



Urgent Need To Localize Climate Finance For Africa Agenda At COP29
 The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) is being convened in Baku, Azerbaijan. This event will include the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29), the 19th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19)

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P. 8. Chief Justice Martha Koome has urged the Maasai community to explore alternative methods of resolving the escalating land disputes in the region.



News>> Unveiling Africa's Greatest Hidden Assets: The Rise Of African Female Entrepreneurs

P. 12. The African investment climate is optimistic. The African Development Bank's 2024 outlook was explicit. Africa's economic performance was strong and shows resilience, but that performance has been slower

Mudavadi Champions Africa's Energy Future

Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi, represented President William Ruto at a high-level event on Africa's energy future, held alongside climate talks in Baku, Azerbaijan. The side event, titled 'Africa's Green Momentum', gathered global leaders to chart Africa's path in the global energy transition. The discussions emphasized the 'Nairobi Declaration', which reaffirms Africa's commitment to green energy as both a necessity and an opportunity.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
 Cinnamon: A spicy delight
 Cardamom: Spice of life
 Masala Tea: Blend of delicious spices
 Ginger Tea: A zesty and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Kathwana And Marimanti Towns Receive A Major Facelift, Traders Express Joy

By: Mwenda Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

The ongoing improvement of infrastructure in Kathwana and Marimanti towns in Tharaka Nithi County will greatly improve living conditions and strengthen security.

Through the Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP), roads in the towns are being tarmacked, residents are being provided with clean and reliable water supply and high mast flood lights have been installed to improve security.

Through the project that is being implemented by the county government, there is ongoing construction of modern sanitation facilities.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the projects in the two towns, officials from World Bank, National Government and County Government led by county executive member for Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works, and Urban Development, Giti Kijiru and the department's Chief Officer Faith Kalunda, lauded the ongoing works.

Also present was Tharaka Nithi County Secretary, Mr Alex Muratha, Finance and Economic Planning executive, Mr Lawrence Rweria and Water Chief Officer Loise Mutua.

Economic growth

Mr Giti said the projects will greatly support economic growth and quality of life in the two fast growing towns in Chuka/Igambang'ombe and Tharaka constituencies.

The officials said the work is scheduled to take only one year and lauded residents of the two towns for cooperating and owning the project.

"The projects are progressing very well in the two towns and residents have embraced and owned them which is very important and encouraging. The few people who had encroached on the road reserve removed their temporal structures voluntarily," said Mr Giti.

Ms Karegi Kiura, a community leader and a stakeholder in Marimanti town said tarmacking of the streets will change the face of the town and attract investors.



Some of the stakeholders

She said the road opens areas that were impenetrable, boosting accessibility to businesses even during the rainy season and also promoting the land price.

While lauding Governor Muthomi Njuki, Ms Kiura added that with completion of the modern sanitation facility and provision of clean and reliable drinking water, cases of outbreak of waterborne diseases will be a thing of the past.

"This project is going to change Marimanti into a modern town. The flood lights have already turned this town into a 24-hour economy because of the assured security," said Ms Kiura.

Keep off politics

Mr James Mutegi, another trader, asked politicians to keep off politics in Marimanti open-air market contract so that the work can start.

"We know some politicians blocked construction of Marimanti town modern market for political reasons but we are the people who are suffering," said Mr Mutegi.

Mr Patrick Kimathi, an investor and stakeholder in Kathwana town said the once dusty town has grown into a modern municipality with modern infrastructure.

He said apart from the projects under KISIP, Governor Njuki has also brought other great infrastructural changes including provision of clean water, construction of social hall, governor's residence and office and open-air market.

"We are urging the national government to ensure completion of the executive office building so that workers can work comfortably for better service delivery," said Mr Kimathi.



Ongoing construction of roads in Marimanti and Kathwana towns. Photo/Mwenda Njeru.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during an inspection tour of the projects in the two towns, officials from World Bank, National Government and County Government led by county executive member for Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works, and Urban Development, Giti Kijiru and the department's Chief Officer Faith Kalunda, lauded the ongoing works.
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Editor's Desk

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The government has said that the proposed new tax laws are aimed at fostering sustainable growth, safeguarding social equity and improving Kenyans quality of life without increasing the burden on citizens. Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura noted that in the past two years, the governments' agenda has been prioritizing job creation, income distribution and economic stability, which aims to drive its commitment in achieving an economic environment that allows all Kenyans to thrive. "The government is committed to implementing policies that not only address current fiscal needs, but also aim to strengthen the nation's economic foundation for the future. With rising public debt, we must implement balanced measures to ensure a sustainable public debt position. Our goal is to develop an economy and align it to rely more on robust domestic revenue generation than on foreign debt," said Mwaura in his weekly media briefing.



Nakuru County is set to benefit from a new initiative that seeks to scale up renewable energy powered technology that will enhance value addition to the vegetable food chain. The World Resources Institute (WRI), in collaboration with Strathmore University (SU), has launched the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) project, which seeks to identify and integrate renewable energy in the agriculture sector across five counties in Kenya, including Nakuru. The PURE project is geared towards unlocking potential investments in clean energy solutions that support various stages of the vegetable value chain, such as powering production, cooling, refrigeration and value addition processes. The project hopes to achieve sustainable growth by collecting detailed data and identifying areas with high potential for clean energy integration, and therefore foster a more resilient agricultural sector in Nakuru. Director for Environment, Energy, climate change and natural resources Grace Karanja revealed that the project will involve several activities that include the review of existing data and gathering additional insights through interviews and group discussions with vegetable farmers and developing a pipeline of investable renewable energy projects.



The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry has held a trade and investment forum between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kenya, a trade mission aimed at boosting business and investments relations, opening up more opportunities for businesses to thrive in Kenya and the UAE. Speaking on Monday at the forum, Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary (CS) Salim Mvurya said that the Trade Mission platform aimed at discussing and exploring opportunities of boosting business and investments relations. He noted that such a forum would not have been possible without the warm and cordial relations existing between the two countries as evidenced by continued cooperation and partnership on issues of mutually beneficial interest.



The Kenya Army held its annual Commanding Officers and Commandants Conference at Kaha-wa Barracks, bringing together senior officers to review and assess mission readiness and operational performance. The one-day conference, themed "Accountable and Value-Based Leadership for Mission Readiness—Navigating the Current into the Future", served as a vital platform for leaders to share insights, enhance team cohesion, and refine strategies for tackling emerging threats. During the event, Commander of the Kenya Army, Lieutenant General David Tarus, emphasized the importance of strong, value-based leadership in ensuring the force's resilience and operational success. He urged officers to lead by example, stating, "You occupy crucial positions that influence the teams you oversee. It is essential that you consistently exemplify strong leadership in order to cultivate a reliable and resilient unit." The conference provided an invaluable opportunity for the Army's leadership to engage in critical discussions on improving collective performance, with Major General Luka Kutto and Major General Jeff Nyagah also highlighting the essential role officers play in connecting leadership with service members on the ground.



Members of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives have reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the public interest. Led by the Committee's Vice Chairperson, Marianne Kitany (Aldai), the lawmakers pledged to address the challenges facing the critical sector they oversee and ensure that high standards are upheld. "As a Committee, we are committed to being responsive to the needs of Kenyans in this vital sector," Kitany said. Her comments came during a meeting of the Committee yesterday, where members received a comprehensive briefing on the findings of a special audit into the importation of edible oils by the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC). The Committee that is chaired by James Gakuya of Embakasi North constituency is now in the final stages of concluding its inquiry into the matter.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

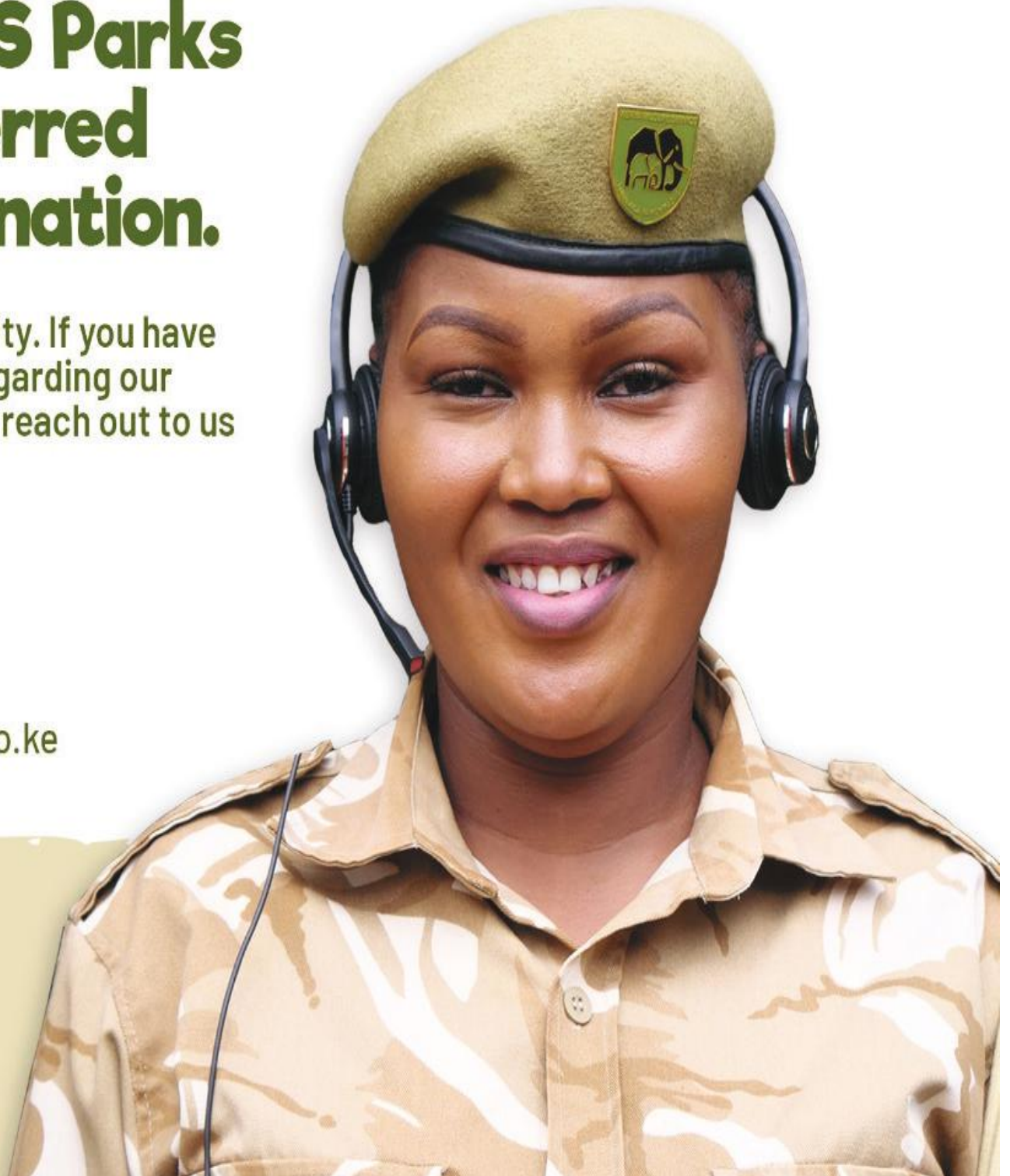
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Nakuru County Channels Investments In New Technologies To Mitigate Non-Revenue Water Loss

By: Esther Mwangi and Felistars Kahungu

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Worth Noting:

- While observing that Kenya loses about 430,000 cubic metres of water, equivalent to Sh12.2 billion, per year due to unnecessary wastages, Dr. Maara argued that by fixing inefficiencies in water supply systems, it will save a huge portion of public finances.
- He said nationally, more than 200 million cubic meters of water valued at over Sh12 billion was being lost annually, adding that such losses led to reduction in the quality and availability of water services, often resulting in inadequate water and sanitation access for citizens.

The County Government of Nakuru is increasing investments in new technologies such as new modern pipelines and advanced metering solutions (Smart meters) to reduce non-revenue water losses.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of Water, Environment, Climate Change Energy and Natural Resources Dr. Nelson Maara said the County government intended to reduce wastages in the water generated from its three Water Service Providers (WSPs), from an average of 54 per cent to 20 per cent through several intervention measures.

He explained that the County was exploring the application of Geographical Information System (GIS) for receiving real-time data on bursts and leakages, installation of smart meters for accurate billing, replacement of the dilapidated infrastructure and development of institutional anti-corruption policies and enforcement measures to prevent illegal connections.

While observing that Kenya loses about 430,000 cubic metres of water, equivalent to Sh12.2 billion, per year due to unnecessary wastages, Dr. Maara argued that by fixing inefficiencies in water supply systems, it will save a huge portion of public finances.

He said nationally, more than 200 million cubic meters of water valued at over Sh12 billion was being lost annually, adding that such losses led to reduction in the quality and availability of water services, often resulting in inadequate water and sanitation access for citizens.

The CECM however assured that his department was implementing several measures to curb water losses including leak detection and repair, conduct-



ing regular audits and monitoring to identify and address leaks promptly, replacing aging pipes with durable, installing modern tamper-proof meters to improve billing accuracy, and promoting public education on water conservation and leak reporting.

Speaking during a workshop themed "Accelerating Reduction of Non-Revenue Water to Sustainable Levels," Dr. Maara pledged that old wastewater treatment, water supply and sewerage systems managed by the Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company Ltd (NAWASSCO), Nakuru Rural Water and Sanitation Company Limited (NARUWASCO) and Naivasha Water, Sewerage and Sanitation Company Ltd (NAIVAWASCO) will be rehabilitated and upgraded to provide improved safe water access to communities in the devolved unit.

Maara underscored the importance of safe water supplies, hygienic sanitation and good water management saying they were fundamental to public health and environmental conser-

vation.

Non-Revenue Water (NRW) refers to water that is produced but lost through inefficient or rundown supply infrastructure and malfunctioning meters, leaks, theft and meter inaccuracies before it reaches the customers.

Water Services and Regulatory Board (WASREB) defines levels of Non-Revenue-Water of under 20 per cent as good, 20-25per cent as acceptable and over 25 per cent as not acceptable. Non-revenue-water affects the sustainability and economic viability of water utilities.

A Non-Revenue Water (NRW) audit carried out by the County recently, revealed that the three Water service providers lose more than half of their treated drinking water to leaks, theft and meter inaccuracies, resulting in monthly losses of over Shs 40 million and scarcity of the commodity.

In July 2023, the Ministry of Water and Environment launched the Non-Revenue Water Management Standards, followed by ongoing cam-

paigns to encourage sustainable management of non-revenue water across the sector.

The national government, through various agencies, has developed a number of policies to promote the enjoyment of the right to "clean and safe water in adequate quantities and to reasonable standards of sanitation" as stipulated in Article 43 of the Constitution.

Kenya has an ambitious national water master plan with 2030 targets. It also has its eye on the Sustainable Development Goal number six, on clean water and sanitation. So far, Kenya scores 52 percent in implementation of integrated water resources management as a component of SDG -6.

Through the development of the National Water Master Plan, Japan has been working with Kenya in assessing and evaluating the availability, reliability and quality of this country's water resources, taking into consideration the effect of climate change and rapid urbanization.

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CJ Koome Calls For Dialogue In Solving Land Disputes

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Chief Justice Martha Koome has urged the Maasai community to explore alternative methods of resolving the escalating land disputes in the region.

Koome emphasized the importance of mediation as an effective tool for conflict resolution, highlighting the role of religious leaders and elders in facilitating peaceful settlements, alongside the court's mediation process.

The Chief Justice was speaking at the official opening of the Kilgoris Environment and Land Court building, the solar installation project, and the court's newly established annexed mediation registry.

She praised the significant role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and annex courts in providing solutions to local disputes, particularly land-related conflicts.

Present at the event were Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu, area Member of Parliament Julius Sunkuli, Emurua Dikirr MP Johanna Nge'no,

Narok Deputy Governor Tamalinye Koech and various judicial officials.

In her remarks, Koome expressed concern over the prolonged nature of many land cases, some of which have been dragging on for years.

The CJ emphasized that if disputing parties could come together to resolve their differences through dialogue, it would save both time and resources.

Koome noted that many families have already exhausted their financial resources in lengthy court battles, funds that could otherwise be used to support their communities.

Koome pointed out that the mediation process, which was introduced in courts, has already proven effective in restoring relationships and fostering harmony within families and communities.

Koome reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to dispensing justice impartially, free from interference, and ensuring that people have access to fair resolution through both formal and alternative legal channels.

"Justice belongs to the people, and we will ensure they have access to it," said the CJ.

In his address, Ntutu commended the judiciary for implementing the



Chief Justice Martha Koome (Right) and Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu

alternative justice system and the annexed mediation courts. He noted that these initiatives would address the region's land challenges.

Ntutu also appealed to the judiciary to establish magistrates' courts in all sub-counties to further ease access to justice, offering to donate land for the development of these courts.

On their part, Sunkuli and his Emurua Dikirr counterpart Nge'no rejected any rumors of tension between the legislative and judicial arms of the government.

Sunkuli pointed out that the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) has been instrumental in funding various com-

munity projects, including the construction of the buildings officially opened by the Chief Justice.

Ngeno said the judiciary should consider public participation before making their ruling, citing the recent court declaration that NG-CDF kitty will cease operations in 2026.

Yaiku Community Turns To Artificial Intelligence To Save Their Dying Language

By: Muturi Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

The Yaiku communities are utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to preserve their endangered indigenous dialect.

The Cushitic community in Mukogodo Forest, Laikipia County, has developed an app to assist their upcoming generation in learning the Yiakunte language.

"The Yaiku language has been preserved digitally and AI-enabled for learning and audio-based responses to questions in English, Swahili, or Yaiku," said Jeniffer Koinante, Director Yaiku Laikipia Trust.

Yaiku Laikipiak Trust is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting the revival of the language.

Thus, the app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store for anyone interested in learning the Yai-

kunte language.

Koinante emphasizes their commitment to preserving their forefathers' language for future generations, despite ongoing Maa community assimilation.

"We have significantly documented the Yaiku dialect, preserving its meaning, and have created books and dictionaries with simple language for self-teaching," she revealed, developing various learning methods, including the use of pictorial and charts.

Ex-Senior Chief, Doldol Location Raipeti Ole Sekenoi claimed that intermarriages between Maasai and Samburu communities had led to their language to decline since only few people are left speaking it fluently.

For example, Mary Leitiko Yiakunte language Teacher highlighted that reviving their language would enable them to be recognized as a community.

"Reviving Yiakunte language is a very important thing because we are



not recognized and with it, will be known that a certain place is inhabited by Yaiku people," she said.

Moreover, in 2010 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Yiakunte language was on the verge of extinction. By then, only

nine people could speak the language fluently.

The situation has been on a downward path with only two elders aged 90 and 104 years who can speak the dangerously endangered language fluently.

Through their continued effort, the

Yaiku community have started a cultural centre inside Mukogodo Forest that will serve as a library as well as a classroom, where adults and children can learn the language through the App.

Mudavadi Champions Africa's Energy Future At Climate Talks In Baku

By: Beth Nyaga
 @themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi, represented President William Ruto at a high-level event on Africa's energy future, held alongside climate talks in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The side event, titled 'Africa's Green Momentum', gathered global leaders to chart Africa's path in the global energy transition.

The discussions emphasized the 'Nairobi Declaration', which reaffirms Africa's commitment to green energy as both a necessity and an opportunity.

This declaration serves as a cornerstone for policies guiding Africa's shift toward sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions and frames the continent's role in a greener global economy.

Through initiatives like the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) and the African Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII), leaders pledged to pursue solutions that promote economic

growth while ensuring fair and equitable development across African communities.

Prime CS Mudavadi expressed Kenya's dedication to leading on climate resilience and energy innovation.

"Kenya is committed to pioneering pathways for Africa's sustainable energy transition. These partnerships will not only address our climate goals but also improve livelihoods across the continent," he stated.

Accompanying Mudavadi were several key members of the Kenyan delegation, including CS Aden Duale of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, and CS Opiyo Wandayi of Energy and Petroleum.

Together, they underscored Kenya's vision of a just transition that benefits all Africans, ensuring energy access and economic opportunity as part of the climate action agenda.

The event saw engagement with other global dignitaries, highlighting the importance of African voices in climate leadership.

The collaborative vision outlined in Baku aims to set Africa on a path toward energy independence while playing a crucial role in global climate solutions.



Prime Cabinet Secretary

SHA CEO Elijah Wachira Suspended, Robert Ingasira Appointed Acting CEO

By: Bashir Mbuthia
 @themtkenyatimes

Acting Social Health Authority (SHA) CEO Elijah Wachira has been sent on 90-day compulsory leave, effective immediately, to allow for investigations into his professional conduct and performance in the role.

The decision was made by the Authority's Board, citing the need for a thorough inquiry into the CEO's actions during his tenure.

"This is to inform you of the Resolution of the Board to send you on Compulsory Leave effective immediately for a period of Ninety (90) days to allow for further investigations into your professional conduct and performance as Acting Chief Executive Officer of Social Health Authority," a letter addressed to Wachira, penned by SHA Chairperson Dr. Abdi Mohamed yesterday, reads

in part.

"While on leave, you shall be entitled to all your current remuneration and benefits."

Furthermore, Mohamed announced that the SHA Board had settled on Robert Ingasira to succeed Wachira. Prior to his appointment, Ingasira served as SHA's Acting Director, Financial Services.

"The Board has further appointed Mr. Robert Ingasira as Ag Chief Executive Officer, while you are on leave. Therefore, please hand over the office to him immediately," said Mohamed.

In another letter addressed to Ingasira, Mohamed highlighted that the Acting CEO will be entitled to an acting allowance in accordance with the applicable laws, the Human Resource Policies, and the Procedures Manual.

"This is to inform you of the Resolution of the Board to appoint you as Acting Chief Executive Officer SHA and NHIF effective immediately



File image of Suspended Acting Social Health Authority (SHA) CEO Elijah Wachira.

pending the finalization of investigations of the Ag. Chief Executive Officer, SHA and Chief Executive Officer

NHIF," the letter reads. "You shall be entitled to an acting allowance in accordance with the

applicable Laws, Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual."

President Ruto's Campaign Of Cleaning Up Nairobi River Is Unstoppable

By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto's commitment to the rehabilitation of Nairobi river is not in doubt.

Yesterday, he hosted members of Parliament from Nairobi to discuss the progress of this project.

He urged them to shun politics and focus on ensuring the success of this initiative.

This project will change the face and status of the capital city.

Recently, President Ruto appointed the former Starehe MP Margret Wanjiru as the Chairperson of Nairobi River Commission (NRC).

Wanjiru and her team of commissioners attended yesterday's meeting at State House Nairobi.

The head of state had earlier announced that this project will create 10,000 jobs for the young people.

The efforts to cleanup this river during the era of President Uhuru Kenyatta did not bear much fruits.

Many blamed this on failure by elected political leaders from the city to speak in one voice.

Mike Sonko, who was the governor of Nairobi, was opposed to this project.

Many people believed his position was informed by politics. He had a bone to pick with President Uhuru Kenyatta and so this project provided him with political fodder. Sonko used it to settle political scores with him.

It is worth to recall that the campaign of cleaning this river had started earlier during the reign of President Mwai Kibaki.

At the time, the initiative had been conceived and kicked off by then Environment Minister John Michuki.

Though Michuki was a nonsense and hands-on Minister, his efforts did not bore the fruits.

This is because a number of elected leaders from Nairobi had ganged up



President William Ruto meeting with Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, Nairobi Members of Parliament and Nairobi Rivers Commission, led by Chairperson Bishop Margaret Wanjiru, State House Nairobi.

against him. They resorted to undermining and stabbing him on the back.

One can therefore understand where President Ruto was coming from yesterday when he urged the city leaders to shun politics. I look forward to see

the results. My wish is to elevate Nairobi to the city of East Africa.

The President further noted. It is the wish of every Kenyan to live in a clean environment. So, the success of this initiative will be for the good

of Nairobians.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator



Nyewasco Decries Rampant Destruction Of Its Infrastructure

By: KNA

Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) is appealing to members of the public to support its efforts in curbing rampant vandalism of its physical infrastructure.

The company's Head of Security Michael Kimondo says the practice of unscrupulous persons stealing the firms' gate valves and water meters had increased, warning that the vice may further complicate supplying of water to residents of Nyeri town and its environs.

Kimondo says the crime has become so rampant that they have been forced to reach members of the public and landlords to institute additional security measures to help address the challenge.

The wave of vandalism is rife in Skuta, Witemere and Kangemi estates, where criminals are having a field day making away with dozens of gate valves and water meters.

The water utility firm now believes the practice may be orchestrated by criminals hunting for pieces of metal to sell to scrap dealers.

"Since February this year, the rate at which unscrupulous persons are vandalizing our water systems is alarming. We have witnessed this practice especially in the suburbs of Nyeri town in Witemere, Kangemi and Kamakwa. We suspect the motive behind these criminal activities it's to obtain metal parts and later sell them to scrap metal dealers. We have tried to address this matter through the National Government Administration Officers to see whether we can temporarily suspend scrap metal business in this area to curb this vice, but so far we have not managed to get a way through", he told KNA.

Veronica Wangari, a resident of Beaver estate in Skuta says they were forced to go without water for hours after criminals vandalized at least 30 water meters in the area on Wednesday last week.

The criminals also made away with at least 18 gate valves from a neighbouring estate on the same night, cutting off the tenants of the area from water supply for the better part of Thursday and Friday.

"Theft of gate valves and water meters has become a frequent occurrence here with criminals making away with the gadgets without fear of being arrested. On Wednesday night last week, we woke in the morning only to find we had no water in our houses after our water meters and gate valves got vandalized during the night.

Luckily the engineers from the Nyeri Water and Sewerage Company responded promptly to the problem and had the gate valves fixed on time. We are hoping they will also fix new me-



Nyeri County governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga with Nyewasco Managing Director Eng. Peter Kahuthu.

Worth Noting:

- "Since February this year, the rate at which unscrupulous persons are vandalizing our water systems is alarming. We have witnessed this practice especially in the suburbs of Nyeri town in Witemere, Kangemi and Kamakwa. We suspect the motive behind these criminal activities its to obtain metal parts and later sell them to scrap metal dealers. We have tried to address this matter through the National Government Administration Officers to see whether we can temporarily suspend scrap metal business in this area to curb this vice, but so far we have not managed to get a way through", he told KNA.
- Veronica Wangari, a resident of Beaver estate in Skuta says they were forced to go without water for hours after criminals vandalized at least 30 water meters in the area on Wednesday last week.

ters if they fail to trace the lost ones," she says.

Kimondo says the company is yet to arrest those behind the theft, but said they are working with local chiefs, local community leaders and the Water Police Department to track those behind the vice.

He says they have however managed to arrest two suspects in connection to the activities, while one is currently serving a jail sentence after being convicted of taking part in destroying water infrastructure.

Last year, the company also sacked one of their employees after he was suspected of having a hand in sabotaging the company's water connection.

"We are appealing to members of the public to help us in tackling this crisis, since it affects them directly. When criminals tamper with water connection it is the common person who bears the brunt of such an act.

We are also advising our clients to safeguard their water meters and gate valves in secured metal boxes to secure them from possible theft," he stated.

In September last year the company's Managing Director Engineer Peter Kahuthu had said the practice of unscrupulous persons stealing the firms' pipes, water valves and meters was on a steady rise and warned the vice may further complicate supply of water to residents of Nyeri town and its environs.

By that time, Kahuthu disclosed that the company has lost revenue running into millions of shillings as a result of destruction of key piping and water connection systems.

"One of the key challenges we are having is vandalism or interfering with our infrastructure and as such making service delivery a challenge. Once we have our equipment vandalized it means it will interrupt water supply and interfere with quality of water to our customers, so as the management of Nyewasco we are appealing to our customers and supporters to be on the lookout in case they suspect anyone trying to interfere with our water supply chain," he told the press.

Ruring'u, Skuta and Kiawara have been cited as the most affected areas as far as destruction and looting of water systems is concerned and the company has incorporated the help of the police and local administrators to apprehend those behind the practice.

Kahuthu has also disclosed that within a period of three months alone, the company has lost revenue running into millions of shillings following destruction of key piping and water connection systems.

"One of the key challenges we are having is vandalism or interfering with our infrastructure and as such making service delivery a challenge. Once we have our equipment vandalized it means it will interrupt water supply and interfere with the quality of water to our customers. So as management of Nyewasco we are appealing to our customers and supporters to be on the lookout in case they suspect anyone trying to interfere with our water supply chain," he told the press.

Ruring'u, Skuta and Kiawara were cited as the most affected areas as far as destruction and looting of water

systems was concerned.

"Nyewasco is one of the best performing non-revenue water bodies but with these vandalism activities it means it will jeopardize that performance. Being a water service provider, this is an issue that has been there all along but in the recent past it has increased.

When we talk of losses for example in the last three months, we have lost over 100 custom meters of water with areas of Ruring'u, Skuta, King'ong'o and Witemere being among the worst affected," he added.

For the last 15 years Nyewasco has retained top position as far as service provision is concerned based on assessment by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB).

The company has emerged as the best in several categories including top-performing utility overall, top utility in the very large company category, top utility in the Tana region, and top utility in non-revenue management.

In July last year, Nyeri Governor Kahiga lauded the company for emerging top in Non-Revenue Water Challenge and position two in Innovation Project in the Water Sector during the Kenya Water and Sanitation International Conference and Exhibitions.

Kahiga similarly hailed the firm, for continuously putting the county on pole position, for being the best water and sewerage provider not only locally but also globally.

The company previously existed as Nyeri Water and Sewerage Company Limited prior to a name change to Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Ltd effected in May 2019.

Unveiling Africa's Greatest Hidden Assets: The Rise Of African Female Entrepreneurs



By: Dr. Dorothy Nyambi
@themtkenyatimes



By: Mimi Kalinda
@themtkenyatimes

The African investment climate is optimistic.

The African Development Bank's 2024 outlook was explicit. Africa's economic performance was strong and shows resilience, but that performance has been slower than expected and uneven.

With challenges and global shocks, Africa's 2022 GDP growth slipped from 4.1 to 3.1 percent in 2023, yet, forecasters predict with smart policy and stable global conditions, it could climb to 3.7 percent in 2024, and 4.3 percent in 2025, making it the second-fastest growing region in the world.

To achieve this, African economies must diversify beyond resources and low-skill services, to education, energy, productivity-enhancing tech and innovation, and productive transport infrastructure. This includes innovating areas such as agri-food and high-skilled services while developing market systems.

The vast financing gap in these areas is about \$402 billion annually.

To close it, Africa needs to mobilize and scale, foster private investment, and support entrepreneurs, especially by empowering women through innovative finance.

Women are Africa's economic backbone. They comprise 58 per cent of Africa's self-employed population and contribute 13 per cent to the continent's GDP. Sub-Saharan women have amongst the highest rates of entrepreneurship at 26 percent.

Globally, one in six women intend to start a business, in Africa, it's one in three. Fifty-eight per cent of Africa's self-employed are women and contribute between \$250-300 Billion to African GDP.

Women reinvest up to 90 per cent of their incomes in education, health, and nutrition, in comparison to 40 per cent by their male counterparts, transforming societies in the process. The female economy is the world's largest emerging market, with the potential to add \$12 Trillion to the global GDP.

Yet, women are overlooked or perceived as risky.

Africa needs all entrepreneurs to reach its economic potential. Gender parity in financing and private equity will accelerate and sustain economic growth, creating meaningful employment.. Currently, there is a \$42 billion funding gap for women entrepreneurs.

The World Economic Forum projects that bridging this gap could boost Africa's growth by \$316 billion (USD).

Challenges Faced by Female Entrepreneurs.



Kim Kamarebe, Ugandan-based, Inua Capital

Despite their contributions, female entrepreneurs still struggle more relative to men.

They face cultural, financial, and institutional barriers that hinder their economic participation and are often mischaracterized as high risk or liabilities. According to Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's 2022/23 Women's Entrepreneur Report: Challenging Bias and Stereotypes, women are over-represented among the smallest businesses in highly competitive, low-margin markets and industries.

They also face inequality in the home, carrying a heavier burden of family responsibilities, which contributes to increased economic dependence and decreased interpersonal power and influence.

In Africa, these factors perpetuate harmful stereotypes that hold back women entrepreneurs in terms of legitimacy, limit access to financial capital and other critical resources necessary for business growth and success.

We need to change this.

In 2018, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) conducted a novel study at MassChallenge, a US-based network of business accelerators, companies were supposed to be evaluated on merits and not gender.

They found that women-owned startups were better bets. BCG reviewed five years of data and it found a higher percentage of women outperformed male-dominated companies.

Yet, women-owned companies, on average, received \$1 million less in financing than their male counterparts. Men-founded firms' average

investment was \$2.1 million, versus a women-founded average of \$935,000.

Yet, women-founded and co-founded firms made 10 percent more cumulative revenue (\$730K) than men (\$662K).

BCG expanded this research, conducting similar studies in France, then the UK, Germany, Sweden, and Spain. It concluded that the gender gap and bias are persistent everywhere, and the opportunity cost of not investing in women is too great to ignore.

Similarly in 2023, Camille Hebert from the University of Toronto reviewed French startups over 20 years. She found that female entrepreneurs were 22 percent less likely to obtain financing with external equity and venture capital. She discovered that highly skilled and motivated female entrepreneurs who operate in male-dominated sectors are particularly hampered, but the gender gap closes in female-dominated sectors. Moreover, female-founded startups outperform their male counterparts when offered VC. Gender stereotypes were the driver again.

This meant females would substitute debt for equity and this limits scaling and faster growth. Hebert calls for policy to address the imbalance, offer balanced representation, and attenuate gender stereotyping.

Some of the origins and effects of the gender gap may hinge on male investor socialization during a leader's formative years.

A 2021 study published in the Review of Financial Studies found that a gender gap in investment in US con-

glomerates was evident in a business leader's exposure to gender imbalance during his formative years.

If he grew up in a traditional household with a male breadwinner, went to an all-boys school, and didn't see female business role models, he was less likely to invest in women.

Research at the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania found homophily (tendency to bond with similar others) by male investors for male founders over females could be overcome. Women-led companies make up around 35 percent of new ventures but only account for two per cent of venture-backed US companies.

The study attributed the gap to bias and homophily preferences held by male venture capitalists. It surmised that boosting women's representation in leadership and resource-controlling roles would remediate the issue if a critical mass of female talent was present.

The team found that this was true as representation rose above 30 per cent, but going over 54 per cent began to see a gender bias reversal.

I've seen these financing challenges affect female African entrepreneurs. In fact, Alicia Plemmons studied gender-related bias in equity, debt, and philanthropic contribution financing decisions for early-stage African entrepreneurial ventures in 2,812 firms in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania,

Worth Noting:

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- Women reinvest up to 90 per cent of their incomes in education, health, and nutrition, in comparison to 40 per cent by their male counterparts, transforming societies in the process. The female economy is the world's largest emerging market, with the potential to add \$12 Trillion to the global GDP.

- Yet, women are overlooked or perceived as risky.

- Africa needs all entrepreneurs to reach its economic potential. Gender parity in financing and private equity will accelerate and sustain economic growth, creating meaningful employment.. Currently, there is a \$42 billion funding gap for women entrepreneurs.

Market Driven Programs Boosts Zetech University's Enrolment

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

While several local universities are struggling financially due to a huge debt crisis, others are enjoying stability and high enrolment rates, due to among others the introduction of market-driven programmes.

Zetech University according to the Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene, has introduced several programmes and has seen its population soar as evidenced by the opening of the Mangu Campus in Juja, among several other infrastructural programmes that the institution is undertaking.

According to Prof Munene, responding to market demands by producing employable students, and ensuring students complete their programmes in time makes institutions attractive to students.

He said some of the programmes are under review with the Commission for University Education (CEU),

while others have been inspected and are ready for mounting.

The new programmes, he said includes Bachelor of Education (Science), degrees in Nursing Data Analytics, Law, BioMedical Science and International Relations both Masters and PhD level.

He added that the University in August this year introduced Masters and PhD programmes in Computer Science, Doctors in Philosophy and Masters of Science in Information Technology and the demand has been huge.

"We have more than 20 scholars who have enrolled in the Masters and PhD programme in Computer Science which we launched in August. Kenyans have also shown a huge interest in these other programmes that we have introduced. We want to give them a great choice and we hope this will push our enrolment rates up," he said while speaking to journalists on Monday on the academic progress of the institution.

The VC called on students to enroll



Zetech University Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene

in programmes that boost their employability once they graduate, noting that some still pursue outdated programmes that leave them ill-prepared for today's job market.

"The CUE and other stakeholders

have been vocal in encouraging students to pursue market-driven academic programmes. Students need to have mentors to help them choose these programmes appropriately as this will reduce joblessness after they

graduate," said Prof Njenga.

Unveiling Africa's Greatest Hidden Assets: The Rise Of African Female Entrepreneurs

Contd from page 12

Uganda, and South Africa in 2020. She found substantial evidence of a negative effect of having a female primary founder on the probability of getting selected for equity funding, but not in the amount the startup attracts. She also learned with debt, female entrepreneurs are subject to a lower probability of being selected for funding and smaller total amounts of debt financing. However, philanthropic contributions don't show significant gender bias in either selection or size.

Plemmons recommends gender-lens policies for equality in both selection and investment decisions using incentive programs, networking and promotional support for female-led startups, and government programs that base funding on project perfor-

mance projections. She also calls for debt lending with decisions based on project quality, instead of gender (ie property ownership or other assets for collateral for loans, non-predatory lending based on gender). And development financial institutions should spur more philanthropic investment tuned to community impact.

Women are the greatest hidden assets in African investment

Overcoming these financing stereotypes and challenges is paramount for closing the gaps and promoting robust African economies. We must change the narrative to confirm that women entrepreneurs and investors are assets, not high-risk and liabilities.

MEDA is a global economic development organization creating business solutions to poverty. For 70 years, we've worked with partners to support market-driven development and deploy impact investing.

MEDA joins with entrepreneurs to create value in agriculture businesses through access to finance, market linkages, and innovation.

African-owned and domiciled funds are perceived as risky, limiting both their ability to secure financing to scale and their potential to drive growth and employment and change perceptions. African IVs can be catalytic to address economic challenges, promote entrepreneurship, and leverage sustainable growth.

As a pioneer Fund of Funds, the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund's investments in IVs lower the risk and serve as a pivotal player in driving continental economic transformation.

We joined with the Mastercard Foundation and a consortium of partners to create the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund. A Fund-of-funds working through African Investment Vehicles (including venture capital

funds, SME debt funds, permanent capital vehicles, etc.) to support growth-oriented African SMEs with the goal of enabling dignified and fulfilling work for young people, particularly young women. It is catalytic, in helping to crowd in more capital for entrepreneurs focusing on young women, by strengthening IVs that are committed to advancing gender equity in entrepreneurship.

Ugandan-based, Inua Capital, led by Kim Kamarebe. It is one of the Fund's IVs.

They have invested in Forna Health Foods, Founded by African single mother Angella Nabweteme, she built her business out of necessity, when she was unemployed and raising an infant. Healthcare providers marveled at how healthy her child was due to her homemade porridge. Word of mouth spread and soon she had a business. When the COVID pandemic hit, Nabweteme doubled down, digitized, and took

online nutrition classes to improve her product. Nabweteme's homemade porridge, Aunt Porridge and Instapo!, has become a sensation. Nutritious, fortified porridges that are targeted at helping weaning infants, children, breastfeeding mothers, and immune-compromised patients get essential nutrition to thrive when they need it the most, with sales exceeding \$1 million in 2018. The Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund partnered with Inua Capital and Kamarebe to invest in these companies, recognizing them as Africa's hidden entrepreneurial assets and helping them scale.

Dr. Dorothy Nyambi is President & CEO Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) while Mimi Kalinda is the Group CEO and co-Founder: Africa Communications Media Group (ACG)

Holding On To Hope



As the sixth child of Mama,
 With three more trailing after me,
 We were born into the rough hands of
 poverty—
 A house that groaned under heavy rains,
 The roof leaking, each drop a reminder
 of our grief.
 We crammed into that narrow space,
 Huddled together,
 Shivering on a hard floor, tattered sacks
 our only shelter.
 The cold gnawed at our bones,
 And hunger hollowed out our spirits.

When Papa married again,
 A second wife with her three hungry
 mouths,
 Our house became smaller,
 The roof sagged under the weight of
 new burdens.
 He left us behind,
 As if we were the remnants of a life he
 no longer wanted.
 Her children arrived like a storm—
 More hunger, more noise,
 More empty plates at the table.
 Our mother's heart cracked a little more,
 Her hands grew tired of holding on,
 Her tears fell silently in the night,
 And our cries echoed in the corners of
 a home
 That had once been filled with hope,
 But now was drowned in sorrow and
 neglect.

Schooling, they said, was our only hope—
 A dream sold in whispers,
 A hope passed from hand to hand like a
 worn coin,
 Yet daily, I trudged home,
 Feet sore from the long road,
 Aching under the weight of unpaid fees.
 I carried that burden alone,
 Walking past empty shops,
 Empty bellies,
 And empty promises of a better
 tomorrow.
 There were days without meals,
 Without new clothes,
 Just the same tattered uniform,

A reminder of what we couldn't have.
 Yet through it all, I rose—
 In primary, I climbed to the top,
 A flickering light in a world of shadows,
 Despite the doubt that clung to my
 every step.
 "Who will pay for high school?" they
 asked,
 Their words sharp, cutting deeper than
 hunger itself.
 Among the country's best,
 Yet I went to a local school,
 A testament to my spirit—
 Unbroken, despite the weight of
 circumstance.

Still, I stumbled through my studies,
 The way Adam reached for the apple—
 A dream caught in a snare,
 A vision just out of reach.
 Four years of waiting,
 Until I dragged myself to university,
 Through sweat and toil,
 A revived hope beating in my chest.

I'd vowed to graduate, to free my family,
 Yet years later, I stand here—
 A degree in hand, a prayer on my lips,
 No job, no employment.
 But still, I hold on,
 Through the empty days and the barren
 nights,
 I hold on,
 Not just to survive,
 But to see what the dawn might bring.

About the Poet: Simiyu S. Stanford,
 author of *The Ring of the Moon*, is a
 writer and educator with a Master
 of Arts in English Literature. His
 work delves into themes of identity,
 resilience, and self-worth, enriched with
 vivid imagery and symbolism. Simiyu
 is a regular contributor to the Mount
 Kenya Times, where he writes for the
 poetry column. For inquiries, contact
 him at +254726651428 or via email at
 stanfordsiboe@gmail.com.

Rape Case...



This world is brutal,
 Can't understand me,
 I said no,
 But they don't leave me,
 Me cry in front them,
 Even beg many times,
 But they shameless fellow,
 Don't let me go...

I feel helpless,
 When one of them starts,
 Touching my thighs,
 One holds my hands hard,
 & one holds my legs,
 But also see this world,
 When seeing me getting raped,
 No one stands with me,
 When i need help,
 But everyone in front,
 When its time to candle march...

I ask question to all,
 Where are u all,
 When i am walking alone???
 Where are u all,
 When they pick me together???
 Where are u all,
 When i shouts aloud ??

Where are u all,
 When i find myself helpless ???

All know to walk,
 With the candle march,
 No one is here brave,
 Who can took weapon for me,
 It's not who alone suffers,
 It's not me who walks alone,
 It's not me who beg this evils,
 Actually i'm not Failed as a girl,
 But as a human with no humanity,
 Failed in front of every mother,
 Sister, friend, women or god...

One question every girl thought,
 When she walks on road,
 Am i alone ?? Am i secure to walk alone???
 Does evils really exists as mom said???
 Does humanity really ends in today's world???
 Why my voice is not reaching to
 Indian judiciary???
 As like me, our constitution is also handicap ???
 Or helpless to gave me justice ??

One last thing,
 I wanna said to all,
 They raped as they are,
 Demon for society,
 But i wish,
 Everyone that new born,
 Will be raise as a gentrman,
 By their mothers & sister..."

Lakshay kansal 🍌

Echoes Of The Earth: A COP29 Call



But courage now must animate,
 For winds of change require might—
 To turn our fears to future's light.

Energy clean, renew the vow,
 Fossil fuels, we must disavow,
 Solar beams and breezes bold,
 Offer power to break the hold.

At COP29, world leaders meet,
 Where earth's pulse and climate speak,
 A fragile globe, warm at the seams,
 Riddled by floods and fevered streams.

Nations rich must bear the weight,
 Aid the poor to innovate,
 Plant the trees, restore the land,
 Heal with nature, hand in hand.

Once blue skies now masked in grey,
 Forests burn, then fade away,
 Oceans rise, our shores retreat,
 An urgent crisis at our feet.

Laws for earth, not profits' gains,
 Lessen floods, decrease the pains,
 Rivers pure and skies pristine,
 Stand as visions yet unseen.

Governments rise, their voices blend,
 Yet promises alone won't mend,
 Words must leap from paper's page,
 To douse the flames of nature's rage.

Oh, COP29, let this be true—
 A greener earth for me and you,
 For children born to skies of blue,
 Where hope and action are renewed.

The challenge vast, the hour late,

(Evans Asikoyo, the poet)

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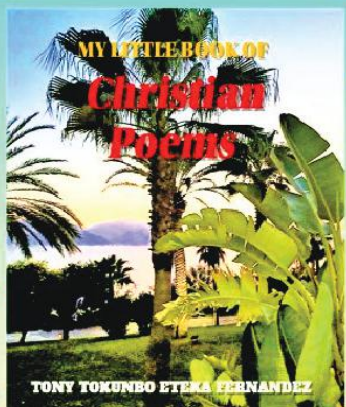
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BUSINESS

Poisonous Board Puts On Notice Unlicensed Transporters Of Pharmaceuticals

By: Anne Mwale and Megg Njoki

[@themtkenyentimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Nakuru, Kaluai stated that data gathered during the surveillance would help pinpoint patterns in illegal pharmaceutical activities, enabling intelligence-based enforcement to better target these issues.
- The head of Good Distribution also highlighted the need for closer collaboration between PPB and other government agencies at border points to prevent the entry of unregistered pharmaceuticals, further strengthening safeguards for public health.
- Additionally, Kaluai issued a notice to retail outlets operating unauthorized online pharmacies, urging them to register their premises according to the services they provide.
- He warned that all non-compliant entities would face strict enforcement measures to protect the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) has in collaboration with the National Police Service, unveiled an operation to weed out unauthorized distribution, wholesale, and transportation of pharmaceuticals, in a renewed bid to bolster the regulation of pharmaceuticals across Kenya.

The Board has raised the red flag over proliferation of unlicensed courier services, motorbike operators, and public transport transporting pharmaceuticals without proper authorization.

Head of Good Distribution Practices at PPB Julius Kaluai noted that they were working with the National Police Service to enforce regulatory compliance, noting that unlicensed wholesalers, distributors, and transporters must meet national standards or face disciplinary measures.

“Our decision to work with police commanders from all the 47 counties follows a recent nationwide audit of health facilities aimed at identifying and addressing malpractices within the pharmaceutical sector,” he stated.

Speaking in Nakuru, Kaluai stated that data gathered during the surveillance would help pinpoint patterns in illegal pharmaceutical activities, enabling intelligence-based enforcement to better target these issues.

The head of Good Distribution also highlighted the need for closer collaboration between PPB and other government agencies at border points to prevent the entry of unregistered pharmaceuticals, further strengthen-

ing safeguards for public health.

Additionally, Kaluai issued a notice to retail outlets operating unauthorized online pharmacies, urging them to register their premises according to the services they provide.

He warned that all non-compliant entities would face strict enforcement measures to protect the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

He indicated that the Board has proposed a set of rules and regulations that will govern the online pharmacy service.

Kaluai said that the previous rules do not capture the health services offered online and that they want to raise the standards of their rules by harmonizing with the international standards.

“With the advancement in technology, we saw it necessary to come-up with new sets of rules and regulations, that will govern the sector,” said the official.

Kaluai pointed out that online pharmacies are growing so fast and a good number of the population consume online services.

He said that consultation, selling of medicines and drugs, prescription, counselling and therapeutic management are among the services offered online by professionals.

Kaluai explained that there are medicines which are over the counter and others are prescription only medicines. Prescription only medicines have strict laws that guard their use so that they are not misused.

He added that if the advertisements

are not keenly crafted, it can lead to misuse of the drugs by the public.

The Board warned pharmaceutical distributors against selling drugs to unlicensed pharmacies.

The board directed the distributors to strictly adhere to good distribution practices to ensure the safety of Kenyans after an audit revealed significant malpractice within the supply chain.

According to Mr Kaluai, several wholesale outlets have been identified as sources of distribution to unlicensed retailers.

“Some wholesalers have registered their outlets but change their locations without informing the board, making inspection difficult,” he said, adding that this lack of communication contributes to a higher risk of illegal products reaching the public.

Mr Kaluai further explained that the vehicles used for transporting medicines, often matatus and lorries, are mostly unlicensed, failing to meet established transportation guidelines.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board Lower Eastern Regional Head Dr. Onesmus Kilonzo also highlighted that many personnel handling medications are not registered pharmacists.

In these cases, qualified pharmacists may pick the medicines but subsequently leave them in the hands of unqualified individuals, raising serious concerns about the safety of the drugs being distributed.

“We have illegal wholesalers, which

is a very serious area now under focus. There are retailers licensed to operate but are also engaging in illegal wholesale practices,” Dr Kilonzo noted.

He emphasized the importance of having qualified personnel in pharmacy departments within hospital settings.

He insisted that patients must receive the correct medication and value for their money.

“Private hospitals should comply with the ministry’s staffing norms, ensuring that there is a qualified person attending to patients at all times,” he said.

Additionally, he urged hospitals to verify their suppliers to confirm that they are regulated before engaging in business with them.

As part of the impending changes, starting in 2025, hospitals will be required to have pharmacy licenses overseen by licensed pharmacists.

Dr. Kilonzo said that this requirement is crucial for maintaining high standards in patient care.

The official reiterated that the guidelines for the transportation of pharmaceuticals mandate compliance from all involved in the distribution chain.

“The rules state that the transportation of pharmaceuticals must be supervised by a registered pharmacist. This applies to everyone in the business, from manufacturers to end-users,” Dr. Kilonzo noted.

Nyahururu-Based Athletes Training To Tackle GBV

By: Antony Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Nyahururu based athletes have been sensitized on the need to be proactive in tackling Gender-related violence among their colleagues.

This was disclosed by retired marathoner Catherine Ndereba during a training being undertaken by Athletic Kenya (AK) in collaboration with the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) and Equity Bank at the Nyahururu Social Hall

The intention is to encourage athletes to be at the forefront in addressing issues and cases related to gender-based violence (GBV).

AK officials present have organised a series of training programs in various parts of the country in the wake of increased cases of murder, sexual abuse, and financial exploitation

among other related violence meted out to athletes.

Veteran and retired marathoner Catherine Ndereba, AK officials, and partners have urged athletes to speak up and raise their voices against GBV regardless of what society thinks of them.

“Our athletes work hard to earn a living but it is unfortunate that some of them have lost their hard-earned money to their partners or are killed due to family differences,” noted Ndereba.

She encouraged the athletes to be their brothers’ keeper. Her sentiments were echoed by AK’s officer in charge of safeguarding Ms. Elizabeth Keittany and other stakeholders in the forum who challenged victims to seek professional counseling and advice when they face such challenges.

They noted that financial exploitation and sexual abuse were some of the common causes of GBV among



Catherine Ndereba.

the athletes and hence called on the participants be careful not to fall into the trap of unscrupulous coaches,

managers, relatives or lovers. They also challenged them to get a financial advisor to help them invest

wisely their hard-earned money.

Philanthropist Elizabeth Odaga Gears Up For Siaya County Woman Representative Seat As 2027 Election Approaches

By: Peter Aowa
@themkenyatimes

Elizabeth Anyango Odaga, the founder of the Change Africa Foundation, has stepped up her campaign efforts while in the UK ahead of the 2027 general elections, where she is vying for the position of Siaya County Woman Representative.

Known for her work in community development and advocacy for women’s and children’s rights, Elizabeth is currently intensifying her outreach to the six constituencies in the county, focusing on supporting women’s and youth groups.

Her campaign team is making a series of appearances in a number of community functions across the country as they support different activities financially and skillfully with the message of Elizabeth’s transformation leadership agenda.

Elizabeth, who has been active in improving the lives of vulnerable populations through her foundation, has been traveling across Siaya County to engage with local communities. She has met with various women’s and youth groups to

understand their needs and ensure their voices are heard in her political agenda. Her foundation has already provided support to over 200 students across the county and empowered countless women, especially those with disabilities.

“I am committed to bringing change to Siaya County by focusing on education, healthcare, and creating opportunities for business and empowerment, particularly for women and the youth,” Elizabeth said during a recent meeting with local community leaders. “My leadership will prioritize the needs of marginalized groups and ensure that everyone has access to the opportunities they deserve.”

Odaga’s campaign comes as the race for Woman Representative in Siaya heats up. Other contenders for the seat include Nominated MCA Dorothy Oinga, West Gem ward MCA Susan Okwiry, Alwala community Executive Director Awino Wagwau, and Dr. Julie Onyango, the former Siaya County CEC for Water. Each candidate is vying for the opportunity to represent the women and children of Siaya County, but Elizabeth’s strong track record in community development and international experience sets her apart.

Her candidacy is being fueled by calls from local residents who have seen firsthand the positive impact of her foundation’s work, which has included building homes for widows, supporting orphans with education, and offering vocational training to women. Elizabeth’s leadership has also seen the establishment of the Siaya County Art Center, which has benefited over 100 local youths.

In addition to her work on the ground, Elizabeth has a solid educational background, having earned a Masters in Law, Politics, and Sociology from Cambridge University, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Counseling Psychology. She believes this education, combined with her hands-on experience, uniquely qualifies her to address the challenges facing Siaya County.

As the 2027 election approaches, Elizabeth Anyango Odaga is positioning herself as a strong contender to represent Siaya County’s women, determined to bring sustainable development, equality, and progress to the region. Her focus on empowering the youth and women, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, continues to resonate strongly with voters across the county.



Elizabeth Anyango Odaga

It is not yet clear as to whether the incumbent women representative Dr. Christine Ombaka who is serving her third term will run a fourth time.

From our sources, Ombaka is planning to run for Gem constituency MP against incumbent Elisha Odhi-

ambo who previously fell out with the ODM party after joining hands with president William Ruto.

With ODM’s entry into the government, Elisha still stand a chance to be nominated by the party to run for his third term.

Urgent Need To Localize Climate Finance For Africa Agenda At COP29



By: Twongirwe Ireen
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CEO - WoGEM Uganda

Worth Noting:

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is a meeting where world leaders gather to address environmental issues and make decisions about how to implement conventions. There are also important because global leaders, CSOs, feminists, activists, private and public sectors, observers, and presidents come together to make meaningful actions on environmental issues.

The COP also provides a space for mass demonstrations, such as the International Day of Climate Action, which takes place during the conference. The COP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an annual summit where world leaders work together to address climate change. The COP also reviews the implementation of the convention, assesses the progress made, and considers amendments.

The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) is being convened in Baku, Azerbaijan. This event will include the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29), the 19th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the sixth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6) that will convene to complete the first enhanced transparency framework and the new collective quantified goal on finance, among other matters

Editor, this year's COP is termed as Climate COP, so many Conference of Parties since COP1 that was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995 where Delegates began discussions on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally up to now we are still discussing the same agenda.

Why are COPs important in the fight for Climate justice?

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is a meeting where world leaders gather to address environmental issues and make decisions about how to implement conventions. There are also important because global leaders, CSOs, feminists, activists, private and public sectors, observers, and presidents come together to make meaningful actions on environmental issues. The COP also provides a space for mass demonstrations, such as the International Day of Climate Action, which takes place during the conference. The COP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an annual summit where world leaders work together to address climate change. The COP also reviews the implementation of the convention, assesses the progress made, and considers amendments. The COP also provides a platform for frontline representatives to address the world's biggest emitters.

From this background, we found out that it's very important space in solidarity to demand for climate and environmental justice especially in the Global South Countries. However, it still comes to us as developing countries since we are at the forefront of natural calamities if these conference of parties are effective and performing their duties.

In my opinion, these conferences have not delivered what they are supposed to do because we have more climate crisis happen at frontline communities, Governments, Global North countries and oil companies investing more in fossil fuels that have catalyzed climate crisis in global



Climate Finance .

south especially in Uganda and Tanzania with the construction of East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). This project is pushing the country into energy poverty, climate debts, and violation of environmental, land and human rights, loss of biodiversity, destruction of ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, National parks that have increased human wild conflicts among others. We see more funds going in fossil fuels such as oil, gas, coal and other mining minerals that are not sustainable and yet investing in Renewable Energy projects that are community based can help in reducing carbon gas emissions, increased climate adaptation, mitigation and localizing climate finance.

It's important to note that the race to bridge the climate finance gap and strengthen resilience against rising natural hazards is heating up. Adaptation and resilience finance, which should be accelerating to catch up with rising natural hazard impacts, continues to fall short despite clarity on adaptation measures needed, the benefits they provide, and clarity on where they are needed. This calls for combined efforts through global governance to address urgent challenges effectively.

In addition, Climate change causes widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people that are unequally distributed across systems, regions and sec-

tors. Science shows that vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by inequity and marginalization, including in connection to gender, ethnicity, disability, age, and historical and ongoing patterns of inequity.

More so, Climate change's gendered effects exacerbate existing gender inequalities, representing severe threats to women and girls' health, livelihoods, and safety. It's clear that Africa negotiators don't take this context into account, moreover, barriers to participation of women and other marginalized groups affected by inequalities and discrimination need to be removed to ensure everyone can fully contribute to climate actions.

Furthermore, it's important to note that marginalized women face disproportionate burdens due to roles in resource management, caregiving, limited access to resources and decision-making processes and this gap need to be addressed.

Therefore, while at finance COP, Africa negotiators need to define Climate Finance in the New Collective Qualitative Goal (NCQG) should be simple, clear for everyone to understand accessible, gender just, equitable, inclusive, grant based, flexible and localized to provide an everlasting solutions at grassroots

Africa negotiators should also focus on the need to phase out fossil fuels that have caused violations of women's environmental and land rights in

the marginalized communities. Fossil fuels are the major contributors of climate crisis hence need to be stopped and invest in Renewable Energy that will reduce energy poverty, unpaid care work of care givers contributing in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and improving on the social economic development of marginalized women.

Lastly, Integrating gender considerations, specific vulnerabilities, needs, and contributions, in adaptation and mitigation strategies enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of climate action and promotes social justice. Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental principles of sustainable development, effective climate action and crucial for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In a nutshell, "Let's dispense with any idea that climate finance is charity. Big polluters must pay for their Losses and Damages caused voluntarily

For God and my Country
Ireen Twongirwe
Executive Director
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Striking Out: The Uncertain Future Of Kenya University Students

By: **Mary Wanjohi**

The ongoing lecturers' strike in Kenya has cast a long shadow over the lives of university students, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond the classroom. As the strike drags on, students find themselves grappling with a myriad of challenges, from academic disruptions to mental health crises. The most immediate and visible impact of the strike is the disruption of academic activities. With lecturers refusing to teach, thousands of students are left in limbo, unable to attend classes or sit for exams. This uncertainty not only delays their academic progress but also jeopardizes their future plans, including graduation and employment opportunities. The prolonged absence of structured learning can erode the quality of education, leaving students ill-prepared for the job market.

The strike has also precipitated a mental health crisis among students. The

stress of academic uncertainty, coupled with the pressure to meet future career goals, has led to increased levels of anxiety and depression. The lack of routine and purpose can exacerbate feelings of hopelessness and despair. Without access to campus counseling services, which are often disrupted by the strike, students have limited avenues for seeking help.

With no classes to attend, many students find themselves with an abundance of free time and little to do. This idleness can lead to engagement in risky behaviors, including substance abuse and involvement in criminal activities. The lack of productive engagement can also contribute to a sense of purposelessness, further deteriorating mental health.

The strike has also indirectly increased students' vulnerability to accidents and violence. With more students spending time off-campus, often in unfamiliar environments, the risk of accidents

and exposure to violent incidents rises. There have been reports of students being involved in road accidents or falling victim to crime during this period.

The strike places a significant strain on students' social and economic well-being. Many students come from low-income families who struggle to support them financially. The additional costs incurred due to prolonged stays at university, without the benefit of progressing academically, can be a heavy burden. Moreover, the social isolation resulting from the strike can erode support networks that are crucial for students' well-being.

The fate of university students in Kenya hinges on the swift resolution of the lecturers' strike. It is imperative for the government and the lecturers' union to engage in meaningful dialogue and reach a compromise that addresses the grievances of the lecturers while prioritizing the educational needs of the students. Ensuring that students can return



to a stable and supportive learning environment is crucial for their academic success and overall well-being.

In conclusion, the lecturers' strike in Kenya has far-reaching implications for university students, affecting their academic progress, mental health, and overall safety. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from

all stakeholders to restore normalcy and safeguard the future of the nation's youth.

*Mary Wanjohi
Rongo University*

The Key Of Unlocking Better Health And Well-Being

By: **Jane Wanjiru**

Water is often considered a basic necessity, yet many people underestimate the profound role hydration plays in overall health. We know that our bodies are made up of approximately 60% water, and it's essential for every cell, tissue, and organ to function properly. Despite this, dehydration remains a widespread issue, with many people not drinking enough water throughout the day. The consequences of inadequate hydration can be severe, affecting everything from physical performance

to cognitive function and mental well-being.

Hydration is crucial for maintaining the balance of bodily fluids that regulate processes such as digestion, circulation, and temperature control. Water also aids in nutrient absorption, helps flush toxins from the body, and lubricates joints, reducing the risk of injury. Dehydration, on the other hand, can lead to a range of issues including fatigue, headaches, constipation, dry skin, and even more serious conditions like kidney stones or urinary tract infections.

For mental clarity and cognitive

function, staying hydrated is equally important. Studies have shown that dehydration can impair focus, memory, and mood. A lack of water can make it harder to think clearly, leading to decreased productivity and increased irritability. Hydration also helps regulate the production of neurotransmitters, which play a critical role in maintaining mental health. Thus, ensuring proper hydration can lead to better decision-making, improved concentration, and a more balanced emotional state.

The amount of water each person needs can vary depending on factors

such as age, physical activity, and climate, but a common recommendation is to drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day, also known as the "8x8 rule." However, some individuals may require more, especially if they engage in intense physical activity or live in hot climates. It's also important to listen to your body—thirst is a clear sign that your body needs water. Additionally, foods such as fruits and vegetables, which contain a high percentage of water, can supplement hydration.

In a world full of sugary drinks, coffee, and sodas, it's easy to forget the

simplest and healthiest drink—water. But by prioritizing hydration, we not only enhance our physical health but also boost our mental and emotional well-being. So next time you reach for a beverage, remember that water is your best ally in maintaining a healthy, active, and productive lifestyle.

*Jane Wanjiru
Communication and media student,
Rongo university.*

Climate Justice Abandoned: Global South Activists' Desperate Cry For Cop29 Support

The 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in Azerbaijan Baku beckons, yet accredited Global South climate activists face logistical nightmares, silencing their critical voices. Despite accreditation, financial constraints suffocate their participation. Who will rescue these vital stakeholders?

Global South activists bear the brunt of climate change, yet struggle to attend pivotal conferences. Accreditation proves hollow without logistical

support. Their absence undermines inclusive decision-making, perpetuating climate injustice.

There quite a number of factors exacerbating Global South exclusion which are not limited to Financial constraints fact being that Global south countries are poor or should I call them developing countries and are heavily buried in debts, Limited sponsorship from sustainable Global North countries as well as Inadequate representation

This comes with Consequences in the long run such as Silenced voices, Inequitable climate policies and there is a possibility of deepened vulnerability

Climate Transformation Network (CTN) urges governments to Provide emergency funding for climate activists and also urges international Organizations to always Offer sponsorship/grants not forgetting Climate organizations to always give Collaborative support.

Climate justice demands solidarity. Global South activists' voices shape climate decisions affecting their communities. Abandonment exacerbates vulnerability; collective action fuels transformative change.

*PREPARED & COMPILED
BY: Linet Nabwire
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Network Uganda*



Consumption Conundrum: Connecting Corporate Greed With Global Exploitation

Unmasking the tangled web of consumption habits and their stark impact on vulnerable populations worldwide



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

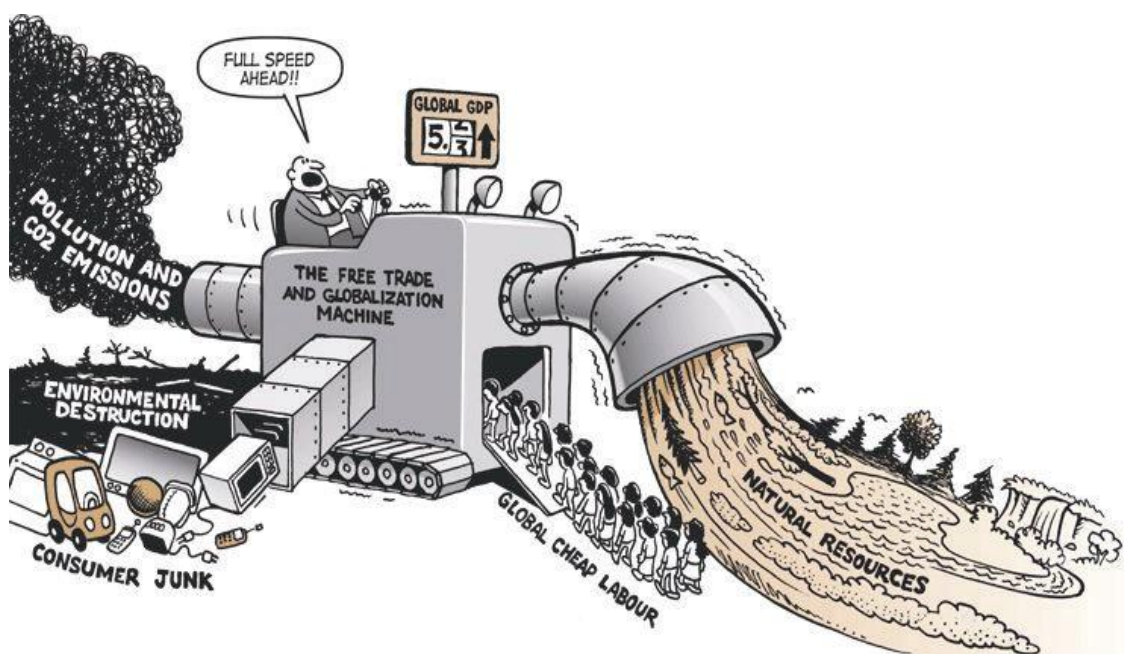
How long can we ignore the reality that our daily decisions echo far beyond our homes? A simple choice at the grocery store can send ripples of exploitation through developing nations, where vulnerable populations often pay the steepest price. In this age of globalization, we stand at a paradoxical crossroads—one path leads to convenience and comfort, while the other unveils the grim truth of human suffering.

Imagine strolling through a supermarket aisle, the fluorescent lights buzzing, as you pick up a product labeled “fair trade.” But what does “fair” truly mean in a world where fairness is often sacrificed on the altar of corporate profit? With each bite of a chocolate bar sourced from the depths of West African cacao farms, do we comprehend the tears of the children who toil under the sun, their dreams overshadowed by the weight of our indulgence?

The irony is palpable, yet we continue to munch on, blissfully unaware of the human cost entwined with our every craving. In 2023, a report from the United Nations found that over 200 million children globally are engaged in child labor, many in the agricultural sector, specifically in countries like Ivory Coast and Ghana, the leading producers of cocoa.

These children, with dreams as fragile as the cocoa pods they harvest, face hazardous conditions that would make most adults shudder. The simple act of buying a chocolate bar thus morphs into a bitter metaphor for our complicity in their plight. Every bar symbolizes a child’s lost childhood, a poignant reminder that our taste for luxury often comes at the expense of innocence. And so, I ask: when will we confront the paradox of our consumption—how long until we acknowledge the price tag that is affixed not just to the items we purchase, but to the souls behind them?

As we dissect this intricate tapestry of consumption, we must juxtapose the glitz and glamour of Western lifestyles with the harsh realities faced by those in the Global South. The glaring disparity shouts louder than any advertisement. For instance, in 2022, fashion retailer H&M faced backlash after revelations surfaced about labor exploitation in their supply chains, particularly in Bangladesh, where garment workers earn as little as \$60 a month, barely



Connecting Corporate Greed With Global Exploitation

scraping by.

This glaring injustice is a stark antithesis to the lavish lifestyles enjoyed by many in developed nations, where a single outfit can cost more than what an entire family in Bangladesh lives on in a week. It is an unsettling juxtaposition that begs us to reconsider our consumption patterns. Let us not sugarcoat the facts. The truth is as bitter as the dark chocolate some of us indulge in. The irony lies in our ignorance, a bliss that many cannot afford.

When a multinational corporation proudly proclaims its commitment to sustainability while simultaneously profiting from the exploitation of laborers, it epitomizes the classic case of antanagoge. In other words, they sell the dream of ethical consumption while perpetuating a nightmare for the very individuals whose lives are woven into their supply chains. This is where the metaphor of a double-edged sword comes into play; our choices, while seemingly innocent, cut deeply into the lives of others.

Every purchase is a vote—a vote for the kind of world we want to create. Yet, how often do we consider the implications of our votes? The United Nations has estimated that over 700 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day, a sobering statistic that starkly contrasts with our consumer-driven culture. This creates a paradox that is hard to swallow: can we continue to consume at our current rate while pretending to be

concerned about global inequality? Can we clap for sustainability while feeding into a cycle of exploitation? The answer, sadly, is often yes.

When we confront the disheartening reality of global consumption, we must also address the euphemism that surrounds it—terms like “developing countries” or “emerging markets” obscure the harsh truths. In reality, these are places where lives are stifled under the weight of our insatiable appetites.

The terminology acts as a veil, a gentle way of glossing over the grim conditions faced by millions. But let us not hide behind words; let us expose the truth with all its rawness. The question remains: how many more reports must surface before we acknowledge our role in this global drama? Anecdotes abound of those who have taken action, yet the majority remains paralyzed by complacency.

Consider the story of Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who championed environmental conservation and women’s rights in Kenya. Her efforts serve as a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have in dismantling the structures of exploitation. However, such stories are too often eclipsed by the shadows of corporate greed. If we are to bridge this divide, we must amplify voices like hers and challenge the status quo, reshaping our consumption habits with intention and awareness.

The metaphor of the “invisible

hand” is often invoked in discussions about market forces and capitalism, suggesting that self-interest ultimately benefits society. But this invisible hand has turned a blind eye to the suffering of countless individuals who produce the very goods that fuel our economies. We cannot simply stand back and allow this system to perpetuate. Instead, we must confront the reality that our comfort comes at a steep cost to others. The continued exploitation of workers in low-wage countries is not merely an unfortunate side effect of globalization; it is a fundamental flaw in the system that demands our immediate attention.

As we peel back the layers of this complex issue, we uncover the stark truth that the global supply chain operates on the backs of the vulnerable. Corporations often rely on a model of production that prioritizes profit margins over human dignity. In 2020, the International Labor Organization estimated that 152 million children are engaged in child labor worldwide, with many trapped in industries that contribute to our daily lives, from fashion to food. This staggering number serves as a grim reminder of our complicity in a system that thrives on inequality. We must not turn a blind eye to the suffering that lies at the heart of our

Worth Noting:

- As we dissect this intricate tapestry of consumption, we must juxtapose the glitz and glamour of Western lifestyles with the harsh realities faced by those in the Global South. The glaring disparity shouts louder than any advertisement. For instance, in 2022, fashion retailer H&M faced backlash after revelations surfaced about labor exploitation in their supply chains, particularly in Bangladesh, where garment workers earn as little as \$60 a month, barely scraping by.
- This glaring injustice is a stark antithesis to the lavish lifestyles enjoyed by many in developed nations, where a single outfit can cost more than what an entire family in Bangladesh lives on in a week.

Balancing Act: President Ruto's Nominations And The Future Of Kenya's Oversight Institutions

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto's recent nominations to key government boards in Kenya have sparked intense debate about the future of the country's oversight institutions. The appointments of Isaack Hassan to chair the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) Board, Charles Njagua to the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), and Rehema Jaldesa to chair the National Gender and Equality Commission represent a significant moment in Kenya's governance landscape.

Isaack Hassan's nomination to the IPOA Board brings with it a wealth of experience from his time as chairman of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). His tenure at the IEBC, while marked by controversies, provided him with invaluable experience in managing a critical national institution under intense scrutiny. This background could prove beneficial in overseeing police conduct and ensuring accountability. However, the lingering questions about his leadership during contentious electoral processes may cast a shadow over his appointment¹.

Charles Njagua, better known by his stage name Jaguar, brings a unique blend of experiences to the CAJ board. His background as a musician, philanthropist, and former Member of Parliament for Starehe constituency offers a fresh perspective to administrative justice issues. Njagua's diverse career, which includes serving as a director for the National Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, suggests a multifaceted approach to public service². However, concerns remain about whether his qualifications align with the technical and legal expertise typically required for such a position.

Rehema Jaldesa's nomination to chair the National Gender and Equality Commission draws on her experience as a former Woman Representative for Isiolo County. Her background in representing a pastoral community could bring important insights on gender issues in marginalized areas. This appointment has the potential to address critical gender equality issues at a national level.

These nominations reflect a strategic approach to governance, potentially leveraging diverse experiences and backgrounds. However, they also raise important questions about the balance between political considerations and institutional effectiveness. The political implications of these



Isaack Hassan appointed to chair the Independent Policing Oversight Authority.

appointments cannot be overlooked, as they may be seen as a way for President Ruto to consolidate support or reward political allies.

The performing arts, an area in which Njagua has significant experience, have been recognized for their role in social and behavioral change. This aligns with recent initiatives like the Kenya Universities Performing Arts Association (KUPAA) National Drama, Beauty Pageant, Film & Visual Arts Festivals, which emphasize the power of arts in fostering social awareness and driving behavioral transformation⁴. Njagua's back-

ground in this field could potentially bring innovative approaches to public engagement and awareness in his role at the CAJ.

The success of these appointments will largely depend on the nominees' ability to navigate complex political landscapes while maintaining their independence. The parliamentary vetting process will be crucial in determining their suitability, and should rigorously examine their qualifications, past performance, and vision for their respective roles.

As Kenya continues to strengthen its democratic institutions, the

performance of these nominees, if confirmed, will be closely watched. Their actions will not only affect the specific bodies they lead but also shape public perception of the government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective governance. The ultimate test will be in their ability to maintain independence, drive institutional reforms, and uphold the principles of good governance, which are crucial in shaping the future of Kenya's democratic landscape.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Consumption Conundrum: Connecting Corporate Greed With Global Exploitation

Unmasking the tangled web of consumption habits and their stark impact on vulnerable populations worldwide

Contd from page 20

consumer habits; instead, we must confront it head-on.

Let's talk about the coffee we drink every morning. The "Starbucks effect" has transformed coffee culture in America and beyond, but at what cost? Many coffee farmers in regions like Ethiopia and Colombia struggle to make ends meet, earning mere pennies for every cup sold at premium prices in Western cafes.

The euphemism of "coffee farmers" hides the harsh reality of their lives; they often work long hours in hazardous conditions, all for a product that is marketed to us as a luxury. It

is a stark irony that our daily pick-me-up contributes to a cycle of poverty for those who cultivate it. We must ask ourselves: how can we sip our lattes in peace when the hands that harvest our coffee are often desperate for a fair wage?

To further complicate matters, let's consider the fashion industry, where fast fashion brands like Zara and Shein have exploded in popularity. These companies churn out trendy clothes at breakneck speed, encouraging consumers to buy more while caring little about the ethical implications of their production methods. Reports have revealed that workers in factories producing for these brands endure grueling hours for meager pay, all while being subjected to unsafe working conditions. The very fabric of our wardrobes

is stitched together by exploitation, and yet we turn a blind eye as we fill our closets with the latest styles.

In a world driven by consumption, it is easy to become desensitized to the suffering that fuels our desires. We scroll through social media, bombarded with images of luxury and abundance, forgetting that those who produce our goods often live in stark contrast to the lifestyles we aspire to. It is a profound irony that our pursuit of happiness through consumption often leads to the unhappiness of others. So, I ask again, when will we take a stand? When will we demand accountability from the brands we support and the systems we uphold? As consumers, we wield immense power. Every purchase is a statement, a declaration of our values. If we choose to support

ethical and sustainable brands, we can help shift the tide toward a more equitable system.

However, this shift requires conscious effort and a willingness to question the status quo. We must educate ourselves about the origins of our products and advocate for transparency in the supply chain. This is not merely an individual endeavor; it is a collective movement that requires us to challenge the systems of exploitation that underpin our global economy.

The time has come to draw a line in the sand. We can no longer afford to be passive consumers, oblivious to the consequences of our choices. The distance between our comfort and the suffering of others has shrunk; we must take action to ensure that our consumption aligns

with our values. This is not merely a call to action; it is a clarion call for conscience.

As we move forward, let us remember that every item we purchase carries the weight of the world on its back—let us choose wisely and with empathy, for the future of countless lives hangs in the balance. How long can we afford to ignore this connection? The answer lies in our hands, and our choices today will shape the world of tomorrow. Together, let us forge a new path—one that honors the dignity of all individuals and dismantles the structures of exploitation that have long held sway over our global society.

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

SPORTS NEWS

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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Football Kenya Federation (FKF) County Elections are now slated to be held tomorrow after High Court lifted the stay orders yesterday.

Court Lifts FKF Elections Stay Orders



FKF Electoral Board chairman Hesbon Owilla. PHOTO/Raymond Makhaya

By: Capital Sport

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) County Elections are now slated to be held tomorrow after High Court lifted the stay orders yesterday.

FKF Electoral Board Chairman

Hesbon Owilla in a statement confirmed they have been given the green-light following an injunction issued by a Kitui Court on the eve of the initial elections date (November 9).

“Following the hearing today, we are pleased to inform you that

the stay orders have been lifted. The Football Kenya Federation Elections will now take place on the 14th November 2024,” the FKF Electoral Board Chair stated.

He added, “Please be assured that we remain unwavering com-

mitted to overseeing an election process that is free, fair, transparent, credible, and verifiable in all respects.”

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Ecuador international Marco Angulo has died at the age of 22 just over a month after being seriously injured in a car crash, his club have announced

Ecuador's Angulo, 22, Dies A Month After Car Crash



Ecuador international Marco Angulo has died at the age of 22 just over a month after being seriously injured in a car crash, his club have announced. The LDU Quito midfielder had been in hospital since the incident on 7 October in the south of Ecuador's capital Quito. Reports in Ecuador, external said he underwent several operations and spent over a week in intensive care, before passing away on Monday night. "With deep sorrow and sadness, we regret to have to inform you of the death of our dear player Marco Angulo," LDU Quito, who play in Ecuador's top flight, said in a

statement on Tuesday morning. "We convey our condolences to his family and his loved ones. "His passing is an irreparable loss which will leave an indelible mark in our hearts." A midfielder for MLS club FC Cincinnati, Angulo joined LDU Quito on loan with an option to buy in March. Angulo made 16 appearances for the club. His last appearance came on 6 October – a day before the car crash. Angulo made his debut for Ecuador in November 2022, coming on as a substitute in a 0-0 draw against Iraq, and earned three caps for his country.

"The Ecuadorian Football Association expresses its deepest sympathy over the death of Marco Angulo," a statement from the governing body read. "Marco was not only an outstanding player but also a great teammate. He leaves a deep sorrow in our hearts, especially in those of us who went with him on countless trips, and to training camps and matches. "Rest in peace, Angulito." According to Ecuadorian reports, Independiente del Valle footballer Roberto Cabezas and a friend, Victor Carcopa, also died in the accident. There were two other passengers

in the car at the time. Their condition is unknown.

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SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Meet Emmanuel Chimezie, A Brooding Poet From Adullan Nigeria



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- My motivation stems from a deep desire to reflect on the world's complexities. Growing up in Nigeria, I observed the disconnect between reality and hope, which has inspired me to express these tensions in my work, using language to evoke thought and emotion.
- The hardest part is the isolation that comes with the creative process. Often, I spend hours or days searching for the right words, which can be exhausting and mentally draining. The challenge is balancing the desire to communicate something profound with the limitations of language.
- I foster myself by embracing discipline and patience. I recognize that creativity is a journey and not a destination, so I keep moving by setting small goals, taking breaks when necessary, and reflecting on the progress I've made, no matter how minor it seems.

1. *Briefly tell us who you are and more about you.*

I am Emmanuel Chimezie, a brooding poet from Adullan, Nigeria. I am currently a graduate wanting to do my NYSC in Nigeria. I am a software engineer, Real Estate Consultant, Evangelist and a poet. I am driven by a deep sense of introspection and a voice that seeks to resonate with the world. I often explore complex themes such as governance, identity, and the human experience, weaving them into my poetry in metaphorical and layered ways.

2. *What motivated you to become who you are now?*

My motivation stems from a deep desire to reflect on the world's complexities. Growing up in Nigeria, I observed the disconnect between reality and hope, which has inspired me to express these tensions in my work, using language to evoke thought and emotion.

3. *What does your ideal day look like?*

My ideal day would begin with quiet reflection in the morning, followed by uninterrupted time to write and explore new ideas. It would involve creative collaboration, personal growth, and moments of connection with people who challenge my thinking. I'd end the day in solitude, contemplating my progress.

4. *What is the favorite aspect of your work?*

The favorite aspect of my work is the ability to translate complex emotions and ideas into tangible art. Poetry allows me to express raw, nuanced feelings while inviting others to interpret and relate to the experiences I share.

5. *What is the hardest part of what you do?*

The hardest part is the isolation that comes with the creative process. Often, I spend hours or days searching for the right words, which can be exhausting and mentally draining. The challenge is balancing the desire to communicate something profound with the limitations of language.



Emmanuel Chimezie

6. *Have you ever incurred challenges in your work? Please tell us about it.*

Yes, I've faced many challenges in my work. The biggest one is the pressure of expectation—both my own and that of others. There's always a fear that my work may not be received as I intend, or that I might not meet the standard I've set for myself. Overcoming self-doubt has been an ongoing battle.

7. *How do you foster yourself to keep moving?*

I foster myself by embracing discipline and patience. I recognize that creativity is a journey and not a destination, so I keep moving by setting small goals, taking breaks when necessary, and reflecting on the progress I've made, no matter how minor it seems.

8. *Do you advertise your work? If yes, tell us how it has helped you.*

I do advertise my work, mostly through social media platforms like Facebook. It has helped me connect with a larger audience, gain feedback, and showcase my poetry to people who may not otherwise have encountered it.

9. *What advice would you like to give someone that wants to be you?*

My advice to someone who wants to follow a similar path is to embrace their unique voice and be unafraid of vulnerability. The writing journey is one of constant learning, and persistence is key. Stay true to your vision, but remain open to evolution.

10. *Given a chance, what impact

would you bring to the world, nation, and to yourself?*

If given the chance, I would bring a voice of thought-provoking depth to the world, aiming to create more understanding through my words. On a national level, I'd like to contribute to discussions on governance, identity, and unity. For myself, I hope to continue evolving both as a poet and as a person, always learning and growing.

11. *If someone wants to check your work and what you do, where can they find you? Your handles?*

My work can be found on my Facebook page, where I regularly share my poetry and engage with my audience. I also post updates and reflections on my creative journey. You can follow me at my Facebook profile, Emmanuel Chimezie