certification is particularly essential for individuals holding administrative positions, enabling them to make informed decisions on matters related to employee management and organizational development.

Empirical Evidence of Success: With a growing number of professionals opting for CHRP certification, the statistics speak volumes. A significant portion of CHRP graduates finds employment across diverse sectors, contributing their expertise to the economic growth and sustainability of their respective organizations.

Accreditation: The recent accreditation by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) elevates the status of CHRP not only locally but also on a global scale. This recognition opens doors for CHRP holders to explore international career opportunities and showcases Kenya's HR expertise on the global stage.

Contribution to Economic Development: As Kenya strives towards its Vision 2030 and pursues the G4 agenda, the role of certified HR professionals becomes increasingly crucial. By aligning with national development goals, CHRP-certified individuals contribute to organizational efficiency, talent management, and overall economic progress.

The Revolution Of Media Information Literacy In Journalism

By: Patience Rehema
@themtkenyatimes

In today's rapidly evolving media landscape, information literacy has become a crucial skill for journalists. It is no longer enough for journalists to simply gather and report information; they must also be adept at analyzing, verifying, and interpreting data from a plethora of sources. This shift is fundamentally transforming the field of journalism.

Media information literacy refers to the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and create media in a variety of forms. With the advent of digital technology, this literacy has expanded beyond traditional print and broadcast media to include social media, blogs, and other online platforms. The democratization of information has given rise to citizen journalism, where anyone with a smartphone can report news events. However, this also means a surge in misinformation and fake news, which journalists must navigate diligently.

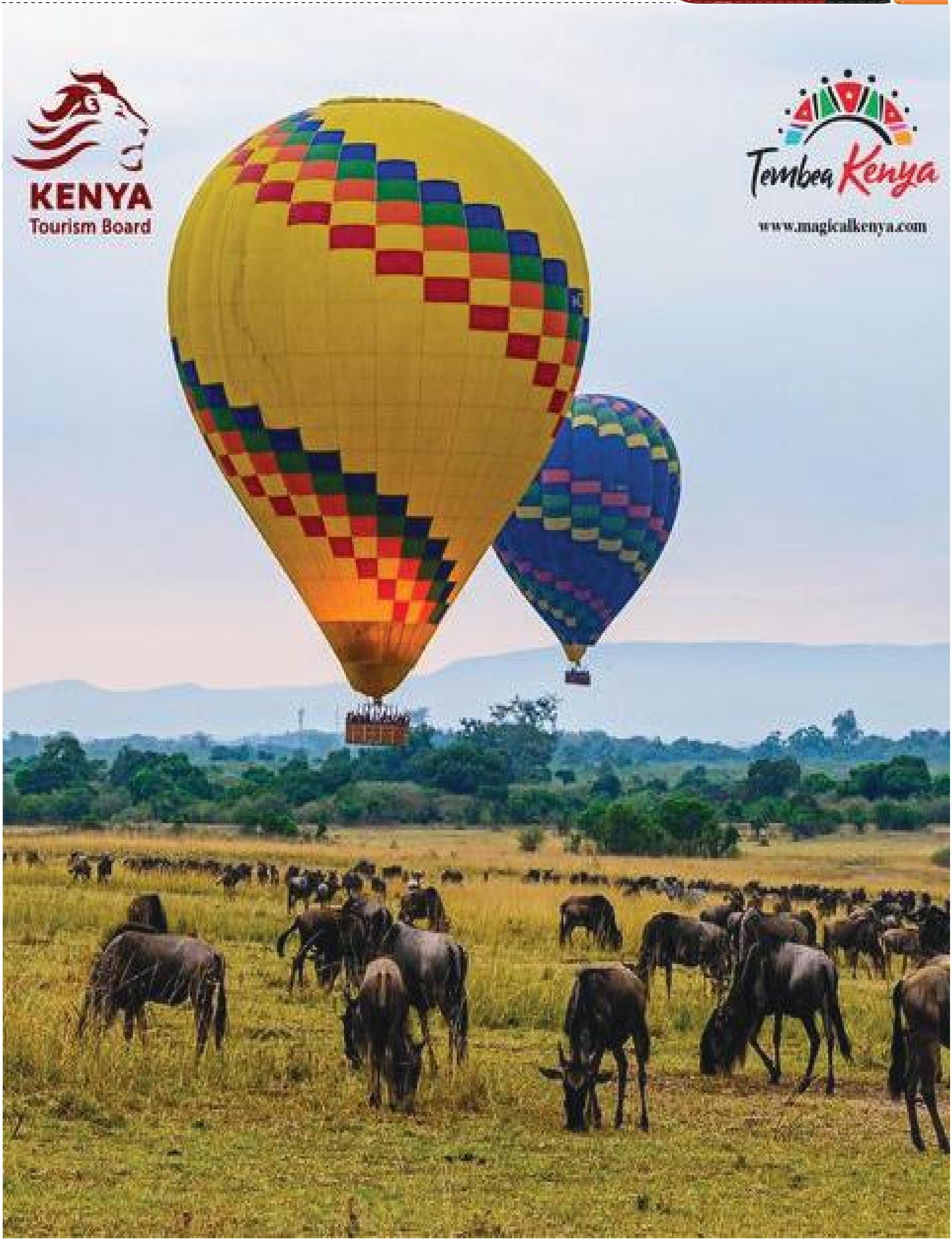
One significant aspect of this revolution is the emphasis on fact-checking. A study by the Pew Research Center in 2020 found that 68% of Americans say they have come across misinformation online at least a few times a week. This statistic highlights the importance of journalists being equipped with the skills to discern credible information from falsehoods. Organizations like the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) have established principles to guide journalists in verifying information, thereby fostering media literacy.

Another key development is the use of data journalism. Journalists are now expected to interpret complex datasets and understandably present them. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists used data visualizations to track infection rates and vaccine distribution, making the information accessible to the public. According to the Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021, 62% of respondents said they used online news sources to stay informed about COVID-19, underscoring the role of data journalism in disseminating crucial information.

Furthermore, media literacy education is becoming increasingly important. Initiatives like UNESCO's Media and Information Literacy Curriculum aim to teach journalists and the general public how to critically engage with media. Schools and universities are incorporating media literacy into their curricula, preparing the next generation of journalists to navigate the digital information age.

In conclusion, the revolution of media information literacy in journalism is driven by the need to adapt to the digital age. As the lines between traditional and new media blur, journalists must be proficient in accessing, analyzing, and verifying information across various platforms. With the rise of misinformation, the importance of media literacy cannot be overstated. This revolution is not just about keeping up with technological advancements; it is about ensuring the integrity and credibility of journalism in a rapidly changing world.

Patience Rehema.
Rongo University.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Cultivating Stability: The Urgent Need For Steady Food Supply To Ensure Kenya's Food Security

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **At the heart of Kenya's food security challenge lies the vulnerability of its agricultural sector to external shocks and internal inefficiencies. The country's heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture exposes food production to the vagaries of climate change, resulting in cyclical patterns of abundance and scarcity that destabilize food supply chains.**
- **This volatility is further exacerbated by inadequate storage facilities, poor post-harvest handling practices, and inefficient distribution networks that lead to significant food losses. The consequences of these shortcomings are felt most acutely in arid and semi-arid regions, where food insecurity is a perennial concern.**
- **To address these systemic issues, Kenya must prioritize the development of resilient agricultural systems that can withstand climatic pressures while ensuring a consistent output of staple foods.**

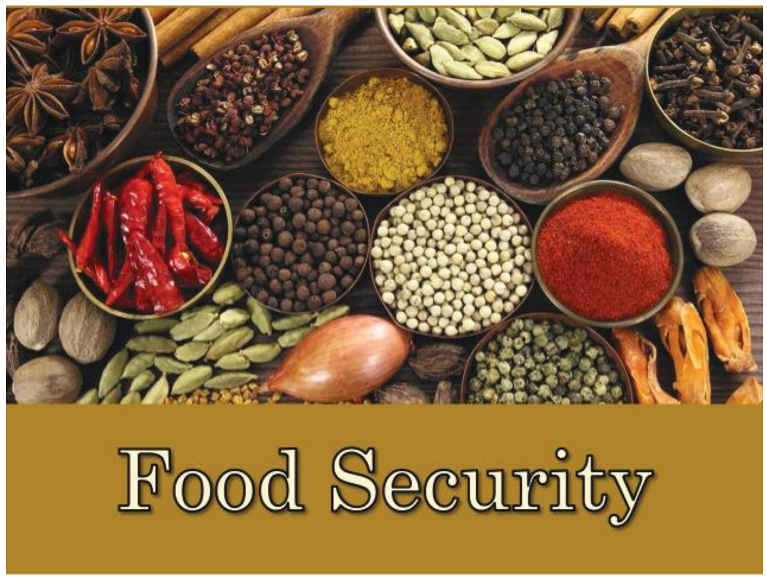
Kenya's quest for food security stands as one of the most pressing challenges facing the nation, with far-reaching implications for its social, economic, and political stability. The imperative to establish a steady food supply has never been more critical, as the country grapples with recurring droughts, unpredictable weather patterns, and a rapidly growing population. The complexity of this issue demands a multifaceted approach that addresses not only agricultural production but also distribution, storage, and accessibility of food across all regions of Kenya. As we delve into this crucial topic, it becomes evident that the realization of a steady food supply is not merely an agricultural concern but a fundamental pillar of national security and sustainable development. The interplay of factors such as climate change, land use policies, technological adoption, and market dynamics creates a intricate web that policymakers and stakeholders must navigate to ensure that every Kenyan has access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times.

At the heart of Kenya's food security challenge lies the vulnerability of its agricultural sector to external shocks and internal inefficiencies. The country's heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture exposes food production to the vagaries of climate change, resulting in cyclical patterns of abundance and scarcity that destabilize food supply chains. This volatility is further exacerbated by inadequate storage facilities, poor post-harvest handling practices, and inefficient distribution networks that lead to significant food losses. The consequences of these shortcomings are felt most acutely in arid and semi-arid regions, where food insecurity is a perennial concern. To address these systemic issues, Kenya must prioritize the development of resilient agricultural systems that can withstand climatic pressures while ensuring a consistent output of staple foods. This necessitates a shift towards climate-smart agriculture practices, investment in irrigation infrastructure, and the promotion of drought-resistant crop varieties that can thrive in diverse ecological zones across the country.

The role of technology in revolutionizing Kenya's agricultural landscape cannot be overstated in the pursuit of a steady food supply. The adoption of precision agriculture techniques, powered by data analytics and remote sensing technologies, offers unprecedented opportunities to optimize crop yields and resource utilization. However, the implementation of these innovative approaches faces significant hurdles in Kenya, including limited access to capital, insufficient technical know-how among smallholder farmers, and inadequate extension services. Overcoming these barriers requires a concerted effort from both public and private sectors to create an enabling environment for technological adoption. This includes initiatives such as subsidizing agricultural inputs, providing targeted training programs for farmers, and establishing demonstration farms to showcase the benefits of modern agricultural practices. By harnessing the power of technology, Kenya can not only increase its agricultural productivity but also enhance the predictability and stability of its food supply, thereby taking a significant step towards ensuring long-term food security.

The diversification of Kenya's agricultural production base emerges as a critical strategy in realizing a steady food supply. The country's historical focus on a narrow range of staple crops, particularly maize, has left it vulnerable to supply shocks and price fluctuations. Expanding the variety of crops cultivated across different agro-ecological zones can significantly enhance food system resilience and nutritional diversity. This approach involves promoting the cultivation of traditional drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, millet, and cassava, as well as encouraging the adoption of high-value horticultural products. However, the success of crop diversification efforts hinges on addressing challenges related to market access, value addition, and consumer preferences. Kenya must invest in developing robust value chains for alternative crops, including processing facilities and market linkages, to ensure that farmers have viable economic incentives to diversify their production. Additionally, public awareness campaigns promoting the nutritional benefits of diverse diets can help shift consumer preferences and create demand for a wider range of locally produced foods.

The enhancement of Kenya's food storage and distribution infrastructure stands as a pivotal element in ensuring a steady food supply across the country. The current inadequacies in post-harvest handling and storage facilities contribute significantly to food losses, estimated at up to 30% of total production in some regions. This wastage not only undermines food security efforts but also represents a substantial economic loss for farmers and the nation as a whole. Addressing



this challenge requires substantial investment in modern storage facilities, including cold chain infrastructure for perishable goods, and the establishment of strategic grain reserves in key production areas. Furthermore, the improvement of rural road networks and transportation systems is essential to facilitate the efficient movement of food from surplus to deficit regions. The implementation of these infrastructure projects, however, faces obstacles such as limited public funding and coordination challenges between national and county governments. Overcoming these hurdles necessitates innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, and enhanced intergovernmental cooperation to ensure that investments in food storage and distribution infrastructure are strategically aligned with national food security objectives.

The role of smallholder farmers in Kenya's quest for a steady food supply cannot be overstated, as they constitute the backbone of the country's agricultural sector. However, these farmers often face numerous challenges that hinder their productivity and ability to contribute consistently to national food security. Limited access to credit, inadequate extension services, and vulnerability to market fluctuations are among the key obstacles that smallholder farmers must navigate. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive support system that empowers farmers to increase their yields sustainably. This includes initiatives such as establishing farmer cooperatives to enhance bargaining power and access to markets, providing tailored financial products that cater to the unique needs of smallholder farmers, and strengthening agricultural extension services to disseminate best practices and technologies. Moreover, promoting contract farming arrangements and facilitating linkages between smallholder farmers and large-scale processors can help stabilize income streams and incentivize consistent production. By bolstering the capacity and resilience of smallholder farmers, Kenya can significantly enhance the stability and predictability of its food supply, thereby making substantial strides towards ensuring food security for all its citizens.

The impact of climate change on Kenya's food production systems presents a formidable challenge to achieving a steady food supply. Erratic rainfall patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and rising temperatures threaten to disrupt agricultural productivity and exacerbate food insecurity. Adapting to these climatic shifts requires a paradigm shift in agricultural practices and natural resource management. The implementation of climate-smart agriculture techniques, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and water harvesting, can significantly enhance the resilience of farming systems to climatic stresses. However, the widespread adoption of these practices faces barriers including limited awareness among farmers, high initial implementation costs, and the need for long-term investment horizons. Overcoming these obstacles necessitates a coordinated approach involving government agencies, research institutions, and development partners to provide farmers with the necessary knowledge, resources, and incentives to transition towards climate-resilient agricultural practices. Additionally, the development and dissemination of early warning systems for climate-related risks can help farmers make informed deci-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fight Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) In Kenya: A Call For Collective Action

Co-authored by Dambalash Ermiyas and Deborah Monari

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains a critical issue in Kenya, where cultural, social, and economic factors intertwine to perpetuate this harmful practice. Despite the legal framework established to combat FGM, it continues to affect women and girls in the country, posing severe health risks and infringing upon their rights and dignity.

FGM refers to various procedures involving the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. In Kenya, it is primarily practiced among specific ethnic communities, who view it as a rite of passage, a tradition that signifies womanhood and prepares girls for marriage. Unfortunately, many of these beliefs are steeped in misconceptions about purity, sexuality, and societal acceptance, which can lead to social ostracism for those who refuse to undergo the procedure.

According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS), around 21% of women aged 15-49 have experienced FGM, in addition, the national prevalence stands at 15% according to the KDHS 2022. Higher prevalence rates are in regions such as Northeastern and Coast.

At its core, FGM is a tool for oppressing women. It denies them bodily autonomy, strips them of their sexual and reproductive health rights, and perpetuates harmful gender norms. FGM is often framed as a cultural or religious practice, but in reality, it is a form of control. By mutilating girls, society seeks to regulate their sexuality, curbing their freedom and reducing their sense of self-worth.

It is important to recognize that while men often push for the continuation of FGM, women also play a significant role in perpetuating the practice. Mothers, grandmothers, and female elders pressure younger girls to undergo the procedure, believing it is necessary for their acceptance into the community. However, this does not justify the practice. FGM is still a gender issue and a human rights violation, regardless of who supports it. It is a direct assault on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The health consequences of FGM are profound. Girls who undergo the procedure face numerous immediate and long-term health risks, including severe pain, excessive bleeding, infections, childbirth complications, and psychological trauma. The emotional and mental impact can result in anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, creating lasting scars that can affect their overall well-being. The practice not only endangers the physical well-being of girls but also reinforces gender-based inequalities, denying them opportunities for education, empowerment, and a healthy life.

The Kenyan government has made significant strides in addressing FGM through legislation. The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011 made it illegal to perform FGM, and it has since established a legal framework for the prevention and abandonment of the practice. However, enforcement remains a challenge, particularly in remote areas where cultural practices are deeply entrenched and traditional beliefs outweigh legal provisions.This lack of accountability emboldens those who continue to push for FGM, knowing they are unlikely to face prosecution.

If those who support and conduct FGM were prosecuted with consistency, they would likely reconsider their actions. However, the reality is that many get away with it, contributing to the cycle of oppression. The law cannot stand alone; it must be backed by strong investigative efforts and legal consequences for violators.

While education and sensitization programs are crucial in raising awareness about the dangers of FGM, they are not enough on their own. Educating communities about the health risks, psychological trauma, and human rights violations associated with FGM is important, but it does not guarantee compliance with the law.

Cultural beliefs run deep, and without the fear of legal consequences, education alone is unlikely to change these deeply rooted practices. It is vital to couple education with strong law enforcement and consistent prosecution of offenders.

Local leaders, including elders, religious figures, and educational institutions, play crucial roles in influencing public perceptions and practices as well as liaising with the authorities to identify Initiatives that focus on awareness creation and education can help shift cultural narratives by highlighting the health risks associated with FGM and promoting the value of girls' education and empowerment. By working within communities, a consensus can be built around abandoning the practice, emphasizing alternative rites of passage that honor cultural traditions while protecting the rights and well-being of girls.

It's unacceptable that we are still addressing the issue of FGM in this day and age. It's frankly shameful and should have been left in the past. We must all unite in our efforts to eradicate this harmful practice once and for all.

Kenya's Term Limits Debate: A Crucial Test For Democracy And Governance

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The debate over term limits in Kenya has intensified dramatically, with Senator Samson Cherargei's proposal to extend presidential terms from five to seven years clashing with Senator Karungo wa Thang'wa's push for a four-year limit. This discussion goes beyond the mere duration of terms; it fundamentally touches on the core principles of democracy, accountability, and governance in Kenya.

Cherargei argues that extending presidential terms would provide leaders with the necessary time to implement policies effectively. He believes that the current five-year term often forces presidents into a perpetual campaign mode, detracting from governance. His proposal also includes creating a Prime Minister's office to distribute executive responsibilities more evenly, which he claims would enhance governance. However, critics, including President William Ruto and members of his United Democratic Alliance (UDA), label this initiative as "retrogressive" and a potential consolidation of power that could undermine democratic integrity.

Political analysts warn that such changes could pave the way for authoritarianism, drawing comparisons to leaders in neighboring countries who have manipulated term limits for personal gain. Prominent voices like political commentator Martin Andati suggest that Cherargei's proposal may serve as a distraction from pressing national issues such as economic instability and corruption.

In stark contrast, Senator Thang'wa advocates for a four-year term limit for all elected officials. He argues that shorter terms would enhance accountability by allowing voters to evaluate their leaders more frequently. Thang'wa believes this approach fosters greater political participation and ensures that leaders remain responsive to the public's needs. His proposal resonates with many Kenyans frustrated by perceived inefficiencies in governance.

Thang'wa asserts that frequent elections encourage voters to hold their leaders accountable and compel them to address pressing issues like economic challenges and social inequality. His perspective aligns with global trends favoring shorter electoral cycles as a means to enhance democratic accountability.

Public sentiment largely opposes Cherargei's proposal, viewing it as a potential step backward in Kenya's democratic journey. Many citizens express concerns about power consolidation and erosion of democratic principles. Constitutional experts emphasize that any changes to term limits would likely require a referendum due to their significant implications for governance.

The Senate Standing Committee on Justice has opened public consultations on these proposals, reflecting an acknowledgment of the need for citizen engagement in shaping Kenya's democratic framework. Experts argue that lawmakers should prioritize addressing pressing national issues rather than focusing on altering term limits.

Kenya is currently grappling with severe economic challenges, including soaring inflation rates and high fuel prices impacting essential goods' costs. These economic pressures have intensified public scrutiny of governmental actions, making it imperative for lawmakers to focus on tangible solutions rather than constitutional amendments perceived as self-serving.

Critics argue that instead of altering term limits, lawmakers should prioritize addressing issues like corruption, economic instability, and social inequality. The ongoing discussions around term limits can be seen as symptomatic of deeper political dynamics within Kenya, where rival factions shape legislative agendas that may not align with public interests.

The political landscape surrounding this debate is fraught with divisions. While Cherargei's proposal has garnered some support within certain factions, it faces strong opposition from Ruto's UDA party, which has distanced itself from the initiative. UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar condemned the bill as "retrogressive" and a threat to Kenya's democratic ideals.

Moreover, Thang'wa's counter-proposal has emerged amid accusations that Cherargei's initiative is a political maneuver aimed at consolidating power within the ruling coalition. Thang'wa suggests that the push for longer terms reflects an attempt by some politicians to cling to power amidst declining public approval following controversial policies like the Finance Bill 2024.

As public consultations continue, it remains crucial for lawmakers to consider not only the immediate impact of these proposals but also how they align with Kenya's broader democratic values and governance goals. Engaging citizens in this dialogue through public forums will be essential in shaping a governance framework that reflects the aspirations of all Kenyans.

Ultimately, this debate transcends mere term limits; it is about safeguarding Kenya's democratic integrity and ensuring that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents. Lawmakers must prioritize public input and focus on reforms that enhance transparency and service delivery while preserving democratic principles.

In conclusion, while Cherargei's proposal seeks stability through extended terms, it risks undermining the very democracy it aims to strengthen. Conversely, Thang'wa's push for shorter terms emphasizes accountability and responsiveness—qualities essential for effective governance in a rapidly changing world. The outcome of this debate will significantly influence Kenya's political landscape and its commitment to democratic ideals moving forward.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

The Chaotic Chorus Of A Collapsing Country Caught In Corruption's Cruel Chords

A wild tune of deception, betrayal, and broken promises where the rhythm is murder, the lyrics are lies, and the chorus is chaos?

By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Where is the sustainability the government promised? Since taking power, we've seen nothing but a deepening crisis. Can anyone point to a single achievement, one verse in this tragic ballad where the people actually benefit? Our farmers are struggling, our youth are jobless, and every initiative is mired in inefficiency or corruption.**
- **Do we even have leaders? Or do we have rulers, dictators without titles, who play us like strings on a guitar, plucking our patience and strumming our hope until there's nothing left? Sustainability, like the promises of better days, has become an empty verse.**
- **And trust? Trust, once the steady beat of our collective hope, has been shattered into a million discordant pieces.**

Do we have a country, or is this just country music? Because lately, Kenya feels more like a poorly written song—where the verses don't rhyme, the melody is off-key, and every note strikes with the sharp sting of betrayal. One minute, we're promised harmony, justice, and prosperity. The next minute, the tune changes, and we're left with nothing but sour notes of corruption, a dissonant symphony of impunity where those meant to lead the chorus abandon the stage, leaving us in discord. Is it really a government, or is it a broken jukebox, endlessly replaying the same old tired tracks of empty promises and misplaced power? If this is a song, it's not one anyone wants to dance to. What happened to the opposition? What happened to the voice of the people? We are left humming along to a hollow silence where there should be resistance. No IEBC to keep elections in check, no MPs to fight for the citizens—they've all become MPIGS, gorging themselves on the people's resources while singing a different song in private. Our Chief Justice, Martha Koome, is crying for justice in the same courts she presides over, a cruel irony that paints a grim picture of our broken judiciary. If the Chief Justice herself is seeking justice, then what hope is left for the ordinary Kenyan? Justice, like a fading echo in a forgotten tune, drifts further away each day.

Where is the sustainability the government promised? Since taking power, we've seen nothing but a deepening crisis. Can anyone point to a single achievement, one verse in this tragic ballad where the people actually benefit? Our farmers are struggling, our youth are jobless, and every initiative is mired in inefficiency or corruption. Do we even have leaders? Or do we have rulers, dictators without titles, who play us like strings on a guitar, plucking our patience and strumming our hope until there's nothing left? Sustainability, like the promises of better days, has become an empty verse.

And trust? Trust, once the steady beat of our collective hope, has been shattered into a million discordant pieces. Imagine, the former Deputy President William Ruto—once the heartbeat of power—now stands before the nation, crying to his successor, President Uhuru Kenyatta, pleading for his life, begging him not to kill him. Is this a government or a mafia? Has our president, the man who promised to unite us, become a killer? How many has he killed in this quiet war of power? If Ruto knows him, and if he truly fears for his life, what does that say about the man in charge? Should we be afraid too? How many others have disappeared into the shadows, silenced forever by those with the power to kill without question? How many Kenyans have been swallowed by the abyss of extrajudicial killings, buried in shallow graves while the government whistles a happy tune?

The truth is, abductions, forced disappearances, and cold-blooded executions are not just stories whispered in dark corners—they are the reality we live in. Human rights activists, lawyers, and even police officers have vanished without a trace. We are told to believe these are isolated incidents, but can we, when the evidence points to a pattern, a system that operates in the shadows? The president, our so-called leader, remains silent, deaf to the cries of the bereaved families, blind to the bodies that turn up in rivers, in forests, and in unmarked graves. Is this silence complicity? Or is it simply the sound of a man who has become too powerful, too detached, to care? Mr. President, you promised to protect us. But who will protect us from you?

Yet, we are told everything is under control. That the government is working, that reforms are coming, that prosperity is just around the corner. But where is the evidence? Where are the new jobs, the affordable healthcare, the housing projects? Everywhere you look, there is only decay. The roads are full of potholes, schools lack basic supplies, and hospitals are underfunded and overcrowded. This is not a country on the rise; it is a nation in freefall, with a government that has become deaf to the needs of its people, and blind to the suffering it perpetuates.

And as if that were not enough, the police—those meant to serve and protect—have become the tools of oppression, enforcing laws selectively, brutalizing the poor, and turning a blind eye to the wealthy and powerful who flout the very laws they swore to uphold. Extrajudicial killings have become so common, they barely make the headlines anymore. Every day, another body is found, another life is taken, and we move on like it's just another line in a never-ending song of despair. Who is writing this melody of murder and impunity? Is it the state, or are we all complicit by our silence? We are a nation adrift, caught in a storm of our own making. And now, Mr. President, we are asking you—no, we are pleading with you—what are you doing? What is this government that promised so much but has delivered so little? You may not be holding the knife, but your silence, your inaction, cuts deeper than any blade. The people are dying—by the hand of hunger, by the hand of poverty, by the hand of violence. Is this what you envisioned when you took that oath of office? It's not just the land of freedom that is being stolen from us; it's our very lives. Mr. President, we may be afraid, but we are not fools. We see the abductions, the intimidation, the calculated dismantling of opposition, and we know that this is no longer a democratic nation—it's a dictatorship in all but name. But we cannot live in fear forever. We cannot allow the country we love to be turned into a graveyard for dissent.

So do what you want with us, Mr. President. If you want to kill us, go ahead. If you want to silence us, go ahead. But know this: you cannot silence the truth. You cannot kill the will of the people forever. The song will end, and when it does, the chorus of justice will rise louder than ever before. We are tired of the music of violence. We want peace. We want justice. We want a government that works for its people, not against them. So as we stand at this crossroads, Mr. President, the choice is yours. Will you lead us into a future of prosperity and justice, or will you continue down this path of destruction? The nation is watching. And we are ready to sing a new song.

This article was scripted by;
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Cultivating Stability: The Urgent Need For Steady Food Supply To Ensure Kenya's Food Security

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
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> Worth Noting:
>
> - The role of education and capacity building in ensuring a steady food supply in Kenya cannot be overstated. Enhancing the knowledge and skills of farmers, agricultural extension workers, and other stakeholders in the food value chain is crucial for improving productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and adapting to changing environmental conditions.
> - However, the current state of agricultural education and training in Kenya faces several challenges, including outdated curricula, limited practical exposure, and insufficient linkages with industry needs. Addressing these shortcomings requires a comprehensive overhaul of agricultural education systems, incorporating modern technologies, entrepreneurship skills, and climate-smart practices into training programs.
> - Furthermore, leveraging digital platforms for knowledge dissemination can significantly expand the reach and impact of capacity-building initiatives, particularly in remote rural areas.

sions about planting times and crop selection, further contributing to the stability of food production in the face of climatic uncertainties.

The role of market systems and trade policies in ensuring a steady food supply in Kenya cannot be overlooked. While domestic production forms the cornerstone of food security, strategic engagement with regional and international markets can help buffer against local supply shortfalls and price volatility. However, Kenya's participation in food trade has often been characterized by ad hoc interventions, such as import bans or export restrictions, which can distort markets and discourage long-term investments in the agricultural sector. Developing a coherent and predictable trade policy framework that balances the interests of producers and consumers is crucial for stabilizing food supply and prices. This involves establishing transparent mechanisms for triggering imports during periods of scarcity while providing adequate protection for domestic producers to ensure their long-term viability. Furthermore, strengthening regional trade integration within the East African Community can enhance food security by facilitating the movement of food from surplus to deficit areas across national borders. However, realizing the benefits of regional trade requires addressing non-tariff barriers, harmonizing food safety standards, and investing in cross-border infrastructure to reduce transaction costs and enhance the efficiency of food distribution networks.

The governance and institutional framework surrounding food security initiatives in Kenya plays a critical role in realizing a steady food supply. The fragmentation of responsibilities across various government agencies and levels of administration often leads to duplication of efforts, policy inconsistencies, and inefficient resource allocation. Streamlining the institutional architecture for food security management, through the establishment of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach, is essential for effective implementation of food security strategies. This includes enhancing the capacity of county governments to develop and implement localized food security interventions that are responsive to specific regional challenges and opportunities. Moreover, fostering greater collaboration between government institutions, research organizations, and the private sector can accelerate the development and adoption of innovative solutions to food security challenges. However, achieving this level of coordination and cooperation requires overcoming entrenched bureaucratic silos, aligning incentives across different stakeholders, and building trust between public and private sector actors. The success of these governance reforms will be crucial in creating an enabling environment for the realization of a steady and secure food supply for all Kenyans.

The role of education and capacity building in ensuring a steady food supply in Kenya cannot be overstated. Enhancing the knowledge and skills of farmers, agricultural extension workers, and other stakeholders in the food value chain is crucial for improving productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and adapting to changing environmental conditions. However, the current state of agricultural education and training in Kenya faces several challenges, including outdated curricula, limited practical exposure, and insufficient linkages with industry needs. Addressing these shortcomings requires a comprehensive overhaul of agricultural education systems, incorporating modern technologies, entrepreneurship skills, and climate-smart practices into training programs. Furthermore, leveraging digital platforms for knowledge dissemination can significantly expand the reach and impact of capacity-building initiatives, particularly in remote rural areas. The implementation of farmer field schools, demonstration plots, and peer-to-peer learning networks can also play a vital role in promoting the adoption of best practices and innovative technologies among smallholder farmers. By investing in human capital development across the agricultural sector, Kenya can build a strong foundation for sustainable food production and distribution, thereby enhancing the stability and resilience of its food supply systems.

The integration of sustainable natural resource management practices into Kenya's food production systems is paramount for ensuring long-term food security and a steady food supply. The degradation of soil and water resources, coupled with deforestation and loss of biodiversity, poses significant threats to agricultural productivity and ecosystem resilience. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that balances the needs of food production with environmental conservation. This includes promoting sustainable land management practices, such as integrated soil fertility management and conservation agriculture, to maintain

and enhance soil health. Additionally, the adoption of integrated water resource management strategies is crucial for optimizing water use efficiency in agriculture, particularly in water-scarce regions. The protection and restoration of critical ecosystems, such as forests and wetlands, also play a vital role in regulating water cycles and maintaining biodiversity, which are essential for sustainable food production. However, implementing these sustainable practices often involves trade-offs between short-term productivity gains and long-term environmental sustainability. Overcoming this challenge requires innovative policy instruments, such as payment for ecosystem services schemes, that incentivize farmers and communities to adopt sustainable natural resource management practices while ensuring their livelihoods are not compromised.

The role of social protection programs in complementing efforts to achieve a steady food supply and ensure food security in Kenya cannot be overlooked. While improving agricultural productivity and market systems is crucial, social safety nets play a vital role in addressing chronic food insecurity among vulnerable populations. Programs such as cash transfers, food-for-work initiatives, and school feeding programs can provide immediate relief to food-insecure households while also stimulating local food markets. However, the design and implementation of these social protection measures face challenges related to targeting efficiency, sustainability of funding, and potential creation of dependency. Addressing these concerns requires careful program design that incorporates graduation strategies to help beneficiaries transition out of poverty and food insecurity. Furthermore, linking social protection programs with agricultural development initiatives can create synergies that enhance both food availability and access. For instance, integrating smallholder farmers into public food procurement systems for school feeding programs can provide a stable market for local produce while ensuring a steady supply of nutritious food for school children. The success of such integrated approaches, however, hinges on effective coordination between social protection and agricultural sector policies, as well as robust monitoring and evaluation systems to assess impact and guide continuous improvement.

In conclusion, realizing a steady food supply as a measure to ensure food security in Kenya requires a multifaceted and integrated approach that addresses the complex interplay of agricultural, environmental, economic, and social factors. The challenges are formidable, ranging from climate change impacts and technological gaps to market inefficiencies and governance issues. However, by leveraging innovative technologies, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening market systems, and enhancing human capital, Kenya can make significant strides towards achieving food security for all its citizens. The success of these efforts will depend on strong political will, effective coordination among stakeholders, and sustained investment in the agricultural sector. As Kenya navigates the path towards a more secure and stable food future, it must remain adaptable and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities. Ultimately, ensuring a steady food supply is not just about meeting immediate nutritional needs but about building a resilient and sustainable food system that can support Kenya's long-term development goals and improve the livelihoods of millions of its citizens.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

Sports >> *Jose Mourinho was sent off as his Fenerbahce side came from behind to condemn his old club Manchester United to a third successive Europa League draw in Istanbul.

Never Change Jose: Mourinho Sent Off As Fenerbahce Hold Ex Side Man United

Jose Mourinho was sent off as his Fenerbahce side came from behind to condemn his old club Manchester United to a third successive Europa League draw in Istanbul.

United had led at the break through Christian Eriksen's fourth goal of the season.

But the hosts levelled four minutes after the restart when Youssef En-Nesyri got between United defenders to head home Allan Saint-Maximin's cross from close range.

With the noise levels rising and excitement at fever pitch, Mourinho was red carded by French referee Clement Turpin just before the hour as he led the home side's penalty claims after Bright Osayi-Samuel went down under a challenge by United midfielder Manuel Ugarte.

Despite furious protests from the Fenerbahce bench, VAR backed up Turpin's view there was nothing illegal about the incident and Turpin came to the technical area to tell Mourinho to leave.

The Portuguese took his time but eventually relocated to the steps at the front of the stand next to the dugouts, close enough to continue to give instructions to his coaching staff.

United had their chances to win the game but substitute Rasmus Hojlund opted to go alone rather than play a pass to the better placed Alejandro Garnacho and his shot rolled harmlessly through to home goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic.

Then Garnacho lost control of the ball as he ran into the area and that chance went begging too.

The visitors also failed to avoid another injury issue, as manager Erik ten Hag had hoped, as Brazilian wide-man Antony was stretchered off when he landed awkwardly after attempting an unnecessary flick by the touchline.


Jose Mourinho remonstrates with the referee. PHOTO/Sky Sports.

Jose gets the headlines again

Mourinho ended the game with the cameras focused on him, as they have been so often down the years, as he made his way back out of the stand.

TV replays showed there was nothing in the incident that triggered his protests that warranted such an over the top reaction.

Yet it has felt this was a game when he wanted to prove something to an English audience that knows him so well and there had been flashes of fury in the opening period.

He also reacted with incredulity as his side were denied three times in sensational fashion.

In the first half, he looked genuinely annoyed at En-Nesyri not taking the first opportunity when Andre Onana shoved the ball into his path right in front of an unprotected goal. But Ugarte was there in a flash and as soon as En-Nesyri made contact, the Uruguayan made the block. It was more defensive brilliance from a player about whom plenty of doubts have been expressed since his £50m move, than any failing on the Moroccan's part.

Mourinho was left clapping the air in disbelief by Onana just before half-time.

All the hours on the training ground where a goalkeeper makes a low save then reacts immediately to make a high one paid off as the Cameroon international repelled En-Nesyri's first effort with an instinctive stop low by his post, then turned the second over the bar as Mourinho was getting ready to celebrate.

It meant United went into the break still holding the lead Eriksen had given them when he fired home from the edge of the area after being set up by Joshua Zirkzee.

But they didn't heed the warnings En-Nesryi's earlier opportunities had provided and Fenerbahce deserved the draw the Moroccan's header gave them.

Mixed night for Ten Hag

This was another of those mixed nights for Ten Hag.

Three points from three games is not the standard his side should be aiming for in this revamped competition and they remain way off the pace.

Yet, they also have their hardest two of eight first-phase games out of the way and improvement should come quickly, starting with the visit of Greek side PAOK to Old Trafford in a fortnight.

Ugarte and Onana were both excellent and the gamble of selecting full-back Noussair Mazraoui, who United said on 10 October had undergone a minor procedure after experiencing heart palpitations, in the number 10 role was a qualified success as the Moroccan worked tirelessly and played a part in the opener, providing the pass to Zirkzee.

But Antony's injury was another problem Ten Hag could have done without on a night when he already had 10 players missing, with only suspended skipper Bruno Fernandes certain to return for Sunday's trip to West Ham.

And Zirkzee continues to look ill at ease in his new surroundings.

The Dutch forward failed to execute two simple looking long passes that could have created promising attacking opportunities, didn't threaten the area as a number nine and hardly offered any link up play either, even though he did claim an assist.

With the pressure on Ten Hag still huge, the £36.5m summer signing from Bologna man is not doing much to help ease it.

BBC

Sports >> *Joao Felix scored twice as Chelsea won at Panathinaikos on an emotional night in the Uefa Conference League as tributes were paid to the Greek side's former defender George Baldock.

Felix Scores Twice As Chelsea Down Panathinaikos In Emotional Night

Chelsea's Joao Felix celebrates one of his two goals against Panathinaikos. PHOTO/Chelsea/X

Joao Felix scored twice as Chelsea won at Panathinaikos on an emotional night in the Uefa Conference League as tributes were paid to the Greek side's former defender George Baldock.

The hosts were playing their first home game since Baldock died at the age of 31 on 9 October.

Before kick-off, Panathinaikos players trained in shirts with Baldock's squad number of 32 on them, while Chelsea players also held up a shirt bearing his name and number. Both sets of fans also held up placards with 32 on them.

David Bowie's Starman played through the PA system, in reference to the former Sheffield United player's nickname.

Players and fans paid tribute to Panathinaikos' George Baldock, who died earlier this month. He wore the number 32 shirt for the Greek side

Once the game got under way, Panathinaikos played with high energy and determination and Chelsea goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen had to be alert to keep out Tin Jedvaj's second-minute header.

Visiting boss Enzo Maresca made 11 changes for the game and it took a while for Chelsea to settle, but they broke through with a well-worked move on the counter, Felix playing a one-two with Mykhailo Mudryk before sweeping in from close range.

Mudryk made it 2-0 soon after the break when he headed in Pedro Neto's cross for his first goal of the season, and the Ukraine forward was the provider again for Felix to get his second, with his strike taking a deflection on its way into the net.

Christopher Nkunku wrapped up the comfortable win for Chelsea, firing home a confident penalty after Daniel Mancini's foul.

Former Manchester United midfielder Facundo Pellistri swept in a consolation for the hosts, but it was ultimately a comfortable win for Chelsea, who maintain their 100% record in the league phase.

Fringe players take their chance

A luxury Chelsea have with their deep squad is the ability to be able to rotate players, and Maresca has made the most of that this season.

In Greece on Thursday, he fielded an entirely different first XI to the one that narrowly lost to Liverpool in the Premier League at the weekend and gave the likes of Felix and Mudryk the chance to impress.

Former Atletico Madrid winger Felix has not started in the Premier League so far this season while Mudryk is yet to nail down a starting spot since his big-money move from Shakthar Donetsk in January 2023.

But both made the most of this opportunity with Felix grabbing two goals and Mudryk assisting both of them.

That productivity provides a welcome headache for Maresca who appears to be smartly managing his squad and the competitions they are involved in. Sunday's defeat at Liverpool was their only loss in all competitions in their last nine games.

Felix and Mudryk will hope to have done enough in this game to prove they deserve another chance, with some tough Premier League games coming up. In that competition, the Blues next host Newcastle before travelling to Manchester United.

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Firms Embrace Corporate Governance To Secure Future

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Worth Noting:

- **On matters corporate governance, effective risk management is essential for navigating both expected and unexpected risks in any security firm. In addition to responding to risks, leadership needs to cultivate a culture of risk awareness across the entire company. It is essential to note that we cannot completely do away with threats to companies, however, they can be anticipated and reduced.**
- **Beyond risk management, scenario planning and integration of new technology, fostering stakeholder engagement is also essential. By prioritizing open communication and incorporating feedback from clients, employees, regulators, and communities, security firms can make informed decisions that align with their stakeholders' needs and expectations.**

Corporate governance is not only the backbone of a company's success, but also the center of relations with the public and shareholders.

Corporate governance, the multifaceted framework encompassing systems, principles, and processes, guides a company's management and control. It significantly impacts financial performance, shareholder value and risk management. But it goes beyond that. A 2018 study by consulting firm, McKinsey, found that companies with strong governance saw a 30 per cent higher return on equity.

Additionally, Deloitte says in its 2023 report that companies with high governance ratings experienced a 22 per cent increase in market capitalization and reduced the likelihood of severe financial losses by 40 per cent. Proper corporate systems also help improve regulatory compliance, with 80 per cent of firms noting it enhances better adherence to laws, and investor confidence, with 70 per cent of institutional investors prioritizing governance in their investment decisions, according to the EY Global Governance Report released in 2023.

Strong corporate governance has been the secret weapon that has enabled security companies to navigate uncharted waters, and weather storms enabling them to get to where they are today.

On matters corporate governance, effective risk management is essential for navigating both expected and unexpected risks in any security firm. In addition to responding to risks, leadership needs to cultivate a culture of risk awareness across the entire company. It is essential to note that we cannot completely do away with threats to companies, however, they can be anticipated and reduced.

Beyond risk management, scenario planning and integration of new technology, fostering stakeholder engagement is also essential. By prioritizing open communication and incorporating feedback from clients, employees, regulators, and communities, security firms can make informed decisions that align with their stakeholders' needs and expectations. This inclusive governance approach enhances trust, strengthens relationships, and ultimately

improves the company's overall performance. Frequent customer consultations allow the business to remain aware of its clients' changing security requirements.

Ethical conduct is also another aspect that should be a company's priority and it begins with a clear set of values and principles that define its operations. These values must be communicated to all employees, from executives to frontline staff, ensuring a shared understanding of integrity, honesty, and fairness.

A commitment to ethics extends beyond internal policies to encompass interactions with clients, partners, and the public. This means engaging in mutual respect, providing clear and honest communication, maintaining confidentiality, and fulfilling promises without compromise. In an industry where trust is crucial, ethical conduct is instrumental in building and sustaining long-lasting client relationships.

Another crucial component of building and maintaining trust is transparency and accountability. Transparency involves providing stakeholders with clear, accurate, and timely information about the company's operations, decisions, and performance. This openness allows for careful examination of the company's actions.

Accountability ensures that the company is answerable for its decisions and outcomes, including addressing mistakes openly and taking corrective actions to prevent recurrence. By embedding these principles into its governance framework, the company is committed to continuous improvement and reassures stakeholders of its reliability and integrity. This culture of transparency and accountability fosters confidence in the company's ability to fulfill its promises.

Furthermore, the world is evolving, and technology is taking center stage and being integrated into every aspect of life. In corporate governance, technology can be used as an enhancement tool. Technologies like advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain can improve decision-making, risk management, and transparency. They can be used to predict patterns, identify potential risks, optimize operations, and enhance accountability. This will consequently help in creating tailored solutions that can provide a higher level of security and peace of mind for clients.

While the benefits of strong corporate governance are clear, implementing and maintaining effective governance practices can be challenging. Factors such as regulatory changes, economic fluctuations, and technological advancements can introduce new complexities. Security companies have to be proactive and create robust corporate governance systems that promote innovation to address emerging challenges.

Looking ahead, the corporate field is evolving and so is corporate governance. Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) considerations have now become a key factor for prospective investors and stakeholders. Security companies are expected to commit to ESG practices, promote diversity and inclusion within the leadership ranks, and develop corporate governance frameworks that address cybersecurity risks. Embedding these factors will have great influence on how security firms approach corporate governance.

Corporate governance is a significant driver of any company's success. A strong corporate governance is essential for security businesses to maintain their long-term viability and credibility. Companies that adhere to these governance standards will not only protect their future but also forge stronger, more durable bonds with their stakeholders and clients as the security landscape changes. Security companies should strengthen their governance frameworks now to make sure they are prepared to handle both the opportunities/challenges of the future and the demands of the present.

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Published at Shashil Court Westlands & Printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi by Exponential International Limited. P.O. Box 101675 - 00101 Nairobi.
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