



Beyond Bankability: Navigating The Exclusions In Kenya's Public-Private Partnerships Landscape
Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a significant mechanism for financing infrastructure and service delivery in Kenya. However, not all projects are suitable for this funding model. Understanding which projects cannot be funded through PPPs is crucial for policymakers, investors, and stakeholders aiming to navigate the complexities of this framework effectively.

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News >> MKU Researchers Attend International Conference On Unemployment In Africa

P. 8. A delegation of nine faculty members from various schools at MKU last week attended an international conference on unemployment of graduates in Africa held in Tunisia.



News >> Crisis At The Nairobi Hospital Deepens

P. 12. In a news conference yesterday, the association's members Nguru Wachira, Mithamo Muchiri, Charles Wambugu among others noted that the once roaring giant, the Nairobi Hospital, has lost its glory chiefly due to poor leadership by the management.

Gachagua: I'm Innocent

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua last night dismissed impeachment bid against him as absurd, trash and act of conmanship. In an over two-hour televised media brief, the country's second in command trashed the motion as hurriedly put together to politically hung him as he was of no more political value after having played a key role in cobbling the current administration. The DP claimed President William Ruto had sanctioned his ouster, a bid he said he would defend himself to the end.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zingy and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Wajir County Governor To Chair Council Of Governors Forum

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Blue Economy committee going to Dr. Paul Otuoma of Busia County, Education committee will be chaired by Dr. Erick Mutai from Kericho County while that of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Disaster Risk Management Committee went to Nathif J. Adam of Garissa County.
- The committee on Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services will be headed by Simon Kachapin of West Pokot County with that of Legal, Constitutional Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations going to Dr. Ochilo Ayacko from Migori County as that of Land, Housing and Urban Development going to Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o from Kisumu County.



Some of the Governors with Chief Justice Martha Koome after yesterday's event.

Governor Ahmed Abdullahi from Wajir County is the chairman, Council of Governors caucus.

He took over the leadership following a consensus election that took place yesterday where he replaced his Kirinyaga counterpart Ann Waiguru.

Nyeri's Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga is the new vice chairman.

During the governors full Council meeting, elections for the Executive and Technical Committee Chairs were also conducted.

Governor Stephen Sang of Nandi County took the Whip CoG position.

Various governors were elected to chair different committee positions with

Blue Economy committee going to Dr. Paul Otuoma of Busia County, Education committee will be chaired by Dr. Erick Mutai from Kericho County while that of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Disaster Risk Management Committee went to Nathif J. Adam of Garissa County.

The committee on Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services will be headed by Simon Kachapin of West Pokot County with that of Legal, Constitutional Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations going to Dr. Ochilo Ayacko from Migori County as that of Land, Housing and Urban Development going to Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o from Kisumu County.

Information, Technology and Commu-

nication (ICT) and Knowledge Management committee went to Wisley Rotich of Elgeyo Marakwet County as that of Health went to Muthomi Njuki of Tharaka Nithi County.

The committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs will be chaired by FCPA Fernandes Barasa of Kakamega County with that of Agriculture and Livestock being taken over by Ken Lusaka of Bungoma County.

Environment, Forestry and Climate Change committee will be headed by Wilber Ottichilo of Vihiga County with the one on Trade and Cooperatives being taken by Wavinya Ndeti from Machakos County.

That of Security and Foreign Affairs went to Benjamin Cheboi from Baringo County as the one for Tourism and Wildlife going to Patrick Ole Ntutu, of Narok County.

Transport, Infrastructure and Energy committee will be chaired by Mohamud Mohamed Ali from Marsabit County as that of Water and Natural Resource Management being taken by Joshua Irunu from Laikipia County.

The committee on Human Resources, Labor and Social Welfare will be headed by Sakaja Arthur Johnson of Nairobi City County with that of Resource Mobilization and Partnerships going to Simba Arati of Kisii County.



Governors Muthomi Njuki (Tharaka Nithi), Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri) and Wavinya Ndeti (Machakos) during yesterday's forum.



Wajir County Governor Ahmed Abdullahi.

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



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News In Brief And Announcement



Consolidated Bank of Kenya, Thika Branch Staff (extreme left) helps Thika Business Community to cut a cake as the bank ushered in Customer service week yesterday.



Bishop Samson Gachathi of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Diocese of Nyahururu has urged elected leaders to lower the divisive political temperature surrounding the impeachment debate of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. He emphasized the need for dialogue between President William Ruto and his Deputy to foster healing, peace, and unity in the nation. The bishop called on political leaders to be mindful of their words, avoiding statements that could incite division or lead to unrest.



Igembe South Agriculture Officer Jeremiah Mithika emphasised the nutritional value of traditional vegetables like terere (Amaranth), managu (African Nightshade), saguet (Spider Plant), and kunde (Cowpea leaves). He noted that these vegetables thrive in harsh weather and require minimal inputs, reducing costs associated with pesticides and fertilisers. "Indigenous vegetables are not only cost-effective but also packed with essential nutrients, including iron and vitamins, which help prevent lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity," Mithika stated.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Stephen Waweru Ngaroga*

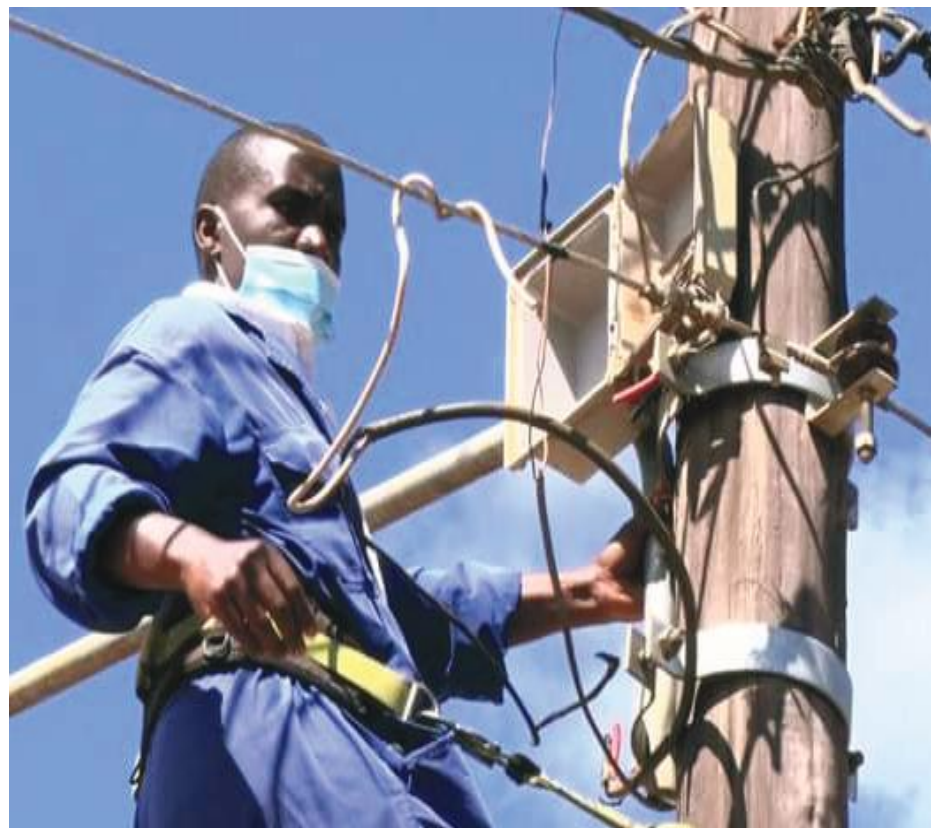


It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Stephen Waweru Ngaroga (Chairman and Director, Grasten Academy and Juste place, Witeithie - Thika) On 2nd October 2024. Husband to Julia Cecilia Wangeci and Father to; Jane Wambui & Stephen Karuga, Rose Wairimu (USA), Patrick Ngaroga & Jane Wambui, Susan Gathoni & Mohammed Kerre, Josephine Koori Njue of Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) & T.K Njue and The Late Grace Wanjiru. He will be laid to rest on Tuesday 15th Oct 2024 at his family home in Boro village, Mununga Location, Kigumo Sub-county, Murang'a County. We kindly seek your support in raising Ksh 4.5 Million to clear his hospital bills. Meetings and prayers will be held daily at:

1. Family home in Boro village and Witeithie - Thika at 5:30 pm
2. Juste Place Restaurant, Witeithie - Thika
3. KeMU Chapel 8th Floor KeMU Towers next to the Junction of Uhuru Highway and University way, Nairobi, Kenya - Susan Waweru - 0724 457 223 Josephine Njue - 0720 810 393

Your generosity and prayers are greatly appreciated. Major fundraising will be held at Juste Place Restaurant Witeithie, Thika 2:00 pm and KeMu Towers 8th floor, Nairobi, Kenya at 5:00 pm on Thursday 10th October 2024, as we come together to give dad a decent farewell.

The guest of honour will be YOU and ME. Bring a Friend.



Khwisero sub-county residents will benefit from the Last-mile electricity connectivity project, spearheaded by the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC). Area Member of Parliament Christopher Aseka said the initiative would ensure remote areas access essential services for growth and development. Over 5000 households in the region will benefit from the project, which will enhance officers' welfare and strengthen security infrastructure.



PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.139,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
Great Oasis Gardens	NANYUKI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.399,000	Ocean View Ridge	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Wema Gardens	NARO MORU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.439,000	Vuyanzi Gardens	KITALE	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Love Gardens	KAJIADO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.950,000	Achievers Paradise Phase 2	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Vipingo Prime	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.2.795M
Shalom Gardens	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.450M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
Joy Lovers Club	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes. 3.95M			

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Kenya Launches DigiKen To Unlock Potential Of Digital Platforms, Create Jobs

By: Beth Nyaga

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the launch, MICDE Cabinet Secretary Dr. Margaret Ndung'u emphasized the importance of digital inclusion.

- "In today's world, access to digital platforms is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. From education and healthcare to economic opportunities and civic engagement, digital inclusion is central to how we live, work, and participate in society," said Dr. Ndung'u.



DigiKen, a transformative initiative designed to empower Kenyans to fully participate in the digital economy, was officially launched on Monday.

This joint UN and EU programme leverages multi-stakeholder partnerships to foster a thriving digital ecosystem in Kenya and unlock the immense potential of digital platforms.

Speaking during the launch, MICDE Cabinet Secretary Dr. Margaret Ndung'u emphasized the importance of digital inclusion.

"In today's world, access to digital platforms is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. From education and healthcare to economic opportunities and civic engagement, digital inclusion is central to how we live, work, and par-

ticipate in society," said Dr. Ndung'u. DigiKen, led by UNESCO in collaboration with UNCDF, UN Women, UNEP, and supported by the Joint SDG Fund, aims to close the digital divide and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Kenya.

The initiative focuses on empowering marginalized communities, including women, girls, youth, and residents of arid and semi-arid regions as well as urban informal settlements, to participate fully in the digital economy.

DigiKen nurtures a new generation of digital entrepreneurs by supporting homegrown digital enterprises with

the resources and expertise needed to succeed.

To bridge the digital divide, DigiKen is also equipping government officials with digital skills essential for leading inclusive and sustainable digital transformations while safeguarding human rights.

The programme empowers communities through digital literacy, entrepreneurship training, and the use of sustainable AI technologies facilitated by 15 Digital Innovation Hubs.

Through these efforts, DigiKen aims to create 4,500 direct jobs and 20,000 indirect jobs by 2027, impacting over two million Kenyan digital platform users.

Additionally, the programme will

support 150 Kenyan Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in accessing financing for digital platform development and provide training to more than 20,000 government officials.

DigiKen's initiatives span various sectors, from improving access to healthcare and education to promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability.

By leveraging digital platforms to address pressing social challenges, DigiKen envisions a Kenya where technology serves as a catalyst for progress, inclusion, and prosperity.

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MKU Researchers Attend International Conference On Unemployment In Africa

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyatimes

A delegation of nine faculty members from various schools at Mount Kenya University (MKU) last week attended an international conference on unemployment of graduates in Africa held in Tunisia.

Led by Access Board Member and Deputy Vice-Chancellor APIA, Dr. Peter G. Kirira and MKU-Access Coordinator, Dr. Henry Yatich, the Kenyan team participated and made several presentations at the Conference and Summer school in University of Tunis at Hammamet, Tunisia.

Access 1.0 is a 3.7M Euro German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) promoted project under the Exceed initiative with funding from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). MKU is a partner in the African Centre for Career Enhancement and Skills Support (Access) project which is funded by DAAD through University of Leipzig, Germany.

The Kenyan faculty successfully disseminated their research findings in the conference that was running from 1st to 5th October 2024 under the theme "Graduate unemployment in Africa: Towards a shift in paradigm. The conference was officially opened by Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger, Project Lead, at University of Leipzig Germany.

During the opening ceremony, Prof. Utz announced that DAAD had approved the award for the roll-out of Access 2.0 project that will be funded to a total cost of 4.5 million Euros (Kshs 637 million). The new 5-year project will run from 2025-2029 and will focus on more student-gear interventions to improve graduate employability and industry linkages.

MKU is the project lead in Kenya and has been submitting tailor-made measures to curb unemployment in Africa. The institution also organizes joint annual business idea competitions to be jointly run by 10 local universities: Zetech University, Karatina University, Strathmore University, Kenyatta University, Daystar University, Technical University of Kenya, Kabarak University, Riara University, KCA University, and Machakos University.

This is the second summer School to be held this year, with the first one was held in Rwanda in January 2024. Overall, this is the 5th Summer School. The current project is implemented by a consortium of 7 universities (6 African Universities from Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia and coordinated by Leipzig University-Germany.

The researchers from MKU included Dr. Emily Nyabisi, Dr. Josephine Kirimi, Dr. Jane Kanjuru, Ms. Rose Macharia, Mr. Tobias Ochieng, Ms. Elena Mwai, Mr. Joseph Machira,

Mr. Peter Mbogo, Ms. Judy Nguru, Dr. Nancy Cheseto and Mr. Jared Mosoti presented topical findings physically and online on the following topics.

The conference, which brought the Access research program (2020-2024) to a successful closure, focused on the need to revisit economic and other theoretical foundations, in order to update the link between improving the levels of education, particularly university education, of a country's human resources, and economic growth and development, in African countries.

It also analyzed the problems associated with university training in African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the inadequacy of course selection, and the quality of higher education, all of which contribute to massive graduate unemployment. The conference also considered how to redefine and contextualize the concept of employability in Africa.

This major event took place in a regional economic context marked by rising unemployment on the African continent. According to Prof. Dr. Hamadi Tizaoui, geographer and economist at the "Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis" (University of Tunis) and organizer of the event, graduate unemployment, which affects a growing proportion of the population in many African countries, has become a major problem.

"Exacerbated by the devaluation of diplomas in a context of limited job opportunities, this phenomenon is particularly severe for women graduates. This paradox is reflected in a higher unemployment rate among graduates than among non-graduates, sometimes reaching levels four times higher," he said.

In Tunisia, by the end of 2019, higher education graduates accounted for 41 per cent of the unemployed, with an unemployment rate of 38.1 per cent for women and 15.7 per cent for men. Graduate unemployment is particularly acute in disadvantaged interior regions, where it exceeds 50 percent in some governorates such as Kébili and Gafsa. These regional disparities exacerbate socio-political tensions, triggering social movements such as those seen in Tunisia in 2011.

"This problem has become a central issue in several African countries, such as Morocco, Algeria and Senegal. It requires in-depth analysis by social scientists to understand the underlying economic and political dynamics," Prof Tizaoui said.

During the forum, Tunisian business and political leaders shared their perspectives on cooperation between the university of Tunis and its economic, social, cultural and technological environment. Aca-



MKU Deputy Vice-Chancellor APIA, Dr. Peter G. Kirira with other panelists during the conference session in Tunisia



MKU delegates who attended the ACCESS conference in Tunisia



Joint delegates pose for a commemorative photo at the end of the above conference.

Worth Noting:

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demographic networking is encouraged by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the university.

These events are part of the programmes implemented by ACCESS, a consortium of six African universities from Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tunisia, working with the University of Leipzig, Germany, to study the stagnation of the labor market in Africa despite the increasing level of formal education of the employed and salaried population.

As a first step, the program set up to investigate graduate unemployment in these countries. This doctoral program enabled 15 African students, including three Tunisians, to write or prepare theses in Germany and in English, on the issues addressed by the program.

The aim was to develop specific, in-depth knowledge of graduate unemployment and the localized prospects for employability in their respective countries. Access is also developing new teaching models to enhance the employability of African students, while increasing their opportunities in the global market, by connecting them to international companies.

The consortium aims to create a practical platform for African higher education institutions (HEIs). It focused on capacity-building for teachers and doctoral students, integrating teaching and research practices adapted to socio-economic realities. Academic networking and cooperation between universities, HEI(s) and companies will also be encouraged.

Gachagua: I'm Innocent

By: Charles Kinyua and Wilfred Muchire

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- He called on anybody who has a shred of evidence that any of his family's companies has had any dealings with the government to volunteer it to parliament further clarifying that he transferred his shares in companies some of which he registered as long ago as 1999 to his two sons and instructed them not to trade with government at all.
- Three of the named companies were registered by his wife Dorcas who is a pastor in conjunction with other women of the cloth while his and his spouse's foundations were nonprofit making and had assisted hundreds of vulnerable members of society.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua last night dismissed impeachment bid against him as absurd, trash and act of conmanship.

In an over two-hour televised media brief, the country's second in command trashed the motion as hurriedly put together to politically hung him as he was of no more political value after having played a key role in cobbling the current administration.

The DP claimed President William Ruto had sanctioned his ouster, a bid he said he would defend himself to the end.

On accusations that he had corrupted amassed over KSh5billion, Gachagua clarified that the properties he had allegedly acquired were owned by his brother who was Nyeri governor the late James Nderitu Gachagua whose vast estate he is a co-administrator with prominent lawyer Njoroge Regeru and quantity surveyor Mwai Mathenge.

"One of the properties, Olive Gardens hotel has been sold for Ksh 400m and as one of the declared, I got Ksh20m. My wife was also entitled to 2% which translates to Ksh8m, while my late mother was allocated KSh20m which I hold in trust", explained the seemingly confident Deputy President.

He laughed off the query ownership of an alleged 40 acre piece of land in Kakuret area of Kieni constituency which he explained he bought from the current area Member of Parliament, Anthony Njoroge Wainaina, nine years ago when neither of them was in an elective position.

"Apparently, there was too much haste in drafting the motion that simple facts as the size of the land could not be ascertained. It is actually 35 acres and was transferred to me in 2015 when I was not even elected as an MP," clarified Gachagua.

He called on anybody who has a shred of evidence that any of his family's companies has had any dealings with the government to volunteer it to parliament further clarifying that he transferred his shares in companies some of which he registered as long ago as 1999 to his two sons and instructed them not to trade with government at all.

Three of the named companies were registered by his wife Dorcas who is a pastor in conjunction with other women of the cloth while his and his spouse's foundations were nonprofit making and had assisted hundreds of vulnerable members of society.

In a killer punch parting shot, Ga-

chagua said that the nation had more pressing issues to deal with like the Adani scandal, the health insurance confusion, rampant corruption and impunity ravaging the country.

In his bid to cleanse himself of allegations of dividing the country on his pet subject of comparing the country to a limited liability company, the fire spitting Deputy President produced a power sharing agreement between the ruling party UDA and other parties among them ANC, Ford K and PAA whose leaders were promised Prime Cabinet Secretary, National Assembly Speaker and his Senate counterpart respectively.

"The residents of Western Kenya should ask both Mudavadi and Wetangula where their 30% share of government is as signed and not blame me when I talk of equity", advised the DP who seemed to show jabs at his boss who signed the document whose copies he distributed to the press corps.

He wondered what rationale his critics applies when they accuse him of being tribal for advocating the interests of mountain region dwellers, yet they keep quiet when leaders in other region press for the communities interests.

Saying he would not resign, Gachagua revealed that some of critics had sent his friends, imploring upon him to quit.

"When I called this press conference today, there were rumours that I want to resign. I am a man elected by the people of Kenya. More than 7.2 million voters. I have no intention to resign. I have been loyal to the President since I was elected to office." he said, in his first minute of his addressing, this dispelling rumours he had invited the media to announce his resignation.

Last week, 291 Members of Parliament signed the impeachment motion against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

The motion laid 10 grounds for DP Gachagua's ouster ranging from gross violations of the constitution and other laws such as the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, the Leadership and Integrity Act and the National Cohesion and Integration Act.

The mover of the motion, Kibwezi West MP Mutuse Mwengi said he provided sufficient evidence to support each charge contained in his 57-page motion.

On allegations of acquiring Ksh5.2 Billion, he noted that those behind the motion, added up properties be-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

longing to his late brother and assumed to be his own.

"Some of the properties named by MP Mutuse in the impeachment motion, like the Olive Garden Hotel and the Queens Gate Apartment, are among those that are in the will." DP Gachagua explained,

Adding that, "the two acre land in Ruguru Kiamariga in Mathira West has no helipad as alleged by MP Mutuse in the impeachment motion. I bought it at Ksh.3.5M and I usually plant napier grass in that piece of land."

Similarly DP Gachagua explained that he encouraged his children to purchase the Outspan hotel in Nyeri County when it was put on the market.

However he dispelled rumours of his sons buying the Treetops Hotel saying his sons leased the hotel, since it is a government property under the Kenya Wildlife Service

(KWS) but never bought it.

"Since Treetops Hotel opened 45 Kenyans are back to work, the Mama mbogas are supplying vegetables there, butcheries are supplying meat, the traditional Mwomboko dancers are back," he remarked.

"What crime has the children of the Deputy President done for investing in Kenya and spurring tourism and growth of the economy?"

While warning that overturning the will of the people is no joke he dismissed all the accusations noting that they do not meet the threshold for impeachment.

"I'm innocent on all charges. My apology to President Ruto yesterday is in no way an admission of these ridiculous allegations meant to overturn the will of the people," he said.

Deliverance Of The Prey Of The Mighty Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Read and meditate on Isaiah 49:25-26, as it relates to the focus of the prayers of Deliverance from being a prey of the enemy. Also 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 and Confessions in Psalm 71:21. These are destiny-changing prayers. There are ten reasons why you should pray them with holy ferventness.

1. God has a plan for your life.
2. Right now, you are either in that plan or out of it.
3. You are not an experiment or an accident.
4. God knew who you were before your mother and father ever brought you into the world.
5. If you do not take hold of your destiny, guard and protect it, you will lose it.

6. There is a conspiracy and battle going on to steal destinies.
7. There is a department in the dark world that destroys destinies.
8. When vision is lost, people do not pursue their destinies.
9. When there is no vision, there is no destiny.
10. To every man or woman of destiny, there is a conspiracy in the heavens.

PRAYER POINTS:

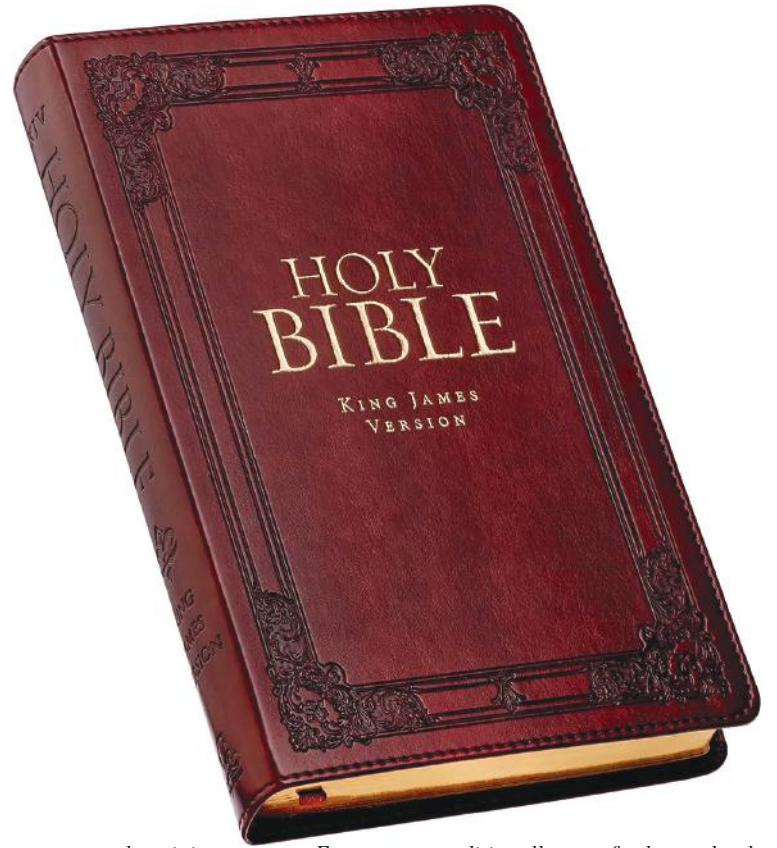
1. I come against destiny killers by the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of Jesus.
2. I enforce and effect God's original plan and purpose for my life, in the name of Jesus.
3. I decree that no spiritual and organizational weapon formed against my destiny shall prosper, in the name of Jesus.
4. I pull down the strongholds and cast down the imaginations working against my breakthroughs, in the name of Jesus.
5. Anointing that breaks the yoke, break every yoke over my destiny, in the name of Jesus.

6. I establish barricades against the enemies of my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
7. I overrule every satanic sanction which opposes my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
8. I dispossess spiritual destiny robbers, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let the angels of fire handle any satanic contentions against my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let terror strike the hearts of the enemies of my destiny and cause their heart to fail, in the name of Jesus.

HALELUJAH. PRAY AND BELIEVE IT IS DONE IN YOUR LIFE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS AND BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST JESUS: AMEN.

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and



to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God LOVES ❤️❤️❤️ you unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

The Mt. Kenya Times



Industry Producers Must Take Responsibility Of Their Packaging Material In Nairobi Rivers, Says CS Duale

By: Christine Muchira

@themkenyatimes



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale.

Worth Noting:

- Parliament enacted the Sustainable waste management act, 2022 (Chapter 387C) with the sole objective of transitioning Kenya from Linear waste management to circular model of waste management to drive value out of the waste before final disposal.
- Section 13 (1) of the Sustainable waste management Act, 2022 states that “Every producer SHALL bear Extended Producer RESPONSIBILITY obligations to reduce pollution and environmental impacts of the PRODUCTS they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom.
- Recently, the President William Ruto launched the Climate Resilience Service Programme on 12th September, 2024 and Waste Management and Sanitation were singled out as key issues to attention the relevant lead agencies including, the private sector.

Government will gazette the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations to ensure accountability and effective implementation.

This is according to the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale who was speaking during a Consultative meeting with producers on the use of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to clean up Nairobi Rivers held on Monday at Boma Hotel, South C.

He challenged the industry producers to take responsibility of their packaging material in Nairobi Rivers. “If you are in packaging industry- you MUST take responsibility of your packaging material in Nairobi Rivers.”

The CS asked the producers to comply with the restoration order from NEMA to clean up waste in the Nairobi rivers as directed.

“I am informed that you all got a restoration order from NEMA to clean up your waste in the Nairobi rivers- You must comply with the orders as directed and ensure that our rivers are spotlessly clean!” CS Duale said.

He said compliance with EPR is mandatory for all producers, adding that government will not allow non compliance by any company.

Parliament enacted the Sustainable waste management act, 2022 (Chapter 387C) with the sole objective of transitioning Kenya from Linear waste management to circular model of waste management to drive value out of the waste before final disposal.

Section 13 (1) of the Sustainable waste management Act, 2022 states that “Every producer SHALL bear Extended Producer RESPONSIBILITY obligations to reduce pollution and environmental impacts of the PRODUCTS they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom.

Recently, the President William Ruto launched the Climate Resilience Service Programme on 12th September, 2024 and Waste Management and Sanitation were singled out as key issues to attention the relevant lead agencies including, the private sector.

Duale said, EPR will be a major tool in implementation of the recently launched Climate Resilience Service Programme (Climate WorX) along Nairobi Rivers.

“The government has engaged over 20,000 youth to remove waste from the river. Since most of this waste has labels from the producers, we expect EPR schemes to take their waste away for safe disposal.” He stated.

Additionally CS Duale noted that EPR schemes should sustain cleanliness of the river by ensuring that all stakeholders establish strong logistical systems that integrate the local community groups to collect, transport, recycle, reuse and safely dispose waste emanating from their products.

According to the Sustainable Waste Management Policy 2021, every Kenyan generates about 0.5 kgs of waste every day amounting to 25,000 tonnes per day for a population of 50 million Kenyans. This waste by composition is 60% organic, 30% recyclables and 10% others.

He remarked that earlier approaches to waste management in Kenya relied on a linear model of “take, make, dispose.” This resulted in littering, the creation of illegal dumpsites, resource wastage, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

EPR is a policy approach based on the Polluter-Pays Principle whereby producers are given significant responsibility – financial, organizational and/or physical – for the product design, collection, treatment and disposal of the waste from the products they introduce in the market.

“I am coming to you today to stress accountability on levels of compliance

with Section 13 of the Solid Waste Management Act, 2022.” He said.

Noting that: “It is crucial that we address this matter promptly, and I expect your full cooperation in ensuring we meet our obligations and standards.”

The CS applauded NEMA for enforcing the SWM Act Section 13 and in the last 8 months have issued restoration orders to 145 companies whose products and packaging were found in the Nairobi rivers, saying “To ensure cleanliness of Nairobi Rivers and other water bodies in Kenya, every producer must demonstrate evidence of implementation of EPR.”

He concluded by clarifying that the EPR is a two-edged sword noting that Kenya has set in motion a process whereby all producers have been given an opportunity to demonstrate that they trade in products that do not degrade the environment warning that in the unlikely event that the product continues to cause pollution, this will trigger the need for NEMA and the producers to engage in a discussion with an intention to ban that product or packaging.

Crisis At The Nairobi Hospital Deepens

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

In a news conference yesterday, the association’s members Nguru Wachira, Mithamo Muchiri, Charles Wambugu among others noted that the once roaring giant, the Nairobi Hospital, has lost its glory chiefly due to poor leadership by the management. They are pushing for the incumbent board to be sent packing and replaced with a new board, which will be impartial, professional and accountable to the running of the premier health-care institution.

“Our attention has been drawn to a report that Board wants to borrow 4.2 Billion shillings using the hospital assets as collateral. This is irregular because key stakeholders have not been consulted and also because the loan is to be sourced offshore. They want a number of red flags in the hospital

addressed expeditiously,” they said. Kariuki who was once a board member when there was a crisis in the hospital reminisced the good old days saying that what made the institution stand back to its feet is the Policies, practices that the hospital had built over the years that made it firm. He opined that it’s a time of the restoration of the institution’s lost glory and called upon the new board that will take over to straighten the affairs of the hospital so that Kenyans can benefit from the services.

On his part, Wachira noted the gaping disconnect between the Board of Management and other governance organs of the hospital.

“What has for example, informed the sourcing of Ksh 4.2 Billion from outside sources. The loan is an equivalent of 35% of the current hospitals assets. To worsen the matter. The Environment in which the investment is being undertaken is not healthy.



Members of the Kenya Hospital Association

Climate Change Shocker: A Downturn For Kenya’s Economic Blueprint For The Vision 2030

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could shrink by 2.6 percent by 2030 due to climate shocks, according Environment Principal Secretary Festus Ngeno.

Ngeno emphasized that climate change is no longer a distant threat but an urgent reality.

The 2022 National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) report revealed that over 5 million Kenyans were impacted by drought, highlighting the severity of the crisis.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by John Elungata during the 3rd IGAD CLIMSA meeting in Nairobi, the PS stressed the importance of a robust climate resilience strategy to anticipate and mitigate climate hazards, ensuring the protection of livelihoods.

Kenya has adopted comprehensive climate information systems and early warning mechanisms across critical sectors like agriculture, water, health, and disaster risk management. Additionally, the installation of automatic weather stations is improving the accuracy of climate data, enabling informed decision-making and enhancing disaster risk preparedness. These climate resilience initiatives aim to reduce disaster risks while safeguarding Kenya’s development under the Vision 2030 blueprint.

This comes after the whole world has put its focus on the whole dilemma of climate change and crafted tangible and evidence-based mitigation measures which include adaptation, creating resilience and empowering counter measures to fight the climate change.



3rd IGAD CLIMSA meeting in Nairobi

Concern Worldwide Launches Flood Response Emergency Project (FERN) In Nairobi

By: James Mutua
 @themtkenyatiimes

In a significant step towards supporting flood-affected communities in Nairobi, Concern Worldwide, in partnership with the Mukuru Slum Development Project and with the support of USAID through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, launched the Flood Emergency Response Project (FERN) on Friday. The initiative aims to address the devastating impact of recent floods on vulnerable communities in Mukuru, Mathare, and Koro-gocho.

Speaking at the launch, Wairimu Wahome, the Country Director for Concern Worldwide, highlighted the immense challenges faced by these communities due to unexpected floods a few months ago. “The floods caught many by surprise, and the level of damage, especially here in Mukuru, has been significant. Today, we are proud to begin addressing the needs of those affected,” Wahome stated.

The FERN project will focus on providing crucial support, particularly targeting 7,800 households—benefiting over 20,000 individuals. A large proportion of those targeted include women and persons with disabilities, given their heightened vulnerability. “About three-quarters of those we aim to assist are women and individuals with disabilities. The scale of their needs is immense,” Wahome

explained.

Central to the initiative is cash assistance, where households will receive Ksh 4,500 per month. “We believe in the dignity and choice of those affected. Through cash transfers, we ensure that individuals have the autonomy to prioritize their own needs,” said Wahome. She added that cash transfers allow recipients to purchase essential items or services without being dictated by external agencies.

In addition to cash transfers, Concern Worldwide is also distributing non-food items (NFIs) such as water containers, basins, soap, and sanitary towels. These items are crucial for promoting hygiene, especially in areas where access to basic sanitation is limited. “This is a community that walks long distances in search of water. The NFIs we are distributing today are essential to help them maintain hygiene, particularly in the aftermath of floods that have worsened their living conditions,” Wahome emphasized.

The flooding has also exacerbated waste management challenges, blocking river channels and increasing the risk of diseases like cholera. To counter this, hygiene promotion efforts are being rolled out through community health promoters. These efforts include raising awareness about sanitation practices and encouraging residents to avoid dumping waste in rivers, which can clog drainages and increase the risk of destruction during future floods.

While the FERN project addresses



USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Daniel Ryan presents Non-Food Items to Mukuru slum beneficiary Joseph Muragu as Concern worldwide country director Wairimu Wahome and Livelihood coordinator Jackson Mekenye look on

immediate needs, Wahome underscored the importance of sustaining these efforts in the long term. “The flooding happened months ago, but its effects will persist. We are not just focused on emergency relief; we are also working with the community to explore sustainable solutions for the future,” she said.

Anne Muthoni, Head of Programs at the Mukuru Skills Development Project, emphasized the role of her organization as the implementing partner for the FERN project. “We are targeting

7,800 households hardest hit by the floods, and our goal is to ensure they receive the necessary support,” Muthoni explained.

She highlighted the grassroots approach used in identifying the beneficiaries. “We involved the community in the targeting process, conducting door-to-door registration to ensure that the most vulnerable people are reached. Many had already moved after the floods destroyed their homes, but we were able to trace them using new mapping techniques. We are com-

mitted to ensuring that those affected by the floods are the ones benefiting from this project,” Muthoni said.

According to the Kenya Red Cross, the April/May floods displaced over 300,000 people in Kenya, resulting in over 300 deaths, 188 injuries, and 75 people reported missing.

The launch of FERN marks a critical step in rebuilding and empowering flood-affected communities in Nairobi, as Concern Worldwide and its partners continue to address both immediate and long-term needs.

Blue Economy Summit 2024 Concludes With Calls For Increased Funding

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatiimes

As the Blue Economy Summit 2024 wrapped up in Mombasa, stakeholders urged the government to allocate more resources to enhance operations in various value chains.

Many cited lack of funding as a major barrier to progress.

David Ogiga, Director of Sote Hub and the summit organiser, emphasized the sector’s importance in creating job opportunities for women and youth, contributing significantly to Kenya’s economy.

“Kenya raises approximately USD

800 million, but only one percent goes to the Blue Economy,” he noted, highlighting the need for greater focus and investment.

This year’s summit saw participation from over ten investors and four ambassadors, showcasing the global interest in the Blue Economy. “This is a milestone, indicating that the Blue Economy is a key area of focus not just in Kenya, but globally,” Ogiga said, mentioning the participation of 40 individuals from Tanzania.

The three-day forum also launched “The Blue Book,” aimed at profiling startups in the sector and linking them with investors. This pioneering initiative in Africa is expected to yield positive results in the coming

year.

Dickson Mizinga, a beneficiary of the EU-funded Go Blue project, was recognised for his conservation efforts at Crab Shark Restaurant, which has planted over three million mangroves in Kilifi County. Mizinga shared how the project provided crucial funding and training, helping their restaurant grow from Sh20 million to Sh50 million annually.

The summit underscored the critical role of Blue Economy forums in connecting startups with investors, ultimately enhancing operations within the sector.



David Ogiga.

For My Math Teacher



By: Jumanazarov Zahidjon Eldo

In the realm of numbers, where logic thrives,
There stands a teacher, who truly excels,
With knowledge that forever derives,
A beacon of wisdom, where understanding dwells.

Her name, a symbol of mathematical grace,
A master of equations, formulas, and more,
In her presence, numbers find their rightful place,
As she guides us through the vast mathematical lore.

With patience as her shield, she breaks down
each concept,
Ensuring every student comprehends with ease,
Her explanations, like a gentle wind adept,
Clearing away confusion, like a calming breeze.

In her classroom, numbers come alive,
Transforming into puzzles waiting to be solved,
With his guidance, we learn to strive,
To unravel the mysteries that numbers have evolved.

She encourages us to think beyond the norm,
To question, explore, and seek the unknown,
With every problem, she ignites a spark to transform,
Transforming our minds into a mathematical throne.

Her passion for math, an eternal flame,
Igniting curiosity within each student's heart,
Through challenges and triumphs, she remains the same,
A mentor who plays an invaluable part.

Beyond the realm of math, she teaches us more,
Life lessons woven within each lesson's thread,
She instills in us values we'll forever store,
Guiding us on a path where success will spread.

So let us honor this math teacher so dear,
Whose dedication and knowledge never cease,
In our hearts, her teachings will forever adhere,
A guiding light in our pursuit of mathematical peace.

For she is not just a teacher of numbers and sums,

But a mentor who shapes futures with care,
In the realm of math, she truly becomes,
A cherished figure, beyond compare.

(This poem is dedicated to Sultanova Diyora Ozodovna, a mathematics teacher at school No. 16 of Narpay district of Samarkand region)

Water Is The Source Of Life



The importance of water is immense for humanity. It is not only a source of life but also an essential part of nature. Water participates in all the processes necessary for life and plays an indispensable role in our daily activities. In this article, we will discuss the significance of water, its conservation, and proper usage. Water is an inseparable part of life. All organisms on Earth, including humans and nature, need water. Water plays a crucial role not only as a drinking source but also in maintaining the stability of ecosystems, agriculture, industry, and our daily lives. In this article, we will discuss the importance of water, its role in human life, and the issue of water scarcity.

Importance of Water

1. Biological Role: Water is an essential component for all living organisms. In humans, water makes up about 60-70% of the body. It participates in digestion, metabolism, and thermoregulation processes.

2. Ecological Role: Water is a key factor for ecosystems. It affects plant growth, animal survival, and biological diversity. Clean water sources help maintain natural

balance.

3. Economic Role: Providing water for agriculture is crucial for the success of farming activities. In industrial sectors as well, water is used in energy production and manufacturing processes.

4. Importance in Daily Life: Each person needs to drink an average of 2-3 liters of water per day; it also plays a significant role in household tasks (cooking, cleaning).

Water supply has become a global issue today. Many countries are suffering from water scarcity. This is caused by climate change, agricultural activities, and industrial waste. Additionally, the rapid development of cities is putting more pressure on water resources.

The Problem of Water Scarcity

The problem of water scarcity is increasingly intensifying worldwide. This is due to decreasing water resources in rural areas, direct disposal of industrial waste into water bodies, and climate change. In many developing countries, the lack of access to clean drinking water poses a serious threat to people's health and lives.

Conclusion

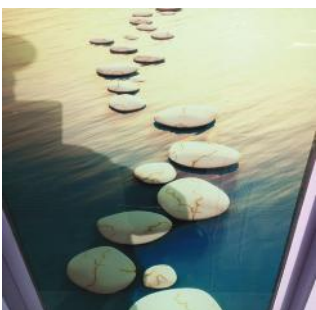
Water is the source of life; its importance cannot be expressed in mere words.

Many aspects related to our health and environmental conservation are dependent on water. Therefore, it is essential that we use water wisely and that protecting it becomes everyone's responsibility. To combat the issue of water scarcity, each one of us must adopt a responsible approach; only then can we leave clean and sufficient water resources for future generations.

Lazizbek Raximov
Bukhara State University



Miami Miami



While the uptight Hebrew, serial killer, powerful thanks to Yankee and European weapons, envied by many nations for his ability to kill and murder the Palestinian people, doesn't give a damn about the lives of that people.

People of all peoples, who have never learned and will never learn the lesson of wars, hold their noses when reading or seeing the news of so many deaths in Gaza, in Syria, Libya, Yemen, and so many other peoples, among whose subjects it is never usual there is no one who says: "How well that uncle clod kills" who obtained master's degrees in Genocide with great pleasure and are diligent, surpassing his Nazi or fascist teachers.

While the dead fall like bedbugs, how many innocents! in celebrations of Death; The festivals of Life are celebrated by the prisoners of Liar and Hypocrisy who amaze the people, trying to enliven the people with their gargantuan festivities and feasts, such as Carnival in Rio, at the Loews Coral Gables Hotel; Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

of Miami-Dade County; Blue Gala in Biscayne Blvd Way, Miami; Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida; Black Tie & Blue Jeans Gala, at JW Marriott Marquis Miami; Moonlight Kayak Tour at Deering Estate; Lighthouses of Biscayne Bay Cruise; South Florida Symphony Orchestra Presents Stravinsky, Ravel, Bernstein and Zwilich; Brévo Theater – Tales In Living Color; etc.

Nor the events of the Miami Spanish Cultural Center: La Casa de Bernarda Alba, by Federico García Lorca, at the Miami Dade-County Auditorium; Neither the FlamenGO, at the James L. Knight Center, mitigate the pain of so much murderous and gratuitous death that the serial killers have created an Aria coming from the mouths of the cannon and the shrapnel of the grenades and bombs, which, for these ladies and gentlemen of High Society pleasure, it gives them such satisfaction that they celebrate it to the four winds, spreading its joy and fame in both hemispheres.

I remain as if dead watching these luxurious ballroom dances on a floor where men, women and children lie buried alive who, because they were born in Palestine, will never escape danger. My soul is filled with pain, fear and sorrow, knowing that some other day we will have to listen to our own cries, because there will always be a serial killer willing to overtake a Government and commit his criminal misdeeds and murderous desires, already in the USA, in Russia, in North Korea, Europe, Africa, China.

-Daniel de Culla

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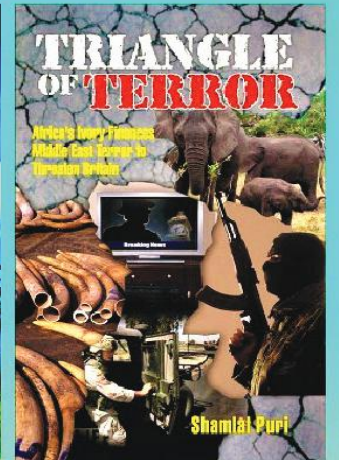
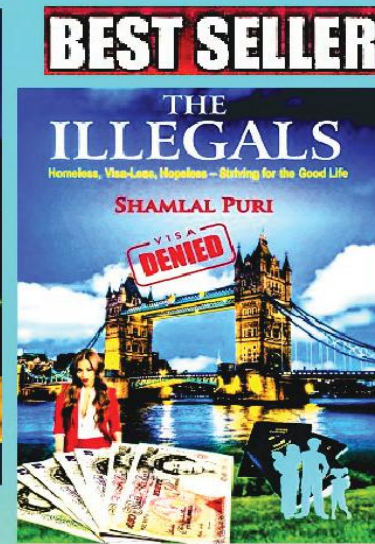
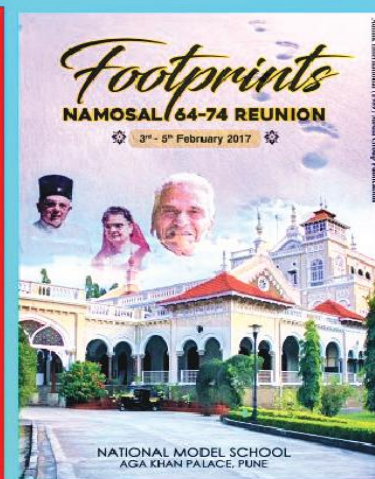
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How AI Is Changing Homework For Good



By: William Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

As a teacher, one is always excited about the new opportunity and the chance to bring perspective into the classroom, shape minds and influence futures.

But some practices, like assigning homework, have been so ingrained in the education system that they

go unquestioned—until now. The integration of AI in assisting children with homework is becoming increasingly relevant in educational systems worldwide.

The use of AI to generate high-quality assignments fundamentally undermines the educational value of homework, as it has traditionally been conceived.

Students could easily submit AI-generated work that did not represent their learning, or skills. This is not to say that students shouldn't use AI; rather, it highlights the importance of guiding students on how to use AI responsibly and effectively for research at home.

AI is a powerful tool, much like a hammer. In the right context, it can build and create. Misused, it can cause harm. In education, AI should be leveraged to complement and enhance learning, not substitute for the student's intellectual effort. Teachers can promote more in-class assignments to effectively assess each student's understanding and abilities.

Over time, familiarity with students'

writing styles and skills helps teachers identify when AI might have been used in assignments. Personal connection and familiarity are key to effective teaching and assessment.

Guided use of AI for research and brainstorming should be encouraged while doing assignments with critical evaluation and editing of the generated content. This helps learners develop analytical skills and maintain their voice in their work. Teachers should not shy away from using AI to streamline administrative tasks, generate lesson plans, or even create tests. This can free up more time for personalized instruction and student engagement.

The evolving role of AI in education is a topic of global debate. There is the necessity of integrating AI into teaching while maintaining a critical perspective. When used appropriately, AI can enhance educational outcomes, however, over-reliance might undermine the development of essential skills in students. In time, will AI replace teachers? Absolutely not! Teachers who will not



adopt the use of AI will be replaced by those who will be using AI.

The landscape of education is changing and teachers should be flexible enough to adapt to advancements in technology. AI has made it easier than ever for students to outsource their learning, which can be detrimental if not managed properly. By focusing on in-class assignments and guided use of AI, educators can foster a learning environment that

values authentic student effort and promotes critical thinking. This approach not only respects the integrity of education but also prepares students to navigate a world where AI is increasingly prevalent.

William Mwangi Is The Principal, Crawford International School, Senior School

Reusable Sanitary Towel Manufacturing Plant Launched In Migori Town

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Migori Women Representative's office, in partnership with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has launched a Reusable Sanitary Towel manufacturing plant in Migori Town.

Speaking over the weekend during the launch of the plant, the Women Representative Fatuma Muhammed said the target was to assist vulnerable school going children access sanitary towels with ease.

She said the plant would also be making school uniforms for vulnerable school-going children within the county.

The Legislator noted that the national government has been having a programme of supplying sanitary towels to school-going girls but claimed that since the 2022 elections, the government has only been



able to supply the towels once in her county as far as she was aware.

Fatuma acknowledged the majority of the vulnerable girls have been suffering in silence for lack of the essential item and that the establishment of the reusable manufacturing plant would solve this challenge for them and restore their dignity.

She also disclosed that reusable towels have a longevity of up to six years if properly maintained adding that parents and guardians of the vul-

nerable school-going girls would be able to cut the costs of buying disposal ones.

The manufacturing plant has already employed 60 people, mainly women, disabled and young people from Migori County to empower them economically.

Fatuma was thankful to TIKA for supporting Migori County to ensure that vulnerable school-going girls are comfortable and able to better their education standards.



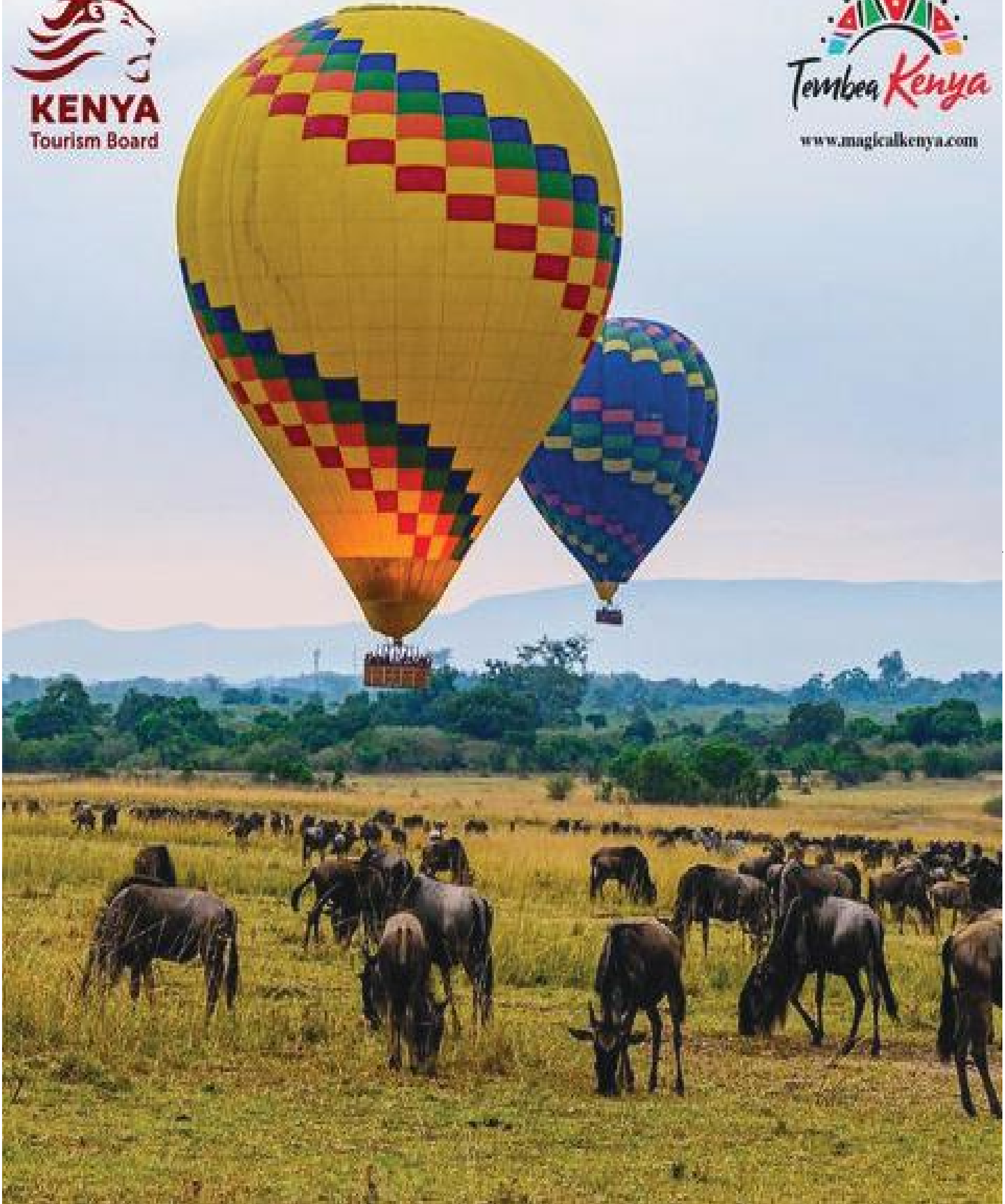
TIKA Coordinator Yasmin Cansuz said that the partnership with the Migori Women Rep's office was basically for social protection of the vulnerable school going girls in terms of their dignity.

She noted that the manufacturing plant would help the vulnerable girls pursue their education without worrying about their basic needs of sanitary towels and uniforms.

She disclosed that the agency has done more than 200 projects across

the country to empower rural communities for social and economic development and promote decent living.

The Turkish Embassy in Kenya has also supported Migori County by drilling boreholes to provide clean drinking water for both humans and livestock.



Beyond Bankability: Navigating The Exclusions In Kenya's Public-Private Partnerships Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a significant mechanism for financing infrastructure and service delivery in Kenya. However, not all projects are suitable for this funding model. Understanding which projects cannot be funded through PPPs is crucial for policymakers, investors, and stakeholders aiming to navigate the complexities of this framework effectively. This article delves into the categories of projects that are typically excluded from PPP funding in Kenya, providing insights into the underlying reasons and implications.

The first category of projects that often falls outside the PPP funding framework includes those lacking bankability. In Kenya, while the Public Private Partnerships Act does not explicitly mandate that a project must be bankable before it can be proposed, the reality is starkly different. Investors are generally reluctant to engage with projects that do not demonstrate financial viability. The absence of a robust financial model can lead to significant challenges in attracting private investment, as seen in various stalled projects across the country. For instance, despite a pipeline of over seventy potential PPP projects since 2013, only a single project has achieved financial closure, highlighting the critical importance of bankability in attracting private sector participation.

Another significant category consists of social infrastructure projects. These include essential services such as education and healthcare, which often require guaranteed public funding rather than private investment. The rationale behind this exclusion is rooted in the nature of these services; they are fundamental to societal well-being and often need to be affordable and accessible to all citizens. For example, while there have been attempts to involve private entities in health service delivery, public outcry over cost implications has led to a reevaluation of such partnerships, demonstrating that social equity concerns can override potential financial benefits.

Projects characterized by high political risk also face exclusion from PPP funding. The political environment plays a crucial role in determining project viability. In regions where political instability or public opposition is prevalent, private investors may shy away from engaging due to fears of project disruption or unfavorable policy changes. This scenario has been evident in various infrastructural initiatives where local commu-



nities have resisted government-led PPP projects, citing concerns over land acquisition and environmental impacts. Such resistance can deter potential investors who prioritize stable and predictable environments for their investments.

Duration limits imposed by Kenyan legislation further delineate which projects can be considered for PPP funding. The New PPP Act stipulates that arrangements cannot exceed thirty years. This limitation poses challenges for projects requiring longer-term commitments, such as large-scale energy or transportation initiatives that necessitate extensive capital investment and long payback periods. For instance, renewable energy projects often require longer contracts to ensure profitability; thus, they may not align with the current regulatory framework governing PPPs in Kenya. Moreover, projects involving essential government functions are typically excluded from PPP arrangements. These functions are critical for national security and public order, necessitating complete governmental control over operations and outcomes. For instance, defense and law enforcement services are areas where public sector control is paramount; hence, any attempt to privatize these functions through PPPs would likely face insurmountable legal and ethical barriers.

The requirement for comprehensive feasibility studies also acts as a barrier for many proposed projects seeking PPP funding. The New PPP Act mandates detailed feasibility analyses to ascertain project viability before any proposal can proceed. This requirement ensures that only well-

searched and viable projects move forward but can also stifle innovation by discouraging proposals that may not fit traditional feasibility models yet hold potential for societal benefit.

Inadequate planning remains a persistent challenge within the Kenyan PPP landscape. Identifying suitable projects and accurately gauging associated risks is crucial for successful implementation. Many proposed initiatives fail to meet the rigorous standards set forth by regulatory bodies due to insufficient groundwork or lack of stakeholder engagement during the planning phase. This inadequacy often leads to missed opportunities for impactful partnerships that could address pressing infrastructure needs.

Additionally, the complexity involved in securing approvals from various governmental entities can hinder project progression under the PPP model. The New Act emphasizes collaboration between contracting authorities and the newly established PPP Directorate; however, navigating this bureaucratic landscape can be cumbersome and time-consuming. Delays in approvals can result in lost investor interest and increased project costs, further complicating the already intricate process of initiating a successful PPP.

The role of government support measures (GSMs) is another critical aspect influencing project eligibility for PPP funding. The New Act outlines specific conditions under which GSMs may be granted; however, these measures are limited to scenarios where an imbalance in benefits arises or where fiscal capabilities are exceeded by project demands. This

limitation constrains potential projects that might otherwise benefit from government backing but do not meet stringent criteria set forth by regulatory frameworks.

As Kenya continues to refine its approach to PPPs through legislative reforms aimed at enhancing investor confidence, it remains imperative for stakeholders to understand these exclusions clearly. The ongoing efforts to streamline processes and improve institutional frameworks signify a commitment to fostering an environment conducive to successful partnerships; however, recognizing which projects cannot be funded through this model is equally important.

In conclusion, while Public-Private Partnerships hold immense potential for addressing Kenya's infrastructure gaps, understanding their limitations is essential for effective implementation. By recognizing which types of projects are unsuitable for PPP funding—ranging from those lacking bankability to high-risk political endeavors—stakeholders can better strategize their approaches and foster partnerships that truly serve public interests while ensuring sustainable development outcomes. As Kenya navigates this complex landscape, continuous dialogue among government entities, private investors, and civil society will be vital in shaping a more inclusive and effective framework for future collaborations.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher

Worth Noting:

- Projects characterized by high political risk also face exclusion from PPP funding. The political environment plays a crucial role in determining project viability. In regions where political instability or public opposition is prevalent, private investors may shy away from engaging due to fears of project disruption or unfavorable policy changes.

- This scenario has been evident in various infrastructural initiatives where local communities have resisted government-led PPP projects, citing concerns over land acquisition and environmental impacts. Such resistance can deter potential investors who prioritize stable and predictable environments for their investments.

- Duration limits imposed by Kenyan legislation further delineate which projects can be considered for PPP funding.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Call To Boost Coverage Of The Blue Economy: Harnessing Kenya's Maritime Potential

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The Blue Economy represents a transformative opportunity for Kenya, offering a pathway to sustainable economic growth through the responsible use of aquatic resources. As discussions surrounding the Blue Economy gain momentum, it is imperative to boost coverage and awareness of its potential benefits, not only for economic development but also for environmental conservation and community empowerment.

The concept of the Blue Economy encompasses a wide range of activities related to the sustainable use and conservation of marine and freshwater resources. This includes fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, coastal tourism, and renewable energy, among others. Given that approximately 71% of the planet is covered by oceans, the potential for harnessing these vast resources is immense. In Kenya, with its extensive coastline along the Indian Ocean and numerous inland water bodies, there exists a unique opportunity to leverage these resources for national development.

One of the primary advantages of promoting the Blue Economy is its potential to create jobs and stimulate economic growth. The fisheries sector alone is a significant contributor to Kenya's economy, providing livelihoods for thousands of families along the coast and around freshwater lakes. By investing in sustainable fishing practices and aquaculture, Kenya can enhance food security while ensuring

that fish stocks remain viable for future generations. This approach not only supports local communities but also aligns with global efforts to combat overfishing and protect marine biodiversity.

Moreover, the Blue Economy can play a crucial role in enhancing tourism in Kenya. Coastal tourism has long been a cornerstone of the country's economy, attracting millions of visitors each year to its beautiful beaches and rich marine life. By promoting sustainable tourism practices that prioritize environmental conservation and community involvement, Kenya can ensure that this vital sector continues to thrive while minimizing its ecological footprint. Initiatives such as eco-tourism and community-based conservation projects can empower local communities, providing them with economic incentives to protect their natural resources.

To fully realize the potential of the Blue Economy, however, it is essential to develop robust policies and frameworks that support sustainable practices. The establishment of a comprehensive Blue Economy policy in Kenya is critical for guiding investment decisions, regulating resource use, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. This policy should prioritize inclusivity by involving local communities, civil society organizations, and private sector actors in decision-making processes.

Additionally, enhancing research and innovation in marine technologies will be vital for unlocking new op-

portunities within the Blue Economy. Investments in research can lead to advancements in sustainable fishing techniques, aquaculture practices, and marine conservation strategies. Collaborations with academic institutions and international organizations can facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building in these areas.

Furthermore, addressing challenges such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is crucial for safeguarding Kenya's aquatic resources. Strengthening monitoring and enforcement mechanisms within Kenya's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) will help protect fish stocks from overexploitation while ensuring compliance with international fishing regulations. This effort requires investment in technology such as satellite surveillance systems and training for enforcement personnel.

Partnerships at both national and regional levels will also be instrumental in promoting the Blue Economy. Collaborating with neighboring countries through initiatives like the East African Community (EAC) can facilitate joint management of shared water bodies while enhancing regional trade opportunities. Such partnerships can foster knowledge sharing on best practices for sustainable resource management.

In addition to economic benefits, promoting the Blue Economy aligns with global sustainability goals such as those outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By focusing on sustainable practices within aquatic ecosystems,

Kenya can contribute to efforts aimed at conserving marine biodiversity (SDG 14) while fostering economic growth (SDG 8). This alignment with international goals enhances Kenya's reputation as a responsible steward of its natural resources on the global stage.

As discussions around climate change intensify, the resilience offered by healthy marine ecosystems becomes increasingly important. Coastal areas serve as critical buffers against climate impacts such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. By investing in ecosystem restoration projects—such as mangrove reforestation—Kenya can enhance its climate resilience while simultaneously supporting biodiversity conservation.

The Go Blue Project, launched by the Kenyan government with support from international partners like the European Union, exemplifies efforts aimed at advancing the Blue Economy agenda across six coastal counties: Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, and Tana River. This initiative aims to create over 3,000 jobs for youth and women while promoting sustainable practices across various sectors such as recycling, small-scale fishing, and eco-tourism.

Finally, boosting coverage of the Blue Economy requires effective communication strategies that raise awareness about its benefits among various stakeholders. Engaging local communities through education campaigns can foster a sense of ownership over marine resources while encouraging sustain-

able practices. Additionally, leveraging digital platforms to share success stories from existing Blue Economy initiatives can inspire broader participation across sectors.

In conclusion, boosting coverage of the Blue Economy presents an invaluable opportunity for Kenya to harness its maritime potential sustainably. By prioritizing inclusive policies that promote responsible resource management while fostering innovation and collaboration among stakeholders, Kenya can unlock significant economic benefits while protecting its precious aquatic ecosystems. As we navigate this transformative journey towards a thriving Blue Economy, it is essential that all actors—government agencies, local communities, civil society organizations, and private sector players—work together towards a common goal: a sustainable future where both people and nature thrive.

By embracing this holistic approach to managing our maritime resources responsibly, we not only secure economic prosperity but also ensure environmental sustainability for generations to come. The time has come for Kenya to take decisive action in promoting its Blue Economy—an endeavor that promises not only growth but also resilience in an ever-changing world.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Rising Above Psychiatric Disorder

By **Wangari Kariuki**

In the bustling halls of Rongo University, amidst the academic fervor and bustling student life, there is a story of resilience and determination that shines bright. Meet Reagan Ogotu, a beacon of hope and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Born with a disability that posed numerous challenges throughout his life, Reagan refused to let any obstacle stand in the way of his dreams. From his early years, he faced skepticism and doubt from society, but his spirit remained unbroken.

Arriving at Rongo University, Ogotu encountered a new set of challenges.

Navigating the sprawling campus presented physical obstacles, and the academic workload demanded relentless dedication. Yet, he approached each hurdle with a tenacity that inspired those around him.

"I never saw my disability as a limitation," he says with a determined glint in his eyes. "If anything, it fueled my determination to prove that I am capable of achieving anything I set my mind to."

Despite facing skepticism and occasional discrimination, Reagan immersed himself in his studies, excelling in his chosen field despite the odds. He sought support from peers and faculty, building a network of al-

lies who recognized his potential and cheered him on every step of the way. The journey was not without its moments of doubt and despair.

There were times when Ogotu questioned his ability to continue, moments when the weight of his circumstances threatened to overwhelm him. But each time, he found the strength to persevere, drawing from an inner reservoir of resilience that refused to be depleted.

"I had to remind myself of why I started this journey in the first place," he reflects. "I knew that giving up was never an option, not when so much was at stake."

As he prepares to enter his final year

at Rongo University, Reagan is filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. He has defied the odds, shattered stereotypes, and emerged as a testament to the power of determination and perseverance.

But his journey is far from over. With graduation on the horizon, Reagan looks ahead to the next chapter with optimism and determination. He dreams of a future where his story inspires others facing similar challenges, where his journey serves as a beacon of hope for those in need of reassurance that anything is possible.

As he stands on the brink of this new beginning, Ogotu offers a message of encouragement to anyone facing

their own uphill battle:

"Believe in yourself, even when others doubt you. Trust in your abilities, and never let anyone define your worth. With perseverance and determination, you can overcome any obstacle and achieve your dreams. I am living proof of that."

Glance box

** I never saw my disability as a limitation.*

** I had to remind myself of why I started this journey in the first place.*

Kenya's Perspective And Complex Nature Of Its Development Strategies

Exploring the intersection of economic expansion and environmental sustainability in Kenya, this article delves into the complexities of development strategies.



By: Midmark Onsongo
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In the landscape of Kenya, where the sun rises over the sprawling savannah and sets behind the shimmering shores of Lake Victoria, a silent struggle brews—a battle between burgeoning growth and the urgent need for sustainability. It's a story as old as time, echoing through the corridors of history, reverberating with the cries of the Maasai warriors and the whispers of the ancient trees that stand sentinel over the land. As the nation grapples with the dual pressures of economic development and environmental stewardship, one cannot help but wonder: can Kenya truly balance growth and sustainability? Can this magnificent nation, poised on the precipice of greatness, weave a narrative that harmonizes the cacophony of progress with the delicate symphony of preservation? It is in this crucible of contradictions that we find our tale—a tale of hope, hubris, and the harsh realities of a world in flux.

The vibrant tapestry of Kenya's economy is woven with threads of agriculture, tourism, and burgeoning technology sectors. The figures are nothing short of dazzling: according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the economy grew by a staggering 7.5% in 2021, fueled by the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resilience of its diverse sectors. Yet, as the economic engines rev up, the shadows of environmental degradation loom larger. Irony drips from the fabric of this progress—while Kenya aspires to be the economic beacon of East Africa, it grapples with the paradox of being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

In fact, the World Bank reports that climate change could cost Kenya up to 2.8% of its GDP annually by 2030, a sobering statistic that underlines the urgency of addressing sustainability in development. Imagine a bustling market in Nairobi, alive with the vibrant colors of fresh pro-

duce, the melodious calls of vendors, and the intoxicating aromas of street food wafting through the air. Here, the pulse of the nation beats strong, and the entrepreneurial spirit thrives. However, behind this façade of economic vibrancy lies a sobering truth: urbanization is skyrocketing, with Kenya's urban population projected to reach 50% by 2030.

The rapid growth of cities brings with it a myriad of challenges—unplanned settlements, waste management crises, and strained resources. Herein lies the antithesis of progress; as the cities expand, so too does the need for sustainable solutions that can accommodate this growth without compromising the environment. To address these challenges, Kenya must embrace a holistic approach to development—one that recognizes the intricate interplay between economic growth and environmental sustainability. It is a tightrope walk, balancing on the thin line between progress and preservation, akin to a dancer gracefully navigating the complexities of a choreographed routine. Kenya has made strides in this regard, exemplified by the Vision 2030 initiative, which seeks to transform the nation into a globally competitive middle-income country.

However, this vision is not without its hurdles; the realities of implementation often clash with the lofty ideals of sustainable development. As the saying goes, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions," and Kenya must tread carefully, lest it fall into the abyss of unsustainable practices.

Moreover, the country's reliance on agriculture—a sector that employs over 75% of the population—presents both an opportunity and a challenge. Agriculture is the lifeblood of Kenya, yet it is also a significant contributor to environmental degradation. The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, deforestation for land expansion, and overexploitation of water resources paint a grim picture of the sector's sustainability. The metaphor of a double-edged sword comes to mind; while agriculture holds the potential to drive economic growth and food security, it also poses significant risks to the environment.

The Kenyan government has recognized the need for reform and has initiated various policies aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural



practices. For instance, the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) outlines strategies for climate-smart agriculture, advocating for organic farming and sustainable land management practices. However, the implementation of these strategies remains a Herculean task, often hindered by bureaucratic red tape and a lack of resources. Herein lies the juxtaposition of ambition and reality; while the government may craft eloquent policies, the on-ground execution often falls short of expectations. Moreover, the burgeoning tourism sector presents a tantalizing opportunity for economic growth, but it also raises critical questions about sustainability. Kenya is blessed with breathtaking landscapes, from the majestic Mount Kenya to the stunning beaches of the Indian Ocean, drawing millions of tourists each year. Yet, as the tourist numbers swell, so do the environmental pressures. The irony is palpable: while tourism generates substantial revenue—contributing approximately 10% to the nation's GDP—it also places immense strain on fragile ecosystems. Coral reefs are bleached, wildlife habitats are encroached upon, and local communities often bear the brunt of the environmental impact. Tourism can be a double-edged sword. It can provide economic benefits while simultaneously jeopardizing the very natural resources that attract visitors. To navigate this precarious landscape, Kenya must adopt a model of sustainable tourism—one that prioritizes conservation while fostering

economic growth. The concept of ecotourism has emerged as a promising avenue, encouraging tourists to engage with local communities and participate in conservation efforts. By investing in sustainable tourism practices, Kenya can create a win-win situation—where economic growth aligns harmoniously with environmental stewardship. As Kenya strives to strike a balance between growth and sustainability, it must also engage with the global community. Climate change knows no borders, and as such, international cooperation is paramount. The Paris Agreement serves as a guiding light, encouraging nations to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development. Kenya has made commendable strides in this arena, pledging to reduce its emissions by 32% by 2030. However, lofty commitments require tangible actions, and the nation must ensure that its development trajectory aligns with its climate goals. In this grand narrative of balancing growth and sustainability, the role of civil society cannot be overlooked. Grassroots movements and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a pivotal role in advocating for sustainable practices and holding the government accountable. Their voices echo through the valleys and hills, urging for a collective response to the challenges that lie ahead. The metaphor of a choir resonates here; when harmonized, their voices can create a powerful symphony of change, compelling the government and private sector

to prioritize sustainability in their endeavors. Ultimately, the quest for a sustainable future in Kenya is a journey fraught with challenges and opportunities. It is a narrative of resilience, innovation, and the unwavering spirit of its people. As Kenya navigates the turbulent waters of economic growth and environmental sustainability, it must remember that progress is not a destination but a continuous journey. The questions linger in the air: Can Kenya transcend the challenges it faces? Can it emerge as a beacon of sustainable development in a world grappling with the consequences of its own excesses? The answers remain elusive, yet the potential is undeniably vast. Kenya stands at the crossroads of growth and sustainability, it must embrace the paradoxes that define its journey. The interplay between economic ambition and environmental responsibility is not merely a matter of choice; it is an imperative that will shape the future of this magnificent nation. The path forward may be steep and fraught with obstacles, yet with vision, determination, and the collective will of its people, Kenya can carve a path towards a sustainable future—one that honors its heritage while embracing the promise of tomorrow. The sun will rise over the savannah once more, casting a golden light on a land that dares to dream and strives to achieve.

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High-Profile Cases: How Black Celebrities Face Legal Scrutiny in America



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In recent years, the American justice system has seen a surge in high-profile prosecutions of successful African Americans, particularly those in the film and music industries. This trend has sparked debates about racial disparities in the legal system, with many questioning whether these figures are disproportionately targeted compared to their counterparts. From controversial trials of icons like Bill Cosby and R. Kelly, to current legal battles involving stars like Tory Lanez and Jonathan Majors, these cases often blur the lines between criminal justice and cultural biases. As we delve into the intricacies of these prosecutions, we will analyze the legal outcomes, media portrayals, and broader societal implications for African Americans navigating fame in an often unforgiving legal landscape.

This article seeks to explore the legal journeys of these individuals and question whether their status as prominent Black figures in America plays a role in the intensity of scrutiny and the outcomes they face in court.

R. Kelly

Charges: R. Kelly was convicted of multiple charges, including sexual abuse, exploitation of minors, and racketeering. The charges stemmed from years of allegations that he sexually abused young women and underage girls, often using his fame to lure them in.

Outcome: In 2021, R. Kelly was found guilty in New York and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Bill Cosby

Charges: Bill Cosby faced numerous accusations of sexual assault and misconduct over several decades. In 2018, he was convicted of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand in 2004.

Outcome: He was sentenced to 3-10 years in prison but was released in 2021 after his conviction was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court due to procedural issues.

P. Diddy (Sean Combs)

Charges: While Sean Combs has not been convicted of any major crimes, he has faced legal issues, including weapons charges from a 1999 incident at a nightclub in New York, in which a shooting took place. He was acquitted of all charges in 2001.

Outcome: Combs was acquitted, and no jail time was served.

Sean "Diddy" Combs, a prominent figure in the music industry, is currently facing serious legal challenges. He has been charged with sex trafficking, racketeering, and coercion, among other offenses. These allegations span over 25 years and involve claims from 120 individuals, including both men and women, some of whom were minors at the time. The accusations include instances where victims were allegedly drugged and coerced into sexual acts at industry events, often with promises of stardom. Some of the alleged victims claim the abuse occurred when they were as young as nine years old.

In the ongoing legal case against Sean "Diddy" Combs, one detail that has garnered significant attention is the discovery of over 1,000 bottles of baby oil during a raid on his properties. These were allegedly linked to "freak-off" parties, which are described as coerced sexual encounters. Diddy has been charged with crimes including sex trafficking and racketeering, though he has pleaded not guilty. The large quantity of baby oil has become a focus of both media jokes and serious discussions surrounding his actions.

Diddy has pleaded not guilty and remains in custody, having been denied bail twice. His legal team strongly denies all allegations, calling the media attention surrounding the case a "reckless circus." They insist he will prove his innocence in court. The cases are expected to move forward with lawsuits being filed across multiple states, including New York and California.

Chris Brown

Charges: Chris Brown was famously charged with felony assault after an altercation with then-girlfriend Rihanna in 2009. Since then, he has faced various other accusations related to violence, including assault and battery.

Outcome: Brown was sentenced to probation, community service, and domestic violence counseling after the 2009 incident. He has since faced other legal challenges but has avoided significant jail time.

Tory Lanez

Charges: Tory Lanez was convicted in 2023 of assault and weapons charges related to the shooting of fellow artist Megan Thee Stallion in 2020.

Outcome: Lanez was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2023.

Kanye West

Charges: While Kanye West has not been formally charged with any major crimes, he has faced a series of lawsuits, including claims of assault, battery, and harassment. His erratic public behavior has also drawn attention, but no significant legal consequences have followed.

Jonathan Majors

Charge: Jonathan Majors, a rising star in Hollywood, was arrested in March 2023 for domestic assault charges involving his ex-girlfriend, Grace Jabbari. He was accused of assaulting her in a car, leading to injuries such as a broken finger and swollen ear. In December 2023, Majors was found guilty of reckless assault and harassment but was acquitted of intentional assault.

Tendency to Bring Successful Black men Down

The prosecution of high-profile black men in the U.S. raises questions about systemic issues in the criminal justice system. Many observers have pointed out that black men, regardless of their fame or success, are disproportionately affected by legal action compared to their white counterparts. This could be a reflection of broader racial disparities in the U.S. justice system, where black individuals are often scrutinized more intensely.

However, some of the cases, such as those involving R. Kelly and Bill Cosby, involved serious criminal actions with multiple accusers and overwhelming evidence. The legal actions taken were widely supported by victims' rights groups and the public.

At the same time, there is a broader historical context in the U.S. of successful black individuals being targeted by legal and societal pressures, especially when their success challenges established social structures, more especially those in music and film industry. Critics argue that the intense media scrutiny and the frequency of charges against black celebrities could indicate a double standard in how justice is pursued.

The future of the film and music industry could face significant shifts if prominent African American icons



P. Diddy

continue to be prosecuted and sentenced. Their absence may lead to a cultural void, affecting representation and diversity in these industries. Additionally, it could deter future talents from marginalized communities due to fears of increased scrutiny. The industry may also face increased pressure to address issues of systemic bias, both within Hollywood and the justice system. Public trust in institutions might erode if these figures are perceived as being disproportionately targeted.

The ongoing prosecution and sentencing of successful African American icons could significantly impact diversity in the film and music industries. With fewer prominent Black figures in leadership or influential roles, representation on-screen and behind the scenes may diminish. This would reduce the variety of stories, perspectives, and cultural experiences that diverse talent brings to these industries. Furthermore, it could create a chilling effect for emerging Black artists who may feel deterred from pursuing careers due to heightened legal scrutiny and potential bias, ultimately threatening progress made toward inclusivity.

To address the issue of African Americans being prosecuted more frequently than their white counterparts, America needs systemic reforms. These include:

Criminal justice reform: Implement policies that address racial disparities in policing, sentencing, and incarceration.

Bias training: Law enforcement and judicial officers should undergo mandatory anti-bias training.

Equal representation: Increase the diversity of judges, prosecutors, and decision-makers in the legal system.

Policy review: Review and revise laws that disproportionately affect African Americans.

Community investment: Address

underlying socio-economic issues through education, housing, and employment opportunities to reduce crime rates and inequities.

These changes aim to create a more just and equitable system.

The arrest, prosecution, and sentencing of African Americans in the U.S. justice system highlight deep-rooted racial disparities that continue to plague the country. Despite reforms, African Americans are disproportionately targeted, often facing harsher punishments than their white counterparts. This ongoing imbalance fuels distrust in the legal system and perpetuates systemic inequities. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive reforms in law enforcement, judicial processes, and socio-economic policies to ensure equal treatment and justice for all, regardless of race. Only through such changes can real progress be made toward equity.

While it is important to recognize the legal legitimacy of many cases, it is equally crucial to acknowledge the racial disparities that exist in the U.S. justice system. These disparities are not only reflected in the prosecution of famous individuals but also in the mass incarceration of black men and the over-policing of black communities compared to white communities.

America needs to recognize that the Black man is not a problem in society, and people of color are not the only ones who cause trouble. Stereotyping based on race undermines the potential contributions of African Americans to nation-building. It is essential to understand that everyone, regardless of race or background, has a role to play in shaping the nation's future. By valuing the diversity and talents of Black individuals, the country can work toward a more inclusive and unified society that benefits all its citizens.

Sports >> *Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag will hope a battling draw at Aston Villa will relieve the fierce scrutiny of his position.

Manchester United Earn Battling Draw At Aston Villa



Action between Manchester United and Aston. Villa. PHOTO/Man United/X

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag will hope a battling draw at Aston Villa will relieve the fierce scrutiny of his position. The club's co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe was in attendance at Villa Park to see United at least show some of the resilience that was missing in the collapse at home to Tottenham and the defensive solidity lacking in Porto in the Europa League. Ten Hag turned to the veteran duo of Harry Maguire and Jonny Evans to add some steel, although he lost the England defender to injury right on half-time. Marcus Rashford twice tested Villa keeper Emi Martinez while United captain Bruno Fernandes came closest with a second half free-kick that bounced back off the bar at the Holte End. Substitute Antony also forced Martinez

into an acrobatic save from long range. United keeper Andre Onana was relatively untroubled, although he did well to athletically push away a power drive from Villa midfielder man Youri Tielemans. Ten Hag must now hope Ratcliffe and the rest of United's watching hierarchy saw enough to keep faith with the Dutchman, although this draw means they are still five games without a win. **Small mercies for Ten Hag** Manchester United simply had to avoid defeat at Aston Villa to ensure the focus on manager Ten Hag did not become more intense, perhaps to the point where the Old Trafford hierarchy felt it was time for a change. It was hardly a sparkling performance, indeed for long periods

this game was bogged down in a morass of mediocrity, but at least United fought for their manager and actually had the better opportunities to win. Ten Hag's quest for defensive solidity after shambolic performances against Spurs and Porto saw him turn to 36-year-old Evans and Maguire as his central defensive partnership with Matthijs de Ligt and Lisandro Martinez dropped. The pair performed creditably, especially Evans – despite losing Maguire alongside him at the interval. Villa were kept at arm's length throughout as United showed increased discipline against Unai Emery's side, always formidable at home, as Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich found out in the Champions League. Ten Hag will be satisfied with

what he saw and may feel aggrieved United did not collect more than a point, especially when Fernandes beat Martinez with a fine free-kick, only to see it strike the woodwork. United's top brass will now have time to take stock in the international break, which they will go into on the back of a decent result before they return to Premier League action against Brentford at Old Trafford.

Villa lack Champions League spark

Aston Villa and their supporters expended so much energy and emotion during Wednesday's superb Champions League victory against Bayern Munich that it was perhaps no surprise such intensity could not be replicated, even for the visit of Manchester United. And so it proved as Villa Park's subdued atmosphere provided a complete contrast to the feverish environment before, during and after the meeting with Bayern. Emery's side lacked the snap and aggression that marked the win over Bayern, with even the second-half introduction of talisman substitute Jhon Duran, the match-winner against the Germans, unable to lift the mood despite being brought on to huge applause. Villa's fans did their best to rouse their side but it was to no avail as they once again relied on the excellence of keeper Emi Martinez, who had more work to do than opposite number Andre Onana – although it did not actually amount to very much. In the end, the animated Emery and his players almost accepted they would have to settle for a draw but this has still been another highly satisfactory week in the development of Aston Villa.

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Sports >> *Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou called his side's collapse against Brighton in the Premier League "probably the worst defeat since I've been here".

Postecoglou Unhappy With 'Worst' Tottenham Defeat



Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou. PHOTO/BBC.

Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou called his side's collapse against Brighton in the Premier League "probably the worst defeat since I've been here". Spurs were 2-0 up after 37 minutes and heading for their sixth successive win in all competitions after goals from Brennan Johnson and James Maddison, but conceded three times in the second half as Brighton took the three points. "It was disappointing and I'm absolutely gutted with that," said Postecoglou. "It's an unacceptable second half – we were nowhere near where we should be. Maybe we got carried away with how we were going. "We kind of accepted our fate and it's hard to understand as we've not done that while I've been here. We usually fight for everything, and when you don't you pay a price." Spurs missed the chance to go sixth in the Premier League and are ninth with three wins, one draw and three losses from their

seven matches. Postecoglou criticised his side's mentality and spirit, adding: "Maybe things were travelling on too smoothly. Football and life will trip you up if you get too far ahead of yourself and that's what it looked like in the second half. "It's a terrible loss for us, as bad as it gets, and there's only one way to fix it and that's my responsibility. "We lost all our duels, we weren't competitive and if you're not competitive, irrespective of what you do tactically, it is not going to work." **'We lost complete control of the game'** Maddison scored his second goal of the season three days after he had been left out of Lee Carsley's England squad for the Nations League fixtures against Greece and Finland. The midfielder called Spurs' loss "a couple of steps back" after gaining five consecutive victories

– against Coventry City in the Carabao Cup, Premier League wins over Brentford and Manchester United and victories in the Europa League versus Qarabag and Ferencvaros. "Brighton are a good side and have good players but when the first goal went in, in adversity in the Premier League you have got to stay strong and weather the storm. The best teams do that but we definitely didn't," added Maddison. "We just couldn't deal with the momentum shift. We lost complete control of the game after the first goal went in. We dealt with momentum very poorly when they were coming at us. It felt like it was attack after attack, we couldn't deal with it and they scored three goals. "We were saying all the right things of not being complacent, but it doesn't mean anything if you don't go out and show it." **'Important to stay positive'**

Brighton moved above Spurs into sixth, and manager Fabian Hurzeler said: "My team deserved to win. They worked hard and focused on the things they could control. "Tottenham always have a great start. They play with intensity and we were not ready for that. We also created chances but defensively we have to improve. We focused on the positive things – the second important thing was to win the duels to build self-confidence. The players worked hard to gain flow and they used it. "In general I learned nothing new – this is always possible in football. When you are 2-0 down it is not easy, but it was important to stay positive and I'm really happy for the players." **BBC**

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Pinto Okowa's Journey From Environmental Engineering To Software Development

By: Joy Atieno Otieno
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In today's rapidly evolving tech world, individuals from diverse backgrounds are increasingly transitioning into software engineering. Pinto Okowa, an environmental engineer based in Belgium, is one such individual. He decided to shift to software development through the ALX 6-month Back-End program, which offers even global learners with Africa roots, the chance to acquire cutting-edge skills in software engineering. Pinto's story is one of determination and passion, showcasing the transformative power of accessible learning.

Pinto's journey began when he reconnected with a former university classmate on LinkedIn. His friend had completed the ALX software engineering program, sparking Pinto's interest in a field he had long been curious about. Despite his background in environmental engineering, Pinto had always wanted to create and build things. Software engineering provided the ideal platform to pursue that passion.

After researching the ALX program, Pinto applied, impressed by the program's affordability compared to similar tech courses in Europe. At a very low facilitation fee, ALX provided a valuable and heavily subsidized investment in his career all thanks to the MasterCard Foundation. Though his shift from environmental engineering to software development might seem drastic, Pinto saw connections between the fields. His work had already exposed him to technology and API integrations, making the transition to back-end development a natural extension of his skills. He chose back-end development to eventually become a full-stack developer.

How ALX Foundations Helps Learners Build More Than Just Coding Skills

Before beginning the core curriculum, Pinto completed the eight-week ALX Foundations program, which focuses on essential soft skills like time management, professional presentation, and teamwork. Although he initially expected to jump straight into coding, Pinto quickly recognized the value of these skills,



Pinto Okowa.

especially in balancing a full-time job with the program's rigorous demands. The foundations program improved his time management and collaboration abilities, both in the course and in his professional life.

The ALX 6-month Back-End learning program offers more than just coding instruction—it provides a well-rounded educational experience. Many students, including Pinto, were initially surprised by the emphasis on soft skills in the ALX Foundations course. While students often expect to dive directly into coding, ALX first focuses on pitching ideas, managing time, and presenting projects—critical skills for entrepreneurial and tech-driven careers. Pinto found these skills particularly useful as someone with entrepreneurial ambitions.

The ALX Back-End program technical curriculum

Once the foundations course was complete, Pinto began the core back-end curriculum, which builds skills and knowledge progressively in web frameworks, text editors like VS Code, programming languages like Python, and database management with SQL. This structured approach helped Pinto feel confident in his learning, especially compared to previous courses he had taken, which lacked clear organization and progression.

Pinto appreciates how ALX prepares students for real-world challenges, equipping them not only with knowledge but also practical skills. Though he hasn't completed the course yet, he has already started applying for jobs, feeling confident in his abilities. Pinto is currently working on his capstone project, a social media API, motivated by his frustrations with existing platforms.

He aims to create a solution that enhances user experience. The skills and knowledge gained from ALX have given him the confidence to tackle real-world problems.

In conclusion, Pinto's journey through ALX exemplifies the program's comprehensive approach, combining technical and soft skills to prepare learners for success in the tech industry. His story is an inspiration, demonstrating that with determination and the right support, anyone can transition into tech and make an impact. Pinto encourages African youth to embrace technology and the opportunities provided by programs like ALX. He believes tech skills are a powerful tool for entrepreneurship, especially in Africa, where resources may be limited. By gaining these skills, young Africans can create their own opportunities and drive positive change.

Worth Noting:

- Pinto's journey began when he reconnected with a former university classmate on LinkedIn. His friend had completed the ALX software engineering program, sparking Pinto's interest in a field he had long been curious about. Despite his background in environmental engineering, Pinto had always wanted to create and build things. Software engineering provided the ideal platform to pursue that passion.

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