



Integrating Smartphones In African Schools: A Right Approach To Digital Education

Africa faces a variety of challenges that continue to hinder its development across multiple sectors, leading to a lag in areas such as economic growth, healthcare, infrastructure, and technology. Limited access to quality healthcare, for example, results in high rates of preventable diseases and maternal and child mortality.

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News>>UDA Names DP Kindiki As New Deputy Party Leader Succeeding Gachagua

P. 8. UDA Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) has appointed Deputy President Kithure Kindiki as its new Deputy Party Leader, effective immediately.



News>>A Beacon Of Hope In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS Despite Circumstances

P. 12. Thirty-five year old David Mwangi is one of many Kiambu residents living with HIV/AIDS, a viral disease that affects the human immune system and is caused by the HIV virus.

Maina Njenga Set Free

Former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga was yesterday released by a Nakuru court after the termination of criminal charges related to unlawful possession of firearms and conspiracy to commit criminal activities.



Maina Njenga waving his supporters as he left the Nakuru Law Courts yesterday. On his left is one of his lawyers, Ndegwa Njiru. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

STORY ON PAGE 8

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

Gachagua Vs Njenga: Who Will Carry The Day?

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes



Rigathi Gachagua.



Maina Njenga

Worth Noting:

- The DPP also pointed out procedural irregularities, noting that some law enforcement officers had failed to properly document the arrests of the suspects, Mr. Njenga and 11 co-accused, which weakened the evidential basis of the case.
- Nakuru based Principal Magistrate Kipkurui Kibellion granted the DPP's application to withdraw the charges under Section 87(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code. In his application, the DPP had cited insurmountable challenges in securing witness cooperation as the primary reason for withdrawing the case.

Former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga has attributed his legal troubles to political and ideological clashes with influential politicians and powerful figures within the government who seek to silence him due to his strong mobilization skills.

Mr. Njenga was released yesterday by a Nakuru court after the termination of criminal charges he battled for 18 months related to the unlawful possession of firearms and conspiracy to commit criminal activities, with Njenga facing ten counts connected to his alleged ties with Mungiki.

State Counsel Charles Omwenga, representing the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), submitted an affidavit detailing the prosecution's difficulties in obtaining witness testimonies. Omwenga informed the court that key witnesses had refused to testify, citing personal connections with Njenga that hindered their willingness to cooperate.

The DPP also pointed out procedural irregularities, noting that some law enforcement officers had failed to properly document the arrests of the suspects, Mr. Njenga and 11 co-accused, which weak-

ened the evidential basis of the case.

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Following his release, Mr. Njenga, his lawyers, and hundreds of supporters gathered outside the Nakuru Law Courts, where they sang religious and cultural songs despite a heavy presence of anti-riot police officers deployed to maintain order.

Mr. Njenga expressed his gratitude to the court for allowing the prosecution's request to terminate the case, to his lawyers for skillfully challenging the prosecution's evidence and witnesses, and to his supporters for attending each session in large numbers.

"My people, I urge you to maintain peace in your respective areas. Interestingly, those who placed us here also have cases in court as we speak. They are crying as we cried, but we thank God that

we are now free," he said in an apparent reference to former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua current tribulations.

In September last year, Mr. Njenga had appealed to the government for a sit-down to resolve the recurring issues leading to his frequent arrests.

However, the then-Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua, declined, stating that the government would only engage with those who denounced violence.

Mr. Njenga also mentioned that a meeting initially planned for December 31 last year at Kabiru-Ini Show Grounds in Nyeri—which was disrupted by security forces and led to the arrest of hundreds of youths—would be rescheduled soon.

Lawyer Ndegwa Njiru, representing former Deputy President Gachagua in the ongoing impeachment case, chose his words carefully and remarked that the State had failed to sustain what he termed a "fabricated and defective case."

"It is for that reason we say freedom is here. Free at last. Next time, if the State decides to pursue such a fabricated case, it must be prepared to meet equal and opposite resistance," he stated, expressing

appreciation for his colleagues and the court, which he described as progressive and open-minded.

Veteran lawyer Evans Ondieki urged the youth, as well as the entire Mt. Kenya region, to align themselves with and support the political direction that Mr. Njenga would champion in the coming days.

The removal of Mr. Gachagua is likely to ignite a fierce battle for supremacy within the Mt. Kenya region, where political leaders are now eager to assert their influence and secure a strategic foothold ahead of the 2027 elections.

Political leaders have been trooping to the political stronghold, attending burials and music extravaganzas, in a bid to capture local support and establish themselves as the primary voice, potentially reshaping the political landscape in the process.

It is expected the control of the Kikuyu dominated areas will be a titanic battle between the former DP and Njenga.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Detectives attached to the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) jointly with their Masaba North counterparts have arrested a notorious examination fraudster - Stephen Nyang'au Mbeche. Nyang'au, the administrator of "KCSE 2024 Leakage Group" on Telegram, was cornered and arrested after a sustained surveillance operation. A detailed search at his premises resulted in the seizure of a mobile phone and a laptop, the supposed tools of trade he uses to exploit parents and students involved in the cheating. Meanwhile, the team continues to track down other individuals involved in similar malpractices.



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki yesterday took over the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Deputy party Leader position. After taking over, the DP asserted, "UDA stands for the unity, oneness, and indivisibility of our country. I will be true and loyal to the ideals of our party, and assist the Party Leader, President William Samoei Ruto in the implementation of the party manifesto anchored on five key pillars; Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Economy, Housing and Settlement, Healthcare and the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy," adding, "In recognition and appreciation of the pivotal role of political parties in governance and growth of democracy, with tremendous honour and respect, accepted to be Deputy Party Leader of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), pursuant to the resolution of the National Executive Committee (NEC) in a meeting held at the Party Headquarters". Among those present were UDA Chairperson Gov. Cecily Mbarire, Secretary General Hassan Omar, Treasurer Japheth Nyakundi, National Assembly Majority Whip Silvanus Osoro and other NEC members.



Invited guests and delegates during the launch of the Baraka Smiles Foundation "1 Million Healthy Smiles Campaign." The initiative, which targets elderly individuals, children with disabilities, orphans, and other disadvantaged groups across all 47 counties, seeks to raise Sh50 billion by 2027.



It was a perfect aim and shot on the target streak as members of DCI's elite Emergency Response Team (ERT) demonstrated their rifle shooting prowess during the Annual Disciplined Forces Shoot, 2024 at the Bamburi Rifle Club, Mombasa. In the competition which comprised seven categories, the DCI managed to scoop 13 trophies, sparing 21 to be shared among the other teams drawn from KDF, GSU, Kenya Prisons, Kenya Police Service and KWS who won 6, 8, 3, 2, 2 trophies respectively. Engineer Sammy Onyango, the African Rifle champion and ERT official trainer for five years was a happy man after witnessing the team receive a standing ovation from the other competitors. Sammy reminisced how he introduced the team to sports shooting and sharpened their skills to their current indomitable state.



"There is considerable misinformation surrounding the polio vaccine. These vaccines have been approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and confirmed to be safe. It's important to note that adverse effects following immunisation can occur with any vaccine or medication, as individuals have varying genetic makeup, which can influence their responses." Dr. Hillary Kagwa, Kiambu Director of Health. In response to recent polio cases discovered in certain areas of Nairobi, Dr. Kagwa announced an immunisation campaign targeting children in Kiambu. "We aim at vaccinating approximately 300,000 children under the age of 5. Those who received their vaccinations during the initial phase in October can participate in this second round to enhance their immunity." — Dr. Hillary Kagwa.



Golf in Kenya will soon have one umbrella body to house the amateurs, ladies, professionals, and juniors. Golf has been going through a transition period, and now a new law has been introduced to put everyone in the Golf Kenya Federation under the Sports Act 2013. An AGM has been organised to adopt the new golf constitution that will bring the Kenya Golf Union (KGU), the Kenya Ladies Golf Union (KLGU), Professional Golf Kenya (PGK), the Junior Golf Foundation (JGF), and the Kenya Open Golf Limited under one roof. "The beauty of the art is that there is a transition committee working to ensure that everybody will be included in the new federation. There is a broader prospect for all of us to be leaders and to manage golf going forward," said Phillip Ocholla, the President of Kenya Golf Union.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

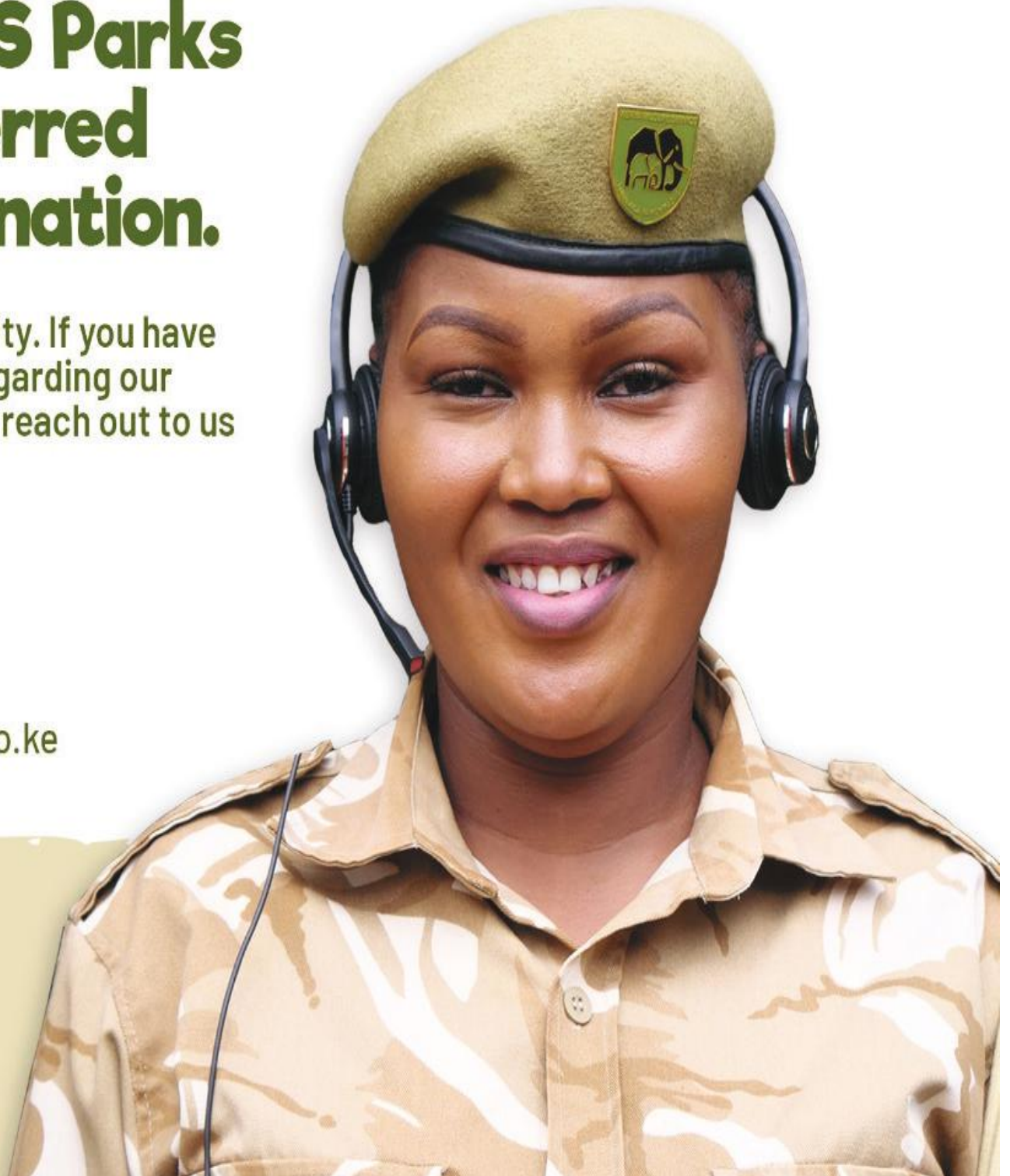
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Kenya's Road To Debt Sustainability: Key Insights From The 2023/24 Public Debt Management Report

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Debt servicing costs have surged by 30% due to the shilling's depreciation and repayment of a USD 0.5 billion Eurobond. To ease future financial burdens, the Treasury is setting up sinking fund regulations—an effort to create savings earmarked for debt repayment and to stabilize fiscal planning.
- Principal Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo addressed the need for a more inclusive tax policy, which will allow the government to lower rates over time while expanding the tax base. "By broadening the tax base, we aim to reduce VAT from 16% to 14% and income tax from 30% to 25%," Dr. Kiptoo said. This policy shift, he explained, seeks to distribute tax responsibilities more equitably, with more Kenyans participating in funding the nation's development goals.

The National Treasury's release of the 2023/24 Annual Public Debt Management Report has highlighted Kenya's commitment to responsible debt management, transparency, and economic growth. With Kenya's public debt reaching KSh10.58 trillion, the government is implementing new strategies to bring debt within sustainable levels while aiming to stimulate economic growth.

Hosted at the Serena Hotel, the report's dissemination event drew a diverse group of stakeholders eager to address public debt's challenges and implications.

James Muraguri, CEO of the Institute of Public Finance (IPF), emphasized the importance of open discussion and fiscal reform, underscoring the IPF's role in advocating responsible spending through its Annual Shadow Budget. "Today's conversation is timely," said Muraguri, "as the government reaffirms its commitment to fiscal consolidation and a Zero-Based Budget, key elements in alleviating debt and reducing servicing pressures."

According to the report, Kenya's debt-to-GDP ratio has dropped from 72% last year to 65.7%, thanks to a strategic rebalancing of debt towards domestic borrowing. This shift reduces exposure to foreign currency volatility while allowing for a steadier path to achieving the debt-to-GDP target of 55% by 2027, a milestone anticipated a year ahead of schedule.

Raphael O. Otieno, Director General of the Public Debt Management Office, highlighted the challenges of implementing the debt strategy. "Our access to international markets has been limited, impacting planned external borrowing," Otieno explained,



James Muraguri, CEO of the Institute of Public Finance.

emphasizing the need for a diversified debt portfolio to mitigate similar future constraints.

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nation's development goals.

During the forum, Auditor General Nancy Gathungu called for more comprehensive debt reporting, particularly on non-guaranteed debt and contingent liabilities in public-private partnerships. "We are making decisions that solve immediate problems but risk creating future issues," she noted, pointing out gaps in debt reporting and urging better fiscal planning to avoid unexpected burdens on public resources.

Despite setbacks, Kenya's fiscal policies are making strides. Over the past three years, the fiscal deficit has consistently decreased, reflecting the government's dedication to prudent spending. In FY2021/22, the deficit stood at 5.9%, falling to 5.4% in FY2022/23, and is projected to drop to 4.3% this year.

Looking forward, the Treasury projects that debt servicing as a percentage

of revenue will decrease from 68% to 59.8% by 2027, which will free up resources for development. This goal, alongside a continued focus on alternative borrowing, flexible bonds, and restructuring, signals Kenya's strong commitment to a more resilient and self-reliant economy.

With an emphasis on transparency, Kenya is actively addressing the complexities of debt management while preparing for sustainable growth. The measures outlined in the 2023/24 report underscore a vision of a Kenya where debt is managed responsibly, allowing the nation's economic health and development to flourish.

This report, paired with concerted fiscal reform and citizen participation, marks a significant step forward in building a stable future for Kenya.

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Maina Njenga Set Free

The Former Mungiki Leader Walked Out A Nakuru Court Free Yesterday After The State Applied To Withdraw Charges Against Him, A Request That The Trial Court Gladly Accepted

By: Suleiman Mbatiah and MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga was yesterday released by a Nakuru court after the termination of criminal charges related to unlawful possession of firearms and conspiracy to commit criminal activities.

Njenga was facing ten counts linked to his alleged association with Mungiki, an organization outlawed under the Kenyan law.

Nakuru based Principal Magistrate Kipkurui Kibellion granted the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)'s application to withdraw the charges pursuant to Section 87(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code. In the application, the DPP cited insurmountable challenges in securing witness cooperation as the primary reason for withdrawing the case.

State Counsel Charles Omwenga, representing the DPP, submitted an affidavit detailing the prosecution's difficulties in procuring witness testimonies.

Omwenga informed the court that key witnesses had refused to testi-

fy, citing personal connections with Njenga that made them unwilling to cooperate.

Additionally, the DPP noted some procedural irregularities, as some law enforcement officers failed to properly document the suspects' arrests, thereby undermining the evidential foundation of the case.

Njenga's defense lawyers, led by Mr. Ndegwa Njiru and Mr. Steve Biko, moved the court for Njenga's full acquittal under Sections 204 and 210 of the Criminal Procedure Code, arguing that the DPP's admission of evidentiary insufficiency warranted an acquittal.

Njiru emphasized that without reliable evidence, the charges were legally unsustainable.

In its ruling, the court recognized the undue hardship endured by Njenga, who had faced charges for over 18 months.

However, the magistrate concluded that a termination under Section 87(a) was appropriate, allowing the case to be dismissed without prejudice.

"Considering the prosecution's acknowledgment of insufficient evidence, I hereby grant the application to terminate proceedings under Section 87(a) of the Criminal Procedure

Code," ruled Magistrate Kibellion.

The prosecution had intended to call 29 witnesses, though only nine had testified prior to the case's termination.

Njenga's arrest in May last year followed a raid on his Wanyororo residence in Bahati constituency, during which eight others, including a security guard, were detained and similarly charged.

Additional arrests occurred in Njoro area, where law enforcement seized various items allegedly linked to the Mungiki group.

After his release, Njenga addressed his supporters, asserting his innocence and alleging that the charges were politically motivated.

While taking a swipe at former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, he claimed the prosecution was a tactic by political opponents who now face similar battles in court.

"We were framed by individuals who are themselves now subject to trial," Njenga declared, calling the court's decision a "victory for the people and a vindication of my innocence."

Njenga's release comes amid shifting political dynamics in the Mt. Kenya region, particularly after the recent ousting of former Deputy



Maina Njenga arriving at Nakuru Law Courts yesterday. Photo/MKT Correspondent

President Rigathi Gachagua, a figure perceived as a Mt Kenya political bloc rival.

Some quarters perceive Njenga as the Kikuyu community kingpin due to his influence amongst the young people who dominate the region.

In the past, Njenga has been, alongside industrialist cum politician Dr Thuo Mathenge been involved in bringing men from the most populous community together in a bid to forge a united front, culturally, socially and economically.

Tackling Pesticide Misuse In Rural Communities

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County, in partnership with AAK-Grow yesterday convened a community meeting in the Lengenet location of Visoi Ward, Rongai Sub-County. The gathering aimed to address the increasing issue of pesticide misuse among local farmers.

Furthermore, Mrs. Hannah Odour, a County Entomologist, highlighted the potential harms of improper pesticide disposal on human health and the environment.

She noted that, incorrectly handling and disposing of pesticides can lead to contamination of water sources, harming aquatic life and endangering human health.

Moreover, Pesticides can harm wildlife, disrupt delicate ecosystems, and exposure to pesticides can cause health issues like respiratory issues,

skin irritation, and neurological disorders.

Additionally, she observed that several factors contribute to the challenges of proper disposal such as lack of awareness, adding that many farmers may not be fully aware of the risks associated with pesticide misuse and the importance of safe disposal practices.

On the other hand, Mrs. Odour observed that limited access to disposal facilities, such as hazardous waste collection centers, may be scarce or nonexistent in rural areas. And, due to economic hardships some farmers may opt for cheaper, less regulated pesticides, which can be harmful to the environment and human health.

Meanwhile, the meeting emphasized the importance of responsible pesticide use, including proper storage to prevent accidental spills and poisoning.

The villagers were also told the importance of disposing empty pesticide containers instead of using them



Farmers undergoing training.

as drinking cups or for carrying milk to selling centers. Apart from that they were educated on how to identify illegal pesticides to ensure product

efficacy and safety.

Lastly, she emphasized the vitality of addressing disposal issues to empower farmers with knowledge and

resources, hence, taking significant steps to protect public health and the environment in rural Kenya.

UDA Names DP Kindiki As New Deputy Party Leader Succeeding Gachagua

By: Beth Nyaga
@themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) has appointed Deputy President Kithure Kindiki as its new Deputy Party Leader, effective immediately.

This decision follows a series of constitutional and party-led actions that resulted in the removal of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua from the role.

Yesterday morning, UDA's NEC convened to finalize the leadership change, formally replacing Gachagua, who had previously held the deputy party leader position.

UDA Chairperson Cecily Mbarire and Secretary General Hassan Omar confirmed the committee's decision, explaining that Gachagua's impeachment last month rendered him ineligible to continue serving as the deputy leader.

Gachagua was initially impeached

by the National Assembly on October 8, 2024. His impeachment was subsequently upheld by the Senate on October 17, with more than two-thirds of Senators voting in favour of the charges.

The impeachment was officially communicated through Gazette Notice No. 13400, effectively removing Gachagua from office as Deputy President of Kenya, in line with Articles 145(7) and 75(3) of the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 147(1), Article 145(7), and Article 75(3) of the Kenyan Constitution, alongside Article 24.3 of the UDA Party Constitution, the NEC determined that Gachagua's impeachment meant he was no longer able to fulfil the responsibilities of Deputy Party Leader.

Therefore, under Article 8.2 of the UDA Constitution, the NEC resolved to appoint Kithure Kindiki to the position, filling the leadership vacancy.

Upon his appointment, Kindiki expressed his gratitude and pledged unwavering loyalty to the party.

He affirmed his dedication to col-



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki (Centre).

laborating with various institutions to address challenges facing both the party and the nation.

"I assure you of my steadfast commitment to the ideals of our party. I will engage with all structures out-

lined in our party's constitution to enhance our party's effectiveness," he stated.

Kindiki acknowledged the significance of assuming this role during a pivotal moment for the country, reit-

erating the UDA's mission to promote unity across all Kenyan communities.

"Kenya's unity poses no threat to the diverse groups that make up our nation," he added.

Transforming JKIA: A New Era for Kenya's Aviation Sector

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
@themtkenyatimes

The announcement by Treasury CS John Mbadia and Transport CS Davis Chirchir regarding comprehensive reforms at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) signifies a transformative moment for Kenya's aviation sector. These reforms are designed to enhance the passenger experience through streamlined customs protocols, improved security measures, and the adoption of advanced technology.

A central focus of these reforms is on customer service standards, which reflect a commitment to creating a welcoming environment essential for attracting international travelers. This initiative not only addresses past criticisms of passenger harassment but also positions JKIA as a competitive regional hub. By investing in infrastructure and technology, Kenya is making significant strides toward modernizing its aviation landscape,

which is vital for economic growth and global connectivity.

The government's JKIA Medium-Term Investment Plan aims to overhaul aging infrastructure, including plans for a new terminal capable of handling 20 million passengers annually by 2025/26. This ambitious upgrade is crucial for accommodating rising travel demands and enhancing the airport's capacity as a key aviation hub in East Africa. The renovation of terminals 1B and 1C has already set a precedent for excellence, showcasing state-of-the-art facilities that optimize passenger flow and comfort.

As JKIA evolves, it is essential that these changes resonate with travelers, ensuring their journeys are smooth and enjoyable. The government's proactive approach in incorporating feedback into these reforms is commendable and necessary for fostering trust and satisfaction among passengers. The integration of advanced technology promises to reduce paperwork, expedite customs processes, and enhance overall efficiency—addressing long-standing complaints

about delays and poor service.

Security remains a top priority, with tighter regulations around access to restricted areas within the airport. Enhanced training for airport staff will ensure professionalism and courtesy at all touchpoints, reinforcing Kenya's image as a hospitable destination. This commitment to customer care is particularly important given recent public outcry regarding customs interactions that have marred the traveler experience.

The reforms also emphasize transparency in customs duties and taxes, providing travelers with clear information to foster fairness and trust between passengers and customs officials. By automating processes, the government aims to streamline customs and immigration procedures, aligning with global best practices.

Moreover, these initiatives are part of a broader strategy to position JKIA as a top-tier airport reflecting Kenya's welcoming image. The government's commitment to maintaining robust border controls while providing an efficient travel experience underscores its dual focus on security



and customer satisfaction.

In conclusion, the government's dedication to enhancing the passenger experience at JKIA represents a promising development with the potential to transform Kenya's aviation sector. By prioritizing modernization, efficiency, and customer service excellence, JKIA can emerge as a world-class gateway that not only serves Kenya but also elevates its status in the global aviation landscape. This transformation is essential for making Kenya more resilient and competitive in an increasingly

interconnected world, ultimately contributing to the nation's vision of becoming a premier tourist destination under the "Magical Kenya" brand. As these reforms take shape, they will not only improve the travel experience but also foster greater economic opportunities through enhanced connectivity and tourism growth.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Kakuzi Installs Over Ksh2 M Water Harvesting Systems In Murang'a

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Publicly listed agrifirm, Kakuzi has invested over KSh2 million to set up rainwater harvesting systems and 28 modern ablution blocks across several schools and institutions in Murang'a county.

This initiative aligns with Kakuzi's mission to foster quality education, access to water, sanitation, and environmental conservation, by empowering its communities and driving sustainable development.

The rainwater harvesting systems include a 10,000-litre capacity tank installed at the Gituamba Health Facility, shared by Ithanga Sub-County and Kiambu County residents, and two 5,000-litre tanks provided to both the Murang'a South Registrar of Persons Office and the Murang'a South Sub-County Education Office.

These systems will enable these institutions to collect and store rainwater, increasing the availability of

clean water for over 1,000 community members and staff.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Kakuzi limited Managing Director Mr. Chris Flowers underscored the company's dedication to environmental stewardship and community health.

"These water harvesting systems and sanitation facilities are part of our efforts to support healthier communities with sustainable water management practices", said Mr. Flowers.

The firm also installed 28 ablution blocks in seven local institutions, including Ngimu EDCE Center in Kimorori, Githanji Primary School in Kabati, Pundamilia Primary School and the AP Line at Murang'a South Sub-County.

More than 2,000 students will benefit from the improved sanitation facilities, designed to create a safer and cleaner environment conducive to learning.

These resources will also facilitate staff, healthcare workers and community members who seek services in the area to access clean water and sanitation.



Kakuzi Installs Over Ksh 2 Million Water Harvesting Systems in Murang'a.

Mr. Flowers also added that "This project is part of a broader strategy by Kakuzi to support local communities and promote sustainable development. By providing much-needed resources in the areas of health, education, and sanitation, we aim to

promote self-sufficiency and improve long-term sanitation challenges, especially during seasons of heavy rainfall."

The agri-food producer remains committed to water conservation through practices such as catchment

preservation, continuous rainwater harvesting, and support for sustainable water access. These efforts will help safeguard this vital resource for future generations.

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Story Linking Deaths Of Two Children To Polio Vaccine Complications Lacked Proof



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- This is now a reality following the unveiling of Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). SHIF which replaced NHIF offers a comprehensive cover to all Kenyans and it is implemented by SHA.
- One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know that President Ruto's critics were envious of the success he has made in this endeavor.
- For many years, lack of quality and affordable healthcare stood out as a key challenge facing the people of Kenya.
- So, if Dr Ruto manage to sort out this mess, this will definitely shape up his legacy in a big way.



County Governments Polio vaccination in Kenya

For the second time in a month, the Ministry of Health is currently giving polio vaccine to the children below five years of age.

In the first round, 3.6 million children received the vaccine administered orally and there were no complaints lodged.

But as the current phase 2 kicks off, one of the mainstream newspaper has resorted to making outrageous and unsubstantiated allegations.

In a screaming appearing on front page Sunday edition, this paper wrote.

Two children lost their lives last month due to complications related to polio vaccine.

To me, this story lacked proof and many interpreted the authors' intention as being out to engage President William Ruto in a smear campaign.

As we know, Dr Ruto has succeeded in fulfillment one of his key pre-election pledges.

He had promised Kenyans that if he wins the election he would prioritize on rollout of Universal Health Cover-

age (UHC).

This is now a reality following the unveiling of Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). SHIF which replaced NHIF offers a comprehensive cover to all Kenyans and it is implemented by SHA.

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Given this background, many believe this newspaper is pushing the agenda of Dr Ruto's opponents.

The piece lacked an iota of evidence because the authors failed to respond to the following questions. Who were the parents of these two children? Where did they hail from? Did the kids 'died' on the spot? If not, which

hospital (s) were they taken to?

Besides, one would have expected this paper to publish the findings of the autopsy reports. Were the deaths caused by polio vaccine related complications? Where were they buried?

It is also worth noting this paper published this story one month after. If true the deaths of two children had been caused by complications related to polio vaccine, why did this paper fail to publish this story immediately? Why wait for one month?

This flew in the face of work ethics for members of forth estate.

There is nothing to gain by scaring and instilling fear to parents and guardians.

Infact, this cast a picture of people who lacked patriotism and love.

As we know, polio vaccine is administered to save the population from contracting polio when they grew up.

This is not the first time that this paper and some other media outlets have resorted to making outrageous and unverified claims about vaccines.

During the era of President Mwai

Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta, similar claims were made.

During the latter's tenure, the Catholic Church and the media had claimed the vaccine administered to the young girls to help them fight cervical cancer was allegedly laced with a drug meant to make lose their fertility and become barren. In other words, they will never conceive and give birth. When challenged, they wouldn't prove the claims. Instead they chickened out.

Today, a good number of these girls have given birth.

Believably, those who have not it is because they do not want to carry pregnancy in this early stage.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

A Beacon Of Hope In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS Despite Circumstances

By: Benson Kamau
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “I work in a business of selling electronics around Eastern by pass in Ruiru/Thika road. On a Wednesday afternoon, as was going about my work in the shop and all of a sudden, I had a bang and rushing out of the shop saw two vehicles had collided head on a few metres away,” he said
- Mwangi continues “One of the vehicles was badly damaged and was carrying two passengers who were seriously injured. Upon seeing this, I immediately rushed to help the victims in order to save their lives,” he stated.
- He says, the accident victims were alive and bleeding heavily and that he never hesitated or even thought twice about helping them despite a wound he had on his palm that was in the process of healing.

Thirty-five year old David Mwangi is one of many Kiambu residents living with HIV/AIDS, a viral disease that affects the human immune system and is caused by the HIV virus.

The disease can be spread through body fluids of an infected person which includes blood, breast milk and semen. It can also be spread from a mother to the child during birth.

For Mwangi, Hope is the name of the game as he says that ‘believing life to be worth living at the present and in the future is what drives him especially when he reflects that his generosity, a heart of service and help is what brought about the disease that he now has to live and contend with.

Giving his story to KNA, Mwangi says his is a unique way in how he contracted HIV.

“I work in a business of selling electronics around Eastern by pass in Ruiru/Thika road. On a Wednesday afternoon, as was going about my work in the shop and all of a sudden, I had a bang and rushing out of the shop saw two vehicles had collided head on a few metres away,” he said

Mwangi continues “One of the vehicles was badly damaged and was carrying two passengers who were seriously injured. Upon seeing this, I immediately rushed to help the victims in order to save their lives,” he stated.

He says, the accident victims were alive and bleeding heavily and that he never hesitated or even thought twice about helping them despite a wound he had on his palm that was in the process of healing.

“My rush to help forgot completely that I had a wound in the hand and me helping the victims without gloves saw my hands in contact with one of the victims who was HIV positive and that is how easily I contracted the disease, he continues to explain

Two weeks after helping the two accident victims, Mwangi said he began experiencing headaches, fever, and muscle aches which made him visit the hospital and after several tests were conducted, he was diagnosed with HIV. ‘I did not know that rescuing accident victims could result in me contracting the disease. I felt alone, ashamed, and scared to tell anyone,” Mwangi stated.

Mwangi shared that after his diagnosis, he felt inferior and unworthy in the world, and his own family also did not want to believe it as true since HIV according to most people is gotten through sexual intercourse.

However, Mwangi says that after soul searching and seeking even more opinion from medics, he was referred to a hospital counselor for a session.

The fear of stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, especially in his community, where ignorance and misinformation were prevalent were making him not only think of committing suicide but also wonder how he would be able to leave in that condition and with the same community he had lived with for



over 10 years.

After the session, though, his fears dissipated, and he came to terms with his diagnosis, feeling ready to begin his treatment.

“The hospital counselor had to convince me that life had to go on, as I had children to raise. She told me that contracting HIV was not the end of my life and that I should accept it as just bad luck and come to terms within and begin treatment,” he said.

At the hospital, Mwangi explained he was put on medication, instructed on how to take it and also on eating healthier foods to boost his immunity.

“The doctor told me that failing to eat healthier foods could cause the antibiotics to make me even sicker or leave me susceptible to other diseases. I was instructed to take antibiotics every day without fail. Once the antibiotics were over, I was supposed to return to the hospital to get more, as they are free at health facilities,” Mwangi added.

As an HIV/AIDS patient, Mwangi says he has faced a lot of challenges especially side effects brought about by the antibiotics given but he quickly says he has learnt to live with it and even attend a lot of counselling sessions.

The counselling has somehow helped but there are moments that I still feel insignificant and worthless wondering why I had to get this disease and yet I was just trying to rescue an accident victim.

Mwangi who has now returned to his village in Kagoya, Kiambu Sub County has now settled down, and coping with his situation as it is though not normal way he would have wanted to live.

Dr. Francis Chege, a doctor at Kiambu Level 5 Hospital said HIV should not be a death sentence and should not make one feel like they can longer live.

“Although HIV should not to be taken lightly, modern treatments, the diagnosis is no longer a death sentence and one should be live and be a productive person in the society”, he adds.

Dr. Chege emphasized on the importance of regular HIV testing for all and especially the youth who are between 15 and 25 years and being predominantly affected because of risky living and behaviour.

“It is not necessarily required for one to have engaged in sexual activity to contract the virus. Mwangi’s story is a true testament that one can contract HIV even by rescuing individuals involved in an accident and even blood transfusions”, he explained.

Dr. Chege urged residents of Kiambu to get tested for HIV and know their status. I want to encourage the youth of Kiambu to take care of themselves and understand that HIV does not have a cure and should take precaution and protect their health.

For a person like Mwangi whose diagnosis came from an unfortunate circumstance, Dr. Chege emphasized on continuous antiretroviral therapy (ARVs), treatment which helps strengthen the immune system and manage the progression of the disease.

He also urged Kiambu residents to support those who are living with the virus but also cautioned and advising them to avoid actions that could lead to contracting the disease. If you are helping someone who has been involved in a

road accident, please wear gloves. Additionally, if you are receiving a blood transfusion, ensure that the doctor has properly screened the blood. By taking these precautions, we can further reduce the number of HIV/AIDS cases,” Dr. Chege emphasized.

“The Kiambu County Government, in collaboration with the National Government, has made HIV medication free at all health facilities and the antibiotics are also provided at no cost. As a result, all HIV positive patients can visit any health facility to collect their medications,” Dr. Chege stated.

The number of HIV positive patients reported at Kiambu Level 5 Hospital has been decreasing Dr. Chege said adding this show that people within Kiambu Sub- County are following the precautions provided by the Ministry of Health.

In December 2023, Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi reported that the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Kiambu County had dropped from 2.3 percent to 2.1 percent with the number of cases decreasing from 729 in 2022 to 547.

The County government has been going round providing education among communities through seminar and encouraging residents to participate in the upcoming commemoration of the World Aids Day on December 1st where information is shared and also free testing is offered to residents.

The theme for AIDS 2024 is “Put people first!” and the social campaign are running that is encouraging people to share their stories using the hashtag #PutPeopleFirst.

Journalists Trained On Gender Responsive Reporting

By: Anita Omwenga and
Florence Kinyua
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- FAWE Kenya CEO Jeanette Nyanjom, while speaking during the event in Nairobi said the training represents a vital step toward bridging the knowledge gap towards framing and coverage of sexual and reproductive health rights reporting.
- “Surveys and media scan conducted by FAWEK reveal that SRHR is misunderstood, underreported and misrepresented in the media” she said, adding that SRHR issues affect countless women, young people, and entire communities.
- Nyanjom said the low coverage is attributed to the culture of silence, lack of training, and reluctance to properly articulate SRHR issues and their impact on society as newsworthy or of human interest.

Forum for African Women Educationalists in Kenya (FAWEK) has trained journalists on Gender responsive and effective Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) reporting.

The two-day training organized by FAWEK under the Imarisha Msichana project in partnership with MasterCard foundation seeks to enhance the capacity of media practitioners to report professionally and ethically on gender sensitive reporting and SRHR reporting.

The journalists were drawn from various Kenyan television, print media and radio stations across the 20 counties where the Imarisha Msichana project is being implemented.

The training aimed at arming the journalists with the necessary tools and approach required to cover sensitive and complex SRHR topics with the care, sensitivity, and accuracy they demand.

Notably teenage pregnancies, gender-based violence, access to contraception, and harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) all require more nuanced, consistent, and compassionate coverage.

FAWE Kenya CEO Jeanette Nyanjom, while speaking during the event in Nairobi said the training represents a vital step toward bridging the knowledge gap towards framing and coverage of sexual and reproductive health rights reporting.

“Surveys and media scan conducted by FAWEK reveal that SRHR is misunderstood, underreported and misrepresented in the media” she said, adding

that SRHR issues affect countless women, young people, and entire communities.

Nyanjom said the low coverage is attributed to the culture of silence, lack of training, and reluctance to properly articulate SRHR issues and their impact on society as newsworthy or of human interest.

She said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the urgency of these issues became clear. Teenage pregnancies soared, with around 150,000 cases reported in a single year.

“For so many girls, this meant disrupted education, limited opportunities, and altered futures,” she said.

Nyanjom said some of intervention to curb this menace include collaboration with key stakeholders in the generation of credible an acceptable data on teen pregnancies in Kenya that advises on apt solutions

“Championing for re-entry of girls to school, sensitization forums for girls, young women, boys, young men, parents and community leaders on human sexuality and prevention of teen pregnancies is important,” she further added.

President of the Kenya Editors Guild Zubeidah Kananu said training provides media practitioners with the knowledge to address SRHR comprehensively and responsibly, and they foster a supportive network of journalists committed to ethical and impactful reporting.

“Expanding our training programs, collaborating with experts, and setting up mentorship systems can ensure we have the tools to report on

SRHR in a way that is informed, respectful, and transformative,” she said

Kananu observed that as SRHR issues evolve, particularly with advancements in healthcare and changing societal norms, we must stay informed and prepared.

“It’s time to confront the reality that our reporting on SRHR can and should set the agenda, rather than waiting for it,” said Kananu, adding that as journalists, we must ask ourselves how we can better bring such stories to light.

She divulged that men play a critical role in advancing SRHR. Fathers, husbands, brothers, and leaders in our communities all have an opportunity to champion SRHR by standing against harmful practices like FGM.

She divulged that as journalists, we can encourage this involvement by highlighting stories where men are actively contributing to SRHR advocacy and supporting their partners, families, and communities.

She said the media plays an essential role in advocating for policies that allow young mothers to return to school without discrimination.

“As journalists, we can spotlight success stories of young mothers who have returned to school and achieved their dreams, showing that motherhood should not be a barrier to education,” she added.

Kananu observed that as SRHR issues gain more visibility on digital platforms misinformation has become a significant obstacle.

She said that the media has a respon-

sibility to combat these false narratives by collaborating with health professionals and researchers, ensuring our reporting is grounded in credible, evidence-based information.

“By including the voices and perspectives of youth, we can create more relatable content and encourage young people to seek accurate information,” she said adding that we can’t afford to have misinformation to undermine public understanding or trust.

On her part Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) Executive Director Queenter Mbori said as journalists, we must take the tools provided by FAWEK and others and lead the charge toward proactive, transformative SRHR reporting.

Mbori said many media houses have created gender desks dedicated to amplifying voices around gender and SRHR issues.

“These desks give us the power to tell stories that bring about change, but only if we use them to their full potential,” she said.

The Imarisha Msichana project is an initiative implemented by FAWE Kenya in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation. The program is being implemented in 20 counties in Kenya namely; Nakuru, Nairobi, Machakos, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kiambu, Garissa, Bungoma, Kakamega, Nyeri, Migori, Murang’a, Kajjado, Narok, Homa-Bay, Trans-Nzoia, Nyandarua, Busia, Meru, Siaya, and Turkana.

Four Main Types Of Essays In Academic Writing

By: Normatova Aziza

Abstract: In academic writing, essays serve as a structured form of communication used to express ideas, analyze topics, and argue specific points. The four main types of essays—descriptive, narrative, expository, and argumentative—each serve distinct purposes and employ unique methods of writing. Descriptive essays focus on painting a vivid picture of a subject through detailed sensory observations. Narrative essays tell stories and convey experiences, often with a clear personal or reflective tone. Expository essays aim to explain, clarify, or inform readers about a particular subject, relying on facts, data, and analysis. Argumentative essays, on the other hand, seek to persuade readers by presenting evidence and reasoning to support a specific viewpoint or claim. Understanding these essay types is essential for students to effectively communicate in different academic contexts.

Key Words: Descriptive Essay, Narrative Essay, Expository Essay, Argumentative Essay, Academic Writing, Essay Structure, Purpose of Essay.

Writing an essay is the most common assignment in Academic writing, so it is important to know the basic types of essays. In this lecture you are going to learn about the four major essay types.

First of all, what is an essay?

An essay is a piece of nonfiction academic writing created to develop a specific idea or support an argument. In general, essays are mainly used to give some information, share the writer's point of view, or dispute a thesis statement. Depending on the purpose of writing, the essay tone can be either formal or informal. The essay formatting requirements may also vary – it may be a standard 5-paragraph piece or a lengthy academic work.

Four Main Types of Essays

The four major essay types are:

1. Expository
2. Descriptive
3. Narrative

4. Persuasive/argumentative

These types of essays may share similar features. For example, expository and persuasive essays mostly deal with factual information that ensures a clear

presentation of ideas. Narrative and descriptive essays are written informally and require a creative approach.

Expository Essay

An expository essay is a piece of writing designed to explore a particular subject by providing factual information. The primary purpose of expository writing is to analyze a topic without making an argument. Expository essays require a writer to communicate complex information in a simple, easy-to-understand way. Unlike other types of essays, it offers an analysis based on facts. Therefore, a student should use a neutral tone of voice and introduce ideas in a logical order.

Main Features

This academic assignment tests the student's ability to present a clear explanation of an issue. To create an informative piece, you should refer to statistics and find factual examples. Some of the most common characteristics of expository essays include:

- Instructive: conveys accurate information
- Specific: a clear and precise explanation of facts
- Well-organized: follows the sequence of events
- Semi-formal: doesn't contain first-person nouns
- Objective: informs a reader without presenting any subjective opinions

A standard expository essay structure includes the following sections:

- An introduction presents a topic and gives background information
- Body paragraphs explain the facts
- A conclusion sums up the information

Descriptive Essay

A descriptive essay is a type of writing that provides a detailed description of a chosen literary piece, subject, event, etc.

A sensory portrayal, commonly used in descriptive writing, serves two purposes.

On the one hand, it helps to visualize things; on the other hand, a detailed description is a tool that allows conveying a deeper meaning. High school and college teachers assign a descriptive essay to improve student's creative skills. In this type of writing, you shouldn't limit your imagination. Instead, you will want to show your creativity and resourcefulness

Main Features

Typically, descriptive essays share the



Features of informal writing. Here are the key characteristics descriptive writing should have:

- Demonstrative: aims to showcase a subject, not just narrate
- Vivid: creates an impression in a reader's mind through descriptive details
- Sensory: the use of expressions that appeal to all human senses
- Figurative language: analogies, metaphors, similes, allegories, and personifications
- Emotional: describes issues of sentimental significance

Narrative Essay

A narrative essay, as the name suggests, tells a story significant to the author.

Basically, it's a personal narrative created to share a meaningful experience that impacts a writer. This type of essay explores different challenges a writer has gone through, and that's what makes it so engaging

Don't confuse a narrative essay with a short story: they are not quite the same. In a nutshell, the narrative essay has an academic objective, meaning that it should focus on the personal experience that has actually happened. At the same time, narrative essays share some common features with those of a short story. This type of essay typically contains five elements of storytelling:

- Plot: the sequence of events
- Setting: when and where a story takes place
- Character: a protagonist that triggers all

events

- Conflict: an issue a protagonist tries to solve
- Theme: a sense of a moral

Persuasive/Argumentative

A persuasive essay is a type of essay where a writer has to persuade a reader to adopt a specific point of view. A persuasive essay is otherwise called an argumentative essay, as it has to convince the reader of the truth presented in the argument. Besides, in a persuasive essay, one would take a firm stance on a matter. A writer should then provide supporting evidence and facts to back up a thesis statement.

Main Features

To establish a steady stance, a writer needs to create persuasive essays with such characteristics in mind:

- Convincing: has a persuasive tone of voice to make a reader agree
- Accurate: provides valid information and current cases or events
- Informative: focuses on facts, statistics, and evidence
- Reader-oriented: conveys information from a reader's perspective
- Arguable: this type of essay has a debatable topic that triggers discussion

Normatova Aziza is a Teacher of Foreign language department of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University

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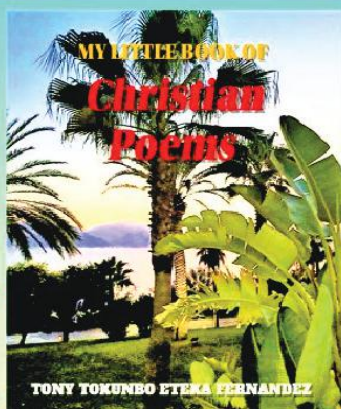
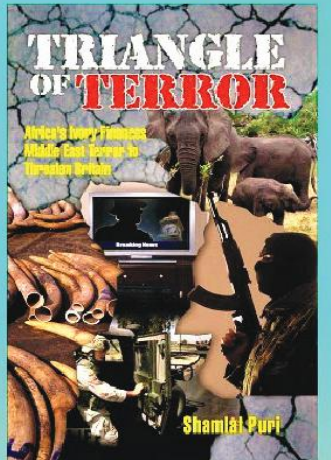
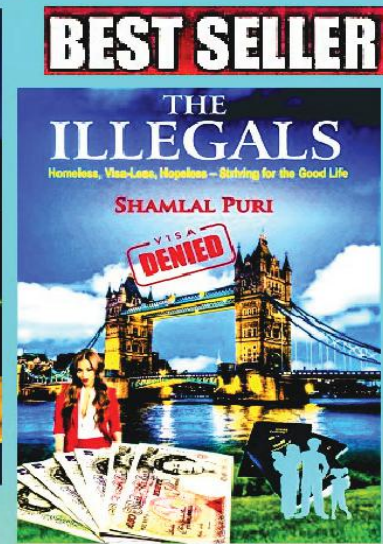
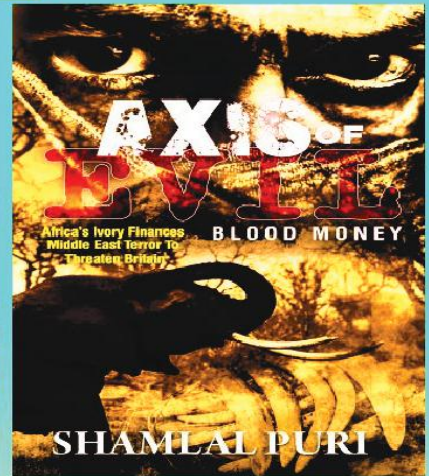
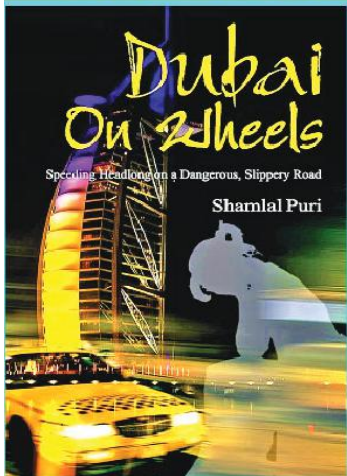
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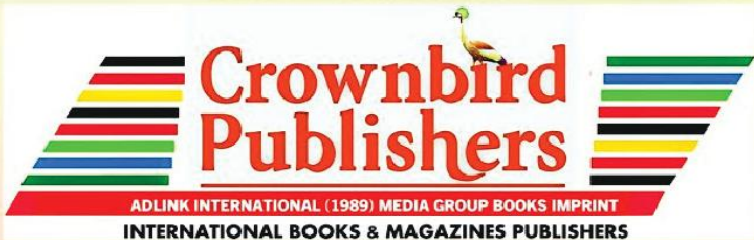
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BUSINESS

Equity Leadership Program: What It Takes

One On One Interview With Fhazhil Wamalwa, An Alumni Of The Equity Leadership Program (ELP) Gives Details On How One Can Join The Unique Initiative

By: Felix Njenga

@themtkenyatimes

Ever wondered how one enrolls into the equity leadership program? Fhazhil Wamalwa talks to Mt. Kenya Times Correspondent and gives details of the ELP program.

1. Can you share with us your background and how you came to be a part of the Equity Leaders Program (ELP)?

I began my journey in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, specializing in Power Systems at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. My career grew as I pursued advanced degrees, including a Master of Engineering in Electrical at the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa, in 2017, and later a PhD in Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in May 2024. My PhD research focused on integrated infrastructure planning in the Global South, specifically addressing energy

access, food production, and climate change. Before joining San Francisco State University (SFSU) as an Assistant Professor, I also held teaching roles that enriched my experience. The Equity Leaders Program (ELP) provided a vital launchpad early in my journey, offering mentorship and support that expanded my horizons and enabled me to pursue my academic and professional dreams.

2. How did being selected for the ELP change your life and your academic journey?

The ELP provided critical support and resources at the beginning of my academic career. It opened doors I had never considered, allowing me to pursue international studies and gain exposure to a wide array of experiences that shaped both my personal and professional growth.

3. What was the most valuable experience or lesson you learned during your time in the program?

One key lesson from the ELP was the importance of resilience and adaptability. These qualities have been essential in navigating both academic challenges and the cultural shifts I encountered studying abroad.

4. How has the ELP helped shape your leadership skills and prepared you for the challenges ahead?

Through the ELP, I learned that leadership goes beyond academic or professional achievements; it's also about inspiring and uplifting others. This perspective has influenced how I engage with students and colleagues in my role as an educator.

5. What opportunities did you receive through ELP, such as internships or scholarships, and how did they influence your career path?

The ELP offered mentorship, financial aid, and networking opportunities that were pivotal in securing internships and scholarships abroad. These experiences were instrumental in defining my research interests and expanding my career options internationally.

6. Can you describe your experience transitioning from the Kenyan education system to an international university, if applicable?

The transition required adaptability, as I had to adjust to different academic expectations and methodologies. However, ELP's preparation helped me navigate these changes successfully, making it easier to integrate into new academic settings.

7. How has the support from Equity Bank and the ELP community contributed to your success?

The ELP community was a reliable support system throughout my journey, offering both encouragement and practical resources that facilitated my transition and progress in academia.

8. What role do you think programs like ELP play in empowering young people in Kenya and across Africa?

Programs like ELP are crucial, as they create a pathway for talented young individuals to access global opportunities. They empower youth to bring positive changes to their communities by providing resources, mentorship, and a solid foundation for growth.



Fhazhil Wamalwa, an alumni of the equity leadership program sponsorship.

9. Can you share a specific project or initiative you've been involved in that was inspired by your time in the ELP?

Inspired by the program, I'm involved in a project focused on sustainable energy solutions in the Global South. The initiative aims to address energy access challenges, drawing from insights I gained during my studies and my commitment to impactful research.

10. How has your participation in ELP influenced your vision for the future, both personally and professionally?

ELP instilled in me a vision of contributing to my community and to sustainable development in Africa. It solidified my commitment to using my skills to foster technological advancements that improve lives.

11. What advice would you give to young students aspiring to join the Equity Leaders Program or pursue their dreams?

Every lofty dream requires time and

commitment. Be patient with yourself;

success and significant achievements rarely come quickly. Don't compare yourself to others—everyone's journey is unique. Focus on your path and trust the process.

12. As an ELP alumnus, in what ways have you given back to your community and contributed to the development of your community in Kenya?

I've been involved in mentorship programs for young engineers and am working on projects aimed at enhancing sustainable energy solutions in underserved regions. Giving back is important to me, and I aim to empower others as the ELP has empowered me.

13. What challenges did you face during your academic or leadership journey, and how did the program help you overcome them?

Balancing rigorous academic demands with adapting to new cultures was

challenging. The ELP's support provided me with the resilience and skills to overcome these challenges and succeed.

14. Looking back, what stands out as your proudest achievement since joining the ELP?

Completing my PhD in Sustainability and joining SFSU as an Assistant Professor are milestones I'm particularly proud of. These achievements would not have been possible without the foundation ELP helped me build.

15. How do you see yourself contributing to the ELP network and helping future beneficiaries of the program?

I'm committed to supporting current ELP scholars by offering mentorship, guidance, and insights into international education and career paths. My goal is to be a resource for future beneficiaries as they navigate their own journeys.

Pick A Performer For Next Interior Cabinet Secretary



By: Hez Gikang'a
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Is Mutahi Kagwe, or indeed a nominee of his caliber, the panacea to the challenges bedeviling the security sector?
- Kagwe has had a stellar career in the public sector, having served as the Senator for Nyeri County (2013-2017), as the Member of Parliament for Mukurweini Constituency (2003-2007), as minister for ICT (2005-2007), and as Cabinet Secretary for Health during Covid 19 (2020-2022), and as such brings on board qualities and experience that Kenyans - across demographics, party, tribe, gender, educational background, economic status, and religious beliefs - are yearning for in the public service and executive leadership, namely, exemplary performance, service delivery, humility, empathy, resoluteness, integrity, fiscal and monetary discipline, and innovativeness.

As President William Ruto prepares to nominate Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki's replacement at the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Kenyans have engaged in robust debate on the personalities perceived as frontrunners to fill this position.

These names range from political operatives, to security chiefs, to public administrators, diplomats, businesspersons and technocrats.

Featuring prominently in this unfettered public discourse is former Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mutahi Kagwe.

Given the high stakes and sensitive political, social, ethnic, security and geopolitical considerations at play as this position is ranked the fourth most powerful in the current administration after the Presidency, the key issues that spring to mind, whether Kagwe is eventually nominated for the position or not, and whether he will accept to serve in this broad-based government are the attributes of the nominee, and the second germane issue is how Kagwe's all-hands-on-deck management style will pan out, and whether the president, his allies and other arms of government, will afford Kagwe, or indeed any other nominee, the latitude to operate such a critical portfolio professionally and push the reforms initiated by Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki.

Through this debate, Kenyans have demonstrated that they have a rare clarity on the department, track record and standards that they expect of the nominee, the ministry and this government in particular. These are not ordinary times in our chequered history, It is no longer business as usual in matters governance.

It is time to walk the talk on performance and service delivery, but also very importantly, on transparency and accountability for a ministry and government that has repeatedly faced accusations of abductions, forced disappearances and extra judicial killings.

Is Mutahi Kagwe, or indeed a nominee of his caliber, the panacea to the challenges bedeviling the security sector?

Kagwe has had a stellar career in the public sector, having served as the Senator for Nyeri County (2013-2017), as the Member of Parliament for Mukurweini Constituency (2003-2007), as minister for ICT (2005-2007), and as Cabinet Secretary for Health during Covid 19 (2020-2022), and as such brings on board qualities and experience that Kenyans - across demographics, party, tribe, gender, educational background, econom-



Former Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mutahi Kagwe

ic status, and religious beliefs - are yearning for in the public service and executive leadership, namely, exemplary performance, service delivery, humility, empathy, resoluteness, integrity, fiscal and monetary discipline, and innovativeness.

Prior to becoming a legislator at the onset of President Mwai Kibaki 's reign, he had risen from an entry-level manager to the position of Commercial Director at Standard Media Group, within a decade of graduating from the University of Nairobi (UoN) with a degree in Commerce and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the United States International University (USIU).

Two of his most remarkable achievements then was conceptualization of the Digger

Classifieds concept at the Standard newspaper, that drove advertising sales through the roof, and cemented the firm as a market leader; and the 'Kenya for Kenyans' campaign that brought together corporations, philanthropies, development institutions, government, aid agencies, religious organizations, the media and private citizens in raising relief aid for those afflicted by the devastating drought and famine that wracked the country in 1994.

In the public square, and democrati-

zation process, Mutahi Kagwe served as the Communications Director for the savvy, nuanced, targeted 1997 presidential campaign for Madam Charity Ngilu on a social democratic party (SDP) ticket that captured the imagination of Kenyans and enthralled voters and admirers alike.

It was the first nationwide campaign by a female candidate and remains unmatched to-date.

Though Ngilu did not win the presidency, her campaign messaging, organizing, and policy outlook have drawn parallels with the epic 2008 Barack Obama campaign that made history by getting into the Whitehouse as a rank outsider, a first-term senator from Illinois, a person of color nonetheless, against many seemingly insurmountable odds.

Between this campaign and the December 2002 elections win by the Mwai Kibaki, Raila Odinga, Michael Wamalwa Kijana, Charity Ngilu, Prof. George Saitoti, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Prof. Peter Anyang Nyong'oled political juggernaut that ushered in the second liberation, Mutahi was intimately involved in various initiatives, especially around democratization, citizen participation, good governance, policy analysis and political organizing.

Together with other luminaries like

Prof. Anyang Nyong'o, Kagwe was part of the think-tank that crafted the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) economic revival Blueprint, that formed the bedrock of the Kibaki government's Economic Strategy for Poverty Alleviation Wealth Creation.

The National Alliance for Change (NAC), had initially brought together 7 key political organizations - the Democratic Party (DP) under Mwai Kibaki, Ford Kenya under Kijana Wamalwa, National Party of Kenya (NPK), FORD Asili, Saba Asili, Peoples Progressive Forum (PPF) and the National Convention Executive Committee (NCEC) - with the sole goal of winning the 2002 general elections, forming a government of national unity, and saving Kenya from a total economic collapse by putting the country back on a democratic path to economic recovery and national development. NAC entered into a pre-election coalition agreement with Raila Odinga's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to form the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC).

Between 2003 and 2005, Kagwe was

Integrating Smartphones In African Schools: A Right Approach To Digital Education



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyentimes

Africa faces a variety of challenges that continue to hinder its development across multiple sectors, leading to a lag in areas such as economic growth, healthcare, infrastructure, and technology. Limited access to quality healthcare, for example, results in high rates of preventable diseases and maternal and child mortality. Poor infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water systems, restricts movement and access to essential services in many regions, slowing economic progress. Education is another critical area impacted, with challenges in quality and accessibility resulting in low literacy rates and limited skill development among the youth.

When it comes to technology, the continent is similarly trailing. While many parts of the world embrace digital transformation, Africa still struggles with limited internet access, scarce resources, and a lack of technology-integrated curricula. In the education sector, specifically, many schools lack basic digital resources, and the integration of technology into classrooms remains low. Despite recent advancements, such as mobile learning initiatives and digital literacy programs in a few countries, Africa's digital divide means most students lack access to tools like computers and smartphones, essential for modern learning and competitiveness in a globalized world.

The use of phones and tablets in schools is often restricted due to concerns about distraction, misuse, and security. However, with a well-designed curriculum and controlled environment, these devices can serve as powerful educational tools, enhancing student engagement, improving digital literacy, and providing access to a vast range of resources. There are various reasons for integrating phones into the curriculum such as some of the following:

Preparing Students for a Digital Future: Today's workforce increasingly relies on technology, and by incorporating phones into the curriculum, schools can equip students with essential digital skills. Allowing phones helps learners develop competencies in research, problem-solving, and digital communication—skills essential in a 21st-century economy.

Access to Immediate Information and Resources: With smartphones, learners can access a wealth of information, educational apps, e-books, and online resources in real-time. This instant access can make lessons more engaging and dynamic, encouraging students to explore topics be-

yond textbooks and delve deeper into subjects of interest.

Encouraging Interactive and Personalized Learning: Phones allow for personalized learning through adaptive learning apps that cater to each learner's pace and level. This can be particularly beneficial for struggling students who may need extra support or for advanced learners who could benefit from additional challenges.

Facilitating Digital Literacy and Responsible Use: Allowing phones in school provides an opportunity to teach students about safe, ethical, and responsible technology use. In a controlled environment, students can learn about digital citizenship, cyber security, and the importance of privacy, preparing them for responsible online behavior.

Support for Inclusive Education: Smartphones offer features like text-to-speech, screen readers, and other accessibility tools, making learning more inclusive for students with disabilities or learning difficulties. Additionally, translation apps can aid multilingual learners, enhancing comprehension and participation in a diverse classroom.

Notable Strides of Smart Classrooms

in Africa

Several African countries have started allowing students to use smartphones in the classroom as part of educational initiatives aimed at enhancing learning through technology. Here are some examples and approaches:

Kenya

Kenya has integrated mobile devices into educational practices through partnerships with tech companies and the government's Digital Literacy Program. In schools with digital access, teachers allow students to use smartphones for research, interactive learning apps, and accessing e-books. Smartphones are often used during specific learning sessions, with restrictions on non-educational use during class. Teachers incorporate smartphones for collaborative group projects, assignments, and to access educational websites and platforms like eLimu (a Kenyan EdTech platform).

South Africa

South Africa, particularly in more urbanized areas, has made strides with technology in classrooms under the Department of Basic Education's

digital initiatives, which promote mobile learning. Many private and semi-private schools allow controlled smartphone usage for educational purposes.

Students use smartphones to access digital textbooks, participate in quizzes, and conduct quick online research. Schools often use learning management systems (LMS) such as Google Classroom or Moodle, which students access via their smartphones.

Ghana

Ghana is incorporating smartphones in education through initiatives led by both government and non-governmental organizations. Programs like iCampusGH provide students with online learning resources and courses accessible through mobile devices.

In classrooms where smartphone use is allowed, teachers guide students on when to use the devices, focusing on research, access to digital assignments, and educational apps. Some schools use mobile-friendly websites and apps to complement lessons in science, math, and language.

Rwanda

Rwanda's Smart Classroom project is part of its national digitalization plan and aims to integrate technology in learning. Smartphones are allowed in some schools to enable students to

Morocco's approach involves allowing smartphones in schools that are part of digital learning initiatives. Schools partner with educational organizations to incorporate mobile learning for accessing resources like Khan Academy and local online platforms.

Smartphones are permitted in classrooms to facilitate project-based learning, enabling students to gather information, collaborate on projects, and view multimedia resources relevant to their lessons. Schools regulate usage to ensure focus remains on learning.

Common Strategies for Smartphone Use in Classrooms and Benefits

Educational Apps and Platforms: Many schools require students to access only approved apps or websites, like Google Classroom, Khan Academy, and local EdTech platforms tailored to national curriculum.

Device Sharing: In schools with limited resources, students might share smartphones for group activities, promoting teamwork and collaborative learning.

Enhanced Collaboration: Phones can facilitate group work by allowing students to share documents, ideas, and feedback instantly. Apps like Google

Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and collaborative tools like Google Docs allow students to work together even outside class.

Access to Educational Apps and Tools: There are countless educational apps that can reinforce what is taught in class. Math, science, language learning, and history apps provide interactive exercises, quizzes, and explanations that cater to various learning styles, making complex topics more accessible and enjoyable.

Nigeria

Nigerian schools, especially in urban areas, are embracing smartphones as educational tools. Initiatives by EdTech companies like ULesson and Pass.ng provide digital content accessible via smartphones.

Teachers allow smartphones during certain periods to access study aids, online quizzes, and interactive lessons. Many Nigerian schools use mobile apps that facilitate personalized learning, allowing students to study at their own pace within a structured classroom setting.

Morocco

Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and collaborative tools like Google Docs allow students to work together even outside class.

Access to Educational Apps and Tools: There are countless educational apps that can reinforce what is taught in class. Math, science, language learning, and history apps provide interactive exercises, quizzes, and explanations that cater to various learning styles, making complex topics more accessible and enjoyable.

Real-World Learning: Phones can enable students to engage in real-world projects. For instance, in a biology class, students can photograph and document plant species in their area, which can later be analyzed. GPS and location-based apps are useful for geography and environmental science classes, helping students connect theoretical knowledge with their surroundings.

These initiatives are largely supported by public-private partnerships, government policies on digital literacy, and the growing availability of affordable smartphones in Africa.

Controlled Environment for Respon-

Worth Noting:

- Kenya has integrated mobile devices into educational practices through partnerships with tech companies and the government's Digital Literacy Program. In schools with digital access, teachers allow students to use smartphones for research, interactive learning apps, and accessing e-books.
- South Africa, particularly in more urbanized areas, has made strides with technology in classrooms under the Department of Basic Education's digital initiatives, which promote mobile learning. Many private and semi-private schools allow controlled smartphone usage for educational purposes.
- Ghana is incorporating smartphones in education through initiatives led by both government and non-governmental organizations. Programs like iCampusGH provide students with online learning resources and courses accessible through mobile devices.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UDA's Vision For Kenya: A Promising Path Or Political Platitude?

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA), Kenya's ruling party, has unveiled an ambitious vision for the country's future through its Deputy Party Leader, Kithure Kindiki. This vision, centered on the "Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda" (BETA), represents a significant shift in Kenya's approach to economic development and governance. While the party's commitment to unity, national cohesion, and economic transformation is laudable, it's crucial to critically examine whether these ideals can translate into tangible benefits for ordinary Kenyans.

UDA's emphasis on BETA marks a departure from traditional top-down economic models. By focusing on key sectors such as agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), housing, healthcare, and the digital economy, the party appears to recognize the pressing needs of the majority of Kenyans. This grassroots-oriented strategy has the potential to address long-standing issues of income inequality and unemployment that have plagued the country for decades.

The party's vision aligns closely with Kenya's broader development goals, particularly Vision 2030, which aims

to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens. UDA's focus on the five key pillars of BETA - Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth, MSME Economy, Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, and the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy - demonstrates a comprehensive approach to development that could potentially drive significant economic growth.

However, the true test of UDA's vision lies in its implementation. Kenya has a history of grand development plans that have fallen short of expectations, often due to corruption, mismanagement, and lack of political will. The party's ability to navigate complex political and economic realities while maintaining its commitment to these ideals will be crucial. The Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) for 2023-2027, developed by the National Treasury and Economic Planning, serves as the blueprint for implementing BETA. With a projected cost of KSh. 15.3 trillion, the successful execution of this plan will require not only political commitment but also significant financial resources and effective governance.

The strong support for President William Ruto within the party structure

presents both opportunities and challenges. While it may facilitate swift policy implementation, it also raises concerns about the concentration of power and the potential for autocratic tendencies. The party's commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law, as outlined in its vision, must be consistently demonstrated in practice to allay these concerns.

UDA's focus on digital innovation is particularly promising, given Kenya's reputation as a tech hub in East Africa. The emphasis on the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy could position the country for significant economic growth in the digital age. However, this will require substantial investments in infrastructure, education, and skills development to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation reach all segments of society.

The party's commitment to addressing corruption and improving governance is crucial for the success of its vision. Kenya ranks 123rd out of 180 countries in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, indicating that corruption remains a significant challenge. UDA's ability to implement effective anti-corruption measures and improve government transparency will be critical in building public trust and attracting both domestic and foreign investment.

UDA's vision also emphasizes the

importance of environmental sustainability and climate action. Initiatives such as the Jaza Miti Campaign, which aims to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, demonstrate a commitment to addressing environmental challenges. However, balancing economic development with environmental conservation will require careful planning and execution.

The party's focus on youth empowerment and job creation is particularly relevant given Kenya's large youth population. With a youth bulge of 48% (people aged 15-29 as a percentage of the adult population) as of 2019, addressing youth unemployment and providing opportunities for skills development will be crucial for social stability and economic growth.

UDA's commitment to regional integration and trade, particularly through the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, could open up new opportunities for Kenyan businesses and contribute to economic growth. However, realizing these benefits will require significant improvements in infrastructure, trade facilitation, and regulatory harmonization.

As Kenya moves forward under UDA's leadership, it is imperative that the party's actions match its rhetoric. The success of UDA's vision will depend on its ability to maintain political

stability, effectively combat corruption, and create an enabling environment for both local and foreign investment. While the party's stated objectives are laudable, Kenyans should remain vigilant and hold their leaders accountable for delivering on these promises.

Ultimately, the true measure of UDA's vision will be its impact on the lives of ordinary Kenyans. Improvements in job creation, access to healthcare, affordable housing, and overall quality of life will be the key indicators of success. As the party works to implement its ambitious agenda, it must ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed and that no segment of society is left behind.

In conclusion, UDA's vision for Kenya presents a comprehensive and ambitious roadmap for the country's development. While it offers hope for a more prosperous and inclusive future, its success will depend on effective implementation, sustained political will, and the active participation of all Kenyans. As the country moves forward, it is essential that citizens remain engaged, holding their leaders accountable and contributing to the realization of this vision for a better Kenya.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Drivers Need To Stay Vigilant During Festive Season

By: **Benard Mudogo**

As the festive season approaches, drivers are reminded to prioritize safety amid increased holiday traffic. With more people taking to the roads to visit their loved ones, attend celebrations, and travel for vacations, there is often a significant increase in road accidents during this period because this time of the year brings more drivers on the road, many of whom may be in a hurry or fatigued after long workdays. Drivers need to be extra cautious to help prevent avoidable accidents.

One major concern is an increase in drunk driving incidents. As people gather for holiday festivities, alcohol consumption often rises, leading to impaired driving. Matatu SACCOS should not allow drunk drivers to drive. The SACCOS should therefore arrange alternative transport options,

like using a designated driver in case the intended driver is drunk. Driving under the influence puts everyone at risk.

In addition to drunk driving, speeding is another common issue during the holidays. Highways and city roads experience more hurried drivers eager to reach their destinations. Speed limits exist to protect everyone. It is understood that people want to be with family and friends, but speeding increases the risk of serious accidents. Taking a few extra minutes to drive safely could save lives.

Poor weather conditions also play a role in road safety during this season. Rain, fog, and even sun glare can impact visibility, making it essential for drivers to be prepared. Drivers should check their vehicles, ensuring that brakes, lights, and tires are in good condition, before setting off on long journeys. Simple precautions,



like using headlights in low visibility and maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, can make a big difference.

As the holiday spirit fills the air,

every Kenyan hope that drivers will take heed and keep safety at the forefront. The goal is to celebrate and be with loved ones. Drivers should make sure everyone reaches their

destination safely this festive season.

Benard Mudogo, Rongo University

When Giants Stand Together The Old Powers Begin To Tremble

An uncompromising look at the awakening of the global South and the fading grip of old empires



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyaintimes

In the early 20th century, as Western nations flaunted their wealth and wielded their weapons, one man dared to envision the future differently. Cartoonist Bob Minor, in a striking image created nearly a century ago, captured what would become the world's emerging reality: the rise of the global South, the "sleeping giants" of China, India, and Africa, standing tall against the looming shadows of Western imperialism.

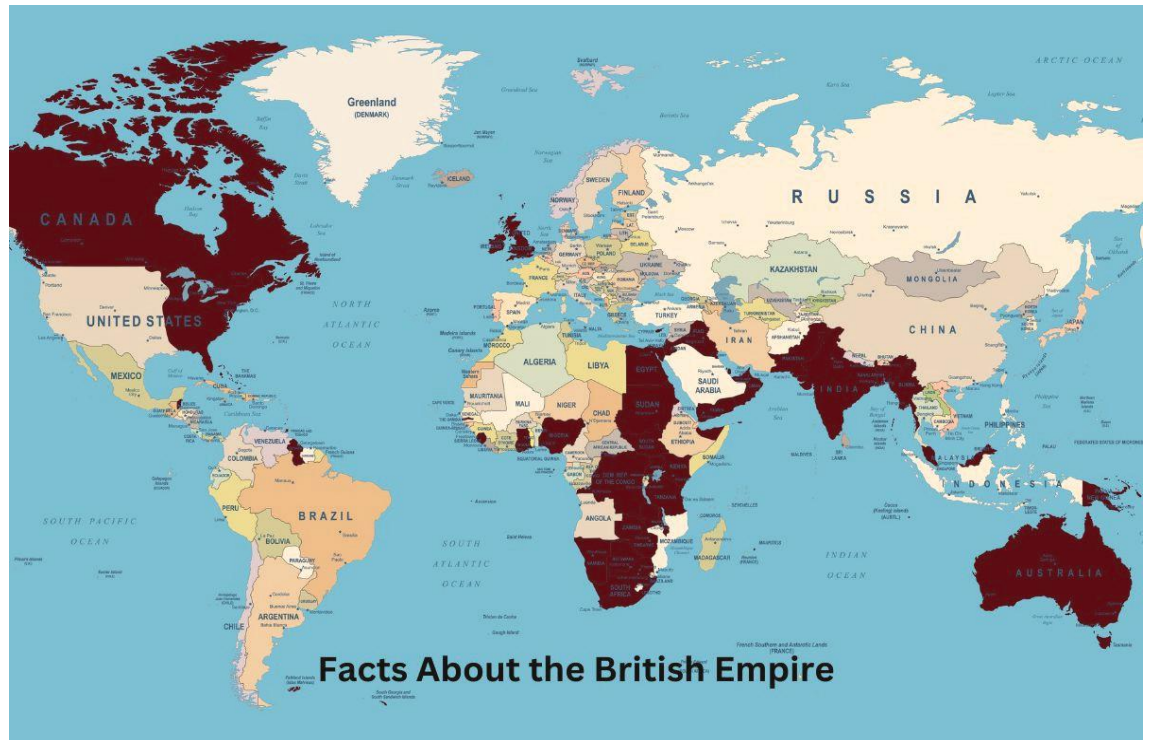
He saw the powerful irony—the mighty guns, the stacks of gold, the forceful hand of Western empires that seemed unstoppable—while three vast continents stood, silent yet unbroken, rich not in weapons or wealth, but in people and potential. Why did the West become a world leader? It's a legacy from the colonies, power from the weapon and pride from the ages.

They held the world in an iron fist, commanding alliances and bending weak countries to their will. America and Britain, under the banner of "liberty" and "civilization," lied so widely, so deeply rooted, that even the victims believed it. But history has a way of moving under the feet of those who think they are standing still.

Today, almost a century after the Cartan Miner, the balance of power is in trouble. The "long beds" that have been set aside begin to rise, causing tremors around the world. Look around: China, imprisoned by poverty and foreign oppression, is now a sovereign nation, a nation standing up to the empires that sought to rule it.

With transnational infrastructure projects and the Belt and Road Initiative connecting the world along the New Silk Road, China has become a leader and partner for countries eager to develop on their own terms. The US may scream, stomp its feet, and retaliate, but China's rise continues. "Let China sleep," Napoleon once warned, "for when she wakes, she will shake the world." And now, that prophecy resounds, louder than ever.

India, too, has found its voice, a vibrant democracy and a rising economic force that holds within it the legacy of colonial scars and the will to forge its own path. No longer the land of subjects under British rule, India stands as a beacon of possibility, its growth a testament to resilience and reinvention.



Worth Noting:

- India, too, has found its voice, a vibrant democracy and a rising economic force that holds within it the legacy of colonial scars and the will to forge its own path. No longer the land of subjects under British rule, India stands as a beacon of possibility, its growth a testament to resilience and reinvention.
- The very British Empire that once proclaimed "the sun never sets" now finds itself in the dusk of its influence, facing a former colony that shines as a leader on the world stage. India's tech industry, its space programs, its rapidly growing economy—these are not just signs of progress; they are signals of a world where the script has been flipped. Africa, Africa, the country that has borne the heaviest burden of imperial greed.

The very British Empire that once proclaimed "the sun never sets" now finds itself in the dusk of its influence, facing a former colony that shines as a leader on the world stage. India's tech industry, its space programs, its rapidly growing economy—these are not just signs of progress; they are signals of a world where the script has been flipped. Africa, Africa, the country that has borne the heaviest burden of imperial greed.

It has been used for centuries, resources have been taken away, territories drawn by foreign hands have become desolate. Africa must be destroyed, a pawn in the game of the powerful. But here we see a land that is growing, a land that contains the seeds of its life. Countries like Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia no longer want to be subject to Western history.

As they emerge, they make connections, use resources, and create stories of their own. The West is cautious and uncertain, because Africa's potential means less control over natural resources than it has been neglected. The humor here is undeniable. For centuries, the West has built its wealth on the backs of the nations it now fears.

The life of a child of oppression and his strength is built in oppression. Now the nations themselves - exiled and defeated - are not actors on the world stage. Cartoon Minor captures this future: the giants have woken up from their slumber, and the Western powers that once dominated them

seem small, their power at the end of the and it slips from their fingers like sand.

But let's not say this change is good. No, the previous powers don't give up easily. When they resist, they use every tool to maintain control. Economic sanctions, political sanctions, military bases scattered on foreign lands - these are the brutal methods of empires that feel that the country is crumbling beneath them.

Look at Western rhetoric, the same narrative that paints China as a threat, India as an adversary, and Africa as a problem. Scary, plain and simple. Fearing that the world they ruled was about to disappear, the giants who had been sleeping all day woke up. As these powers rise, new alliances are created, alliances that do not depend on the interests of the West.

BRICS, the alliance of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is a symbol of this change - a group of countries that represent not only economic power, but also a vision of a multilateral world, where shared and non-shared power. The fortunes of this alliance challenge the foundations of Western imperialism and deliver a balance the world has not seen in centuries. And the West is wary of expanding the influence of the BRICS, knowing that the organization could end its independence.

Is this not poetic justice? That those who once ruled with iron and fire now find themselves at the mercy of the same nations they oppressed.

The people of these lands are awake, and with each passing day, they reclaim their voice, their dignity, their right to self-determination. Minor's vision has come true, and as the giants of the global South rise, the old order trembles. What was once seen as unbreakable is now vulnerable, and the world watches as the sleeping giants shake off the chains of history, determined to shape their own future.

Empires built on exploitation cannot last. The tides of history are unrelenting, and no amount of guns, no mountain of gold, no fervent cries of "freedom" from imperial mouths can stop the inevitable. China, India, and Africa are not mere players in the West's game—they are creators of a new narrative, one that no longer bows to Western whims. And perhaps this, above all, is what the West fears most: a world where they are no longer the center, a world where the giants stand tall and cast their own shadows across the globe.

One day, they said, these giants would wake. That day is here. And as they stand together, the old powers find themselves dwarfed by the very continents they once sought to control. The balance has shifted, and history, it seems, has a way of settling scores

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

Pick A Performer For Next Interior Cabinet Secretary

Contd from page 17

the chair of the Finance, Trade, Tourism and Investment standing committee of the national assembly.

Under his stewardship, the Committee is credited with pushing for many of the economic and business reform measures that created an enabling for government, business and citizens to unleash their long pent up entrepreneurship energies and prudent economic management that saw gross domestic product (GDP) rise from negative two in 2002 to 7% in 2007.

In mid-2005, Kagwe was tapped by President Mwai Kibaki to become the ICT minister. In the two years to the December 2007 elections, Mutahi is credited with conceptualizing and executing the most far reaching reforms in the digital economy sector through a number of initiatives, which laid the foundation for Kenya's silicon savanna status and the

booming digital economy sector.

The first was negotiating for private sector players in Kenya - Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and telecommunication companies alike - to get access, and own internet gateways at the Mombasa Point Of Presence (PoP). The second was inviting the private sector to partner with government in building a fiber optic cable connecting Kenya to the world.

This crystallized in the 5,000km East Africa Marine system (TEAMS) fiber optic cable connecting Mombasa to Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). TEAMS Kenya Ltd is 85% owned by Kenya (20% Government; 32% Safaricom Ltd; 23% Telkom Kenya; 10% Liquid telecom; 6% Wananchi Group; 5% Jamii Telecom Ltd; 1.8%; Access Kenya Group and 1.2% by BCS Group. The balance of 15% is owned by Etisalat of UAE.

TEAMS was designed to have an initial capacity of 80 Gb/s, but this was increased to 120 Gbit/s, and with its reliable, low latency system has increased traffic from Kenya and oth-

er East African countries, massively slashing the cost of data, making it affordable for many Kenyans, reducing costs for providers, increasing internet usage and reliability, thereby contributing immensely to economic growth over the years.

The third initiative was the privatization of Telkom Kenya. The government was keen to divest from Telkom Kenya by selling a 51% stake and raise much needed capital whilst bringing in a strategic partner who would restructure the firm and make it competitive. Kagwe was able to raise \$390mn from the winning bid by the France Telkom-Alcazar consortium, a whopping \$170mn above the PKF Consulting market valuation of \$220mn.

The fourth groundbreaking initiative was the origination and shepherding of the initial public offering (IPO) of 25% of Safaricom shares.

The 10 billion share offer was massively oversubscribed, with retail investors oversubscribing by 670%, and institutional investors by 321%. The share offer raised \$863mn (Ksh.

51.75bn then), and created a demand equivalent to Ksh. 226bn. Coming immediately after the deadly post-election violence in December 2007 and January 2008 where about 1,300 people lost their lives and 300,000 were rendered homeless, this was a huge vote of confidence for Kenya at a critical juncture in our history, governance, and President Kibaki's economic policies. Safaricom and MPESA have since gone in to dominate the world, and is East and Central Africa's largest and most profitable listed firm, with a current market cap of US\$627,024 million.

Of course, Kagwe has benefited from synergies from having had the privilege of shadowing, working with, learning and latitude from a distinguished group of public servants and leaders whose singular focus has been public service and the best interests of Kenya as a whole - from Kibaki, whose celebrated macroeconomic policies and demeanor made him flourish in his postings, to the late Minister for Internal Security John Michuki who brought order to

the security docket and in the public transport sector, to contemporaries and cabinet colleagues like Dr. Fred Matiang'i in Education and Internal affairs, Prof. George Magoha in Education, Nelson Marua in Provincial Administration, Joseph Kinyua and Francis Muthaura, and Prof. Biantange Ndemo in the digital economy space..

Kagwe understands and upholds the collegiality required of the cabinet, the interdependence of the different arms of government, the import of the oath of office, and the institution of the presidency as the symbol of national unity.

This is the kind of battle-tested, tried and proven nominee that Kenyans are urging President Ruto to nominate for this position.

Hez Gikang'a is a political analyst and publicist based in Nairobi

When Giants Stand Together The Old Powers Begin To Tremble

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

sible Use

To ensure that phones are used responsibly and to avoid distractions, several strategies can be implemented:

Guided Access: Smartphones are used under teacher supervision, usually with specific time limits and educational goals in mind.

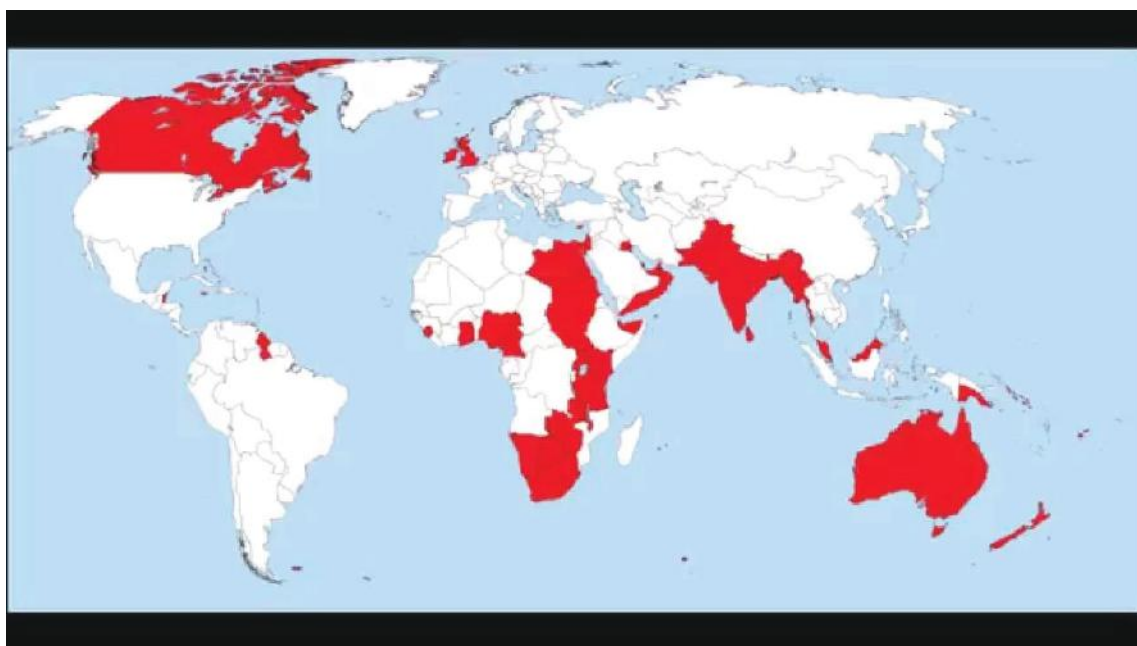
Restricted Network Access: Schools often control Wi-Fi networks, limiting access to non-educational sites to minimize distractions.

Clear Usage Policies: Schools should set strict guidelines on when, where, and how phones can be used. Teachers could establish specific periods within lessons for phone use, allowing students to access resources without the risk of distraction during lectures or discussions.

Monitoring and Restriction Software: Schools could install monitoring or restriction apps on student devices to control access to non-educational websites and apps during school hours. Additionally, some applications allow teachers to monitor screens in real-time, ensuring that students remain focused on the assigned tasks.

Teacher Training for Effective Integration: Teachers should be trained not only to use these tools effectively but also to manage a classroom where phones are used. Training can help educators introduce phones in ways that enhance learning rather than detract from it.

Parent and Community Involvement: Parents should be informed about the educational role of phones and be involved in supporting responsible phone use. Schools could hold workshops for parents to help them understand the benefits and potential risks, building a supportive network around learners.



Conclusion

Incorporating phones in school through a curriculum designed for digital learning has the potential to transform education, making it more

accessible, relevant, and engaging. When managed within a structured environment, phones become powerful tools that support personalized learning, digital literacy, and real-world application of knowledge.

Allowing students to use phones in a controlled way not only aligns with modern educational goals but also prepares them for the demands of a technology-driven world.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *La Liga leaders Barcelona fell to a 1-0 defeat at Real Sociedad on Sunday as they had a Robert Lewandowski goal controversially disallowed.

Liga Leaders Barca Stumble In Controversial Defeat At Real Sociedad



Barcelona's Brazilian forward Raphinha (C) tries to get away from Real Sociedad's Spanish defender Aritz Elustondo (L) during the Spanish league football match between Real Sociedad and FC Barcelona at the Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian on November 10, 2024. (Photo by ANDER GILLENENA / AFP).

La Liga leaders Barcelona fell to a 1-0 defeat at Real Sociedad on Sunday as they had a Robert Lewandowski goal controversially disallowed.

Sheraldo Becker's 33rd-minute goal consigned the Catalan giants to their second league defeat of the season, leaving Hansi Flick's side six points clear of second-placed Real Madrid, having played an extra match.

Lewandowski's early disallowed strike led to furious debate over whether the Polish forward had been offside or not.

Barcelona were without teenage star Lamine Yamal after he suffered a blow to his ankle in the Champions League win at Red Star Belgrade midweek and badly missed his spark.

The Catalans failed to score in a match for the first time this season across all competitions as Real Sociedad, eighth, held firm, while Barcelona did not manage a single shot on target.

"It's a tough place to go, where La Real push a lot... we have to learn from our mistakes and that's it," Barcelona midfielder Pedri told Movistar.

"Normally we score goals but today we weren't accurate, I think it will be a one-off, and in the following games we we'll be more precise.

"I think the team is working well and (not scoring) is not something that worries me."

Playmaker Dani Olmo started on the bench while defender Pau Cubarsi played in a mask after suffering a cut which needed stitches on his face in Serbia.

The Catalans have struggled in San Sebastian in the past and were given another uncomfortable night in the Basque country.

Lewandowski thought he had fired Barcelona in front after 13 minutes when he reacted well to a blocked shot to fire home, but the goal was ruled out following a VAR review.

Referee Guillermo Cuadra Fernandez was told Lewandowski was offside, although the forward did not appear to be in front of Real Sociedad defender Nayef Aguerd.

The semi-automated offside technology used in La Liga indicated the front of Lewandowski's boot was off, but Spanish media furiously debated whether the technology had misinterpreted Aguerd's heel as part of the veteran striker's boot.

- La Real in control -

With Barcelona's strike chalked out, the hosts took control and tested visiting goalkeeper Inaki Pena several times.

Takefusa Kubo's low drive stung Pena's fingers after a fine dribble inside from the right flank by the Japan international.

Becker fired Real Sociedad ahead with a cool low finish after Luka Sucic nodded the ball into his path.

Flick brought on Olmo for the ineffective Frenkie de Jong at half-time but Barcelona remained second best.

Becker screwed a shot wide after Jules Kounde did just enough to put off the Real Sociedad winger, and Ander Barrenetxea also squeezed an effort wide from a tight angle after bursting into the area.

Despite scoring 40 goals in their first 12 league matches Barcelona were unable to find the net or even create any significant danger in the final stages.

"We really wanted to win at home and there was no better team to do it against," said Real Sociedad midfielder Brais Mendez.

"They are the most in-form team in Europe and the fans deserved a night like this."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Barcelona star forwards Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal have picked up injuries which have ruled them out of the international break, the La Liga leaders said yesterday

Barca Rule Out Lewandowski For 10 Days, Yamal Up To Three Weeks



FILE PHOTO: Soccer Football - LaLiga - FC Barcelona v Sevilla - Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys, Barcelona, Spain - September 29, 2023 FC Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski reacts REUTERS/Albert Gea/File Photo

Barcelona star forwards Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal have picked up injuries which have ruled them out of the international break, the La Liga leaders said yesterday.

Lewandowski suffered a back injury in Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Real Sociedad during which he had a goal controversially disallowed. "Lewandowski is having trouble in the lumbar region of his back, and will be rested for about 10 days," Barcelona said in a statement.

The 36-year-old will miss Poland's upcoming Nations League games against Portugal and Scotland, but should be back for Barcelona's next league outing at Celta Vigo on November 23.

Yamal missed Sunday's game in San Sebastian with a right ankle injury and is expected to be out of action for between two and three weeks, the club said.

The 17-year-old will miss Spain's matches on Thursday in Denmark and next Monday against Switzerland, and Barca's trip to Vigo.

He is also a doubt for the home Champions League game against Brest on November 26 and the following La Liga meeting with Las Palmas.

Yamal has scored six goals in his 15 games this season, while Lewandowski has 17 in all competitions and is currently the top goalscorer in La Liga.

Barcelona are sixth in the Champions League with nine points.

The Catalans are six points ahead of Real Madrid in La Liga but have played a game more than

their title rivals.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Meet Ruth A Statistics Lady, Philanthropist And A Teacher By Profession



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
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Worth Noting:

- I am also a volunteer with our church organization hence making me a philanthropist. Growing up in Machakos I have seen it all if not all of it. I have seen children die due to lack of health care and basic needs. I have seen parents cry due to challenges that they face. With this in mind i have always wanted to give an impact to the society I am in. I have been volunteered to make change in the society and find even if it is that one lost soul.
- I haven't been left out as a farmer. I do farming both in up-country and I have also a project if how we can do farming in the city.

My name is Ruth Mutheu. I was born in Machakos County. I grew up there from my childhood and then came to Nairobi to study. I am a teacher by profession and a farmer by Passion and a statistic lady and a philanthropist. I have five years of experience in the profession. I love teaching it always makes me feel so good helping a child grow and reach their dream or goal. In Agriculture I do facilitation to farmers with the world changing healthy living advises such as eating meals rich in organic matter mostly the things they grow such as vegetables.

Funny story I didn't want to be a teacher which later turned to be my noble profession. At first I hated it to be honest, I wanted to be a journalist, I loved seeing Lulu Hassan present news and that always motivated me , unfortunately I was not really good at Swahili and we all know languages play a big role in the career so after my KCSE I opted for bachelor of education -arts which I studied it at Mount Kenya University- Thika Campus. With time as I started practicing the career interacting with the learners and seeing how amazing it is to put a smile on a child's face and changing their life I grew to love the career and I enjoy doing it. Apart from teaching I find myself doing statistic. This is due to my love of Mathematics. Many will get amazed how is a girl-child in love with Mathematics yet the world has positioned them to love languages. I am one among many in this world. I love doing statistics as a passion.

I am also a volunteer with our church organization hence making me a philanthropist. Growing up in Machakos I have seen it all if not all of it. I have seen children die due to lack of health care and basic needs. I have seen parents cry due to challenges that they face. With this in mind i have always wanted to give an impact to the society I am in. I have been volunteered to make change in the society and find even if it is that one lost soul.

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Every teachers dream is by the end day their learners achieving the goal or objective of the day, so to me an ideal day is a day when I can truly tell that my learners have understand what I taught or seeing them thrilled to ask more questions and learn more it makes me feel so amazing. Mostly when I wake up in the morning I pray and ask God to grant me a good day and also good lessons.

I love solving problems with kids and helping them that's my favorite part of my work. I also love to you diverse teaching strategies and methodologies to enable my teaching more interesting to the learners. The learners love mostly what I facilitate them as nowadays teachers are called facilitators. This is my greatest aim in my profession.

My greatest challenge is that not all learners have the same ability so it's really not easy trying to make sure you reach out to every child despite their differences, it needs motivation and lots of support. Catering for all individual differences in the learners sometimes it becomes hard mostly when you lack support from even the parents.

Yeah, teaching isn't easy honestly, the biggest challenge I have incurred is lacking support, trying to help a learner with zero parental support and concern is hard. I would love the parents to understand that we are all stakeholders in the Education sector. One should always check what their learners are doing mostly in this curriculum of the competence based.

I recognize progress no matter how small and appreciate it hence it keeps me moving also I got bills to pay and a life am looking forward to so that too.

Yeah sometimes I do advertisement for the school and more kids when they comes means my job will be safe. Again during holiday as a Philanthropist I do volunteering works with our church or different organizations in reaching out to the needy and also those who are not informed in the community. I offer my services as a teacher and even more to make the world a better place to live.

This is a really hard question and I



Ruth Mutheu

don't know how to perfectly answer it but all I could say is everyone is unique in their own way so find what is unique about you and what motivates you and follow it. Mostly in statistics I would love people to always get well with the facts. To teachers out here i would love them to understand that they are facilitators. They should always understand that for one to become a great teacher you must be prepared for obstacles and you should always understand your learners very well.

Teachers are really underrated and not appreciated so given a chance

I'd really advocate for that, with this coming generation if you ask a class what they'd want to be when they grow up none of them wants to be a teacher if they were valued like most of the careers it'd even motivate kids to be teachers, so given a chance I'd fight for teachers and I'd make changes to show that they're of value and need to be valued.

Well I really don't post about my work that a lot but if need to reach out my Instagram page is ruth-mutheu09 .