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Tea Farmers From Kirinyaga Request For Fresh Audit

By: David Wandeto and Linus Murimi
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Kamau promised farmers that the board will address all the issues they have raised. He promised the farmers a comprehensive audit and to give out the feedback to the farmers as soon as possible. Money was misused; those in charge will pay it back and face the full force of the law.
- Kamau said that tea reforms that are being undertaken by the government are set to benefit farmers and minimize such crises, saying one of the reforms is to have every factory have its own bank account as opposed to what is happening.



Following the dissatisfaction of tea farmers Kimunye and Thumaita tea factories over low bonus payments, the Tea Board of Kenya has held a meeting with farmers under the two factories.

The meeting comes after a two-week tea harvesting strike by the farmers who were complaining about poor bonus pay this year.

The two factories claim they were promised a bonus of more than Sh 60 by the board of directors, only to receive Sh51 and Sh 46 for Kimunye and Thumaita respectively.

Kamau Kahiu, Tea Board of Kenya chairman called on farmers to resume tea picking as they demand for their rights, advising them to consider next year's bonus, saying if the Strike drags on, it will affect the quality and quantity they will produce.

Kamau promised farmers that the board will address all the issues they have raised. He promised the farmers a comprehensive audit and to give out the feedback to the farmers as soon as possible. Money was misused; those in charge will pay it back and face the full force of the law.

Kamau said that tea reforms that are being undertaken by the government are set to benefit farmers and minimize such crises, saying one of the reforms is to have every factory have its own bank account as opposed to what is happening.

"When every factory has its own bank account, auditing every factory will take less time, benefiting the factory and farmers, and in case there is any question raised over pay," he said.

Kamau asked the farmers to look for sustainable resolutions whenever they have any issues with the leadership to avoid such losses.

"I have been in the tea sector for many years; I may not understand everything, but there are some things I know about the tea sector; that is why am I promising Thumaita farmers and every farmer in Kenya that his rights will be protected at all costs," he said.

Gichugu member of parliament Robert Gichimu said he will not let farmers lose even a coin, saying he was elected to protect all farmers in different sectors from those who may take advantage of them. Saying agriculture is the backbone of the Kenya economy and when a farmer is not happy it can bring a negative effect on Kenya's economy.

Gichimu requested farmers to be patient and give the Tea Board of Kenya time to do a comprehensive audit, and requested the board speed up the process for the benefit of the farmers.

Moses Kamau Maina Gichugu, DCC called on the farmers to maintain peace and give the factories time, saying despite the challenges the factory has been of benefit to the residents both directly and indirectly.

"I take this chance to thank all farmers for their calmness when expressing their grievances; no one has destroyed properties belonging to the factory, and that is commendable. It is my wish we maintain peace at all time," said DCC Kamau.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Youth from Samburu East Constituency are set to benefit from a vocational training program aimed at equipping them with technical skills to improve living standard. The youth at the grassroots level and through 'Ujuzi Mashinani' project aim at establishing a localized training approach that will help them access informal training in diverse technical courses that would empower them economically. Through the establishment of satellite training centers that will be rolled out by the Samburu Technical and Vocational Education and Training, the young people will learn skills like mobile phone repairing, electrical installation, motorbike maintenance, and hairdressing among other fields of training activities. Speaking after receiving learning equipment worth Sh. 12.8 million from the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), Samburu East Member of Parliament Mr Jackson Lekumontare lauded the initiative as one which is going to help reduce cases of insecurity and cattle rustling in the region since the youth would be fully engaged in alternative and lucrative businesses.



The government has earmarked 3,843,275 million children to be vaccinated against polio in nine high risk Counties in Kenya. Ministry of Health and Sanitation in collaboration with UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), Kenya Red Cross and Rotary Clubs among others has launched polio vaccination in the risk counties. Deputy Director General for Health, State Department of Public Health Dr. Sultani Matendecheo stated that the Ministry aims to vaccinate the 3 million-plus million children with 221,663 being under 10 years.



Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has started translocation of elephants from Mwea National Reserve in Embu County to Aberdares National Park. Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano said they target to relocate 50 elephants from the reserve in three weeks' time to decongest the reserve. Speaking while commissioning the exercise on Thursday, Miano said the population of the jumbos had grown to 156 that was beyond the capacity of the reserve which is about 50. Miano said the overpopulation of the animals had overstretched the reserve leading to some of them straying in the neighboring farms in search of pasture.



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eng Eric Mugaa made inspection stopovers in Malava Constituency in Kakamega County. He was accompanied by Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency officials led the Chairman of the Board of Directors John Imoite. The CS inspected Malava Lot I, Lot II and Lot III. The mission was to assess the implementation progress of the Malava Cluster Water Projects as a whole. The projects have lagged behind and the contractors made commitments to fast-track the works. The CS said the Ministry is committed to delivering its mandate by adhering to stipulated timelines of project completion.



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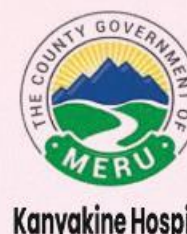
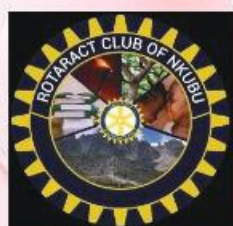
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Startimes Partners With Maisha Bora Sacco To Promote Green Energy Solutions

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during Signing Ceremony, Startimes CEO Carter Luo said that the Sacco members will acquire the Startimes solar systems at subsidized prices noting that the new venture is mostly aimed at promoting green energy in the Country as part of conserving environment.
- "This partnership reflects our dedication to making green energy accessible to all Kenyans," said Startimes CEO Carter Luo. "By empowering Sacco members with affordable solar solutions, we can contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future."

Startimes has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maisha Bora Sacco to facilitate the distribution of solar panels to Sacco members as part of its commitment to promoting green energy solutions.

The signing ceremony took place at Startimes offices and was attended by key officials, including Startimes CEO Carter Luo, Director of Energy Solar System Sam Deng, Solar System Partnership Business Manager Grace Njenga, Maisha Bora CEO Gregory Siro, and Isabel Naibei, credit Supervisor at Maisha Bora Sacco among others.

This initiative aims to provide Maisha Bora Sacco members with low-interest financing options to acquire solar systems, helping them transition to sustainable energy sources.

Speaking during Signing Ceremony, Startimes CEO Carter Luo said that the Sacco members will acquire the Startimes solar systems at subsidized prices noting that the new venture is mostly aimed at promoting green energy in the Country as part of conserving environment.

"This partnership reflects our dedication to making green energy accessible to all Kenyans," said Startimes CEO Carter Luo. "By empowering Sacco members with affordable solar solutions, we can contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future."

Gregory Siro, CEO of Maisha Bora Sacco, emphasized the benefits the partnership will bring to their members noting that by providing affordable credit options for solar products, they will enable their members to transition to green energy solutions.

He added that the new partnership will highly contribute about improv-



ing livelihoods and creating a sustainable future adding that they have negotiated affordable and flexible prices for the members.

"We recognize the growing demand for solar energy, and through this partnership, we will provide our members with the financial support they need to adopt these innovative solutions," remarked Gregory Siro, CEO of Maisha Bora Sacco.

Sam Deng, Director of Energy Solar System at StarTimes, highlighted the importance of this initiative noting that it will highly contribute to access to affordable and clean energy noting that Startimes will continue empowering Kenyan to invest in their future while contributing to environmental conservation.

"Our goal is to create a sustainable energy landscape in Kenya, by collaborating with Maisha Bora Sacco; we can enhance the adoption of solar technology among everyday Kenyans," Sam Deng stated.

Grace Njenga, StarTimes Partnership Business Manager said the signed partnership will not only increase solar adoption but also create a ripple effect, encouraging more organizations to invest in green technologies.

She noted that by working together with Maisha Bora Sacco, they can help more people transition to cleaner and reliable energy sources that are not only beneficial for the environment but also economically viable.

"The collaboration represents a concerted effort to support Kenya's

transition to renewable energy while addressing the growing demand for sustainable power solutions," she said.

This initiative coincides with a notable surge in Kenya's solar power generation capacity, which reached a new record last year following the commissioning of the 40-megawatt (MW) Al-ten Kenya Solarfarms plant in Kesses, Uasin Gishu.

According to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), sourced from Kenya Power, solar power generation soared to an impressive 491.48 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 2023.

This represents a substantial increase of 28.1 percent compared to the previous year's output of 383.54 million kilowatt-hours.

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Public Participation On Rigathi Gachagua Impeachment Motion In Photos



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‘Kufa Dereva, Kufa Makanga!’ Section Of Kenyans Demand Both Ruto And Gachagua Be Impeached

By: Brian Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

The High Court has ordered Parliament to conduct a second round of public participation to allow Kenyans at every level to submit their views for the impeachment motion against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. In a ruling delivered on Friday, Justice Richard Mwongo of the Kerugoya Law Courts deemed that public participation stage must involve all Kenyans’ views and should not be conducted as a formality. He explained that every public participation process must be clear for the public to understand, have simple structures, offer a balanced influence from the public, be inclusive and transparent in nature. The judge also pointed out that the public must be adequately informed of the process and the subject beforehand. He directed that the public participation, which kicked off on Friday, October 4, would go on as planned and

be termed as the first stage. The judge, however, directed another round of public participation to be held at constituency levels to enable all Kenyans to offer their views. “The Parliament shall organise similar public hearings closer to the citizens at least at the constituency level on each constituency in Kenya to enable the constituents of Members of Parliament responsible for the impeachment process nationally to engage level can participate and offer their representations,” the ruling read in part. The orders come after Kirinyaga Women Representative Njeri Maina filed a petition challenging the effectiveness of the public participation exercise scheduled for Friday. In her petition, she indicated that the notice period for public hearing was too short as the notice for the exercise was published on the local dailies on October 2, 2024, two days before the due date. She noted that this was insufficient for the public to be aware and sensitised over the process. She also pointed out that the government had not specified the exact web-



DP Rigathi Gachagua and President William Ruto at the Kakamega State Lodge during a visit to Western Kenya on August 30, 2023. PHOTO | DPCS.

site to download the template form, indicating that this would lock out many from process. Further, she argued that the government assumed all Kenyans had access to internet to access the template form. “The supposed template purports to

limit or ring-fence the responses to the Special Motion and does not allow for submission of reasons in support or opposition to the Special Motion only providing insufficient check boxes,” the petition read in part. “The supposed template is crafted in a manner to only solicit positive

responses in support of the Special Motion.” The lawmaker argued that all Kenyans’ views must be accounted for given the implications of the DP’s impeachment process.

CoG Wants Directorate At Treasury To Deal With County Finances

By: KBC Digital

The Council of Governors (CoG) is urging the National Treasury to establish a new directorate dedicated solely to overseeing issues related to devolution and its finances. They accuse officials at the Treasury of prioritizing national matters and only addressing county issues when governors raise concerns. CoG Vice Chairperson and Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdulahi states that issues affecting counties have consistently been sidelined. He has called on Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi to implement the request for the new directorate as a flagship project in his new role. The strained relationship between the National Government and county governments regarding the disbursement of shareable revenue has been a recurring topic in nearly all discussions, as counties often go without resources for more than three months. At times, governors have threatened

a total shutdown in protest of delayed payments. Just last week, the National Treasury released approximately Ksh. 32 billion, which is the amount owed to counties for the month of July. The delayed disbursements, which were addressed during a meeting between governors and the Treasury CS in Naivasha, highlight the fact that counties are not a priority, indicating that urgent action is needed. “Actually, one of the legacies you can leave us at Treasury, is to create a directorate of devolution or a directorate for dealing with county finances matters. Financing counties is one of the biggest responsibilities that the National Treasury has. I think we deserve to have a dedicated directory,” said the COG Vice Chair Governor Ahmed also raised concerns about non-compliance with the constitution, emphasizing that funds for counties should be disbursed by the 15th of every month. “There is no mechanism for a shilling that belongs to counties to remain untransferred by midnight on June 30th each year. The Constitution did not envision that. It does

not provide for rolling over county funds from one year to another. Actually, the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act mandates that funds should be released by the 15th,” said Governor Abdulahi. Treasury CS Mbadi assured that funds due to counties would be released on time to prevent disruptions to services. “On disbursement of funds, I want to be very categorical; I have committed myself to make sure that funds are disbursed to the counties at the right time. This is because, the moment counties don’t receive monies, it is costly to the country because you are borrowing monies from commercial banks at highly inordinate rates to pay salaries.....I have told my team at the Treasury not to keep counties money,” said CS Mbadi. Consequently, the CoG has taken issue with CS Mbadi over remarks he made regarding development funds lying unused in county accounts, accusing him of attempting to take the spotlight with incomplete information. “We see situations where an entire quarter passes before counties have



accessed any funds related to that quarter, and then you read in the newspapers that counties spend zero on development,” said the CoG Vice Chair. “Waziri, tafadhali, don’t let them radicalize you against devolution. I say this because I saw the statement yesterday, and it is all over the newspapers today about the Ksh. 42 billion sitting in county accounts. I wish the controller were here. That money

was disbursed towards the end of September because there was clarification on whether funds could be released to counties before KARA, and we met with Waziri,” remarked Abdulahi. CS Mbadi has also promised to oversee the full devolution of functions still held at the national government, along with their associated costings.

Ways Of Navigating Through Life's Challenges



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

When I got my first job many years ago, I was working at a place called Nyeri. Nyeri is a town near the big mountain that some Kenyans especially from that neighbourhood these days refer to as Mrima. It is the same Mrima that one 'Truthful man' dares anyone to touch at his or her own peril. Yes, I know it should be something like Mlima but remember our tongues have a small issue with R and L. And... stop laughing – we try. My place of work was about six kilometres from Nyeri town where I resided with a friend and colleague of mine, let

us call him Fellow. Now Fellow was an interesting guy who was always telling funny stories and anecdotes that would make people laugh, but at times he would go on and on dramatizing his stories leaving his audience a bit embarrassed. The matatu fare to the work -place was then around five shillings but Fellow and I sometimes found ourselves without the money. On such occasions, we had to walk to work. Walking to work meant moving across two ridges though two coffee plantations, a forest and crossing two rivers. One of the rivers called Chania was big and had a real bridge. The other one called Kamuringato (don't ask me what this means – I also find the name a little strange) was a small, slow flowing river with brownish water. To cross Kamuringato, one had to follow a narrow footpath through a small thick forest called Kīa Nūgū (of monkeys). For a bridge, there was a tall tree that had fallen across the river some seasons back. The villagers had decided that it should remain there and act as a bridge. They had cut off the branches and peeled off a bit of wood on top in a bid to make the surface somehow flat.

Nevertheless, there was a clear ten meters drop between the log-bridge and the Kamuringato water. One Monday morning during the long rains, we found ourselves with no fare to work. So we had to walk. It had rained heavily the whole night. So we had a relatively ordinary muddy walk until we came to the Kamuringato. The normally innocent, slow moving water was a raging fast and furious river almost as big as the Chania. Fortunately, Fellow was quite courageous and without much thought just stepped on to the log-bridge and started slowly walking across. The log-bridge had a length of about twenty metres. I also carefully stepped on to the bridge and with my eyes focused on a spot on Fellow's faded blue jacket, somewhere between the shoulders, I was able to start walking but with my arms spread on the sides for balance. I was doing quite well until about halfway when the devil entered my head. I decided to look down into the raging foaming waters. I instantly become aware of the thunderous noise it was making and the deadly ten metre drop. I started losing my balance. Many thoughts flashed through my mind as I spread my arms out fully and

slowly went down into a crouching position. I managed to regain my balance. I took a few silent moments to chase the devil from my mind. I reminded myself that the only swimming I knew was the 'dry' swimming we used to do as boys while growing up in Tetu. Swimming for us was lying on your stomach in a muddy puddle in the stream and splashing with your hands and feet and all the while keeping your head dry. Armed with that level of swimming experience I knew I couldn't stand a chance in the raging Kamuringato. I managed to slowly get back to my feet, refocus on the spot on Fellow's back and started walking across the bridge and in a few moments we were on the other side. Interestingly, Fellow did not notice my little interlude with the devil. And so it is with life. It is an integral part of life to encounter challenges and there is no way of avoiding them. Some of the emotions experienced when one is dealing with life's challenges include sadness, anger, loneliness, resentment, anxiety, fear, panic, stress and even depression. However, one has to focus on a higher, positive aspect to manage to navigate through. Just like in my inci-

dence in the Kamuringato saga, if you lose focus in life, you will as a result lose balance in your life. I read somewhere that 'life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.' We should spend a few minutes each day to train our brains to focus on the present moment which can help us to concentrate on the challenge at hand when need arises. A great mind is the one that is calm and balanced. Therefore, when confronted by life's challenges, maintain your focus and keep moving, for life without challenges would be a long, monotonous and somehow boring stretch in time.

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



First Lady’s Initiative Pushes For Learners Engagement In Environmental Action

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- According to First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto, climate change is not an abstract issue but an everyday reality, especially for the 18 million learners in the country, who must be central to planning and the national agenda to ensure a sustainable future.
- “These realities hit our children the hardest, especially in Kenya’s vast arid and semi-arid regions. And yet, despite their vulnerability, children understand these challenges in ways we sometimes overlook,” noted Ms. Elizabeth Koskei, the CEO of Mama Doing Good.
- Mama Doing Good is an initiative founded by Mama Rachel Ruto, dedicated to catalyzing socio-economic transformation by empowering communities, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and fostering long-term positive change.



Ms. Elizabeth Koskei, the CEO of Mama Doing Good.

There is an urgent and significant need to actively involve learners at all levels in the national climate agenda, ensuring they are not only informed but also empowered to contribute to shaping sustainable solutions for the future.

Experts emphasize that children are not merely passive observers of climate change—they are among its most vulnerable and disproportionately affected victims, bearing the brunt of environmental disasters that threaten their health, education, and future.

The devastating drought that gripped Kenya until April 2023, the worst in 40 years, starkly exposed the environment’s fragility. It ravaged livelihoods, left families struggling to access water, and forced schools to close.

According to First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto, climate change is not an abstract issue but an everyday reality, especially for the 18 million learners in the country, who must be central to planning and the national agenda to ensure a sustainable future.

“These realities hit our children the hardest, especially in Kenya’s vast arid and semi-arid regions. And yet, despite their vulnerability, children understand these challenges in ways

we sometimes overlook,” noted Ms. Elizabeth Koskei, the CEO of Mama Doing Good.

Mama Doing Good is an initiative founded by Mama Rachel Ruto, dedicated to catalyzing socio-economic transformation by empowering communities, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and fostering long-term positive change.

Ms. Koskei was speaking during the First Lady’s Mazingira Awards (FLAMA) media breakfast meeting in Nairobi ahead of the first-ever First Lady Mazingira Awards ceremony on October 10 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) Amphitheatre, as part of the National Mazingira Day celebrations.

The annual national challenge provides a platform for the recognition and appreciation of young people making significant contributions to addressing climate change through creative expression among Kenya’s learners.

Principal Secretary of the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Festus Ng’eno, stated that FLAMA offers a unique platform for young learners—the future of our nation—to express their creativity and solutions for pressing environmental and climate challeng-

es.

“Our recently launched National Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027 dedicates a chapter to children and young people, underscoring the importance of empowering them to actively engage in both national and local climate initiatives,” he stated.

He said the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry has taken a proactive approach in fostering a supportive and conducive environment that encourages and enables children to actively participate in climate action initiatives.

In particular, he highlighted the newly launched Children’s Climate and Disaster Risk Model, which puts children at the center of climate action and disaster risk reduction by showing how they and their communities are vulnerable to climate impacts in each county.

The Ministry of Education recognized that young people have the potential to be excellent environmental stewards, powerful agents of climate change action, and ambassadors for ecological restoration when they are properly educated and empowered.

“We are proud to be part of this initiative. Learners in basic education institutions have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the

national goal of planting 15 billion trees over the next 10 years,” noted Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio R. Kipsang.

He said the First Lady’s fruit tree-growing initiative, dubbed “Mama Fruit Garden,” inspires learners to become environmental stewards and climate change champions through fruit tree planting, and it should be replicated in 4K Clubs and other school programs.

NCBA Group said it would continue supporting the First Lady’s initiative, especially those that promote active involvement in creating a culture of excellence in environmental conservation and climate action.

“This initiative aligns with NCBA’s commitment to planting 10 million trees by 2030. I believe that we will further collaborate in our support of this cause. We have established a forest in Kitui, where 40,000 seedlings were planted late last year,” noted the group’s Managing Director, Mr. John Gachora.

He said that by adopting this approach, partners seek to spark a collective movement among young people, propelling them towards a sustainable future and equipping them to confront the challenges presented by climate change.

Workers In Government Projects To Get Recognition Prior Learning Certificates

By: Mutai Kipnetich and Immaculate Wangui
@themkenyetimes

The workers in Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and Affordable Housing projects who have acquired skills during the process can now receive certificates from accredited institutions to help them secure job opportunities in future. Recognition Prior Learning (RPL) Policy recognizes skills from the informal sector in line with Bottom Up-Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) that is geared towards economic turnaround and inclusive growth.

The Affordable Housing Projects has provided job opportunities to thousands of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, which has enabled them to sustain their livelihoods. During the period, some learned and perfected skills and are now able to work as skilled workers but lack documents to substantiate their expertise.

During the project's tour by the Office of Government spokesperson, led by deputy spokesperson Mwanaisha Chidzuga and Director of Public Communications Joshua Sang, workers at Kerugoya Affordable Housing

project and Sagana Export Processing zones lauded the government's efforts in creating jobs. They further called for extension of the projects to benefit more residents and the community at large.

In addition, the majority said apart from earning money, they have gained skills in different professions by learning from their skilled colleagues.

Peter Wambugu, working at Sagana EPZ project, said he joined the site without any specific job qualification but now with guidance of a mason he has acquired knowledge that has upgraded him to doing masonry work. He added that he is planning to study to get a certificate so that he can become a professional mason.

"I joined the EPZ without any skill, up to now with assistance of a mason I have learnt and can work alone, I am planning to go for a study to enable me get a certificate."

Wambugu's revelation prompted the team to inform them about Recognition Prior Learning partnership with various institutions. Kirinyaga West Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) John Mbugua, where the EPZ construction is ongoing, assured the workers that the Ndia Teaching and Vocational College, which is within



Deputy Government spokesperson Mwanaisha Chidzuga during the tour.

the vicinity offers RPL and one could visit at any time for certification.

Mbugua said Ndia Technical that is in the locality was one where the RPL programs, were available asking all to visit.

Deputy Government spokesperson Mwanaisha Chidzuga encouraged them to take advantage of the program which enables skilled, but uncertified

youths to be awarded certificates based on individual competencies expanding their opportunities in employment and advanced learning.

"You have been told you can get a certificate, please spare your leave days and visit the institution and get them," Chidzuga said.

The Kenya National Qualification Authority recognizes the RPL certifi-

cate, and the holder can apply for the job using the document.

The Sagana EPZ is expected to generate 50,000 direct jobs, 250,000 indirect jobs in sectors such as agriculture, logistics, and development in real estate, healthcare, education, and trade, benefiting surrounding communities.

Plea For Woman Charged With Murdering Her Two Children Deferred

By: Sarah Njagi
@themkenyetimes

The Kericho High court has deferred the plea taking of a woman alleged to have killed her two children to October 15.

Brenda Cheptoo, 25, was arraigned before Kericho High court Judge Justice Joseph Serгон on Thursday but failed to take plea to the alleged murder charges following an oral application by her defense lawyer seeking to withdraw from representing the accused person in the case.

Senior Principal Prosecution Counsel Minoo Maundu allowed the application.

Ruling on the application, Judge Serгон said the accused

person be brought back to court on 15th October this year during which the prosecution counsel will avail a new defense lawyer to provide legal representation for the accused person.

Cheptoo is alleged to have murdered her two children aged eight and six years before burying them in a shallow grave around her home in Sibaik village in Bureti sub-county, Kericho.

The accused committed the offences on 22 July 2024. She underwent a mental testing at Kericho County Referral Hospital.

The psychiatric report dated 25 July this year showed that she is of sound mind and fit to stand trial.

Cheptoo is currently remanded at the Kericho GK women prison.



Tharaka Nithi First Lady’s Initiative To Vulnerable Teenagers Through Jiinue Sasa Program

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- “We must end teenage pregnancies and early marriages in our county so that girls, even those from poor families, can be empowered through education which is the greatest equalizer in the society,” said Mrs Muthomi.
- She said boys also drop from school due to drugs and other challenges ending up becoming very desperate in life.
- Mrs Muthomi said she decided to start the initiative to promote community advocacy for education while keeping girls in school through sanitary towels, dignity packs and mentorship programs.
- The program also capacitates women, youths and people living with disabilities through innovative community practices and development of life skills which bring sustainable changes in their lives.

Tharaka Nithi County First Lady has put a smile on the faces of vulnerable teenagers through her Jiinue Sasa Initiative

Tharaka Nithi County First Lady, Mrs Margaret Muthomi has stressed on the need to deal with challenges which lead to learners dropping out of school.

Speaking on Friday while donating dignity kits to students in Kiaritha Secondary School in Igambang’ombe ward and Turima Hills Day Secondary School in Marimanti ward through her Jiinue Sasa Initiative, Mrs Muthomi said one of the main reasons why girls drop out of school is teenage pregnancy.

She said some men take advantage of innocent girls from poor families by luring them with money resulting in teenage pregnancies or even early marriages.

“We must end teenage pregnancies and early marriages in our county so that girls, even those from poor families, can be empowered through education which is the greatest equalizer in the society,” said Mrs Muthomi.

She said boys also drop from school due to drugs and other challenges ending up becoming very desperate in life.

Mrs Muthomi said she decided to start the initiative to promote community advocacy for education while keeping girls in school through sanitary towels, dignity packs and mentorship programs.

The program also capacitates women, youths and people living with disabilities through innovative community practices and development of life skills which bring sustainable changes in their lives.

Climate challenges

She added that the initiative also addresses the challenges of climate change through creating awareness and providing community-based solutions including planting trees.

“We need to not only take care of our girls but also the boys because they are also vulnerable to the social evils so that we can have both empowered girl-child and boy-child for a balanced society,” she said.

Some of the items donated to the students included; sanitary towels, soap, inner wears, tissue paper, tooth paste and toothpaste.

Tharaka Nithi County Gender Chief Officer, Ms Kelly Rwigy noted that there are also cases of defilement and some are not reported to the authorities for a legal action.

She said some of the criminals involved in defilement cases are the



Tharaka-Nithi County First Lady Mrs Margaret Muthomi (centre) with students of Turima Hills Day School in Tharaka constituency. She donated dignity kits to both boys and girls through her Jiinue Sasa Initiative. Photo/ Mwenda Njeru.

same relatives who are supposed to protect the victims and sometimes such cases are not exposed.

She asked girls to avoid men who take advantage of their poverty and innocence only to impregnate or even marry them before completing school.

“Data shows that there are still many cases of defilement in our county including sodomy,” said Ms Rwigy.

County Public Health Chief Officer, Ms Rose Micheni and nominated Member of Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Zachary Njagi also stressed on the need to protect both girls and boys from social evils.

Protect both boys and girls

Kairitha Secondary School Principal, Mr Silas Mboroki and his Turima Hills Day School counterpart Judith Kamunda appreciated Mrs Muthomi for identifying their schools for her program.

Ms Kamunda urged the First Lady through the initiative to consider donating some foodstuff for Form Four candidates during the examination period.

“We usually have food challenges during the examination period because I cannot send the candidates home to bring fees, making it very difficult to keep them here,” said Ms Kamunda.

While lauding the initiative, Turima location chief, Philip Njeru and his Kathura assistant chief Brenda Mbin-ya said the collaboration between national and county governments administration officers has helped end many social evils.

Mutugi insisted that they will not relent on the fight against teenage pregnancies, early marriages, female genital mutilation, drug abuse and other evils which ruin the current and the future lives of the young people.



Tharaka-Nithi County First Lady Mrs Margaret Muthomi donating dignity kits to Kiarithaa Secondary School in Chuka/Igambang’ombe Constituency through her Jiinue Sasa Initiative. Photo/ Mwenda Njeru.

Chromatic Serenade



By: Tajalla Qureshi

Every color of both sights
Thwack the feely highlights
Mingle with a vigorous twilight
Eyes into her eyes,
while flashing a jiff bright

Smile wallop the funded ally
Purple, blue periodically strikes

Melodies maudlin the glacial glow
Silence sometimes squeals the flow
Enchain the swathe supplies
Nightingale leaps the positive impetus
Divine delights apprise and enshrine
Eyes into his eyes,
Like a harmonium fancify

All recognize the pleasing voice
Engrossing envelopes the heart to invite
Sonorous speeches whack the holy
darkness
Both are poems in an intense loveliness
Thoughts whisper to proclaim the
holiness
Eyes into the eyes
They swing together like a heap of red
roses in miles.

Use Of Technologies In Gynecology



By: Rozmetova Roziyaxon

Annotation. Prevention of acute dangerous diseases through technologies in medicine. A doctor who knows how to use technology well is his best friend. It is important to provide accurate and high-quality diagnosis to patients. It is necessary to pay attention to the quality control of technologies. Today, technology plays a very important role in our lives. It is especially important to identify and prevent dangerous diseases in gynecology.

Polyps, fibroids, tumors and other dangerous diseases have an incomparable role in diagnosis and treatment.

Ultrasound, colposcopy, microscopes, laparoscopes are the doctor's closest assistants. They help patients recover quickly and easily. The sooner the disease is detected, the faster and less money will be spent financially.

Key words: Dangerous diseases, ultrasound, colposcope, microscope, laparoscopes, myoma, polyps, hysterosalpingography.

Technologies have a great importance and place in our lives. Nowadays, our life cannot be imagined without technologies. It has its place in every field. Especially in the field of medicine, technologies help a lot. Quick and high-quality for patients. diagnoses and helps patients to receive high-quality treatment.

The colposcope instrument used in the colposcopy method is very important to carry out the cervical examination procedure. Its length is 25-28 cm. It is a photographic device that magnifies the cervix up to 28 times or more.

The procedure for performing the operation in the colposcope sequentially.
1) The cervix is washed with NaCl solution. This process helps the cervix to be clearly visible. It cleans it of various secretions.
2) Then a filter is carefully placed. The filter helps to clearly see any abnormal blood vessels.

3) 5% acetic acid is applied to the cervix. It stains the denatured protein white.

With this, we will quickly identify and take measures for treatment.

In the colposcope, we can find out where the polyp is formed based on the Lugol reaction.

With the help of a microscope, the epithelium of the uterus can be seen more clearly.

Hysterosalpingography helps in adenomyosis.

A laparoscope is an instrument for optical inspection of the abdominal cavity. General surgeons, gynecologists, urologists use it a lot.

In gynecology, in laparoscopic surgery, small incisions of 0.5-1 cm are opened and we can see the problems related to the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes and treat them.

It is very convenient to operate on patients with a laparoscopic instrument. Because they feel less pain after surgery. They recover in a short time and return to their previous life.

Laparoscopic surgery is performed in the treatment of adenomyosis.

Recommendation. All women and girls should undergo a doctor's examination 2 times a year.

This makes it very easy for doctors to treat the disease. It is better to prevent a disease a thousand times than to cure it. Patients should consult a doctor at the beginning of every disease. Patients should not hide any secrets from the doctor and tell them without shame. The longer he hides and keeps a secret, the longer the treatment period will be.

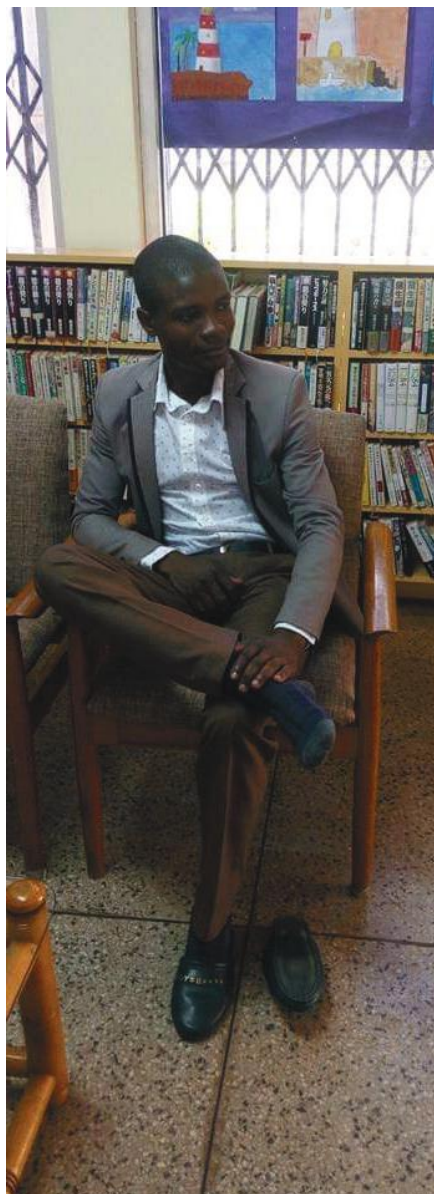
Rozmetova Roziyaxon,

She was born on November 10, 2004 in Koshkopir district of Khorezm region.

She is a 3rd year student of Termiz branch of Tashkent Medical Academy in Surkhandarya region. participated in the national anthology with the article "Ensuring sufficient personnel in the use and correction of technologies used in medicine". Participated in the Turkish international anthology with the article "Importance of medical technologies in the field of gynecology". Winner of the 1st place in Na'fosat competition. Studied more than 10 courses on medicine and personal development.

His dream is to contribute to the development of Uzbekistan's medicine and receive the Zulfiya award.

Corruption



Corruption sits on a throne of gold,
With greedy hands, both young and old.
Her children play in shadowed halls,
Where truth is lost, and justice falls.

First-born is Greed with endless thirst,
Taking more, though others cursed.
He builds his walls so high and grand,
While starving souls roam barren land.

Second comes Deceit, sly and cold,
Weaving lies in stories told.
She smiles sweet but poisons well,
Turning peace to living hell.

Third is Fear, with whispered might,
Spreading darkness, stealing light.
In every heart, she plants her seed,
So few will fight, though all will bleed.

Corruption smiles, her brood in tow,
Where power thrives, they surely grow.
But winds of change, though soft and slow,

Will rise one day to overthrow.

Evans Asikoyo
Asikoyo the poet

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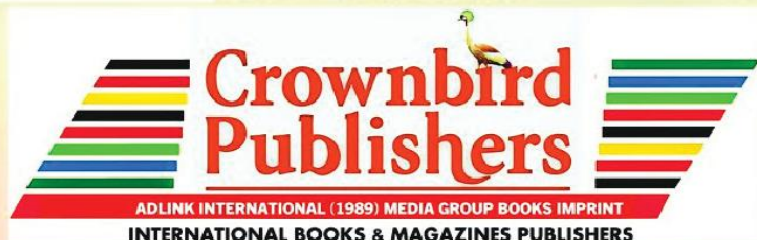
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NG-CDF

Revitalizing Education In Kiambu Town Constituency

By: Geoffrey Muchemi

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking to KNA, Joseph Karanja, the chairman of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), stated, "We have to make sure that the schools are secure. Fencing the perimeter of the schools and giving them a new face has been able to motivate even the students to learn."
- He added that introduction of such measures has further significantly enhanced students' attendance and overall morale.
- The chairman, however noted that in secondary schools, the challenges extend beyond infrastructure to include basic needs like food security.
- "Many students face difficulties attending school due to hunger, despite the free education provided and to combat this, the program collaborates with local organizations to ensure students receive meals, with parents contributing a minimal fee of 2, 000 shillings per term," Karanja said.



Kiambu Town Constituency NG-CDF chairman Joseph Karanja with Fund Manager Aloysius Njoroge during the interview.

The Kiambu Township Education program has embarked on an ambitious mission to transform the educational landscape by addressing fundamental challenges in primary and secondary schools.

This initiative aims to create a comprehensive educational environment that fosters learning and personal growth among students. The program recognizes the need to improve foundational education in primary schools.

Many schools, especially those established post-independence, have not undergone renovations, leading to unsafe and unsanitary conditions for learners and the initiative will prioritised upgrading these schools, implementing essential features such as fencing to secure the premises and creating a safer environment for learning.

Some of the schools upgraded include, Kiambu Primary School, Machiri, Kongo, Chief Wandie, Kiuu River, Benson Njau, Ting'ang'a Model, Thindigua and Kangoya.

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overall morale.

The chairman, however noted that in secondary schools, the challenges extend beyond infrastructure to include basic needs like food security.

"Many students face difficulties attending school due to hunger, despite the free education provided and to combat this, the program collaborates with local organizations to ensure students receive meals, with parents contributing a minimal fee of 2, 000 shillings per term," Karanja said.

Additionally, Karanja said the initiative has not only improved school attendance but also facilitated a 100 per cent transition rate from primary to secondary education.

He mentioned the importance of sustainability in education saying they have established kitchens to provide the meals to all the secondary schools. Recognizing the gap in technical education, Karanja said that the program has also introduced short courses designed to equip youth with practical skills and the courses are examined by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) which are available at the ward level and allowing students to gain valuable experience without sacrificing their current jobs.

"This initiative is about empowering the youth, ensuring no one is left behind and giving them opportunity and access to education," he said.

Karanja noted that to further support primary and secondary education, the program has implemented a feed-

ing initiative in collaboration with a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Food for Education in Kenya and it only charges parents Sh15 per meal ensuring students have access to nutritious food throughout the school day.

Additionally, the program promotes student engagement through activities such as trips to parliament and career days at local tertiary institutions, providing students with broader perspectives on their educational paths.

"Significant attention has been given to improving school facilities, addressing issues like dilapidated classrooms and poor sanitation. When you come to a clean school, the environment motivates students to learn. The renovations include installing tiles and other features that reduce the physical burdens previously placed on students," Karanja said.

Aloysius Njoroge, Constituency Manager in this initiative said they are committed to ensure that every individual is reached in their unique way.

"This initiative offers a variety of short courses including plumbing, catering, hairdressing, and cosmetology, tailored specifically for the youth and the biggest add-on is that thanks to partnership with local colleges, many of the students do not pay fees," he added.

Njoroge explained that they have partnered with colleges that provide teachers directly to the community

and thus this kind of accessibility is essential for young people who might otherwise miss out on education opportunities due to financial constraints.

"Classes are held over the weekends, allowing students to balance their work and study commitments and with low transport costs often not exceeding sh30 shillings to further facilitate participation, making it easier for students to attend regularly," he said.

Karanja further said that they are in the process of partnering with the Kenya Institute of Special Technology (KIST) and yielding significant results.

Many students are now completing foundational courses that prepare them for further education and training at KIST. "Some of them are graduating and are ready for transition," he stated, highlighting the program's effectiveness in promoting continuous learning.

Bernard Kimani, a parent in Kiambu Town Constituency, said that he couldn't be more thrilled with the revitalization of education at community level.

"This new project has transformed our schools, improved resources, and boosted attendance through vital initiatives. It gives me hope for my children's future and inspires us all to work together for a brighter tomorrow," Kimani added.



Kenya's NCCAP: A Climate Comedy Of Errors Or A Step Towards A Green Future?



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The plan's approach to stakeholder engagement is another area of concern. While it emphasizes consultations with various stakeholders during its formulation, there is limited evidence of ongoing participatory processes that allow for continuous input from marginalized communities.
- This top-down approach can lead to policies that do not resonate with or benefit those most affected by climate change. An effective climate action plan should prioritize inclusivity and ensure that voices from the grassroots level are heard and integrated into decision-making processes. How can we expect climate resilience when the very people facing the brunt of climate impacts are sidelined in policy formulation?

The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) of Kenya, particularly the latest iteration for 2023-2027, represents a significant commitment by the Kenyan government to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. However, as we delve deeper into this plan, we uncover not only its ambitious goals but also its deficiencies and the contextual realities that may hinder its effectiveness.

The NCCAP outlines seven priority areas for climate action, including adaptation and mitigation strategies across various sectors such as agriculture, energy, and urban development. The plan aims to achieve a 32% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to business-as-usual scenarios. While these targets are commendable, they must be contextualized within Kenya's socio-economic landscape, where poverty and inequality remain pervasive. The ambitious nature of the NCCAP may inadvertently overlook the immediate needs of vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

One notable deficiency in the NCCAP is its reliance on external funding and partnerships for implementation. The plan acknowledges support from various international organizations, including the NDC Partnership and the World Bank. While such collaborations can enhance capacity building and technical expertise, they also risk creating dependency on foreign aid, which may not always align with local priorities or cultural contexts. This raises questions about the sustainability of climate actions that are heavily reliant on external resources. Are we witnessing a new form of eco-colonialism under the guise of climate action?

Furthermore, the NCCAP's focus on

technological innovation as a means of addressing climate change may overlook traditional knowledge systems that have been effective in local contexts. For instance, indigenous agricultural practices have long been adapted to cope with climatic variations in Kenya. By prioritizing high-tech solutions over these time-tested methods, the NCCAP risks alienating local communities and undermining their resilience. Consider the Maasai's traditional land management practices or the Kikuyu's indigenous agroforestry systems – are these being given due consideration in the grand scheme of Kenya's climate action?

The plan's approach to stakeholder engagement is another area of concern. While it emphasizes consultations with various stakeholders during its formulation, there is limited evidence of ongoing participatory processes that allow for continuous input from marginalized communities. This top-down approach can lead to policies that do not resonate with or benefit those most affected by climate change. An effective climate action plan should prioritize inclusivity and ensure that voices from the grassroots level are heard and integrated into decision-making processes. How can we expect climate resilience when the very people facing the brunt of climate impacts are sidelined in policy formulation?

Additionally, the NCCAP's alignment with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement is commendable but may also dilute its effectiveness if local realities are not adequately addressed. For example, while aiming for a low-carbon economy is crucial, it must be balanced with immediate socio-economic needs such as food security and access to clean water—issues that are

often exacerbated by climate change itself. The plan should integrate these fundamental needs into its framework rather than treating them as secondary concerns. In a country where over 36% of the population lives below the poverty line, how can we justify prioritizing carbon neutrality over basic human needs?

Moreover, the NCCAP's monitoring and evaluation mechanisms appear insufficiently robust. Effective tracking of progress towards climate goals requires clear indicators and accountability measures. Without these, there is a risk that commitments made in the plan will remain unfulfilled or inadequately assessed over time. This lack of accountability could lead to disillusionment among stakeholders who expect tangible outcomes from their engagement with climate initiatives. Are we setting ourselves up for another case of 'policy without implementation' – a common ailment in Kenyan governance?

The issue of land use and forestry management is another critical area where the NCCAP exhibits deficiencies. Although it aims to increase forest cover to 10% of total land area by 2027, this goal must be pursued alongside efforts to secure land rights for local communities. Land tenure insecurity can lead to conflicts and undermine conservation efforts. Therefore, integrating community land rights into climate strategies is essential for fostering sustainable practices that benefit both people and ecosystems. The Mau Forest complex, for instance, has been a hotbed of conflict between conservation efforts and community land rights – how does the NCCAP propose to navigate such complex terrains?

While the NCCAP recognizes gender dimensions in climate action, there is a need for more explicit strategies that empower women as key agents of change in environmental management. Women in Kenya are often at the forefront of agricultural production and natural resource management; thus, their involvement in climate decision-making processes must be prioritized to enhance resilience at both household and community levels. The plan's current approach seems to treat gender as an afterthought rather than a central pillar of climate resilience.

The NCCAP's approach to energy transition also raises eyebrows. While it promotes renewable energy sources, it fails to adequately address the social and economic implications of this transition. For instance, the push for geothermal energy in the Ol-

karia region has led to displacement of indigenous Maasai communities. How can we ensure that the shift to green energy doesn't come at the cost of marginalizing already vulnerable populations?

Furthermore, the plan's treatment of climate finance is problematic. It heavily relies on international climate finance mechanisms without sufficiently exploring domestic resource mobilization. This approach not only perpetuates dependency but also fails to leverage local financial innovations. Consider M-Pesa, a mobile money service that revolutionized financial inclusion in Kenya – could similar homegrown solutions be applied to climate finance?

Lastly, the NCCAP's approach to climate education and awareness seems superficial at best. While it mentions the need for public awareness, it fails to outline a comprehensive strategy for integrating climate change into the national curriculum or fostering a culture of environmental stewardship. In a country where the majority of the population is under 35, how can we hope to achieve long-term climate resilience without nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious citizens?

In conclusion, while Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan presents an ambitious framework for addressing climate change challenges, it is not without its shortcomings. The reliance on external funding, insufficient stakeholder engagement, inadequate monitoring mechanisms, neglect of traditional knowledge systems, and failure to fully integrate local realities into its objectives all pose significant barriers to effective implementation. To transform this plan from a potential comedy of errors into a meaningful tool for combating climate change in Kenya, it must evolve through continuous dialogue with affected communities and adapt to their needs while ensuring accountability in its execution. Only then can we hope for a truly inclusive approach that resonates with Kenya's diverse socio-economic landscape and builds resilience against the impacts of climate change. The question remains: will Kenya rise to the challenge, or will the NCCAP become just another footnote in the country's long history of well-intentioned but poorly executed policies?

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fostering A Culture Of Sustainable Development: Rongo University SDGs Club Mentorship Program At Kanga High

By: Daisy Moraa
@themtkenyatimes



Rongo University SDGs Club Mentorship Program At Kanga High

Worth Noting:

- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a key driver of sustainable development as it seeks to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainability into all aspects of education. It aims to empower learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to create a more sustainable future. In the case of the mentorship program at Kanga High School, students are being introduced to the SDGs, which include goals such as ending poverty, ensuring quality education, promoting gender equality, and taking action against climate change.
- By teaching students about these goals, the Rongo University SDGs Club is helping to cultivate a generation that is more conscious of global challenges and equipped to address them.

Education plays a pivotal role in transforming societies by fostering critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving. In today's world, education must also address the critical issues of sustainability. One such approach is through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which empowers learners to make decisions and act in ways that contribute to sustainable, equitable development. The mentorship program initiated by the Rongo University SDGs Club at Kanga High School is an excellent example of how partnerships between universities and schools can help advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The mentorship program aims to raise awareness and educate young students about the SDGs while equipping them with the skills to be proactive in addressing global challenges. Such initiatives are not only important for the students involved but also for the broader societal goal of embedding sustainability at every level of education. In this article, we will explore the significance of this program, the benefits of university-school partnerships, and how such initiatives contribute to sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a key driver of sustainable development as it seeks to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainability into all aspects of education. It aims to empower learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to create a more sustainable future. In the case of the mentorship program at Kanga High School, students are being introduced to the SDGs, which include goals such as ending poverty, ensuring quality education, promoting gender equality, and taking action against climate change.

By teaching students about these goals, the Rongo University SDGs

Club is helping to cultivate a generation that is more conscious of global challenges and equipped to address them. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) promotes a sense of responsibility and encourages critical thinking, allowing students to analyze how their actions impact the world. For example, students may learn about responsible consumption and how small lifestyle changes can contribute to broader environmental conservation efforts.

Moreover, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) emphasizes the interconnectedness of the SDGs, helping students understand that achieving one goal, such as quality education (SDG 4), can positively influence others, such as reducing inequalities (SDG 10) or promoting decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). This holistic understanding fosters a mindset that prioritizes sustainability in all aspects of life, both personal and professional.

Mentorship is an essential component of the learning process, particularly when it comes to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Rongo University SDGs Club's mentorship program allows high school students to learn from university students who are already engaged with sustainable development initiatives. This peer-to-peer learning model is highly effective because it encourages open dialogue, making the concepts of sustainability more relatable and accessible to younger students.

University students, having had more exposure to SDG-related projects and research, can provide practical examples of how these goals can be achieved. This hands-on approach ensures that high school students do not just learn about the SDGs in theory but also understand how they can be applied in everyday life. Whether it is through environmental conservation projects, community service, or advocacy for social justice, the mentorship program serves as a bridge

between knowledge and action.

Additionally, the mentorship program helps to demystify the SDGs, which can sometimes seem abstract or overwhelming to young learners. By breaking down these goals into achievable actions, mentors help students realize that they can make a meaningful impact, regardless of their age or resources. This empowerment is critical in building a generation of changemakers who are not only aware of global challenges but are also motivated to contribute to solutions.

The collaboration between Rongo University and Kanga High School highlights the value of partnerships in advancing sustainable development through education. University-school partnerships bring a wealth of knowledge, resources, and expertise to the table, benefiting both institutions. For the university, engaging with high schools offers a platform to extend its community outreach, fulfill its social responsibility, and foster leadership among its students.

For high school students, these partnerships provide exposure to higher education opportunities, role models, and new ways of thinking about the world. In the case of the SDGs mentorship program, students at Kanga High School are not only learning about sustainable development but are also being introduced to the possibilities that come with pursuing higher education. The mentorship program may inspire them to consider careers in sustainability-related fields such as environmental science, social work, or international development.

These partnerships also contribute to creating a pipeline of students who are passionate about the SDGs and are prepared to continue advocating for sustainability as they advance in their education. Furthermore, the interaction between university and high school students fosters mutual respect and understanding, helping to break down barriers and promote

inclusivity, which is a key principle of the SDGs.

Mentorship programs like the one offered by Rongo University SDGs Club play a crucial role in advancing the SDGs by building awareness, fostering skills development, and encouraging active participation in sustainable development initiatives. By educating young people about the SDGs and providing them with the tools to take action, these programs help create a generation of informed and engaged global citizens.

The mentorship program at Kanga High School also aligns with several specific SDGs. For example, SDG 4 (Quality Education) is directly addressed by providing students with the opportunity to learn about sustainable development from their peers. SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is also exemplified by the collaboration between Rongo University and Kanga High School, demonstrating how multi-stakeholder partnerships can be leveraged to achieve the SDGs.

Furthermore, the mentorship program encourages students to think critically about their own communities and the challenges they face. Whether it is addressing issues such as waste management, water conservation, or inequality, students are empowered to take action locally while understanding the broader global context. This local-global connection is essential for sustainable development, as it encourages students to think globally but act locally—a principle that lies at the heart of the SDGs.

The mentorship program led by the Rongo University SDGs Club at Kanga High School is an exemplary model of how education and partnerships can be harnessed to promote sustainable development. By introducing high school students to the SDGs and providing them with the knowledge and skills to take action, this initiative contributes to building a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive society.

As more universities and schools engage in such partnerships, the impact of these programs will only grow, fostering a generation of young people who are not only aware of the challenges facing the world but are also equipped to address them. Through education, mentorship, and collaboration, we can create a brighter future for all—one that is aligned with the vision of the SDGs.

Daisy Moraa
Rongo University

Nobody Knows About Tomorrow And The Dreams That Drive Us Forward



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Against all odds, I was elected with 80% of the votes—a remarkable feat in a room filled with faces that barely knew me. I often reflect on the significance of that moment. In a society that often privileges familiarity over merit, I stood as a testament to the power of perseverance. As I took my place among my fellow students, I felt a sense of responsibility wash over me.
- I admired the role of faculty representative for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest faculty in Chuka University, and despite its historical tendency to favor specific communities, I dared to aspire to that position. Those who understand the tribal nature of campus politics will recognize the uphill battle I faced.

Nobody knows about tomorrow. It is a question that lingers in the minds of many, a contemplation that shakes us to our core. Are we aware, as members of Generation Z, that one day we will be old, our faces wrinkled and shrunken, our youth a distant memory? It is a reality we often brush aside, distracted by the noise of life, yet it looms ever closer, reminding us of our fleeting existence.

I remember my own encounter with this truth during my high school years at Mutuini High School. It was a day etched in my memory—the day I visited the National Assembly. As a young, wide-eyed student, I stood in that hallowed chamber, surrounded by the weight of history and the pulse of democracy.

I left that day with a personal oath, a promise to myself that I would return—not as a child, nor as a mere tourist, but as a member of Parliament. It was a dream fueled by the whispers of possibility and the desire to effect change in a world that often feels indifferent to the struggles of the young.

After high school, I embarked on my journey to Chuka University, a place where dreams take flight and aspirations are nurtured. Armed with a vision, I aimed to be a class representative, a role that would allow me to voice the concerns and hopes of my peers.

Against all odds, I was elected with 80% of the votes—a remarkable feat in a room filled with faces that barely knew me. I often reflect on the significance of that moment. In a society that often privileges familiarity over merit, I stood as a testament to the power of perseverance. As I took my place among my fellow students, I felt a sense of responsibility wash over me.

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faced.

I grew up in Nairobi, a melting pot of cultures and identities, yet I found it difficult to approach my tribe members to seek their support. There was a nagging fear that hung over me, a doubt that whispered in my ear, questioning my worthiness.

But I refused to let fear dictate my journey. I became real, embracing my authentic self, and my fellow scholars resonated with my manifesto. It wasn't just about winning their votes; it was about igniting a spark of hope and empowerment in them. I won't delve into the intricate details of my victory, but I will say that commitment, hard work, humility, and prayer—God's favor—were my steadfast companions.

I learned that the path to success is often littered with obstacles, but with determination and faith, we can navigate even the stormiest seas. Here I am today, blessed with the opportunity to write for The Mt. Kenya Times, a golden platform that allows me to express the realities and aspirations of my generation.

This is more than just a job for me; it is a chance to give voice to the voiceless and to reflect the dreams and struggles of the youth. As I pour my thoughts onto this page, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude. This newspaper is not just a medium of information; it is a conduit for change, a beacon of hope in a world often overshadowed by despair.

My journey is a testament to the fact that nobody truly understands what tomorrow holds. Yet, amid the uncertainty, there exists an undeniable feeling deep within us, a whisper that reassures us: "You'll make it" or "You're there." These internal affirmations are not mere figments of our imagination; they are the seeds of potential that lie dormant, waiting for the right moment to bloom.

My mother has always believed in me, her unwavering faith a source of strength in my life. There were times I would question her sincerity, wondering if she truly understood the challenges I faced. Yet, her belief in my abilities became a guiding light

in the darkest of times. She taught me that nothing is impossible, that every obstacle can be surmounted if we find a way to confront it.

But what does finding a "way" really mean? It is an ambiguous concept, a notion that varies from person to person. For some, it is the pursuit of education; for others, it is the quest for personal growth or the forging of meaningful connections.

Finding a way requires introspection and resilience, the ability to adapt and evolve in the face of adversity. It demands that we rise above the noise, filter through the doubts, and embrace the whispers of hope that beckon us forward. I remember the countless nights I spent poring over my studies, my dreams dancing tantalizingly close yet frustratingly out of reach.

I had moments of despair, questioning whether my aspirations were foolish or if the world was even ready to embrace a voice like mine. But with each passing day, I learned that the only limitations are those we impose on ourselves. I discovered that resilience is born from struggle, that our setbacks can be our greatest teachers. With every challenge I faced, I found a renewed sense of purpose, a fire ignited within me that refused to be extinguished. It was in those moments of doubt that I truly understood the power of community, the strength that comes from lifting one another up.

As I pen these words, I feel a profound connection to my generation—their struggles, their dreams, and their aspirations. We are a resilient bunch, navigating a world that often feels indifferent to our plight. Yet, amidst the chaos, we find solace in our shared experiences, in the knowledge that we are not alone in this journey. We have the ability to create change, to challenge the status quo, and to redefine what is possible. Our voices matter, and our stories deserve to be told.

This is a call to action for all of us. Let us rise together, united by our dreams and fueled by our passions. Let us embrace the uncertainties of tomorrow with courage and conviction, for it is in the face of adversity that our true strength shines.

I want to remind every young person reading this: your dreams are valid, your aspirations are worthy, and your voice deserves to be heard. Do not allow the doubts of others to stifle your spirit; let them serve as fuel for your fire. When the world tells you "no," respond with a resounding "yes." When the path seems treacherous, remember that the greatest journeys often begin with a single step.

Embrace the ambiguity of life, for it is in that ambiguity that we find our true selves. Life is a tapestry woven

from countless threads of experience, each contributing to the beautiful narrative that is uniquely ours. I vividly recall the first newspaper I got involved with, and the laughter of my colleagues still resonates in my mind.

They mocked me mercilessly, dismissing my ambitions as fanciful. One of them sneered, saying, "That belongs to old people." They believed only the elderly read magazines, while another accused me of clout chasing. But was I truly? They even said, "How can you write all this? This is ChatGPT!" Yet these are the same people I attended high school with, who heard my composition read aloud in front of the entire school one Monday. Their doubts won't deter me from reading novels and crafting innovative, impactful articles on social, political, and economic issues.

I refused to let their words hold me back. Though I've wrestled with faith, I've never questioned God's work because I believe and know He exists. So why should I give up? Yes, there are highs and lows, but God will never assign you a task you can't overcome. Trust me, people will chatter, hate, love, and gossip, but none of them can define who you are or what your future holds.

The Mt. Kenya Times newspaper is not just a publication; it is a powerful platform for transformation, a voice for the unheard, and a well-spring of inspiration for our generation. It elevates the stories that matter, offering a stage for the dreams and aspirations of young people like me. I apologize if I sound like a pastor, but I felt compelled to share this from my heart. This newspaper is a radiant beacon of hope for all of us.

As we continue this journey, let us honor the dreams of those who came before us, those who fought for a better tomorrow, and let us carry their legacy forward. We have the power to shape our destinies, to rewrite the narrative, and to pave the way for future generations. Together, we can create a world that is not only aware of our dreams but actively supports and uplifts them. In this uncertain world, let us be the architects of our own futures, the voices that echo through the corridors of time. And as we look toward tomorrow, let us do so with hope, resilience, and an unwavering belief in our collective power to create change. Nobody knows what tomorrow holds, but together, we can shape it into something extraordinary.

*This article was scripted by;
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Mudavadi Hails Women For Their Role In Conflict Prevention And Post-Conflict Initiatives

By: MKT Reporter
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Worth Noting:

- “We must renew our commitments to implementing the women, peace and security agenda by ensuring that women’s voices are central to peace processes and that they have the resources and support they need to lead,” added the Prime Cabinet Secretary.
- The CS said all stakeholders must uphold accountability and establish robust mechanisms for tracking progress and measuring impacts.
- Mudavadi noted that in Africa, women have played critical roles in mediating conflicts, advocating for peace and rebuilding communities.
- “The legacy of African women in peace building is a testament to the power of resilience, courage and leadership and therefore, we must ensure that their leadership is recognized and institutionalized,” said the Prime CS.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Minister for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi with Principal Secretary, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Anne Wang'ombe during the forum.

The government has commended the vital role women play in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction for the prosperity of the country.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi said the global security landscape is evolving, a need that requires states to ensure women’s voices shape responses to emerging threats, and especially those related to climate security where women in vulnerable communities bear the greatest burden.

Mudavadi who was speaking at the 24th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and Regional Symposium on Women, Peace and Security, said that since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, the number of women included in peace processes has increased, with their voices being heard in decision making processes.

He at the same time stressed that UNSCR 1325 is not just a resolution for

women but a call for a more inclusive and peaceful world.

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He stated that countries worldwide have developed National Action Plans (NAPS) to implement UNSCR 1325

and raise awareness on the unique challenges women face in conflict and post conflict settings.

Mudavadi announced that the development of Kenya’s 3rd National Action Plan (NAP3) is underway and called for collaborations from partners and donors to ensure that it’s drafting and implementation is effective.

“This plan is not just a governmental priority but a key step in advancing the women, peace and security agenda in Kenya,” he stated.

In her remarks, the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Anne Wang’ombe lauded the stakeholders who had gathered at the event for their commitment to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in Kenya.

“Your invaluable contributions to the agenda is the backbone of the government’s efforts and your presence underscores the importance of inclusive dialogue and action at every level,” said Wang’ombe.

She further said that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a pre-requisite for achieving sustainable development.

“When women and girls are empowered, entire communities thrive, economies grow and nations prosper,” stated Wang’ombe.

The PS noted that the inclusion of women in peace building is not just an issue of gender equality but a matter of ensuring sustainable peace.

“Women are powerful agents of change and their leadership in peace processes lead to more lasting and inclusive outcomes for communities and nations,” she said.

Wangombe called upon the participants at the event to share ideas on how all departments could strengthen their efforts in implementing the women, peace and security agenda across the region.

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Sports >> *A Chelsea side showing 11 changes earned a comfortable win over Gent in their opening Conference League match.

Free Scoring Chelsea Make Light Work Of Gent In Conference League



Chelsea's Christopher Nkunku celebrates his goal against Gent in teh Conference League. PHOTO/Chelsea/X.

A Chelsea side showing 11 changes earned a comfortable win over Gent in their opening Conference League match. Defender Renato Veiga headed in a 12th-minute opener from Mykhailo Mudryk's cross. Winger Pedro Neto smashed in a near post finish just 49 seconds after half-time after latching on to a long ball down the middle by Axel Disasi. For a moment, Gent may have felt they were back in the game after a 50th minute header by defender Tsuyoshi Watanabe survived a video assistant referee check for offside to stand. But that joy was short lived for the travelling Belgians. Thirteen minutes later, versatile forward Christopher Nkunku latched on to a loose ball to score his seventh goal of the season with a low shot that went through goalkeeper Davy Roef. Midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, who had missed a great chance in the first half, then

turned in a finish after Watanabe failed to clear. Omri Gandelman added a consolation goal after some poor defending down Chelsea's left. It was a performance that showed the imposing depth in Chelsea's squad – with a completely different starting line-up to the one that beat Brighton 4-2 in the Premier League last Saturday – but it also demonstrated the gap in resources between some of the clubs competing in Europe's third tier competition. The Conference League has a new 36-team league phase this season – with Chelsea bidding to qualify automatically for the knockout rounds by finishing in the top eight. Their ultimate target in the competition, though, is to become the first team to add a Conference League title to previous successes in the Europa League and Champions League successes. Maresca's squad shows its depth

As much as Chelsea and their head coach Enzo Maresca should be proud that their second XI looked like a well-oiled group of stars capable of playing in the Premier League, this match was broadly uncompetitive. Mudryk, Neto, Dewsbury-Hall, Nkunku and Tosin Adarabioyo were among the stars rotated in from the depths of the sizeable 29-man squad that was pictured in this year's team photo a fortnight ago. Cole Palmer, Romeo Lavia and Wesley Fofana haven't been selected for this competition – being allowed to rest every Thursday – while Ben Chilwell is simply out of favour. Even still, Maresca opted not to pick either Nicolas Jackson or Jadon Sancho and gave them the night off. It could have encouraged Gent, but they could only score two goals against the run of play through Watanabe and Gandelman, with Englishman Archie

Brown and former Chelsea forward Eidur Gudjohnsen's son Andri having efforts on goal. But Chelsea's £400m team could have scored more against Gent, whose most expensive ever signing Momodou Sonko, who cost £6m, was sitting on the bench. In fact, a report from the Transferroom website suggested that Chelsea's squad, valued at £1.1bn, is worth as much as the Conference League's other 35 team combined. They are, therefore, strong favourites to claim glory in Europe this season. That estimated squad value is nothing for the Blues to be ashamed of – but merely highlights how European football is changing with England's top flight dominant, especially when facing teams from outside the continent's big five leagues.

BBC

Sports >>> *Belgium captain Kevin de Bruyne has asked for time off from the national team as the Manchester City playmaker looks to manage his playing time.

Man City's De Bruyne Asks To Miss Belgium Matches



Kevin de Bruyne. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA

Belgium captain Kevin de Bruyne has asked for time off from the national team as the Manchester City playmaker looks to manage his playing time. The 33-year-old has missed City's past four fixtures after sustaining a thigh injury in September's 0-0 draw against Inter Milan in the Champions League. De Bruyne, who is on course to return to action in mid-October, was set to be left out of Belgium's

Nations League squad for matches against Italy and France later this month through injury. But Belgium boss Domenico Tedesco says De Bruyne has requested to miss November's matches against Italy and Israel in addition to October's matches. "I had a long phone conversation with Kevin," said Tedesco. "He has asked to skip this camp and also November, to be able to take care of his body.

"The schedule has become even busier due to the World Cup for clubs. That is why he is not there now and in November. But when it really counts – the World Cup – he will be there." Rodri, De Bruyne's club teammate, said in September that players were close to striking in protest at the increased playing schedule. De Bruyne raised questions over his international future following a 2-0 loss to France on 9 September.

ber. However, Tedesco says De Bruyne remains committed to playing for his country. "He has an injury, but he is very motivated to continue with the Red Devils and to play the World Cup in 2026," Tedesco said.

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Silvia Muthangya Shares Pro Tips On Mastering Devops As A Woman In Tech

By: Joy Atieno Otieno
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Entering ALX software engineering while already in university had its challenges, but it was mostly enjoyable. Juggling between university and the program required careful handling. Balancing both was facilitated by having a supportive community and leveraging available resources. Collaboration was a significant aspect of the program, and finding partners for projects was crucial.
- Building a trusted network was essential to overcome challenges and complete projects successfully. However, I think I was also lucky because my undergraduate course and the #ALX_SE program mirrored each other which made it easy for me to balance them. The degree was a little more theoretical while the #ALX_SE program is very hands-on hence they complemented each other.



Silvia Muthangya

We caught up with Silvia Muthangya from cohort 1 for a quick catch-up on her journey so far. Silvia is currently working as a DevOps Engineer with a leading company in Kenya.

1. You were part of cohort 1 and amongst the pioneer cohorts of the #ALX_SE program, what was the application process like back then?

My name is Silvia Muthangya and I was part of the ALX software engineering program cohort 1. The initial application process involved sharing a link and filling in details. The current application process I would say is more beginner friendlier focusing more on mindset and behavior questions. When I joined cohort 1, having some coding knowledge was crucial because you were required to create a website within a week as part of the application process.

2. Entering the field, especially for young women, is often seen as challenging. How was your overall experience in the program?

Entering ALX software engineering while already in university had its challenges, but it was mostly enjoyable. Juggling between university and the program required careful handling. Balancing both was facilitated by having a supportive community and leveraging available resources. Collaboration was a significant aspect of the program, and finding partners for projects was crucial. Building a trusted network was essential to overcome challenges and complete projects successfully. However, I think I was also lucky because my undergraduate course and the #ALX_SE program mirrored each other which made it easy for me to balance them. The degree was a little more theoretical while the #ALX_SE program is very hands-on hence they complemented each other.

3. Speaking of projects, which one was your favorite, and which one posed the most significant challenge?

The Airbnb clone project was the most challenging due to its specialization requirements. Most projects

involved finding partners, emphasizing the program's community-based nature. I think the aspect of attracting good and collaborative partners was a challenge but I overcame it by building a trusted circle around me. You have to be very intentional about building a support system of peers around you while in the program because it makes the journey very light and enjoyable.

I really enjoyed working on the other projects including the specialization portfolio project. At the time I joined the program, you had the option to finish the program in nine months or proceed to specialization and I chose to proceed. I, therefore, again came together with some of my trusted peers to deliberate on what to build for the portfolio project. Deciding on a specialization involved an ideation process where we considered various ideas based on their feasibility and requirement and settled on the best one by unanimous decision.

4. After graduating, what were your next steps? Did you automatically consider the Gold

Fellowship, or did it come to your attention later?

At the time I graduated, the gold fellowship had not yet come into existence at least publicly to my knowledge. I got straight into applying for roles and after some rejections, I finally landed a role as a DevOps Engineer. My job application process involved applying broadly for roles that I felt fit my experience and skills. My current role involves handling both development and operations tasks. A typical day includes problem-solving, coding, and continuous learning.

I later received an email detailing what the gold fellowship is all about together with an invitation to apply. The career support aspects of it such as exclusive events, access to a working space and a pathfinder really captivated me. The pathfinder pack was especially fascinating in terms of having a personal career advocate who finds opportunities and even takes on salary negotiations for you to ensure you get a good deal. I applied and I was accepted and so far it has been a great ride.

5. For those currently in the program or about to graduate, what are your final words of wisdom regarding job expectations and the post-program journey?

I would advise them not to obsess so much about what comes post-program but focus on building value. It is okay to think about the post-program journey but it is more crucial to focus on building your skills and your portfolio while in the program. This means being very diligent in undertaking tasks as well as jumping on various projects that you can then showcase on your CV as proof of ability to deliver on the job. This is what I mean by building your value and once your value is solid, everything else will fall into place post-program.